Paul Park was back at Buddies Market before Thanksgiving, although he still is recovering from the vicious stabbing he endured during a robbery in August.

“I come by to say hello,” he said, flashing his familiar grin. He added that he expects to be on a limited schedule for three or four months while he finishes his convalescence.

The brutal late-night attack at Park’s mom-and-pop store at Chenery and Diamond streets galvanized the neighborhood, setting off demands for more police presence in downtown Glen Park.

Park’s decision to spend a few hours in the shop during the afternoon or evening was necessitated by more unhappy news for his family. His wife Jennie has been working daily since her husband was attacked, but she had to go to Korea for a while because both her parents were ill. She returned after Thanksgiving.

Buddies has remained open for up to 14 hours a day, although it closes earlier in the evening now, at 9 or 9:30 instead of 11. In addition to a niece and nephew who have been working there, the shop has hired a non-family employee, Nam Kim.

A network of neighbors, informally called Buddies Brigade, has been showing up at the shop around closing time, keeping an eye on things and making sure that Jennie or Paul and their assistants are escorted to their cars or to BART.

“It is so incredible,” Paul Park said of Buddies Brigade. “I didn’t expect so much.” He said there has been no additional trouble at the shop. Thanks to neighborhood generosity, additional lighting has been installed.

In all, about 15 people have volunteered to help at the store, showing up at closing time or lending a hand with bagging groceries, straightening shelves or cleaning. Some have come only once or twice, while about half a dozen show up pretty regularly, said brigade member Ann Grogan. At closing time, she added, they provide “a visible presence” in case any would-be thief is eyeing the shop. The brigade plans to continue until Park is completely recovered and back at work full time.

Meanwhile, merchants have occasionally brought meals or candy to the Parks, and $14,902.50 was donated via the Glen Park Merchants Association’s fund for Park. The association closed the account that accepted contributions at the Glen Park Citibank branch at Thanksgiving, and disbursed the last of the money to the Parks then, says Ric López, association president.

While he was back behind the counter at Buddies until Jennie got back from Korea, people from around the neighborhood were stopping in to welcome Park back. “I really appreciate my neighbors,” he said.
From the Editors

Wow. What a year it has been in Glen Park, and we had the pleasure of chroni-
cling the important neighborhood events in the Glen Park News.

Sadly, the hot issue was crime, with the neighborhood experiencing a spike in street muggings, home burglaries, car break-ins and the savage beating and robbery of grocer Paul Park at Buddies Market and the fatal shooting of a 39-
year-old man on Chenery Street.

But from the trouble sprang hope. In early September, hundreds of Glen Park residents and merchants showed up at a community anti-crime meeting to not only demand that city officials do more to restore a sense of tranquility in our neighborhood, but also to find out what we as individuals and working together can do to help.

The No. 1 tip to creating a safer neighborhood: Get to know your neighbors. Not only will people look out for you – and you for them -- but there’s the side benefit of potluck brunches, cocktail parties and finding someone to walk your dog and feed your cat when you’re out of town.

We hope the energy from the community meeting carries over in the months and years to come. And while crime was the downer that grabbed a lot of our most attention at the Glen Park News, we covered the neighborhood’s schools, transit changes, impacts of city budget cuts and cultural happenings.

There has been plenty to celebrate in the neighborhood: The good mix of independently-owned businesses and restaurants in the heart of the village, the glorious canyon that gives us an up-close relationship with nature day in and day out, our branch library and its expanded operating hours, the people who work hard to improve our neighborhood, whether as part of organized groups or by oft-overlooked individual gestures, such as stopping to pick up a piece of litter or planting a flower box in front of your home.

We are a neighborhood of artists and entrepreneurs, blue-collar work-

er, retirees and young families, professionals and laborers, renters and homeowners, the new-to-town and the long rooted.

Yes, we have our share of problems in Glen Park, but we also have our share of successes.

If you’re looking for a quintessential San Francisco neighborhood – hills and characters included – Glen Park is a good place to start.

We look forward to bringing Glen Park alive on our pages again next year. For now, from the all-volunteer staff of the Glen Park News: Happy New Year.
Glen Park Association News

I have read the *New York Times* since I was in high school in the suburbs of that great city. The West Coast edition lands at my door every morning. But I resent the *Times'* ever-present “Only in San Francisco” tone in stories about our politics and events. The latest:

“...In this dopamine-laden city [San Francisco], where the pursuit of well-being is something of a high art, a motley array of scientists, philosophers, doctors, psychologists, navel-gazing Googlers and Tibetan Buddhists addressed the latest findings on the science of human happiness...”

“Dopamine-laden?” Isn’t caffeine our drug of choice? The gratuitous condescension continued through the story, but the facts were not surprising: material wealth really does not bring happiness; social networks, a sense of community, and learning to give to others are a way to happiness. The people of Glen Park and the rest of San Francisco are under stress from the economy, threatened public budgets, and painful concerns about crime and safety. So what will the next few years bring to the neighborhood? Since November 4, we can expect “Change.” Beyond the campaign slogan, we need to press city, state and federal leaders to change what the public invests in, to create jobs and improve our community:

- Repave every patched, pot-holed, bumpy street;
- At the same time, pull down the poles and wires and put everything underground at one go; improve street lighting;
- Buy lots of buses for MUNI. Make them easy to ride -- In Nashville, every city bus can swipe a Visa or Mastercard.
- Widen the sidewalks; paint lots of yellow crosswalks;
- Build a linear park along the city property parallel to Bosworth from Diamond Street to Elk Street;
- Renovate the Glen Park Recreation Center;
- Fix more schools; build fewer jails.
- Make the auto companies turn their engineering and industrial base to putting out quiet, fuel-efficient transit vehicles.

We will need to dig into our pockets for taxes and fees for the investments. If our taxes rebuild the public realm and create jobs, we will keep Glen Park and San Francisco a place where the sense of community is as important as the latest stylish clothes or a hip cocktail.

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Michael Rice is president of the Glen Park Association.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Regarding reporter Rachel Gordon’s front page article “ENOUGH! Buddies Market Attack Draws Huge Crowd to Anti-Crime Meeting,” I wonder if the turnout of 500 residents on Sept. 8 at the public safety meeting is really the positive sign that Supervisor Dufty thinks it is? I wonder where the outpouring of love and neighborly concern expressed in words and floral bouquets immediately after the vicious August 31 attack on Buddies Market owner Paul Park, for Paul and his wife Jenny, went?

I wonder that based on continuing minimal turnout for the Buddies Evening Watch Brigade that on Sept. 3 several of us (with particular kudos to Lisa, Ricardo, Charles, Dave, and my partner, Ron) organized to protect Jennie Park as she closes up her market and walks to her car alone at night. We consistently show up for 30 short minutes each evening, joined infrequently by one or two others out of an approximate total of about 12 volunteers. (Care to get involved and help? Please email me at inquiry@romantasy.com or send your contact information to: Ste. 239, 2912 Diamond St., 94131)

I wonder that based on only a handful of other caring neighbors (thanks Karen, and to all of you whom I don’t know about) showing up to offer in direct response to one neighbor’s urgent question of “What can we do NOW?” That opportunity was an invitation to drop by Buddies during the day and volunteer to help restock shelves, sweep, clean or just stand by to support the brand-new Buddies employee or other young family helpers while Jenny attends to crucial tasks such as picking up supplies, preparing and submitting her insurance and victim’s compensation claims, attending to Paul’s substantial and continuing recovery needs at home, or just running out for a quick cup of coffee and rest, or even running in the back to use the bathroom. (Care to get involved and help? Just show up at Buddies when you can and ask Jennie what she needs that day).

I wonder that based on a comment heard at the Sept. 30 Glen Park Merchant’s Association meeting that even a pittance of a $30 monthly contribution might be “too much” to ask an individual merchant to contribute toward possibly hiring our own Village-dedicated private police patrol for a continuous, ongoing visible police presence, surveillance and focused commitment to crime prevention (not law enforcement) in our neighborhood. I wonder that based on a few Information Surveys returned by early November saying “I don’t want to hire our own officer. I already pay enough taxes for city police,” or one merchant who told me, “We already have enough police in the Village: right now a patrol car is sitting outside.” Police who weren’t there for us recent assaults in the neighborhood. (Care to answer the survey? Check online at http://romantasy.com/SF/PatrolSurvey.html)

Two simple, minimally time-consuming, effective and deeply appreciated action opportunities for direct expression of love and concern for a
Four Schools, 1,315 Kids

Glen Park, Fairmont, Miraloma and Sunnyside Elementary schools began their year in August, each meeting their enrollment projections, improving their California Standards Tests (CST) scores, and witnessing their California Academic Performance Index (API) rankings stabilize or rise.

Each K-5 kindergarten is filled, one indicator that Glen Park parents and guardians, consumers in a No Child Left Behind competitive market place, are satisfied with their neighborhood schools’ progress.

Still two years from when she must make her own choice, Hilary Ware, a Google attorney, is shopping kindergartens for Nicholas and Eva, her 3-year-old twins. More interested in a school’s programs and its parental commitment than test scores, Ware, a former high school guidance counselor, believes schools are measured in myriad ways.

“It is shortsighted to think standardized test scores are the end-all and be-all,” Ware says.

Glen Park Elementary sits atop Lip-pard Street. Marion Grady has taught for 48 years, the last 24 years serving as Glen Park principal. “When I came to Glen Park,” Grady says, “I wanted to devote myself to making something happen here.”

