

Hastings cops make case to UC board

Specter of shooter on campus raised as main rationale for arming officers

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

IN a narrative rivaling Warren Zevon's sardonic "Lawyers, Guns and Money," UC Hastings' public safety officers request to carry firearms inched forward Sept. 9 at the law school's Board of Directors quarterly meeting.

Supporters of the request stressed how well-trained and cop-savvy the officers are who toil for Hastings yet how woeful the probable outcome should an aggrieved shooter show up on campus with the officers weaponless.

Bill Palmi, Hastings' chief public safety officer, a 44-year veteran of police work, opened by acknowledging that when he came to Hastings 5½ years ago he would not have supported his officers' request to be armed. "They simply weren't qualified to have firearms then," he

said. Now, however, his officers are public police academy graduates and trained to handle weapons properly.

Palmi — whose 35 years with the Albany Police Department included volunteer work in which he and a partner, dubbed "Elvis and the Lawman," performed musical driving-

safety tips for teens — cited the Tenderloin's sky-high crime rates and raised the specter of an "active, armed shooter" wreaking havoc, the overarching theme of the officers' presentation to the board.

"We have no control over the SFPD officer assigned to campus," Palmi stated, referring to Hastings' contract with the city that assigns an armed officer to the campus from 5 to 11:30 p.m. weekdays at an annual cost of \$110,000. He doubted whether S.F. police officers receive more weapons training than his officers. Palmi suggested that the quality of support from Tenderloin

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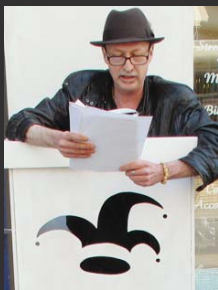
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CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

MANY DIE YOUNG



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Liezl Baltazer, 34, (left) is a "lucky" one among Glide's more than 3,000 patients per year. The clinic helped detect a pituitary tumor, later removed at S.F. General Hospital. "The bottom line could have been death," says nurse practitioner Sandy Prentice (right).

Death in the Tenderloin

Like life here, dying's different than in any other neighborhood

BY TOM CARTER

THE city's poorest neighborhood, the Tenderloin, is a rough place to live and a hard place to die. Central City Extra's obituaries tell the stories of many who die here, but this story attempts to detail the neighborhood's main causes of death, and to put them in perspective with what kills people in the city as a whole.

In San Francisco, a man's life expectancy is 78 years, according to the Department of Public Health. Women usually live at least five years longer.

"It's 20 years less here," in the Tenderloin, says Dr. Ana Valdes, medical director of St. Anthony's 2-year-old free clinic, an upgrade of its medical services for the destitute going back 53 years. The clinic on Golden Gate Avenue is across from St. Boniface Catholic Church and near St. Anthony's Dining Room, renowned for its daily bread lines. The clinic sees nearly 300 patients a month, all are poor, 25% homeless, and the majority are alcoholics.

"Men are dying in their 40s and 50s," Valdes says. "For women, maybe 60s."

Four blocks away at Glide Memorial Methodist Church's 4,000-square-foot free

clinic — a stone's throw from the luxury Hilton Hotel — Karen Hill agrees.

"Clients die early here because of their lifestyle," says Hill, clinic manager and an R.N. She has worked there seven years. "A fair amount die of self-inflicted injuries, and alcohol and drugs play a part. Cancer is another leading cause."

The spiffy clinic, not as famous as Glide's colorful Sunday church services that sometimes attract curious celebrities, works with UCSF's School of Nursing and St. Francis Memorial Hospital, the neighborhood's only comprehensive medical center. In 2010, Glide's clinic served 3,105 clients; roughly 90% were homeless.

A block south at 234 Eddy St. is the S.F. Department of Public Health's Housing and Urban Health Clinic that serves up to 100 poor, formerly homeless patients per month. All live in supportive housing, which means an SRO usually run by a nonprofit. The average patient, says Dr. Joseph Pace, has multiple diagnoses, all complicated by mental illness and addiction; diabetes and hypertension are common. Twenty-one of the clinic's patients died in 2010. Their average age was 58.

"By the time they see me they've been contending with these issues for quite some time, since young adulthood," says Pace, DPH's director of Primary Care Homeless Services who works there Wednesdays and at the Tom Waddell Health Center at 50 Ivy St. other weekdays. "They've been homeless and they self-medicate." That, of course, means using alcohol and illegal drugs as well as a host of prescription med possibilities.

The clinic's 2010 review, Pace said, found that the leading diagnoses for both

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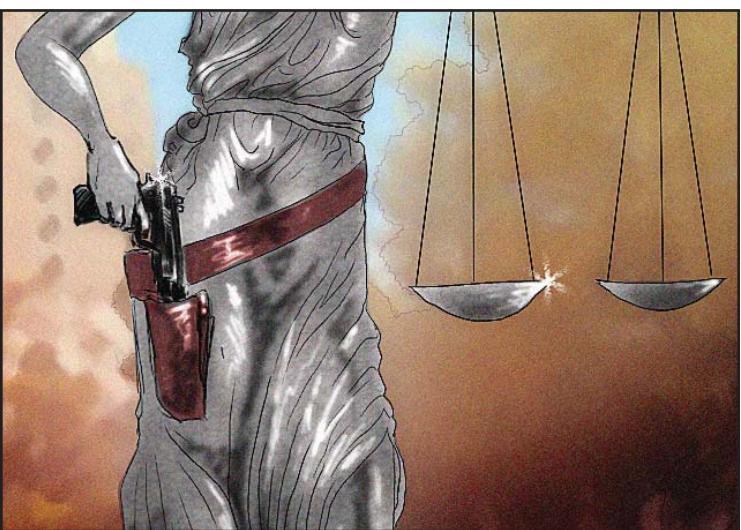


ILLUSTRATION BY AKIKO SMITH

UC Hastings police will be paid more if they are armed.

