

# \$8.5 million Boeddeker makeover under way

Park will close 16 months during the transformation

BY TOM CARTER

STATE AND LOCAL officials joined Tenderloin leaders at Boeddeker Park to ceremoniously break ground and laud the park's future, but it took a 13-year-old to tell what the often-criticized park has meant to a kid growing up in the tough, dense neighborhood.

The acre patch with the broad brick walkway running through it, small playground, single hoop basketball court and badly designed clubhouse had been Nedu Anibogu's personal refuge.

"It's been my school's park for 20 years," said Anibogu, taking his turn at the microphone Nov. 13. He sported a maroon sweater from the private San Francisco City Academy a half-block away,

"I began coming here nine years ago when I was in kindergarten," he went on confidently, talking to the crowd of 60. "It was hard to make friends at first, but I did. And here was always a safe place to go

after school. I always had a good feeling about the park. It was a shining light." He paused. "There are 30 new kids in school and we need more of their bodies around here, instead of sneaking into movies."

That drew guffaws.

The park's importance to the city's poorest neighborhood that's cramped for open space was never clearer. But its light that shined for Anibogu is expected to grow far brighter after the renovation, to be finished in spring 2014. The

final tab will be \$8.5 million. That includes the \$5.3 million construction contract approved by the Board of Supervisors in October and "soft costs" over five years of rising prices, hiring designers, planning, fees and even fundraising, according to the nonprofit Trust for Public Land, which initiated and drove the project.

"Nothing is more reflective of our mission than Boeddeker Park," said Sam Hodder, TPL's state director and the event's MC. "The community was remarkably en-

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"I began coming here nine years ago when I was in kindergarten."

Nedu Anibogu  
S.F. CITY ACADEMY



PHOTO BY MICHAEL NULTY

**Nedu Anibogu, 13:** "I always had a good feeling about the park."

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Ambassador resident who had a huge heart

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# CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO

## URBAN JOURNALISM



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

**At the Main Library,** a federal repository of books, one of the main attractions is the bank of computers people use for free. Ed Bowers tells why else the library is such a special place.

## POET'S TENDERLOIN TOUR

### Neighborhood landmarks seen very differently

BY ED BOWERS

**T**HE MAIN BRANCH of the San Francisco Library is at 100 Larkin St. You can't sleep there; but if you can keep your eyes open, you can read books and rest your feet. There are restrooms and a coffee shop downstairs that sells good food.

If you are a poet, then this is a special place. Here your fallen comrades display their life's work in the stacks. These writers, offered free to the public, did what you are doing now. They sat in the library and wondered if anything they wrote would ever be allowed to live there.

If you are a poet you will visit the San Francisco Library. I know that. See you there.

### Main Library, a special place

Words come from silence.

The House of Words has silence built into its foundation. Visiting the library is like entering a giant head containing all the words in the world put into different combinations and at the center of this Universal Wisdom is the silence after an eternal question mark.

No wonder people are encouraged to be quiet in the library. To enter here is to admit your ignorance; so be silent and learn. It's what we don't know that brings us together.

On the streets the dreams and schemes of the human heart express themselves in radical ways that never the less leave their lives a continuing mystery.

In the library you will get answers to questions that become questions to answer.

There is no escape from the ignorance of words, except silence, which is their essence. Silence speaks volumes to say but one thing:

There is no escape from yourself; everyone in the Tenderloin has a photographic memory of his mind stored in the library either in rhyme or prose, archetype or pulp, biography or epic poem.

— G.L.

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# GOOD NEWS for...

**CURRY CENTER SENIORS** They can choose gifts at 11 Walgreens stores in a growing holiday program that's caught the imagination of its donors. It works this way: At Curry's Eddy Street center, seniors write their first name on a card along with what they want, which may range from bed sheets to a rain poncho, deodorant or shaving cream. Volunteers from Home Instead Senior Care, an Omaha-based service provider operating in 15 countries, take the cards to Walgreens and attach them to ornaments on a small Christmas tree near the door. Customers wanting to donate to this "Be a Santa to a Senior" program choose a name from the tree, buy and contribute the specified item. When a name among 20 or so is snapped up, another takes its place. The store keeps the gifts until volunteers pick them up Dec. 25 to wrap and deliver to the Curry center, where caseworkers distribute them. Bigger items requested over the last three years have been donated by businesses like the law office of Bingham McCutchen LLP, which has popped for things like sweaters and jackets. Last year, 300 seniors received gifts, up from 200 in 2010. Participating Walgreens closest to the Tenderloin are at Market at Ninth, Market at Van Ness and Van Ness at Eddy.

**SRO RESIDENTS** Housing activists scratched the Tenderloin's long-standing itch to expand the campaign against the bedbug scourge, this time by improving reporting. Legislation the Board of Supervisors passed in October and was signed by the mayor Nov. 14 is designed to show how big the nasty bug problem is. It requires exterminators who treat infestations at buildings with tenants to report the cases monthly to the Department of Public Health. This hasn't been done before. Then, quarterly, DPH makes the data public on its Website by ZIP code — not by address. It also requires landlords to reveal to prospective tenants the last two years of a building's bedbug history. However, that's only if would-be renters ask for this. Richard May, a housing activist who helped draft the legislation carried by Supervisor Jane Kim, said the bill with landlord support originally had a one-year disclosure but was changed after activists argued that bedbugs can be dormant 18 months. And before, abatements weren't always known to DPH. Not reporting them now would warrant penalties. May said the measure is based on a New York law. Meanwhile, DPH launched a campaign to increase bedbug awareness: In November it provided 400 11 x 28-inch placards — 200 in English and 200 in either Spanish or Chinese — to Muni buses. With a picture of angry leg bites ("Can this happen to me?"), the posters exhorted riders to look around, take precautions, take action and visit the DPH's Environmental Health Website, [sfdph.org/dph/EH](http://sfdph.org/dph/EH).

