

HAIGHT STREET VOICE



YEAR 6 #20

"HYPER-LOCAL WITH A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE"

SUMMER 2024

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CHRIS DIERZ

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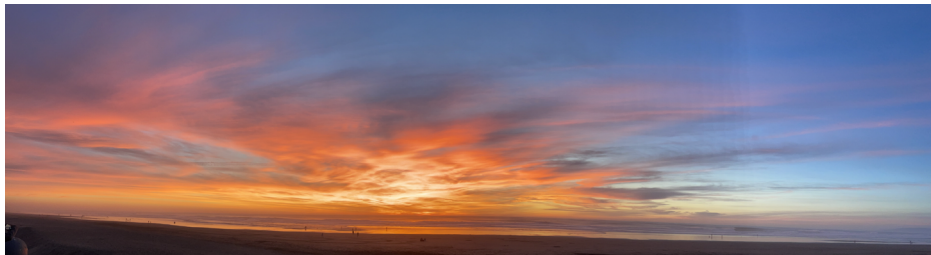
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



“Keep Pushing Forward ...”

A poignant title from visionary Peruvian-Canadian artist Chris Dyer for his psychedelic artwork energizing the cover of this *Haight Street Voice* Summer 2024 edition. Grateful to you, Chris, for sharing your colorful creation here, inspiring the theme woven into these pages.

Keep. Pushing. Forward. The mantra in my head throughout this magazine deadline (always a major push forward). More importantly, encouraging strength and positivity whilst navigating the way forward on this spectacular yet often bumpy ride called life.

I walk up and over Buena Vista Park here in the Haight nearly every day, pretty damn fast. Busts through the muck in my head, regenerates my spirit, fists punching toward the sky, feet pounding the earth, a goofy tribal dance of sorts, gravity tugging yet urging my momentum forward. At the top, a view of the Pacific Ocean and the vibrant air that comes with it washes away the weight of the world, if just for a moment.

To a Summer full of Love.



Linda Kelly, Editor-in-Chief



Let's stay in touch!

*Sign up for the Haight Street Voice newsletter:
<https://bit.ly/3HGY4Gq>*



The Haight Street Art Center is excited to present “We Are the One: San Francisco Punk, 1970s – 1980s,” an exhibition of S.F. punk club posters and flyers, punk films, local punk music and 150 striking photographs of such bands/musicians as Crime, the Avengers, the Ramones, Devo, Mutants, Blondie, the Nuns, John Cale, Lou Reed, Nico, the Dead Kennedys, Sleepers, Flipper and many more.



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PSYCHEDELIC ARTIST CHRIS DYER'S SHAMANIC JOURNEY

Peruvian-Canadian artist Chris Dyer kindly shared his "Keep Pushing Forward" visionary artwork for the cover of this edition of HSV. Recently moving to the States, Chris just released his second book, Shamanic Journey and will be here August 3 at the Psychedelic SF Gallery to sign it for those wise enough to grab a copy.

HSV: You allow yourself to be so vulnerable in this book. CD: I grew up in Lima as a sensitive, artsy kid. Peru is a macho country, I went to an all-boys school, and most are not sensitive artsy people. I had to build all these armors to hide the real me, to protect it. Those armors were negative defense mechanisms that made me hit a wall. So I started my path on the positive side of things and now it's been decades.

HSV: Clearly psychedelics play a role in your journey. CD: Aya (huasca) is my main mistress. She straightens me up, cracks my back, puts me back in shape, good enough so I can go and do my work. Plant medicines are saying, "Don't be afraid of being yourself." I'm trying to do my part of the ascension of humanity.

HSV: Painting must be incredibly healing for you. CD: Painting is a meditation. You're just sitting -- which is treacherous on weight gaining! I just built a mini ramp in my backyard! I go out there and skate and sweat. I'm in my mid-40s. I've been skateboarding since 1986. It always intrigued me. It's rebellious. You hurt yourself. It's kind of like graffiti, the kind of art you're not supposed to do. That also attracted me to skateboarding. There's just

something about zipping around and expressing yourself. It's an art form. I don't need an audience. It's just me and my board. It's a spiritual meditation for me, as is painting. My paintings are for me. I make them difficult to sell but I love sharing them. Murals are different, like a big energy blast. I enjoy creating these portals into different dimensions that hopefully bring in positive energy



wherever I'm painting. I paint a lot for weed people, dispensaries, farms, and brands.

