

# Uber driver business tax is like gift to company

## Bolsters position that the workers are not employees

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

**W**HAT DO YOU GIVE a corporation with \$68 billion in its wallet? If you're San Francisco, you gift-wrap a new enforcement policy requiring 37,000 Uber and Lyft drivers to obtain a city-issued business license on the basis they are independent contractors — not employees — and you lay it respectfully on Uber's mid-Market Street office doorstep.

Last month, city Treasurer Jose Cisneros announced that his office issued demand letters to Uber and Lyft drivers who work in the city seven or more days a year to obtain a business license. If the driver grosses less than \$100,000 a year, the license will cost \$91, renewable annually.

For Veena Dubal, an associate professor of law at U.C. Hastings, the city's efforts to require business licenses is not likely to settle the issue of whether the driver is an independent contractor or an employee. "It does

bolster the company's position that drivers are not employees," Dubal said. "But more important to the issue is the structure of California wage and hour laws and the degree to which the company regulates and controls the work place."

Dubal has conducted extensive research on the taxi worker industry for the past five years. She

noted that before Uber and Lyft there were approximately 1,700 taxi medallions in the city and the industry closely monitored and lobbied on the matter of new medallions coming into play.

Now, her research shows, there are about 7,000 for-hire drivers on the city streets on any given day. "The roads are now unregulated," she said. "When the industry in the city consisted of some 1,700 taxis, workers could expect some predictability in income, but the rise in numbers of cars for hire has been devastating for taxi workers," she noted.

Dubal has heard many horror stories from Uber and Lyft drivers lately. "There seems to be a growing abuse by customers, a sense of entitlement that allows customers to disrespect drivers," Dubal said, citing reports of drivers who are told to stop talking to passengers or to turn off 'foreign' music.

"I think the consumer public underestimates the needs of workers in this so-called sharing economy. We are seeing a growing sense that people expect a servant class to do their bidding."

If all 37,000 drivers comply, the city will garner \$3,367,000 in fees — a pittance compared with the hundreds of millions the companies have gambled on insisting that drivers are not their employees, but rather independent contractors supplying the transportation service they provide.

Now Uber, Lyft and dozens of smaller tech companies who earn from the so-called "gig economy" by providing the technological link between the demand and the supply, whether the need is for a ride home, a bag of groceries or a load of clean laundry, can point to the city's stance as validation that they are not employing service suppliers, merely granting them opportunities to earn.

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MARJORIE BEGGS

Sidewalk plantings brings color and life to the streetscape.

# CENTRAL CITY

# EXTRA!

SAN FRANCISCO

## TENDERLOIN HONORED



COURTESY FRIENDS OF THE URBAN FOREST

Friends of the Urban Forest and community volunteers plant ginkos along McAllister Street in June 2015 planting that led to the award. See pages 4 and 5 for how the trees have fared.

# MOST GREENIFIED

## Verdant block of McAllister St. receives award

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

**H**ASTINGS SCHOOL OF LAW CFO David Seward calls Tenderloin sidewalks "the living room of the neighborhood," and making them as pleasant as possible for everyone who uses them is more than a cosmetic

goal. "The quality of the street experience affects how we all feel about where we live, work, go to school."

Walking through a neighborhood that's been greened lifts the spirits while improving the environment. It's why last year Hastings launched a \$2.5 million streetscape improvement for McAllister between Leavenworth and Larkin streets, planting 16 ginko trees, replacing 260 square feet of concrete with sidewalk gardens and adding bougainvillea along one of its buildings.

For that, Hastings received Friends of the Urban Forest's "Most Greenified Block" award, an annual kudo for the greatest green transformation in a city neighborhood. Seward accepted the award at the April 23 Earth Day San Francisco street festival at 22nd and Valencia. Also named in the award was TNDC, whose lush, productive Tenderloin People's Garden at Larkin and McAllister streets has anchored that corner for six years.

"Often we discuss several candidates for the award," says Urban Forest spokesman Ben Carlson. "But this year, the Tenderloin project was the first one nominated, and staff quickly agreed it was more deserving than any other recent greening project we knew of."

Past winners in Urban Forest's 4-year-old award program were Pennsylvania Street Gardens on Potrero Hill, sidewalk gardens along Broderick and Hayes in NoPa and Ney Street in

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



# Tenderloin Democratic Club turns 10

‘The CCD is central to the health of this community’

By MARK HEDIN

CANDIDATES AND POLITICIANS, their reps and supporters, community activists and the merely curious gathered at the New Delhi Restaurant on Ellis Street on the evening of April 19 to celebrate Central City Democrats’ 10th anniversary.