GOOD NEWS for...

MICHAEL AND JOHN NULTY, twin heavyweight activists who fight for Tenderloin improvements, got a big pat on the back Sept. 26 when four dozen supporters honored them at a four-hour, Alliance for a Better District 6 fundraiser in the 24th-floor Sky Room at U.C. Hastings Law School. The event was to recognize the brothers' collective 70 years of community service. Police Chief Greg Suhr, a neighbor when the Nultys were growing up, showed up early, and former TL Capt. Gary Jimenez was present along with current TL Capt. Joe Garrity, who later pulled door prize tickets. Health Commissioner Jim Illig was master of ceremonies. Gov. Jerry Brown sent a framed certificate of commendation as did Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Mayor Ed Lee and other major pols. Public Defender Jeff Adachi brought his framed tribute and state Sen. Leland Yee, long a Nultys ally, arrived late with a lengthy tribute to John Nulty. Central City Extra was among the numerous neighborhood organizations piling on the honors. Perhaps the best compliment came from entrepreneur Brian Sheehy of the North of Market Business Association, who has opened two bars in the TL in recent years: "We learned in the neighborhood, go see the Nultys first." ■



Tenderloin twins, John, left, and Michael Nulty.

St. Anthony's alfresco dining



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

St. Anthony's Dining Room moved its soup kitchen seating outdoors on Golden Gate Avenue between Jones and Leavenworth streets on Sept. 24 to celebrate 60 years of feeding the poor with a block party and barbecue. Besides Tenderloin residents, people from all over the city came to eat 12,000 meals (four times the usual daily number). Scores of volunteers dressed in blue shirts served boxes of chicken, potato salad, cole slaw, cookies and Capri Sun punch.



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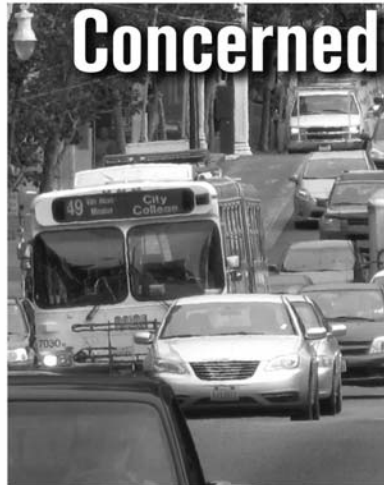
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Community Boards: 35 years settling neighborhood feuds

BY BRIAN RINKER

THE Tenderloin and surroundings are among the most ethnically diverse and crowded parts of the city. It's not surprising that sometimes people don't see eye and conflicts arise.

But what happens when the conflict isn't a criminal offense and a civil suit will only make matters worse?

That's where Community Boards comes in.

Community Boards, a nonprofit Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) organization, helps settle disputes without courts, judges and lawyers. It's funded by the state, a host of foundations and individual donors. For 35 years it has offered citywide mediation services and training.

Community and neighborhood courts also fall under the ADR category. But unlike neighborhood courts, Community Boards cases are all voluntary disputants who agree to try to work it out. And Community Boards doesn't judge, it mediates.

Staff and volunteer mediators handle everyday problems: arguments between neighbors, loud all-night parties, inconsiderate roommates or other annoying flaps and worse.

Those problems sound small, but emotions run high.

"If you're in a problem, it's not small," said Jim Garrison, public education and communications manager, a 20-year Community Boards veteran. He explained the mediation process, which consists of three mediators who are trained to be neutral but empathetic with both sides.

"Our mediators don't tell people

how to solve their problems," says Garrison. The process is entirely voluntary. If either side doesn't want mediation, it can't work. Both parties set up the guidelines, which Garrison says can give them both a lift. The mediators help the clients come up with their own solutions, realistic ones they can fulfill.

Community Boards staff will take on any conflict except disputes that involve violence.

"We want people to feel safe in the room," says Mediation Program Manager Cordell Wesselink. "It's the one topic we won't touch."

Providing a safe atmosphere for clients to respectfully and productively discuss their conflict is the essence of what Community Boards does. Violence negates that assurance. All mediation takes place in their office at 3130 24th St.

Last year more than 400 cases were opened, but only about 100 went to mediation, said Wesselink.

How many of those cases came from the Tenderloin, Wesselink doesn't know. With overlapping ZIP codes and the confidentiality agreement attached to most settlements, he has no hard data, and if he did he probably wouldn't tell.

However, Sanaz Nikaein, a Community Boards client, was willing to share her experience. She signed a confidentiality agreement but waived her right to anonymity.

Nikaein, 32, is from Iran and is a practicing attorney. A few years ago she

moved into a new condominium complex near Civic Center with her husband and small dog. They chose a ground-floor condo, because it had a patio and Nikaein wanted to plant grass and have it be a nice place for her dog. She was so excited about moving to a brand-new place, she didn't pay much attention to the motel next door, though windows of 20 rooms faced her bedroom window and patio. Soon after they moved in, cigarette butts started showing up on the patio.

