

The Point

AN ADAMS POINT ZINE



ISSUE #0
SUMMER 2025

Foreword

Hey Neighbor/Point Person. Welcome to *The Point*! This physical zine/newsletter marks a single end point in our process of creating together (the actual point), and the starting point of something beautiful (also the point). Everything you see here was created and funded for and by neighbors in the neighborhood. Where exactly Adams Point begins and ends is another issue... (maybe the next?)

Our hope is to make this a quarterly project where anyone in the neighborhood can contribute. From our young to our elders, housed and unhoused, all of us living here make up *The Point*.

In this issue we had the honor and privilege of receiving and selecting submissions based on the theme of *The Point* as a project and an orientation toward connection and neighborliness.

That said, we unearthed an interview with our gnome neighbors, tested our trivial knowledge of Adams Point, read a treasured “trash” poem, and found light in a secret photo booth. We were taken streetside to — learn of Oakland’s plan to pave Grand Ave., identify some unique trees, catch up with our bold blonde bandits in the Procyonidae family, and follow the rescue of a Oakland’s city bird.

The Point is... this first issue reminds us to expand our definition of who is and what it means to be a neighbor. It asks us to slow down and follow our points of connection, creativity, curiosity, and propensity toward care. We hope this first issue sparks joy and brings you closer to your neighbors and neighborhood like it did for us!

Yours truly,

Your Neighbors @ *The Point*

Upcoming Neighborhood Events

NEIGHBORHOOD WALK

A community stroll around Adams Point neighborhood.

- **When:** The first monday of the month, 5:30–6:15 PM
- **Where:** The corner of Vernon St. and Lee St.

APNG MEETING

A leadership meeting for the Adams Point Neighborhood Group.

- **When:** Second Monday of the month, 6–7:30 PM
- **Where:** Clio's Bookstore, 353 Grand Ave.

TRASH FALCONS MISSION

A weekly trash cleanup of Adams Point, Lakeside Park, and the North East Shore of Lake Merritt. (Gear provided).

- **When:** Every Sunday rain or shine, 9–10:30 AM
- **Where:** 400 Perkins St. aka Castle Trash Falcon
- **Contact:**
trashfalconsokland@gmail.com
for more info
- **Instagram:** *@trashfalcons*

TASTING NOTES

Hoping to launch a quarterly Adams Point cookbook club/ dinner party this summer.

Please fill out the form at the link/ qr code below if you're interested!



bit.ly/4358VqT

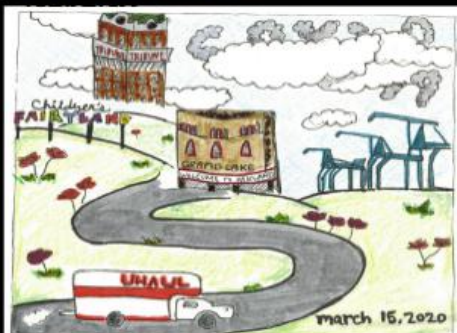
STARTING POINTS.

words by Ryan Nakano

art by Noël Cruz (1), Annie Wong (4,5), and Britt McClintock (2,7), and Ryan Nakano (3,6)

March 15, 2020 — We move to Oakland one day before Alameda County shelter-in-place. In place of community, we learned to take comfort in little things; roses in the garden, running the lake. We remembered how little things keep us safe; thin swatches of fabric, clean hands, space. Still, we miss each other and imagine our teeth.

The following is an attempt to recall points in time I feel ultimately contributed to my initial thinking for The Point. These points are mine and mine alone. The Point has its own proposed purpose statement, goals, and values curated by many neighbors. That said, I offer you my **Starting Points**. - RYAN



Post-May 25, 2020 — 9 minutes and 29 seconds. I grieve in the streets of Oakland for George Floyd. We yelled "We Keep Us Safe" But how? And who were "We"? I was still a stranger in a strange city. Sometimes sentiment is a starting point.

October 13, 2022 — We found ourselves in Adams Point. Pearl & Orange. I know the names of the streets, but not the names of my neighbors. Two years into Covid and the two of us are lonely together. We need friends and community.





May, August, December 2024 — My poet friend Yibing reminds me that zines exist. I make my first zine, and then another, and another, until I've stapled my way into tabling the East Bay Zine Fest with a booklet of song lyrics, a DIY guide for panic attacks, and a mini philosophy on Magic the Gathering.

October 6, 2024 — I'm listening to a podcast and a man is sharing his experience getting aid to isolated communities in Southern Appalachia during and after Hurricane Helene. The takeaway — our neighbors are often our first responders in times of need.



