

The return of mid-Market Redevelopment

PAC reconvenes — dusts off plan in limbo 5 years

BY MARK HEDIN

FOR decades, San Franciscans and their public servants have agreed: Something must be done about mid-Market. Since its heyday the blocks Fifth Street to Eighth, a once-burgeoning, family-oriented theater district, have deteriorated until now there are 27 boarded-up properties.

Mayor Newsom waded into the morass in January, announcing a Central Market Partnership “to renew and coordinate efforts to revitalize” the neighborhood, through redevelopment.

To this end, the Redevelopment Agency, backed by a near million-dollar budget, is reconvening the Mid-Market Project Area Committee (PAC), a group representing neighborhood residential and commercial tenants and property owners, businesses, civic, social service and arts and cultural organizations, to formulate plans for both sides of Market from Fifth Street to just across 10th

Street, including saw-toothed blocks north of Market and on the south side roughly to Minna Street.

The committee now being reconstituted — 12 of its 33 seats were open for voting at an April 28 meeting — was first convened in 1995. A

plan was finalized 10 years later in 2005, but only after 97 meetings, 183 subcommittee meetings, 14 community workshops and 172 community group meetings, documented in 16 newsletters, some published in four languages.

The 2005 plan called for dedicating \$100 million to housing, with the expected addition of 3,300 new dwelling units, 32% of them — a projected 1,221 units — to be permanently affordable. Art and culture was to get \$40 million to refurbish theaters and meet the needs of non-profit arts, cultural and entertainment organizations. The plan also called for phasing out adult-oriented venues through attrition.

Overall, the plan anticipated

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NO. 100

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MAY 2010

10 YEARS, 100 EXTRAS

Newspaper reaches a major milestone

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In afterlife it'll be a happenin' hotel

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LUNCH: SENIORS ONLY

They get more than a meal

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CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

'SELFLESS'



PHOTO COURTESY JANICE MERCER

Sam Varnado, shown here in his apartment in 2004 with his cat, Mimi, was a formerly homeless, recovered alcoholic dedicated to others.

Sam Varnado, 59

He always came to the aid of alcoholics, addicts

BY TOM CARTER

THE impact Sam Varnado had on the lives of alcoholics and addicts was in great evidence at his memorial service April 13 in a community room of a low-cost family apartment building at 555 Ellis St. One by one they stood, gave their first name, declared their addiction, got greeted noisily by the others, then told of their experience with the charismatic man they said never stopped giving of himself. Some said he saved their life.

Mr. Varnado's fervent message that they counted for something — even when they were soiled and wallowing in a gutter someplace — gave them strength and hope to carry on, they said. Indeed, they agreed that Mr. Varnado would drop everything in a second to come to the aid of an alcoholic in trouble.

Some sentiments were delivered through tears as more than 40 mourners — the majority of them in recovery — told how special Mr. Varnado was to them.

A Vietnam War veteran, Mr. Varnado died March 30 at Veterans Administration Hospital after battling liver cancer for five weeks. He was 59. From his Facebook page it was known he attended college in Arkansas in 1972 and came to California a year or two later.

“He was an amazing man,” said Rev. Glenda Hope, executive director of Network Ministries, who conducted the memorial. She had known Mr. Varnado since 1996. She let him run AA meetings at the Network Ministries office.

“They called it Sober Across the Board,”

Hope said. “And it was (held) in our former 366 Eddy St. space until we moved in our computer center and then it went to the William Penn Hotel at 160 Eddy.”

Mr. Varnado, once a homeless alcoholic, led the sessions for more than 10 years at 8 a.m. six days a week, convinced that same time, same place was essential — safe familiarity for anyone in need. His “keep coming back” invitation became his mantra. And on Sundays, Mr. Varnado volunteered all day at Laguna Honda Hospital.

“Sam was an extremely selfless person and gave all his time and energy to others,” said his friend, Abdi Habad, who had visited him in the hospital. “Sam related to other addicts and alcoholics in a special way because he knew the suffering of addiction.”

Mr. Varnado was an imposing figure — well over 6 feet tall, handsome, with a bass voice and warm smile that had wondrous melting powers.

“He'd stop me on the street and say, ‘Come to a meeting,’” said one woman. “He helped me save my life. He was there no matter what shape you were in, even in the gutter.”

“He was there 24 hours for everybody,” said one man. “He was a patriarch and mentor, a friend to everyone,” said another, as more stood and tried to find fitting phrases equal to the love that welled up:

“He never met a stranger.”

“He was a stalwart, the JFK of recovery.”

“He was smart as a whip — he helped me with my English composition when I was in school.”

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PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

This boarded-up stretch is in the 900 block of Market Street.

GOOD NEWS for...

HELP WITH MEDICARE Under rules for the Medicare Savings Program revised this year, it's easier than ever for low-income people to get help paying for prescription drugs or other Medicare-related expenses. What others give you to pay for food and shelter no longer counts as income, and life insurance policies are no longer considered assets. To see if you qualify for the program and for assistance enrolling, contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center, 487-3370 or 509-3608. The center is operated by Episcopal Community Services of San Francisco located at Canon Kip Senior Center, 705 Natoma St.

HEALTH IN THE HOOD Affordable yoga is coming to the Tenderloin, starting May 3. Tenderloin Neighborhood Association, a new resident-run nonprofit with interests in health, safety and land use, is sponsoring the donation-only monthly class, which will be taught by a certified yoga instructor and is open to all ages. It meets the first Monday of the month in the multipurpose room at 201 Turk St., 6-7 p.m. "Yoga is an essential relaxation tool," said Kai Wilson, co-organizer of the class and the association's acting president. "A donation-based class is as close to reasonably priced as you can get." No need to sign up — just RSVP to tenderloinneighborhood@yahoo.com and come with a yoga mat or bath towel.

THE CITY'S FIRST- through fifth-graders are invited to compete in the First Tenderloin Youth & Family Track and Field Meet to be held at Boeddeker Park, May 28 at 4 p.m. Eddy Street will be closed for an hour between Jones and Taylor streets for the 50-yard and 100-yard dashes, and the park will stage the standing long jump and the softball throw. Awards will be given and food and beverages will be served. The event is presented by the MacCanDo Tenderloin Youth Track Club and its coach and founder, Robert McDaniels, the meet's director. Children must pre-register at their elementary schools, or in after school programs, by May 20. No drop-in entries will be accepted.

100 The Extra reaches a milestone: 10 years of community service

CENTRAL City Extra Issue 100 comes in our 10th year as the newspaper of the Tenderloin, Sixth Street and the western SoMa.

We published Issue 1 in March 2000, after the Lower Eddy/Leavenworth Task Force selected the nonprofit San Francisco Study Center to produce the community's newspaper.

