

Tenderloin pleads for protection

Police captain urges supes to pass loitering law

BY TOM CARTER

THE New Tenderloin coalition — six months old and mad as hell about crime and crummy neighborhood conditions — brought its long list of complaints and pleas for solutions to a Board of Supervisors committee hearing Sept. 10.

The loudest voice turned out to be that of Tenderloin police Capt. Gary Jimenez. He was as worked up as anyone, maybe more than most. He suggested the supervisors study enacting an anti-loitering law, a veritable red flag for the ACLU.

TNT also brought a petition with more than 5,000 signatures that asks the supes' Public Safety Committee to treat the Tenderloin just like other neighborhoods. The group chafes under the perception that the Tenderloin intentionally gets short shrift from the city because of its tradition of poverty and crime.

Up to 40 speakers — residents young and old, nonprofits, business owners, activists, students, parents and university administrators

— described the dangers and chaos of daily living to the three-member committee and District 6 Supervisor Chris Daly, who sat in on the hearing he had arranged. The perils they recounted ranged from muggings and sidestepping human feces to reckless drivers and gang shootings.

These conditions, speaker after speaker emphasized, would not be permitted in Pacific Heights and the Marina.

Daly, who once lived in the Tenderloin, had requested the hearing in March when TNT was forming its steering committee.

The group drew praise from committee Chair Ross Mirkarimi for its accomplishments.

Working with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, TNT has gotten school zone signs upgraded, crosswalks repainted and speed limit signs added. The TNT Safe Haven campaign — anyone who feels threatened can duck inside a sympathetic business bearing an identifying sign — has 22 addresses, some unconfirmed. (See story on Pg. 2.)

Dina Hilliard, TL organizer for Safety Network and an eight-year resident who helped launch TNT, recapped its brief history for the supes. The group burst into force April 26 at a meeting attended by more than 125 angry activists. The 5,000-name petition was one idea

"I guarantee you, if we had (a loitering law) and exercised zero tolerance, it would devastate drug traffic in the Tenderloin."

Capt. Gary Jimenez
TENDERLOIN POLICE STATION

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CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

1940-2007



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Jack Davis, at an exhibit in the north gallery of SomArts, which he headed for 20 years.

A giant passes

San Francisco loses Jack Davis, a huge patron of grassroots arts

BY TOM CARTER

JACK Davis, a big man who could command any stage but chose to stand even taller behind it, died on Sept. 23, leaving a hole in the heart of San Francisco's art scene.

Mr. Davis, the director of SomArts on Brannan Street for 20 years, had taken his 18-year-old son Arthur to U.C. San Diego in La Jolla and was driving back to the Bay Area. Mr. Davis veered off Interstate 5 north of Valencia and crashed into an embankment. No one else was in the car. The injured Mr. Davis was taken to Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital in Valencia where he died the next day of a heart attack, his relatives said. He was 66.

"Jack was a constant in the universe," Kary Schulman, director of San Francisco's Grants for the Arts, told the Chronicle. "I feel like the stars are starting to go out."

A celebration of Mr. Davis' life will be held Sunday, Nov. 18, at SomArts from 2 p.m. until sundown.

Word spread rapidly through the Bay Area art community, even to artists working abroad. The white-bearded former Shakespearean actor had incubated art projects for 40 years. He was a legendary father figure in his trademark coveralls who worked quietly behind the scenes as a stage manager, technician and administrator. But the humble, charismatic Mr. Davis was even more to his friends. One described him as a bodhisattva, a potential Buddha, a person motivated by compassion who seeks enlightenment for himself and others.

SomArts is one of the city's largest and most accessible stage and versatile gallery venues, one of four community cultural centers under contract to the San Francisco Arts Commission and is funded by the Hotel Tax Fund.

With his a sympathetic ear for starving artists and big ideas, Mr. Davis turned the



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Daughter Sarah Davis and artist Carlos Loarca share a memory at the SomArts soiree in September.

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Havens sprout in the 'hood

Storefronts offer refuge from imminent violence to people on the street

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

DINA Hilliard inventoried The New Tenderloin's hearings, research and committee meetings at the September Futures Collaborative. TNT, she said, also has launched a Safe Havens program — central city businesses, offices, churches and hotels that serve as temporary refuges for people who feel unsafe on the street.

"Our target for this campaign was always kids, seniors and the disabled," Safety Network community organizer Hilliard later told The Extra, "but, of course, it's open to anyone who feels threatened — maybe they come upon a fight among drug dealers and need a place to duck into."

So far, 22 sites have signed on, most in the Tenderloin and a handful on Sixth Street, exceeding the campaign's goal of 15 sites. As of Oct. 1, 14 sites were confirmed, their windows sporting a neon green decal showing the owners and staff have received the 10-page manual and were trained, and that this is an official Safe Haven.

Hilliard, TNDC's Tomiquia Moss, Safety Network community organizer Meital Amitai and several central city residents recruited the participating sites, wrote the manual and did the one-on-one training.

TNT's Violence Task Group, one of its three standing committees, and the Community Housing Organizing Project (CHOP), Community Housing Partnership's civic involvement effort, coordinate the campaign.

According to the manual, people working at a Safe Haven shouldn't view themselves as surrogate police or vigilantes, or get in the middle of disputes.

Their only obligation is to provide 15 minutes of safety and phone 911, if warranted.

The decision to call for assistance is based on answering yes to one or both questions: Does providing the haven put more people at risk? Is the situation too hot for haven staff to handle safely? If

yes, call for help immediately.