Besides the milestone, the evening also served as the group’s “Meet & Greet” event for the June 7 election, and dozens of candidates for seats on the Democratic County Central Committee, advocates for various ballot measures and other positions all showed up.

Even the Department of Elections was present, with two staffers manning a table to register voters.

CCD, with about 300 members, is one of 31 Democratic clubs chartered by the DCCC, the Democratic Party’s official presence in the county of San Francisco, home to 250,000 registered Democrats.

“We work with the larger party,” chairwoman Leah Pimentel told The Extra, citing the convention delegate selection process, voter registration and outreach and fund raising, although she said it does not directly fund campaigns. But DCCC’s highly coveted endorsements help inspire donors.

The dozens of DCCC candidates are running to represent one of the city’s two Assembly districts, the 17th, which stretches from North Beach to Hunters Point and includes the Tenderloin, and the 19th District, which goes from the

Marina into Daly City.

After being introduced by CCD President Dennis Isner, New Delhi owner Ranjan Dey turned the spotlight to the evening’s keynote speaker, Anh Nguyen: “She is one of my heroes,” he said.

“I’m just gonna speak from my heart,” Nguyen said, putting her notes aside. “I think the CCD is central to the health of this community and San Francisco. I see a lot of exclusion,” she said, drawing a bead on the political establishment. “This community has been systematically excluded from participating in the process. They were abandoned long ago to a pervasive sense of hopelessness.”

She cited statistics documenting the demise of small businesses in the neighborhood (from 700 in 1996 to 300 now) and the displacement of the immigrant community responsible for cultivating many of those businesses when job opportunities were denied them.

She herself, she said, has this year been terminated from her job at the Tenderloin Economic Development Project “for organizing,” and then lost her tiny apartment at 620 Eddy St. for making improvements to it, despite having been previously authorized to spruce up the illegal one-room unit, that, she said, the landlord is now trying to bring to code.

She also cited studies showing that if the poverty level of a community hits 20%, an inexorable slide follows. “We’re (Tenderloin) at 50%.”

Michael Nulty, primary organizer of

the CCD and its vice president of political affairs, introduced DCCC officers and members, several of whom he called up to pose for a group photo after a toast “to another decade of democracy” and the blowing out of candles on some of Isner’s cupcakes. Nulty showed off the CCD’s just-received certificates of appreciation from state Sen. Mark Leno, Assemblyman David Chiu and the Board of Supervisors. Finally, keynote speaker Nguyen was presented with a Community Impact Award from the TL’s Tenant Associations Coalition.

In the back of the room, trays of New Delhi’s veggie samosas and pakoras with mint or tamarind sauces, and Isner’s tiny red-velvet muffins, disappeared at astonishing rates as the mingling commenced.

Besides New Delhi, other sponsors included the Central Tower Market, Daldas Grocery, Emo’s Place Rotisserie, Golden Kim Tar Restaurant, the Market Street and North of Market Business associations, Tip Top Market, Opera Plaza UPS Store, the Green Cross, TAC PAC, Little Saigon Hair and Nails, Lisa for Hair, Glass-thetix and City Rent-A-Car. ■



COLIN HUSSEY

Anh Nguyen, keynote speaker at the 10th anniversary celebration, was honored by the Tenant Associations Coalition with its Community Impact Award. “Unlike many, she actually talks the talk and walks the walk about the issues in the neighborhood,” Michael Nulty of the TAC said.

## MY TAKE

### Futures Collaborative needs moderator

TENDERLOIN FUTURES Collaborative has been around for 15 years serving as a forum for residents, nonprofits and businesses to update and discuss neighborhood development. The need for the forum continues as our neighborhood goes through growing pains, struggling with an influx of middle-class residents, high-end businesses and market-rate housing.

Because of scheduling conflicts and other commitments, I have decided to stop moderating the monthly Tenderloin Futures Collaborative meetings effective May 1; therefore, future meetings would be suspended.

Since February 2010, I have brought the resources of the Alliance for a Better District 6 to assist in the administration of TFC and have voluntarily helped to manage the operations. I have asked various nonprofit groups if they would take over facilitation and keep the meetings active, but none has come forward. Over the years, TFC has continued with the facilitation assistance of St. Anthony’s

Foundation, Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corp. and San Francisco Network Ministries.

Under my administration, TFC has established a members-only Google group and Facebook page. I designed meeting signs and other documents, reached out to new segments of the Tenderloin, brought the media and videotaping of the meetings to YouTube with the help of Alliance for a Better District 6 member Susan Bryan, established an independent TFC contact number, continued the meetings in a neutral and safe location, and always started the meetings on time.