HSV: Last Gasp released your book. Founder Ron Turner is an SF publisher.

CD: He's a legend! I'm honored to be with Last Gasp. Super stoked to be back in SF!

HSV: What does the Haight feel like to you?

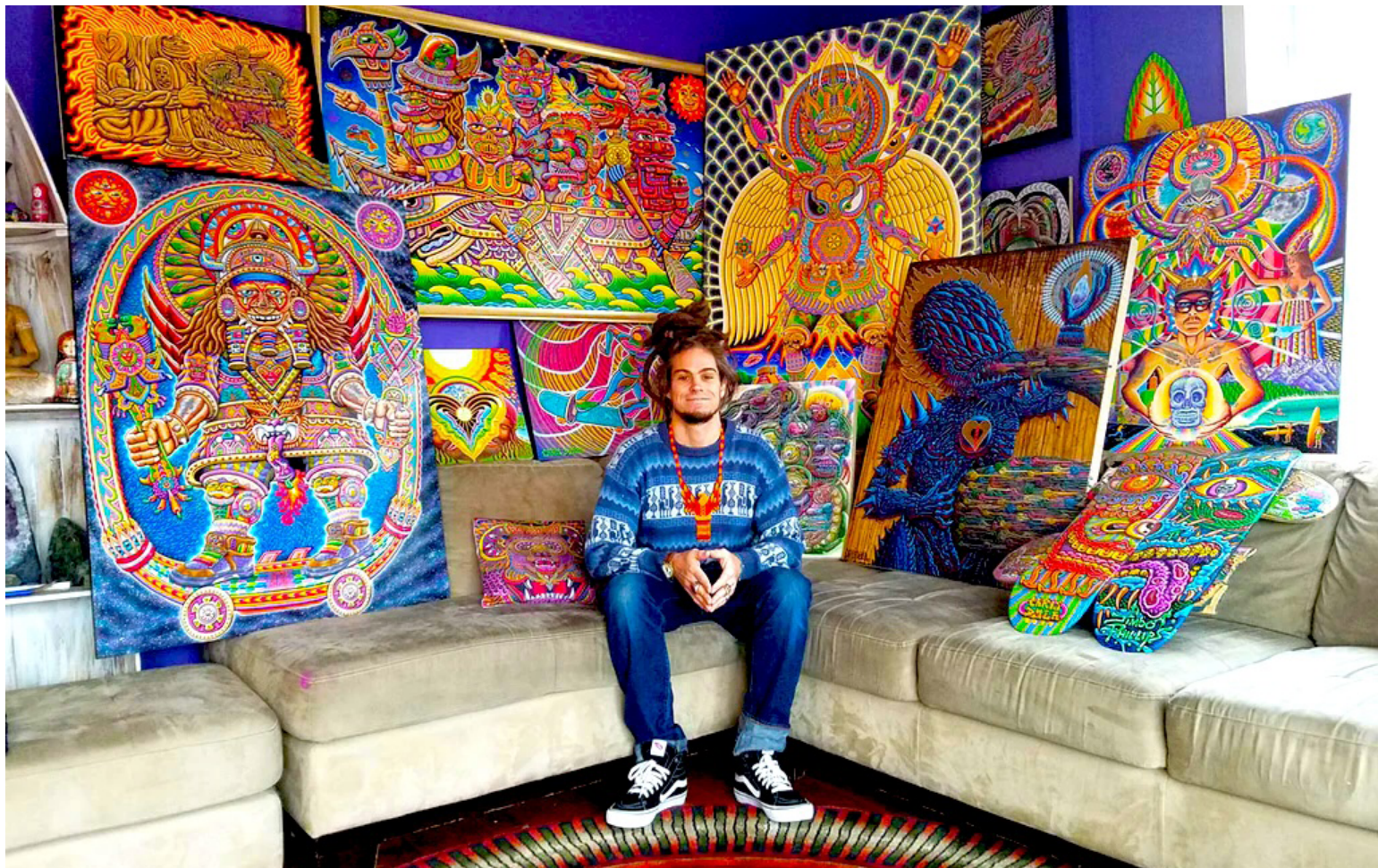
CD: It's probably the hippest street in the world! So much history. Every time I'm in SF I go to Amoeba. I'm a record collector.

HSV: We love Amoeba! Shoutout to Joe Goldmark! Music is inherent in your work, yes?

