



Newsletter, July 2021  
Editor B. Fugate



CNIA member **Steve Indig** observed a major concern and communicated it to the CNIA board. Steve also plunged into finding and activating a solution!

Alemanly Blvd. is a major thoroughfare for our community & thus it creates a first impression of our neighborhood. The stretch of Alemanly behind the Mission Street Safeway is littered with an appalling quantity and variety of trash ongoing. First, Steve researched solutions. He then contacted SF DPW, Together SF, and REFUSE REFUSE seeking a solution to the concern. Together, under Steve's leadership, a coordinated action was devised, publicized, and activated. The first action was both successful and fun! The second action was even larger. The CNIA will post Steve's team actions on our Facebook page and website, as well as sending out News Blasts when they occur. Please consider participating in Cayuga Clean Team actions!

### **Concern resolution offers an opportunity for quality of life improvements!**

An engaged CNIA member expressed a concern: Here is 'the rest of the story'!

The 're-opening of society' will present many challenges which must be managed within a mutually respectful & collaborative framework of decision making. The past week presented the perfect example of such a challenge:

A few of you may remember encountering this value:

### **Respectful communication is essential to achieving success .**

A concerned community member contacted a CNIA board member to communicate a concern. This member had been alerted to a planned closure of the Cayuga Park women's restroom. The men's room would be designated unisex. SF RPD restrooms are a critical component of enlightened, respectful public health protocols, including infection control best practices. Everyone, at some point, will need to use a public restroom! These facilities are also a personal hygiene resource for our homeless community members. Fortunately, this concern was clearly

**Cayuga Neighborhood Improvement Association October General meeting has been cancelled .**

**Keep an eye on your inbox as we will be rescheduling in the near future.**

### **Presidents Forum**

#### **Acting President Chris Dillon**

Pondering my column is always a challenge: there is so much to share and, as the CNIA leadership team always reminds me, I am inclined to use far too many words.

October has been the 'month of the perfect storm' for the CNIA. As we hopefully view Covid receding in our rear view mirrors, calendar conflicts are maximized with too long delayed professional and personal requirements clamoring for calendar space. Thus, our general meeting date must be re-negotiated due to non-negotiable medical, professional, travel, etc. demands.

While we are not meeting this month, the CNIA is active. You will find an entry below which focuses on restroom availability in our park. Glenda Hope and Renee Anderson are leading a team focused on having at least one PIT STOP installed in our community. I would like to encourage everyone to contact Supervisor Safai's office requesting a PIT STOP for our corner of District 11. <https://sfbos.org/supervisor-safai-contact-us>. Please feel free to contact us via our website if you wish more information on this topic!

This quarter's column reflects my evolving reflections on our now 84 year old mission: **to attain and maintain the highest practicable quality of life within our community.**

communicated, thus a second value could be applied:

**Concern resolution offers an opportunity for quality of life improvements!** The CNIA immediately contacted San Francisco Recreation and Parks Dept. Great thanks to **Fred Grainger, our SF Park and Recreation Dept. regional park supervisor**, for responding within 12 hours!!! Fred launched an e-mail outlining our concern to all involved SF RPD department heads. He requested information and proposals for pro-actively addressing the concern.

### Here is what we learned:

The Cayuga Park clubhouse will be the temporary home site for the San Francisco Islamic School, which lost the site it had used since 2005 due to Covid. Our park will host this school until a new permanent site can be secured. Education is a key to ensuring good quality of life for all in our society, therefore, this is a civic mission appropriate use of RPD resources. Life safety requirements mandate that students have a secure restroom during school hours. **Thus, during school hours only, the women's room will have the exterior door locked and be accessible from within the building. The men's room will be unisex and accessible from the park. The school hours are 8a-2p Monday thru Thursday. There will be occasional Friday use.** Communicating the concern also resulted in enhanced signage for the restrooms.

Receiving and understanding the explanation of the shared concern offers an opportunity for expanding our community's stakeholder base and an opportunity to be of service. The school welcomes volunteers.

