

Lower Haight Local

The Local Magazine of Lower Haight, SF

Issue 8: Repurposing | April 2026



AYUSH SINHA (@iamayushs)

PAGE 1

Note From the Editor

Lower Haight updates & rundown of this edition's theme

PAGE 2

Haight-Nopa Repair Cafe

A volunteer pop-up giving new life to broken household items

PAGE 3

Line Dancing in Our Garage

How a repurposed garage gave a newfound joy to neighbors

PAGE 4

Entertainment Zones

Local businesses may soon be able to sell alcohol at permitted events

PAGE 5

Haight of Flavor

Local seasonal produce feature for April + a delectable recipe

PAGE 6

A Living Gallery

& Featured April Events

Note From The Editor

Joel Reske, Editor-in-Chief

Hello neighbor! You are holding the eighth issue of Lower Haight Local, a local newsletter / zine for all of the amazing people and things happening in Lower Haight. This magazine is the direct product of your neighbors' writing, doodling, and designing. This month we have some fun updates:

- We are officially a 501(c)(3), with a mission to connect neighbors and promote arts and culture in Lower Haight. Please reach out if interested in donating!
- We're running a **Lower Haight Yard Sale Day** where we all coordinate to do yard sales on the same day: April 19th! Sign up to put your garage on the map or to receive a copy.

As always, this is your paper. Get involved and help make it what you want!

To stay up to date, follow us on Instagram @lowerhaightlocal

To support us financially (we need it!), go to lowerhaightlocal.com/donate

To help write/edit/anything, go to lowerhaightlocal.com/help

Anything here you want to see in the zine / respond to? Email hi@lowerhaightlocal.com



lowerhaightlocal.com

For this month's theme, we chose the idea of **Repurposing**.

In a city, we face strong constraints - of space, of time, of resources. I believe the healthiest thing a city can do is to evolve to meet the needs of its people as those needs inevitably change.

Take The Wiggle. It was a thoroughfare of bikes before any official designation because it's a natural path between hills. Eventually, the route was named. But every day, bikers and cars navigate the route and together define how the space is used. Later, this can bubble up through our elected officials into changes that the city might turn into signs and concrete.

Even on a small scale, individual neighbors adapt space and resources to their needs and the needs of those around them.

For the neighbor that wants a workshop but lives in an apartment, converting their garage to a workshop is a much better use of the space. It's even better if they get to know their neighbors while they work! Or the neighbors that started a pop-up cafe for friends. Or the neighbor that turns a bit of sidewalk into a beautiful garden. Or the neighbor that sits on their stoop to sip coffee with neighbors passing by.

Another example: we have been using the corner of sidewalk on Scott & Page for our magazine release block parties (despite its lack of shade) because it's an open space. One Saturday a month we turn an often-blank sidewalk into a neighborhood celebration.

Maybe you've had an idea like that — something you've been wanting to try on your block or in your building. This issue is full of people repairing, adapting, and repurposing — who went ahead and did it. We hope it inspires you to do the same.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Joel Reske