"Initially, we didn't give it much thought," says Nikaein, "until broken bottles were thrown over in the middle of the night."

That was only the beginning. Nikaein would be plagued for 1½ years with the motel's loud guests and the odd arsenal of objects they threw onto her patio.

At one point, someone threw fresh meat at her bedroom window, which slid down onto the patio.

Nikaein says the guests were young foreigners who like to party, get drunk and throw stuff out the window.

She was furious and, as president of her building's homeowners association, she had to do something. She complained to the motel manager and filed police reports, but to no avail. The manager was uncooperative and eventually banned Nikaein from his property.

During the filing of a police report, one of the officers referred her to Community Boards.

The majority of referrals to Com-

munity Boards come from police officers and visitors to their website. All other referrals are by word of mouth.

Nikaein contacted Community Boards, and mediation with the motel management was set up. The session lasted 2½ hours. Afterward, the motel manager became very responsive.

"Community Boards did a really good job mediating and making sure both sides heard each other," says Nikaein. There have only been a couple problems since mediation; on each occasion the motel manager was quick to remedy the situation.

Nikaein also found the mediation process very interesting from a lawyer's perspective. It's relatively cheap compared to attorney fees. Community Boards charges a total of \$15. And the people with the dispute solve their own problem. Nikaein thinks they should set up Community Boards offices in the Tenderloin.

"It's very cost-effective," she adds.

Garrison said Community Boards wants to reach out to more people in the Tenderloin, especially to the residents and management of SROs because that is where the majority of complaints come from.

Donald Proby is one of the 300 in a pool of mediators that Community Boards draws from. He lives in the Civic Center/Tenderloin area and has mediated cases there. Most cases are tenant/landlord disputes.

"The Tenderloin's mental health and drug addiction problems and the amount of SROs are unique in San Francisco," Proby says. "But at the heart of it, these are the same basic human emotions and basic human conflicts that can be found anywhere in the city." ■

The mediators help the clients come up with their own solutions, realistic ones they can fulfill.

Hastings cops want to be armed

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Station in the event of a crisis might be problematic.

Law enforcement emergency response strategy post-Columbine has changed, Palmini noted. "It's no longer first priority to clear and control the area. Now, it's take out the shooter ASAP," he declared.

A board member told Palmini that state Penal Code section 830.4(d) prohibits arming the officers. "Security officers of Hastings College of Law" are not authorized to carry a gun either on or off duty, the code says. Board member Tina Combs, a UC deputy general counsel, said the Legislature would have to change the law before Hastings could grant the officers' request to bear arms.

Palmini disagreed. He argued that the Hastings directors have the authority to arm his officers without changing the law. But he cited no authority for that assertion.

Ron Gordon, spokesman for the Hastings Public Safety Officers Association, told the directors that arming the officers could be "an insurance policy against the risk of an armed, active shooter on campus." Gordon recalled Charles Whitman, the 1966 Texas Tower gunman, who picked off 16 and wounded 32 others before police shot him — a toll caused partly because the Austin Police Department took more than an hour to bring Whitman down, time he spent continuing to kill.

Should Hastings be similarly attacked, Gordon said, "we could not respond." Nor would the SFPD's response be much better, Gordon opined.

If city police were the only option in such a crisis, they would need to amass enough officers, study campus floor plans on the fly, and on the spot come up with a plan of counterattack,

Gordon said. This would take precious time while the shooter continued to have his way. Arming Hastings' officers is the "one tool that could make a difference," he added.

"Lives would be lost waiting for an SFPD response," he argued. "Why rely on the SFPD alone? Surrounding community opinion should not influence your decision, only what is best for your students."

Board member Bruce Simon asked Robert Glenn, vice president of the Hastings Public Safety Officers Association, whether the primary need to arm the officers was to combat neighborhood crime or to counter an active shooter on campus?

"Neither — it's officer safety that's primary," Glenn said. He reminded the directors that a catastrophe such as his colleagues had been describing brought considerable liability issues because Hastings' officers must now respond to danger without the protection of firearms. Glenn recalled his own call to respond to a domestic violence incident on campus last year. He, unarmed, had to control a knife-wielding assailant.

Hastings Chancellor Frank Wu brought the board a new concern — finances. Granting the officers' request would entail reclassifying about 20 campus staffers. The pay and benefit increases for armed personnel would include compensation "at or above security service pay market levels," Wu said.

He reminded fellow directors that the campus is already facing layoffs. "Fewer people will be employed at UC Hastings next year than now," he said. "The issue of arming our officers must be resolved by financial data, a stable budget and a sound fiscal plan."

The Board of Directors said they would rule on the officers' request Dec. 2, their final public meeting of the year. ■

TAC PAC

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Your vote counts on November 8th

Remember to vote for leaders that support renters rights.

Ranked choice endorsements from TAC PAC

Rank choice endorsements

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Death comes decades earlier in Tenderloin than

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

men and women were: 1. AIDS/HIV, 2. depression, 3. schizophrenia/psychosis, 4. diabetes, and 5. hypertension.