In this decade, change has come to the central city, and The Extra has been there to track it — from Brad Paul's "To hell and back," a housing history of the Tenderloin in our first issue, to last month's 99th issue with its "Tenderloin moments," remarkable memories of the neighborhood through the eyes of seven people who make a difference here. For our 100th issue, we flipped through the pages, looking at some of the story highlights:

Obituaries — The Rev. Glenda Hope of San Francisco Network Ministries encouraged us to write obituaries of the Tenderloin residents whose memorials she and others officiated; thus was born The Extra's most popular feature, with 206 obits of people who otherwise would have passed unnoticed published so far.

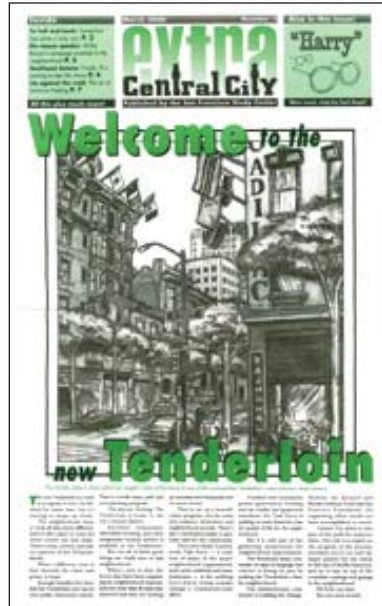
SRO mailboxes — The Extra has closely followed this story of the battle to bring individual mail delivery to SROs, because the tenants now are permanent residents — thanks to nonprofit developers, master leases and Care Not Cash.

The Live-In Thief — We detailed the incredible story of a Grant Building squatter who had a set of master keys and, off-hours, went office to office, commandeering computers for endless hours of Internet porn, taking purses, wallets and anything else he wanted. Until we caught him.

Bedbugs — Cyclical infestations have been consistently reported in The Extra. We have followed epidemics, explained the cause of the outbreaks and detailed various treatment.

Art Beat — Ed Bowers, The Extra's art critic, writes about the neighborhood with the passion of a resident and perceptions of a poet. A high point: "Will Bark for Food" in Issue No. 86. Bowers' monthly Ground Zero poetry readings gained popularity and have established the 21 Club as an arts venue.

With the aid of San Francisco Foundation's Koshland Program, The Extra crosses Market Street to



Our first issue: March 2000.

cover Southside stories, especially chronicling Sixth Street's evolution from Skid Row to a happening club-and-dining destination on the upswing.

It was with the assistance of Koshland and South of Market community leaders that in 2009 we were able to produce "Help," a 48-page directory of private services both north and south of Market.

The paper has covered crime and safety from before the Tenderloin Police Station opened. We report on the monthly community meetings there and spikes in various crimes. A highlight of our crime coverage was Tom Carter's personal account of thwarting his own attempted mugging on Turk Street.

The YMCA, Salvation Army's Kroc Center, Glide's medical clinic, TNDC new housing, Boeddeker Park, St. Anthony's tech lab, Hospitality House, Original Joe's, Hastings garage, the annual S.F. Fringe Festival, Tenderloin Futures Collaborative meetings — these and many other events, institutions and neighborhood changes are regular subjects of our stories. So, too, are pot clubs, politics, land use, liquor licenses, Muni service, neighborhood characters, community courts, tobacco laws and recycling.

An important scoop was in August 2005, when The Extra revealed that San Francisco's population was, according to the state Department of Finance, almost



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

SPJ ANNOUNCES 2009 EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM AWARD WINNERS

"...The Unsung Hero Award goes to Geoff Link, publisher and editor of the Central City Extra... Through its community-oriented reporting and a dedication to providing nuanced coverage of a marginalized community, the paper publishes local news, human-interest profiles and obituaries with humanity, intimacy and candor."

Announcement of award.

800,000. As a new census begins, people now understand the importance of a full count.

"Information Gap" in June 2009 detailed the erratic publishing and library posting of mandated annual reports from city departments, thus depriving the public of useful information about services and budgets.

Our mid-Market series with its vacant-storefront survey and comprehensive ownership and sales data continues in this issue with the Grant Building and Redevelopment updates.

There's much more. But to still be here today — preparing for No. 101 — is testament to The Extra's commitment to the central city, an extension of the Study Center's 38 years of active neighborhood participation. In our 1973 book, "Understanding San Francisco's Budget," we told groups how to navigate the city's process and try to get a piece of the action. Five years later, we produced "Tenderloin Tomorrow," the community's blueprint for a brighter future, and served as consultant to the Tenderloin Times.

It is a privilege to continue to write about the people — and the forces that impact their lives — who live and work in the most exciting, artful and soulful, historic and storied section of San Francisco, its central city neighborhoods. ■

Sincerely, Central City Extra
Staff, Board, Editorial
Advisory Committee

The North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District

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"The Central City Extra is a valuable neighborhood resource that understands and regards our community's concerns."
-Elaine Zamora, District Manager
North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District

For more information on the North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District please contact Dina Hilliard:
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Check out our website!
www.nom-tlcbd.org

Congratulations to the Central City Extra on its 100th edition!!!

Read Elaine's Personal Story and Neighborhood Accomplishments on www.elainezamora.com
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Last gasp of a landmark

1905 Grant Building in its final throes as a liberal legend

BY GEOFF LINK

THE Grant Building — 1095 Market St. at Seventh, built in 1905 — is among the oldest on this part of Market and has the most storied history. It's been a great office building for 105 years, but won't be after 2012.

A populist haven for decades, the eight-story Grant Building has been like a Civic Center annex, housing professionals, small businesses, city commissions and major nonprofits. An understated benefit of working here, all 140 offices in the building have windows; on the west side some open to a dramatic view of City Hall.

The Grant Building has withstood two Big Ones, and weathered the dot-com boom and bust. But it won't survive the central city's transformation to a tourist destination, which the new owners are betting \$25 million will be the neighborhood's next era.

The Grant Building is mostly vacant. Only two nonprofits — San Francisco Study Center and Community Housing Partnership — remain. New owners Peter and Simon Johnson are awaiting city permits to gut the building and turn it into a 94-room hotel with a basement nightclub, ground-floor bar and restaurant, and rooftop garden and bar.

When Study Center moved in, March 1972, Peter Doyle, grandson of our 25th mayor, James Phelan, managed the Grant Building. An imposing portrait of grandpa hung on the wall behind the personable Doyle's desk.

Joseph Grant built two other Grant buildings: the Adam Grant Building on Sansome Street and one in Oakland. In 1925, he sold 1095 Market to ex-Mayor Phelan's Improvement Co. Phelan had founded the Improvement Co. in 1907 principally to acquire land at Market and Grant to erect the Phelan Building.

As with most mid-Market properties, the Grant Building ownership was stable for decades at a time, in this case until the 1980s. Then it began to turn over — and over and over again.