CD: I love musicians! They're full-on creators! My art is about the art, but the art is kind of like the bubble gum wrapper around the candy, and the candy is more like the consciousness. Not just my consciousness but the consciousness of everybody, which is a unified field of love. The world will evolve into a more loving world once we're all open around our hearts and spread the love without fear. It's what's gonna save us.

Hop on over to the video and hang with me and Chris! Full transcript there as well!

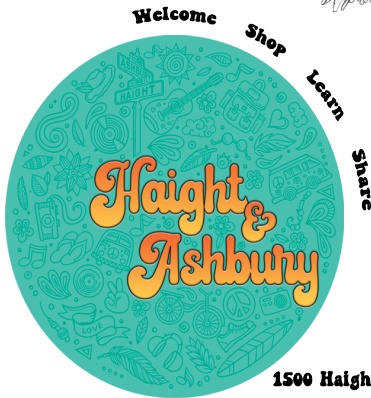




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HUMBOLDT FAMILY FARMS: BUDS. BIZ. COMMUNITY.

I met Scott Vasterling at one of Haight Street Art Center's fantastic exhibits, hanging out by the goodie bags featuring his tasty product from Humboldt Family Farms. Scott founded this community-driven cannabis company and keeps it rollin' forward.

SV: We were founded in 2007 as a food farm. My wife and sister-in-law owned a cafe up in Trinidad, and we supplied them with fruits, vegetables, eggs and so forth. That's how HFF was born. The same people growing amazing peaches and tomatoes are also growing amazing craft, sun-grown cannabis.

Over the years from navigating regulations and through the policy work I'd done, I built relationships not only with different farmers but with people who have influence in music and art. Cannabis has been such a part of that culture. Those connections led us to the HSAC. Jeff and Kelly over there have been fantastic. Their team has been incredibly supportive of artists and music clearly, and there's this component of underground cannabis inspiration. Kelly and Jeff invited us to be a part of that and share some wares from our farmers and connect with people in the Haight area. SPARC on Haight is one of our favorite retail outlets.

HSV: What does the Haight mean to you?

SV: In the early '90s, I was always coming down for shows: Jerry Garcia with David Grisman playing at the Warfield, night after night. I was missing classes! Haight Street was where we always ended up. There's a lot of history of cannabis there, a very intriguing, free-spirited, artistic

lifestyle people were living in the Haight.

HSV: You grew up an athletic person yet weed didn't interfere ...

SV: I used it functionally more than to check out. I was very successful in organized sports and surfing, and I found I could really focus with just a little bit of cannabis. I find inspiration from it. I still feel very in control. I'm managing a big business with a lot of farmers and a lot of things going on, and I can still really function in that way. A little bit in the morning with my cup of coffee is one of my favorite times to enjoy it, go for a walk, check on the farm and then start my day.

We have almost 5 acres of cultivation within 5 farms we're currently cultivating on, with amazing farmers. To tell their stories and have them focus on the farming, which is what they love to do, they can produce the highest quality product. I feel very honored and grateful that I'm in this position to help support these farmers and celebrate them. I want to make sure we celebrate the culture of cannabis up here in the Emerald Triangle.

HSV: What would you like to say to the Haight community and communities everywhere?

SV: Vote with your dollar! Put your dollar in places, companies, people and communities you believe in. We're grateful for your support and love working in the Haight area!

QR code it over to watch my zoom interview with Scott and read the full transcript!



NEIL HALLINAN: A PIONEERING SPIRIT IN SF LAW

“Vincent Hallinan, ‘the lion of the courtroom,’ fought power all his life — City Hall, corporate titans, the Catholic Church, the federal government. Vincent imbued his sons early with an important lesson: Don’t just question authority, sneer at it whenever appropriate.”

— SF author David Talbot, October 2019, speaking to the loss of Patrick Hallinan, Vincent’s first-born of 6 boys.

HSV: It is with great honor I share these stories from Neil Hallinan, grandson of the legendary Vincent, and son of Patrick Hallinan (who defended Ken Kesey and many other pioneering if not controversial spirits of that era).

Neil Hallinan: I am a proud, third-generation, San Francisco trial attorney. I by no means intended to fall in the footsteps of my dad and grandfather, but I kind of ended up here and I proudly walk in their footsteps now.

Being an attorney in SF is something I’m very proud of because my great grandparents moved here in the late 1880s. My great grandfather was a streetcar driver on Market Street. My grandfather was born in 1896 — he actually lived a block and a half from here on Page Street.