And something has happened at her 1930s-built school. While serving a diverse 325-student population with a showcase Demonstration Reading First program, Grady also supports a staff development program that fashions teacher collaborative time from state-mandated instructional minutes. “For an hour each day,” she says, “teachers meet in grade levels and plan standards-based lessons.

Grady and her staff, as a result, have watched Glen Park’s API score exceed the enviable 800 mark.

Collaboration also works for 27 teachers at Fairmont Elementary on Chenery Street, a Spanish-immersion school of 365 students that was built in the early 1970s. Constructed on various levels, with scenic views of the city’s eastern skyline, Fairmont has classrooms surrounding central indoor “pods.” In these smaller learning communities, Fairmont teachers confer on the school’s patented bilingual and bicultural curriculum.

Fairmont Principal Ana Lunardi, a teacher in the SFUSD for 19 years, has just taken on the leadership role at Fairmont. The school has a 60 percent Hispanic population and has seen its CST English language arts, math and science scores rise in the last year.

While only in her first year as Fairmont principal, Lunardi recognizes the mercurial nature of test scores and refuses to be branded by them. “I am proud,” Lunardi says, “that my English speaking students learn a second language, that my teachers have a passion for teaching, and that my staff is creating a nurturing environment.”

Richard Girling, whose son Ruary is currently in the fifth grade, agrees with Lunardi’s take on his 9-year-old son’s school. Recalling how the Fairmont “familia” rallied to provide needed funds for a mother of a student who became seriously ill, Girling, a member of the school site council, says: “The best thing about Fairmont is its multilingual parents and the staff building a community that respects and understands each other.”

Sophia Schuler’s Hello Kitty thermos-laden back pack weighs almost as much as the 5-year-old kindergartner does. She and her brother, Marty, 6, a Miraloma Elementary first grader, are accompanied most mornings by their father, Ben, to their 350-student school, which was built in the early 1950s among the circuiter streets below Mt. Davidson.

Waiting to leave his Miraloma Park home one morning, hopping from one foot to another, Marty says, “I like recess.” Exercise aside, Miraloma principal Ron Machado and his staff are modeling more than physical fitness.

Last year, Miraloma CST scores were more than impressive. English language arts scores skyrocketed, with 50 percent of the students scoring proficient or advanced, a 12 percent jump from the year before and nine points ahead of other California elementary schools. A similar bounce occurred with mathematics scores.

While he is happy with his students’ test scores, Machado, who has been at Miraloma’s helm for three years, also factors in less quantitative indicators in measuring his school’s success. The number of smiling faces, he believes, speaks volumes. “We have happy children and families,” he says, referencing the music program his staff offers.

Building self-esteem is no small part of “educating the whole child,” Machado believes. While he’s proud that his school’s API score is now 823, a 150-point spike since he became principal, Machado is just as impressed with weekly photographic student “shout-outs” displayed on a student-of-the-week bulletin board across the hall from his office.

Machado’s test scores aren’t the only thing that spiked at Miraloma. So did his hair. As a challenge, Machado offered his kids a deal they couldn’t refuse. He permitted one of them to shave his hair in a Mohawk “do” if the school’s CST scores rose. In September, Machado ran a gauntlet of giggling children, looking more like James Fenimore Cooper’s last Mohican than a popular elementary school principal.

“Teachers love him,” says parent Ben Schuler. It wouldn’t be a stretch to attribute the same sentiment to Schuler’s diminutive daughter, Sophia. “I like the sing-a-longs,” Sophia says.

So does Nancy Schlenke, principal of Sunnyside Elementary on Foerster Street, a school built in 1926 that has 275 students. “I want to see engaged students,” Schlenke says, beginning her fifth year as Sunnyside principal and her 22nd year in the SFUSD. “I want to balance academics with enrichment.”

Schlenke doesn’t have to walk a tightrope to accomplish this or cash parental vouchers to balance her budget.

Sunnyside boasts programs focusing on vocal and instrumental music, drama and ballet, while the school’s CST science test scores have jumped nine points in one year. Looking for a school that is clean, safe and within walking distance from her home, Sunnyside PTA parent Kari Gray — whose second-grade daughter, Fiona, takes movement, a pre-requisite to dance — appreciates Sunnyside’s emphasis upon the arts.

“Fiona will test well academically wherever she attends. A school’s environment is more important to me,” Gray says.

Schlenke gets the most satisfaction from putting teachers together in collegial grade-level teams and letting her...
Cookies and Donations at the Glen Park Association Meeting

You’d think that after more than 600 neighbors crowded into St. John’s auditorium on Chenery Street for a meeting on crime in September, it would be impossible to top the feeling of community.

But on Oct. 23, at the fall meeting of the Glen Park Association, we got pretty darn close.

First off, it was our yearly dessert potluck, and the bakers of the neighborhood clearly had been going hot and heavy all day, aided by a little judicious shopping at Destination Bakery, Canyon Market and the Cheese Boutique by those not so inclined.

A convivial hubbub filled the auditorium at the Glen Park Recreation Center and upwards of 50 people (and about 15 very happy kids) munched on the cakes, pies, cookies, bars and braided loaves, with cups of coffee and juice to help it all down.

The evening was meant as a chance for people in our community to eat, chat and get to know some of the neighborhood organizations that keep us going. Information tables circled the room. Local schools, including St. John’s and Glen Park, Sunnyside and Fairmount elementary schools, were represented. Also represented were Friends of Glen Canyon Park and various City agencies. Several of the volunteer writers and photographers for the Glen Park News also were on hand to meet with folks.

Cheney Street resident Ann Gronan, who’s been spearheading a move to get the community to pay for security in the form of San Francisco Patrol Specials spoke (see her letter to the Editor on Page 3 for more details), was there. There also was a group of neighbors who’ve been doing nightly walks around the neighborhood to keep an eye on things, as well as Buddies Evening Watch Brigade, a group that hang out at the market as they close up shop for the night to make sure everyone there gets home safely (story on Page 1).

But the highlight of the evening was when Buddies’ owner Paul Park and his wife, Jennie, made a surprise appearance. There was an extended standing ovation as their presence was announced. Jennie gave a short, heartfelt speech thanking everyone for their concern, support and prayers during the difficult weeks since her husband was brutally attacked during a robbery at the store in August, when her husband was stabbed and left for dead.

Then Ric Lopez, president of the Glen Park Merchants Association, announced that more than $12,000 had been donated to the fund for Paul Park, which the GPMA oversaw. The news was met with another sustained round of applause.

Join us at the next meeting on January 21, 2009.

St. John’s Gets Ready For the Big One

Students and parents at St. John’s Elementary can rest easy now—when the inevitable earthquake hits, they will know exactly what to do to stay safe.

Not content with a perfunctory duck-and-cover drill, parent Christine Borgognoni and others, including police, fire and EMT, conducted a full-scale 90-minute drill on October 22. She has two daughters, Cloe and Natalie, at the school and got the idea for the drill while helping plan for the recent Great Shakeout drill in Southern California.

Borgognoni is an army reserve soldier in a unit attached to FEMA. She modeled the drill according to the Incident Command System developed by CalFire for fighting wildfires, which is now used throughout the military.

The scenario: A 7.9 quake has caused severe damage. 911 is overwhelmed and the cell tower atop Bernal Heights is broken.

Students and parents were given instructions on how to stay safe once the earthquake hits. Each family was given a box of emergency supplies. The materials and instructions were developed by the Glen Park Association. A short video was shown followed by a brief overview of the plans for a full drill in January 2009.

The kids’ reactions ranged from “Really neat!” to “Wow, there’s a lot to think about!” to “It’s boring being the injured kid” and “We were fine because we prayed.”

Willers was very gratified by the experience: “I am deeply humbled by the trust parents, students and teachers place in my leadership to steward through a crisis. It is my obligation to ensure that all entrusted to the school’s care are prepared in the event of an emergency. We are committed to keeping our children safe, our environment secure and our response quick, effective and calming. This can happen only through drill and practice.”

St. John’s is planning to have an annual drill and inventory of disaster kits. They discovered the kits were outdated, expired and in need of age-appropriate rebuilding as the students grow.

Borgognoni’s advice to parents of schoolchildren is simple: “Think about it before, not after. Work out all the kinks. It’s easier to stay calm if you have your plans for your loved ones already in place.”

Resources: www.72hours.org and www.sfgov.org/fire/ncs
Obama Wins Big in Glen Park

Glen Park residents came out strongly in favor of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama. In the neighborhood vote count, the junior senator from Illinois bested his Republican rival, Sen. John McCain, of Arizona better than 10 to 1.

Obama secured more than 4,500 votes to McCain’s 400 in the seven precincts that loosely fall within the boundaries of Glen Park, according to preliminary returns from the Nov. 4 election analyzed by the Glen Park News.

Neighborhood voters also overwhelmingly rejected California’s Proposition 8, the same-sex marriage ban that nevertheless won statewide support with 74%-72% of the vote.

While the citywide vote was 53 to 47 in favor of Proposition 8, the same-sex marriage ban that ruled gay and lesbian couples had the right to marry, the neighborhood vote was 2,315 to 2,204 in favor of the voter-approved initiative.