If no — if staff determine the person just needs to get off the street for a few minutes — they calm him or her down and offer to phone a family member or friend. Calling for outside professional help is still an option, if questioning turns up an unexpected problem.

The manual is full of good advice for calming a person: Focus on the logical consequences, not the cause, of the person's distress; discourage ogles and amateur interventions; designate one person at the site to be the lead; make eye contact and listen actively but keep 1½ arms length from the person; call Behavioral Health's Mobile Crisis, not 911, if the person seems mentally distressed.

When the incident is over, site staff fill out an incident report. The campaign's AmeriCorps intern, LaVada Moore, collects reports regularly and checks in at each site to make sure everything's okay.

The report information is confidential and can omit the person's name because the project, says the manual, is mainly "interested in outcomes." It also lays out its premise: "Everyone deserves to walk the streets in safety."

"I really believe that," said Doug Sonn, co-owner of Morty's Deli at 280 Golden Gate, who's worked in the Tenderloin for eight years. "As business owners, we're trying to do something proactive here, helping people who live and work here, not just pointing the finger at others and complaining."

Sonn had recently put his green Safe Haven sign in the window and as yet, no one's come in. "But I'm hoping people will use it."

The idea of safe havens isn't new to the city. In 1996, the late activist Diane Rose launched Kampaign Kidz, which included havens for school-age kids who needed a safe place to go fast. At its height, in 2001, 270 schools, libraries, Rec and Park facilities in low-income neighborhoods, and every police and fire station citywide were on Kampaign Kidz' roster of havens.

Staff evaluated the kid in trouble, filled out an intake form, then called 911. The 911 responder, usually police from the closest station, came to the site and took over. An organization called Kampaign Kidz Hunters Point is listed online, but The Extra was unable to confirm the extent of its operations and if it offers safe havens.

Hilliard isn't sure what will be done with the incident reports. "We want to collect data on what types of situations most affect the sites so we can better support them," she said. "The whole process is community-driven so things are sometimes less formal to begin [with]."

No havens have been used yet, as far as she knows, she said.

For more information on TNT's Safe Havens, contact the Safety Network, 538-8100 x204, or CHOP, 749-2790 x356.

Y'S \$60 MILLION FUTURE

Info is trickling in about the coming reincarnation of 220 Golden Gate — the Central YMCA building that will be renovated into housing for extremely low-income and chronically homeless people.

The \$60 million project is scheduled to start in 2009 and will take two years to complete, according to TNDC Senior Project Manager Mara Blitzer and A.F. Evans Project Manager Bre Jones, who presented at the September Collaborative meeting.

TNDC and A.F. Evans formed a partnership to buy the property, Blitzer said. During development, the two organizations are co-developers, with A.F. Evans taking the lead; when construction is complete, A.F. Evans bows out, leaving TNDC as the owner and property manager. Gelfand Partners is the architect.

The 175 studios will have full baths and micro-kitchenettes — fridge, microwave, sink, two burners and cabinets. Though the Y's pool will not survive the restoration, the grand staircase, auditorium and gym will be preserved. For amenities, DPH plans to put in a wellness center that will include holistic, non-Western medicine and practitioners, Blitzer said.

"What are you doing for social services?" asked Collaborative Chair Glenda Hope.

The provider hasn't been chosen yet, Blitzer said, but on-site services will include social workers and psych professionals.

"What's happening to the current residents of the Y, commercial and residential?" asked Daniel O'Connor, St. Anthony's community liaison.

"We know that Wu Yee Children's Services will be back," Blitzer said. "The other commercial tenants, Tenderloin Health's admin offices and Huckleberry House's Community Assessment and Referral Center, have found alternative locations."

Of the 103 residential rooms, 42 are occupied, about half by long-term residents who will be eligible for relocation benefits when the Y closes, Blitzer said.

The Y's lease runs through March 2008, she added, but it's still looking for a transitional site. Executive Director Carmela Gold wasn't at the meeting to give an update.

And the Y's two surface parking lots — what's happening with those? asked Mark Aaronson, Hastings professor and director of its Civil Justice Clinic.

"A.F. Evans decided not to move forward with purchasing them," Blitzer said. "They're still for sale." A.F. Evans had planned to construct 40 one- and two-bedroom market rate condos on the sites, a sale that would have helped the Y finance its new home at Golden Gate Avenue and Larkin, next to the Hastings garage project.

Gold made it to the meeting just as it ended. The Extra ask her if the Y will, in fact, be ready to move by March.

"We're working to set a move-out date that will work best for all three parties and, most important, for the community," Gold said. "The transition site? It's been an incredibly frustrating, on-again off-again deal."

The Y found several sites in the neighborhood but none of the negotiations panned out. Gold thought the Y might have something to announce in November. ■

Safe Havens

THESE 22 sites have signed on as safe havens. As of Oct. 1, 14 had completed training and posted the Save Haven decal.

Club Crash — 34 Mason St.

Creativity Café-Rancho Parnassus — 132 Sixth St.

Downtown Grocery — 289 Eddy St.

Empire Market — 399 Eddy St.

Eugene Friend Rec Center — 270 Sixth St.

G & H Liquors — 201 Jones St.

Gray Area Art Gallery and TL

Community Benefit District (future site) — 90 Turk St.

Hospitality House — 280 Turk St.

Hospitality House — 181 Sixth St.

Hospitality House Art Studio — 146 Leavenworth St.

Iroquois Hotel — 835 O'Farrell St.

Morty's Deli — 280 Golden Gate Ave.

TL Community Benefit District (current site) — 118 Jones St.

Rose Hotel — 125 Sixth St.

