# Why no Y? TL leaders demand answers

# No new facility 7 years after Central closed

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

"Is there a

plan to build

a new Y? ...

Yes or no?"

Dina Hilliard

TENDERLOIN CBD

LOWERS, shrubs, vegetables and herbs line three sides of the vacant lot at 333 Golden Gate Ave. An Anna's hummingbird named Maxine flits among this unexpected Tenderloin greenness, flashing iridescence.

The 12,000-square-foot paved lot, owned by Hastings law school, is where the Central YMCA for seven years has been planning to build a new Y in collaboration with Hastings. Nothing definitive has happened. Fingers are pointing. Explanations for the stall are less

than convincing to the ardent supporters who want a full-service Y back in the central city.

The paved lot and leased space next door have been Central Y's temporary home since it shuttered 220 Golden Gate Ave. in 2009 after 102 years. Shih Yu-Lang Central Y pays Hastings a token \$2 per year to use the lot for basketball and the community garden. At 387 Golden Gate, it leases

5,500 square feet of ground-floor retail space in Hastings' garage for a small fitness center, several offices and a meeting area with a kitchen.

Hastings once said it might invest in a new Y on the undeveloped lot, but the recession has hit the law school hard and it's scaled back what it says it can do.

A lot of ducks have to line up before the Central Y project could get moving. In the end, however, it's the association — the YMCA of San Francisco, Central's parent company — that holds the purse strings for major expenditures involving its 14 branches, and only it can press the project start button.

In July, longtime Central members and advocates, unhappy about being kept in the dark, began organizing, put-

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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GOOD NEWS FOR CENTRAL CITY

2 Blocks of Art; tree count begins

PAGE 2



### ED BOWERS' INVITATION TO POETS

The Tenderloin is where it's at

PAGE 2

## RESIDENTS' OBITUARIES

SRO memorials for 3

PAGE 11



RENDERING BY MWA ARCHITECTS

**This rendering** is of a new Central Y that was already in the planning stage, the YMCA said in 2009.

# CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO



PHOTO BY TOM CARTI

**As the wrecking ball** descended on St. Anthony's old office and Dining Room complex on Golden Gate Avenue, the great jaws of a huge machine ripped the façade, revealing a mural of St. Francis where an office used to be. The mural soon was chewed up and spit out as rubble.

# **Dining Room down**

# St. Anthony's demolishes old, is building new

BY TOM CARTER

HEN ST. ANTHONY'S warm and friendly Dining Room opened Oct. 4, 1950, founder Father Alfred Boeddeker, who eschewed the cold words soup kitchen, expected to serve 150 meals to the poor. But 400 "guests" arrived. Somehow, all got fed.

The kitchen was in a windowless basement at the end of an auto repair shop ramp and the Franciscan friars, who had bought the 45 Jones St. building, called their success the "Miracle on Jones Street."The miracle of feeding throngs of the poor has continued 365 days a year. The number of meals served last year averaged 2,743; the peak was 3,635.

But the sagging building where 38 million free meals were served in 62 years was demolished in September.

The dining operation moved across the street to 150 Golden Gate Ave. in February. It will move back in 2014 into a \$22 million, 10-story structure featuring an arcade where the people in line are protected from the weather. The new street-level dining room — this one with windows — will be 43% larger, seating for 240 at a time. The building will also have 90 units of affordable housing for seniors, and a full floor for a free clothing program and a social work center for counseling.

The old building had the health clinic, a tech lab and a social work center that annually served 2,000 low-income people. The pro-

grams grew out of needs the friars recognized in the Dining Room.

St. Anthony's wide reputation drew politicians and celebrities. Among the happy servers: Sen. Hubert Humphrey, actors Danny Thomas, James Arness and Jane Wyman. In 2009, Nancy Pelosi helped serve meal No. 35,000,000 and the late billionaire Warren Hellman, "a generous donor," played with his Wronglers band in a fundraiser for the new Dining Room. Last year, the Giants' Barry Zito pitched in to serve, and the day before New Year's Eve the entire University of Illinois football team tackled the chore before their Fight Hunger Bowl game at AT&T Park.