**This December-January issue of Central City Extra will be current through January 2013. The next issue of The Extra will be February.**

## OBITUARIES

### J.L. MARRIBLE BIG MAN, HUGE HEART

More than 70 mourners filled the mezzanine community room of the Ambassador Hotel to say farewell to one of its most popular residents, the irrepressible extrovert, J.L. Marrible.

All the seats were taken and a dozen people stood, some leaning against the wall, a few sniffing as they remembered "the big man with the big heart" who could light up a room with his smile. To anybody who ever met him, it was clear the burly Mr. Marrible could get down with anybody, sincerely, passionately, and be the sort of man they could call friend.

He lived at the Ambassador nine years. Now, "it's hard to imagine" the Ambassador without him, someone said. Many nodded.

Mr. Marrible, originally from Arkansas, was an avid participant at the Listening Post, a small room just down the hall open weekday afternoons for residents to hang out and talk about their troubles and all with whomever's there and someone from Network Ministries, often Rev. Glenda Hope, who created the room years ago and was conducting Mr. Marrible's 12/12/12 memorial. It was common when Mr. Marrible wanted to make a point for him to say, "all eyes on me," his friends recalled and laughed. And his name, J.L., was what his mother gave him. It didn't stand for anything, they said.

"I've been in the Tenderloin 40 years and I've done hundreds of memorials," Hope told the group. "I can't remember but three or four where this many showed up. It says a lot.

"J.L. had opinions, you know," and again the mourners nodded, smiled, some laughed out loud. She continued: "He could be a royal pain sometimes. And I think that's okay. None of us is without sin. He was very out there. And I think that's why people loved him."



PHOTO COURTESY KELLY NOSS

**J.L. Marrible**

A dozen speakers mentioned how crazy Mr. Marrible was about his daughter, his only child, and that he also loved his son-in-law. Both were in the front row next to his girlfriend of five years, Kelly Noss. The daughter, Janise Washington, with her husband Andre Washington at her side, was dressed in white and dabbed her eyes throughout. They live in the Sunset and Mr. Marrible had visited them on Thanksgiving.

"He was feeling a little dizzy, recovering from the flu, but he ate everything on his plate," Janise Washington recalled afterward. She said she called him Nov. 28 and he was okay.

But Mr. Marrible died of unknown causes two days later, Nov. 30, in his sixth-floor room. He was 59.

He was "exuberant," one man said, "robust about life."

"He changed my life," said another.

A former Ambassador assistant manager said he had known thousands of residents over the years and Mr. Marrible was one of his favorites who, just being helpful and cheerful, "made my job a lot easier."

Two mourners read notes from others not in attendance and one read a poem.

"He was the only one to help me when I first came here," said a wom-

an. "He was so honest. And I thought if he could get over things, well, I could too."

Mr. Marrible sometimes went to Cecil Baker's room to pet Baker's cats, Charlie and Johnny, who once made the cover of Paws magazine. "And when I had trouble moving," Baker said, holding on to his red walker, "he would help me."

"When I lost my mother I felt so bad I didn't want to go on," said Horace. "But he talked to me and I felt better. Then once he did me a favor. When he got a plasma television he gave me his old one. It was so nice of him."

One man seemed to sum up Mr. Marrible's unusual gift: "He uplifted people," he said. ■

— Tom Carter

### SHERRY BAILEY A LOVING GRANDMOTHER

Sherry Bailey was a quiet person at the Ritz Hotel except around a few friends, and then she always talked about her family that got so much of her love and attention.

Mrs. Bailey would take BART or a bus from San Francisco to Daly City to see her daughter, Fantasy Silva, and her three grandchildren: Destinee, 15, Zuriee, 5, and Daniel, 3.

"My mom spent a lot of time with me," said Silva. "She always came to see her grandchildren and sometimes stayed for weeks at a time. Once she stayed a year, and she paid her rent at the Ritz all that time."

Mrs. Bailey read the Bible and other books to the children and played with them. During the years Destinee was the only child she bought ice cream, also taking her to shows, concerts and parks. Recently, she was teaching the 5-year-old lots of new words.

"She had quite a vocabulary," her daughter said. "And they wrote things together."

"She was in love with her grandchildren and trying to give them what she thought was necessary to live their lives. She had a strong foun-

#### CENTRAL CITY



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dation. She was a good grandmother."

Recently, Mrs. Bailey took sick and was hospitalized with congestive heart and blood clot problems. She had four surgeries in three weeks, her daughter said. Her family was with her when she died Nov. 19 at S.F. General Hospital, heavily sedated from bowel surgery. She was 58.

Silva spoke on the phone from Daly City the day of Mrs. Bailey's Nov. 29 memorial at the Ritz, where her mother lived for nine years. She was unable to attend the memorial in the third-floor kitchen, where a small bouquet of red flowers and two candles adorned a table and a half-dozen residents gathered. Few spoke, straining to be heard over the raucous yelling and horn-honking wafting up from the street below. They said she was a quiet, Christian woman and generous.

"She gave me a Bible once," said Lee Landry. "I can't remember if I asked her for it or she just gave it to me. She was a very good person. I talked to her in her apartment and outside. Other than (talk with) me and a couple of others, she was quiet."

"She was one of my first friends when I came here 5½ years ago," Landry continued. "She talked about her children and grandchildren. I don't know what kind of a grandmother she was, though. When her granddaughter ran away she came to me for comfort. The granddaughter eventually came back."

"I'll definitely miss her."

Rev. Glenda Hope, who conducted the brief ceremony, said "missing her" was important.

"Everyone's death is mourned," she said. "Our days are numbered. Reach out to each other."

