

NOPNA News

nopna.org

A Publication of the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association

Fall 2023

Scarlet Fox owners, Kaela Miller (left) and Kate Maeder.



SCARLET FOX
WINE BAR
EST. 2023



By Meg Rahner Antelyes



On a vibrant corner of Hayes Street (near Central) in NOPA, a distinctive new wine bar has taken root: Scarlet Fox.

The brains and hearts behind this venture is a charismatic couple, deeply embedded in our community. We recently spoke with owners Kate Maeder and Kaela Miller to learn more about the inspirations behind this intimate wine bar.

Can you tell us a little bit about yourselves?

We're both California born and raised, and we're NOPA neighbors who've lived in San Francisco for over twelve years. We got married three years ago and we're dog moms to our corgi/border collie mixes, Tio and Sprout. Kaela is a certified sommelier who's worked in hospitality for over twenty years. Kate is a political strategist and media consultant who's a partner at the national media firm KMM Strategies. Our house is always filled with conversations about politics and wine—or the politics of wine!

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POURING HEART & SOUL: Q+A with the Owners of Scarlet Fox

FROM THE BOARD

WHAT EXACTLY IS NOPNA?



Martin Almaraz
NOPNA President

Sometimes I take for granted the awesomeness that is the NOPA neighborhood—from the wide-array of transit options, easy access to Golden Gate Park and the Panhandle, both high-end and affordable eating options, the beautiful Victorian homes on every street, and the wonderful friendly people who live in them, I almost never pass up an opportunity to brag about NOPA to my friends across the city. It's part of my identity, a topic of conversation when I meet new people, and a segue to discussing what I care about most.

All this is to say that I love my neighborhood and home, which is the reason I continue to be involved in our neighborhood association. Speaking of, this is the perfect way to transition into another favorite topic, NOPNA and how we work.

NOPNA aptly stands for North of the Panhandle Neighborhood Association, pronounced *naw-puh-nuh* or *no-puh-nuh*, depending on who you ask (my preference is the latter). NOPNA is a completely volunteer-driven, non-profit 501(c)(3) with a goal of uniting and improving the neighborhood. That said, we're definitely not a homeowners association, nor a neighborhood watch.

NOPNA hosts community meetings and board meetings in alternating months, both of which always land on the third Thursday of the month. In our community meetings, we invite relevant political speakers or folks with interesting ideas and stories to tell based on neighborhood chatter and emails we receive through board@nopna.org.

Board meetings are another beast. There we follow "Robert's Rules"—the go-to manual for parliamentary procedure—as best we can. This means these meetings involve lots of debate, information gathering, and voting on various matters such as budgets for block parties or Halloween, and advocacy for changes to the immediate neighborhood (the Fell Street bike lane, for example). Of course, coming to an agreement is always a challenge, especially since we promote diversity in our board's 15 members across several different dimensions: renter/owner, ethnicity, background, kids/no-kids, age, and gender. This diversity enables us to consider a wide array of perspectives and helps ensure we remain true to the needs of the community.

NOPA is a wonderful neighborhood in the heart of San Francisco. Everyone knows that, but not everyone knows about NOPNA and all the work we do to support this vibrant community and make it a better place for us all. When NOPNA works best, it's by channeling the energies and passions of the community to make our neighborhood a better place for all of us. If you'd like to be more involved in this kind of work, attend a community meeting or reach out to us at board@nopna.org.

Martin is a lifelong cyclist and avid film photographer. You can always find him in the Panhandle or lost at Ocean Beach!



**North of
Panhandle
Neighborhood
Association**

NOPNA News is published by the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association for the residents, businesses, and friends of our neighborhood, which is bounded by Masonic Avenue and Turk, and Divisadero and Fell Streets.

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NOPNA is a non-profit organization of neighbors who care about the community, our city, and our world. Our mission is to establish neighborhood unity, maintain multi-ethnic, multi-cultural diversity, foster a sense of neighborhood pride, promote a safe and clean community, and improve the quality of life for all residents of the neighborhood.