As for local ballot measures, neighborhood voters strongly backed Propostion A, an $887 million bond proposal to rebuild San Francisco General Hospital. The funding plan needed at least a two-thirds majority in favor to pass, and won easily with 84 percent of the vote citywide. In Glen Park, 4,183 people approved Prop. A; 617 opposed it.

Local voters mirrored the city outcome of Proposition H, which would have brought San Francisco closer to creating a public power system. The measure, fiercely opposed by the deep-pocketed PG&E energy company and backed by a majority of San Francisco supervisors, lost. The vote in Glen Park was 1,965 in support and 2,663 opposed.

Glen Park also voted with the city in approving Proposition V, a non-binding policy statement that urges the Board of Education to reinstate the Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps, or JROTC.

While the citywide vote was 53 to 47 percent in favor, support was less pronounced in Glen Park. There were 2,315 in favor and 2,204 against.

The elected school board voted two years ago to boot the program out of the city’s public high schools and has made no indication that it will go along with the will of the voters.

The daily crime log from Inglewood Station’s top cop, Capt. Denis O’Leary, told us part of the story about a moment in time in Glen Park. The day was Oct. 27, a Monday, late afternoon that was giving away to evening.

“A 54-year-old Glen Park woman was walking home when she was approached by another woman who had just exited a parked car. The other woman took the victim’s iPod from her hand and pulled on her purse. The victim fought for control of her purse. A second suspect joined the first robber and struck the victim in the head. The victim fell to the ground and both suspects kicked her. A witness broke up the robbery and the suspects fled in the car. The victim retained her purse and the iPod was found nearby.”

“The suspects in this robbery were described as black females, 20 to 25 years old, 5 foot 6 to 5 foot 7 inches tall, 145 to 150 pounds. The first robber was wearing a multicolored “doo rag” and black clothing. The second robber also wore black clothing. Their vehicle was described as a blue Honda.”

The victim, in this all-too-typical case, is Mitzi Ramirez. This is her story — how she fought back, kept her purse but lost her sense of safety in the neighborhood where she’s lived for 25 years.

At least once a week Ramirez has to walk up from the Glen Park BART Station to her home on Moreland Street when the No. 52 bus doesn’t show up. In all the years she’s lived here she’s never given a thought to it except for the steepness of the hill.

So on Oct. 27, when the bus was nowhere in sight, the sprightly 54-year-old started up the hill listening to her iPod. It was a balmy afternoon that was giving away to evening.

She gave me an ice pack for my head and put a towel on me. She called the police and a medical team arrived. They couldn’t have been older than 21,” Ramirez says.

The police and a medical team pulled up within minutes. Both were wonderful, she recalls: “They were so compassionate, they were very gentle with me. Every time, they said: ‘I’m sorry you have to relive this again, but we have to ask you these questions.’”

The assailants got away, but a few weeks after the attack officers came to Ramirez’s house with a stack of photos for her to look at. She quickly picked out the suspect who’d first pulled on her bag. “The police swore out a warrant for her arrest that day,” she says.

As of Thanksgiving the suspect hadn’t been apprehended.

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As of Thanksgiving the suspect hadn’t been apprehended.

Although the would-be thieves didn’t get away with anything, and Ramirez wasn’t badly hurt, the assault has had a tremendous effect on her day-to-day life, she says: “I don’t wear my iPod any more. I stopped running, after running faithfully for years and years.”

And after eight years of happily living without a car, relying on BART and Muni, she’s decided to buy her own wheels. “It was great to take public transportation, but the bus only comes four out of five times and that’s unacceptable.”

“I know I’ll eventually get over it,” she adds. But for now, she’s one more car on the road and one slightly less independent woman.

“It’s ironic,” she says. “I work in Bayview-Hunters Point. You’d think I’d have gotten jumped there. But no, it was here.”

Mugging Story Headline

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Waste Not Want Not
Where Does It All Go, Anyway?

by Dolan Eargle

At first, I thought of discovering just which of several Glen Park discards might be the most rewarding to investigate. Looking around, I came upon the startling (to me, anyway) realization that we have a lot of food establishments right here in Glen Park, with a concentration around Chenery and Diamond—23 in all. Restaurants, groceries, specialties, school lunchrooms. Food prepared on the site, take-out, fresh food and pre-packaged food.

I set out to query the proprietors or managers of all these places—“Just what do you do with your unsold or unused food?”

Each of these categories generates its own waste stream, both trash and recycling. I found a remarkable and consistent effort to put to use just about everything that might spoil and not waste anything. Waste doesn’t make money.

What to do with leftover prepared food? More than one establishment that sometimes has perfectly good leftover prepared items can find new uses for some items in tomorrow’s stews, sandwiches or mixed vegetables. Some offer it to their employees. All relegate anything that spoils easily to the compostables bin each night. Good food that won’t spoil may be kept overnight in cold storage, but that is surprisingly rare.

Edible leftovers from your plate that do not end up in take-out boxes (doggie bags) and kitchen scraps are disposed of immediately. City and state health regulations are extremely strict—all excess restaurant food must be disposed of.

Some small operations with perishable goods allow take-home by the staff, but not on a regular basis. Three places keep barrels for used cooking oil, which is taken away for biodiesel.

At Safeway on Diamond Heights, I peeked at the large store service area in the rear. Neatly stacked there are great masses of wrapped cardboard boxes, wooden pallets, some used store racks, and several grocery carts needing mechanical attention. There’s a dumpster for regular landfill garbage. In addition, I saw a great bundle of good-looking bread and rolls. I checked the expiration dates—two days after my visit.

This occasioned a comment to manager Marco. These bundles are destined for a food bank at the Safeway distribution center. Here, they are gathered two days in advance, trucked to the Tracy center—one day from expiration—then distributed to the poor! The store also features two green food bank bins for customer donations.

Safeway doesn’t allow the staff or employees to carry home unused food, either prepared or fresh leftovers. The managers of each of the prepared food sections ascertain by experience the popularity of each dish—each soup, meat, roasted chicken, etc. As counter offerings dwindle, they are replenished or allowed to become depleted.

I was pleased to discover the thoughtful efficiency of our markets and food providers. But there are exceptions. The San Francisco Unified School District lunch program decides from on high what all the school lunchrooms will serve each day. All the kids get the identical meal, prepared elsewhere and trucked to the schools, where the little boxes are heated or arranged. One monitor I spoke to said some 65–75 pounds of edible food a day are discarded by children at his school.

Our one private school, St. John’s, has its own lunchroom and cooks—preparing food for kids with special diets as well as regular diets. It serves 200 meals a day.

The most important recipient of Glen Park’s waste food is the San Francisco Food Bank, at the eastern foot of Potrero Hill. It is the size and shape of a large airplane hanger. Inside are rows with five-level stacks of huge boxed cans and jars of free food donated from food factories’ overproduction and restaurants whose inventory was too large.

At the floor level are great bins of hundred-pound sacks of onions, potatoes, cabbage and many other fresh foods donated by big farms and grocery stores. One end of the building has a room just for divvying up the huge sacks of donated rice into smaller, useful bags. This mass of produce comes from the Central Valley, Salinas Valley and North Bay farms. Rows of other foods like breads and odd donated cans and boxes from the numerous green grocery store food bank bins line the walls. There’s also a great refrigerated freezer.

The staff calls this extraordinary place “Food Bank Costco.” I’d call it CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Glen Park Shops
and Services Directory

It’s time to update the 16th edition of the Glen Park Directory!

If you would like to make changes and be included in the 2009 Directory, please call or email.

Glen Park Neighbors:
If you would like a complimentary copy, please call or email.

Happy Holidays to all of our neighbors! Peace and Joy in the coming year!

Your Neighborhood is Our Neighborhood
Glen Park Residents & Realtors since 1987

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Sometimes things don’t work. But sometimes they do.

Since May 19, San Francisco Police Department officers at the Ingleside Station, which serves Glen Park, have had to take their prisoners to Bayview, Mission, Park or Taraval Stations after making arrests because that was the day work started on refurbishing Ingleside’s holding cells.

More than six months later, the cells are still closed. Like all remodels, there have been delays. They include new fire codes, rewritten architectural plans, expired building permits and, most frustratingly, “the State’s insistence that the cells be Americans with Disabilities Act compliant (even though our rules do not allow us to house disabled prisoners),” according to Captain Denis O’Leary.

After a frustrating hiatus, Department of Public Works workers finally returned to the station on Nov. 24 to resume work on the remodel. When miscreants can stay put at our local station is unknown.

“We hope that the work will be completed soon,” says O’Leary. But though there are days when the world seems only to be an ill-run and frustrating place, sometimes bright spots appear and the right things happen even when you aren’t expecting them. Jennifer Koeninger of Chilton Street found experienced one just before Thanksgiving.

Her mom, Cathy Conlan, lives in the outer Richmond but has been getting her hair cut at Urban Soul salon for three years now. It was always a nice mother-daughter outing for the two. But after a 10-year battle, Conlan’s emphysema has been getting worse and now “she’s reaching the end” and is hospice care, says Koeninger.

The whole family was set to spend Thanksgiving at Conlan’s house for the last time. She’d been feeling out-of-sorts because her normally short hair hadn’t been cut in quite awhile. Conlan, 63, “wistfully mentioned that she would love to have it cut one more time by her hairdresser, Wing Tat,” Koeninger says.

