

Lower Haight Local

The Local Magazine of Lower Haight, SF

Issue 10: *The Birthday Edition* | July 2026



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Note From The Editor

Joel Reske, Editor-in-Chief

Hello neighbor! It's officially the **one-year anniversary of the magazine!**

Some fun stats from our **nine** issues in the last year:

63 stories (articles, columns, poems, recipes, pizza shop obituaries)

37 unique writers

36 unique artists (10 cover artists, ~27 illustrators, 2 photographers)

A huge thanks to everyone who has turned this project from a personal one to a community one. The goal of this project is to connect neighbors, and I've seen so many friendships and connections flourish because of it - it's a beautiful thing!

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

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The DeLuxe: A conversation with Christian Beaulieu

by Nandini Novarr

The DeLuxe opened on **June 18th** with live music seven nights a week and a room that looks both untouched and quietly transformed. The venue occupies the former space of Club DeLuxe, a beloved jazz venue in Upper Haight that **closed in April 2023**.

The DeLuxe's co-owners are **Christian Beaulieu**, a former bartender at Club DeLuxe, and **Jay Bordeleau**, owner of SF jazz venue **Mr. Tipples**. When renovation began on the space, they found redwood pilings, old newspapers, funky drawings, a 1940s beer bottle under the walk-in cooler, and on that cooler's door, a built-in pull-out window and a plate reading "installed in 1928." The building had been leaving its own time capsules for a century. The new owners left their own by sealing handwritten notes and a bottle of rye whiskey into a time capsule at 1511 Haight Street for future occupants to find.

What did you protect, and what had to change?

The Spa Collins and the Greyhound cocktails were non-negotiable. What had to change was speed.



People waited too long at the old place on weekends. We put all our classics on tap so we can get guests drinking and dancing as fast as possible. That part's working.

The murals are new. What story are they telling?

The original gay bar in this space had murals I've been looking for evidence of for years. The story goes: a couple in a 1952 Chevy DeLuxe breaks down on the side of the road. The bar's name was shamelessly appropriated from that car, logo and all. A mechanic shows up. The husband leaves with the mechanic. That was the story of a gay bar in the Upper Haight in the late '70s.

When J. Johnson took over and opened Club DeLuxe here, he immediately painted over the original murals and commissioned his own depicting his journey from Chicago to California, indicated by a train. Those left with him.

So we needed our own mural. I've known Jon Weiss for years. We were both on the same music label, Alternative Tentacles. My band, Triclops! opened for his band, Jello Biafra and The Guantanamo School of Medicine. Together we decided to tell the story of the room: Playland at the Beach, the creamery, the tailor shops, the gay bar, the swing era, and J. Johnson himself, singing out to the street with his train behind him. There's enough Grateful Dead imagery on the outside of buildings in this neighborhood. This is our version.

What does running this place actually feel like?

My partner Jay noted that it belongs more to the regulars and the neighborhood than it does to us. After Club DeLuxe closed, I couldn't bartend anywhere in the city without someone bringing it up. At some point it clicked: this thing is bigger than I realized. The building has kept morphing into whatever the present moment needed: gay bar, swing club, neighborhood anchor. That's what we're aiming to do now.

"Opening a business in San Francisco in 2026 is like flying into the eye of a hurricane. You have to be crazy enough and know the sea. Jay and I are co-captains. Both of us are needed to navigate it."

Upon A Ridge

by Joel Pomerantz

If you're a bicyclist and have explored our neighborhood, you don't need to be told where the hills are or where to go to avoid them. The place is not Kansas. Even so, many of us cycling along are stuck viewing the Lower Haight essentially in two dimensions, as a grid of streets.

That's simple to explain, of course. The streets are our access. To. Around. Through. Past. And where there's a hill, the street ramps up, down, but you're still on the grid, conceiving it as a street network. Though nonplanar, it facilitates two dimensions of movement.

