

# New super smack puts Public Health in crisis mode

## Heroin-like opiate fentanyl's punch fast, can be lethal

By MARK HEDIN

**A** POWERFUL DRUG is crashing the party in San Francisco.

Fentanyl, a synthetically produced bluish-white, fine-powder opiate, is “the scariest one out there,” according to Dr. Phillip Coffin, director of substance use research at the Department of Public Health. “It’s the only one we measure in micrograms instead of milligrams,” Coffin said. “You just can’t titrate it (measure an appropriate dose) in the streets.”

Fentanyl is “up to 100 times more powerful than morphine and 30 to 50 times more than heroin,” according to a March news release by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

“There is a white powder ‘HEROIN’ going around that is causing a lot of folks to overdose,” reads a flyer distributed by the Homeless Youth Alliance and San Francisco Needle Exchange. “This heroin has been tested and is fentanyl, a really strong opiate. So if you are using it, please don’t

use alone and remember you can always do more but never do less. You should all carry Narcan (the familiar name for naloxone, an opiate antidote) on you because you never know when it will save someone’s life, be it a friend or a stranger. Please take care of each

**“Fentanyl, a really strong opiate. ... If you are using it, please don’t use alone.”**

FLYER,  
HOMELESS YOUTH ALLIANCE,  
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other and be safe.”

“We documented 75 naloxone reversals of fentanyl” this July, Coffin said. Although some were initially reported as heroin overdoses, DPH believes that the fast-acting, short-lived high of “fine white powder” described in reports by people renewing their Narcan supplies sounds like fentanyl.

That’s triple the ODs reversed with Narcan in July a year ago. “They were all heroin,” Coffin wrote in an email to The

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2015



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21 Club dive bar gets gentrified

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### HOW TECH AIDED BUST IN KILLING

Chief gives details of cops' response

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### MEMORIAL FOR SOMA CHAMPION

Jim Meko fought for neighborhood

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# CENTRAL CITY

# EXTRA!

SAN FRANCISCO

## DIVERSE CITY



**Nabihah Kaid**, from Yemen, could not allow her face to be photographed, in keeping with her Muslim faith. Here she cradles Lucky, the pet of a Curran House neighbor, a friend of her 7-year-old son, Muhamed. The Kaid family is one of three Muslim families living in TNDC's Curran House, a model of diversity on a tough block of the Tenderloin.

# BEING MUSLIM IN TL

## Yemeni family's remarkable story of how they cope

By TOM CARTER, PHOTOS PAUL DUNN

### PART 1: CLASH OF VALUES

**I**N THE SUN-LIT Curran House courtyard, 13-year-old Nada Kaid sits with her mother, Nabihah. Muslims from Yemen, poorest of the Arab countries, they wear traditional dress. Away from Curran House, it causes them some grief.

Nabihah's chador is a black robe that covers all but her face and hands. Nada wears separates of lighter dark colors, highlighted by her blue hijab, and a scarf. As with her mother, only face and hands show, a sign of devout modesty in Islam that, accompanied by a lowered gaze, commands respect among believers.

Sharen Hewitt stands nearby. She's The Extra's facilitator for our series of profiles of residents of TNDC's remarkably diverse Curran House, 67 units of nonprofit supportive housing in an evolving block of the Tenderloin. Hewitt lives here.

“Muslim women can't be photographed because of their religious restrictions,” Hewitt says. Just interviewing anyone in Yemen, let alone a woman, would be considered “invasive and unacceptable. And this is a very private family.”

Nada, her sweet face the picture of concentration, interprets her mother's replies to a reporter's questions. She speaks fluently, quickly and intelligently, beyond her years,

seamlessly adding her own comments to her mother's, who is speaking Arabic. Despite 7½ years at Curran House, Nabihah cannot speak English, only a few words.

Jamal, 45, head of the Kaid family, is away working. He's lived in San Francisco 26 years, but traveled frequently to Yemen, was married and started his family there. Now he has six children: five live here at Curran House, one is in Yemen, where more than half the population lives in poverty. Jamal sent money to his family in Yemen until he could bring them here, the land of freedom, education and safety — despite high crime — in June 2006.

A few days earlier, in the lobby of the Curran, The Extra's reporting team first met the mother and daughter. News from Yemen, on the brink of collapse, was worsening. Nabihah's mother's house was cleaved in two by a bomb; luckily, no one was injured. Nabihah was distraught, Nada was agitated. Their relatives were in grave danger. Airports were shut down, ports were blockaded. Starvation was a daily threat.

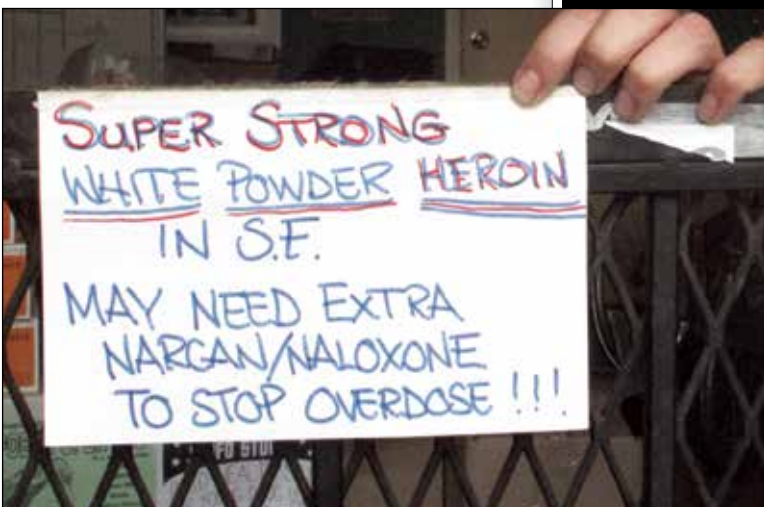
“\$25 for a bottle of water!” Nada exclaimed. “Children buried by buildings falling. There are no more schools. It's so sad.”

Nabihah's eyes were wide with fear. She kept moving her fingers up to her mouth, and down, as if eating popcorn.

“Food,” she said. “Wa-tur.”

As interpreter, Nada is her mother's guide and point person outside the mosque they attend at 20 Jones St., the 22-year-old Islamic Society of San Francisco, where 400 Muslims attend regularly. It's the largest of five mosques in the city and the only one where the khutbah (sermon) is in English. The mosque has a reputation for questioning old beliefs. Some years ago, it took the liberal step of removing the partition in the masjid (sanctuary) that traditionally separates men from the women.

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MARK HEDIN

**On the gate** at the S.F. Drug Users Union, a sign warns of some super-strong smack going around — probably fentanyl.

# Death of the Tenderloin

By GEOFF LINK

**T**HE TENDERLOIN as we know it died Aug. 21. Its heart stopped beating when the lights went out at the 21 Club, the diviest dive bar in the neighborhood. A performance venue in the city's official Taylor Street "arts corridor," it was a community center by Tenderloin standards.

Tenderloin police called the intersection "ground zero for drugs and violence." It all was happening every day and night right outside the club's front windows: shootings and dope deals and crowds of menacing ne'er-do-wells a constant presence.

But inside the 21 Club, people felt safe. 98 Bottles of Beer on The Wall Inc., which owned the business, applied for a change of ownership May 14, and that deal was consummated the day the club closed.

Poet Ed Bowers for a time held monthly readings by locals as he accompanied their lyrics playing electric keyboard. Bowers immortalized the place with his little book, "21 Poems for the 21 Club," with photos by the late legendary Filipino artist, Lenny Limjoco, Study

Center's longtime photographer and designer.

Frank, the barman and club owner, made it all hum with longtime customers who imparted a social vibe perhaps akin to that of a watering hole in the jungle. He used to host group outings to Candlestick and has served on neighborhood boards of directors.

It was a regular stop on the night minister's circuit, a poets' hangout, frequented by newspapermen such as Edvins Beitiks and Warren Hinckle, musicians and messengers, old-timers and newbies.

The Tenderloin had always represented something exciting — cheap housing and cheap thrills. A red light district with after-hours hot spots, a dicey hood that was a haven of creativity, home to the Blackhawk, the Sound of Music, recording studios, the Warfield and the edgy EXIT Theatre.

We still suffer from Original Joe's abandonment. Now, with the passing of the 21 Club, it feels like the end of the line for the Tenderloin's old way of life. ■



LELNNY LIMJOCO, 2012

**The 21 Club, at the intersection of drugs and violence, is the latest neighborhood victim of gentrification. It is to be replaced by a much bigger bar. Not a dive bar.**

## How tech helped cops nab suspect in Pier 14 killing

### Chief gives details at neighborhood news roundtable

By JONATHAN NEWMAN

**C**HIEF GREG SUHR sat down with reporters from some neighborhood newspapers to answer their questions on safety, crime and the SFPD. The meeting was at the new Mission Bay police headquarters, a clean, strangely quiet public space so unlike the clamor and grime of the Hall of Justice on Bryant Street that is a block from the Flower Mart, but a world away from this new top cop shop that feels like the Main Library.