So the Saturday before Thanksgiving, Koeninger went in to the Urban Soul Salon on Chenery and asked Wing if he could possibly make a house call. Without even hesitating he said he’d come and cut it on Monday.

That day, “he cleared his lunch hour and drove behind me as I led him on the 20-minute ride to her house. He gave her one of the best haircuts she’s had—right in her kitchen.”

Koeninger had planned on paying Wing double what he usually gets for a cut, but when she tried, “he pushed my hand away, mentioned something about the holidays and left, after giving both my mom and me a hug and a kiss.”

The cut really perked Colan up. “She had a shower and it really made her day,” says Koeninger. “She wanted to look her best,” for what’s likely to be her last Thanksgiving with her children.

At a dark time for her family, Wing’s simple act of kindness moved Koeninger to tears. “With all that seems to be going wrong in our world today, know that there is a lot that is right,” she says. “I’ll never forget him.”

Schools
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

young faculty run with the curriculum and instruction ball. She says, “I like to stay behind the scenes and let others shine.”

Teachers often speak of multiple measures in evaluating their classrooms. But a teacher’s litmus test for school success isn’t solely calibrated in statistical quartiles or in scantron-scored results. Often it occurs at the end of each day when instructors watch children leaving school, wearing grins as wide as Glen Canyon.

Schlenke likes to tell the story of a kindergartner accompanied to Sunnyside on the first day of school by his third-grade brother. While their mother completed registration information in Schlenke’s office, the brothers walked out to the teacher-supervised play yard. Wide-eyed, the 5-year-old drifted away from his brother, safely sequestered behind protective fences. The bell sounded and the older sibling went to class, leaving his brother to wander into his new classroom.

Nancy Schlenke believes he is the only child she has ever left behind.
Free-roaming Chickens Roamed a Little Too Far

Anyone lost three chickens? That was the gist of the message Glen Park resident Grace Clark posted on Nov. 4 to three local listservs.

The previous day, Clark had received an unusual phone call from a parent at Glenridge Cooperative Nursery School (where Clark’s four-year-old son goes). Alexandra Nangle and her three boys were trying to catch a chicken they’d found on a Glen Canyon trail. Knowing Clark kept chickens in her Chenery Street backyard, they wondered if it was hers.

It wasn’t, but in the pouring rain, Clark and her two kids joined the Nangle family and finally brought home a big, juvenile rooster. Forty-eight hours, many phone calls and several hunts through blackberry thickets later, two more roosters had joined Clark’s increasingly crowded coop. Glenridge director Mame Campbell and parent Gina Ponticello lent a hand.

Despite her shout-outs to the community, Clark never found out where the chickens came from. “They were a high-end heirloom breed, and we found a box near them with straw in it. Probably someone let them go because they were roosters, and they wanted hens,” she surmised.

Small-scale urban chicken farming has become surprisingly popular in recent years, as evidenced by the birth of websites such as www.BackyardChickens.com. Although roosters are not legal in San Francisco (for obvious noise reasons), many households keep hens in backyard coops for eggs. “I know of at least one other Glen Park family who raises chickens,” said Clark, “but Bernal Heights is the hotbed of chicken raising in San Francisco.”

Besides the thrill of being able to step into the backyard for a still-warm breakfast egg, Clark says that for her, the appeal is the animals themselves. “Whenever I visited my parents, my kids would ask, ‘When are we going to get chickens, too?’ So when I found out we could really do it, I thought, ‘Let’s try!’ For us, they’re pets more than anything else. They’re actually pretty trainable.”

But back to our feathered protagonists. Reluctant to turn them over to Animal Control, for fear they’d be destroyed, Clark was relieved when someone on the SF Chickens Yahoo group answered her email and took two of the roosters home to his mother’s flock. It turned out to be a brief sojourn, however. After they turned out to be aggressive toward the others, he brought them back to Clark. They ended up in Calaveras County, where Clark’s parents live.

Chickens roaming wild in the park, neighbors spreading the word, kids walking down the street with flapping roosters under their arms—adventures like these prove that Glen Park remains a small-town enclave in a great big city.
Halloween Story

Glen Park is undergoing a baby boom.

The numbers all added up after dark on Halloween, and you didn’t have to poll the 750-member Glen Park Parents, a four-year-old parents’ group, to verify the arithmetic. You simply had to tally the numbers of elves, fairies and pixies parading along Chenery Street.

Probably there were more kids than the village has seen at one time in a month of baby showers or a year of Walt Disney reruns.

Paula Bosque, who has lived on Randall Street since 1982 and raised two daughters there, taught high school algebra for 16 years until a year ago. Bosque believes mathematical proof of the baby bonanza is as simple as one-two-three: “Hog wild Halloween-decorated house equates to a high the number of children trick-or-treating.”

Glenn and Kris Rodriguez, who live in a 1895 house on Chenery Street, didn’t go hog wild. They went wild with a domestic pirate theme. A marooned buccaneer would have found safe harbor dropping anchor near their goblin-adorned house, where ghosts floated from fishing lines and skeletons wielded broad swords. Each hovered over a treasure chest of faux gold pieces-of-eight. Next to them, a mutineer skeleton walked a plank, prodded by a brigand swinging a cutlass, as a skull and crossbones unfurled above them.

“There are many new families in the neighborhood. They appreciate the decorations,” said Glenn Rodriguez, dressed in piratical pantaloons, holding a cauldron of candy, ready to offer treats to the 300 revelers who stepped onto his front porch that evening.

A couple of houses up Chenery Street, Davy Dalere, whose mother owns Dalere’s Beauty Salon, decorated his house with 13 grimacing pumpkins and four ominous-looking tarantulas. “I was born and raised in this house and every year we see more kids knocking on the door,” said Dalere, who has lived in his home for 40 years.

Glennon Sutter, who lives on Arlington Street, literally did go Halloween hog-wild. Sutter displayed a coffin in his front yard, occupied by a pig adorned with bright red lipstick that shared crypt space with a John McCain facsimile. The defeated candidate, arms folded funerally across his chest, lay in permanent electoral repose.

The cosmetically enhanced little pig wasn’t alone. A moose stood guard from an upper floor bedroom window, Sarah Palin sitting sentry, toting a semi-automatic assault weapon and dressed in a designer suit. A bandolier of scarlet-tipped ammunition circled her ruby-red jacket. “I wasn’t political last year,” said Sutter, staring at his two macabre mannequins. “But this was the scariest year of all.”

Sutter’s Italianate Victorian, built in 1888, attracted hundreds of admiring neighborhood children prior to Halloween, including 5-year old Saskia Furtado, who lives across the street. “Saskia loves Glennon’s house at night.” says Saskia’s mother, Jennifer.

So, with ghosts and ghouls stalking Surrey and Sussex streets, followed by gaggles of bumble bees, cowardly lions and sleeping beauties bringing up the rear, Glen Park’s Halloween was in full swing three days before the presidential election.

Even the sodden weather didn’t dampen the festivities. In colorful costumes, legions of spooky specters scurried along Diamond Street, invading stores and restaurants for sweets, stuffing their confectionary bounty into swollen trick-or-treat sacks.

Halloween moms made stops at home, in order to empty a refinery of sugar onto family dining room tables, ensuring that each sweet was securely sealed, tossing out the ones that weren’t.

Cecilia Fisher, who has lived in her 1896 Victorian on Randall Street for nine years, makes a habit of separating candy brought home by Alex, her 4-year old daughter. “I only allow her one or two pieces per house, so it is not a big problem,” said Fisher, who estimates she entertained 325 trick-or-treaters this year.

The Fishers make Halloween a family affair. This year Alex dressed as Wonder Woman, clothed in comic book-haute couture. Alex’s father,
Halloween Story Headline....

As for tricks, if no treats were forthcoming? “The worst thing anyone ever did was soap a house or car windows,” reminisces Bosque.

“Halloween,” Cecilia Fisher says, “is really about community. We open our house each year for a party with children and parents.”

And predictably, as Halloween fades and geisha and vampire costumes are replaced by play and school clothes, the sense of community remains. Four years ago there weren’t any members in Fisher’s Glen Park Parents. Of note, the cyber group has grown by 200 families each year. Stemming from their Halloween connectedness, parents now meet each week at Café Bello for the Glen Park Stroll, where they discuss neighborhood happenings while pushing strollers.

Kris Rodríguez, another member of Glen Park Parents, is an active parent at Foerster Street’s Miraloma Coop, her daughter Karen’s pre-school. “There is a growing sense of community among Glen Park young families,” says Rodríguez, visualizing moms simply sitting on front porches or around kitchen tables helping children with homework. Kris and another parent, Gretchen Riskind, are weaving this “yes we can” sense of community through the Miraloma Coop curriculum.

“The idea is to teach children about caring for others in San Francisco by starting food drives, cheering up the children’s ward at UCSF and making clothing donations to shelters,” Rodríguez explains.

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Osha Thai

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

featuring standardized décor to count as formula retail. Such businesses must apply for and receive a conditional use permit to open. Once one exists in a neighborhood, others cannot be kept out. But because Osha only has six outlets, it does not open the door for large chains, Crawford says.

Ric López, president of the Glen Park Merchants Association and co-owner of Sangha at 678 Chenery, says he wants to make sure that the neighborhood is okay with a Thai restaurant that is part of a five-restaurant chain.