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Siena Applebaum

FEATURES EDITOR

Lucy Segraves

NEWS EDITOR

Deanna Dong

LOHAMNA LIAISON

Molly Hayden

ARTS EDITOR

Annalise Wulf

COPY EDITS

Emma Conroy

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Nate Pellini

GRANT DEVELOPMENT LEAD

Mrignyani Sehgal

EVENTS LEAD

Roan Back

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS LEAD

Joyce Chen

LAYOUT MANAGER

Evelyn McSpirit

OTHER THANKS

LoHaMNA

PRINTED BY

PrintingPlus

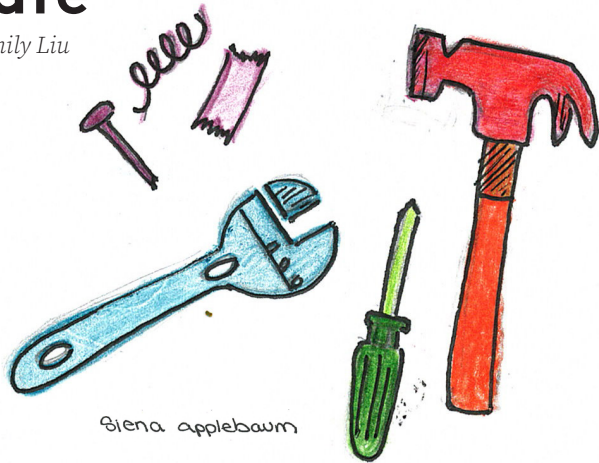
(707) 459-9401

printingplus.ink

1074 Folsom Street

Haight-NoPa Repair Cafe

by Emily Liu



Siena Applebaum

About once a quarter, the **Park Branch Library** community room fills with sewing machines, soldering irons, and tens of broken household items for about three hours. This is the Haight-Nopa Repair Cafe, where anyone can bring in their broken or worn possessions to be repaired by neighborhood volunteers for free.

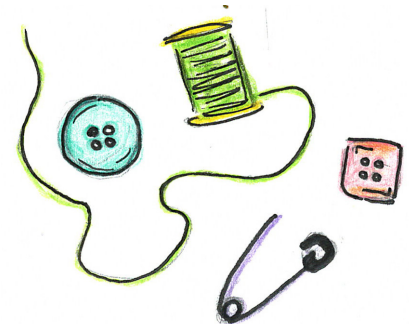
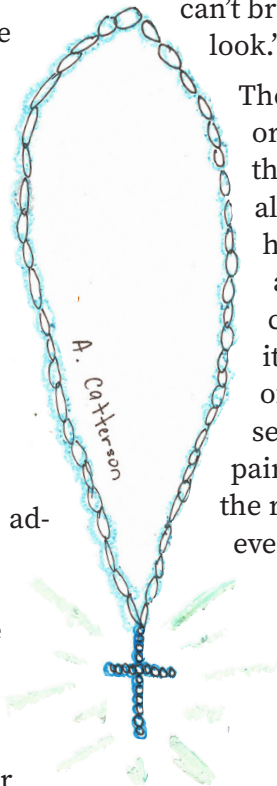
This particular cafe was started by long-time neighbors Claire and Courtney. Claire, a sustainability and climate change planning consultant, was inspired by her friend Charlotte's work on the Chiswick Repair Cafe in London. When she realized San Francisco didn't have its own repair cafe, she reached out to her neighbor and friend Courtney, the community builder and artist behind **@peopleartmusic**. They figured that if Berkeley, Sebastopol, and Palo Alto (to name a few) had their own repair cafes or fix-it clinics, it was time San Francisco had one too. After lots of flyer-ing, advertising in neighborhood newsletters, and recruiting volunteers, the event was first held in October 2025. Claire describes: "The tangible joy in the room from repairers and patrons alike was the most surprising and wonderful thing for me. The ring of the bicycle bell signalling a successful repair heralded cheers from everyone in the room."

The repair cafe, which is not library-sponsored, is a well-staffed operation. **There are 12-15 repairers, two people checking new people in, and even more logistics people running around.** Courtney says, "I was surprised to find how much it took, you know, to put this on." When an item is successfully fixed,

it's brought to the checkout desk and weighed. She continues, "The weighing is for us to measure how much we're keeping out of landfills ... at the core of it, if this is something that I would just throw away otherwise ... [we're] literally directly keeping it out of the trash." For the items that can't be repaired, Claire says "Sometimes it is helpful for people to have 'permission' to recycle an item if our repairers think it can't be mended. So far we have repaired about 70% of items that have come our way, and for the others we try to make recommendations for where to take it if greater expertise or time is needed, or to recycle it."

Over three events, the Repair Cafe has kept at least **335 pounds of items out of the landfill**. This includes common household items like lamps, sweaters, and blankets, but there are some priceless sentimental items too: a 100-year old rosary and an engagement ring that needed to be soldered back together. "One really cute one was right at the end [of the event] and it was the repair for one of those BART Christmas sweaters with the lights. This woman brought it and she works for BART and she's like, 'Mine broke and it can't break because it's BART and that's not a good look.' And we repaired it!"

The whole process isn't just about the repairs or keeping things out of the landfill, either. In the time spent waiting in line and the minutes allotted for each repair, Courtney and Claire have seen community being built in real-time among the 80+ folks that come by over the course of the afternoon. You can only bring items that you can carry, so the queue is full of local neighbors sharing the history of their sentimental items. At each volunteer/visitor pairing, repairers share their skills and tips in the repair process. And all throughout the room, everyone is sharing in donated baked goods.