I hope someone or another neighborhood entity will volunteer and bring the resources to re-establish ongoing monthly meetings. Until that happens, Alliance for a Better District 6 members will still post community announcements on the Facebook page. For inquiries, please contact me, (415) 820-1560 or sf\_district6@yahoo.com. ■

— Michael Nulty



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# Little-box village a new idea to help solve crisis of homelessness

‘Transitional encampment’ model has proved helpful in Seattle and other cities

By MARK HEDIN

WHILE SAN FRANCISCO political office-holders argue over whether the homeless situation in The City is just really, really bad or an official “crisis,” two bicycle-riding activists — one of them an also-ran in the 2015 mayoral election — are invoking the name of the saint for whom the city is named in floating a suggestion on how to help.

Their proposed Saint Francis Village would provide secure, safe sleeping quarters, storage space for campers’ stuff and access to social workers to help navigate their needs for health care, jobs, benefit programs, you name it.

Co-founders Amy Farah Weiss and Ken Fisher, who in April approached the San Francisco Study Center, publisher of



KEN FISHER

**A prototype** of a proposed Saint Francis Village housing structure takes shape in Noe Valley outside the home of co-founder Ken Fisher. Planners expect to eventually put it on wheels, in the hope that doing so will minimize the regulatory process.

The Extra, for fiscal sponsorship, don’t yet have a place for their village lined up. Weiss says they’re hoping to persuade the city to provide unused property or that a sympathetic property owner will let them set up on unused land.

It’s an idea that’s akin to a program currently serving 450 homeless people in Seattle.

Their plan is to begin with a pilot program that will serve five to 10 people for three months and, hopefully, ramp up from there.

They both have, separately, taken the

lead in establishing community gardens in San Francisco, navigating bureaucracy, raising money and coordinating volunteers to get things from the drawing board to the salad bowl.

Fisher says he raised \$40,000 “to rehab an entire city block” on 22nd Street between Castro and Diamond in Noe Valley, the Jungle Stairs. The effort involved 50 community volunteers, he said, and included installing irrigation, planting a mix of 1,000 trees, shrubs, native succulents and more. Every step of the project, from 2012 to 2015, is closely documented at [junglestairs.wordpress.com](http://junglestairs.wordpress.com).

Saint Francis Village co-founder Weiss got 23,099 votes — 12.13% — to finish third in November’s mayoral election. Back in 2011, she paved the way for another community garden, in the NoPa neighborhood at New Liberation Church, on Divisadero between Turk and Eddy. “I had approval from the property owners,” Weiss wrote The Extra, “so I didn’t need to go through any type of approval process with the city.”

“We had insurance through the church and had volunteers sign a hold-harmless agreement.”

As for Saint Francis Village, they have a slide show that starts with a rendering of a mere 1,600-square-foot space, with five different prototypes of the proposed housing units, which they anticipate building about 4 feet high from a base of two pallets, to 6 feet 8 inches long. Planter boxes, a storage shed and an EZ-Up-style canopy such as vendors sometimes use at farmers’ markets add resources and ambiance to the site.

Their projected budget to set up such a site for three months is pegged at a bit less than \$4,000 — \$1,000 for the five housing structures, \$1,000 to buy six locking storage sheds, the rest for the canopy and miscellany such as fire extinguishers and first aid kits, entrance beautification and a garbage/compost/recycling center.

Then there’s the \$4,475 monthly operating budget, consumed mostly by \$3,200 for an “on-site coordinator/project manager.” Another \$400 is allocated to monthly Porta-Potty rental and twice-weekly servicing, \$400 in car rental through Zip, \$250 for garbage/recycling and \$100 for insurance, per a quote from Pennbrook Insurance.

In that projection, the costs come to \$895 per month for each of five residents. But there’s an efficiency of scale when the site is large enough to accommodate 10 people. Then, most of the

fixed costs stay the same except for the toilet service, which doubles. The cost per resident thus drops to \$515 each.

Less clear is what legal hurdles a Saint Francis Village might face. Weiss says she’s waiting for someone in the Mayor’s Office of Housing Opportunity, Partnership and Engagement (HOPE), which oversees the Navigation Center in the 1900 block of Mission, and is seeking to open a new one in Dogpatch, to get back to her on a contact at the Planning Department.

“We want to make sure we’re doing it completely on the up-and-up,” Fisher told The Extra.