Your financial support allows NOPNA to cover the costs of our newsletters, community building events like our block party and holiday party, public art projects in the neighborhood, and other activities that enrich our dynamic neighborhood.

Make a difference on our streets and become a member today!

Contact NOPNA

board@nopna.org
www.nopna.org



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email newsletter!**

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POURING HEART & SOUL: Q+A WITH THE OWNERS OF SCARLET FOX

What inspired you to open a wine bar in the neighborhood and what makes it unique?

It's always been Kaela's dream to open her own wine bar, so when 1690 Hayes Street became available we jumped on the opportunity to convert the old laundromat into a neighborhood wine bar with the help of the Grgich brothers, who've owned the building for over twenty-five years. Right place, right time, right moment.

We're unique in a few ways. We're one of the few LGBTQ-owned, women-owned, spouse-owned bars in San Francisco. We may also be the only San Diego Wave soccer fan bar in the city—we regularly show women's soccer league games on our wall projector. But most importantly, we offer incredible wines of the world at affordable prices—both by the glass and by the bottle. And weekdays before 6pm, we have \$9 happy hour and free snacks.

How has the reception been so far?

The reception from our neighbors and the LGBTQ community has been fantastic. As NOPA neighbors ourselves, it's so important to us to serve the neighborhood and create a space that's welcoming and unpretentious. We love feedback. Because we're 100% hands-on day-to-day, feedback is direct—sometimes we buy new wines based on neighbors' preferences.



What does a perfect day in NOPA look like to you?

We take our two pups to Alamo Square or the Panhandle. We might grab a coffee from Ali at Central Coffee in the morning, a beer from Mickey at Barrel Head Brewhouse in the afternoon, and order pizzas to Scarlet Fox for a memorable evening of wine, music, and laughs with friends.

Anything else you want readers to know about Scarlet Fox?

We're not just a wine bar—we're a retail shop, too. So stop by, take wine home, pack it with a picnic to the park, or grab a bottle to take to a friend's house to celebrate. Bottles are \$10 off to take-away. You can always reach us at hello@scarletfoxsf.com to schedule a private event or reserve our large table that seats 8-10. Cheers!



Meg has lived in NOPA since moving to San Francisco 13 years ago. The *NOPNA News* inspired her to get involved with the organization in 2017, and she joined the NOPNA Board shortly after writing her first article.

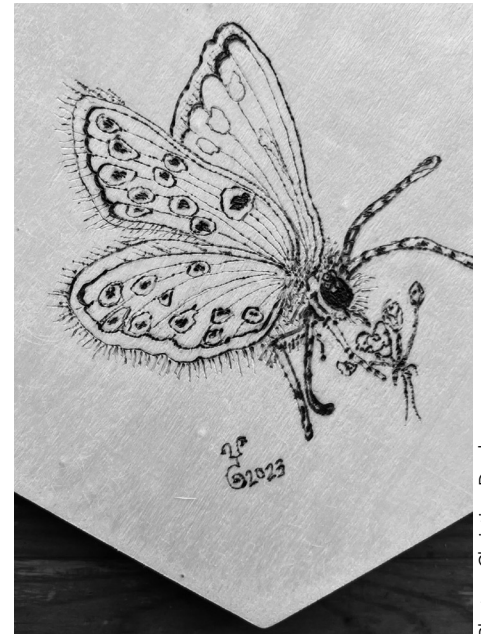
NEIGHBOR PROFILE: YABETTE SWANK

By Jason Cauthen

You may have seen Yabette Swank's work at our annual Phoenix Day celebration, displayed at NOPA Corner Market, or Kate's Kitchen, or at other local venues over the years. Painter, clothing designer, furniture refinisher, advocate, and entrepreneur, Yabette's two-plus

decades in our neighborhood span multiple passions, interests, and causes.