When the earthquake struck and the City burned, all the wealthy people from Nob Hill to Alamo Square lost their homes. The landlords started raising the rents to get out all the working class people, all the poor people, the Irish immigrants, the Catholics,

so that the rich people could pay more rent for a place over here once they were displaced.

It was the experience of seeing my grandfather speak about a gentleman, a lawyer, who rode the streetcar every day and got to know my great grandfather.



He respected him as a hardworking man and volunteered to represent him against the allegation of unlawful detainer by the landlord. With the neighborhood banding together, they helped my great grandfather come home from work and hop over neighboring fences every day to avoid the process server. The lawyer represented him in court, and it was the power that

this lawyer had to hold the powers-that-be accountable that inspired my grandfather to fall into the law.

HSV: Shoutout to Vincent!

NH: Shoutout to Vincent, the great Vin! It was natural that my father Patrick followed in his father’s footsteps, and I ended up there too. It’s an honor to be a criminal defense attorney in this town and have a firm called the Hallinan Law Firm.

I’m definitely in touch with and proud of my Irish heritage from which I kind of have that spark of holding authority accountable and standing up for the poor, the disenfranchised, and the least popular among us. Making sure that everyone gets a fair shot in this world.

“The Hallinans were the social conscience of SF and in many respects the heart of SF.”

— Former SF Mayor, Joe Alioto



PSYCHEDELIC ROUNDTABLE

#6

WITH P.E.A.C.

PSYCHEDELIC AND ENTHEOGEN ACADEMIC COUNCIL (PEAC) IS

COMPOSED OF UCSF RESEARCHERS, CLINICIANS, AND TRAINERS WHO ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED, OR INTERESTED IN, THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF

PSYCHEDELICS AND ENTHEOGENS

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SPEAKER: ANDREW PENN

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DR. DAVID SMITH + PEAC MEMBERS

OPENS TO THE PUBLIC 6-7PM

QUESTIONS?
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PSYCHEDELIC SF GALLERY

1999 HAIGHT @ MASONIC



This is Tom Nestor's fantastic capture of Ryon flyin' high on Haight -- both awesome dudes at Roberts Hardware. We're super stoked about the skateboard competition at this year's Haight Ashbury Street Fair!

THE MAN BEHIND THE HAIGHT ASHBURY STREET FAIR

Meet Michael Xavier! He runs the Haight Ashbury Street Fair — happening September 15 this year!

MX: Our 45th year! Pablo Heislung was one of the main founders of the HASF. He was at the helm of it. Pablo was originally a Digger at that time in SF, feeding the houseless people. He'd seen Harvey Milk do the first Castro Street Fair (1974) so he went down to Harvey's camera shop and said, "Hey! We wanna do this in the Haight!" Harvey obliged him and came up there with a group of people who became the founders of the HASF. The first one was in 1978, launched out of the Pall Mall (aka USA Cafe).

HSV: Which is now Mad Dog in the Fog! [See page 11 for 10% off at Mad Dog!]

MX: What really hooked me with Pablo was there was this guy on Haight that was a lone wolf. He would sit there alone on Haight in front of the-then Gap with a marijuana bowl in front of him, not speaking at all and just waiting for people to put a bud in there. I didn't hear him speak for a year. Then one evening I'm walking to a meeting for the fair with Pablo and he asked this kid, "Hey, you coming to the meeting?" And the kid spoke! "Well I'm not from here." And Pablo says, "You've been living in the park for what a year and a half?" And the lone wolf says, "Yeah." And Pablo said, "Well then, you're from here. Come with us. There'll be food."

Pablo definitely felt for 30 years that he owed it to Harvey, especially after he died, to continue on these community-gathering traditions. That's what I think of as the fair. The best place to have a party, to community gather, to create programs for the neighborhood, activities. Power to the people! I also created the Haight

Street Fair Art Walk with Andrea (Fuenzalida) to give inclusion to artists who couldn't afford a booth.

HSV: [Holding up a groovy velvet cat doll]

MX: That's Voodoo Kitty!

HSV: Get a Voodoo Kitty from Drea, people!

MX: Drea will love that!

After covid, I've tried to come back to the origins. We revamped our security team. We got people from the Swords to Ploughshares and the Veterans Commons Building to staff it. About 30 people came out and we paid them really well. They loved it. They had so much fun!