Over the course of 90 minutes in a large, light-filled ground floor meeting room on Aug. 7, Suhr spoke amiably to the Neighborhood Newspaper Publishers Association members. Topics ranged from his department's summer youth employment program to the broken relationship between SFPD and the Latino community and the tsunami of tech advances — smartphones, cloud-based storage of crime data, video security monitoring and computer tracking — that drives crime fighting today.

It was talk about tech that led to the chief's recounting of how Juan Francis-

co Lopez-Sanchez was so quickly apprehended in the killing of Kathryn Steinle on Pier 14 back in July, a tragedy that triggered Donald Trump's immigration rant and the debate over cities serving as sanctuaries for people in the country illegally. Suhr credited tech for the quick arrest of Lopez-Sanchez.

"Every officer in the department has a smartphone," Suhr said, SFPD-issued Samsung Galaxy S5s. "When the first officer responded to the shooting, a tourist stepped forward with a picture she had snapped of the shooter. She sent the picture to the officer's smartphone, and he sent it out to all SFPD personnel. I even got one at home. It was cool. In 20 minutes, officers were able to ID and arrest the guy."

This anecdote, in turn, served as a springboard into analysis of the policy that clears Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi, pilloried by politicians and the press for releasing Steinle's suspected killer four months before she died in her stunned father's arms.

Suhr defended the sanctuary policy, which many have blamed for the failure to keep Lopez-Sanchez in custody until he could be deported. "We've been a sanctuary city since 1989. I grew up in the department with it. I got no problem with it," Suhr said.

He noted that the due process ordinance amending the policy in 2013 allowed for "rearrested and convicted crim-

inals to be turned over." But it doesn't.

A close analysis of the ordinance the supervisors unanimously passed and Mayor Lee quickly signed belies Suhr's position. The ordinance says a local official "shall not" detain someone solely on the basis of an informal request from the feds unless that person has been convicted of a violent felony within the past seven years and a judge has heard evidence and found probable cause for the person to answer a current violent felony charge.

Lopez-Sanchez was certainly a rearrested and convicted criminal as Suhr implied, but his record was not for violent crimes, so Mirkarimi was not required to turn him over to the feds on an informal ICE request.

Suhr has heard no complaints about the newly drawn boundaries for the police districts inaugurated in July. Tenderloin Station expanded its jurisdiction across Market Street one block to Mission, and eastward to Third Street and west to South Van Ness. Previously, Tenderloin jurisdiction ended on the north side of Market Street, leaving Southern Station officers to handle crimes and misdemeanors on the SoMa side.

"It never made sense to me that one side of a major thoroughfare was in one district and the other side was in another," Suhr said, citing the old lines that split Market Street crime enforcement between Southern and Tenderloin stations.

"I heard a call come in this morning

for Tenderloin officers, and Southern's officers picked it up," Suhr said. That kind of cooperation and coordination between districts is crucial, Suhr believes, until more officers get deployed under Mayor Lee's plans to bring the department to the legislated full strength — 2,200 officers — by 2017.

Alexis Terrazas, editor of El Tecolote, questioned Suhr on the SFPD's relations with the Latino community, after the recent cop killings of Hispanics.

"The community trust is broken. We're doing some solid work to rebuild it, including a successful summer jobs program where 90% of the jobs were filled by youth from the Southeast and Mission districts. Gun violence is down, and we've found kids in our summer programs, more than a 1,000 in two years, get into fewer problems," Suhr said.

Sgt. Sherry Hicks fielded the question about the department's protocol for handling threatening dogs, prompted by the recent shooting of Felony Jack, a neutered pit bull that advanced on officers as they questioned his owner about drug paraphernalia.

"Right now, police academy cadets receive only two hours training in handling troublesome canines. We're crafting more training. But I'm happy to say Jack is recovering and he will be returned to his owner, although he's got a felony record now," Hicks said.

Suhr added a coda: "There are leash

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# Warnings on the street about powerful opiate

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Extra. "There was no sign of fentanyl around at that time."

"On the street, people don't necessarily know what it is. They were just calling it heroin or china white. We've been dealing with this spike since late June," Eliza Wheeler, project manager for the Dope Project, told The Extra. DPH contracts with her organization to distribute naloxone citywide through needle exchange programs, the AIDS Foundation, Glide, the Drug Users Union, St. James Infirmary, Martin DePorres, Homeless Youth Alliance and to the jail, Wheeler said.

A sign on the Drug Users Union front door at 149 Turk warns: "Super strong white powder heroin in S.F. May need extra Narcan/naloxone to stop overdose." Signs posted throughout the Vincent Hotel, where a memorial was held Aug. 21 for career addict Vera Pettway (see page 8), contained similar warnings.

"All the needle exchanges have been mobilized about this for two months," Wheeler said.

City Hall itself was the scene of an overdose rescue Aug. 18, when a deputy there got word of "an unresponsive male" in a restroom. Sgt. J. Caramucci jimmied the bathroom stall open with a pocketknife, noticed a needle still sticking out of Richard Giles Bertram's arm, and successfully oversaw his transport to S.F. General by Fire Department medics, who arrived within four minutes.

Bertram survived. A Sheriff's Department test of residue in a baby jar lid found at the scene determined that it was heroin. Coffin says the scenario sounds much like a fentanyl overdose.

Coffin said the SFPD is also being supplied with the antidote, though new Tenderloin Capt. Teresa Ewins told The Extra that her officers have not yet been trained to administer naloxone. Coffin, however, said that SFPD had, for the first time, used naloxone to reverse an overdose in recent weeks. Ewins told The Extra that Mission Station officers are now equipped with naloxone.

Wheeler says the Dope Project is phasing out distribution of Naloxone nasal kits, which cost \$80 each. Injectable kits, however, cost about \$3, and the manufacturer, Kaleo, donates them to the Dope Project.

DPH recently obtained a sample of the dope someone had overdosed on, tested it, and found it to be fentanyl. "It was the first time we've suspected fentanyl and in fact found it," Coffin said. So little is known about it, he added, that

**"On the street, people don't necessarily know what it is. They were just calling it heroin or china white."**

Eliza Wheeler  
PROJECT MANAGER, DOPE PROJECT

it's still unclear if what's on the street is pharmaceutically produced or black market.

Fentanyl, a synthetic, has been around for 25 years, Coffin said. Cancer patients may take the drug in skin patches or, as a faster-acting alternative, fentanyl lollipops.

Heroin and other opiates can kill by overdose when the drug gradually blocks receptors in the brain that tell the body to breathe, so the user doesn't, and suffocates, Coffin said. Death from a heroin overdose usually takes more than an hour, but powerful fentanyl is much faster.

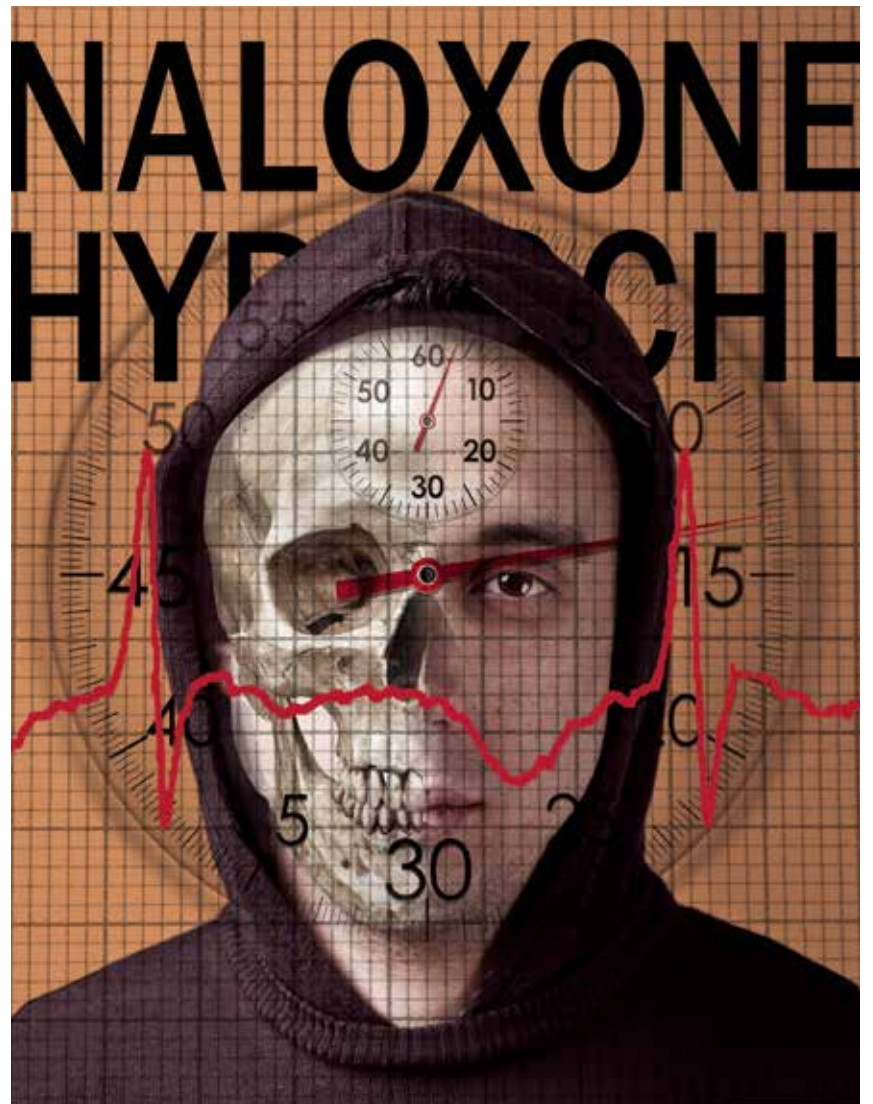
"It's pretty darn dangerous," Coffin said. He told The Extra that although there are no confirmed deaths due to fentanyl in the city so far, he was awaiting a medical examiner's report on one recent fatal OD.

