

Free toilet opens in TL

CBD funds W.C. at Rescue Mission — 3-month pilot

BY TOM CARTER

A NEW, free public toilet in the Tenderloin is expected to bring some blessed relief to the neighborhood after years of complaints in community meetings and to the police over people using sidewalks as bathrooms.

The Tenderloin Community Benefit District has contracted with the San Francisco Rescue Mission to open a unisex bathroom for the public five days a week starting Feb. 1. The Mission's bathroom at 140 Turk St. is about 60 feet straight back from the entrance and visible behind a small stage. It will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, the neighborhood's only free toilet open all day weekdays, except for the Main Library which is open seven days.

The program is a three-month pilot that ends May 1. From the CBD's \$1,300-a-month grant, the mission will hire a monitor to safeguard the toilet and collect data. If

the data demonstrate a need is being met, said Dana Hilliard, acting CBD manager, the program will be refunded.

The budget didn't include a line item for plumbing repairs, an omission some people in the know say may come back to haunt the project.

The Rescue Mission's Clint Ladine, also the CBD's recently elected board president, said he had "thought of" the plumbing issue but hadn't acted on it. He indicated the Mission would pay any plumbing costs.

"We'll just eat it," he said. "Or, maybe we'll get lucky."

The project adds one toilet to a short list of free ones at Hospitality House's Self Help Center, 290 Turk St.; Youth With a Mission, 357 Ellis St.; Boeddeker Park and the Main Library. But it doesn't make up for the facility that was closed years ago

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CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO

'FINAL DIGNITY'



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Rev. Glenda Hope reads scriptures on a Leavenworth Street sidewalk where a 20-year-old father, who had grown up in the Tenderloin, had been shot to death Aug. 27 in North Beach.

The Tenderloin closer

Rev. Glenda Hope gives residents a caring sendoff

BY TOM CARTER

WHEN someone dies among the Tenderloin's poor there's a crying need for a dignified closure for the life that has passed, regardless of how it was lived.

One person, more than anyone, has answered the call to perform this final task. She's 5-foot and rail-thin and at 74 has grandmotherly gray hair. Sometimes she's mistaken for a nun because of her clerical collar. She has fearlessly traversed the seedy hood's unforgiving streets for more than three decades on her way to honor the dead in ceremonies in low-rent hotels.

Rev. Glenda Hope, the closer, is a fixture among the residents who may one day unknowingly receive her services. In a low voice tinged with a Southern drawl — her ice-blue eyes soft and compassionate — she bestows on prostitutes, drug addicts and dealers, robbers, alcoholics and the mentally troubled the identical reverence she gives to the disabled, low-income workers, immigrant families and pensioners who dominate the central city's demographics.

Her last name — like a beacon to the city's sketchiest neighborhood — is from her late husband, Scott Hope, a San Francisco State University education professor, who died in 1997.

"The memorials are a final dignity to those who couldn't have them," Hope says. "They offer a place of comfort and the beginning of healing for mourners."

Most memorials take place in SRO lobbies or community rooms, which vary from threadbare and musty to clean and cheery. Sometimes only a couple of people show up and a few who do may not have even known the deceased. Memorials with 40 to 50 mourners are exceptional. A bouquet or two is always on a table in front, sometimes photos, cards and mementos. Mourners are anxious for closure, yes, but a side attraction to the event is free food, often ethnic fare — from Filipino to soul food — and always with sugary baked goods. The largesse is donated by the hotel, or social workers, less often by family and friends.

After acknowledging the deceased and quoting the Bible, Hope asks for reflections from the mourners. Life is hard in the Tenderloin and the remarks are often revealing.

One widow, a little tipsy at the 11 a.m. rite, regretted she hadn't seen more of her late husband. The reason, she said, was that he had spent so much time in jail. Asked later if he had done anything well, she said without blinking, "Sell heroin."

Another time, a dolled-up woman said what a wonderful guy the deceased had been, but she had known him "years ago in New Orleans when he was a waitress." One man confessed his friend was a real "son of a bitch."

"Sometimes I get surprised," Hope says. "I've had to handle some sticky wickets. Sometimes people don't know when to stop."

In June 2004, Hope contacted Central

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PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Carlos Jackson of the Rescue Mission shows the free toilet.