St. Boniface Church — 133 Golden Gate Ave.

San Cristina Hotel — 1000 Market St.

Senator Hotel — 473 Ellis St.

Shih Yu-Lang YMCA youth department — 220 Golden Gate Ave.

TNDC administrative offices — 201 Eddy St.

Vixen — 220 Jones St.

Wild Awakenings — 142 McAllister St.

Youth with a Mission — 357 Ellis St.

SOURCE: THE NEW TENDERLOIN



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PHOTO BY ED BOWERS

Look At Us

BY ED BOWERS

Dedicated To Nick Ray Who Died While He Was Alive

It takes discipline to be us.
Reward us for being myself.
We are shadows of the past.

I am just a messenger.
A fast car took my ancestors
to The Land of the Free
Home of the Brave.

I've come a long way to get to the Land of the Dead.

Am I free? Am I brave?

I'm high as a star-spangled flag and want to stay that way.

Forgive us. We never learned how to drive properly.

They enjoy it when we die.
It makes a good story.

I appear romantic from a distance and so does he.

A billion years of suffering comes to this:
Both of us once filmed by a drunken white man
who runs away without paying.

I guess he was broke too.

The uke's a hoot *S.F. played a role in popularity of ukulele*

BY FRAN LINK

IN less than an hour you can learn more about ukuleles than you could have imagined. Maybe you never imagined it would be fun to spend time that way. But it is.

The exhibition at the Museum of Craft and Folk Art in Yerba Buena Center takes you on a journey through the evolution of the ukulele. They call it "the story of Hawaii's Jumping flea," which is a literal translation of ukulele.

While ukulele music plays in the background, you can browse archival materials that tout the re-emergence of the little instrument that was easy for workers to take along into the taro or sugar cane fields.

The ukulele came to Hawaii in 1879 with five immigrants from Madeira, an island off Portugal. Three were instrument makers and two made music. Their virtuosity reached the ears of King David Kalaau, known as the Merry Monarch, and he played and drank with them. The uke got a bigger boost when Edward Purvis, a British officer, also mastered the instrument and played music written for and by Queen Lili Oukalani.

Ukuleles made by the masters — Manuel Nunes, Jose Santos and Augusto Dias — are the first items on display and these instruments are compelling. Of the trio of masters, the Nunes family is the one that continues to perpetuate the craft, with the son and grandsons still producing instruments in Southern California.

The ukulele is much more interesting and intertwined with San Francisco history than I thought when I walked into the museum. Here are some highlights:

- The woods used to make the instrument are many. First was Portuguese madeira, a type of acacia, then the Hawaiian koa, next too-heavy spruce used by the mainland Martin Guitar Co. of Nazareth, Pa., and finally mahogany, which was popular at the 1915 Pan Pacific International Exhibition in San Francisco, the same landmark event that gave us the Palace of Fine Arts.

- The Royal Hawaiian Band took the music to the mainland in 1893 at the Columbia Exposition in Chicago and really popularized the ukulele sound. The next year the expo was in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park with the California Midwinter

International Exposition.

- The Pan Pacific International Exposition of 1915 saw the construction of the Hawaiian Exhibition building in the French Renaissance style by Hawaiian-born Oakland architect, C.W. Dickey. Thousands of ukuleles that were sold there by San Francisco's Sherman Clay Piano Co. were made by Jonah Kumalal, who produced until he died in 1940. A medallion indicating the gold award that he won at PPIE is affixed to the shaft of his instruments.

- 14,100 ukuleles were made in 1926.
- In the 1930s and '40s, the ukulele got a boost from GIs returning from the war in the Pacific.

- Arthur Godfrey gave it a shot in the 1950s with the introduction of TV so the music could be heard and seen at the same time.

- When John, Paul and George of the Beatles were 13, they flirted with the uke. So did Elvis and Bruce Springsteen.

- Acceptance has again risen with the virtuosity of young proponents such as Jake Shimabukuro, aka the Jimi Hendrix of the ukulele, who appeared at the San Francisco Ukulele Festival at Yerba Buena Gardens in early September. Shimabukuro is scheduled to return for a gig at Yoshi's in Oakland Nov. 7.

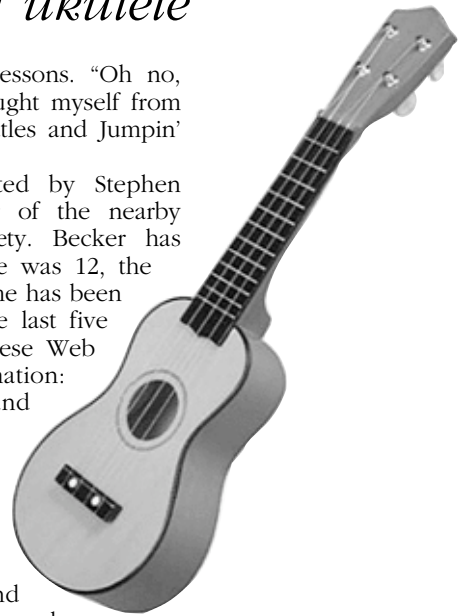
There is an eclectic display of the work of contemporary ukulele makers, from fine wood artisans to much more whimsical versions in the forms of vodka bottles, an Andy Warhol tomato soup can, a Robert Crumb-type cartoon and a Box-a-lele, made from children's lunch boxes.