San Francisco mayors loved the place and so did clothier Adolph Schuman, who produced the Lilli Ann line. He got some friends together, including then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein, to create a fund for St. Anthony's. After Schuman died in 1985, the first Saturday every November a special meal was served to honor his birthday. The Dining Room blossomed with cut flowers, tablecloths and festive live music. The food was to die for.

"I remember lamb shanks this big," says Barry Stenger, St. Anthony's communication director, his hand showing a 5-inch span. "Steaks and prime rib, too."

Schuman Days ended last year after 22 years and, because of lean times, the funds were shifted to the general fund to help provide daily meals.

St.Anthony's staff say that more than onethird of its diners rely on the lunchtime meal as their only food each day. They arrive from all over town. Last year they consumed more than 2 million pounds of food.

A fond farewell was staged in February for the building designated for destruction. A local auto repair shop parked cars from the 1940s and '50s out front, nostalgia for the era when it was created. Out on the street, there

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

ART LOVERS The third annual 2 Blocks of Art continues Oct. 18, spotlighting Central Market's diverse creative community — 100 artists in 25 locations on Sixth Street between Market and Howard and, this year for the first time, along Market from Fifth to Seventh streets as well. Highlights of the 4-8 p.m. event are an outdoor photography installation by resident Rey Cayetano Jr., illustrated, life-size portraits of Central Market residents by Joel Philips, cutting-edge fashions by Hector Manuel, and Tenderloin-based dance company Theatre Flamenco performing to live music. Local talent also includes fashion designers, jewelry makers, illustrators and musicians. "Sixth Street has a long history of innovative arts and performance centers and galleries," says Tracy Everwine, project director at Urban Solutions, the area's prime nonprofit economic developer that produces the event. "2 Blocks of Art is an open house for the community." Lead sponsor of the free art walk is the city's Grants for the Arts. Restaurants, bars, nightclubs and theaters along the walk will discount food, drinks and admissions. For a map of artists, venues, food and drink specials: urbansolutionssf.org.

**TREE LOVERS** The city is for the first time counting every tree. Volunteer tree census takers began fanning out over the city with their clipboards Sept. 30 to locate, count and measure all the trees for the Urban Forest Map. The inventory will help city planners and foresters manage trees, fight tree pests and disease and plan future plantings. Climatologists will use the data to document urban forests' effects on micro-climates. The survey ends Oct. 7. Kelaine Vargas, project manager, and Friends of Urban Forest staffers trained volunteers how to collect and enter data on the map. Anyone with a Web browser can enter or access information about specific trees (urbanforestmap.org), and Vargas expects to soon launch an iPhone app for the map. "There aren't official teams," Vargas said. "It is self-directed. We counted 250 new trees the first day but none in the Tenderloin. Any day of the year, though, anyone who thinks they've found a new tree can check it out on the map, and add it even if they don't know the kind." Some trees planted 100 years ago were not registered with the city, she said, and thousands of trees in the Presidio aren't on the map. "The city has no mechanism to do the counting, and hiring experts would cost millions," she said. The Department of Public Works and Friends of Urban Forest enter trees on the map when they plant them. Vargas wants to make the count an annual affair.



PHOTO BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

Muralist Mona Caron puts finishing touches on Trailhead at Market and McAllister, a new ground-floor business in the Renoir Hotel. She completed a larger mural, wrapped around a building at Golden Gate and Jones, in 2010.

#### **MY TAKE**

# Calling All Poets to The Land of the Dead

BY ED BOWERS

AN FRANCISCO'S history of great writing goes back a long way. I am a San Francisco poet and have chosen to live in the center of this literary city. The Tenderloin spirit, whether anybody wants to believe it or not, is a source of real poetry, all the more so because it is underappreciated.