“Some people want a Thai restaurant but it doesn’t have to be that Thai restaurant,” he said. However it’s unclear that there’s any legal mechanism for Osha to be stopped, should the Merchants decide that they’re against it.

Overall, the neighborhood seemed thrilled at the prospect.

“We love Osha Thai,” said Kathleen Sampel Morris. “Glen Park is lucky to be the new home to Osha, as far as we are concerned! Now it will be just a short walk from home! Yay!”

This year Halloween was on a Friday. Glenmon Sutter donned a President-elect Obama mask, but because it was casual Friday, he wore his commander-in-chief necktie unknoted. He handed out chocolate treats while stuffing Incredible Hulk pencils in each bag. More than 300 kids and adults showed up. This year, though, there was a difference. Sutter added one dollar’s worth of change to each trick-or-treat bag. Thinking of his neighbors, their children and the new first family, Sutter says: “I was giving out change we can count on!”

Sarah Palin Decoration

Photo by Ellen Rosenthal

Osha Thai

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Glen Park News

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Winter 2008
Letter
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real Glen Park family, a real local business and for real human needs still exist—and two still being ignored by most residents today. One possible effective, unique, model merchant-resident joint project accepting responsibility to protect our own personal safety and property interests and not rely on scarce public resources—and one being met with resistance based on reasons that for the most part don’t make sense.

I know for sure that there are a few other Glen Park Angels such as local merchants and individuals who from time to time have slipped by quietly to drop off dinner for Jennie, or an envelope stuffed with cash, or like Kirkland of Kiki Yo, have taken the initiative to plan a benefit held on Oct. 19. I know that a bit more sidewalk night lighting has been added by a few of us individual home owners, and that a few SAFE organization block meetings have been held. Of course I’m gratified to hear that a huge number of us picked up our checkbooks and contributed to the Glen Park Merchants Association Paul Park Fund; donations are certainly commendable and I know deeply appreciated by the Parks, who still face daunting medical and other bills.

Checks are easily and quickly written, flowers die, food is digested, money is spent, the economy gets worse, budget woes are complained about, Village micro-turf struggles continue and most assuredly the huge recent police presence in Glen Park will abate, as I already observe that it has. (It was a presence which certainly brought immediate relief of our high anxiety, but at the same time added to general angst as initially police went about “earning their keep” by aggressively ticketing parking violators.) Without more, we will soon be back where we started.

Captain O’Leary told me that police will stand by at closing time of Buddies Market each evening “until Mr. Park returns to work,” but that has not been the case. How could it be considering their limited staffing and huge safety needs in San Francisco? In fact, police cars passing quickly by Buddies at closing time have become rare during the past two months, while our few Brigade members have been consistently present for over a month, excepting only an evening or two. Police will and must eventually leave Glen Park to concentrate on bloodier neighborhoods than ours, and just as certainly thugs will assume Glen Park will follow the standard pattern and return to be the “normal” complacent neighborhood.

Being a woman of certain mature age with some community organizing experience in her professional background, I understand that moving a community from words into action is not easy nor quick, and requires sustained, patient effort, often even blind optimism and hope for the future. I'm therefore not daunted. I'm pleased to have met others who share my concerns and begin a dialog about what best to do. I'm certainly not giving up my personal commitment to direct action when and where I can for so long as my energy and health last. Nor will I pass over any opportunity to encourage each one of us to consider the true depth and breadth of our personal commitment to Glen Park and back our words with sustained action in order to preserve and protect the highest quality of life in our unique, most livable of all communities—undoubtedly the best neighborhood with the brightest future in San Francisco. Over 30 years ago I deliberately chose to live, retire and hopefully pass the last days of my life in Glen Park. Slow neighborhood and merchant action and a few thugs, while sorely disappointing, have not changed my mind.

Ann Grogan

Food
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the Cost-Free Food Bank.

This is all free and plentiful! The City built the building using City-donated funds; the staff is paid by cash donations (more are always needed); the food is all donated. The staff says no one in San Francisco needs to go hungry. There are 150 sites in the city where this food is distributed to 132,000 persons, frequently cooked.

It’s all businesslike and clean and is a perfect project for a good City to do good for its people.
On Patrol in Glen Park

On Nov. 3, I attended a juvenile justice symposium at the University of San Francisco, which was hosted by U.S. Attorney Joseph Russoniello, former San Francisco Police Chief Tony Ribera and current Chief Heather Fong. Attendees represented every level of federal, state and local agencies involved in the particularly vexing challenge of bringing long-term and much need improvements to the troubled system. Stick with me, because the problems hit close to home in Glen Park.

Prosecutors, defense counsel, judges, police and probation officials came together in a rare joint effort to present their ideas on how the juvenile justice system can do a better job of ensuring a common advocacy—public safety.

Glen Park residents have been loud and clear in their demands for increased police patrols to achieve that very goal. The watch commanders at Ingleside Station have been diligent in their efforts to staff all the sector patrol cars, including the “2 Car,” which includes Glen Park, Diamond Heights, Upper Noe Valley and lower Mission Street. Additionally, plainclothes officers are being deployed to work regularly on robbery-abatement teams.

Nevertheless, a few recent strong-arm robberies on Diamond, Chenery and, most recently, Laidley streets, dampen the successes we have achieved. A review of the police reports in these cases, as well as others throughout the district, finds that the overwhelming majority of suspects and arrestees in street robberies and assaults are juveniles. It is upon these arrests that the system breaks down.

Analysis presented at the symposium by career prosecutors and social justice specialists indicates that the recidivism rate for juveniles who commit violent crimes in San Francisco is astounding, as high as 65 percent.

The philosophy of the Juvenile Probation Department is to incarcerate arrested juveniles for as short a term as possible prior to adjudication, releasing them either to their parental homes or to alternate care, such as a group or foster home. Although not without success in singular instances, this philosophy also contributes to the germination of career criminality by starting the revolving door spinning at all too young an age.

Juvenile probation officers’ caseloads are generally unmanageable due to their sheer volume, and contact with their clients is minimal, at best. I’ve worked closely with several of these officers and they are dedicated, well-trained professionals who are given limited resources and, in my opinion, even less support.

The consensus at USF as presented by the panelists, including representatives of the London Metropolitan Police (who describe mirror-image concerns), is that we can’t arrest our way out of this problem. The genesis of this crime phenomenon is social, economic and familial. By the time we cops arrest them, the horse is already out of the barn. And make no mistake; our primary function is to arrest people who commit crimes, most especially violent ones. A case could be made that the police are the ones who jumpstart the whole merry-go-round.

Where do you—the taxpayers, homeowners, residents and, I’m sorry to say, victims—come in? While you are rightfully demanding more police presence on Glen Park’s streets, you also should make demands on the judiciary, asking that public safety and victims’ rights be given equal consideration to the welfare of the offending juveniles that come through the court.

Lobby, too, your elected representatives. Ask them to invest in and maintain social services and counseling programs during these tough economic times. Eliminating them will only cost more in the future. And demand that judges compel the parents and guardians responsible for raising these young offenders to avail themselves of these services as a condition of the juvenile’s probation.

Most especially, contribute time money, professional services or neighborhood support to the schools and organizations that are working to steer these kids in the right direction. The Glen Park Festival has done a wonderful job contributing funds collected to a number of worthy endeavors. Work as a neighborhood to expand this effort and partner with those organizations dedicated to keeping kids goal-oriented and on track.

I’ve seen the benefits of community-based involvement and, all too often, the tragic consequences when neighborhood fail to act. Glen Park is a smart, vibrant and engaged community and must reach outside its boundaries to preserve what we cherish within our neighborhood.

SFPPD Officer Michael Walsh lives and works in Glen Park.
Time to Get Cracking

Time to get cracking. Cracking the sidewalk, that is. Throughout San Francisco, creating sidewalk pocket gardens has become affordable and easy.

By removing patches of the solid concrete and replacing them with planted pervious surfaces, you increase your home’s value, diminish storm water runoff, recharge the aquifer and, most importantly, add beauty. Another benefit is eliminating ongoing concrete repairs caused when tree roots lift the pavement.

Jane Martin founded and runs the nonprofit Plant*SF, which spearheaded the movement. Plant*SF and the San Francisco Department of Public Works co-authored the permeable landscape-specific permit that encourages sidewalk plantings by offering a reduced fee (sliding scale from $160–$215 instead of $800) and a provision for increased concrete-free areas with a minimum four-foot-wide Americans with Disabilities Act concrete access without variance. The permit cost is reduced exponentially by the number of homes involved. Imagine saving money, getting to know your neighbors and improving your immediate and the greater community at one time.

On the 300 block of Chenery Street and wrapping around the corner onto Mateo, several neighbors are developing sidewalk gardens. Initial meetings and discussions are moving into measuring and making simple plans with accompanying photos.

A point person, preferably with landscaping experience, is essential to oversee the process. Each person individually fills out the permit application, finishes a plan with specified plants, includes photographs and gives it to the point person to bundle and send.

An inspector makes a site visit, offering suggestions if modifications are required or just grants the permits. Next comes the concrete cutting; reusing the pieces as stepping-stones saves money and a trip to the landfill. Then it’s time for a block party to lay down the concrete stepping stones, plant, top-dress the gardens with the gravel mulch, and water. The gravel looks tidy, offers easy pick up for dog keepers, is economical, and percolates. What was an ordinary grey block in the morning becomes an inviting, colorful garden by afternoon.