DPH estimates San Francisco has 15,000 to 20,000 intravenous drug users, with about 10 heroin-related deaths a year. "We're experiencing a far lower rate of fatal overdoses than we should," Coffin said.

Wheeler credits the widespread availability of naloxone for the relatively low mortality rate among heroin users in San Francisco. The Dope Project, which got its start as a fiscally sponsored project of the Study Center, which publishes Central City Extra, has trained about 6,000 San Franciscans in naloxone's use since 2003 and received "about 1,900" reports of people being rescued from an overdose by the administration of this quick and easy antidote, Wheeler said.

Deaths from prescription opiates such as Oxycontin, percocet, codeine, oxycodone, or hydromorphone, however, occur in San Francisco at about 10 times the rate of heroin-related deaths, Coffin said. Although naloxone use could prevent some of these deaths, that population has proven harder to reach.

Coffin said paramedics now also carry naloxone antidote kits for drug OD emergencies. ■



DIGITAL ILLUSTRATION: LISE STAMPFLI

**Naloxone, the lifesaving antidote to heroin overdose, is widely available to junkies and chippers. When the user shoots too much dope, the body reacts in ways that can lead to death. The overloaded brain can numb and forget to tell the lungs to breathe. Within maybe an hour, the user is dead. Unless naloxone is administered by nasal spray or IV to bring the person back to life. Thus the story line depicted in this digital image.**

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**JIM MEKO**  
**SoMa loses its champion**

A crowd of 200 admirers of Jim Meko jammed Slim's Aug. 17 to praise him as the driven, undisputed guardian of the west side of SoMa, where he lived and worked for four decades.

Mr. Meko was known at City Hall for his indefatigable efforts to protect the diverse character of his working-class neighborhood through his comprehensive testimonies and the dozen organizations he led or was a member of.

He was a formidable inquisitor on every issue, a feisty bulldog one moment, gentle the next, spicing dialogue with his droll and quick wit. Even at his darkest, friends said, everyone knew his intentions came from the heart.

His death at age 66 leaves a gap in leadership, the mourners said, shoes hard to fill, someone to take up his torch, the work he began not yet done.

Mr. Meko served two terms on the Entertainment Commission, but his most notable achievement was steering the 22-member Western SoMa Citizens Advisory Task Force, created in 2004 by a resolution co-authored by then-Supervisors Chris Daly and Matt Gonzalez.

Charged with ensuring that the neighborhood retain its culturally diverse, working-class character, the task force's plan limited housing south of Harrison Street and market-rate housing north of it; developed height and density guidelines; required special permits for chain stores; restricted the size of big-box retailers; pushed for more parks and open space; and added more crosswalks and traffic calming. The plan changed 141 sections of the Planning Code.

Brimming with anticipation, Mr. Meko told *The Extra* in October 2005, "It's revolutionary. Now we're in charge." It seemed the table was turning, in contrast to earlier days when SoMa Leadership Council members saw how the Planning Department's Eastern Neighborhood Plan addressed western SoMa. "They were treating us like an abandoned industrial area."

The task force plan's features protected art spaces and service/light industrial zones, and allowed nighttime entertainment expansion and higher but moderate density, task force member John Elberling, Todco's executive director, told *The Extra* after the memorial.

But the plan isn't really working now. Mr. Meko's first love, nighttime entertainment, hasn't grown, "and the Central SoMa Plan is killing off about half of the SLI district," Elberling said. "But we'll know more next year. Jim was happy with the (mixed-space) Eighth and Harrison project, though."

The massive 350 Eighth St. apartment project has office, arts, retail and residential. But Folsom Street, which he wanted slowed by two-way traffic from Fifth to 13th Street to encourage visiting the neighborhood, still is one-way.

Daly, who appointed Mr. Meko chairman of the task force, told the memorial gathering that the plan "was really Jim's" in every detail. Mr. Meko conducted committee meetings for eight years.

"SoMa is my greatest love," one mourner quoted Mr. Meko as saying, "(It) occupies most of my waking hours."

Mr. Meko died Aug. 3 at UCSF hospital on Parnassus Avenue after suffering a stroke July 19. He was found next to his bed in his home on 10th Street near Folsom, also his business address, by Roy Carr, 77, his partner of 30-plus years and co-owner of their printing shop. At the hospital, Mr. Meko lingered for two weeks, never regaining consciousness. This memorial was his sendoff.

Mr. Meko came to The City from St. Paul, Minn. Daly, who praised him as an "eloquent writer," read a piece Mr. Meko had written in 2006 for the *Fog City Journal*, reflecting on the evolution of his neighborhood. It began:

"I moved to SoMa in '77, mostly to be left alone. It was a warehouse district. There were no homeowner associations and very few families. My neighbors were Filipino refugees from Manilatown, gay men experimenting with alternative lifestyles, beat poets, performance artists and rock and roll bands. Survivors and



DAVID ELLIOTT LEWIS

**Jim Meko** for decades was at the forefront of the fight to preserve western SoMa's residential and small business character, especially keeping its longtime immigrant and working-class population in place.

squatters."

The neighborhood had good times and bad, the mix always striking a humanist chord in Mr. Meko, of Hungarian and Irish stock. He kept getting more deeply involved with his neighborhood until at one point he was a member of a dozen organizations, had served eight years on the Entertainment Commission and another eight on the time-consuming task force, was the neighborhood's go-to historian and had run for District 6 supervisor. In November 2010, the city gave him the NEN Lifetime Achievement award for his work.

Mr. Meko's sister, Jeanne Hall, here from St. Paul, was introduced but did not speak. She told *The Extra* later that her "quiet" little brother had been editor of his high school newspaper, even involved in its printing. He could accomplish whatever he set his mind to, Hall said. "He loved learning things — he learned how to play the 12-string guitar in high school on his own." Moving to San Francisco was "a good fit for him. Many opportunities to be of service."

On a big screen behind the guest speakers a film loop of 439 photos ran continuously, showing Mr. Meko campaigning, in meetings, on the street with friends and supporters and in the print shop. "I met him in 2009 and started photographing him then," said photogra-

pher David Elliott Lewis who had prepared the loop and sported a Meko for Supervisor campaign button.

The screen was flanked by large bouquets, compliments of Kathleen Oliver and Kimberly Engle, from their neighborhood shop, Cherries, next door to Mr. Meko's print shop. A long food table was supplied by Slim's, DNA Lounge, Ted's Market and Don Ramon's restaurant, members of west SoMa's old guard. The fare ranged from pizza and veggies to falafels and chicken casseroles.

American cultural anthropologist Gayle Rubin read a long list of contributions her friend of 15 years had made, calling him deserving of a place in the pantheon of SoMa heroes.

"He wanted to preserve the existing character of the neighborhood," Rubin said, the gay bars, small businesses and longtime residents. "And he sought community control."

He was "a leather boy" who wanted to keep what was left of the old leather row scene on Folsom Street, when it was known as the "miracle mile," as well as protect the neighborhood's Filipino heritage. During the "nightclub wars" of the 1990s, he charged that ambitious people wanted to turn the neighborhood into "Bourbon Street."

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## City College of San Francisco Civic Center Campus



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## 1st planning study of western SoMa

The effort to preserve South of Market's character from Fifth Street to Ninth and Mission to Folsom began in 1982 with grassroots research funded by City Planning to determine the true nature of the neighborhood.

It was an obvious mix of flats and houses blending with small businesses in a low-rise neighborhood. But no one knew the residential density, nor the variety of small businesses that were part of the area.

Google Streetscapes were three decades away, and property searches had to be conducted at the Recorder's City Hall office with staff assistance to get particulars of each parcel on microfiche. A more telling way would be to canvass the area on foot, noting the buildings on each block and alleyway.

Skidmore, Owings and Merrill took the lead on the first and only census of the residences and businesses within the mid-Market area and western SoMa. San Francisco Study Center partnered with SOM to produce the study — "Mid-Market Street Conservation & Development Study" — that was to inform the city's planning policy for this section of the neighborhood. Everything east of Fifth Street was already being transformed.

Fifth formed a natural break in character, and the city needed to know what to do west of there. It needed data to document any decisions about building height, density and use in the future.

Study Center's executive director walked each block within the study area, documenting each residence and its size and each small business and type. The report gave city planners the evidence they needed to keep the area low-rise and mixed use. It is a policy that Jim Meko's task force has attempted to enforce.