Raised in Ohio, Yabette moved to San Francisco in 2000 after a visit to a local café on Baker and McAllister (now Matching Half), where she felt at home. Trained as an audio



Photos: Christine Donley

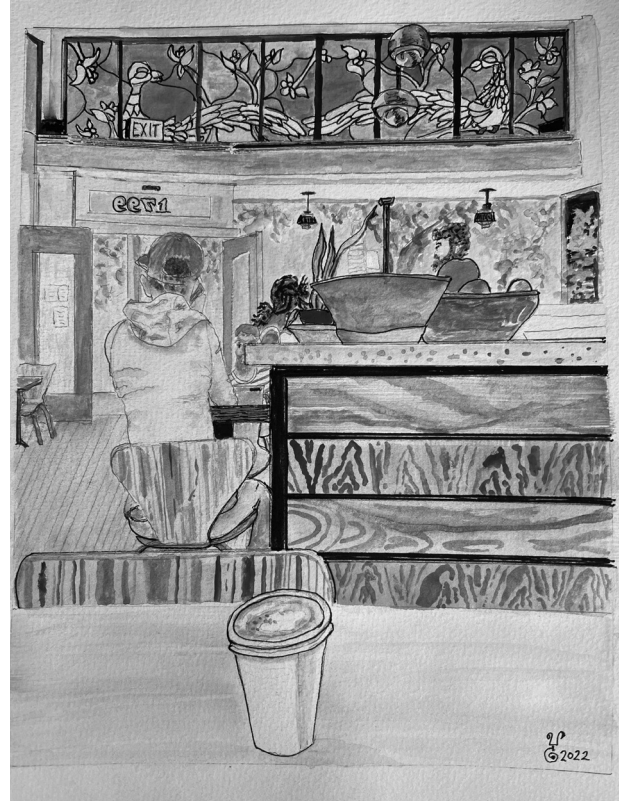
engineer, her first local job was editing audio for independent films. Following 9/11 and the birth of her daughter, she chose to work closer to home and began refinishing and selling furniture online under the brand "Swankety Swank." Swankety Swank grew—expanding to a storefront on McAllister, an occasional steampunk event-space and a retail space on Divisadero, where she brought in and sold work by other local artists.

Sustainability has always been central to Yabette's ethos. After a trip to Paris in 2014, she was inspired to launch her own fashion brand. Seeking the best material, Yabette uses hemp for its sustainable, biodegradable, agriculturally-beneficial properties. A brand focus body-positivity and providing clothes in extended sizes to suit people identifying as

gender-fluid. These creations were central to her fashion shows at the past two Phoenix Day celebrations. She'll be back again this year with partner Saucye West for "Big Babes Bazaar," an event supporting local artists and creators.

Though she still sells her clothes on swanketyswank.com, Yabette has recently opened a new chapter, which she calls "Artchemize." Yabette works with clients who are struggling with difficult emotional experiences. As a client talks through an issue, She paints in response to what she's hearing, creating a work of art that represents the client's struggle. The title of the painting becomes a mantra for the client, and the client keeps the painting as a totem of their transformation. Through this work, Yabette helps clients address grief, depression, and trauma.

Artists like Yabette both embody and are essential to the character and texture of our eclectic neighborhood. If you'd like to support Yabette, you can purchase her artwork at NOPA Corner Market and her clothing on swanketyswank.com. You can learn more about her Artchemize project and other works at yabette.com. Or stop by and say hi at the next Phoenix Day celebration on October 15.