Finally, on a wall are four ukuleles that you can play. When I was there, a 4-year-old boy was playing along with his grandma, who was strumming quite well. I

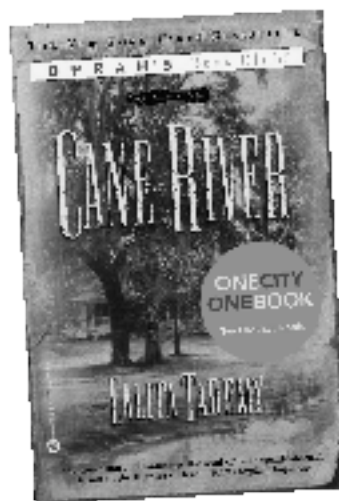
asked if she had taken lessons. "Oh no, honey," she replied. "I taught myself from the songbooks of the Beatles and Jumpin' Jim's '60s Uke In."

The show was curated by Stephen Becker, previous director of the nearby California Historical Society. Becker has played the guitar since he was 12, the ukulele since college and he has been a ukulele collector for the last five years. He recommends these Web sites for further information: fleamarketmusic.com and Ukulelenoir.com.

The exhibition ends Oct. 21. The Folk Art museum is located at 51 Yerba Buena Lane, which is unmarked by street signs but connects Market and Mission between Third and Fourth streets. The museum is open Tuesdays through Fridays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5, \$4 for seniors, children under 18 are free, as are museum members. For more information: 227-4888 or www.mocf.org. ■



Instant book club. Just add friends.

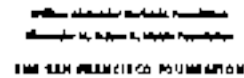


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Jack Davis, SomArts director, leaves

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

former cavernous machine shop into an eclectic arts treasure trove. He and his staff provided technical assistance, lighting when groups rented space, gave classes, too. and Mr. Davis was sought as a consultant on city street fairs and festivals. SomArts was a center for bringing mural projects together.

"He brought in so many different audiences," said Nancy Hom, former director of Kearny Street Workshop that rented SomArts space in the late 1990s and early 2000s. "The Annual Day of the Dead brings in lots of ethnic groups. It's not just Latino anymore. And the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center is there — Jack brought them in — and the Queer Cultural Center. The Filipinos roasted pigs in the yard during their Lechon Festival. And there was some edgy experimental work."

Hom was doing silk screen posters and exhibitions when the landlord doubled the rent on Kearny Street's space in South Park before the dot com bust, forcing them out.

"Jack saved us," she said. "We weren't the only ones, either. I wouldn't have known where to go next. He gave us a small space for little money and when we expanded he didn't say anything to us. It's one of the many good things I remember Jack for."

But no matter when or where a new idea popped up, Mr. Davis had a place at the table. He was a founder of the Neighborhood Arts Program and helped start Intersection for the Arts — where he was executive director from 1977 to 1984 in North Beach — the San Francisco Mime Troupe, Pickle Family Circus, Make-A-Circus and Burning Man, which had its first in-town events at SomArts in the early 1990s. He also had a big hand in The Farm, Galeria de la Raza, Dance Mission, Cellspace, Day of the Dead, S.F. Pride and Survival Research Lab.

"He helped stimulate a vibrant community-based arts atmosphere in San Francisco by providing a home for the unaccepted, the underappreciated, the underfunded (and underfed) artists," said his videographer, George Aguilar, who captured Mr. Davis' reflections of his life and times during his last year of life. "He was

a good man. The very best kind of man life could produce."

When the idea for the San Francisco Blues Festival first surfaced, Mr. Davis was there. He did the stage production.

"In any town, any scene, any time, you can count on the fingers of one hand the largely unheralded folks that facilitate almost everything of note that happens," wrote Burning Man collaborator John Law after Mr. Davis suffered a near fatal heart attack a year ago. "Jack Davis is one of those princes. At crucial points in the life of almost any significant Frisco art endeavor/event/organization (underground or established), Jack has, in some capacity, small or gigantic, been pivotal in its life or growth."

That life-changing heart attack occurred Sept. 9, 2006. Mr. Davis was operating a forklift on Pier 70 when he told the two young men working with him that he was short of breath. They drove him to Kaiser hospital where he had his first heart attack. He was in ICU four days. When he was released less than three weeks later, he had three embedded stents.

On Oct. 5 he sent an e-mail to his friends inviting them to a barbecue at Mission Creek.

"I will stage a photograph opportunity to capture all of you who carried me in your hearts, thoughts, and prayers as my life was saved by the doctors and nurses and technicians at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in San Francisco. I want to send those workers a 'thank you' from all of us."

He briefly described his ordeal and said his heart had stopped beating for 26 minutes.

"My first recollection post surgery was the deep accent of a Pacific Islander in the night — as I was being turned in bed — 'Don' worry, brudah, we take care of you.' He spoke the truth. It seems a miracle that on Thursday, September 28, I was discharged with no restrictions on my activities."

"Yes, we almost lost him at the hospital," his sister Lynn Davis said on Sept. 28 at SomArts during a potluck in his honor five days after his death. "We were lucky to have him another year. And he used it well. He got his son in school and finished the boat."

The boat is a three-story houseboat that was built in 18 months. He lived there with his daughter Sarah, her husband, and their 3-year-old daughter, Olivia. It's moored at Mission Creek. It was the third boat he had designed. He sold the other two.

The SomArts soiree was an emotional release from the shock of losing Mr. Davis. People drifted in and out helping themselves to a table laden with food, drinking wine and reminiscing. In one corner, daughter Sarah Davis joked with artist Carlos Loarca and others about "pregnancy overalls" — her dad's — that she wore before her daughter was born. "Hand-me-down genes," someone cracked.