To learn more about the Haight-NoPa Repair Cafe, go to repaircafesf.org or follow [@repaircafesf](https://www.instagram.com/repaircafesf) on Instagram. The next event will be Sunday April 19th from 1:30-4pm at the Park Branch Library on Page St.

Line Dancing in Our Garage

by Aimee Eagle

Last year, I was in my first year of teaching. It was the most difficult year of my life. On top of being brand new to an already demanding job, I was working at a school with no resources and really high needs. I felt like I was drowning and constantly alone in my struggle. My anxiety was the highest it had ever been. I was filled with dread before school, after school, and especially on **Sunday nights**. I couldn't bear the thought of starting the week all over again knowing I would face the same challenges as the last. I spent those evenings feeling heavy, paralyzed, and defeated.



In the late fall of 2024, my best friend Lucy invited me to go line dancing in her friend's garage on a Sunday evening. My first thought was, "I don't really listen to country music like that..." and my second was, "I can't on Sunday nights, that's when I ruminate on terrible hypotheticals and contemplate my existential dread." Fortunately, her description convinced me to get out of the house and make

my way to the corner of **Scott and Page** at the end of that week.

I arrived at an open garage door, an old "for lease" sign with a piece of paper taped to it that said "**Line Dancing!**" written on with Sharpie, twinkle lights, and a group of 30-plus strangers facing a projector screen. I didn't see Lucy right away, but was greeted with smiles and hellos that beckoned me in as I wove through the crowd. What followed for the next few hours was joyful dancing, meeting new people, learning, and laughing. By the time I got home that night, I was so buzzed on new connections, accomplishment, and endorphins, I fell asleep peacefully with the thought of Monday feeling as far away as ever.

From that night on, line dancing became a weekly ritual that changed my life. Not only did it get me through my toughest year yet, it connected me to SF, community, dancing, and love. **Sean Sullivan and Joel Reske** (the founders of Lower Haight Line

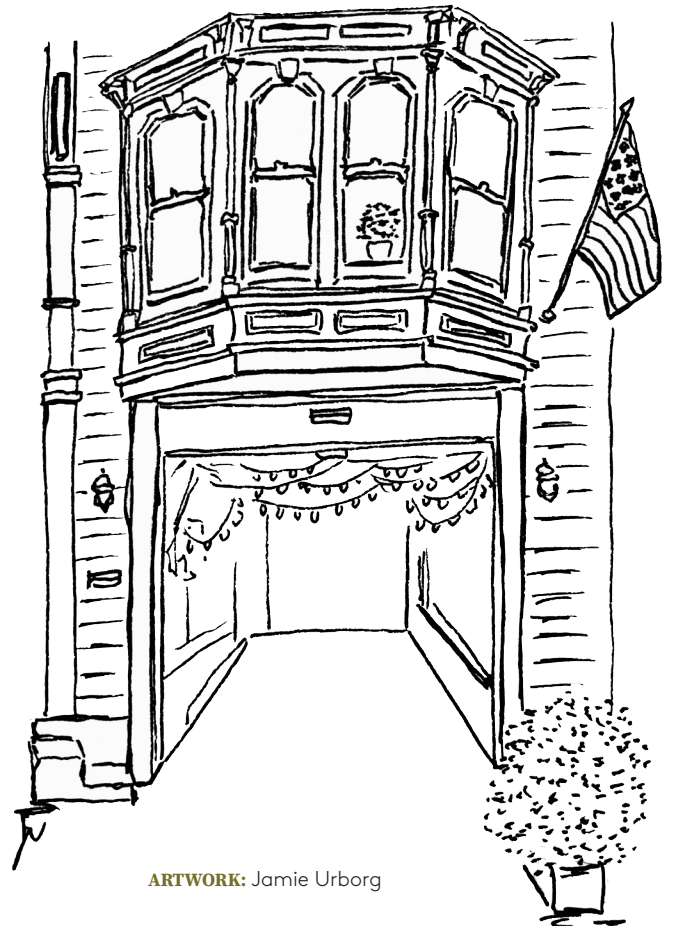
Dancing) have created a space that truly embodies inclusion. It's free, beginner friendly, a generous time window, and literally ANYONE is welcome. I have attended nights where we are celebrating an 8-year-old's birthday, complete with cake! I have gone when tipsy friend groups walk by on their way back from bars and stop to dance with us! No one is turned away, and no cowboy boots are required.