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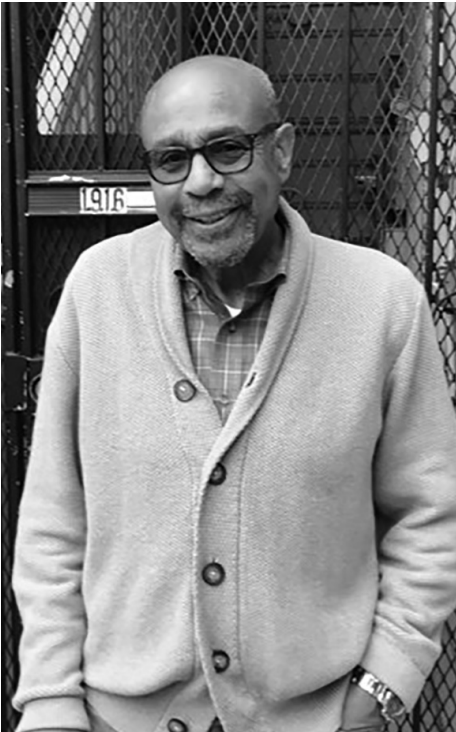
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LARRY GRIFFIN, NEIGHBORHOOD HERO AND COMMUNITY LEADER



By Leela Gill

On July 7, 2023,

Larry Griffin—friend, neighbor, and North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association (NOPNA) board member—passed away. He was 69 years-old.

Larry was born in San Francisco in 1954. In 1962, when Larry was eight years old, his grandparents bought a place for his family on McAllister Street (near Lyon Street) and he grew up in the neighborhood. As an adult, after a few years living in other San Francisco neighborhoods, he returned with his wife Sally and they lived in the same building he grew up in on McAllister Street. There he became a well-known, friendly face in the neighborhood and a visible, active member of

San Francisco’s community.

“Larry was the neighbor who made your day a little brighter with a big smile and a warm hello when you’d see him on the street,” Larry’s neighbor and fellow NOPNA board member Meg Rahner Antelyes said. “He was a sage in our community, a fantastic storyteller, and even somewhat of a neighborhood historian. He was deeply involved as a long-time leader in San Francisco and always made sure we were thinking of those who may be marginalized.”

Larry was a born community leader, which stemmed in part from his political and social upbringing. Larry’s father, Herman Griffin, started a police community relations program for Western Addition neighbors back in the 1970s. Herman and his wife, Estelle Klein, were one of the first interracial couples to be married in San Francisco after the California law banning interracial marriages was rescinded. Larry’s parents were open about the hostility they faced, but countered adversity with unwavering service to the community. Herman also volunteered to coach youth basketball at the Booker T. Washington Community Center, an organization serving Black youth and families in the Western Addition.

Larry provided unwavering service to his community. In addition to serving on the NOPNA Board twice, Larry went on to serve as the President of the Board for Booker T. Washington Community Center. He also engaged in local politics, holding

a number of city government roles—including working as an investigator for the District Attorney’s Office, a Child Support Services investigator, and a contract compliance officer for the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement—and held several leadership roles.

“As a NOPNA board member and neighbor, I could always count on Larry to volunteer for an event or help us navigate tough community issues,” Vice President of NOPNA and longstanding community member Leela Gill shared. “His warm smile, engaging personality, and consistent willingness to give back were just a few of the many things I loved about him.”

When we interviewed Larry in 2018 as part of a neighbor profile article for *NOPNA News*, he told us, “I’m trying to make people’s lives better. That’s what I’m doing at City Hall, trying to recover stolen wages. I can’t sit back and do nothing.” Larry’s words serve as a reminder that we must strive to take action to positively impact our community and our city to help make people’s lives better.

Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi once called Larry a “champion for working people.” Indeed, he was that and so much more. We’ll miss all he brought to the neighborhood and the people of San Francisco.

Leela is a 20+ year NOPA resident active in community safety and event planning. With her two boys and husband, she enjoys every day in the neighborhood.

PHOENIX DAY + NEIGHBORHOOD-WIDE GARAGE SALE

Wait, two events in one day? YES!

Phoenix Day Party

Come out October 15, noon to 5 pm, 500 block of Lyon Slow Street, for a great block party (sponsored by Avenue Greenlight and organized by Nopa Corner Market). Here are a few things you can enjoy:

- Fashion Show
- Music
- Kid's events:
- Bubbles
- Face-painting
- Art Show
- Quick-fix Bike Repairs provided by Scenic Routes Community Center
- Kid's carpeted book station and games
- Beverages, ice cream, and food from Kung Food and Bob's Donuts.