A few feet away Mr. Davis was eerily very much alive, talking easily and thoughtfully on a television monitor from his office in the next room. It was the tape Aguilar had made, after Mr. Davis encouraged him to put his heart into what he loved doing. In this case, film.

Prominent on the walls were posters showing Mr. Davis in overalls pointing to the "Re" sign on SomArts' roller door outside. Referred to last year's gallery retrospective of more than 80 SoMa artists of the 1960s-'70s-'80s. Mr. Davis was on the panel that discussed those times and was videotaped.

Jack Davis was born John Arthur Marshall Davis in Phoenix on Nov. 16, 1940. His father was a prominent lawyer who became president of the state bar association and a U.S. District Court judge. He was a cousin of U.S. Sen. Carl Hayden of Arizona, who was close to the family.

After graduating from Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix, a Jesuit school, Mr. Davis studied drama in the 1950s and '60s at the University of Santa Clara and at San Francisco State College. He went south to Newport Beach and became a founding director and lead actor at the South Coast Repertory Theater. He met his first wife, Judith Watson, while playing Macbeth. They were married two weeks later. She explained his transition from stage center to behind the scenes.

"He was a great Shakespearean actor,"

SOUTH



Friends gathered at Mission Creek for a potluck on Oct. 8, 2006, at Mr. Davis' invitation. He sent this photo to the Kaiser Permanente staff who had s

aves rich legacy in arts community

Judy Davis said in an interview. "He was incredible — he *was* Macbeth. I was there with a friend. He played Willie Loman after that but it was two performances a day — plus a little school project. It just wore him out. He never acted after that."

She didn't like Southern California so they came back to San Francisco in 1969. Mr. Davis got a job as technical director in the theater department of Lone Mountain College, now part of USF.

SIDE

Mr. Davis had inherited handy skills from his father and had spent summers "building houses in the Arizona sun," she said. He worked with Sean McKenna, son of Robert McKenna after whom the theater at San Francisco State is named.

"He could fix anything and he could build anything," she said.

Their daughter Sarah was born in 1971. But after a few years they separated. Judy stayed in their house on 25th Street and became Chet Helms' partner. All of them and many friends shared holidays together. Helms became Sarah's godfather. The Davis' son Hayden died in 1999 at 24.

Mr. Davis' organizational skills and fundraising ability were widely established in the city as his activities evolved. He was personal and trustworthy. He loved reading and was a first rate raconteur, besides. He could pluck irony and essence out of a book and use a measured delivery rich with detail to build interest and drop the foot at the perfect time. People loved being in his company.

He and Judy Davis were finally divorced in 1985. He married Noriko Tanaka in 1989, the mother of his son Arthur. Divorced now, she lives in Southern California.

In the next weeks, hundreds of people will have Jack Davis on their minds, seeing his face, remembering the details of their experiences with him. E-mails will traverse the country much like one between old friends Doug McKechnie in Oakland and Eric Val Reuther in Florida. McKechnie took the group picture to send to Kaiser staff. Reuther, son of the late labor leader Walter Reuther, was working with the Neighborhood Arts Program when it hired



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Jack Davis seemed alive and well in this one-hour video. It was shown continually at a party in his memory at SomArts Sept. 28, causing some poignant pauses among the guests.

Mr. Davis to maintain NAP's sound and stage equipment. Both men knew him since 1969.

In an 800-word reminiscence on Oct. 4, Reuther said that when he met "Jack and Judy" they had epitomized "all the beauty and brilliance emerging at that time. I fell in love with both of them instantly."

NAP had a limited budget, he said, and Mr. Davis' share was small.

"But there was a new jobs program being trotted out in SF called CETA, and Jack used it

smartly to build his fabulous staff and NAP's service capability," Reuther wrote. "Jack's service to SF through his NAP work is an entire story in itself."

Reuther described more of Mr. Davis' accomplishments, heroics, endless and seemingly effortless generousities and concluded:

"Jack lived the Ruskin quote: 'When love and skill work together expect a masterpiece.'

"He was one beautiful, grand, huge masterpiece." ■



PHOTO BY DOUG MACKECHNIE

saved him when he was at death's door the month before. That's him near the center, seated, wearing a hat.

JOSEPH WILLIAM SHELTON
Electrician, troubadour

Joe Shelton and Rene McIntyre were a hit at the reopening of the Empress Hotel in September 2005, playing and singing songs, he on guitar, she on keyboards. A song the amateur troubadours did with great feeling was "Angel," made popular by singer Sarah McLaughlin, about traveling musicians facing hardships on the road.

This was one of many memories shared at the memorial for Joseph William Shelton on Sept. 25 in the Empress' Community Room where Mr. Shelton had often performed. The 14 mourners said Mr. Shelton's smile, sensitivity and generous personality won him as many friends as his music.

A Vietnam veteran and electrician by trade, Mr. Shelton was diagnosed less than a

year ago with brain cancer. He died Sept. 4 at the Maitri Hospice near Church and Duboce streets. He was 55.

"He was the epitome of an honest man," said a man in the front row.

"He had a vision of how people should be treated," said a woman in the back, "but not always the solution."

"He faced death with dignity and courage," said another man.

Property manager Roberta Goodman said Mr. Shelton was instrumental in achieving the feeling of camaraderie at the hotel. When he served on the tenant council, he had big ideas for everyone's welfare. "He was full of them," she said. "He had a passion to create a food program. And he wanted people to change. The frustration (when change didn't come) would drive him batty."