What makes Lower Haight Line Dancing so special is that it's not just Sean and Joel that do this work.

Their housemates, friends, friends of friends, regulars, and newcomers alike all take part in making the garage friendly, low risk, and so much fun.

Those 2 hours of dancing on Sunday evenings turned my darkest time of the week amidst a very dark year, into light. And for that, I'll always be grateful for their little line dancing garage.

If you want to support Lower Haight Line Dancing you can attend a weekly session (Sundays 6pm-10pm), follow their social media accounts, or book them to teach at an event!



ARTWORK: Jamie Urborg

Entertainment Zones

by Nandini Novarr

In California, entertainment zones allow bars and restaurants to sell alcohol for open-air consumption during permitted events. The state's first zone launched in FiDi's Front Street in June 2024, drawing over 21,000 attendees in its first year. San Francisco now has 21 zones active or pending, and the process was recently initiated for Lower Haight to get its own entertainment zone. We interviewed District 5 Supervisor Bilal Mahmood on this topic.

Lower Haight Local: Front Street proved the model works downtown, but Lower Haight runs on a different rhythm, more neighborhood bar than after-work crowd. Will it translate here?

Bilal Mahmood: Every entertainment zone is different. They're meant to jump-start activities that are already happening and fit the existing character of that neighborhood. In the past, block parties typically brought in food trucks and outside vendors to sell drinks, which doesn't benefit local businesses. Entertainment zones allow local bars and restaurants to sell drinks to customers, who can take them outside and move freely.

“This also creates a family-friendly environment. A family can go to a wine bar, take the alcoholic drinks outside, and still be with their kids.”

The most effective entertainment zones center around a few focused events. The Lower Haight Art Walk is a perfect example of an existing event that would be enhanced by an entertainment zone.

LHL: Senator Wiener's legislation made this legally possible, but implementation lives at the city level. What is your role in activating a zone?

Mahmood: Every entertainment zone has to come from the community first. The neighborhood organization votes to say they want it. We help them coordinate with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development to create a management plan that ensures all neighborhood stakeholders are included and that there is a consistent plan for activations. Then, we draft and initiate legislation at the Board to authorize it, the mayor signs it, and it goes into effect.

LHL: Front Street businesses saw sales increase 700% to 1,500%. Are there guardrails to make sure that economic energy benefits local merchants and doesn't accelerate displacement?

Mahmood: Entertainment zones exist because we do think displacement is an issue. What often happens during activations is that outside food vendors or food trucks come in that aren't local businesses. Entertainment zones ensure that the local economy benefits from it. We want to see that 700% to 1,500% sales increase for Lower Haight businesses.

LHL: There was a block party last October on Waller Street. What does it take to get activations happening regularly, without the supervisor's office funding every event?

Mahmood: We want to meet communities where they're at. Not every community has the infrastructure or experience to hold ticketed events. The supervisor's office can cover a portion of the fees for street closures to remove the barrier to entry for these events. If a neighborhood has the capacity to run something bigger, great. If not, we help them get started.

On March 9, Lower Haight Merchants and Neighbors Association (LoHaMNA) voted in favor of creating an entertainment zone in Lower Haight, and now it will work with Mahmood's team to define the zone's exact location and the management plan before it's sent to the Board for approval. To get involved, contact LoHaMNA or Mahmood's team at mahmoodstaff@sfgov.org.



Nandini Novarr is a San Francisco-based food and beverage writer and is enthusiastic about community driven missions.

Haight of Flavor - April

by Tamara Kahhale

Earth Day is April 22nd, and there is no better theme for this month than “**repurposing**”. This amazing planet we call home does have a finite amount of resources, but there are so many ways to repurpose those food scraps! The internet is filled with ideas on what to do with “scraps”, but here are a few of my favorites:

1. Keep **veggie scraps** and peels in the freezer to make **veggie stock** (also works with meat bones!)
2. Use **citrus peels** to scent the garbage disposal, mix with vinegar to make a cleaner, soak with sugar and macerate to make a simple syrup, or make a candy out of them.
3. **Compost!** All SF residents have access to green bin composting through Recology, so take advantage of this resource if you're not already. If you have outdoor space for planting, make your own compost!
4. Turn **potato peels** into home-made **chips**.
5. Revive **stale bread** by wetting it and heating it back up, or use it as **breadcrumbs** or **croutons**.
6. Use herb stems, carrot tops, and other edible green tops to make **pesto!**
7. Turn **overripe fruit** into smoothies, jams, or muffins, and use fruit scraps to make vinegar.