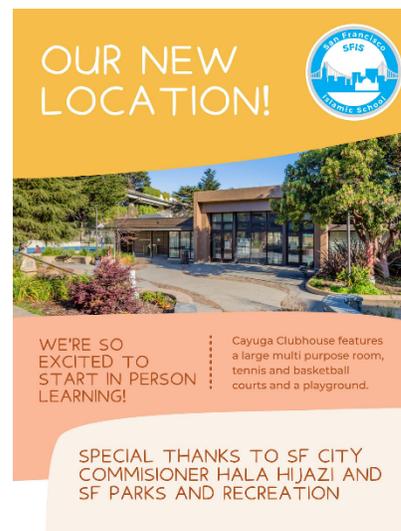
I stopped by the clubhouse last week to welcome our new community members & had a wonderful time getting to know the teachers and playing with the students! Everyone was so welcoming and grateful that SF RPD and our community are enabling in person education for their students. I asked the students if they were happy to be back in school, remembering the rhyme from my age group: 'no more rulers, no more books...'. Covid times have transformed our kids response to joining with their peers in school. This group of students responded with a huge, smile-full cheer, hugging each other while offering a thumbs up endorsement!

You can learn more at the following sites:

<https://www.facebook.com/sanfranciscoislamicschool>

<https://www.sfislimicschool.org/>

When you next visit our beautiful Cayuga Park, if the students are out playing, please introduce yourself to the teachers and welcome the San Francisco Islamic School to our community! I guarantee that your day will be brightened by their smiles!



In July, our Cayuga Park hosted a very special book launch! The author, Yoni Carnice, spent his childhood exploring Cayuga Park. He also was inspired by our visionary SF RPD gardener/sculptor. As he considered his future, his love of our magical park fired his drive to earn a master's degree in landscape architecture at Harvard.

### "Sunlight Entered His Hands"



You can learn more about Yoni's book, "Sunlight Entered His Hands", by following this link: <https://www.gsd.harvard.edu/2021/08/reclaiming-asian-american-garden-history-yoni-angelo-carnice-researches-the-work-and-legacy-of-demetrio-braceros-at-san-franciscos-cayuga-playground/>

You can learn the story of our park first hand by visiting the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOIK2TQdxXc>.

If you wish to order the book you can do so by contacting Yoni via e-mail: [ycarnice@gmail.com](mailto:ycarnice@gmail.com)

**CAYUGA NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

**Board Meeting: September 14, 2021, 6pm via Zoom edited for space. The complete minutes available at [Cayugaimprovementassociation.org](http://Cayugaimprovementassociation.org)**

**Attendees:**

Chris Dillon, Acting President, Renee Anderson, Treasurer, M.G. Thomas, Secretary, Barbara Fugate, Officer at Large, Jane Merschen, Officer at Large, Colleen Piontek, Cayuga Community Connector

**Excused Absence:** Steve Indig/Cayuga Clean Team

**Guest speaker:** Jordan Hoy ([Jordan.Hoy@sfmta.com](mailto:Jordan.Hoy@sfmta.com))

San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

1 South Van Ness Avenue, 7th floor, SF, CA 94103

Mr. Hoy and Brian Liang from the SF Municipal Transportation Agency talked about their work in the Livable Streets/Streets Division of the SFMTA. Mr. Hoy discussed the history and plans involved in the Slow Streets program. Specifically, they explained how the slowing of traffic on Cayuga Avenue will work. He noted they have a survey for local residents; the deadline will be extended into October.

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6485440/Cayuga-Slow-Street-Comment-Card>

**Guest :** Lauren Chung ([Lauren.L.Chung@sfgov.org](mailto:Lauren.L.Chung@sfgov.org)) & Sam Berenson from Supervisor Safai's office attended the meeting. Chris Dillon led a discussion with them about the challenges presented by the DPW wall area on Alemany between Farragut and Naglee. One issue mentioned was the puddles of dirty water coming from the overgrowth above that consistently covers two areas on the sidewalk. MG Thomas will email pictures to Ms. Chung and she will look into it.

**Welcome new director:** Welcome to Colleen Piontek, our new Cayuga Community Connector director. She has been attending the Wednesday Wave in the park and is looking forward to meeting more people in the area and attending future events.