— Geoff Link

# Being Muslim in Tenderloin

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Nada, who avidly reads the Quran, has been exposed to more assimilating influences than her mother because of her fluency and often being in the company of her cheeky, pubescent American classmates. Her learning has come at a price.

"Here, I am known around the building, and at school," she says, now at home and at ease in Curran House. She has learned she must "stick up for yourself — act like I'm brave."

That's especially true at school. Because of her dress, boys tease and ridicule her.

As a Muslim girl, "we are not even supposed to look at boys," Nada says. "The African American boys call me 'bomb-thrower.' They are bullies."

The sidewalk swearing and the F-word rile her father up. "He really gets aggressive," Nada said. Her mother won't even walk Nada's youngest brother, Muhamed, 7, a block and a half to Boeddeker Park — widely accepted as a safe public place for families.

Nada, active in the Curran House community, gives the neighborhood outside an F. "Dogs pooping in the street, people urinating, women reaching down in their pants for hidden drugs, people smoking." There is much to offend any young person, let alone a Muslim who aspires to become a high-level interpreter, or a chef, or a pediatrician, dreams her parents encourage, but goals that would be unrealistic if she were in Yemen, where the literacy rate for women is 35% and barely more than a third of school-age children, even before today's troubles, attended secondary school.

"The neighborhood needs changes," Nada concludes. "Boeddeker Park is great now. And Glide does good things. But it's not enough."

## PART 2: ISOLATION

Jamal Kaid, weary from work, is relaxing on a couch in the Curran House lobby. He's thin, darkish, handsome, chiseled features, trim mustache, dark eyes that don't avoid looking. He wears a fresh, long-sleeve, dark blue cotton shirt and crisp denims. Jamal is the father of six: Bilal, 25; Jamil, 21; twins Alma and Omar, 18; Nada and Muhamed.

The family, except Bilal, lives in a three-bedroom apartment on the fourth floor with an open kitchen facing a small living room. Bilal is in Yemen, trying to get out.

Yemen is in shreds and Bilal is escaping with his pregnant wife, scurrying across the parched country, clearing the roadblocks in a van with Americans who have a kind of diplomatic immunity, headed over the Arabian desert in 120-degree heat to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia's capital. There, he expects to get papers to bring his family to San Francisco.

"He got into a van," Jamal said. "His wife, too. With a lot of Americans. He came from a dangerous place. Went across country. A lot of stops. Nobody touches Americans. If you're with them, you're safe."

Jamal doesn't know what will happen when Bilal arrives in San Francisco with his wife. He would like to put them up in his apartment, but that would make nine people, and it's against building rules.

The Kaid family has had an open road to citizenship, Jamal says. His grandfather was a U.S. Navy captain killed in the Korean War. The U.S. government awarded his grandfather's family in Yemen U.S. citizenship. Jamal's father came to San Francisco and got a green card in 1969,



**Jamal Kaid, 45,** was born and raised in Yemen where his family was well-to-do. He immigrated to the United States in 1989. He and his family — wife Nabiba and five of their six children — have lived at Curran House since 2009.

soon had dual citizenship and then divided his time between the countries.

Jamal first came here in 1989 to live with his father, doing construction work and odd jobs. The estimated 7,500 Muslims in San Francisco mostly work in blue-collar jobs, drive taxis and have small businesses like grocery stores, a contrast to the highly educated Muslims in the South Bay, ensconced in the tech industry.

Expensive San Francisco is home to some of the poorest Muslims in the Bay Area: 39% earn \$20,000 or less, according to the 2013 Bay Area Muslim Study on ethnic and residential demographics. Arab ethnicity data doesn't exist for the Tenderloin where Arab organizers say Yemen, of all Arab countries, has the most immigrants.

Jamal sometimes works 10 or more hours a day, five often six days a week, doing maintenance work for a company he won't name because it doesn't pay overtime. He used to be a carpenter, he says, and dreams of having his own little business with a fine array of tools and a car or van for transportation. The modest size makes it a typical business model in Yemen.

He married Nabihah in Yemen in 1989, and when he brought her and their growing family to the U.S. they first lived in an apartment on Geary before getting into Curran House. Jamal's father died three years ago.

The Kaid family's culture and Islamic religion have made assimilation a formidable task, even in ultra-liberal San Francisco. Hewitt says the family is isolated in Curran House, "everywhere, really — they're living in a rich city without the help of others. People don't know where Yemen is or about the culture." And the fallout from 9/11 has added a stubborn stain of bias.

San Francisco has been slow to stitch Arab culture into the city's social fabric, though Muslims have had a presence here for decades with the Arab American Grocers Association, which counts about half of Tenderloin's 70 corner store owners among its members.

Citywide, membership is shrinking. President Shakib Kalleh, who runs a small grocery on Union Square, says the association has 475 members, down from 650-700 a decade ago. City Hall is "giving a free hand to big corporations"

**"They're living in a rich city without the help of others. People don't know where Yemen is or about the culture."**

Sharen Hewitt  
CURRAN HOUSE RESIDENT

and the chains, while increasing regulations and restrictions and boosting the minimum wage. All that and rising rents are forcing corner store owners into other businesses, Kalleh says.

Fidel Radman, whose Radman's Produce Market at 201 D Turk St. was the first Tenderloin mom-and-pop that converted to fresh food and produce under Supervisor Eric Mar's 2013 legislation, is a member of the association.

The first mosque in San Francisco opened in 1965 in Bernal Heights, and the latest, three years ago, at 118 Jones St., a block from the Islamic Society. In the Bay Area, there are 84.

In May, the Board of Education took a baby step toward inclusion by passing a resolution to explore offering Arabic and Vietnamese K-12 starting in 2017.

Sometimes even well-intended efforts to include Arabs socially miss the mark, as the double whammy that happened during the recent Ramadan, Islam's holy month June 17 to July 17. That's when Muslims worldwide fast during daylight hours and increase their normal five-times-a-day praying.

A kickoff party at Curran House — where there are three Muslim families, including the Kaid — also heralded the gay pride parade. TNDC circulated a pink, invitational poster: "Pride Ice Cream Social & Ramadan Celebration," June 17, 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. — the party at a time when Muslims fast.

Moreover, the Quran prohibits homosexuality, with Yemen one of six Arab countries carrying the death penalty for gays.

Muslim men, comprising 90% of Yemeni immigrants, appear to assimilate in the land of opportunity better than women, except perhaps for young women and girls who embrace education and

find new and liberating pathways.

When Alma, Jamal's oldest daughter, graduated from Wallenberg High, she became the first female in his extended family with a diploma. She starts at City College in the fall at the reopened campus in the neighborhood.

"I was crying when Alma graduated, I was so proud," Jamal says. "Such a good day. We all gave her a big hug."

By contrast, Alma's mother's generation of Yemeni women exist in a swirl of often debilitating challenges.

Lucia Volk, San Francisco State University professor and cultural anthropologist, interviewed 15 Yemeni women from the Tenderloin on their health and well-being. Six years ago, she reported her findings in a Medical Anthropology Quarterly article, "Feelings of Isolation and Distress Among Yemeni Women in San Francisco's Tenderloin." For her paper, the Yemeni consul estimated then that 1,000 Yemenis lived in the TL, though a knowledgeable source puts it at 50-plus living in a few buildings in the neighborhood.

"A consistent theme is a strong sense of social isolation, both from the mainstream culture and other Muslims, including other Yemenis," Volk wrote.

Their inability to speak English and their Yemeni clothing were barriers that set them apart. The floor plans of their homes were even a factor.

"Their small apartments with an open kitchen-dining room-living room plan prohibit the women from receiving guests according to Yemeni rules that require separate areas for men and women," Volk wrote. "High crime rates on the street inhibit the women from moving around the neighborhood."

San Francisco's polyglot culture has never imagined any home floor plan



**Kaid, above,** stops in at Cool Super Discount Market, a Yemeni-owned variety store at Taylor and Eddy half a block from Kaid's apartment. It's a gathering spot for Yemeni Americans. He chats with store manager Hasbem Algabim (right). The store does not sell alcohol, in keeping with the owner's Muslim faith. **Abdo Mohamed Ali Hussein, right,** a recent arrival to the Tenderloin from Yemen, frequents the store for news and conversation about the war-torn country. He says it cost him \$3,000 to get the United States, but he could not afford to bring his wife and two children with him.

that separated the women of the family from the men. So the Kaid's must live in a more democratic setting, architecture reflecting a cultural belief in gender equality.

But most revealing, Volk wrote, was when Yemenis separated from each other. That led to Americanization, which escalated isolation: "Everyone is looking out for themselves."

The loneliness, Volk said, caused fatigue, depression and weight gain.

English language classes and educating non-Muslims to Islamic culture were suggested steps to alleviate these conditions. But Volk said she hadn't a clue how to counter, in the short term, the space issue and social isolation.

Jamal, Hewitt and The Extra reporting team visited the Yemeni grocery at Taylor and Eddy to meet some friends of Jamal's. Adal Alahami's Cool Supermarket is a grocery and variety store rolled into one — fruit and vegetables in an area soon to quadruple, toiletries, cigarette lighters, Giants T-shirts, and more.