A lot of people who'd be better off employing their imaginations to write horror movies have the impression that the Tenderloin is a Skid Row nightmare and that those who live here are somehow different from the rest of the human race, slightly defective people who have been exiled from those more worthy of attention.

And who is considered slightly defective? Well, that would include those too honest for their own good, who do not fit into the general game plan, which is getting more and more picky about who wins and who loses, and those who cannot compete in a culture that values money above all else. In a word, poets.

Real poets need real neighboroods. The Tenderloin fills that requirement perfectly; people who live here actually walk around the streets and talk to each other. In many other neighborhoods often the only people I see on the street are headed for their cars or walking their dogs. True, those neighborhoods are quiet, but so is a graveyard.

On the other hand, the Tenderloin is alive with commerce, sociability, drama, comedy, and life with a capital L. Of course death with a capital D is implied by this, but that's the way it is everywhere; only difference is that in the Tenderloin life and death are not hiding discreetly behind locked doors. Both are out in the open on display, naked poetry for all to see. The Ten-



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMIOCO

**Ed Bowers** at the piano in the 21 Club.

derloin is The Midnight Sun with The Moon On Fire.

It does get weird here; you can enter a tavern and meet a man who thinks he's Elvis Presley or go into a church where homeless people sleep in pews surrounded by finely crafted stained-glass windows. The collective unconscious staggers and swaggers inside these avenues. On the corner of Taylor and Turk you can sit behind the picture window of the 21 Club and watch every variety of human being in the world walk or ride by on their way in or out of this zone. Many people may fear the Tenderloin, but it is a crossroads. Those who are going down or going up must travel here. City Hall and a law college are in the Tenderloin, and so are the shelters, bars, and drug gangs.

The Tenderloin is an honest place to live. No need to put on airs or try to impress others with your vast accom-

plishments. Just be yourself. Also, it is important to cultivate vision. You must not be fooled by appearances lest you be fooled. That which presents itself to you as beautiful may be a con, and that which appears ugly may be concealing a terrible beauty. What could be a better home for a poet? Poets must have vision that sees beneath the surface. That vision must be earned and the Tenderloin is a great University for poets to get their Ph.D.s in vision.

I am an editor of the Faithful Fools' "Living In The Land Of The Dead," an anthology of poems, many of them written by poets who live in the Tenderloin. Also, for two years I hosted poetry readings at the 21 Club and hope to do so again. More intelligent and sensitive people live in this zone than any other neighborhood I've

lived in within the United States of America, and as far as I am concerned it is Poetry Central. So there.

San Francisco has selected October as the month to celebrate poetry. That's wonderful. But don't forget: The soul of a city is where poetry is born. The soul of San Francisco is in Central City. Lit Crawl is currently being celebrated in San Francisco and poets are being invited to recite words they have carefully chosen to reflect their multifaceted diamond minds as they experience modern life.

So this is my invitation to all the poets of the world! Flock to the Tenderloin! You will not become poets sitting in the library of a college. You will become poets by really living your life. Come to the Tenderloin.

You're allowed to live here. ■



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## SAN FRANCISCO NEEDS A NEW DEAL

# The Central City Votes Together 2012

# YES ON C

Affordable homes and living wage work for San Franciscans.



# YES ON E YES ON 30

UNLOCK OUR VOTE Our City's economic recovery starts with fair taxation.

Save our schools, services and the State of California!

Spread the word.

Most formerly incarcerated community members can vote in California.

Parole or probation must be completed to register.