**President Chris Dillon's report:**

1). Most of the past month has been focused on the proposed HSH proposal to purchase the Mission Inn. There is currently a Change.Org petition demanding that the plan be abandoned. [Petition · Stop the Sale of Mission Inn in Outer Mission · Change.org](#) I've been in communication with Supervisor Safai's office on this concern.

2). We may have to schedule discussion of the strategic planning and the October meeting agenda in a separate board meeting. Possibly we can combine these two topics

and simply schedule our October board meeting at an earlier date.

3). I attended an excellent "Together SF" training on homeless interventions last evening. It was mostly a drill down to root causes but included a current SWOT.

4). I also attended SFPD Chief Scott's quarterly strategic planning/community outreach ZOOM. It was also excellent! I encourage others to attend the next session in December; I'll provide information when I receive it.

5). The supervisor's office contacted me regarding a potential appointment to the DAAS (Dept of Aging and Adult Services) advisory board. A scheduled phone call for more information did not take place; I'll keep you updated.

6). The dues outreach letter is not complete to my satisfaction; I will send it to the board shortly.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Renee reported 3 membership renewals and one new member dues (total \$80), and payment to Go Daddy to renew our website domain registration. Renee noted that the audit is in progress.

**Team Reports:** Friends of Cayuga Park: no report

**Cayuga Community Connectors:** Colleen is looking into the possibility of holding future events in the park. Raised a question about possibly revising/updating the Wednesday Wave in the future.

**Resilience:** no report

**Membership/Publicity:** no report

**Newsletter:** Barbara needs a bio from Colleen for the next issue.

**Pit Stop Project:** Renee will send out a survey to our members. We should also send to other stakeholders such as NMTIA.

**Cayuga Clean:** The following is Steve Indig's report: The first cleanup I organized, on Aug 22, was a success! We had I think close to 15 people, working on a problem area on Alemany between Seneca & Onondaga (near Safeway lot) - we left that stretch very neat and tidy, and the volunteers had a well-deserved sense of accomplishment. Next cleanup is planned for Saturday, October 9 from 10 AM - 12 PM. My contact with SF DPW, Eva Chang, seems to be encouraging focus on that same spot - the thinking is that if you give it attention multiple times, it gets the result of discouraging dumping and other trash issues. I'm sure we can determine ourselves where we want to focus on each time. Here are Eva's comments: That block of Alemany needs regular cleanups, 10-20 people meeting 1-2 times a month. There is no need for 30 people unless Steve and Chris want to expand the coverage zone and clean more surrounding blocks. I recommend keeping as is and increasing frequency to 2x a month. Steve and Chris, please let us know what you think. Do you think the area was manageable? Would you like to keep it as is or double the zone and volunteers? If you want to expand, would you like to add another block of Alemany further south? We

also had support from organizations TogetherSF and RefuseRefuseSF, and can expect continued help from them. Please let me know any comments/suggestions about Oct 9, and future clean up events.

Old Business:

- 1). Update report on the audit: Chris Dillon
    - a). From my perspective as president: this may be the first structurally correct audit during my tenure as an officer/board member of the CNIA. Lisa will provide a procedure for future audits and a draft Treasurer Job Description for the board's consideration
- Ongoing Project/New Business:
- 1). Do we have time to tackle the Strategic Planning component tonight? No.
  - 2). Is there input on the proposal to expand the Cayuga Clean project to twice a month?
  - 3). Discussion about our October general meeting (time change)-we will hold it from 11am to 1pm. Ask the Supervisor's office for help with Zoom translation, if that is an issue for any of our members.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm.

Submitted by Mary Gayle Thomas, Board Secretary

### **Treasurer's Report Renee Anderson**

Membership update: Members continue to take advantage of the savings when paying 4 or 5 years membership dues in advance. Yearly dues remain at \$10 a year. If you wish to pay for 5 years the dues would be \$40. Due to Covid, many of us have forgotten if we owe dues or are current.