"You have to have everything, if you don't have liquor," prohibited in Islam, Alahami says. Even so, two of the other four Yemeni businesses in the Tenderloin are liquor stores. The others are a deli and a deli-grocery.

Cool Supermarket is also a meeting place for Yemenis to trade news and commiserate about the war.

Alahami recently let Hewitt and Jamal put a Yemeni relief donation on the counter. "We got \$100," Hewitt says. "That's dimes and quarters from the poorest neighborhood in the city. We sent it to the Red Cross."

Jamal chats with Hashem Algabim, the clerk behind the counter whose father is in Yemen. Nearby, Abdo Mohamed Ali Hussein, a recent arrival, seems waiting for something to happen.

Hussein, 62, gaunt and homeless, is a short man whose English isn't good, but he indicates he left Yemen a month ago and arrived in San Francisco where his sister lives. Getting to America, he manages to say in English, cost \$3,000, a king's ransom. He looks exhausted.

"Hard to me," he says, "hard time." To bring his wife, son and daughter would have cost an impossible \$25,000.

Back at Curran House, the group takes the elevator to Jamal's apartment.

Inside, a boy from down the hall is playing with Muhamed. His mother is in the small kitchen with Nabihah. Alma and Nada sit on chairs playing with the boy's kitten, Lucky. Jamal makes quick introductions and settles on the couch with the two boys.

On one wall is a 20-by-20-inch poster showing Bilal, rollicking with Muhamed. The mom talks about taking food in S.E. General for Jamil, who has recurring health problems from being hit by a car. The Extra team is offered sodas — declined — and bread Nabihah baked, half-inch-thick brown discs of wheat the diameter of a large saucers, tough to bite through, but rewarding with a nutty and tasty finish.

## PART 3: JAMAL'S STORY

Jamal took off work today to be interviewed by The Extra, and he is sitting in the lobby, fresh shirt and denims. He's talking about his kids. "Jamil loved dancing and wanted to be a famous singer. He wrote poetry, yes, both in Arabic and English."

But his mind turns to Bilal and his son's wife, who fled Yemen with bombs bursting in air. "With Americans, in a bus," he says. "Very dangerous. But nobody touches Americans, it's like they have, what is it, diplomatic immunity. He is in Riyadh now. He's got his papers. He'll get a green card, and in three years he'll be citizen. When I married my wife, she became citizen."

It's mid-July and Ramadan is nearly over, meaning an end to the extra praying, fasting and reading the Quran's 114 chapters. In two days, it will be time for great feasting and a resumption of normal days. Jamal has plans?

"I'm not Muslim," he says. "I respect Islam. But why are Muslims always fighting?"

He became a Christian about eight years ago. He wanted his family to be "the first Christian family in Yemen." (Actually, Yemen has about 3,000 Christians, among its 26 million population, according to Wikipedia.) But his wife wouldn't buy it.

"I wish all of them be Christians. What do we get from Islamic religion? Bad reputation. I'm crying about Mus-



## War in Yemen: The official version

Yemen Consul Mansoor Ismael says Yemen "isn't as dangerous" as "the media" makes it out to be. Yes, cities are being bombed, but traveling in the interior is relatively safe. He says he has a list of 4,000 people wanting to go back to Yemen to get married or to help relatives.

"My phone rings every 10 minutes from callers wanting to know when an airport will be open." He expected one to open in a week to allow in food supplies. Once there, visitors will find astronomical prices, he says. "A tank of gas that was \$60 is now \$300."

Earlier this month, the United Nations declared its highest humanitarian emergency level for Yemen where 80% of the population now needs assistance. The U.N. envoy from Yemen, according to a July 2 Chronicle wire story, said the country is "one step" from famine.

—Tom Carter

lims." They are "only hurting people. They break mothers' hearts. And the old ones with long beards, they don't do anything."

His friends in Yemen could hardly believe it when he went with them to pray at small mosques. He'd pray to Jesus. "They thought I was faking," he says. "They laugh. But I'm Christian because I believe in it." He says he'd be in danger if he went back now because Muslims are killing Christians and vice versa. "I don't care if I sacrifice for Jesus. They can cross me," he says, referencing a crucifixion.

Jamal is a great admirer of Dr. Michael Yousef, the calm-voiced, Egyptian American televangelist with a 3,000-member ministry in Atlanta. He broadcasts in 115 countries. One tenet he preaches speaks to Muslims and

fundamentalist Christians — that homosexuality is immoral.

"The first time we're in San Francisco it's the gay parade," Jamal says. "We leave town."

"But then I look around, and people from all over the world are coming here for gay parade," Jamal says with resignation. "So we stay. I don't have anything against them." What counts, he says, is "honor and dignity."

On Sundays he goes to the Holy Virgin Cathedral, a Russian Orthodox church in the Richmond, a stunning edifice with five domes covered in dazzling 24-carat gold leaf. The interior, lined with icons, religious paintings and mosaics, is illuminated by a voluminous chandelier, a contrast to minimalist furnishings in the Tenderloin mosques.

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

JIM MEKO

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Mr. Meko was the leading voice of SoMa Leadership Council, an otherwise leaderless group that met monthly to “ensure that South of Market remains a compassionate, diverse, vibrant and complete neighborhood,” as its motto said. It grew out of another organization, the SoMa Residents Association, that Mr. Meko and neighbors launched in 1997 to fight noisy, late-night entertainment.

The council promoted peace between the clubs and their neighbors, urged the Board of Supervisors to ban live/work units and, Mr. Meko told The Extra in 2010, “it created the western SoMa planning process to preserve mixed use.”

“He probably went to more meetings than anyone I’ve ever known,” Rubin said. “And he was the fairest man I ever knew,” a sentiment widely held in the room.

Former Entertainment Commission Chair Audrey Joseph said Mr. Meko was a “huge figure” on the commission, the protector of SoMa residents’ quiet enjoyment when threatened by loud clubs, and head of the commission’s bylaws committee.

Reporters picked up on his “bulldog” side. After seeing one description during his commission days, he fired back — in his gentle form.

“Representing neighborhood concerns on the EC is not glamorous,” he wrote in a 2011 Facebook post, quoted in his Bay Area Reporter obituary. “The Bay Guardian once described me as ‘grumpy.’ Well, if a venue has been keeping families awake at night, if it’s been attracting a crowd that defaces your property, or, God forbid, if innocent victims are injured or killed, that merits more than a frown.”

Daly was aware of how Mr. Meko sometimes was depicted in the press as irritable. “I have a different take on him,” Daly told the gathering. “I knew him as a warm and caring man. People don’t usually glean that from press stories. He always greeted you with a smile. We never had a significant disagreement.”

Mr. Meko dropped off the Leadership Council to run for supervisor in 2010, a move that put the organization on indefinite hold.

The District 6 field had 14 candidates on the ballot and Jane Kim won. Mr. Meko, who had been known to shout disagreements at Kim during candidate forums, finished a distant ninth with 404 votes, even with the endorsement of former Board President Gonzalez, now chief assistant public defender.

With Daly termed out, the task of carrying the Western SoMa Plan fell to Kim, who did not attend the memorial. Her staff stand-in, Danny Madegar, said he had worked with Mr. Meko to bring Kim’s legislation “across the finish line” before the Board of Supervisors and was impressed with Mr. Meko’s meticulousness. The plan passed 8 to 1.

Among stories of Mr. Meko’s effect on people, none was greater than Kris Schaeffer’s. She helped organize the memorial and spoke toward the end. She was his sister Hall’s roommate at Creighton College in Omaha, Neb., 50 years ago when Mr. Meko was a shy teenager. That was ancient history until one day 10 years ago, Schaeffer said.

She was looking for ways to stop giant home-builder Pulte Homes from buying the San Francisco Tennis Club (now The Bay Club) at Fifth and Townsend streets in District 6 to build 500 condominiums. An avid member, she was proud of the club’s reasonable cost, its mixed middle-class membership and its outstanding community outreach programs to benefit low-income children and families. Land use lawyer Sue Hestor, she said, recommended she connect with Mr. Meko.

She found a welcoming, middle-aged

man, but now a cautious activist skeptical of what he figured was an elitist, self-absorbed tennis club member. He grilled her, but listened just as hard. Then he rode his bicycle to the club to see for himself and to listen to the members. He measured what was to be lost or gained and liked what he had found. “He hated classism, but he changed his opinion (about the club),” Schaeffer said.

Mr. Meko persuaded Daly to bicycle over to make his own assessment, too. He did, and partnerships were born.

Mr. Meko helped Schaeffer organize SoMa town hall meetings to discuss the issues. He introduced Schaeffer to a planning commissioner ahead of the hearing on the club, and, like a “younger brother” she never had, schooled her in land use and district political power.

Supervisor Daly authored a resolution putting a moratorium on the kind of massive structure Pulte planned. “Jim gave me the guts to go visit every supervisor,” Schaeffer said. She attended task force meetings to counter the pitch Pulte representatives were making. Rallies were organized on City Hall’s steps and club members and high-profile tennis sympathizers testified at hearings.

In the end, the moratorium passed, the economy took a downturn and goliath Pulte took a rock between the eyes and “pulled out” in 2008.