Nate and Myra Berkowitz bought the Grant Building from the Phelan Trust in February 1989. "It was underwater," Nate Berkowitz recalls. The Berkowitzes managed the building fairly and flexibly, accommodating tenants with month-to-month leases that were little more than handshakes. This was the Grant Building's heyday as a bastion of the left, home to public servants and professionals who served the community.

A decade later, in March 1999, as the dot-com boom began its crescendo, the Berkowitzes sold the building for \$4.5 million to two partners who, five months later, flipped it to Seligman Western Enterprises, a Michigan company with several San Francisco holdings, doubling their money.

Seligman intended to gut the building and build floor upon floor of computer workstations. It would be a digital age replica of the sewing machine sweatshops at 1035 Market, another property Seligman bought at the same time and did rebuild.

But before Seligman could shoo the tenacious tenants out of the Grant Building — aided by Supervisor Daly, they put up a heckuva fight — the

bloated dot-com bubble burst and took the Midwesterners' speculative plans down with it.

Seligman got rid of a lot of tenants after a feisty battle that turned ugly. But Study Center stuck it out, never got involved in the name-calling, and, after Seligman watched its digital dream die, signed a five-year lease with a five-year option. And we exercised before the Johnsons stepped in from Down Under and took over the building. Immediately, they set about getting rid of tenants who didn't have binding long-term leases.

The Johnsons play hardball and make it difficult for the remaining nonprofits to serve their clients by requiring photo IDs for them to get upstairs to counselors. Signs are posted by the elevators warning those who enter the building of its potential collapse in the event another Big One hits. Certainly it's a prudent business move, though many clients see it as a scare tactic.

The Johnsons have been true to their word, and have honored the leases of the remaining nonprofits. They even helped lingering latter-day tenants Agape Foundation and Green Action, which held on until March, with their move while forgiving the remainder of their leases.

Now it's like sailing on a ghost ship, with just two floors of offices coming and going and the elevators not stopping on every floor, when both are working.

The Johnsons bought the Grant Building from Seligman in April 2008 for \$9 million, just what Seligman had paid in August 1999. They're eager to realize their dream. However, building permits must be approved and a time-consuming environmental impact report is required — that could take as long as our leases last. And after we're all gone, Simon Johnson expects construction to take 14 months while providing jobs to 320 people.

Berkowitz doesn't think a hotel is "the right thing." He says the Grant Building should remain offices. But the Johnsons believe "it's a great location" for a hostel hybrid, a mix of San Francisco boutique hotel and a happening hostel in Europe or Australia.

Simon Johnson, 31, is Grant Building manager and project manager of the makeover. He's been to culinary school, chafed around a bit, and will oversee the food, the bar and the rooms, one floor of which will be for women only. He's lived in San Francisco since 1984. His mother is on the board of Larkin Street Youth Services. And he believes Market Street will become a tourist magnet soon.

"The street has great potential," he says. "It's a fine street, not worse than any other in the city." Since buying the Grant Building, Johnson says, "I notice closures on Union and Chestnut streets

more than on Market." Noe Valley's bustling 24th Street, too, has been suffering.

He expects the hotel — with the Grant Building's rich liberal history, transit-heavy location, rockin' nightclub, full bars and comfort food bistro — will appeal to young global travelers. The kind who can afford to stay on the move and party wherever they stop.

Smack in the hip center of the city, the hotel is not going to be like others in San Francisco, Johnson says. He's hoping it will catch the neighborhood on the way up, and will be the right thing in the right place at the right time.

"It's like taking a lemon Starburst," he says, "and putting it with a cherry one, and getting an entirely new flavor." ■

Jonathan Newman contributed to the historical research in this story.



The Grant Building was left standing April 18, 1906, and swayed but didn't break on Oct. 17, 1989.



From our 100 years to
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Thank you for giving a voice to the Tenderloin.

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Lunchtime for seniors in the central city

Good food, pleasant company and, of course, the price is right

BY TOM CARTER

MUCH has been written about the free lunch, so little about the \$1.50 to \$2 lunch. Poor and low-income seniors all over town know they can shun soup kitchens, pay a little, and get a big difference, whether it's lunch in a senior center or at a church. It's like switching to a loge seat from the bleachers, or bus ride to a taxi.

At senior lunch sites, Tenderloin seniors remove themselves from the hoi polloi. No standing outside in line at St. Anthony's with younger people and the occasional ill-mannered rowdy. No sitting in cramped quarters in noisy settings. No getting rushed out to make way for others, either.

You get a smaller, more genteel community and the opportunity to make friends among your peers. Sometimes there's a movie or music and a chance right there to hook up with social programs. The food's pretty good, too, nutritionally balanced and with seconds, when available.

One reason seniors have it so good come lunchtime is that the lion's share of their meals are subsidized by the city. The Department of Aging and Adult Services bankrolls lunch at 42 sites serving those age 60 and over. Its \$8 million budget provides 1.7 million lunches and breakfasts to San Francisco seniors and disabled adults; about a million of those meals are delivered to housebound people. The department uses 15 food providers, including one in the Tenderloin, Project Open Hand at 730 Polk.

The subsidized lunch sites ask seniors discreetly — maybe just a sign on a jar — for \$1 to \$2 donations. Few respond. Seldom does a donation jar end up with even \$20, and for most, the cheap lunch from the city becomes the free lunch.

"We have more demand than we can handle," says Department of Aging Director Anne Hinton. "We keep being asked by the sites for more (lunches). We can't. We've been fortunate that we haven't had to cut our budget." Much of the money comes from the state and the feds, and they "encourage" sites to ask for donations, Hinton says.

"A lot of people sign up (for meals) because of the diversity we deliver — Japanese food, kosher, Chinese, Latino and Southern style. The last thing we need is seniors not eating. That's the slippery slope of bad health, and it can lead to dementia."

The seven sites in the Tenderloin and SoMa serve an average of about 500 seniors per lunch. (See sidebar page 5.)

KROC CENTER

On a recent Monday, Bill Utzig regarded his full plate of Salisbury steak with mushroom gravy, boiled potatoes, turnips and carrots, beets and fruit, plus a half-pint of milk.

"Oh yeah, pretty good," Utzig says, digging in. He and four others are seated at a round table big enough for eight in the dining room of the Salvation

Army's Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center on Turk Street.

Across from him is Mary Vitale, her white hair set off by a jaunty red beret that matches her sweater. She has just offered him her 4-ounce steak, and he has gratefully accepted.

Many of the 26 seated seniors know each other by name or face. Sometimes 50 occupy the main-floor room. A dozen others come in for takeout lunches. Every diner without exception, management says, has signed at the desk for a lunch before 11 a.m. and paid \$1.50.

The food comes from the Salvation Army kitchen at 850 Harrison St., where Anthony Pardi has put together the meals for three years. His fare, as fresh as he can make it, comes mostly from the Food Bank and goes out each weekday to sites in four neighborhoods.

Yolanda Shiffer heads the Kroc Center kitchen staff that apportions the lunches. Volunteer waiters serve them to the tables where the Salisbury steak aroma has already enticed the diners.