## Register to vote by October 22nd

## **Election Day is November 6th**

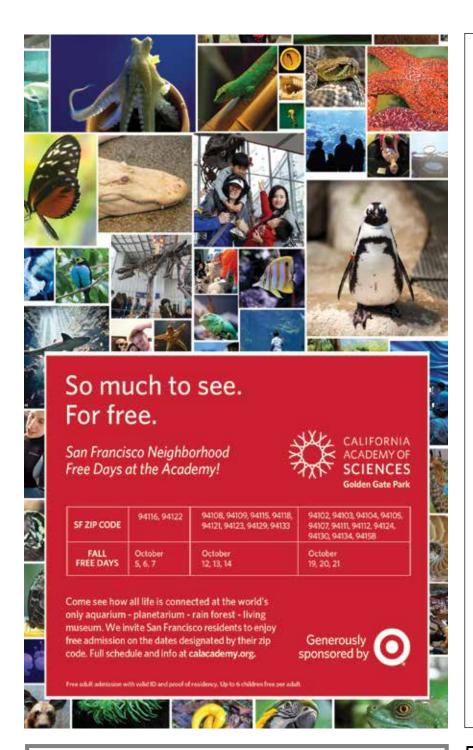
YES ON G Protect the democratic process
NO ON 32 Preserve the rights of workers
YES ON 34 End the death penalty
YES ON 36 Reform three strikes

"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services."

**Article 25 UN Declaration of Human Rights** 



Paid for by Community Housing Partnership. Our slate is formed with the input and leadership of our residents, staff and neighbors. www.chp-sf.org.





#### THE HOTEL ISABEL 1095 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103





With newly renovated rooms and supportive staff, TODCO is excited to announce The Hotel Isabel's open waitlist.

The Hotel Isabel is a Homeless Project Based-Section 8 building located at 1095 Mission Street in San Francisco, California designed to house qualified homeless individuals referred

All units have been newly renovated and consist of a single-bed and closet, shared bathrooms, 2-burner stove, microwave, sink and refrigerator. Site amenities include a community kitchen, lounge area, laundry facilities, 24/7 staff and surveillance team.

If you are interested in applying for housing at The Hotel Isabel or for additional information, please visit the Marketing Office located at 241  $6^{\rm th}$  Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 at The Knox building to pick-up an application.

Applications will be accepted beginning October 1, 2012 through November 30, 2012; or the first 125 qualified applicants.

To qualify, you must meet the following criteria:

- $\bullet \quad \text{Obtain a Certificate of Homelessness through any homeless shelter, designated} \\$ agency or Coalition of Homelessness SF
- Rent and Deposit is 30% of your income
- · No Minimum Income
- One (1) Person income cannot exceed \$34,600 annually





# Be the City's Budget Czar for a Day!



Between now and 2040, \$64 billion dollars will be available to support San Francisco transportation. The San Francisco County Transportation Authority wants your opinion on how best to spend it. Repaving streets, building better bike lanes, constructing rapid transit lines, or making pedestrian safety improvements are just a few of the possibilities.

To create and submit your own investment plan, visit:

#### www.sfcta.org/mybudget

You'll also be entered in a drawing to win one of three \$50 Clipper Cards.

More ways to get involved: www.movesmartsf.com or 415.593.1670

#### City and County of San Francisco October 2012 Monthly

Assessment Appeals Board (AAB)
Notice is hereby given of 8 vacancies on the AAB. Applicants must reside in San Francisco and have at least 5 years experience as one of the following: Certified Public Accountant or Public Accountant; licensed Real Estate Broker; Property Appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized organization, or Property Appraiser certified by the California Office of Real Estate Appraisers. For additional information & application, please call 415.554.6778.

#### **Don't miss 2 BLOCKS OF ART**

A FREE art walk showcasing over 100 local artists in 25 locations in the Central Market neighborhood community: Friday, October 19, 4–8 p.m. Market Street (between 5th and 7th streets) and 6th Street (between Market and Howard streets). Presented by Urban Solutions with support from the San Francisco Arts Commission and Grants for the Arts/Hotel Tax Fund.

WIC Offers You Free Food And Services!

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program helps pregnant women, new mothers, infants and young children eat well and stay healthy. WIC offers benefits to pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children under the age of 5 years who meet federal income guidelines. WIC benefits include nutrition and breastfeeding education and support, supplemental foods and referrals to health care and community services

WIC pregnant/breastfeeding mothers receive education and support through Breastfeeding Peer Counselors or WIC Breastfeeding Warm Line (415) 575-5688.