So far, for Saint Francis Village, it’s been a bit of a chicken-and-egg situation. Fisher and Weiss said owners of open space who might be willing to contribute it to the cause, or perhaps, in one scenario, donate rent paid back to the project and receive a tax deduction once Saint Francis Village obtains 501(c)3 status, are reluctant to sign on while it’s unclear if they’d be vulnerable on liability or lawlessness issues. But at City Hall, the co-founders are finding, it’s tough to line up allies on a project that is, in itself, homeless.

For instance, in the office of District 9 Supervisor David Campos, who wrote the ordinance the board passed April 12 “declaring the existence of a shelter crisis in San Francisco” and is calling for six new Navigation Centers on city-owned property, his aide, Carolyn Goossens, told The Extra that as far as Saint Francis Village goes, they would have “no comment at this time, until we have more details.”

Downstairs at the office of HOPE, Director Sam Dodge, who’s also met with Fisher and Weiss, told The Extra, “It’s tough. It needs to be thought through. There is a myriad level of code and inspection agencies — fire, health, building code, there’s more — that are not able to simply be told, that can’t just be ignored. And for good reasons.”

“They are pretty focused on being outside,” he continued, “and for a lot of things I wonder if running water, electricity, the potential for heat” warrant more consideration.

“They are talking about this for five people. It’s really primed to be a church property, either a church basement or space that they have.”

Churches do have an advantage over the private sector, in that they’re free of some legal constraints other types of organizations would face.

In Seattle, for instance, which now

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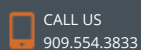
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# Verdant McAllister St. block 'most greenified'

## \$2.5 million U.C. Hastings landscaping project wins Urban Forest neighborhood award

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the Excelsior District.

The McAllister project, hatched in 2013, broke ground in February 2015 and was completed in June 2015. The county Transportation Authority put in \$1.8 million and Hastings \$640,000 for the improvements that included sidewalk widening, pedestrian lighting and corner curb extensions.

Seward is proud that the project came in \$100,000 under budget, but he concedes it had its challenges for the neighborhood — sidewalks blocked off for six months, traffic disruptions and more.

"It really was totally chaotic some of the time, but the patience of people in the neighborhood was terrific," Seward says.

Hastings' planting project also served as the kickoff of a Tenderloin-wide planting. Landlords on other blocks opted to plant 32 trees in front of their properties, a fairly average number for other city neighborhoods but large for the TL, says Phil Pierce, Urban Forest policy and outreach director.

Adding trees in the Tenderloin has never been a slam dunk. The Extra detailed some of the knotty problems in its March 2015 issue, including that the downtown/Civic Center area has the least greenery of any San Francisco neighborhood — a tree canopy coverage of 4.1% — and that tree life expectancy is the lowest in the city, more than a third dead or dying with-

in three years of planting.

As if to make the point, a tree was vandalized just days after the McAllister planting, and in the week following the award two more were destroyed. Seward showed The Extra the stumps of the year-old trees and wondered what would motivate someone to such an act.

"Cities can be harsh environments for trees," says Carlson, "especially when they're young." Underwatering, overpruning, being struck by vehicles and damage from urine are some of the risks. "But vandalism involving the intentional injury or destruction of a tree is the hardest to understand. Incidents occur somewhere in the city every year, and they're more likely in busier neighborhoods, including the Tenderloin."

A ray of hope: Seward says the first tree that was vandalized is "in recovery." Kasey Asberry, founder and director of the Demonstration Garden at Hastings and coordinator of the Celebration Garden at Boeddeker Park, has been trying to nurse it back to health for a year, despite its broken trunk.

"I named it 'Panache!' " Asberry says, "because it's doing well despite the assault." It lives in a bright blue pot at the Demonstration Garden, a survivor, like so many in the Tenderloin.

Inspired by Panache's resilience, Seward plans to adopt one of the most recent ginkgo victims and plant it in his yard at home. ■



KASEY ASBERRY

The ginkgo named "Panache!" — planted on McAllister Street last year and almost killed soon after — is recovering at Hastings Demonstration Garden on Golden Gate, tended by Kasey Asberry.



MARJORIE BEGGS



COURTESY FRIENDS OF THE URBAN FOREST



MARJORIE BEGGS

Clockwise from top left: Ginkgo vandalized just days after Hastings won the "Most Greenified Block" award struggles to survive. The thriving trees on McAllister Street keep their 20-gallon watering bags for two years after planting. Dan Flanagan, Friends of the Urban Forest executive director, left, gives the "Most Greenified" award to Hastings CFO David Seward, and TNDC's Julie Doherty at the April 23 Earth Day San Francisco street festival in the Mission.