Staff of Glide's HIV screening and referral program, one of 19 in the city, estimate 2,000 HIV carriers live in the Tenderloin. That's roughly 1 in every 15 people in the neighborhood, or 6.67%, and triple the citywide 2.35% rate, based on 18,576 HIV carriers, according to DPH's 2010 "HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Report."

The report says 48% of people living with HIV are men who have sex with men, 30% are men who have sex with men and are injection drug users, 13% are injection drug users, and the remainder are in seven other much smaller categories. While the Castro district has the preponderance of carriers, the Tenderloin leads all districts with the number of injection users, as reported by clinics. Also, "The Tenderloin had the highest number of homeless injection drug users newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS" in 2006-10, the report said.

Glide sometimes refers HIV/AIDS patients for treatment to S.F. General Hospital's Ward 86, the city's leading treatment center, but more often to the closer Tom Waddell Clinic at the western edge of the Tenderloin. Pace says that among the 3,000 patients seen annually at the clinic, there's consistently a caseload of 30 to 50 AIDS patients. The leading causes of death for AIDS patients are liver disease and complications from substance abuse, he says.

CLINICIANS' CONSENSUS

There are five major medical clinics in the Tenderloin, two are city-run and three are private. Clinic staff consensus suggests that AIDS contends as the No. 1 killer with myriad cancers, diabetes, heart disease and liver damage, not necessarily in that order. Hospitalization rates for diabetes and its complications are five times the city average and asthma is yet another complication.

Outside of neighborhood clinic statistics, hard medical data and mortality rates for the Tenderloin don't exist.

The neighborhood is generally defined as Polk Street to the west, Market to the south, with Post on the north side and Mason Street the eastern border. Health and mortality data, though, are available by ZIP codes and the Tenderloin is part of three overlapping ZIPs. Most of the neighborhood is subsumed in 94102 along with Civic Center

and Hayes Valley, which is largely middle income. ZIPs 94109 and 94103 contain small chunks of the Tenderloin.

Any recitation of ZIP code data for causes of death is skewed by the relative prosperity surrounding the Tenderloin's poverty. Even so, a city report based on 2000-'01 data showed the 94102 ZIP's leading causes of premature deaths to be: 1. HIV, 2. heart disease, 3. poisonings, 4. alcohol use, 5. cirrhosis of the liver. The report noted that the Tenderloin "is more plagued by substance abuse than San Francisco as a whole" and "injection drug use contributes to HIV transmission."

For the city as a whole, causes of death are different. Health Department data show heart disease heads the men's mortality list, based on 2007 figures, the latest available, followed by lung disease, cerebrovascular disease, chronic pulmonary obstruction and hypertension. The women's list is similar with the exception of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia, which is No. 4. And, citywide, AIDS/HIV was No. 7 among men and not even in women's top 20.

HOUSING AFFECTS HEALTH

The majority of the city's 501 single room occupancy hotels are in the Tenderloin, most built after the 1906 fire and earthquake. Some are sketchy abodes, privately owned flop houses. Others, renovated and up to code, are run or owned by nonprofits, generally in collaboration with city departments to accommodate low-income residents and formerly homeless. The 10-by-12-foot rooms can be a godsend to a single person or a harrowing cell to someone fighting depression, chronic pain and/or addictions.

"Clients are impacted by where they live," Valdes says. "The bad SROs have filthy carpets, mildew, bugs and mold. It's a small space and some of those walls are blackened with mold — we've seen that."

In that event, people are actually better off living outside, she says. But homelessness is a downward spiral. It can take a whole day to get into a city-run shelter. "Some," she notes, "are allowed to sleep in parking lots, instead of doorways."

St. Anthony's clinic sees a lot of substance and alcohol abuse and, as a result, often brain damage, Valdes says. Methamphetamine, for example, makes people anorexic, psychotic and suicidal; overdosing can cause heart attack and stroke.

"Self-medicating against things that harm them is a lose-lose roulette that



Dr. Joseph Pace at the Housing and Urban Health Clinic

eventually takes their life — or they will escape it all (quickly) with an overdose.

"Complications come on quick," Valdes says, "and require many hospitalizations. Liver disease, infections, gangrene, limbs amputated."

It's difficult enough to live on the street and maintain good health. But to recover from bad health out there is tougher.

"It's hard to stay on that path to recovery when there's so much adversity around you — people throwing up in the street, shooting up on the sidewalks," says Hill at Glide. Dope peddlers are everywhere, offering to ease suffering for a few bucks.

CHILDHOOD ABUSE A FACTOR

The outlook for the average long-time-poor man or woman who seeks help at a Tenderloin medical clinic is troublesome and not hopeful. When Pace has asked about a patient's background and how he or she became homeless, many tell stories of violence from early childhood, ruthless abuse by parents or other relatives, "all sorts of violence in difficult home environments." So they try to escape their emotional demons with feel-good or deadening substances off the street.

The clinic's doctors refer to a "dose response curve," in prescribing patients' medications. The worse the childhood experience the heavier the dose of whatever is prescribed. Disastrous childhoods lead to alcohol and drug abuse as adults, then to heart disease, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, cancer, lung disease from chronic stress, adrenaline surges and chronic inflammation.

"My opinion has been shifting on this over the last six months," prescribing patients' medications, Pace says about what he now considers an undeniable correlation. "I think we underappreciate the patients and the true pain they carry. They do their best with what they've been dealt — and there's more to a story than we see — and their problems affect learning, too. The violence and drug trade keep fueling a fire when people are trying to survive."