(Divis Farmer's Market: Sundays from 9am - 1pm in the DMV parking lot on Fell/Oak. Open year round.)

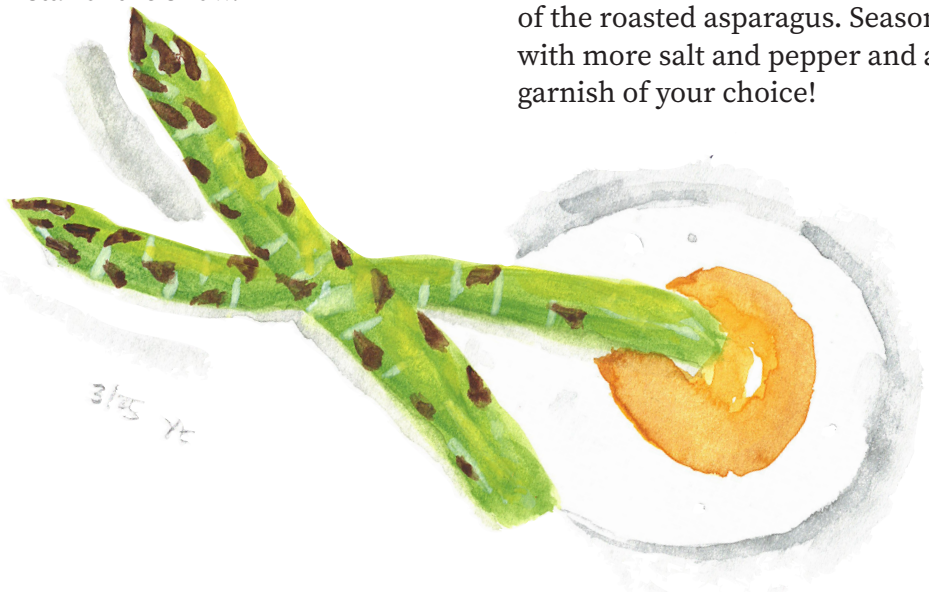
Snap Peas

As a very spring vegetable, peas are delicious just raw as a snack, but they also can be blistered in a pan and added to a dish (they pair well with lemon and feta), added to a risotto or creamy pasta, or blended into a savory dip – maybe even a “pesto”!

Asparagus

The asparagus has a long and rich history, spanning over 2,000 years. Once considered a luxury, they are now the true sign of spring, since the first shoots come up once the soil temperature has warmed to 50 degrees. The spears are actually the shoots of a perennial plant, and growing them can be a particularly laborious process. Once the seeds of the plant are sown, it takes at least two years for the first asparagus to arrive, and each spear is hand-harvested – be sure to thank your farmers next time you eat asparagus!

Sometimes the simplest recipes are the best, and to showcase such a tasty plant, let's make them the star of the show.



Poached Egg and Asparagus

1 bunch of asparagus | 3 tablespoons olive oil | 1 tablespoon salt | 2-3 eggs (your choice!)

2 tablespoons white vinegar | Optional garnish such as fresh dill, parm, lemon juice etc.

Preheat the oven to 425°F. Prepare a baking sheet. Trim the ends of the asparagus off. Line the baking sheet with the asparagus, then coat in olive oil and salt (and a dash of black pepper if you want). Roast the asparagus in the oven for roughly 10 minutes. Any longer, and they may get too soggy or wilted. If you have access to a barbeque, you should definitely grill them for that incredible char. While asparagus is roasting, poach the eggs. Bring a medium pot of water to a boil, then add the vinegar. Lower the heat until the pot is simmering. Crack each egg into its own bowl, then lower the eggs into the simmering water and cook for 3-4 minutes, depending on how runny you want the yolks. Carefully remove the eggs with a slotted spoon and serve on top of the roasted asparagus. Season with more salt and pepper and any garnish of your choice!