As for me, I am no longer living on that plane. Maybe I'm below. On the downs, I flow. I am a flower with pedals (occasionally wearing a flower with petals). As flowers (or flow-ers, if you prefer), we ride the streets in parallel with a grid of sewers, underneath—the first big construction project of the neighborhood, carried out in the 1870s.

If you feel aversion to sewers, then instead imagine yourself flowing as the spattering rain. It gushes in the gutters, storm runoff, eventually trapped into the rain garden (a.k.a. bioswale), soaking into the sandy soil below. Still, much of it goes into the sewers via catch basin drains. If you insist on altogether avoiding your kinship with the wastewater, take this advice: ally with an ancient creek, like the one depicted in the Duboce bikeway mural. Ancient waterways didn't adhere to the street-and-sewer grid. Be free!

There's also above. When I loose myself from the grid, sometimes I'm up there. I invite you: for a moment, unbind yourself from the surface altogether.

Without flappy wings or a jet pack, you could miss overall patterns found in the up dimension. But come! The ridges and valleys and how they define the Lower Haight are easily seen. Follow me!

Come to the end of Scott Street, cross Duboce and you are confronted by a concrete wall. Note the fence atop it. It is a bland, unadorned terrace that you no longer have permission to ignore. Ascend the driveway to your right and head to the far reaches of that terrace.

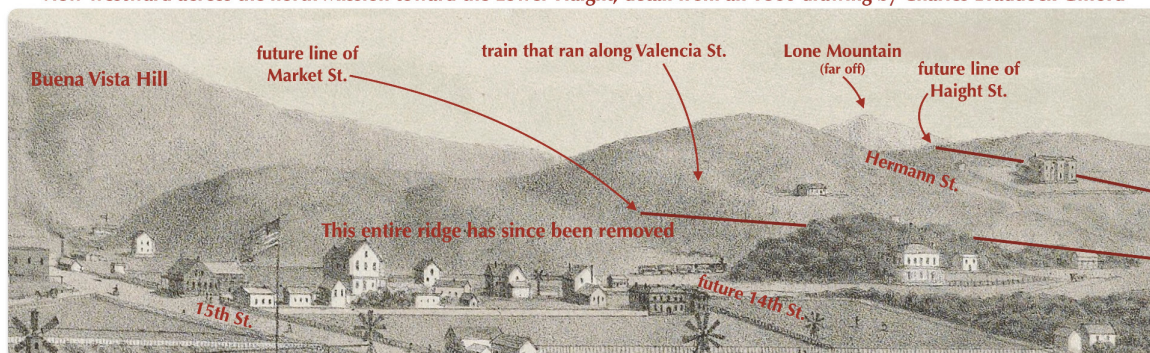
From here it's unmistakable: The Lower Haight is defined by a ridge that runs NW by SE, like so much of the city.

Until steam shovels and crews of laborers with wheelbarrows attacked it, that ridge was more dramatic, repeatedly removed, reduced, down and down. Now one blip of it pokes up (only a little) above Market Street, level with the adjoining blocks to the north. But it was once very high, towering over the Mission District. When this area was still rural, the bumps of this ridge were known as "the Mission Hills."

Where exactly was it? Look due eastward from your perch. See that tall Safeway sign? The ridge of greenish bedrock that hefts Alamo Square and Fell Street Hill, the shoulder that Haight Street glides over, to your left, at one time extended to your right more than a block past that Safeway sign, dropping down abruptly at 15th Street. It was tall and it was long. Market Street was cut through it, then Dolores. Eventually Duboce and the others.

There was another ridge, too. It was one block wide before blocks existed, made entirely of sand, part of a vast dune landscape that extended from here to the Presidio and Pac Heights. It shrugged down off Buena Vista, its high points running 40 to 60 feet above today's Page Street, from the Upper Haight all the way to Fillmore where there was a gap. After that it continued downslope to the bay. The whole length of it formed something of a border between passable soils (south) and dune sand (north). Scrubby plants grew on it. It was flattened in the 1860s and 1870s to make way for streets. And sewers!