Learn more at http://www.plantsf.org/AlmaHecht, point person for the 300 Chenery block gardens and owner of Second Nature Design, will be happy to assist you. You can reach her at 586-6578 or alma@secondnature.bz. Check her website http://secondnature.bz/ to see if a blog about the process has been started.

Check It Out at the Library!

The Glen Park Branch Library is now open on Mondays, effective Nov. 24. The library is now open every Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. We aren’t the only location with new hours. Libraries now open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays are Bayview, Merced, Noe Valley, Ortega and Presidio. Golden Gate Valley will also be open on Mondays.

This new push now has all the branches open at least six days per week and adds more seven-day-a-week branches in areas of the city that are otherwise underserved. These new days were made possible by passage of the Proposition D library-funding measure last year. Thank you, people of San Francisco!

The library is happy to announce that we will be having our annual Winter Reading clubs again. For the Adult Winter Reading Club, you have to read just three books and then you will receive a small prize and will be entered in the raffle. We are raffling off three $25 gift certificates to The Canyon Market, Eggettes and the Cheese Boutique. For the Children’s Winter Reading Club, for ages 17 and under, kids can read to earn a small prize. Those who complete the program will enter the raffle for the penguin puppet. The program begins Dec. 13 and ends Jan. 17.

Users of the library might notice a baby boom of late. Starting in January, we will be changing some of children’s programming to reflect this. We will now have a Baby Rhyme and Playtime program on Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. It will have rhymes, stories, fingerplays and music for ages 0-3, followed by a Playtime where the children can have some fun with our new educational toys.

Parents and caregivers also will have an opportunity to socialize and make connections. We won’t be having a Preschool Storytime time anymore, but we still have our monthly Family Storytime on a Wednesday evening. The library will also have monthly Preschool Videos.

Also in the New Year, we will have a computer class focusing on how to use the Library catalog. It will be at 2 p.m. on Jan. 10. Please call or stop in to sign up. On Jan. 31 at 2 p.m. the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival will present Romeo and Juliet at the branch.

The Community Calendar on Page 20 lists our events. Or, to find out more about our programs and other library news, please visit our Glen Park Library blog at http://glenparklibrarysfpl.blogspot.com.

We hope to see you at the library this winter!
In Glen Canyon Park

Recent rains awaken the canyon’s native plants from their summer stupors. The grasses green, flowering currants bud and the oaks set acorns. Up by Christopher Play-ground, evidence of the local squirrel population’s feasting litters the ground around the coast live oaks. The crop may have been prolific enough to be called a “mast year” in oak speak. Why, when or what causes this phenomenon is as challenging to predict as the weather. However, what we do know is that the acorns are so nutritious there will be a spike in wildlife reproduction.

Acorns are the staple diet for the four different types of squirrels in San Francisco. Two immigrant species, fox and grey squirrels, were introduced into Golden Gate Park from the eastern part of the United States in the early 1900s. Our native western grey squirrels, with their distinguishing red-tailed tails, originated from oak woodlands of the foothills and valley pine/oak forests. They are well adapted to city life, while native Douglas squirrels, sometimes called chickarees, are rare urban denizens, preferring north coastal conifer forests and Sierra Nevada mountain regions.

Western scrub jays, so easy to recognize by their harsh, scratchy song and brilliant blue coloration, are keen to add acorns to their diet of insects, berries and nuts. Scrub jays are known to remember thousands of sites where they have cached or shallowly buried their bounties. Chances are, when you come across oak seedlings in the grassy hill or creek bank, they are the western scrub jays’ doings.

So it seems winter is a lively season with squirrels scampering through trees, skittering across utility lines, jays and brilliant blue coloration, are keen to add acorns to their diet of insects, berries and nuts. Scrub jays are known to remember thousands of sites where they have cached or shallowly buried their bounties. Chances are, when you come across oak seedlings in the grassy hill or creek bank, they are the western scrub jays’ doings.

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My garden graduated when I threw in the towel and had the Glen Park Garden Club see it on their tour this year. When they liked what they saw (they called it a gardener’s garden) I became the “gardener.”

For the tour, I made a list of my plants—the living ones. Its length bowled me over, and got me to thinking about my garden resolution. With the encouragement of the club, I vowed to finally start a garden journal. The plant list was my start.

A book would be great for sketches, but photos are more my style, so the computer works well. I began to think that a blog could be an easy and inviting way to include pictures in the journal. I’m a bit intimidated about making it public. But what the heck, it’s only you, right?

Here’s the link: http://gardenjournalsker.blogspot.com/.

A blog is cheap—in the money sense—but very dear in time. Starting a garden blog/journal for another person is a labor of love. Now the economy gives us the perfect time to do it! Many thanks to my techie husband, Dave, who knew where to start (https://www.blogger.com/ start) and how to import photos. The setup of a garden journal/blog is the perfect gift from any age kid who seems to have infinite computer knowledge but little money to spare.

I had started a garden journal a decade ago, but dropped it a few months later. Even the scant notes I had made in the 10-year-old book gave me good information though, and made me nostalgic for the garden innocence I once had.

I used garden topics in my blog to keep me on track—weather, what’s planted, what’s bought, what’s blooming, what’s harvested, what’s cut, bouquets made, maintenance done, pest and wildlife activity, planning.

I’m also going to log my garden’s progress week by week, a useful organizational tool that will help me find out quickly what happened in my garden during specific times of the year.

Yearly garden resolutions make sense, along with the intent of the journal/blog. I’ve added some pictures—most are digital, and exported from their organizer. I want an updatable ‘to do’ list. The yearly reference plant list will be dated from spring. Searching will require a choice of scientific or common plant name—choose the name that will be easiest for you to remember.

It’s best to write in journal every time you’re in the garden. Even if you don’t jot down all the details, it still will be useful, even years from now. And, it will have been fun to do!

Susan Evans is a member of the Glen Park Garden Club, which welcomes new members. E-mail her at ske1@pacbell.net.

Your Input Sought for Rec Center Activities — News from the Glen Park Advisory Board

The programming choices for kids at the Rec Center have not been very successful this fall. The homework help class had only two children sign up and the arts and crafts class was just as poorly attended.

The fee and time for an afternoon drop-in Tiny Tot class also discouraged many from signing up and there is no posted curriculum for the fee-based morning Tiny Tot Class.

Do you want more choices that are physical activities, that are non-competitive, and are less structured and a no-fee drop-in for children 3 and under? What ideas do you have? No suggestion should be left out. Bike clubs, walking clubs, circle games and all the types of physical education that are no longer offered in the schools can be programmed for Glen Park.

A meeting was held on Dec. 2 at the Rec Center to discuss possibilities, but if you missed it, it’s still not too late to voice your thoughts. Do you feel you are getting your money’s worth from the quality and quantity that now is being offered at our park?

Send an email to Elizabeth Gee, the new Superintendent of Neighborhood Services. She can be reached at Elizabeth.Gee@sfgov.org.

Send email to the new Interim General Manager of Recreation and Park, Jared Blumenfeld, at Jared.Blumenfeld@sf.gov.org.

Would you like to speak directly to the interim General Manager? He is holding forth 10-minute appointments to address any of your concerns about Rec and Park. You can call him at the Recreation and Park offices at McLaren Lodge. His secretary will take your name and number and call you back with a time reserved for you. The number of the Lodge is 831-2700.

Speaking of our new interim General Manager of Recreation and Parks, he is doing a Bike Tour of many of the City parks. Currently he is scheduled to be at Glen Park On “Day 58,” Feb. 26, 2009. Check the website www.parks.sfgov.org as it is subject to change.

Another change that is coming is that the current NSA Manager of complex 5, Marianne Bertuccelli has asked for a transfer. She has been granted a change to the Marina, which will probably take place in February. In the meantime they are going to interview from a current list of employees within Rec and Park.

The mayor has just recently cut $2.5 million from the Rec & Park budget, so if anyone knows of some sources of money to fund new items we need for the Tiny Tot program, please contact me at mossa3x@earthlink.net.

Digging the Dirt: News from the Garden Club

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Susan Evans is a member of the Glen Park Garden Club, which welcomes new members. E-mail her at ske1@pacbell.net.

Eco-Notes

Be a Friend of Glen Canyon in your own garden by reintroducing native species. If you’re considering a tree for fall/winter planting, look no further than the aforementioned Garrya eliptica—coast silk tassel tree, named for the beautiful cream colored tassels that dangle from the ends of the branches in December and January, lighting up your winter garden. The leaves are somewhat glossy topped and gray underneath, and grow from green to reddish brown stems. Coast silk tassel trees look woody or formal according to placement and pruning. They reach 15 to 18 feet in height and can be shaped from their shrub form into elegant small trees. Drought and clay soil tolerant, Garryas also accept regular garden watering.

Remember, you are most welcome to join canyon work parties every Wednesday morning and third Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. RSVP to Richard Craib, 648-0862, or just show up with work gloves and a sense of adventure.

Alma Hecht is a Friend of Glen Canyon Park member, neighbor, and owner of Second Nature Design. She looks forward to answering your garden design questions. Please enjoy her website, www.secondnature.bz and email her at alma@secondnature.bz.
Gifts From the Glen

n the midst of what may be the worst recession since the close of the Second World War, Glen Park residents can take heart. As the holiday gift-buying season comes upon us, the Glen Park News had compiled a list of lower priced gifts you can buy right here in the neighborhood. No gas costs, no parking woes, no shipping fees. So even if you’re not looking in the “Under $10” and “Under $25” arena, you’ll still save money, time and perhaps as importantly, help support and strengthen the heart of our village, our merchants.