# Tax bolsters Uber's stance on drivers

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A week after Cisneros' pronouncement, Uber settled two class action lawsuits in which Uber drivers in California and Massachusetts sought recognition as employees and access to the rights of employment — to unionize, receive unemployment and medical insurance benefits, earn pensions. Uber's settlement price tag — \$84 million now and an additional \$16 million, if the company goes public and meets certain business goals — is equivalent to a worker who earns \$50,000 a year paying a fine of \$73.50. Another way of looking at it is \$100 million is less than one-half of one percent of Uber's worth. The settlement, Uber proudly announced in a blog post entitled "Growing and growing up," means drivers will remain independent contractors, not employees.

Drivers who participated in the lawsuits will receive payouts based on the

number of miles logged for Uber. The payouts range from \$24 for those who drove less than 750 miles to nearly \$2,000 for those who exceeded 100,000 miles. Lawyers for the drivers will petition the court to award their fees from the settlement fund, capped at 25%, or a potential \$25 million.

In the settlement, Uber agreed to allow drivers to form independent associations and to meet with the associations quarterly to review drivers' concerns.

"I think the settlement is awful," Dubal said. "Until drivers have the right to collective bargaining and to address the issues of car maintenance, insurance coverage and stable income, the companies will continue to ignore their concerns."

Life as an independent contractor isn't all that rosy. A former Uber driver, who requested anonymity because she's involved in litigation following a collision with a drunk driver, spoke of the near impossibility of earning a living wage as

a driver. "The expenses are steep. You pay Uber \$20 for the GPS software, your insurance, which if you're truthful with the insurance company — that is, you tell it that you're driving for hire — costs a fortune. Plus gas, oil and maintenance on the car — all adds up. You're constantly out of pocket. And guess what? If your riders rate you below 4.5, you have to pay \$100 to go to Uber school to improve your attitude and public presence before you can go back to work. And the city wants their cut now. It's a rip off in my opinion." ■



KEN FISHER

# Little houses for homeless

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

operates 10 "transitional encampments" serving about 450 people, about 20% of that city's homeless population, a church's generosity was key to getting the program started.

"A church has the right to do this because it's protected under the Constitution, the right to provide sanctuary," Cynthia Roat, president of Greater Seattle Cares, told The Extra.

That was a key in Seattle, where the concept of "transitional encampments" is well-established. They got their start in 1990 when the Immaculate Conception Church's offer of space for a shelter helped resolve a dispute around a tent city that had formed near the Kingdome after the Goodwill Games.

This prototype of a Saint Francis Village structure to temporarily house the homeless was built on a base of two wooden pallets. The design includes a window, locking door, a fold-up desk and shelving.

Last year, Seattle passed legislation written by Mayor Edward Murray to sanction three little-house camps for up to a year, with a possible year's renewal, to serve up to 100 people each.

Saint Francis Village organizers are hopeful that having mobile housing structures may provide some freedom from building codes, as has proved the case in Ventura, which operates a similar program. But in San Francisco, their slide-show points out that Police Code Sec. 97 bars the use of vehicles for human habitation on public property such as residential neighborhood streets.

In Seattle, however, accommodations have been made. Weiss and Fisher are hoping that keeping their structures mobile will make them eligible for similar leniency if they can't get around that regulation by setting up

on private property.

Another key question is what sort of documentation is needed to assure landowners who might be willing to offer their property for a Saint Francis Village pilot program that doing so would be permissible in the city's eyes. So far, their efforts to do things strictly by the book, Weiss says, have been frustrated by a lack of buy-in at No. 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place.

"That's the real story," she told The Extra. "It's doable if we're able to get the city to be a partner."

"I've got a lot on my plate," Dodge admitted. "I don't have lots of open land at my disposal. We are working diligently to open two more Navigation Centers, four more buildings with supportive housing." But, he said, "Whenever we bring on extra supply, it really would be utilized. It really is evident to me that there is a strong demand for shelter."

Weiss says that, in a city where many are seeing declining membership, she's so far been unable to find a church that has appropriate space available, "espe-

cially if it means giving up parking space for Sunday."

But she's gotten Lava Mae, which provides mobile shower facilities, on board with her project and expresses confidence in her ability to raise private donations and sufficient volunteer muscle to make it all happen once she gets a green light.

"No matter where they (Saint Francis Village) go, they'll get pushback from the community," Kelly Cutler, of the Coalition on Homelessness, told The Extra. "It's very rare, kind of unheard of, a 'welcome!'"

Weiss says that since the November election she's been spending from a quarter to half of her time advancing the Saint Francis Village vision. She and Fisher have raised \$5,000.