Beaming constituents and supporters, in the audience during Kim's swearing-in, surround her afterward in the hall outside her new office. Her speech included thank yous in both Korean and English: "I wouldn't be here if not for the community of support that brought me here," she said.



In her first speech in chambers, during the swearing-in ceremony, Kim reflects on her District 6 campaign: "[What] really struck me was the openness and the honesty of the residents ... and hopefulness. A lot of hopefulness."

PHOTOS BY MARJORIE BEGGS

Supervisor Kim: 'I will always listen'

CROWDS of family, supporters and media greeted Jane Kim and her newly elected fellow supervisors at the Jan. 8 swearing-in ceremony. Flashes from digital cameras sparkled throughout the room. Reporters sardined themselves into the press box while media photographers, still and video, angled for ideal shots of the four new board members.

Once they were sworn in and the full board elected its new president — David Chiu, who was nominated by Kim — the freshmen supervisors got a chance to make brief remarks and thank yous.

"The district that I'm representing is a passionate district ... a district that is dynamic, that is changing, that has an opportunity to be a model for the city of San Francisco, because it is both new and emerging and historic," Kim said.

She knew it would be a challenging district to run in because of its diversity, she said. But talking to the residents, she found they wanted the same things: more jobs, cleaner and safer streets, better schools.

"And they want it to be a place that's open to everybody. ... I support community-building," she said, acknowledging her work as a community organizer that began in Chinatown 10 years ago.

"How we change together is by caring about one another. ... I will always listen and be an open door." ■

— MARJORIE BEGGS



PHOTOS BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Left: Newbies take their seats: Kim sits next to the three other freshmen supervisors at their first full board meeting — Scott Wiener (District 8), Malia Cohen (District 10) and Mark Farrell (District 2). Supervisor David Campos (District 9) is at the end of the row. **Center:** During the full board meeting, Kim confers with Legislative Aide April Veneracion, formerly an aide to Chris Daly. Kim's first actions were a call for a hearing on pedestrian safety in SoMa and a request for a bedbug update. **Right:** Kim and District 1 Supervisor Eric Mar share a light moment in her new office, room 282. "I'm so happy to be working with him again," she told *The Extra*, citing the four years their tenures as members of the Board of Education overlapped. Kim, first elected to the school board in 2006, was named its president in January 2010. On her office walls are paintings of neighborhood residents by Tenderloin artist Hugh Leeman.

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Public toilet opens in TL

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at the Seventh and Market BART Station and the toilets closed at Tenderloin Health in summer 2009. The situation is dire, activists say.

"You have only to walk through the streets to know there's a need," said David Fernandez, TL Health's executive director.

The Hospitality House toilets have gotten 25 years of heavy use and have cost a bundle to keep fit, according to Program Director Jenny Wiley. Up to 300 people a day come in, half are homeless, most use the bathroom "or the phone and get a drink of water, or just to rest (in the lobby)."

The men's and women's bathrooms are open weekdays 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Often waiting lines stretch outside. The women's bathroom has two stalls; men have one stall and a urinal. Several times a day they are closed for cleaning and Mondays, from 10 a.m. on, during daylong staff meetings.

"We have two or three toilet stoppages a month," Wiley says. "It's everything from swimsuits and diapers to syringes, surprising things. And it costs thousands of dollars a year."

Other free public toilets in the Tenderloin are in the Main Library, preferred over City Hall where people must first pass through mental detectors upstairs, and at Youth with a Mission on Ellis Street. YWM's unisex bathroom is open Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:30 a.m. to noon. A visitor gets the key from the desk and has 10 minutes.

Boeddeker Park has a bathroom,

but it's open only when the park is. In recent years that's been greatly reduced for adults — weekdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Tenderloin trend has been a shrinking number of public bathrooms. The Market and Seventh Street BART Station's facility was closed several years ago. Tenderloin Health's budget crisis forced closure of its Community Center and its three bathrooms at 187 Golden Gate Ave. in the summer of 2009, putting more strain on the Hospitality House facility.

George Salet Plumbing has handled Hospitality House's calls for at least five years. "We see a lot of drug paraphernalia down the toilet. People are pretty rough. Sometimes they just rip it apart."

Replacing a toilet costs \$700 to \$800, he said.

But if people are respectful of the Rescue Mission toilet, he added, "it's probably going to be okay. Otherwise, it's a crap shoot."