— Tom Carter

## VIRGINIA REYES LOVED FAMILY, GIANTS

Virginia Reyes would have had her Giants baseball cap on, whooping it up in front of her television set, her son said, if she had only lived through the team's postseason comeback that culminated in a World Series sweep.

She had been an avid fan even before her late husband played baseball on a U.S. Army team in the Philippines, before they moved to America in 1983, her son, George Reyes, 67, said at her memorial in October at the 990 Polk St. senior apartments. A four-year resident, Mrs. Reyes had been in and out of UCSF Medical Center in recent months with complications from diabetes and hypertension and died there Aug. 9. She was 87, among the oldest in the 110-apartment complex where her son and daughter-in-law lived with her.

"She always followed the Giants games," he said. "Mom was a sports fanatic."

Ms. Reyes had a daughter and four sons, two preceding her in death. She was seen as the caring matriarch of an extended family. In her final months, more than a dozen relatives visited to see to her health and keep her company.

A social worker announced that illness had kept Rev. Glenda Hope from officiating at the



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAMILY

### Virginia Reyes

memorial and invited the 10 attendees to share their feelings about Ms. Reyes. They described her as very religious, smiling, loving and helpful to others before she herself needed care.

"You could see how much her family loved her," said one man, "and it all came back to her."

Her generosity of spirit radiated in daily living at the apartment building, and affected people she saw at social gatherings and meetings, they said. She strengthened the building's community, said Marco Tulcanaza, property manager. "It comforts me that she brought love here, and she will always be loved."

The family laid out a tableful of food for the mourners — fruit, cold cuts, chow mein and lumpia. Management provided cookies and coffee. ■

— Tom Carter

# Vis Valley edges TL for lowest voter turnout

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

VOTERS in the Tenderloin's 16 precincts turned out in significantly smaller numbers last month than the city-wide tally, as they typically do.

The Department of Elections reports that 364,875 of the city's 502,841 registered voters cast ballots in the Nov. 6 election — a turnout rate of 72.56%. In the Tenderloin, the turnout hovered at about 58%.

Only Visitation Valley voted at a lower rate than the Tenderloin, but barely — the turnout there: 56.82%.

Voting by mail, which includes early voting at City Hall as well as military and overseas voting, outpaced precinct voting by more than four percentage points.

President Obama was the choice on 83.4% of the ballots cast citywide; in the Tenderloin he topped 84%.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein hit a citywide high of 88.5% in winning re-election to the U.S. Senate, but dropped to 81.8% with TL voters.

Prop 30, the state tax increase, succeeded with 76.93% citywide and 83% in the Tenderloin.

Prop 32, which would have harmed unions by eliminating payroll deductions to support political action committees, was rejected by 72.05% of voters in the city. TL voters rejected it — 4,795 of the 7,833 ballots voted no — by a 61.2% margin.

Prop 34, which sought to abolish the death penalty, was defeated statewide, but San Francisco voters approved it by 70.11%. TL voters approved Prop 34 at 64.07%.

San Francisco voters endorsed the successful Prop 36, the proposed changes to the three strikes law, by 84.53%. Tenderloin voters agreed by a margin of 74.81% — 5,860 out of 7,833 ballots.

Measure A, the proposal to increase funds for City College through parcel taxes, passed with citywide approval at 72.9%; 75.9% of TL voters approved it.

Measure C, Mayor Lee's affordable-housing fund, passed citywide by 65.15%. TL voters approved the measure at 73.10%.

Precinct 7616 — bounded by Van Ness, Market, Larkin and Redwood Alley — had the highest turnout of all Tenderloin precincts: 73.75% of registered voters cast ballots.

The lowest turnout was in Precinct 7615 where only 247 of the 563 registered voted — 45.73%. The Lower Eddy precinct is bounded by Leavenworth, Golden Gate, Jones and Eddy. ■

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➤ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There is nothing that you have thought or done that is not written here.

What you will do and what you won't do is also scribed in the stacks.

Looking for truth? Words are band-aids. Poets are doctors. Don't let it go to your head. Enter from any direction and settle down.

Outside is an emotional jungle jingling its empty pockets and grinding its uninsured teeth.

In the library is an intellectual emptiness that can go in all directions at once, up, down, all around, an infinite potential searching for an infinite answer.

In the library, human beings lick their wounds of confusion with knowledge — just as they do on Jones St. when in search of pain relief from a pharmaceutical entrepreneur wanted by the police.

Knowledge comes in books and pills and poems. It is life and death.

Lots of homeless folks here, in the restrooms, on the computers, slumped in hard wooden chairs that hurt the back of an intellectual adventurer on a long voyage.

They are heroes from the Odyssey, bravely lost, shipwrecked voyagers fallen on siren song nights and lost days of white lightning stress.

Forgive them. In retrospect, they didn't know what they were doing being born just like you didn't know what you were doing when you woke up one day and saw a poet in the mirror.

The library, Oh Poet, is where your remains will be filed.

Yerba Buena Cemetery was once located on the spot where the library now stands.

The dead were removed and the books piled high to sit on their graves.

This is where the poems you write will be buried if they are regarded as more valuable than compost.

The dead speak to the living here in the library; it's a ghost town.

Here on the hard wooden chairs you can sit on your ancestors' laps and invite them to tell you a story.

They won't care if you're broke; all they want you is for your mind.

You are in a room full of dreams that when told will dream you.

Sit your bones on a chair by the window on the Fulton St. side and view City Hall, or a man's flesh walking naked on the street as though nothing was unusual at all, as a heroin addict in the chair opposite you stares into space in horror trying to stay awake.

The quiet here makes you feel slightly chilled, so let your eyes search the words of a book to fuel the Fire of Life.

Everyone from Anonymous Cave Painters to obscure Roman poets to Mark Twain and William Burroughs is buried here.

As long as there is one reader left to check out their books once in a hundred years the poets will not rest in peace.