Glide's Hill believes her average client reads at the fifth-grade level and suspects many have been victims of violence and sexual abuse as youngsters. Such details contributing to low self-esteem are elusive. In the UC doctoral program she pursues, she has learned as a rule of thumb "you have to ask a woman client nine dif-

ferent times if she

the truth comes. Pace said his passion has been the neighborhood, following a "street treatment, look for guidance, giving patient take approach.

'UNLOCKING

"It takes a lot of something he says most systems of enough," he says to the source." If the patient wants the situation the patient override. Sometimes you're patience to deal a patient is coming or she wants.

One patient, realized what was added and added his meds and he That was three years ago now when he died. Before, he'd been in there. I think there's a nurse in

"Unlocking" much of our work. It's easy to see the Tenderloin. I've never been heard of call jails and other things. One woman at S.F. General, who's been in there for months in intensive infections.

"Sometimes I don't. Sometimes I train and go to I'm trying to go home. Glide's Hill says it would help local people know how many where, unless there or someone who prescription bot and phone num

A female patient al times dropping months later she Memorial Hospital with terminal cancer then I get a call they've ODD on "A lot lose the

Christina Trinidad, 39, shown here with Dr. Sonia Bledsoe, has been a St. Anthony medical clinic patient 10 years and attends educational programs on how to avoid a potentially lethal lifestyle. A native of El Salvador, Trinidad is glad she and her children qualify for the free clinic, where Spanish is spoken.



an in city as a whole



PHOTOS BY TOM CARTER

gives patients latitude in choosing their medications and treatment.

had been abused before out.”
his sense of professional n revived by his work in od. Moreover, he’s fol-length-based course” of ing to the patient for g options, letting the charge — a self-help

PEOPLE'S POTENTIAL'

ot of encouraging them,”
ays is not the bulwark of f care. “We don’t do it rs. “We need to go back t starts with asking what ts and why. But in every atient has a chance to imes Pace gets, “I don’t the doctor.” It takes with that, he says, until comfortable saying what he

he said, when he real-happening, “added and d. He hadn’t been taking e shifted his perception. years ago. I can’t remem-he was last in the hospi- spend three months at a magine it helps, too, that n his supportive housing. people’s potential is so rk.”

lose track of patients in They can wander off and from again. Clinic staffs er hospitals for the miss-n Valdes finally found at here she died after three sive care, consumed by

we hear, sometimes we s they get on a bus or a .A. or the Central Valley, ne.”

says a citywide database ate patients. She doesn’t y of her patients die, or e medical examiner calls o finds the body sees a tle with the clinic name ber on it and follows up. cient Hill had seen sever- ed out of sight, then owed up at St. Francis tal emergency diagnosed ncer. “They disappear, ll from the coroner that n methadone,” she says. eir recovery during the

Christmas holidays.

“It’s almost a hidden population here,” Hill continues. “They may go to UC and I never see them again. Or some go to other places to die, too. I’ve had trouble tracking my own patients. If we had a database for the whole city it would be better — and less costly.”

The first question a clinic patient is asked: Have they been in S.F. General’s emergency room in the past two weeks?

“It’s where some of them get their health care,” Hill says. “They wait until they can’t stand it anymore and then go in — or are taken in. It’s mental health that puts them there, or chronic pain. Sometimes it’s to get out of the weather.”

She’s seen patients just get tired, they’re lonely, and then they die.

FINDING A PLACE TO DIE

Giving up on life can happen even when things start looking up. Rev. Glenda Hope, who has conducted memorials in TL SROs since the 1980s, believes that once people who have been chronically homeless are given housing, their attitude can change. They are content that their bone-grinding survival struggle outdoors is over and, after a few months, choose to rest in peace and die under a roof in a warm place.

Hill tells a story about a man called Popeye, a clinic regular who cleaned himself up, got a job at Glide and Glide put him in one of its nice apartments on Mason Street.

“He hadn’t been there four months and he hanged himself,” Hill says, nonplussed. “You don’t know what’s inside people.”

“And death in the Tenderloin affects us, too. Popeye had services here by (Rev.) Cecil Williams. We all talked about it. We talk about the terrible things.”

This case and others have changed her, she says. Before she came to Glide, she’d drive by the ragtag soup line on her way to work and wonder why those people didn’t get jobs. “So naïve,” she says now, recalling circumstances that crush people and land them in the Tenderloin. Like the man from Indiana who was married, had four kids and a good job. But the whole family was killed in a car accident. He never recovered psychologically and became adrift in the neighborhood.

“They’ve given me empathy,” she says. “I’ve learned the Tenderloin is a hard place to live.” ■



PHOTOS BY TOM CARTER

Poet Ed Bowers is the artist in the box on Hyde Street, reciting a poem as passers-by check out the Faithful Fools’ latest invention for the arts.

This fun Fool-ish thing — pop-up artists in a box

BY TOM CARTER

INSPIRED by the Fisherman’s Wharf’s Human Jukebox of yore, now to Tenderloin’s soiled sidewalks comes pop-up arts in a box.

An unpretentious white box rolled out of Faithful Fools the morning of Sept. 9, debuting on a cheerfully sunny day. Its creative band of 10 Fool travelers stood by, eager to perform or support.