Salet estimates plumbing repairs will average \$300 to \$500 a week, given the location and who will be using it. But because there is a toilet tender, he said, "maybe that's high. But it will be at least once or twice a month they'll need a plumber."

The CBD's pilot is budgeted for \$1,299.80 a month. The toilet tender will get \$1,174.80 and record the sex of the user and the time occupied. Among the nine supply items is a thoughtful \$5 a month for air freshener. But there's nothing for plumbing or contingencies.

"The monitor will encourage people to treat the toilet with respect," Ladine said. ■

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Does the neighborhood need this bathroom?

Asked along the 100 block of Turk Street



Matt T., San Francisco

Absolutely. Homeless people are drawn to this neighborhood, and they need a place to go to the bathroom. It's amazing how many people come here from other neighborhoods to hang out and drink, and there's just nowhere for them to go. We used to have 39 Fell (a homeless drop-in center), but when that closed, there's nowhere other than Glide and St. Anthony's. It's a quality-of-life thing.

Teresita Williams, San Francisco



Yes, if everyone can use it. If people can't find a bathroom, they use the street. It's definitely worth the money (it will cost to operate). It takes more money to hire an employee to clean up the street than it would to keep a public bathroom open.



Bill S., San Francisco

Yes. I see people urinating on the streets. They go into the local bar and don't even ask to go to the restroom — just go right in and use it. I think this bathroom is a good idea.

Christine T., Oakland



I don't think it's a good idea, because people will go in there and use drugs. That's what I used to do when I used drugs. If they have to go, they have shelters where they let you use the bathroom.

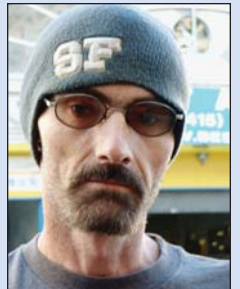
There are bathrooms everywhere — seriously! I think the bathroom (at Mission Rescue) is going to be misused. They could be using that money on something else.



Christy G., San Francisco

The neighborhood definitely needs this bathroom, because there are a lot of people who live on the sidewalks. I've been in that situation before — you're sick, you just have to go to the bathroom, and so you go (on the street). It's a bad feeling when you need to go to the bathroom and there's nowhere to go. And it can't be good for other people to be around urine and feces, especially a lot of people around here with compromised immune systems.

Chris W., San Francisco



Even if you're a customer at a restaurant they say you can't use the restroom. They'll say it's out of order — especially in the poorer neighborhoods. This neighborhood definitely needs more bathrooms.



Tim, San Francisco

People go to the bathroom on the street because of the lack of sanitary public restrooms. The few there are you don't even want to go into. When every store owner you ask says "No," you just gotta go where you gotta go. This is the first town I've ever been in where this is a problem. In other places, when you ask, they just let you go. I've walked down the street and seen people waving to me with their junk in their hands as they use the street for a restroom. I don't get angry; I understand — there's no where else to go.

Rev. Hope offers compassion

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City Extra and asked if we would cover the memorials. Thus began a working relationship that has produced several hundred obituaries, most for people whose names had never been in print before.

Occasionally, Hope accepts invitations to go out of the TL for people who have a neighborhood connection. Once, at an Outer Mission church, 100 mourners gathered for Hope's service for a former prostitute she had known many years and who had stayed at SafeHouse, a residence Hope co-founded for prostitutes seeking a way out of the life. Another time, Hope went to a small Inner Mission SRO and gave a memorial for a young gay Japanese American artist she didn't know, who had hanged himself. She blessed his room. In Golden Gate Park, she officiated at a memorial for a Vietnam War veteran.

Hope has given upward of a thousand of her simple, yet elegant, Judeo-Christian memorials. Other faiths and nonbelievers, she invariably says at the beginning, are welcome. This approach, she says others tell her, is what keeps requests coming for her. On a rare occasion, another minister, priest or rabbi will do a memorial in the Tenderloin. But Hope does two to five memorials a month, more in winter. People shut down in the cold weather, she says. It's dark and things die. She has seen it time and again. She gave eight memorials in November 2010. This is from a Tenderloin population of 30,000.

Hope believes that when homeless people, who often are in poor health, move off the street into permanent housing they may give in to what ails them and die not long after. "Nobody wants to die alone, so outside they fight to hang on," she says. "Then, when they move in, they find peace, safety and comfort, and they can let go." No studies back up her observation, but she's seen it happen, time and again, enough to know it's true.