As a poet, this is where you are born and this is where you will die.

It's not much, but if only one person is inspired by your words, was your work a waste?

Answer: No. Poets are born from poets in this building.

So, if you are a homeless poet, at least you have a home.

The weird sinking twilight feeling in the pit of your stomach that comes when you sit in the library too long is the silence of dead poets who want to wake you up to write or run or laugh or sing, outside, under the Sun, or inside the Moon.

Let the San Francisco Library inspire you, Poet.

It is Tenderloin special. ■



PHOTO BY MARK ELLINGER

People are allowed to sleep in the pews at St. Boniface Church, "where the lions lie down with the lambs, all of them homeless."

## 21 CLUB

### With a twist of grime

*When your spaceship lands in the Tenderloin, you might need to be around a diversity of people inside a simple room where you all can relax and get to know each other slowly over a stretch of shipwrecked years,*

*The 21 Club, corner of Taylor and Turk, might work for you. It did for me many years. But don't drink too much.*

*Pace yourself like a well-writte story and you'll have more fun.*

It's a power spot.

Got bones there go back to the Gold Rush still drinking goblets of old beer.

This is a pauper's party, a dead miner's club.

Nothing to lose because by the time you arrive it's already lost.

Dance under the basement and get a contact high from the drunks.

It's small as a sneeze and big as a heart, whether broken or on its way there. What is it?

The barstools are tombstones and the odor of Spam swims in a sea of conversation.

The bits of smoke blowing in from the street are poems scribbled by pencils sharpened by untranslatable dead poets forgotten by the age of computers, their ghosts raging forward to beginningless ends, red wine lips drinking spilled wind and sometimes when you're scared and trying to be brave and can't, no, CAN'T

stand to be alone, because you're dead, you can offer them a drink in your bomb shelter with a twist of grime.

It's on the corner of Taylor & Turk in the guts of the Tenderloin. What is it?

This is where tossed thoughts go when they're not wanted elsewhere.

Some go to church. Some to jail. Others go here. Same reason. Community service.

You're here! You died and went to Heaven! Or you went wherever, as the saying goes. Too late to go back now. Now is now, and that's now and forever more ha ha boo hoo.

You're in The Land of the Dead. What is this place?

Saw a hard working man here yesterday; he'll never be thanked for his job.

Saw a miracle woman who would later throw off her hooks and rise like Jesus

from the dead. An angel named Robin who served drinks here was her savior.

There is an infinitely complex mystery standing with dignity behind the stoic eyes of those who enter this tiny room. It is embodied proudly as both birth and death in the human universe.

This humble war room stands as a monument to endurance and poetry lurks here.

X-stream stress floods the joint with bowed heads praying over a beer and a shot.

You know this is a bar; but what is it really? Is there ever really a really?

I guess not; at least not for a poet. So, when illusion needs grounding a poet comes here.

Occasionally there's an absence, an empty barstool, and you can feel it there in your memories when you sleep.

Talk to it and it will tell you something important that you

probably won't remember. You take this place home with you. What is it? Is it your mind?

Well, without your mind wouldn't exist but it is a bar on the corner of Taylor and Turk.

In this tiny shelter at one time or the other every grain of dust in the world has passed on through to ... where you are now.

You'll see Frank, the one standing behind the bar. Talk to him. He knows everything so sometimes he's bored. I've seen it all so sometimes he just smiles. He has no patience with members of the club who steal or are stupidly meaner than that, he is all forgiving and when you see him you know you are in a poem written ten long ago that continues to be written now.

See you there. ■

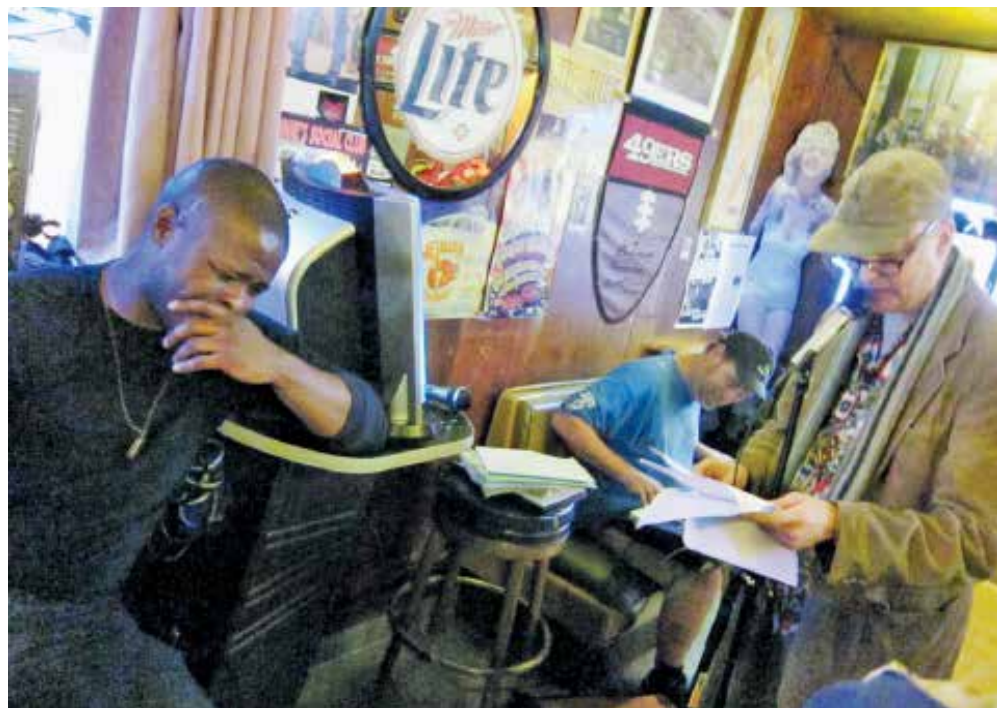


PHOTO BY LENNY L...