WIC participants receive checks for nutritious foods. WIC staff helps find community resources to meet individual needs. For more information, call (415) 575-5788. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

San Francisco General Hospital Foundation (SFGHF)
SFGHF is seeking nominations for its eighth-annual Heroes & Hearts Award, a service award which recognizes unsung heroes who provide exceptional and inspirational service to an individual or the community. Nominations deadline - Thursday, November 1st. For information, visit sfghf.net.

Transbay Block 9 Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Successor Agency to the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency is soliciting proposals from qualified development teams to purchase Transbay Block 9, a 31,000 square foot site located in Downtown San Francisco. For a copy of the RFP, visit http://www.sfredevelopment.org, call (415) 749-2439, or email <a href="mailto:courtney.pash@sfgov.org">courtney.pash@sfgov.org</a>. Proposals must be received by December 12.

Need Help Finding a Dentist or Dental Insurance for your Child?

Did you know that Tooth Decay can affect your child's ability to do well in school, eat healthy food, and can affect self esteem?

If you live in San Francisco – call the San Francisco Women and Children's Health Referral Line 1-800-300-9950 for information about low-cost dental insurance, or to find a dentist for your child. SF Child Health & Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program

San Francisco International Airport (SFO)

The Airport Commission has commenced the RFP process for Terminal 3 Common Use Club Lease at SFO. Submittal Deadline is changed to Wednesday, December 5, 3:00p.m. (PST) Information website is: www.flysfo.com/web/page/about/b2b and click on Concessions and Leases

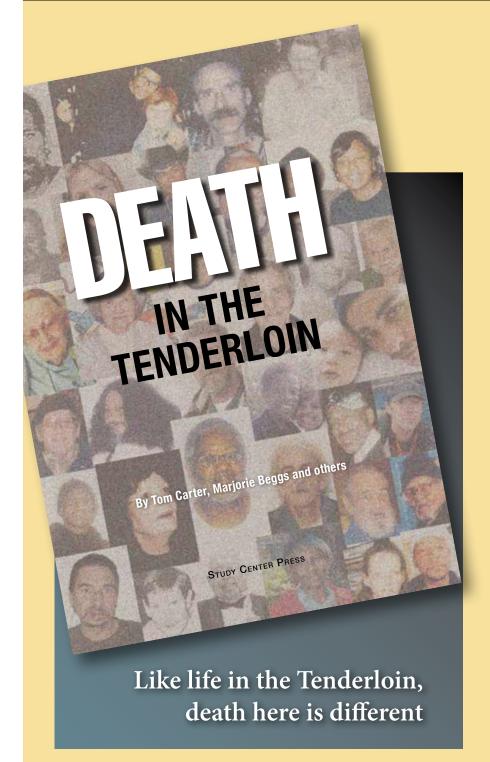
#### Port of San Francisco

The Port will soon be publishing two RFPs for youth employment oversight and a hazardous waste management on its website at www.sfport.com

The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

SAN FRANCISCO TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2040

## **COMING THIS MONTH**



# DEATH IN THE TENDERLOIN

A Slice of Life From the Heart of San Francisco

99 stories of residents who died

4 essays on death in the 'hood

**140** pages, including neighborhood map, index of deceased

70 full-color pages

7"x10" format for easy reading

**64** stories by Tom Carter

24 stories by Marjorie Beggs

11 stories by others: Mark Hedin, Leah Garchik, Heidi Swillinger, Ed Bowers, Brian Rinker, Karen Datangel

3 photos by Mark Ellinger

\$29.95 for full-color edition

\$17.95 for black-only edition

"Obituaries published in the Tenderloin newspaper, Central City Extra, are astonishing, unvarnished revelations, sometimes stark, sometimes wondrous. These posthumous stories, now in book form, become deeply revelatory about the people and the neighborhood. Death in the Tenderloin is a miracle of sensitive, yet matter-of-fact reportage, the tales simply, factually told, but poignant in their declarative simplicity."