HOPE'S PLATE IS FULL

Hope, who lives in the Crocker Amazon neighborhood, is executive director of San Francisco Network Ministries, the nonprofit she helped start in 1972. It ministers to the poor, especially women, in the Tenderloin and is a team ministry, she emphasizes, where everyone earns the same salary — "the world loves a star, but that is not, and should never be, the standard of a real ministry."

Network Ministries runs the Ambassador Hotel Ministry, SafeHouse, Tenderloin Community Church, the 366 Eddy St. Center and, with St. Anthony Foundation, a computer training center at 150 Golden Gate Ave. The Network Ministries headquarters building at 559 Ellis St., which it owns, also houses 38 low-cost, one- and two-bedroom apartments for poor families. It publishes the bimonthly Network Journal, which has 800 subscribers around the world.

But the memorials keep Hope in touch with the community in a way nothing else does.



Large turnouts like this one in 2004 at the Alexander Residence are rare and end, as all memorials

"The memorials started in '77 or '78," she says. "We had a Catholic sister on staff and she was visiting elderly people in the Dalt Hotel. In those days, the Dalt was for-profit, rundown and awful."

Sister Clare Ronzani regularly visited a diabetic woman named Ruth who was chronically depressed. One day, Ruth jumped out of a fifth-floor window.

"We wanted to do something and we didn't know what," Hope says. "Sister Clare and I called Dan O'Connor (at St. Anthony's), who was a priest then, and the three of us got the word out and went to the Dalt Hotel lobby for a memorial. We didn't know if anybody would show up. We didn't know what we were going to do, either. So we just made it up as we went along."

But the men turned up in suits and ties, the women in dresses. Sister Clare played the guitar and sang. The room was filled.

"Afterward, the cookies weren't very good and something like Kool Aid was served," Hope continued. "But everyone had had a chance to remember Ruth."

Word of the memorial spread.

"Hotel managers began calling us and city agencies who served the poor," she says. "Oh, it wasn't as many as we have now. But gradually the nonprofits, like TNDC, got involved."

GROWING UP

Hope's journey to the Tenderloin seems unlikely. She was an active little girl growing up in Atlanta, playing basketball at school and softball during the summer — "the only sports girls were allowed to play in those days," she says. "No track, which I regretted; I was speedy."

Hope got her bachelor's degree from Florida State in 1958, and two years later earned a master's from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Va. She came West to attend San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo and received her master's of divinity in 1969. She was 33 when she was ordained that May 17 at historic Old First Presbyterian Church where she was assistant pastor 1969-72, working with young adults.

She later was pastor at Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1978-89, in an arrangement that was off the Presbytery books and

unknown for years. She and four of her staff took turns preaching there to try to resuscitate a congregation that had shrunk to 15, while working fulltime in the TL. The "wonderful, progressive congregation," and a sanctuary church for Latinos, was on its feet and had grown to 120 when Network Ministries left.

Hope hadn't a clue she'd end up devoting her career to the Tenderloin. But she does what needs to be done, and that led her to the poorest, most crime-ridden neighborhood in San Francisco.

When Hope left Old First in November 1972 she found a space at 1036 Bush St. between Jones and Leavenworth and opened a nighttime drop-in coffeehouse for poor folks under her newly formed San Francisco Network Ministries. It became popular with Tenderloin people who went up the hill to Bush. Once, a man who had overdosed, stumbled in, saying, "I just knew if I got to the coffeehouse I'd be safe." He was taken to a hospital and survived. To Hope it was a sign to move down to the Tenderloin.

"We started with zero money and no connections, eight people and two dogs, making it up as we went along," Hope says. "There are a lot of stories in the Bible like that."

IN THE BEGINNING

Her headquarters for several years was at 942 Market St. Then it was in a room next to St. Boniface Church on Golden Gate Avenue, before building the apartments at 555 Ellis St. in 1995 with Asian Neighborhood Design and moving into the downstairs. Seed money for the building, which cost \$7.5 million, came from the National Organization of Presbyterian Women. In the 1990s, prostitutes were being mauled and murdered. Hope went into the streets to talk and listen to the working women. More than anything, they told her, they needed safe housing. She took that on as a project.

In 1997, the Catholic Sisters of the Presentation, hearing of the plan, joined her. SafeHouse, 14 units at a Mission neighborhood address that's kept secret, opened in 2001 for prostitutes wanting a new life.