Ed Bowers reads at the 21 Club, a dive bar that is "small as a sneeze and big as a heart."



# Guide to the Tenderloin

## ST. BONIFACE

### The holy ghost crashes here

*If you want to bond with your environment, volunteer your assistance to a neighborhood agency that addresses the needs of its citizens. The Gubbio Project in St. Boniface Church at 133 Golden Gate Ave. allows homeless people to sleep in the pews and on the floor weekdays 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. It's a good job for a poet, and a perfect way to make use of a church. I volunteer once a week.*

*Also, the architectural craftsmanship and interior design of St. Boniface makes the gold dome of City Hall look like cheese. Check it out.*

There's some sort of war going on in the shadows here in this place of prayer.

This is where the lions lie down with the lambs, all of them homeless.

Outside these doors they scream at the sky, curse their ZIP code and each other, but no one wants to hear.

Here they pray to the ceiling that is carved from suffering and desperation, informed by something called redemption. Many asleep on the floor try to

climb out of their bodies by dreaming.

The golden sun genuflects at the wooden doors before entering. Inside, cells sleep in pews and on the floor. The holy ghost crashes here.

Socks are handed out from the closet in back sometimes, a wonderful miracle. But the socks run out fast, as miracles are wont to do.

Hygiene kits and razors and garbage bags are next in the hierarchy of blessings given freely in this tower built from the lowest of the low and the highest of the high, principalities of light and darkness, politics and spirit, money and renunciation, war and peace, sainthood and hypocrisy.

This room, schizophrenic as everything else, is basically good, at least for those who know what it is like to have nothing and then lose it.

Anything is better than nothing when all you have is nothing, just you.

A silent understanding is shared among those sleeping in the pews that the word "autonomy" does not exist. You will always need something or someone other than self; call it money or drugs or love, or call it a god, you will always need it one way or the other. That is simply a fact.

In that respect the sleepers here are awake.

Of course even here tempers flare. There's war everywhere, inside and out, just try staying up all night to sleep

in a church and you will see how irritated you too can be.

I am impressed, though, with the natural saintliness of crack addicts, alcoholics, junkies, the mentally ill, the disenfranchised.

If I was them ... well, in a sense I am; but I'm a poet not a saint.

Most of the sleepers are bastard-angels of gratitude, so when they say bless you or thank you for giving them toothpaste they mean it. There is no politesse here.

The staff, good shepherds who work here, maintain the order of the day with dignity and firm kindness, their lack of glamour making them a neglected mystery.

Their kindness and wisdom, firm and unobtrusive as a diamond concealed from light, is seen and appreciated by the broken hearts coughing in these hushed holy shadows.

This church built in 1900 has one hundred and fourteen years of whispered prayers and tears and curses etched on its stained glass, while many forms of hell party outside its gates.

If this church could talk it would write not Bible stories but sad poems written by vulnerable people who die.

A series of simple one-liners walking in and out inside an infinite performance space.

The highest of the high and the lowest of the low come here to collaborate on the impossible task of being

human.

Doing the impossible is a job you as a poet must get used to doing. So feel at home here.

This is a chamber filled with unanswered prayers; but if you volunteer here you can hand out free hygiene kits, toothbrushes, razors, and socks and blankets (if they have them) and that's better than nothing. Good job for a poet whose poetry is free for anyone who will listen. Brother, can you spare an ear?

Yes, this is the last call before closing time in Heaven and the concrete reality of time and space sucks into its maw thousands of tiny homeless others who call themselves "you."

6:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. visit 133 Golden Gate Ave. and see your self there.

If you are homeless or a poet or a homeless poet you can sleep in the pews or on the floor of a Tenderloin church.

Or you may volunteer your time to work in service to all the ripped discarded poems attempting to be read in this dangerously literate world of sad, lonely, broken words and little lives written in the shadows of Cathedrals and Parliaments.

It's good that here the teachings of Jesus are being taken literally in the right way for a change.

Try it out. ■

## FAITHFUL FOOLS

### Blue Tenderloin Kwazy Kat Zen

*A poet needs silence, but modern life is besitant to provide it. Silence must come from within, and a good way to develop it is to sit in silence, is it not? I bong the gong in the Zen meditation room at the Faithful Fools two days a week.*

*Join me there.*

I'm a falling leaf doing kwazy kat zen, sitting flat on his slats in a Tenderloin Zendo

234 Hyde St., San Francisco, CA.

Outside this Buddha Lounge, garbage dogs smoke cracked-out hamburger helper mixed with neurological napalm.

They sit with me as ghostly spirits. I can feel them thinking. Their astral bodies stretch out cigarette-butt-fungus fingers for a long-lost helping hand that bows in respect to despair. Their faces of light reflect in a mirror full of wisdom the grief outside this Zendo.

Light has created them to be seen. Do not be deceived by their surface. They live as light lives when it is honest and it has no choice. They are holy.

Bow to their invisibility. Their light is now and its meaning is to be seen. I sit with their holy ghost but their bodies remain outside the Zendo! Why?

There is nothing to be ashamed of here. This is your mind. Come in and own it!

A line of nothingness leads to the door. Bring it with you. Transform it into the emptiness of a bird's body. You too can fly. Your fuel is the shit



PHOTOS BY BRIAN RINKER

**At the top** of the stairs at the Faithful Fools' ministry on Hyde Street is the room where "a little meditation won't hurt. One hour of silence. That's all."

you sit on that you bring through the door.

Come inside, plant your seeds of destruction in silence. Silence turns winter into spring! A rock falling in silence becomes a bird singing in the sky.

Try sitting with me. I'm lonely. I

will always be alone. My aloneness is lonely for you. Let's acknowledge that we will always be alone together and sit with it.