— Jim Mildon, Writer and Editor

TO ORDER: Email Leonor@studycenter.org

# History makes way for St. Anthony's future



**Demolishing** the landmark St. Anthony Foundation offices and Dining Room buildings began Sept. 4. Next door is St. Boniface Church with De Marillac Academy at right.

#### **Memorable meals**

The Extra went to the demolition site to photograph the spectacle, and to ask observers: What was the best meal you had in the Dining Room.



Bill Loh

"You know, I always felt confident after a meal there. That's what a full stomach does for you. I'm trying to remember just one. You'd think

Thanksgiving or Christmas would stand out but no, **they were all good.** And every meal, I ate all the food."

"The Schuman meal in either 1996 or '97. Steak and lobster! Schuman's widow attended and wanted something really



**Kelvin Anderson** 

special. The sea and turf menu was advertised in advance. Usually about 2,000 people a day came. That day, it was probably 2,700, a big crowd — and at the beginning of the month."

> Continued from page 1

were dance troupes and live music and free fortune cookies. The Dining Room walls that Painters' Union volunteers painted 62 years ago became an outlet for personal feelings; people were invited to write on them or start the demolition by knocking off a piece to take home as a souvenir. As a closing ritual, the St. Anthony of Padua statue that had marked the Dining Room entrance for 50 years was carried down Golden Gate Avenue to the interim spot.

"We can live without the building; we can't live without the love," was one sentiment scrawled on a wall. "Thanks for the love you put out, sharing and uplifting us in moments of grief and sorrow," was another.

Communications Director Karl Robillard remembers an eerie time nine years ago, not quite a miracle, but a quick response to keep the flow of daily meals unbroken. A power outage stopped the legendary hot lunch cold. But, from hundreds of cans of tuna, volunteers fixed 3,000 sandwiches for bag lunches. And as a silent testament to St. Anthony's community building, Robillard said, "most chose to stay and eat together in the dining room" in dim candlelight flickering off the murals.

Another memorable meal wasn't in the Dining Room at all but on the second floor in the Poverello Room, run by secular Franciscans: for a buck on Sundays, a big pancake breakfast. The meal moved to 350 Golden Gate Ave. around 2004, Robillard said.

"For street people," one man on the sidewalk said with pride of the Dining Room, "you can't go wrong.



**A ghostly cloud** of dust rises from falling plaster and concrete, but a steady stream of water controls the air-borne particles.

And I try to tell people where to go — that's the way I learned about it."

Fallow, scarred and ordinary, the old, though internationally famous, oasis for the poor died loudly over a week of awesome destruction in September. People on the sidewalk stopped to stare. They were mesmerized by the scale of the job. Most had memories from behind the walls they saw being brutally chomped down.

The scene looked like a feeding frenzy. Giant yellow machines with long, flexible necks and gaping steel jaws relentlessly sunk shiny metal teeth into walls and floors like starving mutant dinosaurs. The sounds were tantalizing, sometimes bone-jarring. Steel girders and fire

escapes groaned and screamed in feeble resistance as the jaws ripped them away. At times, the jaws drooled plaster, quivering steel rods and timber hanging out its sides. A constant silver stream of water kept the eerie puffs of gray dust from wafting into the neighborhood. The machines' giant tracks rolled over the debris, crunching it into a sickening mush, once the refuge of the poor and hungry. The motor-noise of the beasts and the deafening hammering that one machine made with its long ramrod - reverberated in the cavernous concrete neighborhood, jarring office workers blocks away. "The earth moved," one Page Hotel resident said next door. "It was like an earthquake."







Once the demolition was under way, the sounds of monster machines reverberated through the neighborhood and shook the ground. At left, the upper floors of Hastings law school's student housing building on nearby McAllister Street can be seen. Below: The place where several thousand people dined daily for 62 years becomes an empty bowl of rubble, as seen from a room in the Boyd Hotel next door. Cleanup operations on the site continue into October.