Hope has been as fervently anti-war as she has been a force for social justice. Back in 1961, she was jailed in North Carolina in a peace demonstration. In '69, as a seminary stu-

At the Listening Post: Ambassador residents Minyon Harlin, left, and Jay Ensley with Rev. Hope



PHOTO BY HEIDI SWILLINGER

onate closure for residents



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

do, with handholding in a circle.

dent, she helped young men escape to Canada to avoid the draft and the Vietnam War. Pushing the envelope, she and two Army wives later went to talk peace to the Presidio's commanding general. When he wouldn't see them they sat-in at his office. That landed them in a holding cell for two hours. They were warned never to return.

But, of course, she did, in the late 1990s, with others, to demand that some of the vacant Presidio buildings be made into affordable housing. "We broke into one to make the point," she said. They were arrested.

And three years ago, Hope and 40 other religious people went to Sen. Dianne Feinstein's Market and Post office to lobby her on bringing the troops home. But when they arrived, the door was locked, so the group went outside and lay on the streetcar tracks. "Everybody got arrested but me," she says. "A police sergeant walked me down a half block, said, 'Don't do it again,' and let me go. 'Nobody,' she quips, "wanted to take responsibility for the collar."

Still, memorials are the constant in her life that reaches out to her.

AIDS MEMORIALS

A new chapter began in the 1980s, soon to be a horror that numbed the world.

"Hank Wilson was running the for-profit Ambassador Hotel (at the corner of Mason and Eddy, now a TNDC SRO), another depressingly scuzzy rathole," she says. "It had a lot of mentally ill and depressed people in it, and Hank asked if we could come for visits — he knew we weren't judgmental about gays and lesbians.

"One day, Father John Hardin (now St. Anthony's board president) called and wanted to do something. He was then in the East Bay. We thought we might have an open-door room at the Ambassador for drop-in chaplainizing, you know, come in and talk.

"Hank gave us a room for it. We didn't know if anyone would come. After four months, though, they did — they saw that we weren't going away and that we were trustworthy."

That was the origin of the Listening Post, a spot at the Ambassador where residents find a willing ear.

Penny Sarvis, an S.F. Theological Seminary

student, came to Hope in the early 1980s through a hands-on, for-credit class credit and stayed 10 years.

"Dennis Conklin came to me and said so many with AIDS are dying and there's no service for them. So he and I recruited to make the Tenderloin AIDS Network in 1987. Leroy Looper (Cadillac Hotel) and Hank Wilson and Les Pappas and a doctor from the Haight Ashbury Free Clinics — can't remember his name — and Jerry DeYoung who helped direct services, until he, too, became an AIDS victim and died."

Hope and Sarvis did most of the memorials then.

"People would die within three to six months. In one 20-day period we did 21 memorials — not counting the homeless ones."

Ultimately the city got moving to fund a center where people could come for advice on safe sex and other help, but Hope had to pull out all the stops to swing the deal.

"We did a sit-in to get the money for it. The city had stalled so long that when they got the money, they only had three months left in the fiscal year to spend it."

Then it was arduous to cut through the city's red tape in meetings involving the rehab of the chosen building at the corner of Golden Gate and Leavenworth until the project got dangerously close to running out of time.

"We are trying to save lives here!" Hope pleaded with the building

inspector at one meeting. "I cried," she said. "And I do not cry easily. The place got real quiet. Most thought I was a nun. Then he threw up his hands and said, 'I think I see a way.'"

She paused.

"A clerical collar, a Southern accent and a woman's tears," she summarized, then added with a faint smile, "I was younger and cuter then."

The resulting service, Tenderloin AIDS Network, which changed its name to TARC around 1990, was Network Ministries' program for its first five years.

ANNUAL RITE FOR HOMELESS DEAD

Hope's largest memorial by far is her annual celebration for the homeless who die anonymously on the streets throughout the year. During a bitter winter 21 years ago, 16 people died of hyperthermia in the Tenderloin. Hope and 15 others went as a group to each spot that had been reported as an address where someone died, and paused.

"We were silent and someone slowly beat a drum. No one had a name. Then we moved on to the next place. At the end I said a prayer, and that was it."