A Living Gallery

by Alex Catterson

At **963 Hayes St.**, art doesn't just imitate life, it displays it. At the Alamo Square Victorian, the Jones Institute hosts revolving installations in the living room of **Aida Jones' in-home gallery**.

After Jones learned a good friend wanted to display their art but couldn't find a venue to show it, she offered her living room to host. Jones saw the impact of this neighborly gesture on a self-taught artist who'd never been shown. So in 2018, she painted her living room white, lit the room, and transitioned it into the **Jones Institute**.

Jones, who began offering the space pro bono, shared that her inspiration came from the joy of seeing the creativity of the installation process, inviting the city to celebrate art she loves, and creating an opportunity for community-building without having to leave her house.

Jones also intentionally selects at least one newly minted MFA or BFA student to show in her gallery to build greater access for not-quite-emergent artists. Jones' generosity is contagious, as it has led to her meeting neighbor and photographer **Jason Henry**, who lends his skills for exhibition photography.

Jones gives the advice that **"everyone should do it,"** inspired by another neighbor blurring the line between public event and private home, who used to convert her room into a bar once a month. Jones' home represents what so many love about this corner of San Francisco: **community focus, expression, and Victorians**.

Jones shared that she's never had a bad experience inviting strangers into her home over the past few years, reflecting the notion that offering without expectation can be reciprocated more often than exploited when **strangers are treated like neighbors**.



April Events

Full events listing at lowerhaightlocal.com/events

Spikeball

When: Every Tuesday

Time: 6 - 8:30pm

Meeting Spot: Panhandle at the Cole St. intersection

Lower Haight Yard Sale Day

When: April 19th

Time: 10am - 2pm

Where: All throughout Lower Haight!

Interest Form Link:



Repair Cafe

When: April 19th

Time: 1:30 - 4pm (last entry at 3:30pm)

Where: Park Branch Library, 1833 Page St.

Date My Friend

When: April 10th

Time: 7 - 11pm

Where: The Faight Collective, 473A Haight St.

Follow [@datemyfriend.sf](https://www.instagram.com/datemyfriend.sf) on Instagram!

Event Ticket Link:



Cozy Cubs Puzzle Club™

"Casual Games for
Consenting Adults"™

Double Dippin'

Is it destiny, or coincidence? Each of the words in this puzzle will cross paths with their natural partner. Play the role of matchmaker and identify the meaningful relationships.

Once you've tagged the twosomes, reflect on how their common values could be a sign of something cookin' down below.

T A S T E C Q P B T R E N D Y E V Y R
 T A A F C H U D F O N V A J T D D S Q
 A D M Q U E S O K H X K W A D R E A M
 O V P M H E N O I N A P M O C H M T O
 Z A L V S S A J G D O W F T U Y Q N Y
 J N E P I E K Y R A N O I T A T S A O
 F T P G N I T A O C Y D X G Z Y B F H
 E A W E I Z M L N Z C M E E R J V J Y
 M G J V F O C G J R I I D J I Y H K E
 Q E D D D T R I S Q U E H X A Q K V A
 F N V E U E L J T D J O E L P U O C H

- SAMPLE _____ TASTE _____
- HOT _____
- CHEESE _____
- DREAM _____
- MATE _____
- FIXED _____
- FINISH _____
- ADVANTAGE _____
- JUICY _____
- PAIR _____