View westward across the north Mission toward the Lower Haight, detail from an 1860 drawing by Charles Braddock Gifford



The Second Annual Party A-Cross Town

by Sevy Swift

My friend Liang and I showed up at the Candlestick Point parking lot at 5:30 a.m. on June 21st. It was dark, chilly, and overcast. People started joining us one at a time, arriving by car, bus, and even one Lyft bike from the Mission, until we were seventeen strong. Then I unrolled the flag from its pole. It was blue, with green blocks representing SF neighborhoods. Two big white arrows stretched across the city, and one read: **Party A-Cross Town**. This was the beginning of our sunrise-to-sunset, 32-mile urban hike.

The Crosstown Trail is my favorite thing to do in SF. It cuts across the seven-by-seven-mile city, connecting neighborhoods, parks, stairways, and local trails from one corner to another. Party A-Cross Town combines the Crosstown Trail with the Double Cross Trail, turning an 18-mile route and a 14-mile route into one sunrise-to-sunset urban hike.

Over a year ago, I met Liang on a bike ride up Mount Diablo. We pulled ahead of the pack together and realized we both enjoy **adventure-maxxing**. After a few long hikes, we did the math: on the longest days of the year, 32 miles works if you average 2.88 mph with about three hours of breaks. Party A-Cross Town was born.

Last year, we scheduled it for May 31st and saw an epic sunrise at Candlestick Point. Around **40** friends joined for sections throughout the day, and when we reached Fort Funston at sunset with a crowd of ten, four of us had walked the whole route. The timing was perfect for a beautiful cliffside sunset. This year, for the event's second year and the Crosstown Trail's seventh anniversary, we aimed bigger.

The flag quickly became the mascot of the day. It led the group from start to finish, and walkers loved taking turns as flag bearers. It also made keeping the group together easy through the crowded 70th annual North Beach Festival (on the bingo card) and Chinatown.

The highlight picture of the day came while we were walking along Van Ness, with a huge group of us crossing O'Farrell Street behind the flag.

Some of my favorite moments came from passing through my own neighborhood, Lower Haight, and running into friends. The Double Cross Trail takes Pierce Street from Alamo Square to Duboce Park, passing Haight Street, where I ran into a Lower Haight friend (on the bingo card) who later joined us for the last segment. In Duboce Park, I ran into another friend who was journaling. I spontaneously asked her to join (should have been on the bingo card), and to my surprise, miles later, I saw that she had joined our trek up Twin Peaks and all the way to the finish. Lower Haight feels special because the neighborhood lives outside its homes: on **stoops,**

sidewalks, parks, bikes, benches, and sunny corners where you actually run into people.

The best parts were the unplanned moments. In the morning, we ran into a coyote in McLaren Park (on the bingo card). On the climb up the Greenwich Steps to Coit Tower, we saw a huge swarm of dragonflies (should have been on the bingo card) and many fluttering butterflies (was on the bingo card). The Instagram moment came on the secret stairway to Mount Olympus,

where a greenery tunnel surrounded us with colorful lanterns. The best planned moment came after West Portal, when I stopped the group, announced that it was time to call our dads for Father's Day, and then called my own dad as we kept walking through the neighborhood.

Amazingly, **thirteen souls** walked all **32 miles** across the city, twice, the diagonal way. More than 60 people joined for at least part of it, with the majority doing half. By the end, everyone was hungry, tired, and awed. We did not get a sunset through the overcast evening, but we did make many new friends along the way. My favorite part is always seeing the relief and pride on people's faces when they realize it is done, followed by the joy of the pizza waiting for them at the end. An earned slice tastes better than anything.



Haight of Flavor - July

by Tamara Kahhale

Happy birthday to the magazine and happy belated summer solstice! It has been so fun being a part of this community for a year now, and there is no better way to celebrate than to enjoy the incredible foods available to us in the summer. Many summer fruits are quite a labor of love to harvest, so make sure to really thank your farmers this season :)

(Divis Famer's Market: Every Sunday from 9am - 1pm in the DMV parking lot on Fell/Oak - open year round!)