"We're not a restaurant and we're not a soup kitchen," Jack Harmon, a waiter three days a week, says as he passes by with two hot plates. "We're a senior meal program and we're very cheerful."

Vitale and Utzig talk quietly about other senior meals in the city. Utzig is a student of senior lunch offerings and generous with his information, recommending Muni lines and walking directions to his favorite sites — Old First Church on Sacramento, the Russian Center on Anza Street, the Jewish Community Center on California.

"But the tables are too close together at the Jewish Community Center," Vitale says. "I always go there, though, when I have an upset stomach because the food is bland."

JCC charges \$2, as does the Russian Center, where Utzig will go Tuesday.

"Stuffed peppers," says Utzig. "Delicious. They cook them right there and bring them to you hot. You take the 38-Muni, but not the Express, and walk just a couple of blocks. But you have to call them a day ahead between 2 and 3 p.m."

There were leftovers, so Utzig got a plate to go.

CURRY SENIOR CENTER

Also handy in the Tenderloin is lunch on the second floor of the Curry Senior Center, at 333 Turk St. It got so popular that it doubled in October. The center, which had been serving lunches since 1972, went to two 90-seat sessions, at 11 a.m. and noon. The sessions average 162 diners. That's seven days a week, 365 days a year, or 59,130 meals a year.

"It (the patronage) has increased dramatically," says Curry Executive Director Dave Knego. "At the end of the month it's more. March 31 we had 185; April 2 (when government checks began arriving and more seniors splurged on restaurants) we had 140."

Project Open Hand prepares the Curry fare that's planned by a nutritionist, and Andy Burns, on loan from Open Hand, runs the lunch period. At the beginning of the month, Burns makes a pitch for a \$2 donation, "but there's no pressure." The cash box averages about \$5 a session, Burns says, perhaps "a generous" estimate.

The figure doesn't surprise Aging's Hinton.

"I'm assuming people can't afford it," she says. "Some places they pay a little more and elsewhere maybe just a quarter. They have very fixed incomes that have gone down while prices of everything have gone up. The SSI cost of living was discontinued last year and dropped from \$850 to something like \$790. And a lot of seniors think when they're old all medical costs are taken care of. That's not the case."

Jim Hall, 66, partially blind ("I can see shadows") and suffering from diabetes and depression, is a four-year regular at the Curry Center, where his donation is determined by his medical expenses. He worked 15 years loading Sacramento Bee and Chronicle delivery trucks until he was disabled. Now living on 15th Street, he gets \$780 from Social Security

and \$173 from SSI, down from \$183 in 2008.

"I'll give \$15 to \$30 here, depending on what I have left after Medicare (expenses)," he says, at a table between Curry lunches.

Seniors start lining up outside the building shortly after 6 a.m. On this early April weekday, 50 people were in line by 7:30 a.m..

The menu is turkey sloppy Joes with vegetables, berry pie and milk. Chicken is always a favorite and would have attracted an additional 10 diners, Burns guesses.

At the first table, though, the Joes, healthy as they are, aren't a complete success. An Asian woman sidles up to Stephen, 63, who doesn't want his last name used, and strikes a deal: her plate for his milk. It's a good trade for Stephen. On his way home he'll take the meal to an 85-year-old blind lady friend.

"What do I like about this place?" repeats the buoyant Stephen, a five-day-a-week regular. "Her company." He shoots a smile across the table at Dorothy Carberry, 88. "And the entertainment, the staff, the food, the beautiful women! Shall I go on?"

Carberry doesn't like the sloppy Joe, either. "I like turkey plain," she says.

"But the meals are good and wholesome," says Stephen. "And you don't have to rush. It's really community, and you get to know everyone." Carberry gets up to leave. "Don't pick up any sailors on the way home," he says, and she grins back.

CANON KIP SENIOR CENTER

Each weekday, beginning at 8:30 a.m., seniors sign up for one of the 85 lunch tickets at Canon Kip Senior Center at 705 Natoma St. The Department of Aging lunch is offered by Episcopal Community Services, which runs Canon Kip.

Felicitas Juridico, 79, has been coming here since her husband died in 2007. Almost every day she puts a little something in the donation jar. But money is so scarce that when a man last weekend was told about the donation jar, he caused a stir by dropping in a \$5 bill.

"You need to ask, and say please," Juridico says. "If you keep quiet, it doesn't happen."

Monroe Gaines, 72, has been coming here three years. A former volunteer at St. Anthony's and Hospitality House, he now volunteers here seven days a week handling chairs for the center's events and eats here five days a week.

"It's my second home," Gaines says, working away on chicken and vegetables.

Episcopal Community Services recently conducted a 2009-10 consumer satisfaction survey: 76.5% of the 88 who completed the survey said the food was good or excellent. The survey also showed that 80% ate at least twice a week at Canon Kip and 37% were daily diners.

Gaines, a 40-year city resident who lives with his daughter on Potrero Hill, said once a month he puts \$20 in the donation jar.

But for some, the Canon Kip lunch is a lifeline for the penniless. Carol Trufant, 68, is a mental health professional and K-12 teacher who fell on hard times a year ago. She worked in family and group therapy for years but as jobs dried up she turned to substitute teaching.

Her last job was with the Mount Diablo Unified School District in the East Bay. It ended April 2009 and she came to San Francisco desperate to find work.

As her funds ran out she had to choose where to put her SSI and Social Security dollars. They went for professional licenses and certificates and a half-dozen classes that keep her qualifications updated. She also pays for a business license for her counseling company, Intergroup Resolutions.

"No one will hire someone who isn't current," she says calmly, offering a weak smile as she pushes aside her empty plate. "The renewals and courses are expensive. One renewal was \$140. But I have to have these in place if I want to re-enter the job market."

Every day she scans computer screens in the city's libraries frantically looking for jobs, and then uses her free, disabled transportation pass to travel throughout the Bay Area tracking down leads.

"I'm living in shelters, one near here now, with ex-cons, prostitutes and drug addicts," Trufant says, "And I get very tired being on a computer all day."

It's the closest thing to a complaint she utters.

"No, I didn't make a donation today," she adds in her calm, sweet voice. "My last dollar was for a medical expense to keep myself healthy. I have a quarter. It's for coffee tomorrow." ■



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Mary Vitale and volunteer waiter Jack Harmon linger after lunch in the Kroc Center's dining room, where diners pay \$1.50 and Harmon keeps the atmosphere light and friendly.

Senior-only lunches in central city

THESE are seven senior lunch sites in the Tenderloin and SoMa open to the public. All but the Kroc center participate in the Congregate Lunch Program through the Department of Aging and Adult Services and ask for a donation. At Kroc, there's a \$1.50 charge.