But Mr. Shelton's wish for more nutritious food for Empress residents came to fruition a few months before his death. Goodman created the Empress Food Market: Every Thursday afternoon residents can pick up a large canvas bag of produce and grains that she gets from the Food Bank. "It's enough to last almost a week," she said. "These are people with very limited means. And it's hardly \$1.18 a person."

The hotel is operated by the Department of Public Health for formerly homeless. Mr. Shelton became a resident June 8, 2005, through the Health Care for Homeless Veterans program.

Nutrition was one of Mr. Shelton's many concerns for all people in the Tenderloin, said Shavi Blake, 31, a guitar-playing friend from Noe Valley who met him playing open mike music four years ago. The two played at Bazaar in the Richmond, Dylan's in the Fillmore and at Canvas Gallery on Ninth Avenue. They went to music festivals together and camped and hiked in Marin County and Tahoe.

"He was very talented and had written about 10 songs," Blake said. "He had lyrics for another 30. He was interested in politics, homelessness and technical things about electricity and cars."

Mr. Shelton was originally

from Birmingham, Ala. After two years of junior college, he joined the Air Force and served 1972-76. He took his discharge in Alaska and rode a motorcycle down the West Coast to Half Moon Bay, a place that enchanted him. But he returned to Birmingham and got a job as an aircraft mechanic.

"He was smart, well-traveled and self-taught," his former wife, Carol Balch, then a college art student, wrote in a letter Goodman read aloud. "That was the Joe Shelton I fell in love with." They married and had a son, Joseph Allen Shelton.

In 1981, Mr. Shelton, then 29, ran for Birmingham City Council. He wanted to "create a mass transit industry that would provide jobs and revenue for the city," he said in a reprinted Birmingham News article. He didn't win, and his wife wrote that the city still lacks adequate transportation.

Copies of the article were on a table along with copies of the October 2006 Central City Extra, which featured a tenant talent show at the Empress and on page 7 was a photo of Mr. Shelton. His opening song was about being transported back to love, family, beauty and serenity. He finished with "Get Together," a Love Generation anthem that goes: "C'mon people, now smile on your brother, ev'rybody get together, try to love one another right now."

"He really helped knit people together," said Goodman. "He's someone who cared about the community. He touched people."

Blake had put a half dozen of Mr. Shelton's self-produced CDs for anyone to take on a table near the candles and a bouquet. He was assigned to take care of Mr. Shelton's ashes. They will be scattered in San Francisco Bay and possibly Half Moon Bay, where another memorial will be held.

At the end, before refreshments were served, Rene McIntyre went to the front and played an electric piano and, in a pretty voice that didn't waver, sang "Angel," which ended:

"... you are pulled from the wreckage of your silent reverie
you're in the arms of the angel
may you find some comfort here."

—TOM CARTER



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Joe Shelton during the talent show last year at the Empress.

TENDERLOINHEALTH
a continuum of care

Outreach and Community Events October 2007


Health Promotion Forum
Topic: Buprenorphine/"Bupe"
Speaker: Dr. Corinna Gamez and Mary Rogers,
San Francisco Department of Public Health
Date/Time: Tuesday, October 16, 12 noon - 1:30 pm

HIV Treatment Forum
Topic: Living Well with HIV/AIDS
Speaker: Ruben Gamundi, Bristol-Myers Squibb
Date/Time: Monday, October 15, 3 pm - 4 pm

Client Advisory Panel
Come talk with Tenderloin Health's Board Client Representative(s) and program managers about plans for Tenderloin Health. Also provide input on new services and how we can improve.
Date/Time: Wednesday, October 10, 11:30 am - 1 pm;
Wednesday, October 24, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Volunteer and Intern for Tenderloin Health
Orientation: Sunday, October 14, 12 pm - 6:30 pm
220 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor
lunch provided
You must register for volunteer trainings.
Stop in/call Emilie (415) 437-2900 ext. 234.

For a schedule of our current groups or for more information call 415.431.7476 or go to www.tenderloinhealth.org



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TL captain asks supes for loitering law

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that came to fruition. A peace march to City Hall was another. On May 8, 200 people dramatized their fears by walking recent homicide and accident sites before ending inside the Board of Supervisors' chamber with a plea for safety.

Hilliard told the committee the neighborhood wanted the Crisis Response Network brought in. This nonprofit problem solver operates in the Western Addition, Bayview-Hunters Point and the Mission.

TNT looked forward also, she said, to the mayor's proposed Community Justice Center to deal with quality of life issues, and asked for it to be located in the Tenderloin.

"People are forced to live in fear, like ghetto-ization," David Seward, chief financial officer of Hastings Law School, told the supes. "Violence has increased. A drug war is in the neighborhood and it's incumbent on the city to come together to address this."

Clark Dawood, dean of Student Affairs at the Art Institute of California-San Francisco at 1170 Market St., said the school's 1,500 students and 250 faculty thread their way daily through U.N. Plaza under random threats of violence. "Three weeks ago there was a shooting outside," he said. School President James Campbell asked the committee: "What can we do on a short-term basis?"

Just "to traverse the landscape" is difficult, said lawyer Elaine Zamora, who runs the Tenderloin Community Benefit District out of her 118 Jones St. office, a Safe Haven. "We need help to make our neighborhood livable."

One middle-age man who walks through the TL on his way to his Union Square job said he accidentally bumped into a man, turned to apologize and saw a hypodermic needle hanging in the man's arm.