PHOTOS BY TOM CARTER



### **Memorable meals**



Clarisa Ferguson

"They feed and feed you, and sometimes I take some home. I liked the chili, the turkey tetrazzini, and oh, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Prime

rib and real ribs! I love eating at St. Anthony's. That's why I'm here."

Hot dogs and baked beans on Labor Day — and chili dogs anytime She came from Alabama three years ago, was homeless three months



**Alonda Stevens** 

and ate every day at St. Anthony's.



**David Duffala** 

"There used to be a special **pancake** breakfast on Sundays. Lunch was free but Sunday breakfast was \$1. Five or six guys would throw in their

dollars for anyone who didn't have it. We'd get a big stack of pancakes and good strong coffee that was free, 50 cents more for sausage. It's what I heard about when I first came here in 2003. And it was clean and safe, an amazing place."

Meatloaf was the best in his 12-year experience. Hurrying to get in line for lunch at the new spot, he didn't have time to say more.



**Percy Goodwin** 



**Anthony Biggs** 

Chicken and rice. Biggs has lived at the Boyd Hotel next door for a year and a half, which made the soup kitchen very convenient.

**Barbeque** chicken used to be served in whole pieces. Now, they cut it up. I first started coming nine years ago and I eat



**Mark Anthony** 

there every day. They treat everyone with dignity and respect. I volunteered there, too."

# Why no Y? TL leaders confront the association

> Continued from page 1

ting pressure on the parent association to make good on its years-old commitment. Tenderloin movers and shakers have joined the nascent campaign, and the logiam may be starting to break up.

"I'd been working in the garden with seniors and heard so much complaining and dissatisfaction," says Kasey Asberry, once a Central employee but now a volunteer who directs the garden project as part of her master's degree program at S.F. State. "They felt ignored by the association and wanted what they believed had been promised them — a new Y." Many also wondered why the old Y had to be sold and couldn't be renovated.

"There were moves to renovate the building going back 30 years, but the cost was always astronomical, as much as \$25 million in 1998," says Carmela Gold, Central Y's former executive director. "We even started capital campaigns, but the reality was that the building was too huge for us to operate — we only needed about a third of it."

#### PROMISE OF A NEW FACILITY

By the early 2000s, Central staff, its board of managers, and the board of directors of the association had agreed that building a new facility was a smarter option, Gold says.

In 2005, she announced at a community meeting that 220 Golden Gate was for sale, the swan song for the grand, columned, Italian Renaissance Revival building with its 30-foot by 80-foot pool, gyms, showers, lockers, meeting rooms, restaurants and, upstairs, the 140 "sleeping rooms with hot and cold running water and a telephone in every room," as advertised when the Central Y opened in 1910.

Gold said that the Y was moving forward with a plan to house Central in a building with the Hastings garage and



RENDERING BY MWA ARCHITECTS

**Rendering** shows an open and airy lobby was planned for a new Central Y.

hoped to break ground, according to a press release, in 12 to 18 months.

Now, seven years and no new Y later, Asberry remembers how close it seemed back then. Charles Collins, association CEO, addressed hundreds of people at Central's closing party. "He said he would make it his mission to complete plans for a new Central," she recalls, "that partnerships were in place to make it happen, that the interim site was just that, and he pointed to the architect's renderings of what a new Y might look like."

Then, years of silence.

Asberry agreed to coordinate meetings of a new Friends of the Central Y, inviting "the bigger community to try to kick the project into high gear," she says. At the July 18 meeting, 70 people jammed Central's small meeting room to hear speakers and ask questions.

"The Y is the neighborhood's living room, and what matters is the will to get a new one built," said Elvin Padilla, executive director of Tenderloin Economic Development Project, which coordinates initiatives with community organizations, businesses, foundations and city agencies to strengthen the neighborhood. He assured the audience that "raising the money can be done."