Pluot

Stone fruit season is upon us – arguably the best season of the year – and these are easily a fan favorite. A hybrid between a plum and an apricot, they were created by a plant geneticist in the 20th century, and definitely lean more plum. They are so sweet and worth trying if you have never had a chance!

Tomato

There's not much to say about these wonderful fruits, other than it's officially tomato season, and that means the beauties at the farmers market are going to be so tasty – go nuts! (and try not to eat the whole pint of cherry tomatoes that you got from the farmers market in one day)

Figs

In California, figs are a common backyard tree, but fresh figs can be hard to find since they must be picked when soft and are extremely delicate. Many fig varieties have two distinct harvests

(making them botanically quite unique), and the second harvest yields a much sweeter fruit. Pollinated by wasps, these spectacular fruits have a deliciously distinct flavor. They are often paired with ricotta and make a delicious jam or tart.

To celebrate the magazine's birthday (and summer!) properly, this is a truly mouthwatering...

Almond and Fig Cake:

240 grams sugar

3 eggs + 3 egg whites

½ teaspoon of salt

A few drops each of almond and vanilla extract

250 grams almond flour

Topping

8 fresh figs, quartered

¼ cup sliced almonds



Preheat the oven to 350°F, add parchment paper and lightly oil a 9-inch round cake pan.

Combine the white sugar, whole eggs, egg whites, salt, and extracts. Whisk vigorously until well combined. The mixture will be frothy and the sugar will not be fully dissolved.

Add the almond flour and mix.

Pour mix into pan.

Add the figs and spread evenly, lightly pressing them into the batter. Sprinkle the top with sliced almonds.

Bake until deep brown and the crust feels firm, for roughly 40 - 50 minutes. Let it cool in the pan and then demold and let it cool completely. Decorate with powdered sugar once cooled, and feel free to add more figs!



Ariel Feingold-shaw

July Events

DM @lowerhaightlocal to get your event featured!
Full listing at lowerhaightlocal.com/events

Recurring Events

Every Sunday **Lower Haight Cleanup** Meet at 10am at Tarragon Cafe to care for our streets alongside your neighbors — coffee and breakfast provided!

Every Sunday **Free Line Dancing** Learn to line dance in a Lower Haight garage, 6–10pm, for free. DM @lowerhaightlinedancing for the location!

Every Monday **Motown on Mondays** DJ Gordo Cabeza spins Motown classics all night at Madrone Art Bar (500 Divisadero). Free before 8pm, \$5 after.

1st & 3rd Tuesdays **Open Mic at The Faight** Bring a song, a poem, or a joke to The Faight (475 Haight), 6–9:30pm. Free entry, all welcome.

Every Tuesday, 7–9pm **Bar Bingo at Danny Coyle's** Free bingo with prizes every round at Danny Coyle's (668 Haight).

Every Wednesday at 8pm **Trivia at Danny Coyle's** Test your smarts at Brainstormer Trivia at Danny Coyle's (668 Haight).

Every Thursday **Jazz Night at Mercury Cafe** Live jazz at Mercury Cafe (201 Octavia) — recently the Hipsteria organ group. Disco night spins at Madrone, too.

Events This Month

Saturday, July 11th from 10am–1pm **Lower Haight Local Turns One!** Come celebrate our first birthday and grab the July issue at the corner of Scott & Page. Free cake and coffee — say hi!

Saturday, July 11th at 9:30pm **Straighten It Out at Madrone** A hip-hop and R&B dance party with Jerry Nice, Proof, and DJ Flow at Madrone (500 Divisadero). 21+, \$10.

Saturday, July 11th **Gimme Gimme Disco at Rickshaw Stop** An all-vinyl disco dance party at Rickshaw Stop (155 Fell).