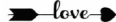
Another thing we brought back: we teamed up with Kent (owner, FTC on Haight) who put together a skateboard competition on Belvedere. That's been a huge love, watching everybody do tricks for hours! It created a new interesting thing for the "tween-teen" dichotomy. This is something more in their pocket.

I want to make the fair more stable, more viable in a community-oriented kind of way. Eventually I'm going to walk away from this. I'm trying to get a new generation of younger people who are interested in community-gathering activities, creating a collective artistic community.

HSV: What would you like to say to the Haight community?

MX: I love you SF. I love you Haight Ashbury. As Pablo would say, "Come out and be groovy." When I was a late teenager looking at how big the HASF was, it looked impossible. I asked Pablo, "Why do you do this?" He said, "To keep live rock and roll on the streets of SF for free." That's still my motto!

Come hang with me & Michael in this video interview!



THE 45TH ANNUAL
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STREET FAIR

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LANDING IN THE HAIGHT, 1968. LOVE FROM LONDON

British photographer and light show artist Peter Bailey – who just turned 80 – reached out a while back to share some stories about his living in the Haight in the late '60s. What a trip, indeed! I think you'll dig -- even more so because his beloved daughter does the interviewing. Cheers to you both!

D: When did you first go to the Haight?

P: I hitchhiked from New York to San Francisco in February 1968. I was 23 years old and heard good things were happening in California. The counterculture had just kicked in and I wanted to find out what it was about. The last person to pick me up was driving a station wagon and dropped me off right on Haight Street. I got out and it was strange at first because I didn't know how I was going to live or where I would sleep but it didn't really matter

because the people were so welcoming. I was excited because there were lots of people on Haight. Everyone was enjoying themselves and going to the park. People were tripping and one guy had a guitar and a drum set and was playing during the early hours of the morning. He suggested a place for me to stay for the night with some other musicians. For the first week I was trying to blend in, going with the flow and seeing where it took me. People were not hung up with possessions and would give you things if you needed them. It felt like a community.

D: The Grateful Dead lyricist's girlfriend was your friend?

P: I met Patty Warner, Robert Hunter's then-girlfriend, in a bar in New York in 1967. She was having a beer and we got chatting. She told me the Grateful Dead were playing in Greenwich Village the next day and

invited me along. During a set break, she hauled me up onstage and introduced me to each band member. I didn't say an awful lot, it was the first time I met them. I hadn't heard of them yet but I LOVE the Grateful Dead and all of their songs, every one of them. It was one of the reasons I wanted to go to SF.



Patty gave me her address and said if I ever go to SF to look her up. So after being in the Haight for a week I found her living in a commune on Fell Street. It was magical. Everyone was magical. She said I could sleep on her floor and that's where I met Robert Hunter. I was asleep in my sleeping bag, and I remember waking up one morning around 5am and Robert was sitting on the edge of the bed with Patty. She had a notepad and pencil, and he was saying words and she was writing them

down. I fell back to sleep and when I woke up Patty told me that Robert had just written a song and called it "Black Peter". I don't know why he wrote the song. Perhaps he felt sorry for me as I had nowhere to live at the time. Patty told me the next day that Jerry would be coming over to work on the song. I'd forgotten this story until about 20 years later when I was working with the Cosmic Charlies, a Grateful Dead tribute band, and it all fell into place.

Those times in the Haight are still important to me. Once you turn on, you become a hippie and are always a hippie. We believe in peace and love.

Taking "hyper-local with a global perspective" to a whole new level ... More heartwarming memories from Peter via QR code.



love →

HAIGHT ASHBURY PSYCHEDELIC CENTER

Drug Wars & Peace by Steve Heilig

I stroll down into the Haight, where I've happily resided for 40 years now. There's a young guy stapling a "Mush Love" flier on a lamppost, with a phone number saying "Text or call for menu." I smile and ask, "May I have one?" "Sure," he says. "We'll set you right up. Good shrooms!" "No thanks, I meant your poster. Aren't you worried about getting busted?"

"Naah, it's legal here now."

"Well sorta.. Dealing it like this might not be. There have been busts right in our neighborhood."

"Ahh, bummer, man. Listen, maybe you want to buy some right now?"

"No thanks. But I'm actually in this realm professionally and support good research and safe medical use, right up there at UCSF, but ..."

"Ah really? Cool! Do you think they would buy some? We'd work out a quantity deal ..."

"Er, no, it has to be very pure, controlled, for real medical research, and ..."