Now the service happens every Dec. 21 at 5:30 p.m. in front of City Hall, rain or shine. Hope organizes the service and gets the names of the dead from the Department of Public Health, the Tom Waddell Health Center and the Coalition on Homelessness. Often other names are offered for inclusion in the rite by representatives of other Bay Area cities who attend. Clerics from a half-dozen religions speak briefly as the ceremony opens, then pre-selected volunteers take turns reading a handful of names. After each name is read, a bell is struck, the sound lingering eerily in the night air. At the end, Hope, wearing the familiar white silk stole her mother made for her, burns the list of names and the 40 to 100 mourners hug, then disappear into the night. In 2009, 95 names were read. In 2010, the number rose to 110.

Hope is as much a part of the Tenderloin fabric as St. Anthony's Dining Room, Glide or Boeddeker Park. Sidewalks that would intimidate a housewife from across town are her comfort zone, her paths toward passion.

One day I watched as a disheveled man stopped her a block from Boeddeker Park, dropped to one knee and begged her to bless him. She did, with simple dignity — the tiny, gray-haired woman in black, her hand on a kneeling man's bowed head, on an overcast day in the middle of the towering concrete jungle as cars rolled by and passing street people made mental notes. "It happens all the time," she says. "Usually they want me to say a prayer for them."

Her staff says Hope's "a kick" to work with — it's her sense of humor, her disarming utterances of truth, her amusement at the weird, tweeting jargon of the Internet.

"She encourages honesty," says staffer Susie Wong, director of operations. Hope seems energized by reality — good or bad. And she loves to lapse, impishly, into a thick accent to tell anecdotes from her Southern experiences. At any time she can call on "the look," the baleful eye she directs at someone like an idler blocking her Network Ministries doorway. "She'll go ask them if they can be somewhere else," Wong says, "then she gives them the look until they move."

Her contribution to the Tenderloin is well-known among her Presbyterian peers. Rev. Calvin Chinn, the interim Presbytery executive director in Berkeley, says, "She is loyal, dedicated and prophetic to the end. Some may be a flash in the pan, but Glenda is real deal. She is mentor and teacher for so many of us."

A Jan. 7 memorial at the Ambassador for Michael Aylwin, attended by two staff social workers and resident Bill McLean, was a recent closure that gave everyone comfort. And it incidentally added weight to Hope's intimate understanding of death in the Tenderloin that often the homeless come in from the cold to get comfortable enough to let go and die peacefully.

Mr. Aylwin, who used a cane, had been homeless for five years before he came to the

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Rev. Glenda Hope, pictured at the Ambassador's *Listening Post* — a program she helped create during hard times in the 1980s — has been performing memorials in the neighborhood for 33 years.



PHOTO BY HEIDI SWILLINGER

The Tenderloin closer

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Ambassador. His social worker, Jackie Mollitor, said he was so happy to be there. He died less than four months later at age 63.

Part of his happiness was finding a drinking buddy.

"We hit it off from the top," McLean said with a smile. "He liked wine, I liked beer."

Sometimes Mr. Alywin stayed overnight in McLean's room to sleep it off after a long night boozing and talking about his problems and hopes for the future. The chipper redhead had mental issues, hepatitis C and was on lifetime parole status, having been in "many" prisons, McLean said.

Then, in January, Mr. Aylwin hadn't been seen for several days. Jan. 4 he was found dead in his room, cause unknown.

"He had plans," said McLean. "He wanted to clean up and get straight. He wanted to go to Joe Healy Detox

(on Page Street) — he had been there before — and wanted me to go with him. But I didn't want to. He needed to get clean so he could work on the hep C — he had to take meds every day and not be drinking."

"This reminds us to get it done in whatever time we have," said Hope.

To end this and other memorials, Hope reads from the 1970 version of the Presbyterian Worship Book about when "the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over and our work is done ... grant us peace at last."

She asks the mourners to stand and hold hands.

"Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. Peace I leave with you, and my peace I give to you."

"Now," she says in finality, "turn and give your neighbor the sign of peace."

That's a hug. ■



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Manicures for Moms

Benefiting

A WOMAN'S PLACE

Get a manicure and help women who are homeless and in need of shelter, health services, and mental health counseling



HOLD

When: Sunday, May 8, 2011

9am - 5pm

Where: a nail salon in your neighborhood

DATE!