“As a result, Jim got me involved with neighborhood stuff. I still am,” Schaeffer said, her voice trembling. “He taught me how one person can make a difference — that I could. He got people to know and love SoMa. I will miss him.”

— Tom Carter



PETTWAY FAMILY PHOTO

**VERA PETTWAY**  
A brief, troubled life

Vera Pettway, a native San Franciscan with a 30-year history of drug addiction and run-ins with the law, died Aug. 12. She was 49.

Ms. Pettway, third of nine children, was raised in Hunters Point public housing and in the notorious Bernal Dwellings tower on then-Army Street. She started Woodrow Wilson High but, soon after leaving home as a teenager, she became a heroin user who financed her habit by stealing. Her family is uncertain whether she graduated high school.

Ms. Pettway had five children, two born while she was behind bars. Two adult children remain close to the rest of her family, but the whereabouts of three of their siblings are unknown. Ms. Pettway was jailed many times, including a 3½-year stretch late in the 1980s at the state prison for women in Corona (Riverside County), her sister, Florence Bolden, recalled.

“Vera could have \$1,000 in her pocket, and she’d still be in the store stealing. In her mind, she was rich,” Bolden said. “I guess she was a klepto. It was an addiction, just like the drugs.”

If you didn’t know Ms. Pettway by name, you might have known her as The Girl With the Cats, a frequently seen and assertive presence on Tenderloin streets, often trailed by her tabby, Ty-Ty.

Friends and neighbors gathered for a memorial Aug. 21 at the Vincent Hotel, Ms. Pettway’s home for the past two years. Before a simple table adorned

with a vase of amaryllis, Michael Mallory of Quest4Light asked the assembled to assist Ms. Pettway’s spirit in the transition from life to the next realm by sprinkling herbs on a smoldering cone of incense and ringing a bell in her memory. People performed this simple ritual, then sang a heartfelt “Amazing Grace.”

Her friend, Colquese Coleman, said he knew her from the streets and from the Vincent: “She did a lot of nice things for people. She was a good person.”

Sheila Benson knew Ms. Pettway for 30 years. She tried to speak of her, but tears overwhelmed her and her voice choked. Composure restored, Ms. Benson simply said, “Vera’s in a better place.”

Yreshaof Pickens, property manager of the Vincent, recalled adventures of Ty-Ty and Ms. Pettway’s second cat, Squeak-Squeak: “Sometimes, Ms. Vera didn’t want Ty-Ty to follow her out into the street. She would holler, ‘Ty-Ty you get back home or I’ll kick you for a field goal.’” Ty-Ty would return to await the arrival of his toughlove guardian. When both cats would wander, Ms. Pettway worried, but the sound of a can of cat food being opened always brought them back to her door.

“She spent big bucks on those cats. Organic food, real gourmet,” Pickens said.

Everyone at the memorial was aware that when Ty-Ty was struck and killed by a car on Market Street in early August, Ms. Pettway went into a deep funk. “Someone brought her his body in a box and I know she buried him next to a tree in some park, but she was devastated,” Pickens said.

As the memorial closed, Pickens stepped forward with a well-worn Bible. “The only thing of value amongst Ms. Vera’s possessions,” Pickens said. Mallory opened it to a place mark, the 23rd Psalm, and ended the memorial, reading the verse of walking through the shadow

of the valley of death, but fearing no evil.

Squeak-Squeak has been adopted by a family, Pickens announced. ■

— Jonathan Newman



JOHN BURKS

**NORBERT CHARLES**  
Example for us all


Norbert Charles, featured in The Extra 1½ years ago in a story on palliative care, on July 28 succumbed at the age of 64 to the cancer he suffered then.

Mr. Charles, at the time of the interview, was fresh from a diagnosis of stomach and colon cancer, plus heart and lung disease and rheumatoid arthritis among the litany of his ills.


In a wheelchair and hooked up to an oxygen tank, Mr. Charles related his life history to The Extra’s John Burks, tearfully describing his disputes with the military to clear his service record and obtain veteran’s benefits. The unsuccessful efforts hurt him, Mr. Charles told Burks, calling himself “a skeleton now that they can just throw away.”

The story in The Extra was part of


▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



**HOUSING APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE KNOX AND BAYANIHAN HOUSE**



**The Knox**




**Bayanihan House**

**Please go to 241 6th Street, San Francisco, CA for applications**

**The TODCO Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Housing Waiting List is open** for the **Knox and the Bayanihan House**. If your name is currently on any TODCO Housing Waiting List and you would like information on your current status, please call the TODCO Marketing Office at **415-957-0227** on Fridays’ only.

Building	Size & Amenities	Max/Min Household Income Limits	Rent as of Feb. 1, 2015
<b>The Knox SRO</b> located at 241- 6th St. & Tehama is accepting applications and has an <b>OPEN WAITLIST</b>	<b>SRO – 1 Person or Couple</b> Room size: 10 ½ x 18 (Semi-Private) bathroom 7 x 7 Unit amenities: sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2-burner stove, closet, single bed Building amenities: small gym, library, private lounge, roof top garden, community kitchen, laundry facility, 24 hour staff & surveillance	1 person \$34,600/year 2 person \$39,520/year Minimum income of \$1,374/month	Move-in deposit \$687 Monthly rent \$687 plus utilities
<b>Hotel Isabel</b> located at 1095 Mission <b>CLOSED WAITLIST</b>	<b>SRO – 1 Person</b> Shared bathroom Unit amenities: sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2- burner stove, closet and single bed	1 person \$34,600/year No minimum income Closed	30% OF INCOME Requires a Certificate of Homelessness
<b>Bayanihan House</b> (Non-assisted units) located at 88 – 6th St. & Mission. <b>OPEN WAITLIST</b>	<b>SRO – 1 Person or Couple</b> Room single: 10½ x 12, shared bathroom Double occupancy: 12x12, shared bathroom Unit amenities: sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2-burner stove, closet, single bed Building amenities: community kitchen, 24 hour staff & surveillance, laundry facility	1 person \$30,275/year Couple \$34,580/year Minimum income of \$889.40/month	As of Jan. 1, 2015 Move-in deposit \$590 Monthly rent \$590 Utilities included

TDD: (415) 345-4470 

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a nationwide project on the health of elders produced by a frequent partner, western SoMa's New America Media. It documented Mr. Charles' struggle to receive medication to ease intense, persistent pain, a too-common battle that suffering seniors wage with doctors who often withhold relief clinging to the questionable belief that addiction is worse than pain, no matter the intensity.

Mr. Charles underwent surgery in 2013. Though his illnesses progressed, his upbeat persona and playful, teasing ways rarely wavered. He received medical care at S.F. General and California Pacific hospitals, as well as Curry Senior Center's primary care clinic.

Born in Texas, Mr. Charles arrived in California with his family in the late 1950s. He was a track and football athlete at Poly High and served nearly three

years in Vietnam with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division. When on leave, he delayed returning to his unit to be with his ailing mother and was considered AWOL.

Mr. Charles was a lively, ebullient presence at Curry Senior Center, a volunteer greeter and jocular lifter of people's moods during the daily senior lunches. His friend, Paul Hickman, called him a "beacon for the Center, a light for all." "His spirit and humor made everyone feel good," Hickman said.

More than 20 friends and neighbors of Mr. Charles filled the community room of the Mentone Hotel, his home for the past 10 years, for his Aug. 7 memorial. Rev. Kathryn Benton, of the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples, began by citing Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier's belief that faith brings "a calm that takes from our souls the strain and stress," and encouraged all to celebrate Mr. Charles' life with stories and their

feelings.

Diane Evans called Mr. Charles "wonderfully flirtatious" as she recounted a time at Curry Senior Center when Mr. Charles' incessant flirting rankled some women who thought his words were meant for each of them exclusively. "I told them, 'Dears don't you know Norbert has more wives than Solomon,'" Evans said.

Jim Murray met Mr. Charles eight years ago. "Norbert was good people. With his medical problems, life was a struggle, but he never hid in his room. He was out and active to the end," Murray said.

Mr. Charles' happy presence in the community room watching television was noted. "Military channel," someone quipped. "Never 'Judge Judy,'" another added. His case manager, who asked to be identified as Leonard, voiced pride at being at Mr. Charles' memorial. "Norbert

was so sick, yet his spirit was so positive. He was an example for us all. He took his medicines, did his exercises, tried to do everything right," he recalled. Once, while waiting for an optometrist's appointment, Mr. Charles told Leonard that his life was without purpose.

"I reminded him that he brightened the world for others. His job was to be himself," Leonard replied.

All agreed Mr. Charles was now free from pain and the fight against his illnesses.

Rev. Benton read the Serenity Prayer by theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. With the words and serenity in the air, the memorial shifted to music and food in celebration of Mr. Charles' life.

"We were always planning on going to Tommy's Joynt for lunch," Hickman remembered. "We didn't make it on time." ■

— Jonathan Newman



# Turning a Parking Lot into Parks, Jobs & Affordable Housing

## Dear Fellow San Franciscan,

We are the residents and small-business owners living and working closest to the proposed Mission Rock project and we are saying YES on Proposition D and we urge you to support it too.