"Maybe they'd want some for people afterwards, like a pharmacy thing? We could do that! Do you know any docs who might want some? Or, anybody?"

Etc etc. Nice kid, a bit hyper. Young capitalist, heavily into marketing. And maybe into his own product a bit much too. Evangelistic, even, at least where there might be money to be made.

"Psychedelic Medicine" is the big buzz (sorry) now. Michael Pollan's brilliant 2018 book *How to Change Your Mind* was a bestseller and very good mini-series



too. Some of the best universities in the nation now host well-funded psychedelics research centers, with heartening results showing varying degrees of effectiveness of substances such as psilocybin, MDMA, ketamine, and LSD for problems such as PTSD, depression, even addiction. It's what I call Psychedelics 3.0. Now the psychedelic evangelists want few or no restrictions on their practices,

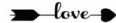
whether training and credentials, protocols, etc, and they can charge what they want. Some adopt the self-aggrandizing term "psychonaut." Seems okay to me if nobody is hurt. But when, as moderator of a panel on psychedelic medical research at UCSF I dared quote the revered Ram

Dass' (formerly Richard Alpert PhD, Leary's partner in pioneering research at Harvard) admonition "once you get the message, hang up the phone," boos came from the audience. Booing Ram Dass!

Now undeniably many have learned much from such substances, maybe even a few becoming "enlightened." But add money to evangelism and is it any surprise there are bad outcomes? Money may be the most addictive drug of all.

Young Mr. Mush Love has now stapled his posters on all four corners of the intersection. He waves at me, smiling, and I shout a goodbye and "Be careful out there," quoting an old TV cop show. So perhaps some things in this realm are coming full circle, and some real good will come from all this turmoil. Maybe all this will work out fine. Hopefully. Nobody really knows yet.

Follow the QR code to read this poignant piece in all its flying colors from our pal Steve. Dig!

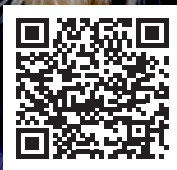
A circular logo with a black background and a yellow border. At the top, the words "The Mad Dog" are written in a green, cursive font. In the center, a white and black bulldog is depicted standing on a wooden barrel. Below the barrel, the words "In The Fog" are written in a green, cursive font. Overlaid on the bulldog and barrel is a white text box with black text that reads "10% OFF YOUR FOOD ORDER WITH THIS AD!!!".

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GIFTING LOCAL LOVE: HYPER-LOCAL WITH A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



by Kenna M. Lindsay

Recently I got to catch up with Robert Emmons, owner of SF Mercantile at his Castro location Welcome Castro during a Pride Month book signing event. Later we exchanged emails about his experience being a retailer, buyer, and San Francisco small business person and his experience with global gift culture and being a gift giver.

Here are some of my favorite excerpts from our conversations.

KL: When did you know you wanted to run a store?

RE: We used to have a wholesale trade show, the San Francisco International Gift Show, where we could show our line and grow our business. That show ended due to Moscone closing down for a remodel and never came back. I

thought that it would be nice to have a retail store that could also be used as a showroom for buyers to come in and review our line as well as see products from other artists.

KL: What do you love about San Francisco?



RE: In the late '80s San Francisco was an amazing place for young gay men. It was open and accepting, very different from the more conservative areas I've lived in. My husband and I were able to advance our careers. We made our lives here and raised our son with other non-traditional families. It's a city where you can express yourself as you like without judgment.

KL: Why the Haight to open your first store?

RE: I chose to open SF Mercantile in the Haight because it was the only neighborhood that I didn't have retail accounts in. I've grown very fond of the neighborhood, I love the other merchants and our quirky hippie vibe.

KL: What is magical about it?

RE: Sunshine Powers, owner of Love on Haight. She's my main source of magic in the Haight. She is so kind-hearted, genuine and selfless. She embodies the spirit of the counterculture and spreads joy wherever she is.

KL: What have you learned about gifts since opening a store?

RE: Finding the right gift for someone is so important because it says so much about who they are to you. Love is the main driver of gift giving. Finding the right gift to communicate that is what it's all about.

KL: What makes the perfect gift?

RE: It needs to be personal, to

reflect your relationship, your gratitude and to be unique.

It's less about how much you spend and more about how much you put into finding just the right thing to convey your feelings.

KL: What makes a good souvenir?