In Noe Valley, not far from the JungleStairs project, Fisher's residence is doubling as a construction space for a prototype of the small homes the co-founders of Saint Francis Village hope to provide (see photos). As of press time, it's taking shape, but it still lacks wheels. ■

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**ADAM ANDERSON**  
**'He changed my life'**

Twenty people waited patiently at the Baldwin Hotel for the start of the March 4 memorial to their friend and fellow resident Adam Anderson. The delay, Quest4Life lay priest Mira Ingram told The Extra, was because Mr. Anderson's fiancée, Gretchen, had not yet arrived.

The Baldwin, at 74 Sixth St. next to the SFPD's hub, is on the still-scruffy stretch of Sixth, half a block from the mid-Market Street gentrification. Mr. Anderson, a Baldwin resident for two years, died Feb. 9 at age 43.

On a table at the front of the community room was a photo of Mr. Anderson and Gretchen alongside a spring bouquet of white hydrangeas, bluebells, roses and calla lilies. A poster nearby held handwritten messages to Mr. Anderson: "Be an angel and watch over us at the Baldwin," "RIP, my brother from another mother!" and more.

Gretchen, who didn't want to give her last name, arrived toting bags of food with Codei, the couple's Rottweiler, on a leash. Pale and tearful, she gasped at the large group turned out for the sendoff, then breathlessly poured out her thoughts.

"He would have hated this," she said, "but this is for us. He was an amazing man. We knew each other for two years and spent six incredible months together. We had a home to go to. We met when he was helping me for three days — I was trying to get to Hawaii.

"So many people have come up to me because he was well-respected. He did his job and did it well. Adam didn't believe in heaven — he believed when you died you went to sleep.

"I can just say, hold on to whatever comes to you. Don't pass it up. We all have something to give to someone. He had my back and I had his. He changed my life. This place, the Baldwin, sucks, but if I could find him in the Baldwin,



COURTESY BALDWIN HOTEL

**Adam Anderson and Gretchen.**

anyone can find someone."

When Gretchen went to the kitchen to arrange the food she'd brought — Mr. Anderson's favorites, she said, including split pea soup and fried rice with pineapple from nearby Tu Lan Vietnamese restaurant — Robert Kinyon got up to speak.

"I met Adam when we both moved here two years ago," Kinyon said. "It was stressful and we wound up watching a movie and eating something awful, some shit on a shingle." They did many things together: "We loved to burn cockroaches together," he laughed.

On one of their last visits, they watched the movie "Act of Valor," which ends with a poem by Native American Shawnee Chief Tecumseh. Kinyon read the poem to the mourners. It says, in part: "Live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart. ... Prepare a noble death song for the day when you go over the great divide. ... Show re-

spect to all people and grovel to none. ... Abuse no one and no thing, for abuse turns the wise ones to fools and robs the spirit of its vision. ... Sing your death song, and die like a hero going home."

Yvonne King, who holds Bible study sessions at the Baldwin, read from Matthew 13:45, then passed out cubes of bread and small paper cups of grape juice. That prompted Gretchen to tell the group that Mr. Anderson "was an atheist until his last few months."

In his prime, she said, he traveled all over, "to Thailand and lots of places. He boxed. He was open to everyone but, like all of us, he had sad stories. He loved Steely Dan. He lived in Modesto and he loved the rain. He was a foodie — please eat."

As the mourners did just that, Gretchen told The Extra that Mr. Anderson was born in Oakdale, lived in Humboldt County and moved to the Tenderloin from Amsterdam 10 years ago. Asked if he had worked, she hesitated.

Kinyon helped out: "He was an entrepreneur, well-known at lots of medical marijuana clubs when they first started."

Ingram, who had been scheduled to officiate at this memorial, sat at the side of the room throughout, ceding that role to those who knew Mr. Anderson best.

— Marjorie Beggs

**ZSA ZSA ROUNDTREE**  
**Colorful character**

It's a rare occurrence when one person bears two movie stars' names, but Zsa Zsa Roundtree filled the bill.

Ms. Roundtree had been homeless — one of the city's more than 6,500 — for 10 years until she accepted Tenderloin Housing Clinic's offer last year, landing first at the Pierre Hotel, then, since October, at the Vincent Hotel, a rugged SRO on one of Turk Street's harsher blocks.

Ms. Roundtree was 50 when she died Feb. 26.

At a memorial for Ms. Roundtree March 8 at the Vincent, a small group gathered. Robert, a Housing Clinic custodian, swept the floor and wiped down tables in the common area, where typed schedules of Warriors and Giants games were taped on the wall. The TV was off, THC staffers arranged chairs and sat alongside Ms. Roundtree's neighbor, Donna Silifaive, as lay priest Michael Mallory solicited memories, reminding the group: "The great mysteries of life are revealed to us in death."