**SALONS**

**Glen Park Nails**  
652 Chenery Street  
585-6844  
*Gift certificates available*  
*Under $10:*
- Eyebrow waxing
- Warm paraffin wax dip to soften those rough hands
- Nail color changes and polishes
- $25+:
  - Manicures and pedicure in a spa massage chair

**Urban Soul Salon**  
630 Chenery Street  
239-5858  
$25+  
Cuts and color.

**Dalere’s Beauty Salon**  
660 Chenery St  
586-3980  
$25+  
Hair products by Paul Mitchell, Voico and Redken

**The Park Salon**  
669 Chenery St  
469-7976  
$25+  
Rene Furterer of Paris Holiday gift sets. Shampoo/scalp massage with blow dry.

**Sassy Salon**  
704 Chenery St  
587-8087  
www.sassysalon.net

**5-Star Nail Spa**  
333-6927

**Dior Hair Salon**  
2964 Diamond Street  
586-3467

**Sunshine Nail Salon**  
2966 Diamond Street  
334-5167

**BOOKSTORE**

**Bird and Beckett Books and Records (and Cultural Legacy Project)**  
652 Chenery Street  
586-3733  
www.bird-beckett.com  
*Gift certificates available*  
*Under $10:*
- “My Friends” written and illustrated by Taro Gomi - “A simple, charming and gorgeous little book for your pre-schooler.”
  
- “Loba Part 2” by Diane de Prima, illustrated by Josie Grant - “Beautiful fragment of poems printed on rice paper in Katmandu.”
  
Plus a wide and wonderful selection of cards, postcards, journals, CDs and DVDs.

**CAFES/RESTAURANTS**

**Chenery Park Restaurant**  
683 Chenery Street  
337-8537  
www.chenerypark.com  
*Gift certificates available.*  
*Over $10:*
- “Selection of bright colors, gracefuly designed teapots”
  
- “Festive non-alcoholic selections of drinks including Le Village Capricorn Coffees including their organic blend”

**Gialina Pizzeria**  
2842 Diamond Street  
239-8500  
www.gialina.com  
*Gift certificates available.*  
*Under $10:*  
- Pizzas for holiday parties.
  
- “We can half-bake your pizza and then 5 minutes in a hot oven and they are ready.”

**Café Bello**  
2885 Diamond Street  
585-3457  
*Gift certificates available.*  
*Under $10:*  
- “For the upscale handyperson, a cordless screwdriver to go with the Hyde 4-pack painters’ tools in a football shaped drink holder.”

**Pebble’s Café**  
2852 Diamond Street  
333-2270

**SPECIALTY SHOPS**

**Glen Park Hardware Store**  
685 Chenery Street  
585-5761  
Under $10:  
For that handyperson, their own screw bit set. Telescoping magnets, a flower pattern hammer and screwdriver, and a small flashlight to study the problems at hand. For the family gardener, a gardening set composed of a wide selection of flower and vegetable seeds and a garden pruner. $10-25:  
- After all the house fixing, you’ll need Awakening Hands Soothing Hand Lotion, and an L.E.D. crank flashlight (no battery) to see while you are sharpening your best knives with your Accusharp Knife Sharpener. $25+:  
- For the upscale handyperson, a cordless screwdriver to go with the Hyde 4-pack painters’ tools in a football shaped drink holder.

**Cheese Boutique**  
2984 Diamond Street  
333-3010  
*Gift certificates available.*  
*Under $10:*  
- “Selection of bright colors, gracefuly designed teapots”

- “Festive non-alcoholic selections of drinks including Le Village Capricorn Coffees including their organic blend”

**Modern Past**  
677 Chenery Street  
333-9002  
www.modernpast.com  
*Gift certificates available.*  
*Under $10:*  
- Glassware, candles
  
- Italian ceramics

**Peach**  
654 Chenery Street  
586-9000  
www.peachesf.com  
*An eclectic mix of modern and vintage gifts and home accessories.*  
*Suggestions:*  
- “Under $10: Olive, leaf paper, Nesti Dante and Bubble Room Soaps Christmas tree and Edelweiss see ornaments”

**Modern Vintage**  
654 Chenery Street  
586-9000  
www.modernpast.com  
*Modern vintage/mid-century modern gifts available.*  
*Under $10:*  
- Glassware, candles
  
- Italian ceramics

**MARKETS & FOOD SHOPS**

**Cheese Boutique**  
666 Chenery Street  
333-3390  
*Gift certificates available.*  
*Under $10:*  
- Holiday cakes including German Stollen, Panettone

- Festive non-alcoholic selections of drinks including Le Village Capricorn Coffees including their organic blend

- Non-alcoholic selections of festive drinks including a naturally flavored lemonade from LeVillage (try the Pomegranate)  

- Bariani Olive oil (local)

- Customized gift baskets of cheeses, jams, teas and other wonderful treats.

- Holiday platters of cheeses, meats and Mediterranean selections.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
from HOWARD REINSTEIN

Call (415) 664-9175 ext 252
#1 GLEN PARK REALTOR
For Over 10 Straight Years

"We definitely believe that from the hundreds of realtors in SF we picked the ABSOLUTE BEST. You listened to our expectations and concerns and we felt the information you gave us was based on the knowledge you have gained from you years in the Real Estate business. We will recommend you to all who need a class A+ Realtor" — MR. & MRS. HEIR, CONGO STREET

SOLD!
Over Asking
19 BROMPTON

JUST SOLD!
Multiple Offers
146 STAPLES

JUST SOLD!
522 CHENERY

Top 2%, Nationally: Prudential Elite Legend Award Winner: Partner of Chenery Park Restaurant: Chairman of Sponsor Development, the Glen Park Festival: More Glen Park Homes Sold over $1 Million in the Last 5 Years: Highest Glen Park Overbid & Highest Price per Square Foot Sold: 20-Year Glen Park Home Owner

All up-to-date Glen Park Sold prices are available at www.glenparkneighbors.com.

Call Howard anytime for advice at (415) 664-9175 x 252 or visit www.howardreinstein.com

Prudential
California Realty
### Real Estate in Glen Park

The national housing crisis has finally shown signs of affecting Glen Park, with sales activity slowing in the fall and the majority of properties that sold in recent months going for below asking price.

Five neighborhood properties sold in the eight-week period ending Nov. 23.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>List Price</th>
<th>Sold Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>461 Chenery</td>
<td>$670,000</td>
<td>$525,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>522 Chenery</td>
<td>$659,000</td>
<td>$575,000</td>
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<td>147 Charles</td>
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<td>135 Moffitt</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Brompton</td>
<td>$789,000</td>
<td>$853,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Realtor Vince Beaudet works for Herth Real Estate. He can be reached at 861-5222 x333 or vincebeaudet@herth.com.

### Glen Park E-mail Lists

The Glen Park Association hosts a free electronic mail list open to all Glen Park residents. It is moderated by membership coordinator Heather World and consists of a weekly calendar and news update, with very occasional late-breaking news stories and police updates. To subscribe, send an e-mail to glenparkassociation-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Also, don’t forget the all-new Glen Park Association website at www.glenparkassociation.org.

Other neighborhood lists include:

- Ingleside Station Newsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
  - Straight from the desk of Capt. Dennis O’Leary.

- Ingleside Police Station Crime Report – x333 or vincebeaudet@herth.com.
- To receive a copy of the Ingleside Station Newsletter please send an e-mail to:
  
- Glen Park Parents
  - Over 550 families in Glen Park and environs. Includes groups for new parents and parents-to-be. Moderated and spam-free.

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/glenparkparents/

- Glen Park-Fairmount Heights Neighbors Association
gpfhn-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

### Glen Park Gifts

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16**

**Buddies Market**
696 Chenery Street  
384-9700  
Under $10:  
Selection of organic wines, red, with white on the way  
Specialty chocolates, including German and local organic chocolates  
Gifts for kids including notebooks  
Over $10:  
Wide selection of local and imported beers, wines and liquor including champagnes, sakes and potato vodka

**Eggettes**
2810 Diamond Street  
839-5282  
Under $10:  
Stocking stuffer capsule toys for kids

**Canyon Market**
2815 Diamond Street  
586-9999  
Gift cards available. Catering platters made for all holidays and events.  
Under $10:  
Canyon Market canvas bag (better for the environment)  
Wide and wonderful selection of chocolates, including many organic and fair trade  
Over $10:  
Canyon Market’s very own wine: Canyon Market Glen Park Barrel Select- Cabernet Merlot Cal Fran  
Also new homemade garlic Brie cheese, as well as a wide range of festive and delicious baked goods (made on the premises) including pies, cookies, and tarts.

**Destination Bakery**
598 Chenery Street  
469-0730  
$25+  
Homemade holiday Italian Panettone bread  
Specialty pies and tarts.  
Homemade holiday cookie platters for parties.

**Glen Park Corner Market**
2599 Diamond Street  
Under $10:  
Stocking stuffer chocolates.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

**Eyedentity Vision Optometry**
2786 Diamond Street  
415-334-2020  
Gift certificates available.  
“Use your flexible spending account here to take advantage of your benefits before the year’s end!”  
Under $10:  
Stylish eyewear accessories including lovely chains and eyeglass cases.  
$25+:  
All your eye care needs.