A WOMAN'S PLACE

Established in 1995, a program of Community Awareness & Treatment Services, Inc. (CATS)
 1171 Mission St SE, CA 94103
 (415) 293-7350
www.catsinc.org

Manicures for Moms will be a wonderful way to pamper yourself, give gift certificates to your Mom, or to your friends, and donate to a cause that is the first response to women on the streets

San Francisco is now recycling 77% of its waste while generating 400,000 tons of prized compost annually.



The employee-owners of Recology would like to thank you for your partnership in the nation's most effective recycling programs. By recycling and composting, you are doing your part to change the way people see waste.



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NOTICE: SECTION 8 VOUCHER HOLDERS

One-bedroom apartments now available
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ARTS EVENTS

The ARTery Project, S.F. Arts Commission's series of mid-Market art events, fairs, exhibitions and performances. Installations by light artists at three Market Street locations, through June 2011; The 8 x 10 Show, Central City Hospitality House Community Arts Program's multimedia group exhibition downstairs from the luggage store gallery, 1009 Market St., through Feb. 11; Projections Series, video and film, at the luggage store gallery, 1007 Market St., through June; Zimoun, solo exhibition of kinetic, sonic sculptures, Gray Area Foundation for the Arts, 55 Taylor St., through Feb. 26. Info: sfartscommission.org/artery.

Hobo Grunt Cycle, by Kevin Augustine, EXIT Theatre, Thu., Fri., Sat., Feb. 17-Mar. 5, 8 p.m., 156 Eddy St. Life-sized puppets and performers challenge the insanity of warfare: A tramp clown attempts to heal the scars of violence by nursing his pet dog back to health; the legacy of veterans' trauma is mirrored through the experience of a severely injured fight-ring pit bull. Info: sffringe.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Two-day intensive NERT training in the Tenderloin, March 2 and March 9, 201 Turk St., 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Free disaster-preparedness classes (earthquake, fire, terrorism) offered by the S.F. Fire Department. RSVP to sffdner@sfgov.org or call 970-2024 to register. More info or register online: www.sfgov.org/sffdner.

Tenderloin Walk on the Wild Side, rescheduled: Thu., Feb. 10, 2 p.m., Rancho Parnassus cafe, 132 Sixth St. at Minna. Free 90-minute preview tour of TL locations of interest with historian Deleano Seymour follows free buffet. Info: 574-1641.

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.

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. www.sfgov.org/sffdner, or Lt. Arteseros, 970-2022.

SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly email 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 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>.

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.

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: Tim Figueras, 554-9532.

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 Community Stabilization Fund Community Advisory Committee meets 3rd Thursday of the month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor atrium. Info: Claudine del Rosario 749-2519.

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, noon. 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: tiffutures.org, 820-3989.

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

SENIORS AND DISABLED

Mayor's Disability Council, 3rd Friday of 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, 3rd Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. Call for health program and Senior University: 546-1333 and www.sfsan.org.

Next Ground Zero Poetry Reading

Wed. Feb. 9, 8 p.m.

21 Club

Turk and Taylor streets

Harm Reduction

On the Road to Recovery

Office of Self Help has always used Harm Reduction in our work with mental health consumers and substance users. Even before Harm Reduction became the official policy of the Department of Public Health in 2000.

Harm Reduction just makes sense. It means your behavior shouldn't hurt anyone, not even yourself. Being high is no reason to turn a client away. We respect the unique needs and personal goals of each client and we match treatment to reflect cultural and individual differences.

The Harm Reduction approach acknowledges that relapse is often part of the cycle of recovery. Our staff works with clients to prevent relapse. But if relapse occurs, we remain committed to the client.

The ultimate goal is stability and sobriety — achieved without judgment and through the guided efforts of each client. Treatment begins with compassion.

OSH provides a safe place to examine individual behavior, to create sense out of personal chaos and to reduce reliance on drugs or alcohol as a response to daily life.

The journey to recovery doesn't run on a timetable. There are choices for each client. Harm Reduction helps people choose to lead a healthy life.

Office of Self Help Drop-In Center, 1095 Market Street, Suite 202
This behavioral health education message is underwritten by Bank of the West.

"Harm reduction — a real alternative. It goes hand-in-hand with self help. Self help puts the responsibility for recovery on the person in need, and harm reduction is a lens that puts their situation in perspective. It helped me. I was an outcast. Harm reduction gave me the opportunity to see myself as I am — to learn my strengths and to build on them."

— Roy Crew, Director,
Office of Self Help