Citizens of San Francisco! I'm panhandling you! Can you spare an hour to sit with me in the Zendo at 234 Hyde St. from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.? Your time cannot be so valuable that



you will ignore the infinite silence of no judgment, the psychedelic finger paints inside the space of your mind.

I do not deserve to sit alone. I am not that unique.

Explore your mind and I will explore mine. And together, doing this, it will make a third consciousness, a mystery person, the one you are waiting for perhaps.

At any rate, a little meditation won't hurt. One hour of silence. That's all.

It's funny how a little silence can sometimes save your life.

Sit with me.

Soon. ■



# Park is 16 months from turning its life around

➤ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gaged.” He singled out Betty Traynor’s steadfast leadership of Friends of Boeddeker Park as a key element qualifying the park for TPL attention. Its Parks for People program upgrades underused or deteriorating parks in dense urban neighborhoods that have children and active volunteer organizations.

“Nearly 50,000 people live within walking distance of Boeddeker,” said Jane Kim, District 6 supervisor. “The park needs to be a thriving and central part of the Tenderloin neighborhood.”

The 26-year-old Boeddeker, the only adult park in a 50-block area, has gotten a bad reputation over the years for dope dealing and gambling in its dark corners. Named after the late Father Alfred Boeddeker, who founded St. Anthony’s Dining Room, the park has needed constant attention from the police station catty-corner across the street.

Critics blamed many of its problems on Boeddeker’s design, including bricked-off, separate sections, a clubhouse without sightlines for monitoring outdoor activity, and thick, iron fencing that made it look like a fortress.

“Boeddeker Park is currently one of the most poorly designed parks in the city in a neighborhood craving vibrant, healthy open space and recreation,” said Phil Ginsburg, Rec and Park general manager. “The new park will have state-of-the-art play areas for kids and lots of amenities for adults, too. It will be a treasure for all.”

He thanked the trust for doing what the city could not.

Six years ago, TPL began looking for parks in need in San Francisco. Then-Trust Project Manager Jake Gilchrist, now with Rec and Park, found Friends of Boeddeker Park and came away impressed, especially with Traynor’s leadership and success with park projects and getting grants.

Boeddeker was ripe for a makeover and so was Hayes Valley Playground and Balboa Park for a campaign that TPL could lead, with Rec and Park and the city’s approval. Early heavy-hitting donors to join in were Banana Republic, Levi Strauss Foundation, McKesson Corp., PG&E and Wells Fargo. Each put up \$1 million. Other corporate and foundation funds eventually followed, plus state bond money and a state parks grant.

The three-park project cost totaled \$16.5 million. The \$3.4 million Hayes Valley Playground and clubhouse remake was completed in June 2011. Balboa Park’s \$4.1 million renovations were finished this fall. Boeddeker’s transformation will take 16 months.

After 10 outreach meetings in the neighborhood and design changes based on community feedback, the final version of the makeover was ready. But more funds — another \$1 million — had to be raised before the project could go forward. Ironically, this limbo period was the park’s lowest point.

The park began shutting down, sometimes for days on end this year, because of Rec and Park budget shortages. It was open just 15 supervised hours, weekdays-only, till Traynor got a grant to keep it staffed occasionally for an additional four hours for a special event like music. And weekday afternoons, children could use the playground — if accompanied by an adult.

Now Boeddeker will shed its forbidding fencing that makes it resemble an abandoned fortress for a lighter, thinner perimeter. The park will lose its bricked-off sections and have a walkway around a large lawn, a full-size athletic court, a playground with modern, ADA-compliant equipment, an outdoor exercise area and garden, a small stage with seating and a glassy clubhouse with a fitness room. The clubhouse will afford improved visibility over park activities, answering a longtime criticism.



PHOTOS BY TOM CARTER

**State and city officials** and neighborhood leaders, including true friend of Boeddeker Betty Traynor (in red), take ceremonial digs at a dirt pile to collectively launch the park’s 16-month, \$8.5 million renovation.



**Vegetation** was up for grabs. Philip, who didn’t want his last name used, pots a rosemary plant to take home.

A green aspect will be the capturing and reusing of rainwater with permeable paving, bioswales and a cistern for low-flow irrigation. Signs will explain the water and energy conservation.

“This brick walk will be gone,” Ginsburg crowed to the crowd. “It was called ‘the gantlet.’ Who needs it?”

The walkway held three tables of food from the Episcopal Community Services’ Chefs program, donated by TPL and the Tenderloin CBD. It had been famously used for footraces that former park Director Rob McDaniels held for academy and DeMarillac school kids, and was the seminal track for his Mac-CanDo Tenderloin Youth Track Club that still competes in Bay Area meets. But the strip was also known derogatorily as a path that skittish strollers took past winos and drug dealers seated on the benches.

Demolition will rip out the interior brick, leaving just the perimeter wall, a quarter of the park’s brickwork, for patching the walkway. The remaining 75%, too fouled with grout for reuse, will be ground up for recycling elsewhere, according to Alejandra Chiesa, TPL project manager.

A concern often voiced during neighborhood outreach meetings was for the fate of Boeddeker’s trees. The new park will add two more than the



**Park band** regulars Melvin and the Mellotones play the swan song for the bedraggled brick-laden park where kids once raced each other on the wide walkway.

56 trees Boeddeker has now both inside the park and on the sidewalks.

A few of the tall, stately poplars to the north against the Bel-Air and Coronado Hotel walls and that stretch around a bend in the park, which were not thriving, will be replaced by the fast-growing species known as *Populus nigra Italica*.

“None of the trees were in great shape,” said Chiesa, recalling a 2008 arborist report on Boeddeker. “But people wanted to keep as many as possible.”