**Centered Body Pilates**
648 Chenery Street  
333-9133  
www.centeredbody.com  
Gift certificates available.  
$25+:  
An introductory package of 3 private sessions for $150

**Kiko- yo Personal Training, Fitness and Yoga studio**
605 Chenery St  
587-5454  
www.kiki-yo.com  
Gift certificates available.  
Between $10-25:  
Drop in classes for Yoga or Pilates.  
$25 and up  
Holiday gift certificate for 3 class pass or our regular 10 pass for Yoga or Pilates

**Sol Gym**
2838 Diamond Street  
334-7697  
www.solgym.com  
Gift certificates available.  
Under $20:  
Circuit Training Classes and Morning Group Classes for $25 per class.  
Discount pass which drops the price to $15/ class with the purchase of 10 classes.  
Over $20:  
Personal Training sessions to fit your life with discount packages of 10 sessions that drop the price

**East-West Integrative Medicine Clinic**
605 Chenery Street, Suite C  
585-1990 or 987-7578  
www.eastwestsf.com  
Gift certificates are available  
$25+:  
Many types of massage therapy  
Acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine  
Vitamins, supplements and herbal ointments.

**OTHER**

**Glen Park Dental**
590 Bosworth Street, SF 94131  
585-1500  
www.glenparkdental.com  
Gift certificates available.  
Over $25:  
Oral B Triumph electric tooth  
Home whitening system TRES-WHITE Zoom teeth whitening – as seen on Extreme Make Over (includes custom take home system for touch-ups) - Christmas Special

**Glen Park Mail Depot**
2912 Diamond St.  
586-1000  
www.glenparkmail.com  
Under $10  
Key chains, notebooks and pens.  
A great place to make copies of those hand-made holiday cards and mail out holiday presents.

**Glen Park Cleaners**
2816 Diamond St.  
333-4633  
$10  
For after you’ve finished your shopping.

**Glen Park Station (bar)**
2816 Diamond St.  
333-4633  
$10  
For after you’ve finished your shopping.

**Library**
2825 Diamond St.  
Now open on Monday too!  
Everything is free -- free membership, choosing from a selection of four unique card designs created by local artists under 12. Free Internet connections, free lectures, and free books, CDs, DVDs for music or movies. Free books, free audio books, free books in large print, free space for young readers, and older readers, free magazines, newspapers and free services of smart librarians who will help you research the answers to those burning questions.  
Gift suggestion: Pay someone’s library fine for the answers to those burning questions.
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Glen Park Parents
Over 550 families in Glen Park and environs. Includes groups for new parents and parents-to-be, moderated and spam-free.
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/glenparkparents/

Glen Park Expectant Parents group
E-mail nvkamal@yahoo.com for information.

Gay Glen Park
A low-traffic list for gay and lesbian residents, their friends and families. Moderated and spam-free.
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gayglenpark/

Glen Park Dog Owners
gpdog-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Glen Park-Fairmount Heights Neighbors Association
gpfhn-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Fairmount Heights gay neighbors
FHLGBT-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Glen Park Association
Quarterly meetings are held in January, April, July and October. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike. Annual dues of just $10 (payable at the winter meeting) support the Association’s important work on behalf of the neighborhood.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Jan. 21, 7 pm, St. John’s School, 925 Cherry St. Learn what’s new, vote for GPA Board members, meet neighbors.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Weekly Work Parties: Every Wednesday, 9 am–noon. For the current week’s meeting place contact Richard Craib, 648-0862.

To join Friends of Glen Canyon Park or learn more about their activities, contact Richard Craib at 648-0862 or Jean Conner at 584-8576.

Talk to Recreation and Park
Meet the Manager: Jared Blumenfeld, interim general manager of the City’s Recreation and Park Dept., plans to visit Glen Canyon Park on Thur., Feb. 26. Double-check the date and time at www.parks.sfgov.org, or contact him for a 10-minute face-to-face weekday appointment at 831-2700 or Jared.Blumenfeld@sfgov.org.

Glen Park Branch Library
Denise Sanderson, Glen Park Branch manager, lists a variety of coming events in her column in this issue. Check the library for scheduled programs and events.


Baby Rhyme & Playtime: Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 am. Ages 0–3.

Preschool Videos: Monthly, check for dates.

Family Storytime: Monthly, on a Wednesday evening.

Computer Class: Sat., Jan. 10, 2 pm. Learn how to use the library catalog online.

Romeo and Juliet: Sat., Jan. 31, 2 pm. SF Shakespeare Festival will perform at our branch library.

For More Information: An online “blog” lists upcoming programs, library news and spotlights on books. Visit http://glenparklibrary.sfpl.org. The general library website also has event listings, at http://sfpl.org. The Glen Park Branch has flyers for all its programs, as well as the monthly newspaper At the Library, which includes news and events of all the libraries in the San Francisco Public Library system.

SFPD Community Forums
Third Tuesday of each month, 7 pm, Ingleside Police Station, John Young Way off San Jose Avenue. All residents are encouraged to participate in the informative monthly Community Relations Forum hosted by Capt. Denis O’Leary. Drop in and get acquainted with the dedicated people who keep our neighborhood safe. Meetings are subject to availability of the captain. For details, call the station at 404-4000.


Apiai Open House
Sat., Dec. 13, 10 am–2 pm, 194 Lippard St. near Joost. Beekeeper Karen Peters will show you her colorful backyard hives and introduce some of the “sweet workers” who pollinate the fruit trees in our neighborhood. A demonstration hive with live bees lets you see the hive’s inner activities. Kids get a free honey stick, a slender tube filled with clover honey. Jars of honey from Karen’s hives from Glen Park, Balboa Park, St. Mary’s Park and Golden Gate Park, each with its own unique flavor, will be available (bring cash or personal check).

Noel Stroll
Holiday Evening: Sat., Dec. 13, 5–9 pm, along 24th and Church streets. This 3rd annual Noe Valley holiday event promises a boutiques, gift shops and restaurants hosting an evening of festive libations and special in-store promotions; strolling carolers and musicians, hot cocoa, cider and other festivities. Santa will be there 5–8 pm for wishes (earlier photo ops at Zephyr Real Estate, 11 am–2 pm). Readings of “A Child’s Christmas in Wales” by Dylan Thomas at 5:30 pm at Cover To Cover, 6:30 pm at Fima Photography, and 7:30 pm at When Modern Was. Info at www.noelstroll.com.

St. Aidan’s Food Pantry
Food Distribution: Every Friday, 1–2:30 pm, St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, Gold Mine Drive at Diamond Heights Boulevard, for low-income and disabled clients who live in the 94131 ZIP code.

Bird & Beckett Events
Bird & Beckett Books & Records, 653 Chenery St., presents a potpourri of free literary and musical events. Donations help support the series. Check online for the latest information at birdbeckett.com, or call owner Eric Whittington at 586-3733. Shop hours are 10 am–9 pm every day.

Live music options are expanding in Glen Park. Friday evening live jazz, a bookshop kickoff for six years, is now supplemented by regular Sunday afternoon concerts with an eclectic array of performers.

All this culture is presented under the auspices of the nonprofit Bird & Beckett Cultural Legacy Project. Your purchases help the bookshop stay open. Tax-deductible contributions to the Cultural Legacy Project help keep cultural programming alive in Glen Park.

Coming Events:

Children’s Story Time: Every Friday, 11 am. Ruth Maginiss and Jenny Gerard, both educators as well as readers, read a variety of stories for the preschool set. Ruth was the librarian in Glen Park for many years.

Which Way West?: Every Sunday, 4:30–6:30 pm. (Note: No program on Dec. 7 or 21, when staff will give personal gift selection guidance.) This concert series features Americana roots bands, jazz groups, world music performers, classical music, and more. Dec. 14: Multilingual South Asian a capella group Kal ki Awaaz sings to set the stage for Chinta-pukur, a troupe of U.C. Berkeley linguists performing their play Amader Shishirbheja Golpo (in Bengali with supertitles) with improvised incidental music by Biswanath Chatterjee and Mamuka Berika.

Jazz in the Bookshop: Every Friday, 5:30–8 pm. Dec. 19, Don Prell’s SeaBop Ensemble with Dan Brown (sax), Michael Parsons (piano), Don Prell (bass), Chris Bjorkbom (drums).


Three book groups meet monthly at 7 pm; everyone is invited. Note that some days of the month have changed.

Bird &Beckett Book Club: 1st Wednesdays. A book is discussed each month; participants choose the next month’s selection.

Political Book Discussion Group: 2nd Thursdays. Call for the title.

Eminent Authors’ Birthdays: 4th Thursdays. For these open readings, bring a short piece from the works of a favorite writer born during the month to read aloud.

Literary Talks: Last Sundays, 2:30 pm.

Special Events:
Fri., Dec. 19, 8:30 pm: Writer Barry Gifford reads from his memoir “Memories from a Sinking Ship,” with an accompaniment by jazz pianist Michael Parsons.

Beekeeper Karen Peters’ s Lippard Street backyard is abuzz with activity as she and her honey-making helpers prepare for an open house on Sat., Dec. 13. Multicolored hives help the bees identify their homes when they return from flights around the neighborhood. See Calendar listing for details. Photo by Denis Wade