Today, the area is a large surface parking lot known as Lot A. Proposition D will breathe new life into our community and help create a place worthy of this spectacular location.

Over the past eight years, the Giants have worked collaboratively with our neighborhood to help shape the plans for Mission Rock. Our community will be improved significantly by the new parks, waterfront access, recreational opportunities, a refurbished historic pier, affordable housing, jobs, neighborhood retail and restaurants, transit connections and replacement parking for Lot A.

Our neighborhood played an active role in the planning process and we are excited to see the transformation begin!

The Giants have consistently demonstrated a steadfast commitment to our City and our neighborhood. Proposition D is another example.

### As neighbors of the project, we say YES on Prop D!

Please join us in improving our community.

### Sincerely,

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Bruce &amp; Tara Agid,</b><br>Mission Bay Residents                             | <b>Katy Liddell,</b><br>South Beach Resident  |
| <b>Art &amp; Sherrie Agnos,</b><br>Potrero Hill Residents                          | <b>Charmaine Lobo,</b><br>South Beach Resident  |
| <b>Cathy Akiyama,</b><br>South Beach Resident                                      | <b>Robert Mansfield,</b><br>South Beach Resident  |
| <b>William Cahill,</b><br>South Beach Resident                                     | <b>Ronald Miguel,</b><br>Potrero Hill Resident  |
| <b>Shelley Carroll,</b><br>South Beach Resident                                    | <b>Laura Nichol,</b><br>Potrero Hill Resident   |
| <b>Derrick &amp; Tricia Chu,</b><br>South Beach Residents                          | <b>Rudy Nothenberg,</b><br>South Beach Resident   |
| <b>Chris &amp; Noel Kelton,</b><br>Proprietors of Primo Patio Café,<br>South Beach | <b>Peter &amp; Janet Osborne,</b><br>Proprietors of Momo's &<br>Mission Rock Resort,<br>Mission Bay Residents |
| <b>Toby Levine,</b><br>Mission Bay Resident  |   |



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Paid for by San Franciscans for Affordable Housing, Jobs & Parks, Yes on Proposition D, a coalition of the San Francisco Giants, Mission Bay Residents, Labor and Small Business Leaders, FPPC #1377448. Major funding by the San Francisco Giants. Financial disclosures available at sfethics.org.



# Jamal's family life takes a surprising turn

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Some of his Muslim ways got dropped. He'll drink a beer occasionally, nothing stronger, and he doesn't fast with the family during Ramadan. He thinks it's foolish.

Jamal fits easily into the international fabric of the Curran House residency, enjoys it, and is grateful to be there, he says. Everyone on the fourth floor is his friend, he says, "Other floors, too. Sharen has done a lot for me," he says, and mentions Lozano Listana, a TNDC employee from the eighth floor whose Filipino American family was The Extra's first diversity profile. (See April 2015 issue.)

Just then, Listana bursts through the door to the patio to say hello and shake Jamal's hand. Then another TNDC worker, Ryan Thayer, community organizer of the Corner Store Coalition, comes over, too. "The Kaid's done a lot here," Thayer says, mentioning their planting and watering the building's large roof garden. "And their daughter Nada is a born leader."

"We're all family," Listana says over his shoulder, as he goes back to work.

To Jamal, the neighborhood street life outside is not so nice. It's confounding and profane.

"Some people are nice, but (generally) outside the building is no good. The Tenderloin is poor people. They drink alcohol and lay down in the street. Drugs everywhere. But they are victims. I asked one why he takes drugs. He said he had nothing and no one, and did it for the pain.

"But nobody try to hurt me or



**Jamal Kaid** relaxes at home with his 7-year-old son, Mubamed (left), who is playing a video game. Mubamed's pal, Matthew Cabrera Herrera, 4, gets in on the fun.

shoot me. Not one. At work, I have my backpack and I know they (other workers) need money, and nothing is taken. On the street they say, 'Hi, brother,' and shake my hand. They think I am Muslim.

"All the homeless know me," Jamal says. "I ask my wife, 'Please make some food for me.' "And she did.

Then Jamal reveals his life has taken a lamentable turn. Nabihah, he says, has left him. He is pretty sure she took Alma, Nada and Muhamed with her to live with her father in Detroit. No note, no communication.

"And she took all my money, every cent, left nothing," he said. She even

emptied the savings account.

Whatever the amount, it was considerable. Last year a speeding police car chasing a drug dealer on the lam struck Jamal in the middle of the Leavenworth-Turk intersection. He sustained bruises and a bad arm injury and was taken to a hospital by ambulance. The arm has since healed. In December, he received a \$40,000 settlement from the city. That, or what of it remained after six months, was to be the nut to kick-start his carpentry business.

"She took my dream," he says, and pauses. "I want you to write this."

He figured she would give much of the money to her father and other Yemeni relatives in Michigan to help them along. He didn't know when she would come back. She wasn't answering her cell phone.

Later, he thought of Abdo Hussein, the homeless man at the store. He went over and offered him a bed.

"I had an empty bedroom," Jamal said. "But he said no. He's staying in a storage room." He frowned. "Sleeping between boxes."

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## FRIDAY NIGHTS

### AT THE de Young

GOLDEN GATE PARK

**Are you free Friday night?  
We are.**

**Open 5–8:45pm Friday Nights**

Visit our permanent collection galleries free after hours on Fridays and enjoy cocktails, performances, dancing, and art making.

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Support for Friday Nights at the de Young is provided by Hanson Bridgett and the Koret Foundation. During Friday Nights, funding from The Hearst Foundations makes possible free general admission to the permanent collection galleries.

A discounted \$15 ticket is required to visit the special exhibition galleries. Fees apply for dining and cocktails.

**City and County of San Francisco  
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**September 2015**

**Stay Connected To the City through SF311**

The SF311 Customer Service Center is the single stop for residents to get information on government services and report problems to the City and County of San Francisco. And now, we have even more ways for you to stay connected to the City with our SF311 App and SF311 Explorer website.

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Download the SF311 App from your smartphone's app store and visit the SF311 Explorer at [explore311.sfgov.org](http://explore311.sfgov.org) today!

**Port of San Francisco**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Port of San Francisco (the "Port"), a department of the City and County of San Francisco (the "City") announces **Contract #2774R, Pier 94 High Mast Lighting Project**. Located at Pier 94, the scope of work consists of removing two (2) 100-foot high lights and installing two (2) 80-foot high modern lights. Bidders may either be Class A or Class C-10 licensed, and must be either a San Francisco certified: (1) Micro-LBE or (2) Small-LBE contractor. The LBE requirement for this is 20%. Partnering Level 1 is required. Refer to Section 01 31 33 for more details. Estimated construction cost is \$303,000. To be qualify to bid, the Contractor must have documented experience in performing a minimum of three (3) projects similar in scope and complexity during the last five (5) years. If bidder does not meet the experience requirements stated in this specification, the City may determine the bidder to be unqualified to perform the work under this contract. Additional electrician requirements are in Section 16530 paragraph 3.02.A. Pursuant to Charter Section 3.105, all contract awards are subject to certification by the Controller as to the availability of funds.

**Bids Due: 9/8/15, 10:30 AM, Pier 1.** For questions contact Arnel Prestosa, (415) 274-0627. Information located on [www.sfport.com](http://www.sfport.com) and [www.sfgov.org/oca](http://www.sfgov.org/oca).

**Assessment Appeals Board (AAB)**

Notice is hereby given of 12 vacancies on the AAB. Applicants must 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 or to obtain an application, please call 415-554-6778.

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.

**CNS#2787316**

# Muslims in TL

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

## PART 4: LONELY BUT COPING

Jamal is off today because the place was shut down for a wedding in his boss' family. With his wife and life savings gone, losing income comes at a bad time. "I can't pay the rent," he says. "I'll get a notice." He looks worried. Earlier, in the community room downstairs, he had picked up food from the weekly Food Bank pantry drop, a dozen eggs, two pounds of spaghetti, a big sack of potatoes and a bag of vegetables, and lugged them upstairs to his apartment.

While warring factions vie for the upper hand in his country, Jamal remembers the good times. He's from a family that had more land and money than any of the neighbors. It created a status that as a child made him uncomfortable. His playmates deferred to him. "No, I say, I want everyone equal, everyone," Jamal said. "But I had a very happy childhood."

He had a happy wedding in Yemen, too. Well over 200 relatives came to celebrate. And the food? He ponders. "Ten sheeps, five goats, five baby cows."

Here he even has fine Yemeni cuisine nearby. One restaurant at Sutter and Hyde just changed its name to Arabian Sky, after six years as Yemeni's Restaurant. "People didn't know what it was," says chef/owner Musa Amin. "They'd say, 'What's Yemeni?' And pass it up." Arabian Sky has broader appeal, hinting of Ali Baba, he says. "Once inside, we tell about Yemeni food. Americans want something authentic." A popular choice is saltah, spicy baked

vegetables with a lamb sauce served in a clay volcano pot.

