

# SHORT TAKES

## A Glimpse at the Gardens

Volunteers are still needed to staff the fourth Noe Valley Garden Tour, blossoming on Saturday, June 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Richard May of Friends of Noe Valley, the group sponsoring the event, says the chores are easy — volunteers sit at the gardens' entrances and take or sell tickets. "The reward is great—a free ticket enabling you to see eight beautiful gardens," he says.

Before or after their two-hour shift, volunteers can sample each of the other gardens, which are notable this year for their variety, says May. "One is a traditional Japanese garden designed by a Japanese designer. It has a water feature with two waterfalls, blooming lotus, and medaka fish to eat the mosquitoes." Another, created by Katey Mulligan of Atlas Landscaping, offers plants native to China and stonework modeled after the entrance to a garden in Shanghai, where one of the homeowners once lived.

There is a Liberty Hill garden with fig, lemon, and avocado trees; a hillside arbor with old roses and antique seating; and two gardens designed by Janet Moyer Landscaping, including one that circles a large remodeled farmhouse in the northwest corner of Noe Valley.

The approximate boundaries of the tour, May points out, are 21st to 30th Street, and Guerrero Street to Grand View Avenue. If you plan to walk it, comfortable shoes are advised. Proceeds from the event will go toward a neighborhood beautification project.

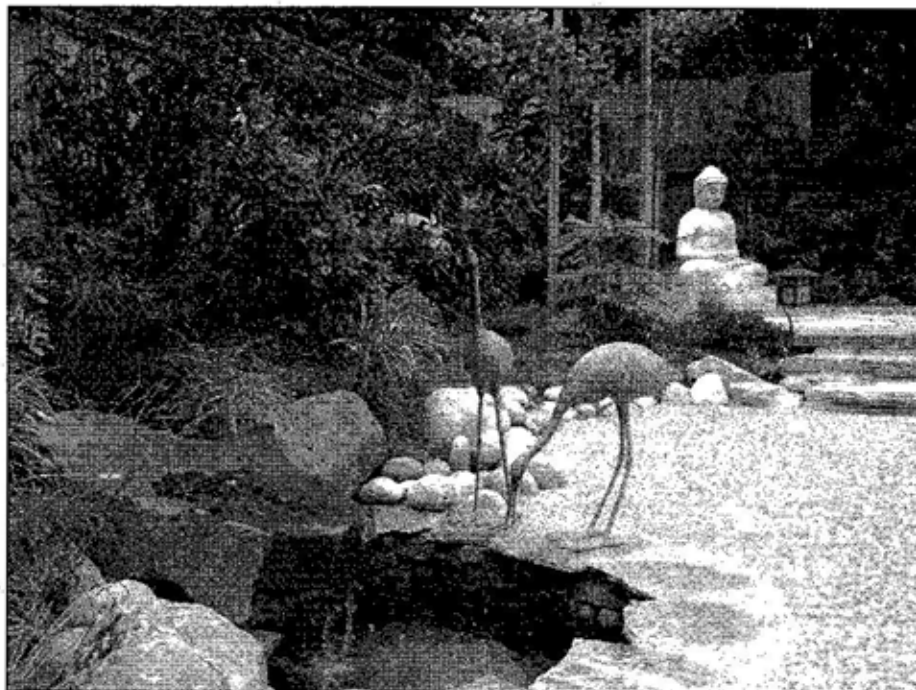
Tickets, which cost \$12, will go on sale on and around 24th Street on Saturday, May 22. (Children under 10 are free.) Look for stores with a Noe Valley Garden Tour poster in the window.

If you'd like to volunteer or you need more information, call May at 415-298-2344.

## Mellow Custer/Crooked Jades

The Noe Valley Music Series features new music and a new collaboration in May, starting with the soothing tones of the Beth Custer Ensemble on Saturday, May 8. Custer, a clarinet player graced with a mellifluous voice, joins her ensemble to perform new work culled from their critically acclaimed release *Roam*, as well as songs created during Custer's recent residency at Montalvo Arts Center in Saratoga. Influenced by jazz, funk, and Latin rock, the ensemble's melodies meld with Custer's view of the world as her musical oyster. Tickets cost \$16 in advance and \$18 at the door, and the show starts at 8:15 p.m.

On Saturday, May 22, the Crooked Jades will pick up their old-fashioned instruments and join the modern dance group Kate Weare Company to preview "Gone Before and Rattling," an exploration of the cyclical nature of human ex-



This peaceful garden, designed by Katey Mulligan of Atlas Landscaping, is one of eight waiting to be explored in the 2010 Noe Valley Garden Tour on June 12. Photo by Cynde AveLallemant