The idea had been cooking at Faithful Fools for years, said Ed Bowers, poet and Central City Extra Art Beat writer, recalling 30 years ago when bearded Grimes Poznikov, inside a colorful cardboard box, played trumpet for coins and bills at the wharf and was known as “The Automatic Human Jukebox.” In 2005, Poznikov died of alcohol poisoning on a sidewalk near U.S. 101.

Bowers long dreamed of presenting poetry out of a box. The horizon expanded when other Fools got involved, and now the box is to be used for any art to encourage art.

Denis Paul, an architect-house-builder-turned-minister, constructed the box of ½-inch plywood in two days. It’s collapsible, 25 by 25 and 52 inches high and sits on a frame with rollers. A hinged side door lets an entertainer in. A hatched lid sits on top, and swings open for the artist to pop up and perform. The front panel has a cutout section shaped like a fool’s cap.

“It’s artwork deciding what it wants to be,” said Paul. “We make it up as we go along.”

Josh Mann was first to hunker down and crawl in, popping up with his trumpet to play some tingling riffs. Bowers followed and read a long poem. After him, Melissa Fafarman got in and sang.

Passers-by hardly gave them a glance, though. Karla Cativo, strolling by, stopped, jumped inside and rattled off her thoughts like a free-form poem, looking pleased with herself afterward.

“It’s been a Herculean effort, but just two days to build,” said Paul. “We’ve had poetry and singing and maybe there will be dancing in the streets.” Yes, yes, people said. “But now let’s take it back inside

and dream of what can be.”

They pushed the box back inside, surrounded it and gazed lovingly at it as suggestions flew: a megaphone would be handy; paint the sides and make the inside of the lid like a picture frame; it can be a reverse confessional booth — people telling good things they’ve done — no, priests confessing their sins, yes. The box can go in front of City Hall, U.N. Plaza, anywhere there’s a crowd.

“And maybe to Davis and Bakersfield,” piped Paul. “It fits inside my Honda Accord.”

The brainstorming went on and on. ■



Josh Mann toots his horn in the first performance in the art box.

OBITUARIES

JOHN JANONIS Safe Passage artist

Tenderloin strollers won't see John Janonis' colorful Thanksgiving window drawings this fall, but schoolchildren and other pedestrians may soon see his vivid green sidewalk design that will mark the neighborhood's Safe Passage route.

The proposal to paint the 11-block route, based on a design Mr. Janonis created last year, was at the Arts Commission awaiting approval when he died Aug. 3 in his SoMa hotel room. Cause of death has yet to be determined. He was 67.

But the painting will still get done, pending design approval, expected in October.

"We can still do this to honor the design he created," said Dina Hilliard, executive director of the TL

Community Benefits District, which made the proposal and budgeted \$6,000 for Janonis to do the painting. "We'll be hiring an artist to do it."

Safe Passages, a pilot project involving the CBD, police and several community groups, provides kids with an 11-block safe route to and from Tenderloin schools along Golden Gate Avenue, Turk, Eddy and Ellis streets between Leavenworth and Jones streets, with an additional block on Ellis extending to Hyde. Volunteers and police will be present at some intersections.

Mr. Janonis' death further delayed the project that had already run past its June deadline. Hilliard said the CBD will "regroup on the timeline."

Mr. Janonis, at 6-feet-2 and 240

pounds, was a bearded bear of a man who lived 16 years at the Covered Wagon Hotel on Folsom Street. He did commercial sign work, sets for small theaters, silk-screen T-shirts, murals, buttons and, according to his resume, was a street vendor five years. He also was a professional dog-walker.

For years during the holidays Mr. Janonis had contracts with clients including TNDC to paint Thanksgiving and Christmas scenes on their street-level hotel windows. Thousands saw his work.

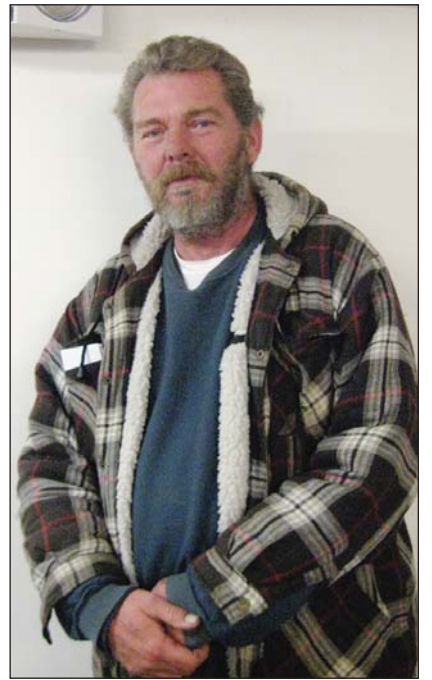
Jeff Buckley, Central City Collaborative executive director, knew him six years. Mr. Janonis attended collaborative meetings as the Covered Wagon Hotel's tenant representative. Last year he redesigned the collaborative's logo, but the Passages design, Buckley said, was by far Janonis' best work.

"It was his crowning jewel," Buckley said. "It's like the yellow brick road, and it has things written in it for kids to remember. He was so talented. And, unofficially, he was our artist-in-residence."

The project calls for slip-resistant material over acrylic green, red, blue and yellow paint, to be donated by a local paint store, that will go down on one sidewalk of a block. Mr. Janonis' design will be fixed using three plates, or stencils, none larger than 3-by-5 feet. Each block will take 15 to 20 stencils.