Jan 1, 2025 — Reading Murray Bookchin's book "Urbanization Without Cities", I stumble upon...

"...its (democracy) authentic starting point is the small study group, the local lecture hall, the **neighborhood press**... not the electronic media of statecraft"



March 8, 2025 — I put up a flyer. And the rest is... The Point.



Better know your Gnomebers



What's your name?
I share that on a need to gnome basis.

Where do you live?
I mostly hang out on Lee Street.

Can you tell us where the door on Jayne leads to?

Absolutely not, that's
for gnomes only...
sometimes fairies.



Where do you all live?
We live on Perkins, we get to see
it all!

What's your favorite part of living
in Adams Point?
The smiles on peoples faces when
they see us!

What's your least favorite?
When dogs pee on us.

How long have you lived here?
I'm part of a new family that's been hanging
out on Montecito.

Welcome to Adams Point!
I really appreciate the diversity of gnomes
in the neighborhood. Old, new, with hats,
without hats, mustaches, beards, flowers,
mushrooms, it's great to be apart of a
community of so many different gnomes.
Everyone has been welcoming.



Muckraker's Report

A message gathered from the neighborhood's flotsam and jetsam



ARTIST STATEMENT:

A cut-up using text gleaned from 36 pieces of garbage gathered and disposed over the course of a couple of late afternoon walks. One's trash, another's treasure, a third person's last-minute zine submission.

Maybe Blondes do Have More Fun

For people living in Oakland, seeing a racoon is part of life. For people living in Adams Point, we have the privilege of seeing blonde ("leucistic," yeah yeah yeah) racoons.

Racoons are creatures of the night. When the sun sets, they emerge from storm drain inlets and crawl out of culverts. Late at night, I see them running across Perkins from one dark yard to another. A pair of them are frequent 2 AM visitors to my patio.

I'll watch this duo judge how I've rearranged the patio furniture, rummage through the roasted plants I call a garden, and search for that spare key they must have hidden under the deck. I'm always amazed that in spite of my head-of-security dog doing her best to bow-wow-wow them away, they maintain a fearless curiosity for newness. They are ready for the unknown, they are problem-solvers, they are scrappy. In these ways and more, I feel like a racoon. The

joy that I get from dragging a chair I found on the corner back home is akin to the joy expressed by a racoon that realized my compost bin had been left outside. Watching the duo on my patio poke at each other kindles the feeling of walking through my neighborhood with my boo, pointing out a little gnome or sniffing the Night Jasmine. Just like they put their faces up to the glass to see inside my home, I am guiltily delighted when I am able to admire the interior of one of my neighbors' homes through a lit up window. Their learning to turn the spigot on my patio to wash their hands, demonstrates the resourcefulness I saw in myself when I moved to Oakland without knowing anyone a decade ago.





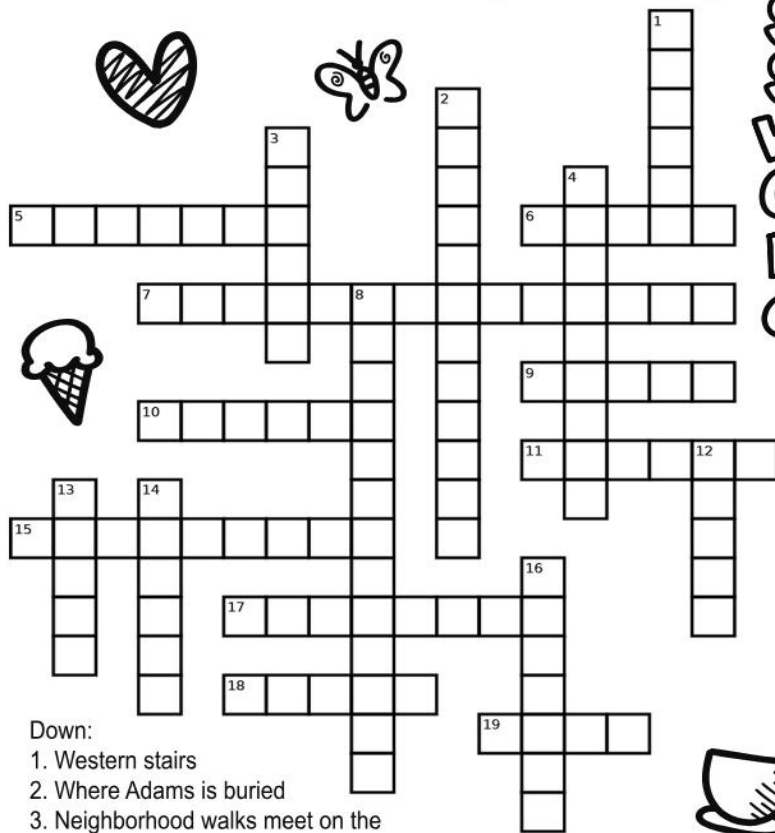
Then there are the blonde raccoons. Since I've only seen them during the day, I've postulated that these are daytime dwellers. And on a warm spring evening, while out for a run, I crossed paths with one of these bold, blonde raccoons. The recent news coverage of them included an untimely death, and another spotted injured, so I was thrilled to see a healthy one in the wild. Alas, here was a blonde raccoon out enjoying the same golden sun. This blonde raccoon didn't cower away, but it also didn't echo the same curiosity of the classic raccoons and get closer. It wasn't running from A to B or rummaging around. To put it simply, the blonde raccoon was taking it easy and existing in the moment. What a way to be....in