It is also very important that we get updated information on our members. **We promise you we will not share you information, your information will remain private and only the CNIA board will have access for CNIA business.**

Why does the Board believe it is important that we have your contact information? Because there are times when we would like to update members, especially when we are made aware of safety concerns for our neighborhood. Capt. Jones may have a safety alert she would like everyone to know about and time is of the essences. And of course we need your email information to make sure you get a copy of the quarterly newsletters.

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### **Upcoming Events of Interest:**

#### **Black Lives Matter Vigil**

Members of the Cayuga Connectors and Cayuga Improvement gather for an hour at 5:00 pm every Thursday on Geneva Blvd between San Jose Ave and Delano Ave. This group gathers peacefully and quietly each week, with signs to remind everyone who passes that the

lives of black citizens in this country matter just as much as other lives. Contact Glenda Hope for more information.

**Neighborhood Cleanup Day:** Save the Dates, the next neighborhood cleanup will be Saturday November 13th, 2pm to 4pm. We will be meeting on the corner of Ottawa and Alemany. Equipment provided. Please join us.

### **NEWS YOU CAN USE:**

**BART Wireless Technology Program** is coming to the area between Balboa Park and the Daly City Station. Bart will begin a Wireless Tech program bringing next generation reliable wireless connectivity and innovation to the BART system. The program will begin with the installation of 4 low profile poles along the BART track, beginning in November 2021. All poles will be on BART property.

Expect improved cell phone connection as well as seamless Wi-Fi coverage in the station and onboard BART trains. Neighbors living up to one half mile from the pole locations may also be able to access an expanded 5G cellular coverage with fewer dropped calls, have more reliable connectivity for on-demand video and audio streaming, and experience less network congestion due to emergencies or other disaster situations.

Most of the work will be done overnight during the hours when regular train service is closed. You may hear sounds related to use of a drill rig, small crane, construction trucks and such at this site. A large mailing has already been done to homes within a 1/2 mile of each pole location. For more information please visit "[bart.gov/wireless](http://bart.gov/wireless)".

**Walgreen closures:** Walgreens will be closing both the store at 4645 Mission St, and the location at 2550 Ocean Ave. The company has said that increased organized crime has made the decision necessary.

**Tax Time:** Property Tax bills have gone out. December 10th is the deadline for your first installment. Your second installment is due April 10th.

### **Save for College – Kindergarten to College**

San Francisco Kindergarten to College (K2C) is a college savings program established by the Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector, in partnership with the SF Unified School District. The office automatically opens a K2C college savings account for each SFUSD student entering kindergarten. Accounts start with \$50 and families have the opportunity to earn additional incentives for saving. Go

to [sfgov.org/ofe](http://sfgov.org/ofe) and click on "Save for College" for more info.

**Cayuga Community Connectors** continues to hold outdoor walks where neighbors can meet in person every Wednesday, 12 noon, at Cayuga Park. All are welcome. Come for the homemade treats, make friends and stay for the conversations.

### ***Carbon Monoxide Detectors***

Do you have a carbon monoxide smoke detector in your home? If so, you may not be aware that unlike a regular smoke detector your carbon monoxide detector will give off a series of sounds depending upon the problem the device is detecting. If you have a detector go off, you may want to take it off the wall and take it with you as you exit your home. For safety sake, you should go outside until you problem has been identified. . It is recommended that you contact the SFFD if your alarm goes off. The detector should have an explanation of the sounds listed on the back of this type of detector., . A carbon monoxide detector may sound the alarm with anywhere from one to five beeps. Some of those beeps will indicate you need a new battery or that the device needs to be replaced.

## **The Cayuga Improvement Board**

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### **Useful Phone Numbers**

**911 – All Emergencies – police/fire/medical**

**415-553-0123** – All non-emergency police calls for service.

415-554-1200 – Parking Complaints, blocked sidewalks, blocked driveways, illegal parking, etc.

**311 – (phone app SF311 ) use to report graffiti, trash, dumping furniture or large items, abandoned vehicles etc.** 311 is a good place to start, they can take a report or refer you to the correct City department for just about any problem.

**And last but not least:  
It is the policy of this neighborhood  
association that your silence on an issue will  
be considered consent.**