Tuesday, July 15th at 7pm **Jazz & Wine Night at The Faight** Sip and unwind to live Lower Haight jazz at The Faight's Sound Pour.

Thursday, July 16th **Peacock Lounge Mixer** The Peacock's monthly night returns at 552 Haight, every third Thursday

Friday & Saturday, July 17th–18th at 7pm **Peach Tree Rascals at The Faight** The touring band plays two nights in a row at The Faight (475 Haight). ~\$44.

Saturday, July 18th at 12pm **Hayes Valley Carnival at PROXY** A free afternoon of local vendors, music, and community just up the hill at PROXY (Hayes & Octavia).

Saturday, July 18th, doors at 7pm **Evening of Jazz at Peacock Lounge** Vocalist Rhonda Sauce, with Adam Klipple (keys), Scott Amendola (drums) & Brian Pardo (guitar). All ages, \$20 advance / \$25 door (552 Haight).

Monday, July 21st at 6pm **Open Mic at The Faight** The 1st & 3rd-Tuesday open mic (see recurring). Free, all welcome.

Thursday, July 23rd at 9pm **Fixed Gloss at Underground SF** A dark-electronica dance party for Dore weekend at Underground SF (424 Haight). \$10.

Friday, July 24th at 9pm **FLUX at Underground SF** An immersive audiovisual night with Panda Grass, Chroma Sea, and more at Underground SF (424 Haight). \$15.

Saturday, July 25th from 2 to 4:30pm **Haight/NoPa Repair Cafe** Dig out your broken things! Volunteers fix appliances, clothes, jewelry, and more at the Park Branch Library (1833 Page). Free.

Saturday, July 25th **Community Book Sale at Madrone** Madrone Art Bar's first community book sale — bring or browse used books (500 Divisadero).

Saturday, August 1st at 9pm **Prince vs Michael at Madrone** The legendary dance-off between Prince and Michael Jackson fans returns to Madrone Art Bar. \$10.

Cozy Cubs Puzzle Club™

A sepecial puzzle set celebrating one year of Lower Haight Local

"Casual Games for
Consenting Adults"™

The Word On The Street

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

Across

- Device that squeezes
- Haight
- Words allegedly spoken by Julius Caesar or your mom last night
- Puts together
- First half of a sneeze response

Down

- Way to get high?
- From around these parts
- Out of bed
- They may be dank
- It should be free

You may remember this grid if you visited the Cozy Cubs table at Wigglefest.

Flip it! Flip it good

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

ART NIGHT
BIKE LANE
BIRTHDAY TREES
BLOCK PARTY
CLEAN UP
DUBOCE
FILLMORE
GARDEN
HAIGHT
LINE DANCING
LOVE
MUNI
NEIGHBORS
PAGE
PANCAKE PARTY
PARKLET
PINWHEELS
REPAIR CAFE
SCOTT
SLOW STREET
STOOP
THE WIGGLE
VOLUNTEERS
WALLER

Paper Route

Change one letter at a time to make new words.

S I D E

pot luck contribution

angle for a lens

sagacious

something made upon a star

clean up

smoosh, as spuds

field with roots?

yoga rolls

they don't need Windows

type of truck or daddy

bulletin board item

birds and bees is "the" one

take one to aid digestion

Date My Friend

Use the clues to match the five single people to their ages and their endearing qualities.

- Eliot can make friends while waiting in line.
- Someone in their twenties gives unconditional foot massages.
- The person who names all their meeples and Alex are only one year apart in age.
- Cole is neither the youngest or the oldest.
- The person who always brings snacks to share has an even number age.
- Eliot is older than Bailey and younger than Dae.
- The person who accidentally got abs from acroyoga is five years older than Alex.

	Acroyoga abs	Foot massages	Friends in line	Names meeples	Snacks to share	22	27	29	30	35
Alex										
Bailey										
Cole										
Dae										
Eliot										
22										
27										
29										
30										
35										



Cozy Cubs Puzzle Club
is a creative project of
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I believe in Analog Fun.

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