spite of adversity all around and an endless list of things to do, just enjoying a pleasantly warm Wednesday evening and watching (perhaps inspiring?) your neighbors do the same. That's something I can admire. So maybe when the weather changes and we return to rainy days and 40 degree nights (or as I refer to them, "unlivable conditions") I'll be ready to conquer some of those to-do list items and face the world at large. But for now, for this summer (or at least on Wednesdays), I'm choosing to enjoy the warmth of my neighborhood and the people in it. I'm choosing to move gently when it feels good to and not at all if I don't want to. I'm choosing to be a blonde raccoon.



Adams Point

Crossword



Down:

1. Western stairs
2. Where Adams is buried
3. Neighborhood walks meet on the 1st ____ of each month
4. Disney's inspiration in our backyard
8. Towers over Adams Point
12. Adams first name
13. What dogs love to get from 1888
14. Trash Falcons meets every ____ at 9am in front of 400 Perkins.
16. Street named after former senator and governor

Across:

5. Spice shop
6. Street named after Adams wife
7. MacArthur btwn Van Buruen & Grand
9. Newest neighborhood bookstore
10. Street named for Adams daughter
11. Residents of AP living on light poles
15. Eastern stairs
17. Bittersweet drink at 1888
18. Councilperson representing half of AP
19. Councilperson representing the other half of AP



Need help?

Ask a neighbor!



Adams Point Secret Photobooth & Neighborhood Hot Takes

There's this really cool, handmade photobooth sitting in my garage right now (long story, generous friend). Usually, my portraits take careful setups, lots of lights, and plenty of planning, but this booth offers something totally different: simple, timeless, low-friction portraits—and a fun experience.

You're invited, Adams Point neighbors, friends (and maybe even your pets?) to come by for a quick session. Wear your PJs, your work clothes, or whatever makes you feel like you. After your portrait, I'll hit you with one question: *What's your hot take on life in Adams Point?* Your answer (along with your portrait) might just make it into the project.

Be part of the neighborhood photo booth project; leave with a small print, and maybe share a thought or two. More is more!



Limited spots available. Model release required.

This photobooth project is an ongoing project and the next event will be on **Sunday July 13th**. Visit briandesimone.com/photobooth to learn more and to sign up.

Adams Point Neighbors Weigh in on Grand Ave. Repaving

On May 12th, staff from Oakland's Department of Transportation (OakDOT) met with over 100 Adams Point neighbors to provide information on repaving Grand Ave. in 2026. City staff presented their proposed "five to four lane" plan for Grand Ave and encouraged Adams Point residents to write to OakDOT Director, Josh Rowan, if they preferred a "five to three

lane" option for reducing speeding traffic and safer streets. (Option 2).

Information about making your voice heard can be found at the APNG website:

www.adamspoint.org/grand-ave, and for coverage of the meeting see Oaklandside's article: bit.ly/4jfpDbL.

ANNE S.

Good Sam-Heron-Tans

Early in the evening on Mother's Day, I was strolling home along the lake in the direction of the Wild Duck Refuge. As I passed the Rotary Nature Center, I caught movement out of the corner of my eye. To the right of the Center is a chain link cage containing garden tools--and in that moment, it also contained a female night heron! She was poking her beak at the locked front gate and flapping against the fencing, in a seemingly

agitated manner. The fencing covered the top of the caged area, meaning she would not be able to get out that way, and I strongly suspected that she was trapped inside.

Concerned, I wondered what I could do to help her. I cautiously climbed past the "AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY" sign and tried in vain to pull the gate open enough for the heron to get through. I found contact

information for the Rotary Nature Center and sent them a message, hoping they would see it the next day and come to release the bird. Still, I was hesitant to leave the area. As I hemmed and hawed, I saw a couple also watching the night heron. When one of them climbed over the fence I hurried toward them, and after confirming they were also interested in helping the bird, we joined forces to rescue her!