Photo: Meg Rahner Antelyes

NOPNA-wide Garage Sale

Are you ready to get rid of your Covid-era hobby gear? Don't need that sewing machine, stationary bike, and baking equipment? Open your

garage for a few hours, meet some neighbors, and make some dough (unless you're selling your mixer, then someone else can).

Send your garage sale location (e.g. "500 block of Lyon") to board@nopna.org by October 8 and we'll add it to our sale map.

NEW TRADITIONS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING TURNS 100



Come to 2049 Grove Street and help celebrate the New Traditions Elementary School building turning 100 years old on Sunday, October 15, 1 to 4 pm. Enjoy a fun and relaxing afternoon BBQ to honor the legacy of the New Traditions Elementary School building. This event is open to the whole community—whether you attended New Traditions, you're considering attending, or you just want to join in the celebrations and tour the building that has brought joy to families for a century.

EXPLORING NOPA'S NEWEST CULINARY HOTSPOTS

By Meg Rahner Antelyes

NOPA's vibrant culinary scene continues to be a treasure trove for food enthusiasts seeking fresh flavors and innovative dining experiences. From the rich heritage of Japanese udon to the tantalizing allure of French-Mediterranean cuisine, the neighborhood has recently welcomed a slew of intriguing eateries that promise to delight neighbors and visitors alike. Join us on a journey through NOPA's latest culinary additions.



Katsuo + Kombu (559 Divisadero) opened in June. It's a Japanese udon shop and its name refers to the dried fish flakes and seaweed used to make traditional dashi, or broth. The restaurant specializes in dishes that incorporate fresh Japanese udon noodles in its small—but mighty—menu, which consists of nine dishes. The menu will change seasonally, according to co-owner and head chef, Taka Saito, but we're hoping the incredible broth won't change anytime soon. Katsuo + Kombu is a welcomed addition to Divisadero and is quickly becoming a destination. It's open Monday through Saturday from 4:30 to 9:45pm.



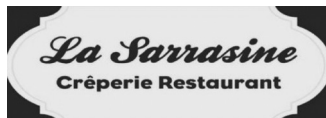
Fish in the Box (800 Masonic), formerly Amity's Cafe, opened in June and its menu is true to its name with a focus on boxed chirashi sets. The menu includes a \$50 deluxe set (ikura, Hokkaido scallops, bluefin negi toro, amaebi, crab, and salmon toro), and also serves a variety of more affordable dishes including poke bowls, the San Francisco-famed "sushirittos" or sushi burritos, chicken katsu, and boba tea. Fish in the Box is open Monday through Saturday from 11:30am to 2pm and 4:30 to 8pm.





La Sarrasine

(607 Divisadero) is a new French/Mediterranean restaurant that opened in the spring, located in the former Zaytoon space. Chef Kamel Bouzidi serves classic interpretations of delicious, savory galettes and sweet crêpes along with seasonal creations inspired by his 17 years of crêperie experience in Paris. La Sarrasine is open Monday through Friday, 11am to 9pm; Saturdays and Sundays, 10am to 9pm.



Curry and Kabab

(507 Divisadero), located in the former Wine Kitchen space, opened this summer and is the third Bay Area restaurant in the franchise. Curry and Kabab's expansive menu includes Indian pizzas, curries, vindaloos, tikka masalas, tandoori dishes, and spiced kebabs. It's open Tuesday through Sunday, 11am to 10pm.



CURRY & KABAB



More Food News...

Bobahead (1770 Fulton)—a new boba shop—recently opened right next to Lucky. **Scarlet Fox** (1690 Hayes), a charming wine bar, is now officially open.

Coming in 2024: Chef Carlos Altamirano—known for his Michelin-starred Costanera in Half Moon Bay—and his wife and business partner Shu Dai have filed permits to open a restaurant at 1775 Fulton in the former Jannah space in 2024. It will feature a Peruvian themed menu similar to his other restaurants.