Joan and Ray Kroc Corps Community Center, 240 Turk St.
Buy \$1.50 coupon at desk, 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Meal type: American-Western
Mon.-Fri., 11:30 a.m.-12 noon

Gene Friend Recreation Center, 270 Sixth St.
Sign up 10:30 a.m. to noon
Meal type: Filipino-Latino
Mon.-Fri., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Canon Kip Senior Center, 705 Natoma St.
Sign up all morning, starting at 8:30 a.m.
Meal type: American-Filipino
Mon.-Fri. and 3rd Sat., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Curry Senior Center, 333 Turk St.
Sign up all morning, starting at 7:30 a.m.
Meal type: American-Western
Mon.-Sun., two seatings, 11 a.m. and noon

Downtown branch SF Senior Center, 481 O'Farrell St.
Sign up 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
Meal type: American-Western
Mon.-Sun., noon – 12:45 p.m.

Southeast Asian Senior Meal Program, 315 Turk St.
Sign up 11 a.m.
Meal type: Chinese
Tues., Thur., Fri., noon – 1 p.m.

Woolf House, 801 Howard St.
Sign up 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., day before
Meal type: Chinese
Mon.-Fri., 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

NOMBA

North of Market Business Association

NOMBA's members recognize the significant contributions of Central City Extra

Founding Members (partial list):

Anu Bar (Bar)
43 Sixth Street; 931-7292

Best Impression Quality Printers
366 Tenth Street; 552-2401

Bourbon & Branch (Bar)
501 Jones Street; 713-8182

Gask Store (Beverage Retail)
17 Third Street; 281-6486

Central Towers Market (Grocery Store & Liquor)
352 Turk Street; 771-7999

Club 222 Hyde (Bar & Restaurant)
222 Hyde Street; 345-8222

Downtown Grocery (Grocery Store & Liquor)
289 Eddy Street; 673-5745

Garland Public & Community Relations
535 Green Street; 956-0279

La Parrilla Grill (Restaurant, Delivery & Catering)
1760 Polk Street; 359-1212

Law Offices of Mark E. Rennie
870 Market Street, Suite 1260; 981-4500

Lot 46 Night Club & Lounge
46 Geary Street; 677-9029

Max Muscle (Sports Nutrition)
1346 Polk Street; 931-3920

Rickhouse (Bar)
246 Kearny Street; 398-2827

Rosebowl Forest & Wine Bar
601 Van Ness; 474-1114

Sfprint.com (Copy, Print, Design)
500 Larkin Street; 346-3777
1008 Mission Street; 522-0777

Southern Adventure Bay Alliance (SABA)
Travel, Notary Public, Document Filing Service, Postal Services, etc.
201 Turk Street, Suite C; 814-3691

Soluna Café & Lounge
272 McAllister Street; 621-2200

Sudachi (Japanese Sushi, Bar, & Korean BBQ)
1217 Sutter Street; 931-6951

Swig Bar (Bar)
561 Geary Street; 931-7292

Tip Top Grocery Market
Fresh Meats & Produce, Deli, Dairy, Canned & Frozen Foods, General Store
90 Turk Street; 771-8100

UPS Store
Shipping, Packing, Fax, Copying, Mailbox Services, Notary, Office Supplies
601 Van Ness Avenue, Suite E; 775-6644

NOMBA is an unincorporated membership association organized to improve the North of Market commercial environment.

More info: nomba@att.net
<http://nomba.cfsites.org/>

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The central city congratulate



The Central City Extra has been a fantastic resource and means for the neighborhood. By spreading and disseminating information about local issues and upcoming events, we as a neighborhood have been able to make the necessary advances to make our community a place where we can all live.



James Keys
DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISORIAL CANDIDATE



Central City Extra—strengthening community through communications, strengthening communications through community.



Sandy Close
EXECUTIVE EDITOR AND DIRECTOR, NEW AMERICA MEDIA



When I want to know what is happening in and around the Market Street I turn to the Central City Extra. They have great informative stories, give the residents and merchants, and highlight the positive side of our neighborhood.



Carolyn Diamond
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MARKET STREET ASSOCIATION



Congratulations and information



Exit Theater is proud to celebrate Central City Extra's first 100 issues, and we're looking forward to the next 100.



Christina Augello and Richard Livingston
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND MANAGING DIRECTOR



Congratulations on your 100th issue, and best of luck with the next 100.



Zane Kaplan
OWNER OF KAPLAN'S



The Extra is important to us because through the obits they pay respect to our friends who die in the Tenderloin.



San Francisco Network Ministries staff



On behalf of Tenderloin Board, staff and clients, we would like to thank the Extra on its 100th issue. Our agency has benefited from The Extra for many years. We look forward to continued collaboration in the future. Here's to another 100 issues of the Extra, as it continues to be a vital voice to the Tenderloin and Civic Center.



Central City Extra's impact has been profound. Like the Tenderloin Times two decades ago, it is THE source of information for what is happening in the neighborhood, and it serves as a unifying force to foster a shared understanding among all the people who live and work here.



Donald S. Falk
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TENDERLOIN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Since many Uptown Tenderloin residents do not use the Internet, the Central City Extra is an indispensable resource for community news.



Randy Shaw
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TENDERLOIN HOUSING CLINIC



Reporter Tom Carter was instrumental in helping me expand to a nonprofit organization that has and will impact the Tenderloin Community for years to come.



Robert McDaniel
FOUNDER, DIRECTOR AND HEAD COACH, MACCANDO TENDERLOIN YOUTH TRACK CLUB





s The Extra on reaching 100

Rooted in the legacy of the Tenderloin Times, Hospitality House appreciates the contribution of the Central City Extra as a voice for the community.

Jackie Jenks
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL CITY HOSPITALITY HOUSE



A giant leap for The Extra in successfully reaching its 100th publication, affirming its status as a sounding board for the community to learn about the variety of issues that affect it, and to also be heard. Central City Extra creates a stronger community of which Hastings is a proud neighbor.

Leo Martinez
ACTING CHANCELLOR AND DEAN, UC HASTINGS COLLEGE OF THE LAW



The Central City Extra has been an important part of the neighborhood newspaper association in San Francisco, covering one of the city's most important neighborhoods.

Paul Kozak
TRUSTEE, SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



The Extra tells our neighborhood's real stories and has revitalized the local paper. Congratulations!

Community Housing Partnership staff



We appreciate Central City Extra's special role of being an independent voice and beacon for the needs and aspirations of the people and organizations that are so vital to this community. Their continued success is a benefit to us all.

Wayne Barcelon
ARCHITECT, BARCELON & JANG, ARCHITECTS



Congratulations to Central City Extra on your 100th issue! We appreciate your coverage of the vibrant and underserved communities of the South of Market, Tenderloin and Central Market.