We discovered that the end of the cage near the water was uncovered at the top, but there was a second gate separating that area from where the night heron was trapped. One of my fellow rescuers managed to pull some chain link aside part way up the gate, creating an opening large enough for her to get through. We baited the opening with some bread I had with me (classic) and managed to herd her in that direction. After several long minutes of pacing back and forth along the fencing with the gate, she finally found the opening! She hopped through and flew away...barely a couple meters to the shoreline where

she started fishing like nothing happened.

After introducing ourselves, Rob, Allie and I shared a congratulatory moment, relieved to have helped a fellow creature (and a likely mama, on Mother's Day!) and delighted to have had a sweet interaction with strangers in the process. I learned that Rob used to live near here and Allie was visiting from the East Coast; I've only lived in Adams Point since January. Now we each have a special connection to this neighborhood and one of its most recognizable residents. Thank you to Rob and Allie for rescuing the night heron with me!



LOCAL TREE PROFILES:

☼ tī kōuka

Cabbage Tree (*Cordyline australis*)

This surprising tree caught my eye the other day, looking a bit like a Joshua tree. It is related to lilies and makes me wonder where the line between tree and bush is. I learned that it is native to Aotearoa (New Zealand), where its original name is *tī* or *tī kōuka* in Māori. There are several *tī* in Adam's point since the Bay Area climate is similar to part of Aotearoa.

☼ Moundlily Yucca

Cordyline australis

Looking for all the *tī* in the neighborhood listed in the Oakland Public Tree Map, I saw many in people's yards but was surprised to see one on the street side that the map had missed. When I looked closer, I realized that this is a different member of the lily family. The Moundlily Yucca is found in sand dunes in the southeastern United States.



The Oakland Public Tree Map <https://oakland-tree-hub-oakgis.hub.arcgis.com/>

Community Resources

Clausen House

*Social Services for Adults with
Developmental Disabilities*

88 Vernon St.

clausenhouse.org

(510) 839-0050

Jaynette@clausenhouse.org

Oakland LGBTQ

Community Center

3207 Lakeshore Ave.

oaklandlgbtqcenter.org

(510) 882-2286

Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants

554 Grand Ave.

cerieastbay.org

(510) 444-1671

info@cerieastbay.org

St. Vincent de Paul

Emergency Shelter

2272 San Pablo Ave.

svdp-alameda.org

(510) 638-7600

Lunch 10:45–11:40 AM

and 12–2:45 PM

Alameda County Immigration Legal and Education Partnership (ACILEP)

*Rapid Response to Immigration
and Customs Enforcement (ICE)*

acilep.org

(510) 241-4011

M–F 6 AM–6 PM

Crisis Support Services of Alameda County

crisissupport.org

(800) 784-2433 – Oakland

(800) 273-8255 – Crisis Line

(510) 420-2460 – Teen For Life

Mobile Assistance Community Responders (MACRO)

Non-emergency quality of life

(510) 446-2276

A Safe Place

*Shelter for adult survivors of DV
and their children*

asafeplace.org

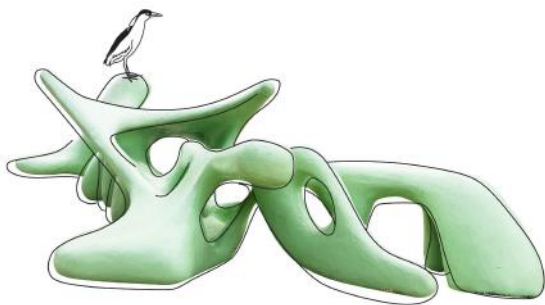
(510) 986-8600

What's *The Point*?

The Point is a media project created for neighbors by neighbors in the Adams Point neighborhood of Oakland, CA. This project exists to remember the Adams Point before us, define the Adams Point of now, and build a better Adams Point for the future. Above all else, the mission of *The Point* is to build a sense of belonging, trust, and resilience among our neighbors through shared stories, art, news, resources, and opportunities to connect and gather. This is *The Point*.

Thank You to This Issue's Contributors:

- A Neighbor
- Anne S.
- Brian DeSimone
- Sal Alper
- Joshua Nederhood
- Anonymous
- Annie Wong
- Britt McClintock
- NC
- Ryan Nakano
- AP Transport Beat



SASHA DUSKY - GREEN MONSTER

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Join one of our organizing committees (editorial, design, logistics), contribute to our next issue, and/or help fund *The Point* by completing our form at the link/ QR code to the right! Also, feel free to email us at:
thepointzine1909@gmail.com.



bit.ly/ThePointZine