Randy Shaw, Tenderloin Housing Clinic executive director, stepped to the mike to testify. Shaw said a few minutes ago he'd been in his office watching the hearing on SFGTV and felt compelled to walk over to City Hall and publicly endorse Capt. Jimenez — because no one had yet mentioned Jimenez, his enthusiasm and contribution to the Tenderloin. The room burst into applause. Shaw said he was happy that Jimenez — originally an interim replacement for Capt. Kathryn Brown — had not been among Chief Heather Fong's reassignments of station commanders.

"Captains come and go," Shaw said. "What we need is continuity. Capt. Jimenez is so motivated it's like a personal mission."

Jimenez came to the podium, as glad for the approval as the fact, he said later, that no one called for more neighborhood police. In his 10 months heading the station, his officers have turned in record arrest numbers, but other dealers rush in to take

up the slack, he says. He has been continually frustrated by the drug and quality of life issues that overwhelm his department. The most recent figures show that calls for service in the neighborhood jumped 22% in the first eight months of 2007 over last year.

He made it clear to the committee that he wants legislation enabling his officers to clear the sidewalks of drug dealers, panhandlers, drunks, crazies, encampments and sleepers. Having to walk a daily "gauntlet," he told the supervisors, depresses and terrorizes families, seniors and the disabled, while appalling everyone else.

In a rising voice he said his department makes "more arrests per capita than anywhere in America." But the justice system, he added, doesn't mete out meaningful consequences for violators.

"But laws can make it illegal to loiter," Jimenez said. "I think people want it." He has heard for months at community meetings in his police station and elsewhere how sick and tired people are of the filthy, threatening streets.

"It's the environment," Jimenez said. And a lot of the victims are the weak and vulnerable. "And there's not a damn thing we can do about it."

"I sure as hell need a lot of help with the environment."

"I guarantee you, if we had that and exercised zero tolerance, it would devastate drug traffic in the Tenderloin. And it would clear a sidewalk path for people to go to work and kids to walk to school."

Gang members, squeezed out by heat in the Western Addition, the Mission and Bayview, have come into the TL with dope and guns. TL's homicide rate has jumped. For the first six months of 2007 there were eight homicides compared with five in 2006, according to figures provided at the hearing by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. In answer to a question from Daly, Jimenez said six of the killings this year were gang-related. A possible seventh came Oct. 3 at 4 a.m. when a 17-year-old was shot and killed while standing at Ellis and Larkin.

The TL's gritty reputation is a magnet. Only 3% of suspects arrested here have addresses in the Tenderloin, Jimenez reported at his community police meeting on July 31.

Not all the Public Safety supes were aware of the Tenderloin's worsening conditions.

Supervisor Sophie Maxwell said she went shopping on Market Street and was amazed when she wandered near the demarcation between Fifth and Sixth streets, and found that a dirty curtain drops there and Market Street morphs from spiffy shoppers' territory into a grimy scene of random beggars, downtrodden and shut up storefronts. She was overwhelmed by the smell of stale urine near Sixth Street as tourists

walked nearby.

"How embarrassed I was because it looked and smelled so bad," Maxwell said. "Don't give up. My commitment is to do whatever it takes (to improve the environment)." ■

A tale of 2 cities

L.A., Seattle dealing with filthy streets, too

TENDERLOIN police Capt. Gary Jimenez, at the supervisors' Public Safety Committee hearing, named Seattle and Los Angeles as two cities with programs for dealing with idle populations that are magnets for crime. Both have found ways to put the squeeze on loiterers without actually passing loitering laws, which he told *The Extra* in his office later, are virtually unconstitutional.

"I don't have a problem with a tired person sitting on the sidewalk — I've done that — but they shoot up and soon you've got an environment that invites that criminal element," he said.

"It's a matter of displacement," he added. "You can't move people out unless there's another place for them to go. Seattle directs them to another part of town. Los Angeles restricts the time a person can be in a certain area." L.A.'s approach is probably the most compatible with San Francisco's politics, he said.

L.A. police Cmdr. Andrew Smith told *The Extra* his city put 50 more cops in a 50-block downtown area that included a skid row, created a "safe sleep area" there, trimmed trees, picked up trash and added lights.

Crime is down 30% and homicides are down 60%, Smith said. "The central downtown hasn't been safer in our own lifetimes. It's phenomenal improvement."

Sleeping in "the box," as the targeted L.A. area is called, is banned 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Homeless can snooze after that, but if a cop taps someone awake at 6 a.m., the choice is jail or see a social worker with the chance for services and 21 days in a shelter. Either way, the person gets medical screening.

"Homeless advocates say it's mean-spirited," Smith said. "I don't understand them. The proof is in the pudding. People are getting arrested now, not dying."

In Seattle, an ordinance excludes homeless from parks, and a raft of trespass laws — with no appeal — can result in arrest for leaning on a rail or sitting in a parking lot. Seattle has 5,500 homeless and only 2,300 shelter beds, according to the Seattle Displacement Coalition's Web site.

The ACLU is one of a dozen groups protesting Seattle's laws. ACLU also is unhappy with L.A.'s safe sleep area. A recent UCLA study of the initiative found that of the 1,000 people cited each month, few can pay the fines and risk jail time.

"We were promised that in addition to law enforcement we would be seeing more beds and more programs to treat the homeless," said ACLU lawyer Peter Bebring in the *Los Angeles Daily News*. "Well, there have been no more social programs added and what we are left with is the police function." ■

—TOM CARTER

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Hoarding and Cluttering Conference, Oct. 18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough. S.F. Mental Health Assn.'s annual conference for consumers and professionals. Register online: <https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/MentalHealthAssociation/HCRRegistration> or call 421-2926 x301.