Jenny McNulty
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, URBAN SOLUTIONS



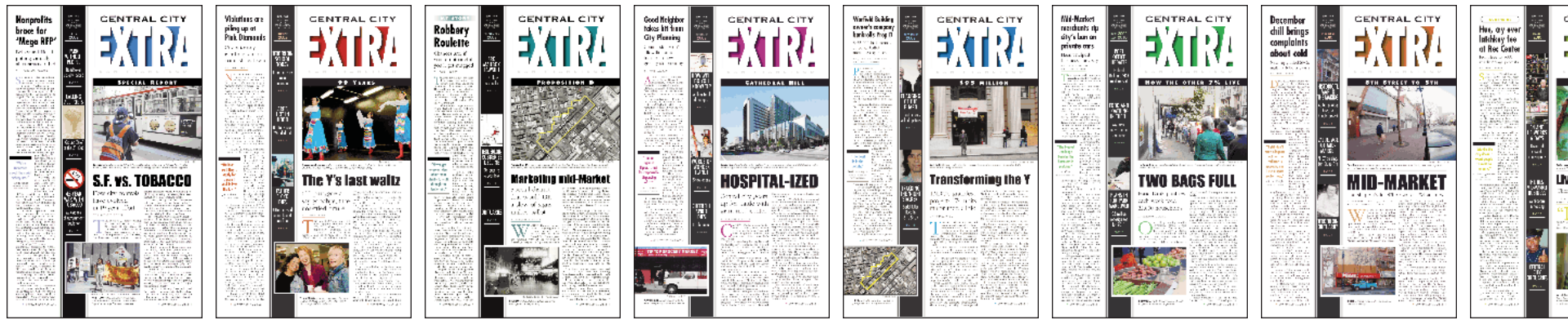
Central City Extra is a true community newspaper, which gives voice to a community that needs to be heard. Congratulations, Central City Extra, on your 100th edition!

Linda Pasquinnucci
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ST. ANTHONY FOUNDATION



Central City Extra is a shining example of a credible neighborhood-focused newspaper. This publication continues to be an invaluable resource for the entire Central City community.

Tomiquia Moss
COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER, SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA CITY & COUNTY SAN FRANCISCO



Mid-Market PAC regroups after 5-year hiatus

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

having \$199 million from property taxes to work with over its 30-year lifespan. Among other things, it proposed spending \$30 million of that on infrastructure improvements, \$20 million on small business development, historic preservation, building rehab and façade and ground-floor tenant improvements, and \$7 million on planning and community outreach.

After the Redevelopment Agency Commission approved the 2005 plan, the proposal won the Planning Commission's blessing, then was presented to the Board of Supervisors and died a quiet death.

"It never made it to a hearing," Redevelopment's Mike Grisso said. There was "never any discussion."

The plan was last spotted in January '06 at the board's Land Use Committee. But in a January interview, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, who chaired that committee, claimed she couldn't remember what happened to the plan.

Supervisor Daly, whose District 6 includes the entire area under discussion, ignored repeated requests from The Extra for comment, though he is routinely fingered as the one who killed the Central Market Redevelopment Plan.

Supervisor John Avalos, Daly's assistant when the plan came to the board, painted an abstract picture of city politics that is, in part, an exercise in horse-trading. It went like this: If Daly, for whatever reason, wasn't supporting a redevelopment plan for his own district, other supervisors, who might need his support for efforts closer to their respective homes, weren't likely to defy him on such a project, whatever they thought of its merits, Avalos said.

"I can remember being upset at the PAC board for always asking, 'What does Daly think?'" said Carolyn Diamond, executive director of the Market Street Association, a major player in the planning effort from the beginning.

"I just think Chris Daly didn't like the whole idea of gentrification," she said. "Meanwhile, Market was crumbling. It still is."

And so, at the behest of the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, 21 members of the PAC reconvened March 31 at the Art

Institute of California — for the first time in nearly five years — to begin anew the work of setting a redevelopment plan in motion.

"We think the landscape has changed," Economic and Workforce Development staffer Rich Hillis says. "Everybody we've talked to wants to see more investment in Market. It's possible that when this comes before the board, they'll be more amenable."

Redevelopment Agency Project Area Manager Lisa Zayas-Chien, who led the meeting, is soliciting volunteers for the 12 vacant seats on the PAC. Four of those are allotted to residents but Zayas-Chien says she's received no applications for that category.

Renoir Hotel owner Byron Yee chaired the PAC in its previous incarnation and has returned for the latest effort. He admits he "was disappointed" that all the committee's work "was derailed at the last minute," but says now, "maybe there's a different feeling about what can and should be done."

As to the goals of the effort, the housing "has moved forward. The economic components have not moved forward," Yee said, citing the boarded-up storefronts. "The whole idea is to make the area vibrant, with all sorts of storefronts, restaurants and venues that people would feel comfortable coming to."

Once the new members are voted in, the first order of business will be to review the previous plan's elements to determine which need updating.

Zayas-Chien said that although "some of the groundwork has been done," she nonetheless expects developing a new plan to take at least a year.

Another original PAC member who's back for the renewed effort, Theatre Bay Area's Brad Erickson, spoke for many when he challenged the group: "The problem last time was a political problem. I would hate to see it stall out."

"I don't have a magic answer to that," Zayas-Chien conceded, but promised: "We're going to get a lot of support from the mayor's office and keep the board in the loop. We can only do our best."

The elephant in the room in these conversations is that Supervisor Daly will have been termed out of office before the new plan is anticipated to be finalized. In March 2005, as the plan neared completion, he criticized it for "not doing enough to address our affordable housing needs."

Given that the plan mandated a much higher proportion of affordable housing (32%) than the city typically requires (12%), many found his position inexplicable.

Nonetheless, in the intervening years, some of what the plan hoped to accomplish has come to pass. A Central Market Community Benefit District created in 2007 has won praise from merchants for helping to maintain order through two-man teams of "community guides" who patrol the hood, apply a little heat and offer a bit of help.

And, according to the Redevelopment Agency, 320 new units of affordable housing have opened in the area since 2004, the biggest of which, Mercy Housing's 136 units at 10th and Mission streets, constituted the agency's largest single investment to date in affordable housing (\$54 million). Another 107, targeted for seniors, will be completed this summer at the Edith Witt project at Ninth and Jessie streets.

In conversations with The Extra, Hillis has suggested increasing outdoor, street fair-type market activity in U.N. Plaza; augmenting the CBD's community guides program to reduce crime; and coordinated efforts by the Arts Commission, Grants for the Arts and the Tenderloin Economic Development Project to transform the area into a cultural arts district.

Exit Theater and the Gray Area Foundation for the Arts have been awarded façade improvement grants, and Hillis' office, the Arts Commission and Grants for the Arts have applied for \$250,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts for "these types of investments" and an extension of the Art in Storefronts program, intended to make vacant storefront space more attractive to potential tenants, such as arts organizations.