But Amin admits his claim of being the only Yemeni restaurant in California — on a sign posted outside by the door — is now outdated. He says there's one in San Jose and, oops, his former co-owner and good friend, Abdul al Rammah, opened a hole-in-the-wall Yemeni restaurant two months ago at 219 Jones St. It barely has room for three tables and three stools at a tiny counter. Roast lamb is the top choice of his customers, al Rammah says. Jamal drops in whenever he's got mad money in his jeans.

After depositing his take from the pantry, Jamal took the elevator to the roof garden and found a seat at a table in the middle. The garden was all around him, two dozen silver metal tubs exploding with rich green herbs and vegetables, a virtual garden of Eden that excited him. He got up and began weaving his way around them, pausing at each.

"Take some and the next day there is more!" he exclaimed, trumpeting the prolific growth. "Nabihah planted this, see?" he motions to a profusion of mint in one tub, "and this," he points to basil in another. "We do this," he gestures to other tubs growing tomatoes. "Look, organic, and this," he points to vibrant beds of pale green lettuce shimmering in the wind. "Oh, I miss my beautiful wife."

Still, she won't respond to his calls. But he has spoken by phone to Nada and to his brother, Fuad, who lives near Nabihah's father and they're good friends. The brother says things will work out, but Jamal must be patient. But it's painful and Jamal must remember the direction his elders gave him as a child to "never get angry."

"I miss her, but the devil is playing with her mind."

Nine days later, Nabihah is still in Detroit and Bilal is still in Riyadh. ■

# Chief meets neighborhood newsies

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

laws. If more people followed them, there'd be fewer problems."

Even though the city's homicide numbers are up — 24 at the end of June, a 71% increase over the same period last year — Suhr said the close rate on homicide cases is improving and technical support behind law enforcement is the main reason why.

The gunfire-detection technology ShotSpotter is linked with GPS and speeds officers' response to a crime scene. Suhr said the department deploys task forces to a homicide site within 24 to 36 hours to canvass all available public and private video cameras in the area. Homicide victims' social media postings, if any, are reviewed by a special team as are the often incriminating media boasts posted by suspects.

The smartphone every officer carries is linked to the Crime Data Warehouse, a cloud-based storage of immedi-

ately accessible information. Run afoul of the law and an officer can pull up your crime-related data instantaneously.

Tech can't seem to control some crimes yet. Car break-ins are up an astonishing 47% for the first six months of this year, more than 66 per day on average.

"Unless the officer is lucky enough to be an eyewitness, crimes of opportunity are difficult to stop," Suhr said. "The best protection is to leave nothing visible in your car, not even an empty laptop carrier. Look, I learned the hard way. Both my car and my wife's car have been broken into parked outside our home. We left stuff in them. Now we know," he added.

The air in the meeting room remained cool despite the strong sun pouring through the windows on the blue and gray walls. A tour of the six-floor, 263,000-square-foot, \$243 million headquarters would have to wait. The meeting was over. ■

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**San Francisco Mental Health Clients' Rights Advocates** informs, supports and helps individuals receiving mental health services or who need help or advice about your rights by listening to your concerns and needs and advocating for your legal rights.

If you're being treated for a mental disorder, voluntarily or involuntarily, you have the same legal rights and responsibilities that the U.S. Constitution and California laws guarantee to all other persons:

### Contact us:

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**San Francisco Mental Health Clients' Rights Advocates**  
1663 Mission Street, Suite 310

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**San Francisco, World War II and African Americans**, Sept. 8, 7-9:30 p.m., 455 Golden Gate, Milton Marks Auditorium. Bill Doggett, award-winning historian and archivist, talks about the city's African Americans during World War II as part of the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the war's end, presented by San Francisco Museum and Historical Society. \$10 or \$5 for seniors, students, teachers, persons with disabilities. Info: sfhistory.org.

**Alzheimer's Disease: Latest Updates on Diagnosis and Treatment**, Sept. 24, 5:30 p.m., Main Library, Koret Auditorium. Dr. Geoffrey Kerchner from Genetech and Stanford University School of Medicine presents his latest research and new treatments of a disease affecting 5 million Americans. Info: sfpl.org.

**Family Flight**, Sept. 8, 6-8:30 p.m. 1019 Market St. (Zendesk). Compass Family Services and SPUR present a moderated panel discussion about "affordable housing" and introduce One Home, a Website of affordable housing listings. \$5 admission. Info: spur.org, search for Family Flight to register.

## ART EVENTS

**S.F. Fringe Festival**, Sept. 11-26, EXIT Theatre, 156 Eddy. 35 indie theater groups — about half from the Bay Area, the rest from other California locales, other states and one from Canada — strut their stuff in EXIT's 24th annual extravaganza. See Extra Issue 158 for full story. Info: sffringe.org.

**Murphy and Cadogan Contemporary Art Awards Exhibition**, Sept. 3-26, 934 Brannan. Gallery hours: Tue.-Fri., 12-7 p.m., Sat., 12-5 p.m. The San Francisco Foundation and SOMArts' annual showcase this year features 24 promising Bay Area visual and media artists. Info: somarts.org.

**The American Plate: A Culinary History in 100 Bites**, book event, Sept. 11, 4-5:30 p.m., Main Library lower level. Author Libby H. O'Connell introduces readers to lost American food traditions. Info: sfpl.org.

## 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 Client Council**, 3rd Tuesday of month, 3-5 p.m., 1380 Howard, Room 515. Consumer advisers from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public welcome. Info: 255-3695. Call ahead as meeting location may change.

**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.

**Hoarding and Cluttering Support Groups**, weekly meetings, conducted by Mental Health Association of San Francisco, 870 Market St., Suite 928. Info: 421-2926 or mentalhealthsf.org/group-search.

**Legal clinic**, 4th Thursday of the month, 507 Polk St., 10 a.m.-noon. Legal help for people with psychiatric or developmental disabilities who need help with an SSA work review, sponsored by People with Disabilities Foundation. Sliding-scale fee. By appointment only: 931-3070. Info: pddf.org.

**Mental Health Board**, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 255-3474.

**Tenderloin Healthy Corner Store Coalition**, 4th Thursday of the month, 3 p.m., Kelly Cullen Community Building, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor auditorium or 5th floor gym. Public meetings to discuss legislation that encourages corner stores to sell fresh food and reduce tobacco and alcohol sales. Info: Jessica Estrada, jessica.healthyretail@gmail.com, 581-2483.

## 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**, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 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. Info: 882-3088, http://central-market.org.

**Friends of Boeddeker Park**, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., park Clubhouse, Eddy and Jones. Info: Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

**Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board**, 3rd Thursday of month, 5 p.m. Works to protect SoMa resources for all residents. Gene Friend Rec Center, 270 Sixth St. Info: Tim Figueras, 554-9532.

**Tenderloin Community Benefit District**. Full board meets 3rd Monday at 5 p.m., 55 Taylor St. Info: 292-4812.

**Safe Haven Project**, 4th Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m., 519 Ellis St. (Senator Hotel). Contact: 563-3205, x115, or centralcitysafehaven@gmail.com.

**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. Info: 820-1412.



CLEMENT HIL GOLDBERG

**Still from "Our Future Ends,"** from experimental filmmaker Clement Hil Goldberg, one the artists showcased at SOMArts' awards exhibition.

## 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 & Disability Action** (formerly Planning for Elders/Senior Action Network), general meeting, 2nd Thursday of month, 9 a.m.-noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. SDA Housing Collaborative meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 1 p.m. HealthCare Action Team meeting, 2nd Wednesday, 1010 Mission St., (Bayanihan Community Center). For info about SDA's Survival School, University and computer class schedules: 546-1333, www.sdaction.org.

## DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR

**Jane Kim**, member, Land Use Committee, School District, Transportation Authority; chair, Transbay Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors; vice-chair Transportation Authority Plans & Programs Committee  
Legislative aides: Sunny Angulo, Ivy Lee and April Veneracion

Jane Kim@sfgov.org 554-7970

## Royal Hawaiian Featherwork

*Nā Hulu Ali'i*



Rare cloaks, capes, and lei of Hawai'i's monarchs radiate with color in an exhibition developed in partnership with the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Honolulu. Discover more than 75 examples of featherwork, each a masterpiece of unparalleled artistry, technical skill, and cultural pride.

AUG 29, 2015–FEB 28, 2016

**de Young**  
GOLDEN GATE PARK

This exhibition is organized by the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum. Presenting Sponsors: The Michael Taylor Trust and Diane B. Wiley, Director's Circle; Akiko Yamazaki, Chair, and Anthony Sun, Chairman Emeritus, Asian Art Museum. Curator's Circle: The Selz Foundation, Inc. Conservator's Circle: Bank of the West, Mrs. Dwight (Blossom) Strong, and the Thomas W. Weisel Family, Benefactor's Circle: Mark and Carolyn Blackburn, Paula and Bandler Carano, The Donald and Maureen Green Foundation, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Smith. Support for education and public programs is provided by the Walter and Elise Haas Fund.

Ahu 'ula (cape), pre-1861. Yellow and black 'ō'ō (Moho nobilis) feathers, red 'iwi (Vestiaria coccinea) feathers, and olonā (Touchardia latifolia) fiber, Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Ethnology Collection, 09670/1909.007. Photograph by Hal Lum and Masayo Suzuki, 2014