The park slopes downward 14 feet north to south and some terracing will expose roots, so only two other trees will be saved, a Japanese maple in the back and a large Sweet Pittosporum near the new main entrance on Eddy Street.

The only tree lost from the sidewalk outside will be one in front of the gate. With that, the park loses 32 trees

and gains 35 of eight different species selected for low-water needs and urban use — from *Ginkgo biloba* to Catalina cherry.

During construction, Traynor says, the Friends will continue to meet monthly at the Police Community Room. The next meeting is Jan. 17, 3:30 p.m.

Topics for months to come will be considering programs for the new park, fundraising for clubhouse furniture and equipment and the problem of staffing in an unknown Rec and Park budget. Trust for Public Land says it expects to stay engaged with the park five more years, which figures to be an asset in fundraising.

Before the ceremony, Traynor said wistfully, “All these years of making lists of what we wanted, and now this. It’s more than we ever could have imagined.” ■



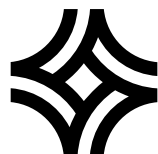
# COME ON AND TAKE A FREE RIDE

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A Muni Motor Coach and Streetcar 128 take passengers to the end of the B Line to visit Playland at Ocean Beach, March 20, 1927.  
Photo by Horace Chaffee.

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Glide holiday events**, Dec. 19, 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., giveaway of 5,000 bags of groceries; Dec. 22, 9-11 a.m., toy giveaway; Dec. 24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., prime rib Christmas luncheon; Dec. 25, 7-9:30 a.m. breakfast, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. luncheon, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Christmas celebrations. Info: glide.org.

**Interfaith memorial service**, Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m., Civic Center Plaza across from City Hall. Co-sponsored by the Coalition on Homelessness and S.F. Network Ministries. Bring a candle to remember all the city's homeless dead. If you have names to add, bring them to the service or call 928-6209.

**Muni's holiday present to San Francisco residents and visitors free rides all day Dec. 28** to celebrate its 100th anniversary. When it was founded as the nation's first publicly owned transit system, rides cost a nickel — worth about \$1.19 today.

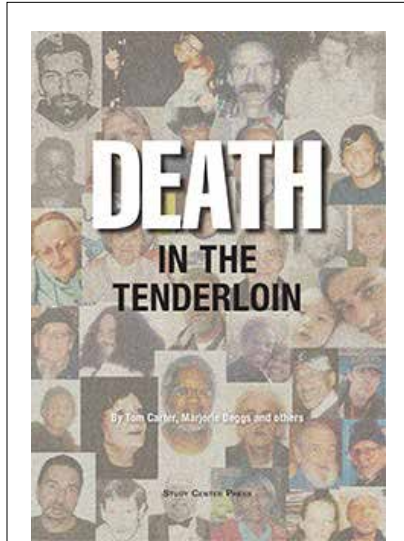
**27th annual Japanese new year bell-ringing ceremony and art activities**, Dec. 30, Asian Art Museum, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Help ring in the new year on the museum's 2,100-pound, 16th-century Japanese bronze bell that will be struck 108 times — out with the bad, in with the good. Free with museum admission (children under 12 admitted free). Info: asianart.org/bellringing.htm.

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**, open house, Jan. 24, 835 Market St. 6th Fl., 2-4 p.m. Free info session and preview of S.F. State downtown campus spring classes for people 50 and older, celebrating the joy of learning. Classes start Feb. 4. Info: olli.sfsu.edu and 817-4243.

**14th annual meeting**, Jan. 25, Alliance for a Better District 6, 6 p.m., 201 Turk Street Community Room, guest speakers, election of officers, awards ceremony, door prizes, refreshments and more. Info: 820-1560.

## ART EVENTS

**Movies at the Main Library**, Koret Auditorium, noon-2 p.m., Dec. 20, *Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?*



**Death in the Tenderloin**, Jan. 14, noon-2 p.m., Main Library, Latino/Hispanic Community Room, lower level. Central City Extra staff talk about *Death in the Tenderloin*, the new anthology from Study Center Press featuring 99 obituaries and four essays from the pages of *The Extra*. Info: studycenter.org and 626-1650.

(2000); Dec. 27, *Bottle Rocket* (1997); Jan. 3, *Grizzly Man*, (2005); Jan. 10, *Into the Wild* (2007); Jan. 17, *Holes* (2003); Jan. 24, *My Side of the Mountain* (1969); Jan. 31, *Without a Paddle*, (2004).

## COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

**Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco**, 1st Wednesday of each month, noon, 201 Turk St., Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8327. Resident unity, leadership training.

## HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

**CBHS Consumer Council**, 3rd Monday of month, 5-7 p.m., 1380 Howard St., room 537, 255-3695. Consumer advisers from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public welcome.

**Healthcare Action Team**, 2nd Wednesday of month, 1010 Mission St., Bayanihan Community Center, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive home services, expanded eligibility for home care, improved discharge planning. Light lunch. Call James Chionsini, 703-0188 x304.

**Mental Health Board**, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 255-3474.

## SAFETY

**SoMa Police Community Relations Forum**, 4th Monday of each month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly email info: 538-8100 x202.

**Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting**, last Tuesday of month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy St. Call Susa Black, 345-7300. Neighborhood safety.

## NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

**Alliance for a Better District 6**, 3rd Thursdays, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf\_district6@yahoo.com, a districtwide improvement association.

**Central Market Community Benefit District**, board meets 2nd Tuesday of month, Hotel Whitcomb, 1231 Market St., 3 p.m. Information: 882-3088, http://central-market.org.

**Friends of Boeddeker Park**, 2nd Wednesday this month, 3 p.m., Police Station Community Room, 301 Eddy St. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

**Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board**, 3rd Thursday of month, 5 p.m. Works to pro-

tect SoMa resources for all residents. Gene Friend Rec Center, 270 Sixth St. Info: Tim Figueras, 554-9532.