David Seward, Hastings' CFO for 18 years and the school's primary spokesman for the Y/Hastings project, said Hastings is still very much in. "We're committed to keeping the lot available for the Y, and I'm optimistic that the facility will be built," he said, "but we can't promise it will be available in perpetuity."

Central Y members had plenty to say. "I raised my family down the street

and we've been members for 30 years," said Joseph Asberry, husband of Kasey. "The association owes us an answer about why it hasn't delivered. There've been cuts in staff and hours with no dialogue about the future, and we want to know why."

Staff was cut 25% in July, youth programming fell to five days a week from six and fitness room hours were slashed by 18 hours a week.

Kasey Asberry had invited association board members to the meeting. None showed, but they were represented by Chip Rich, vice president of operations at the association.

He seemed surprised by the bluntness of some comments and questions: "We don't just want to be told what's happening — we want to be part of the planning and development and fundraising." And "Are you having discussion with Hastings and, if so, what's happening?"

"Is there a plan to build a new Y in this community? Yes or no?" asked TL CBD Director Dina Hilliard.

Rich's response was a shade below positive: "The commitment is still there, so I'd have to say yes."

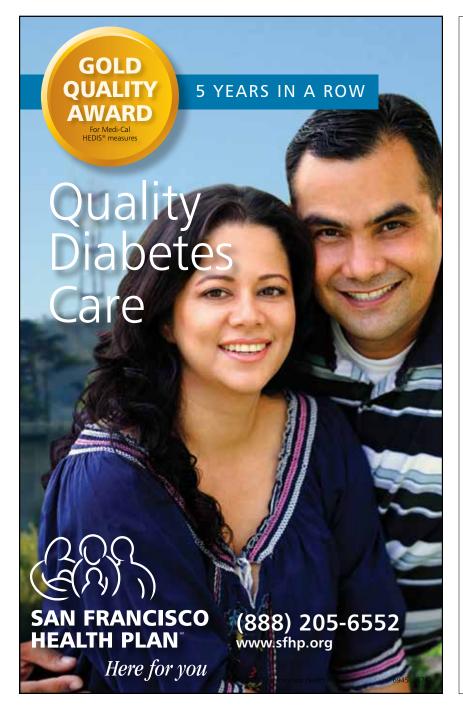
Hilliard pushed. "How could you do that without an executive director here?"

Rich was terse. "The decision to build at a new site lives with the CEO and board of the YMCA of San Francisco, not the executive director of Central."

#### **LONGTIME DIRECTOR OUSTED**

That's another messy part of this story. Gold, a tireless, much-admired promoter of the Y and its role in the community, told The Extra, "After 18 years as executive director, I moved to a new half-time position as the director of capital planning for the Central Y in August 2010. The position was defunded in September 2011."

Andrea Jones, named ED when









The Knox and Bayanihan House SROs provided by the Tenants and Owners Development Corporation (TODCO), has an open wait list for low-income affordable housing.

If you are kooking for a safe and comfortable place to call HOME surrounded by compassionate residents and a caring staff, The Knox and Bayanihan House are designed with you in mind.

All of our rooms have a two-burner stove, refrigerator, single or full sized bed with a closet, along with outstanding amenities in each building. The income limits for these affordable properties are as follows:

Maximum / Minimum Income Limit

Knox: 1 person - \$34,600 per year (maximum income) \$854 per month (minimum income) Rent: \$545.00 Deposit \$545.00

2 person - \$39,520 per year (maximum income)

1 person - \$30,275 per year (maximum income) \$854 per month (minimum income)

e person – \$34,580 per year (maximum income) \$854 per month (minimum income) Rent: \$545.00 Deposit \$545.00

For more information or to pick up an application for The Knox and Bayanihan House, please stop by the lobby of the TODCO Marketing Office located at 241 -  $6^{th}$  Street in San Francisco.

If you have a disability that prevents you from fully participating in this process please call (415) 957-0227).



Bayanihan:

TIED: (415) 345-4470