RE: The best souvenir will transport you back to a time and place that is meaningful. A handmade clove box from a trip to Indonesia, a piece of Murano glass from Venice, a hand-woven basket from a Native American in Maine, or a Karl the Fog ornament from a cold summer vacation in San Francisco, for me it's all about finding something that means something to

a place you visited and the experience you had. They are like portkeys in Harry Potter. When you hold them your mind is transported back to that special time and place.



Take a trip over to Kenna's full interview with the man behind these good-vibes stores, Robert Emmons!



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1350 WALLER ST.



Haight-Ashbury Holistic Astrology

by
Michael Sollazzo



Hello, Haight-Ashbury!

How do you keep moving forward even if things around you feel like they're sliding sideways?

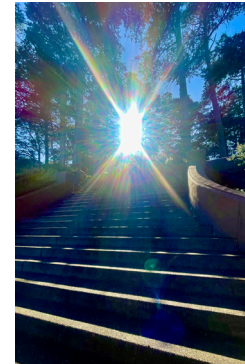
Having personal goals you incrementally work towards may help to provide a sense of stability and progress, even if other things feel out of your control.

But what does this have to do with astrology?

To start, astrology reminds us that there are cycles to life, and it can help us to keep track of these patterns (as we looked at this Spring). For example, you could use the Moon to track progress on short-term goals or you could use Mars to gauge steps taken on a multi-year fitness journey.

In addition, observing the heavens can remind us that motion is sometimes relative ... retrograde planets are not actually moving backwards but only appear to do so from our vantage point on

Earth. Using retrogrades as periods of reflection or rest might prepare you for what's ahead.



It may also be helpful to acknowledge that not every aspect of your being is always in alignment with all your goals, and managing aspects of yourself that work counter to your plans can be part of the process. Understanding where you may be in conflict with yourself may help shine light on procrastination tendencies or behaviors that lead to backsliding... and astrology is all about how things are connected,

whether harmoniously or not.

So, even with everything going on that may be outside your sphere of influence, how are you moving forward towards your goals?

I hope you enjoy the Haight Ashbury Street Fair and the rest of Summer!

If you would like to schedule an astrology reading or spiritual counseling, please email me at hello@michaelsollazzo.com or visit www.michaelsollazzo.com



SPORTS DESK

by
Cynthia Johnston



We were trying to legalize weed.

National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) volunteers were circulating petitions to qualify the 1980 California Marijuana Initiative (CMI '80) for the November ballot. We were about 300,000 signatures short and the deadline was breathing down our necks. We needed to do something drastic. I met event producer Steve Brown at another campaign worker's houseboat in Sausalito to sample some homegrown and do some Emergency Thinking. We needed to get the word out that we had four weeks to get those petitions signed and submitted. We passed around a joint of Frank's finest.

And we hatched a plan. With no time to organize an event, we needed to reach – and claim – all 20 million California pot smokers. We needed a headline. We needed a grabber. How about a 'nooner?' Why not invite all 20 million California stoners to light up together separately at the same time? At HIGH noon! How 'bout we call it Light Up for Liberty? That's it! Light Up for Liberty at High Noon. The press release practically wrote itself. We still needed a photo op, so we decided I would light up on SF City Hall steps. Our friend Roxanne would dress as the Statue of Liberty, holding a giant, four-foot-long joint. So, there we were.

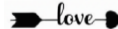


Unexpectedly, Diane Feinstein walked up the steps. Lady Liberty tried to hand her the joint, but her bodyguards whisked her away. Meanwhile, I stood there, joint in hand, surrounded by reporters as the moment approached. What we didn't know, and certainly hadn't planned for, was Police Week being celebrated on the mall facing us. Every cop car, police dog and bullet-proof vest in SF was arrayed mere steps away. Several of SF's finest were holding copies of our flyer: Light Up for Liberty at High Noon, as they circled our small gathering.

"Well, Cynthia," intoned one of the newsmen, "are you going to light up?" "I guess we're about to see what this is all about," says me, and I lit up. Immediately the police who surrounded the press stepped forward, relieved me of my joint, and escorted me to one side where they wrote up a ticket. But don't think I was being brave. I had a superpower: Michael Stepanian was NORML's lawyer. That's all I needed to know.

And we got our headline: MARIJUANA PROTESTER BUSTED AT HIGH NOON. Thanks for keeping us safe, Stepanian, Rohan, Hallinan, HALO, et al! You are the wind at our backs.

Check out Cynthia's badass website:
www.mywayisthehighway.com



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