**North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District**. Full board meets 3rd Monday at 4 p.m.. Call 292-4812 for location or check nom-tlcbd.org.

**SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Advisory Committee**, 3rd Thursday of month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor. Info: Claudine del Rosario, 701-5580.

**Tenderloin Futures Collaborative**, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 11 a.m.-noon, Tenderloin Police Community Room, 301 Eddy. Presentations on issues of interest to neighborhood residents, nonprofits and businesses. Information: 928-6209.

**Tenderloin Neighborhood Association**, 2nd Friday of month, 842 Geary St., 5 p.m. Nonprofit focuses on health and wellness activities to promote neighborly interactions. Info: tenderloinneighborhood@yahoo.com.

## SENIORS AND DISABLED

**Mayor's Disability Council**, 3rd Friday of month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, room 400. Call: 554-6789. Open to the public.

**Senior Action Network**, general meeting, 2nd Thursday of month, 9 a.m.-noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. Monthly programs, 965 Mission St. #700: Senior Housing Action Committee, 3rd Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.

**Call for health program and Senior University**: 546-1333 and www.sfsan.org.

## DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR

**Jane Kim**, chair of Rules Committee, member of Budget & Finance Committee and chair of Transbay Joint Forces Authority.

Legislative aides: April Veneracion, Sunny Angulo and Matthias Mormino.

Jane.Kim@sfgov.org 554-7970

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

#### Request for Proposals (RFP) for Site Office Management, Outreach, and, Administrative Support to the Hunters Point Shipyard Citizens Advisory Committee

The Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco is seeking qualified respondents to submit proposals for **Site Office Management, Outreach, and, Administrative Support to the Hunters Point Shipyard Citizens Advisory Committee**. Proposals will be accepted until **December 17, 2012, 4:00 p.m.** To obtain a copy of the RFP, or if you have questions, contact Amabel Akwa-Asare at (415) 749-2592 or by email at Amabel.Akwa-Asare@sfgov.org. The RFP is also available on the Agency's website: [www.sfredevelopment.org](http://www.sfredevelopment.org), in the Jobs & Contracting Opportunities section.

#### Mayor's Office of Housing Notice of Availability of Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) is pleased to announce the availability of the RFP for 2013-2014 programs under the following funding sources and program areas:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): Capital Projects, HOPE SF Community Building Services, Housing Development, Planning and Capacity Building and Public Space Improvements; and
- Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS: Capital Projects and Supportive Services and Operating Subsidies.

The RFP will be available electronically on MOH's website at [www.sfgov.org/moh](http://www.sfgov.org/moh) on **Monday, November 19, 2012. Proposals must be submitted electronically by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, December 18, 2012.** Please visit [www.sfgov.org/moh](http://www.sfgov.org/moh) for more information.

#### Port of San Francisco Pier 38 Rehabilitation Project

##### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

The Port of San Francisco is seeking submittals on proposals to rehabilitate and re-tenant the Pier 38 bulkhead structure and a limited portion of the Pier 38 shed. Contact John Doll at: john.doll@sfpport.com RFP Submittal Deadline: February 22, 2013

#### Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund

Support San Francisco's vibrant arts community by donating to the Voluntary Arts Contribution Fund (VACF). Since its inception in 1984, the VACF has provided \$1.2 million in vital support to hundreds of the city's most beloved arts organizations, serving every San Francisco neighborhood. Your gift will make possible important artistic programs and services, including safety improvements and facility upgrades.

Be part of why San Francisco is known around the world as an extraordinary arts destination — support the VACF. For more information, and to make a donation, visit [www.sfgfta.org](http://www.sfgfta.org) or call 415.554.6710. The VACF is a program of Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund.

#### Department of the Environment

The SF Department of the Environment introduces **RecycleWhere** ([www.sfenvironment.org/recyclewhere](http://www.sfenvironment.org/recyclewhere)): Whether you're working or living in San Francisco, Palo Alto, San Jose, Contra Costa, or Alameda, the online tool **RecycleWhere** provides the latest and most convenient recycling, reuse, and disposal options for everything from plastics to couches, and much more! **RecycleWhere** is a collaboration among local government agencies to help each and every person reduce waste.

Time for an oil change? The 3,000 mile rule no longer applies to most vehicles. You can Check Your Number by reviewing your owner's manual or go to [www.checkyournumber.org](http://www.checkyournumber.org)

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.

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Classes start January 15

#### Jour 19: Contemporary News Media

3 units M/W/F 9:00-10:00 a.m. BNGL 713 Gonzales  
3 units T 6:30-9:20 p.m. 1125 Valencia St. 217 Graham

#### Jour 21: News Writing and Reporting

3 units M/W/F 10:00-11:00 a.m. BNGL 713 Gonzales  
3 units T 6:30-9:20 p.m. 1125 Valencia St. 218 Rochmis

#### Jour 22: Feature Writing

3 units R 6:30-9:20 p.m. 1125 Valencia St. 218 Rochmis

#### Jour 24: Newspaper Laboratory

3 units M/W/F 12:10-1:00 p.m. BNGL 615 Gonzales

#### Jour 26: Fundamentals of Public Relations

3 units W 6:30-9:20 p.m. 1125 Valencia St. 218 Graham

#### Jour 29: Magazine Editing and Production

3 units M 6:30-8:20 p.m. 1125 Valencia St. 218 Graham

#### Jour 31: Internship Experience

2 units Exp Hours Arr BNGL 214 Gonzales

#### Jour 37: Intro. to Photojournalism

3 units W 6:30-9:20 p.m. 1125 Valencia St. 217 Lifland  
3 units R 6:30-9:20 p.m. 1125 Valencia St. 217 Lifland

To register for courses go to [www.ccsf.edu/schedule](http://www.ccsf.edu/schedule)