Mr. Janonis looked "like a lumberjack," an incongruous sight when walking six or seven dogs on leashes. He was also an avid gardener, a former coordinator and a member of SoMa's Howard Langton Community Garden at Folsom and Langton streets.

"I was looking forward to seeing



John Janonis

the look on his face when Safe Passages was completed," Buckley said. "It's sad he won't see it."

The project is designed to end June 2012, or earlier, if the paint fades out. Then, the CBD will determine from feedback if the community felt that it was served and proceed accordingly. Even so, one of several community give-back requests to California Pacific Medical Center is that it bankroll making the design permanent by "burning it into the concrete," Hilliard said.

A memorial for Mr. Janonis is planned by his family members for Dec. 14, Buckley said. It will be held at the Langton garden. ■

— TOM CARTER



A section of John Janonis' design for the Tenderloin's blocks-long Safe Passages route.

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Friday, October 14

4-8PM

ART WALK

Over **50** artists at **25** locations
(in 2 blocks)

sixth street
(between Market and Howard)

Food and drink specials at Cafes,
Bars, Restaurants & Nightclubs
along the walk.

INFO + ARTIST MAP: www.UrbanSolutionsSF.org

OBITUARIES

EVARISTO VASQUEZ Honored by tres amigos

Evaristo Vasquez said on his death bed that he wanted to meet his grandchildren in Fresno whom he'd never even seen, and he promised to stop drinking. But it was too late.

Years of heavy drinking caught up with the congenial 5-foot-1 Mexican American and he died Sept. 13 of liver complications at S.F. General Hospital. He was 68.

"I visited him in the hospital," said Liz Del Gadillo, his social worker of four years. "I had been worried about him for some time. He was such a sweet, sweet soul. I asked him to promise to quit and he said, 'I promise.'"

She was one of five mourners seated in a circle at Mr. Vasquez's memorial in the small Listening Post room at the Ambassador Hotel where he had lived for just one week.

One resident said she didn't know him, but thought it important to be there because "we're all family at the Ambassador."

Mr. Vasquez had lived at least four years at the Franciscan Towers on Turk Street. But the apartment building burned April 5 and owner TNDC sent residents to its other SROs to live. Mr. Vasquez was at the Le Nain on Eddy and Polk before being sent Aug. 11 to the Ambassador. One week later, he was taken by ambulance to S.F. General, where he was in and out of intensive care. His family came from Fresno to visit him.

Three of his drinking buddies at the memorial had not known he was hospitalized and were shocked to hear he died.

"He didn't bother anybody," said one who had known him three years. "He was a good friend to me."

"He didn't argue with anyone," said another. "But alcohol was his temple. I told him, 'Be careful — too much is dangerous.'"

The third amigo, Ricardo, talked softly at length in lilting Spanish, at times gesticulating with gentle hand movements. Del Portillo, teary-eyed, interpreted much of it.

Ricardo said Mr. Vasquez, whose people came from Oaxaca, was a day laborer who bonded with others while hanging out on Cesar Chavez Street waiting for work. Ricardo had known him 16 years and in that time Mr. Vasquez had stayed in every shelter in the city, he said. He and his friends made sure that when Mr. Vasquez was intoxicated they got him shelter and food. They'd put him in a shower, clean him up and get him into fresh clothes.

Mr. Vasquez visited his relatives in Fresno a few years ago for a month and abstained, Ricardo said, but when he returned to the Tenderloin, he resumed. It takes trauma to change an alcoholic, Ricardo said, pulling up his right pant leg, showing a brace on his scarred leg. He injured the leg three years ago and stopped drinking for his health but he said Mr. Vasquez could not stop. At times, he invited Mr. Vasquez to his alcohol-free house for dinner and encouraged him to quit. Sometimes he allowed him to stay a week or two. Later, when Mr. Vasquez's friends would find him drunk on the street, they'd take care of him.

Rev. Glenda Hope, who conducted the ceremony, said to the three, "He was lucky to have such good friends as you, and I thank you."

They nodded. After her closing remarks, they shook her hand. ■

— TOM CARTER

City and County of San Francisco October 2011

San Francisco Animal Care & Control Pet Pride Day 2011

Sunday, October 30, 11am – 3pm, Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park
For more information visit: http://helpacc.org/petprideday/Pet_Pride_Day_2011.html

Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco

The Redevelopment Agency, on behalf of Community Facilities District No. 1 ("CFD 1"), is requesting proposals from California licensed landscape contractors who possess a Class C-27 license or equivalent to provide landscape maintenance and other related services. Responses to (RFP) will be accepted until November 4, 2011, 4:00 p.m. Copies of the RFP packet are available at 1 South Van Ness Avenue, Fifth Floor, or online at www.sfgov.org/sfra. Questions? Please contact Audrey Kay, Property Management Supervisor, (415) 749-2485.

Port of San Francisco

As-needed Real Estate Economics and Planning Services RFQ: The Port is seeking to qualify a pool of as-needed consulting teams with expertise in the following five core areas: real estate economics, site and master planning, urban design and architecture, historic preservation, and transportation planning. Successful respondents must have experience working with ports, municipalities, or similar government agencies in specialized fields, and be familiar with San Francisco's waterfront and its regulatory environment, including local, regional, and state regulations affecting waterfront development. Please visit <http://www.sfport.com/index.aspx?page=18>, <http://sfgsa.org/index.aspx?page=359>, or contact Linda Battaglia at Linda.battaglia@sfport.com.