The \$954,000 that Redevelopment has earmarked for the project in 2010-11 includes \$120,000 for a historic building and district survey; \$664,000 for environmental and redevelopment plan adoption documents; \$150,000 for the PAC, community outreach and public notices; and \$20,000 for legal costs. The money comes from existing Redevelopment Agency funds, Redevelopment's historic fund committee and a loan from the city's General Fund. ■

The San Francisco Public Library presents

National Older Adult Month Resource Fair

Saturday, May 8, 2010
Noon-4 p.m.
Latino-Hispanic Community Meeting Room
Main Library, Lower Level

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JUNE 8, 2010 STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION

This June, San Francisco voters will nominate candidates for partisan offices in a statewide primary election, as well as vote on 5 state and 7 local ballot measures.

San Francisco, your vote is your voice! Register, get informed, and make your voice be heard!

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May 14, 2010, 1- 5 p.m.

Koret Auditorium, Main Public Library

Larkin at Grove Streets
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Limited Space— First Come, First Seated

Visit www.sfdbi.org for more information



Sam Varnado

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I never saw him alone — he was always with someone."

"He made me feel peaceful and hopeful, and I kept coming to meetings because of Sam."

"He taught me it's never too late to be of service."
"We had wonderful conversations."

An example of Mr. Varnado's enterprise came in 1990 when he walked into Daniel Bacon's law office wanting to sue his landlord. He and Bacon shared the same doctor, who encouraged patients to network.

The story was that Mr. Varnado had moved out of quarters owned by a nonprofit, and after he left, his government checks arrived and they cashed them but didn't tell him. The amount was under \$5,000, then the limit for Small Claims Court action. Bacon couldn't represent him there, but he advised Mr. Varnado, who then represented himself in an impressive voice and won.

"A few thousands dollars," Bacon said after the memorial. "I don't remember where he lived — it was 19 years ago and the first time I met him."

"But when he was in my office," Bacon continued, "Sam saw a stack of outgoing mail that was to be served on people. He said, 'Hey, I can do that.' And he became a process server for me. He worked at a credenza in my office and took other lawyers as clients, too, and formed his own company, Quick Serve."

"He worked part-time. But when he was there, and anyone called and needed help, he'd leave right away."

As the memorial concluded, a man stood and sang a cappella "Let There Be Peace on Earth" in a flawless and dynamic baritone.

Rev. Hope assured everyone then that Mr. Varnado "wasn't perfect" — there may be "unresolved anger and sorrow and grief in the room." But that the things Mr. Varnado stood for — "reaching out, befriending and standing with people in recovery and being there for anyone" — are beacons to follow.

Mr. Varnado was to be cremated and his ashes buried April 23 at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon. A memorial was to be held for him May 2 at Laguna Honda Hospital. ■

HERBERT IVAN SCHWARZ Found dead in his room at age 39

Remembered for keeping people laughing as well as driving them nuts, Herbert Ivan Schwarz was a friend, fellow resident and client of the 20 mourners who gathered at The Coast for his March 30 memorial.

"Ivan — we knew him as Ivan — came by to see me every day," said Coast resident Sabrina Pickford. "He did my dishes and emptied my garbage and insisted on coming with me when I went outside."

Pickford, crying throughout her remembrance of Mr. Schwarz, said that now when she hears people coming down the stairs, she "keeps hoping it's him, my friendly neighbor," and tries to keep the good times uppermost in her memory. "He could be a real nuisance, but he always cheered me up."

Pickford added that Mr. Schwarz was more than just a friend. "Sometimes it was like he was my sister from another mother," she said. "Our families pushed us away because of our sexuality. He told me he was always trying to make his family happy, but couldn't."



PHOTO COURTESY SABRINA PICKFORD

Herbert Ivan Schwarz and Sabrina Pickford

Mr. Schwarz died in his room at The Coast, 516 O'Farrell St., where he had lived for two years. A resident said he was discovered March 23 during a routine pest control inspection and had been dead at least a week. Mr. Schwarz was not yet 40.

"I saw him the week before last — we were supposed to go to a pizza party, but I didn't want to take his friends so I didn't take him," said another friend. "I don't feel guilty, but I am angry with myself. He invited a lot of crappy people into his life. Maybe it would have been better if I had taken him."

He said he used to tease Mr. Schwarz about his mixed parentage — his Guatemalan mother and Jewish father — and wished his friend was still here to tease. "I am glad I knew him."

David Selogie, who hadn't known Mr. Schwarz long, said he was "a touching, caring, sweet person who kept me feeling young." Luis Chable, a friend of 19 years, said they had worked together at the Stinking Rose, a North Beach restaurant famous for its garlic dishes.

A.J. Fiorella was Mr. Schwarz's case manager for the half-year before he died. "Herbert was full of life and energy, always willing to tackle anything," Fiorella said. "He always helped out — but he also could be a pain in the butt. He made me earn my paycheck. It's tragic to lose such a spirit — it's what makes me want to do my work well. He forced me to grow."

Mr. Schwarz's maternal aunt and a cousin, both Bay Area residents, attended the memorial and, with the mourners' permission, videotaped them as they shared memories.

The tape, they said, would be sent to Mr. Schwarz's mother in Guatemala. ■

—MARJORIE BEGGS

BYRON LEE Faced adversity with strength

Like many Tenderloin residents, Byron Lee finished his life surrounded by people who didn't really know him.

Mr. Lee died of chronic kidney failure March 18 at 990 Polk St. senior housing, where he spent his final 18 months. He was 63.

Staff and residents gathered April 6 in the building's sun-drenched community room for a service in his memory led by Rev. Glenda Hope.

No one knew where he grew up or who he had loved, whether he had gone to college, been in the service or fathered children, although a hotel staff member mentioned that Mr. Lee, who used a wheelchair, at one time had been a Tenderloin hotel desk clerk.

But, according to his mourners, Mr. Lee's cheerfulness and quiet strength spoke volumes about the man. They mentioned his easy smile and ready laugh, and his ability to elicit the same from others. "He had a wonderful sense of humor," said Adrienne Wynch, a registered nurse at the hotel. "He loved puns, made plays on words. He always brightened my day."

Resident Mary Ann Humphrey said Mr. Lee's smile caught her eye long before she knew who he was. They were both patients at Laguna Honda and often passed in the halls before finally meeting while signing up to move to Polk and Geary in 2008. "He always had a smile for me — there was an unspoken bond between us," said Humphrey. "But he was a very private man. No one knew much about him."

His next-door neighbor, who ruefully observed that Mr. Lee wasn't the quietest of neighbors, said Mr. Lee enjoyed music. "I didn't talk to him much, but he was very nice — once he just sat there and listened to me while I sang."

Humphrey agreed that music appeared to be one of Mr. Lee's pleasures. "He didn't attend many functions, but he did come to the ones where there was music," she said.

Staff and residents noted that Mr. Lee had lost both legs. Whether due to injury or disease, no one could say, but they agreed that he handled his condition with quiet courage. "Whatever he was facing in his life, even if it was adversity, he faced it with strength," said staffer Steve Ball.