Words Arranged Precisely

Across

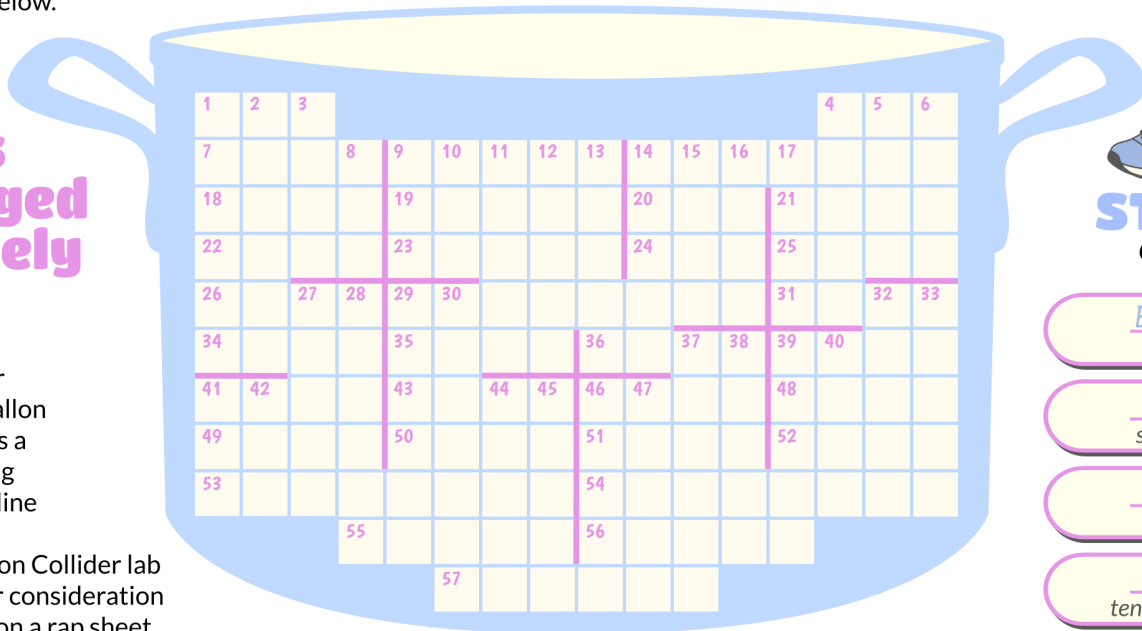
1. Wet area
4. Floor cleaner
7. Fathom or gallon
9. Resonates, as a bass-heavy song
14. Portal of feline empowerment
18. Large Hadron Collider lab
19. Suggest, for consideration
20. Shorthand on a rap sheet
21. Bring to the ground
22. Highland Games garb
23. Flexible methodology?
24. Scrub
25. "You heard the rumor from ___ / you can't believe a thing she says" ("Betty" lyric)
26. Clean up, as a song for the radio
29. Centerpiece of a Kraft Dinner, or this puzzle
31. Smash alternative
34. Make the wild mild
35. Sch. with a Parnassus campus
36. Emperor who fiddled around when things heated up
39. Command given with a backhand wave
41. Practice jabs and hooks
43. Something to shed
46. Narrow opening
48. Nailed up, as a painting

49. Kind of curiosity
50. "Major" constellation
51. Bring to a simmer
52. Early Sacha Baron Cohen character
53. Taco topping station
54. Form of make believe that may involve surprise and disguise
55. Dress silhouette with some flare
56. "___ nous" (between us)
57. Activity that gets the heart pumping

Down

1. KFC quantity
2. Largest lake entirely in NY State
3. "I'm a hot ___ / I do hot s***"
4. Animated heroine who was chosen by the ocean
5. Slowly flow
6. Dick or Dubya
8. It's connected to the Coyote's plunger
9. Sauna site
10. Skipper's journal
11. Brand whose name means "a sound mind in a sound body" via Latin initialism
12. Bed for kebabs
13. Back at sea?
14. "Paddle your own ___" (Advice from Sarah Knowles Bolton)
15. Similar in character
16. Prepare to take off
17. Basic coffee
27. "___ ears!" ("Listening!")
28. Sainted "Mother"
29. Kind of friend or fund
30. Biting, as wit

32. Justice Sotomayor
33. Like an unsqueezed sponge
37. Bridge in the center of Venice
38. Animal that holds hands while floating
39. Circle, oval, or ellipse
40. Bottom of a vessel
41. Big ___ (elder sib)
42. Conspicuous canoodling, for short
44. Pose in yoga
45. Less common or more pink
46. Bit of evidence
47. "Madam Secretary" star Tea



NO STRINGS

Change one letter with each step.

- E A S Y
not hard
- ___ ___ ___
sunrise direction
- ___ ___
swiftly
- ___ ___ ___
tense for yesterday
- ___ ___
mail away
- ___ ___ ___
portrait orientation?
- ___ ___ ___
button, for Frosty
- ___ ___
socks that run
- ___ ___
donut middle
- ___ ___ ___
Oaxaca sauce
- ___ ___ à la ___

help yourself to more Analog Fun
COZYCUBS.CLUB