Jeffrey Kiefer, case manager at the Pierre, where THC manages 87 SRO units, described Ms. Roundtree as "one of the most colorful characters I have ever met." It shocked Kiefer when he learned how long Ms. Roundtree, who had grown up in the city, had been without shelter. "I'm honored to have known her," he said.

Another staffer described her as "vibrant." She added, "I thought it bothered her that she couldn't look as good as she wanted." Another recalled Ms. Roundtree's penchant for bold styling: "I loved her eye shadow — vivid color blocks of blue and green, even red and yellow sometimes — and she wore flowers in her hair. She'd come from her room and ask, 'How do I look?' She kept little bird figurines on her window sill, all covered with sparkles."

Ms. Roundtree did not live in the past, nor did she share her history. Someone asked, "Was she an actress, maybe an entertainer?" No one knew.

Silifaive, a retired Tides Foundation records manager, mentioned Ms. Roundtree's sweet and open nature. "She always spoke to me. She'd invite me into her room for coffee or tea. Once, she showed me a cabinet full of her large makeup collection. She was very proud of it. You know, I think she wanted friends, someone she could



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**Department of Elections**

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**June 7, 2016**

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May 9 – June 7

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## OBITUARIES

trust. I can't imagine what living homeless does to you. She was lonely," Sili-faive said.

As the memorial ended, someone remembered Ms. Roundtree's love of horror movies.

Down the block from the Vincent, a bundle of addicts gripped the corner of Turk and Hyde streets. They eyed passersby, playing the endless game — Who's holding, who's looking to sell or willing to share? ■

— Jonathan Newman

### GLENN LAPINE Smiled through trouble

Glenn LaPine lived 25 years at the Alder Hotel on Sixth Street. Through good times and bad, remodels and retrofits, Mr. LaPine maintained his home, a tidy enclave decorated with plants and personal mementos. In the past year he spoke of returning to his boyhood home in Portland, Ore., finding a house where he could garden and grow flowers. He had begun a small savings account to achieve his dream.

Mr. LaPine died at the Alder April 4. He was 67.

Friends and neighbors gathered at the Alder 10 days later for a memorial to Mr. LaPine. Kathryn Benton, minister with Episcopal Community Services, standing before a small table decorated with flowers, veladoras and a framed photograph of Mr. LaPine smiling broadly, evoked Shakespeare's lines from "Hamlet" — "All that lives must die, passing through nature to eternity" — and asked the assembled for remembrances of their friend, the hotel's longest-tenured resident.

Mr. LaPine's humor, passion for life and love of cooking were fondly recalled, particularly his ability to craft wonderful meals using his microwave

and two-burner stove top.

"Glenn would take from our weekly food pantry offerings, but he was picky about the meats and poultry he cooked, shopping carefully for the best. He cooked well, and he shared his foods," said Salvador Meza, case manager at the Alder. "He could be doctrinaire and he liked to rile people up, but he was able to admit his mistakes. He always had a smile, even if he was troubled."

A mention of Mr. LaPine's recent job by his neighbor Frank Williams brought laughter from the group. "Glenn would get all dressed up, jacket and tie, and go up the block to Dr. Sinow's optometry office. He'd sit in the waiting room all day. He was the security. I think he got paid \$5 each time," Williams said. "But, you know, he fought the good fight. Sure, he was outspoken. He spoke his mind and his heart and damn the consequences. He told me he was once the best drag queen in the city. In his mind he was everything at one time."

For Mr. LaPine the difference between fantasy and reality was often of small consequence. His love of plants and how he would name and nurture each one was remembered.

"Once he gave me a plant and told me about how much sun and water it needed. 'But Glenn, I said, 'this is a fake plant. It's plastic.' He told me that didn't make any difference. I still had to take care of it the right way," a neighbor recalled. ■

— Jonathan Newman

## ERRATUM

*In the obituary in the March issue, the deceased should have been identified as Vittorio Fatemi and his mother as Yvonne Kins.*



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



The Knox



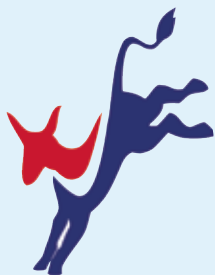
Bayanihan House

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 \$607 Monthly rent \$607 Utilities included