EVOLUTION OF THE 'UKULELE: The Story of Hawaii's Jumping Flea exhibition continues at the Museum of Craft and Folk Art through Oct. 21, 51 Yerba Buena Lane, (Mission between Third and Fourth streets). Seniors/\$4, under 18 free. Info: 227-4888.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME WALK for children under 10 and their families, Sun., Oct. 28, noon-2 p.m., Children's Gardens, YBC gardens rooftop, Fourth and Howard. Treats, games, live music by Women of the World, hosted by Derique the High-Tech Clown. Information: 543-1718.

GHOST WALK, Oct. 31, 6:30 p.m., City Hall. Free tour by City Guides; ghostly lore, history and architecture. Enter through Polk Street entrance, meet in South Light Court. Information: 557-4266.

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

Supportive Housing Network, 4th Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., location TBA. Contact: Alecia Hopper, 421-2926 x302.

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

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of the month, 5:30-7:30, CBHS, 1380 Howard, Rm. 537. Call: 255-3428. 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, Suite 928. Call: 421-2926 x306.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of the month, Quaker Center, 65 Ninth St., noon-1:30. 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, 2nd Monday and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6-7 p.m. 870 Market, Suite 928. Call: 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, 5th Fl. Call 905-6264. Family member group, open to consumers and the public.

SAFETY

Safety for Women in the Tenderloin, every 3rd Wednesday, **Central City SRO Collaborative**, 259 Hyde St., 4-6 p.m. Informal, friendly environment, refreshments, gender sensitive to LGBTQ community and sex workers. Discuss how to make Tenderloin SROs safer for women. Information: Leanne Edwards, volunteer campaign coordinator, 775-7110, ex. 102.

North of Market NERT, bimonthly meeting. Call Lt. Erica Arteseros., S.F. Fire Department, 970-2022. Disaster preparedness training by the Fire Department.

SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location changes monthly. To receive monthly information by e-mail, contact Meital Amitai, 538-8100 ext. 202 or mamitai@iisf.org.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy. Call Susan Black, 345-7300. Neighborhood safety.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com. Districtwide association, civic education.

Boeddeker Park cleanup, 3rd Saturday of the month, 9-noon, organized by the Friends of Boeddeker Park. To RSVP to work or for information, Call Betty Traynor at the Neighborhood Parks Council, 621-3260.

Central City Democrats, meets four times a year, 301 Eddy St. Community Room. Addresses District 6 residential and business concerns, voter education forums. Information: 339-VOTE (8683) or centralcitydemocrats@yahoo.com.

Community Leadership Alliance. CLA Community Advocacy Commission monthly meeting, City Hall, Room 034. Subcommittee meetings and informational forums held monthly at the Tenderloin Police Station Community Room. Information: David Villa-Lobos, admin@CommunityLeadershipAlliance.net.

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Boeddeker Rec Center, 240 Eddy. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact: 552-4866.

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

Mid-Market Project Area Committee, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5:30 p.m., Ramada Hotel, 1231 Market. Contact Carolyn Diamond, 362-2500. Market Street redevelopment on Fifth to Tenth streets.

North of Market Planning Coalition, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy. Call: 820-1412. Neighborhood planning.

North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District, 1st Thursday of the month, noon. Call Elaine Zamora, 440-7570.

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, between 6th & 7th. Health, Safety and Human Services Committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday after the first Monday, 1035 Folsom, noon. Information: 487-2166 or www.sompac.com.

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., Tenderloin police community room, 301 Eddy. Call 358-3956 for information. Network of residents, nonprofits and businesses sharing information and taking on neighborhood development issues.

SENIORS AND DISABLED

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

Senior Action Network, general meeting, second Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon, St. Mary's Cathedral. Monthly committee meetings, 965 Mission #700: Pedestrian Safety, third Wednesday, 10 a.m.; Senior Housing Action, third Wednesday, 1:30; Information: 546-1333 and www.senioractionnetwork.org.

SUPERVISORS' COMMITTEES City Hall, Room 263

Budget and Finance Committee Daly, Duffy, Ammiano, Mirkarimi, Elsbernd, Wednesday, 1 p.m.

Land Use Committee Maxwell, Sandoval, McGoldrick, Monday, 1 p.m.

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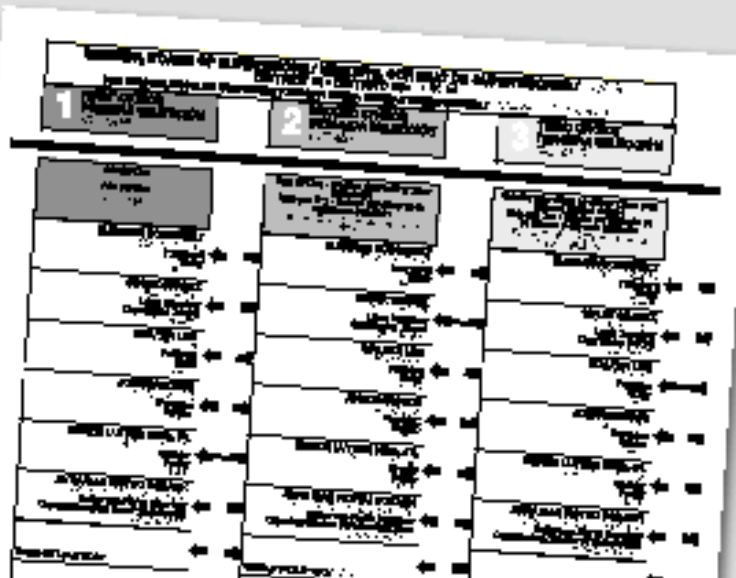
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