Meg has lived in NOPA since moving to San Francisco 13 years ago. The NOPNA News inspired her to get involved with the organization in 2017, and she joined the NOPNA Board shortly after writing her first article.

SUPPORTING NOPA BUSINESSES

By Tim Hickey



Tim and his son Liam enjoying pizza at Little Star.

Businesses are an essential part of our community. They add character and help make NOPA unique. But in this age of one-touch purchasing, an unforeseeable but absolutely relevant and visible side effect is the blight of the community we love. Every time we buy online, not only is money diverted out of the community, but the soul of the community is lost. We save dimes or dollars, but our character dies. We lose our local entrepreneurs and get empty storefronts, blight, more vandalism, and a loss of the vitality that makes NOPA such a great home. The thing is, this isn't like reversing climate change. We can fix this. Here's what you can do to help:

1. Call a NOPA restaurant to place your order.

Better yet, go out for dinner. Restaurants are being charged extortionary fees by third-party food delivery services. The Board of Supervisors proposed 15% maximum fees, but they backed down after they were threatened by lawsuits from the companies, and now our restaurants are choking from the exorbitant 30% fees charged by these companies. This impacts working class wages, and our community.

Jennifer Rosdail
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Every time we buy online, not only do we divert money out of the community, we also divert the soul of the community.

Need proof? **Little Star**, our beloved local pizzeria—with possibly the best deep-dish pizza in the city—is so severely financially challenged due to third-party delivery fees that their business is at risk.

2. Buy local. Instead of buying a product online, see if you can find it at a NOPA business and buy from them. Have a conversation with the staff—they're very likely a neighbor that can provide recommendations and advice! If you only buy online, there will be no local store, no friendly neighbor.

Example? Our local bike

shops are being decimated by neighbors who buy bikes, parts, and accessories online then expect the local bike shop to install the part, and will even haggle over the charges. Buying local ensures we have bike shops like **Freewheel** (Hayes and Clayton), **San Francyclo** (Arguello and Golden Gate), **Scenic Routes** (Balboa and 6th), and **American Cyclery** (Frederick and Stanyan)—and bike experts in our neighborhood.

What makes NOPA great? It's the activities in our community, the proximity to sights, and the great businesses located here. Help support those businesses.

Tim and his wife, Leah, have lived in the neighborhood since 2010 and can be seen with their son, Liam, biking and walking through the area.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 24 — Sunday Streets

October 8 — Refuse/Refuse Neighborhood Clean Up

October 15 — Phoenix Day + Garage Sale

October 19 — NOPNA General Meeting

October 28 — Alamo Scare

October 31 — NOPA Halloween Block Party

November 12 — Refuse/Refuse Neighborhood Clean Up

November 16 — NOPNA General Meeting

December 7 — Holiday Party, 6-8 pm, Club Waziema, 543 Divisadero

December 10 — Refuse/Refuse Neighborhood Clean Up

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter, and get details and updates by signing up for emails at www.nopna.org.

Recurring Events:

NOPNA General Meetings — 401 Baker Street, 7:30 pm, 3rd Thursday of every other month

SFPD Community Meeting — 4th Thursday of every month, RSVP to community@sfsafe.org

Neighborhood Clean Ups with Refuse/Refuse — 10 am to 12 pm, meet at The Mill (736 Divisadero)

Farmer's Market — DMV Parking Lot, Broderick@Fell, Sundays, 10 am to 2pm

Email us to get involved:
board@nopna.org



**North of
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Stunning new listing!

Here we go again! For the 8th time spanning two decades, we get the pleasure of showcasing the vibrancy of living in an exquisite Queen Anne Victorian on NOPA's treasured Broderick Row! Wonderful neighbors, dynamic proximity to bustling Divisadero, and fabulously designed large-scale historical properties make this a very special place to call home. Meticulously redesigned, 705 Broderick is remodeled throughout with a designer's touch! The kitchen is noteworthy having been published in a designers mag, and the bathrooms are simply top-notch.

BroderickRow.com

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