TDD: (415) 345-4470



# CENTRAL CITY DEMOCRATS

THE CHARTERED DEMOCRATIC CLUB  
FOR SAN FRANCISCO SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 6

## Club Recommendations for the June 7, 2016 Election

President: Hillary Clinton; U.S. Senate: Kamala Harris; U.S. Congress, D12 - Nancy Pelosi;  
U.S. Congress, D14 - Jackie Speier; State Assembly, D17 - David Chiu; State Assembly, D19 - Phil Ting;  
State Senate, D11 - No Endorsement; Superior Court Judge, Seat 7 - Victor Hwang

### San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee, AD 17

Alysabeth Alexander  
Tom Ammiano  
John Burton  
David Campos  
Petra DeJesus  
Bevan Dufty  
Jon Golinger  
Frances Hsieh  
Rafael Mandelman  
Sophie Maxwell  
Aaron Peskin  
Gladys Soto  
Cindy Wu

### San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee, AD 19

Angela Alioto  
Keith Baraka  
Sandra Lee Fewer  
Hene Kelly  
Eric Mar  
Trevor McNeil  
Myrna Melgar  
Norman Yee

### Propositions:

- A Public Health & Safety Bond - NO
- B Park, Rec and Open Space Fund - NO
- C Affordable Housing Requirements - YES
- D Office of Citizens Complaints Investigations - YES
- E Paid Sick Leave - YES
- AA SF Bay Clean Water - YES
- 50 Suspension of Legislators Amendment - NO ENDORSEMEMNT

Paid for by: Central City Democrats P.O. Box 420846 San Francisco, CA 94142, (415) 339-8683 (VOTE)



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Howard Grayson LGBT Elder Life Conference.** May 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Cadillac Hotel, 380 Eddy St. Celebration of Compton's Cafeteria Riot 50th anniversary, co-sponsored by the Tenderloin Museum. Free event includes museum admission, refreshments, entertainment. Info: Sue Englander, (415) 902-9358

## ARTS EVENTS

**Thursdays@Noon films,** Main Library, Koret Auditorium. Theme: All about libraries and librarians. May 5, "Desk Set" (1957); May 12, "Storm Center" (1956); May 19, "Party Girl" (1995); May 26, "The Music Man" (1962). Info: sfpl.org.

**Resistance,** a multidisciplinary exhibition by 11 visual artists presented by the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center, May 6-27, SOMArts, 934 Brannan St. Free admission during gallery hours. Opening reception May 6, 7-10 p.m. Info: somarts.org.

**Judy Yung's San Francisco's Chinatown,** Main Library, Latino/Hispanic Rms A & B, May 7, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., reading, book sale and signing. Co-sponsored by SF State's Asian American Studies Department. Info: sfpl.org.

**Phonographic Memory** storytelling event, May 26, Main Library, Rms A&B, 6:15-7:45 p.m. Bring a vinyl record, play a song, share an 8-minute story about the song. Info and registration: <http://tinyurl.com/jyyp79x>.

**2017 Art on Market Street Kiosk Poster Series** call for professional, practicing artists to design six original posters for three-month exhibitions, 8th Street to the Embarcadero. Applications due June 6; 2017 theme is The Summer of Love (50th anniversary). Info: <http://tinyurl.com/j56y3o3>.

**Hospitality House 31st Annual Art Auction,** June 3, 6 p.m., Luggage Store Gallery, 1009 Market St. Sale of neighborhood and nationally renowned artists' works to benefit Hospitality House programs. \$50 at door, \$40 advance tickets: [hospitalityhouse.org](http://hospitalityhouse.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 Ligia Montano, 546-1333 x315.

**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](http://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: [pwdf.org](http://pwdf.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, 3 p.m., Kelly Cullen Community Building, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor auditorium or 5th floor gym. Public invited to discuss legislation that encourages corner stores to sell fresh food and reduce tobacco and alcohol sales. Info: Jessica Estrada, [jessica.healthyretail@gmail.com](mailto: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 IMPROVEMENT

**Alliance for a Better District 6,** 2nd Tuesday of month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or [sf\\_district6@yahoo.com](mailto: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 month, 3 p.m., 519 Ellis St. (Senator Hotel). Contact: 563-3205, x115, or [centralcitysafehaven@gmail.com](mailto: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 Thursday of month. (See My Take page 2)

## 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](http://www.sdaction.org).



PHOTO: IVAN VERA

**Artist Jeff Roysdon's "Prozac," 2016, mixed media, is one offering at Hospitality House's annual art auction.**

## DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR

**Jane Kim,** chair, Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, Transbay Joint Powers Authority Finance Committee and S.F. County Transportation Authority Vision Zero Committee; temporary member, Budget and Finance Committee; member, Association of Bay Area Government (ABAG).

Legislative aides: April Veneracion, Barbara Lopez and Ivy Lee.

Jane Kim@sfgov.org 554-7970

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