Mr. Lee's forbearance also made an impression on staff member Kristi Lambert, who recalled passing him on the street one day. He was stopped in his electric wheelchair, they exchanged greetings, and she continued on her way. Later, she learned that his wheelchair battery had run out of juice, leaving him stranded.

"He'd been stuck outside all night and slept in his chair," she said. Mortified by what had happened, she apologized for passing him by. But Mr. Lee didn't appear to be angry or hurt. "He said he'd slept outside before," she said. "His approach to life was very easygoing."

"We won't forget him," said one resident. "He kept to himself, but he made everyone laugh."

"That's a big gift," noted Rev. Hope, before leading the group in a final prayer for Mr. Lee. ■

—HEIDI SWILLINGER

SENIOR COFFEE CHATS

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JUNE 8th PRIMARY ENDORSEMENTS



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Central City Democrats is a chartered Democratic Club affiliated with the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee serving those who live and work in District 6

Seeking new members for strength and empowerment. Join us today.

Statewide Candidates

Governor - Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown
Lt. Governor - No Recommendation
Secretary of State - Debra Bowen
Controller - John Chiang
Treasurer - Bill Lockyer
Attorney General - No Recommendation
Insurance Commissioner - No Recommendation
Superintendent of Public Instruction - No Recommendation

Other Candidates

U. S. Representative – District 8 - Nancy Pelosi
Board of Equalization – District 1 - Betty Yee
State Assembly - District 13 - Tom Ammiano

Superior Court Judge

Seat 6 Linda Colfax
Seat 15 No Recommendation

Statewide Measures

Proposition 13 Seismic Retrofit YES
Proposition 14 Open Primaries NO
Proposition 15 Campaign Finance YES
Proposition 16 2/3 Vote Public Power NO
Proposition 17 Auto Insurance NO

Local Measures

Measure A School Facilities Special Tax YES
Measure B Earthquake Safety Bonds YES
Measure C Film Commission Members No Recommendation
Measure D Retirement Benefits Change YES
Measure E Line Item for Police Security No Recommendation
Measure F Renter's Financial Hardship No Recommendation
Measure G Transbay Center Policy YES

Democratic County Central Committee District 13 (Up to 12)

60% Endorsement Winners: Michael Goldstein, Rafael Mandelman
Remaining Top Vote Getters: Joe Julian, Hope Johnson,
Carole Migden, Debra Walker, David Campos, Alix Rosenthal,
Melissa Apuya, Aaron Peskin, Keith Baraka, Scott Wiener

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Asian Heritage Street Celebration, May 15, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Civic Center to Little Saigon, Larkin Street from Grove to Ellis, free. Asian American artists, DJs, arts and crafts, Mah Jong section, Filipino American jazz, a balut eating challenge, wine area, martial arts, Muay Thai kickboxing ring, j-cars, free hepatitis B screenings and more. Info: asianfairsf.com

ART EVENTS

Giant Bones, a new play by Stuart Bousel, based on Peter S. Beagle's "Innkeeper's World" stories of fantasy. EXIT Theatre, 156 Eddy, 8 p.m., Thu., Fri., Sat. May 7-June 19. Tix: Conlan Press tinyurl.com/gbtix and Brown Paper Tickets brownpapertickets.com/event/109549

Three Heads Six Arms, dedication ceremony of the 15-ton, 26-foot-tall copper sculpture by Shanghai artist Zhang Huan, May 12, 10 a.m., plaza across from City Hall. Also, free public program that evening at Asian Art Museum, 7-8 p.m., 200 Larkin St., featuring Zhang Huan in conversation with museum Director Jay Xu.

Bone to Pick and Diadem, new plays by Eugenie Chan, directed by Rob Melrose. EXIT on Taylor, 277 Taylor St., May 21-June 20. Tix: brownpapertickets.com

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

Supportive Housing Network, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., Dorothy Day Community, 54 McAllister. Call: 421-2926 x304.

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

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of the month, 5-7 p.m., CBHS, 1380 Howard St., room 537. Call: 255-3695. Advisory group of consumers from self-help organizations and other mental health consumer advocates. Open to the public.

Health & Wellness Action Advocates, 1st Tuesday of the month, 5-7 p.m., Mental Health Association, 870 Market St., Suite 928. 421-2926 x306.

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

Hoarders and Clutterers Support Group, Mental Health Association, 870 Market, Suite 928. Call for dates and times: 421-2926 x306.

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

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-S.F., 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Family Service Agency, 1010 Gough St., 5th Fl. Call: 905-6264. Family member group, open to the public.

SAFETY

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training (NERT). Central city residents can take the S.F. Fire Department's free disaster preparedness and response training at neighborhood locations. See www.sfgov.org/sffdnert, or call Lt. Arteseros, 970-2022.

SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly e-mail info: Meital Amitai, 538-8100 x202 or mamitai@iisf.org.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of the 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 the month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com, a districtwide improvement association.

Central City Democrats, meets four times a year, 301 Eddy St. Community Room. Info: 339-VOTE (8683).

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

Community Leadership Alliance. Last Wednesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Infusion Lounge, 124 Ellis St. Information: David Villalobos, 559-6627, admin@communityleadershipalliance.net.

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Boeddeker Rec Center, 240 Eddy St. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact Betty Traynor, 931-1126. Boeddeker Park cleanup, 3rd Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.-noon, organized by Friends of Boeddeker Park. To RSVP to work or for information, call Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5 p.m. Board works to protect SoMa resources for children, youth, families and adults. Gene Friend Recreation Center, 270 Sixth St. Information: 538-8100 x202.

North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Full board meets 3rd Monday of every other month, 5:30 p.m., 134 Golden Gate Ave., 292-4812.

SoMa Leadership Council, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., The Arc, 1500 Howard St. at 11th. Emphasizes good planning and good government to maintain a diverse, vibrant, complete neighborhood. Contact: Jim Meko, 624-4309 or jim.meko@comcast.net.

South of Market Project Area Committee, 3rd Monday of the month, 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom St. Health, Safety and Human Services Committee meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday, 1035 Folsom St., noon. Information: 487-2166 or www.sompac.com.

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 11 a.m.-noon, Tenderloin Police community room, 301 Eddy. Presentations on issues of interest to neighborhood residents, nonprofits and businesses. Information: tifutures.org, 820-3989.

Tenderloin Neighborhood Association, 2nd Friday of the month beginning in June, 631 O'Farrell St., 4:30 p.m. Nonprofit focuses on health and wellness activities to promote neighborly interactions. Info: tenderloinneighborhood@yahoo.com.

SENIORS AND DISABLED

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

Senior Action Network, general meeting, 2nd Thursday of the month, 9 a.m.-noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. Monthly programs, 965 Mission St. #700: Senior Housing Action Committee, third Wednesday, 1:30. Call for info on health program and Senior University: 546-1333 and www.sfsan.org.



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