Mayor's Office of Housing/ Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Residents, business owners, representatives of community-based organizations and other stakeholders are invited to attend a community meeting being convened by the Citizen's Committee on Community Development, Mayor's Office of Housing, and Office of Economic and Workforce Development to solicit ideas concerning San Francisco's FY '12-'13 RFP's for our city's Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant, Home Investment Partnership and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 18, 2011; 6:15pm-8:15pm at Donaldina Cameron House, 920 Sacramento St. San Francisco, CA 94108. For more information visit: www.sfgov.org/moh or call 415-701-5500

Dept. of the Environment

Imagine a world in which nothing goes to the landfill. San Francisco is on its way to making this a reality. Today we recycle or compost 77% of our discarded materials and keep them out of the landfill, bringing us closer to our goal of zero waste by 2020.

Still every year we send 400,000 TONS of material to the landfill, 2/3rds of which could be recycled or composted. We need your continued support and participation to remain on the path of success. If you have questions about what to put where, check out the EcoFinder at <http://www.sfenvironment.org/>

WIC Can Help You

The San Francisco Department of Public Health Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program offers benefits to low income pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, postpartum mothers and women with recent pregnancy terminations; infants and children under the age of 5 years. Benefits include nutrition, breastfeeding education and support, supplemental foods and referral services. WIC staff speaks English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Cambodian. For more information, please call (415) 575-5788. WIC is an equal opportunity provider.

The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

CNS#2181103

NOMBA

North of Market Business Association

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

Founding Members (partial list):

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

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

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

Chutney Restaurant (Indian & Pakistani)
511 Jones Street, 931-5541

Daldas Grocery (Grocery Store & Liquor)
200 Eddy Street; 441-2662

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

Jehena Coffee and Tea (Coffee Shop)
900—A Polk Street; 409-1200

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

Niles Café (Coffee Shop)
544 Jones Street; 409-1000

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

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

50 Mason Social House (Live music, beer & wine bar)
50 Mason Street; 433-5050

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

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

**North of Market Business Association is a sponsored project of:
Alliance for a Better District 6**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENT

Townhall meeting on future of Civic Center postal services, Oct. 5, 6-7 p.m., Alexander Residence multipurpose room, 230 Eddy. Sponsored by Alliance for a Better District 6, Tenant Associations Coalition and TNDC.

ARTS EVENTS

2 Blocks of Art, Oct. 14, Sixth St. between Market and Howard, 4-8 p.m. Free art walk showcases 50 artists — sculpture, illustration, installation, photography, fashion design, theater performance and more — in 25 galleries, storefronts, restaurants and community spaces. Discounts on food and drink along the route. Produced by Urban Solutions as part of the 24 Days of Central Market Arts festival. Info: urbansolutionsf.org.

24 Days of Central Market Arts festival continues through Oct. 16, daytime and evening free and low-cost events — dance, music, theater and visual arts exhibitions, workshops, open rehearsals and performances by some of the city's most innovative artists. Among the 20 events in October: live performances in U.N. Plaza, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Oct. 6 and Oct. 13. Info: central-marketarts.org

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., 1380 Howard St., room 537, 255-3695. Consumer advisers from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public welcome.

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 services, expanded eligibility for home care, improved discharge planning. Light lunch. Call James Chionsini, 703-0188 x304.

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

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/sffdnet, 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: 538-8100 x202.

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, 1st Wednesday 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. Works to protect SoMa resources for all residents. Gene Friend Rec Center, 270 Sixth St. Info: Tim Figueras, 554-9532.

North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Full board meets 3rd Monday at noon. Call 292-4812 for location or check nom-ticbd.org.

SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Advisory Committee, 3rd

Thursday of the month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor. Info: Claudine del Rosario 749-2519.

South of Market Project Area Committee Housing Subcommittee, 1st Wednesday of the month, bimonthly 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom St. Health, Safety and Human Services Committee 1st Wednesday after the 1st Monday bimonthly, 1035 Folsom, 6 p.m. 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: 928-6209.

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.

DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR

Jane Kim

Chair of Rules Committee, member of Budget & Finance Committee and Transportation Authority. Legislative Aides: Matthias Mormino and Viva Mogi. Jane.Kim@sfgov.org, 554-7970

Office of Self Help

Drop-In Center,

1095 Market Street, Suite 202

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November 8th 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

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1 = David Onek*



1 = Ross Mirkarimi



2 = Leland Yee



2= Sharmin Bock



2 = Chris Cunnie



3 = Dennis Herrera



3 = George Gascon



3 = David Wong

MAYOR (Rank Choice)

DISTRICT ATTORNEY (Rank Choice)

SHERIFF (Rank Choice)

Ballot Measures

- A - School Bonds - Yes
- B - Road Repaving & Street Safety Bonds - Yes
- C - City Retirement & Healthcare Benefits (Mayor) - No
- D - Retirement Benefits for City Employees (Adachi) - Yes
- E - Amending Initiative Ordinances - No
- F - Campaign Consulting Disclosures - Yes
- G - Sales Tax - Yes
- H - School District Assignment System - No