

## Nice surprise in 6th Street renaissance

Renovation for bistro reveals 1914 bakery

BY TOM CARTER

**S**URPRISES big and small keep tumbling out of the Sixth Street makeover. An uptown bar name that seemed coy and alluring turns out to be a bust. Poking behind a defunct pawnshop's Peg-board walls opens up an intriguing — and eminently useful — past.

Those pawnshop discoveries in fact have led to the most transformative venture of more than 60 projects that Urban Solutions has helped nurture on the street. Not only will the one-story building at Sixth and Stevenson sport the corridor's first rooftop restaurant, it will have a bakery behind it resurrected from its 1914 roots, its original ovens still intact. (See sidebar.)

But subtler changes affect the changing image of the street, and they harken desires not for mis-

placed gentrification but for respectability and credibility.

The Playbar at Sixth Street and Mission figured out that its chic name had baggage. Women who hadn't been inside hesitated to enter. It wasn't just the

neighborhood's skid row reputation spooking them. Across the street and next door are X-rated adult video and sex toys stores. Is it a hoochie-coochie bar, or what?

"There wasn't any striptease," Jenny McNulty, executive director of Urban Solutions, told 50 people at the Yerba Buena Alliance January meeting in The Westin hotel on Third Street. "We suggested they'd probably do better with a different name, like The Club, and maybe getting a glass door so people could see inside."

The bar — which didn't have an image problem with its customers when it was The Poppy — is a client of the economic development nonprofit that has been working with the Redevelopment Agency since 2003 on a Sixth Street corridor makeover.

Urban Solutions lines up new businesses to fill vacant storefronts and it arranges matching Redevelopment loans for improvements to existing businesses. With the city contributing palm trees, better street lighting and wider sidewalks — the upward evolution of skid row has been dramatic.

Playbar heeded the advice and recently stenciled its new name — The Room — on the top window near the new glass front door and made its basement into a lounge that has become a favorite for private parties. The Chronicle often has sendoffs there for its stream of departing employees.

McNulty said Urban Solutions' efforts have added 33 businesses to Sixth from Market to Harrison streets and has completed 62 projects from façade improvement to redesigns.

**The upward evolution of skid row has been dramatic.**

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# CENTRAL CITY

# EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

## OBITUARIES



PHOTOS BY BRANT WARD, COURTESY OF S.F. CHRONICLE 2006

**Michael Dick** (right), who was featured in a Chronicle series, is hugged on the street by two friends.

# Memorials for 7

## MICHAEL DICK Dies watching TV with friends

**H**OMELESS off and on — mostly on — for the last 24 years, Michael Dick gained some notice when Chronicle reporter Kevin Fagan followed his scavenging activities in a three-part "Shame of the City" series in October 2006. Mr. Dick's story appeared shortly after he found permanent housing at the Coast Hotel.

That summer, Fagan and photographer Brant Ward had followed Mr. Dick on his two-mile shopping cart trek from Kearny and Sutter streets up Market Street to the Duboce Avenue recycling center. He'd been doing that daily for three years, ever since he lost his delivery job at a downtown florist, Fagan reported.

Life on the street was hard for him, Fagan wrote: "What he wanted more than anything was a home."

Mr. Dick, who had emphysema, died Dec. 29 at age 53 in the lobby of the hotel where he had lived for 15 months. He'd been sitting quietly, so quietly that his passing went unnoticed for two hours.

"I was sitting right next to him, us just watching the TV, him just looking like he was asleep, until someone noticed he looked really pale," said fellow resident Steven White, still shaken by the experience. "If we'd have called [the paramedics] earlier, he might be here today."

Everyone at the Jan. 7 memorial for Mr. Dick remembered him as polite, self-reliant, quiet, intelligent, someone who was beginning to successfully make the transition from the streets to the hotel community.

"I could see the adjustments he was making in his life," said Rodney Mitchell, the Coast's assistant support services manager. "That's challenging, going from homeless to housing, but I saw him spending more time with the other residents. I'm glad we could provide for him."

While working on the Chronicle series, Fagan and Ward both developed a strong attachment to Mr. Dick and visited him regularly at the Coast.



**Mr. Dick** leans on a parking meter to talk with friends on the street.



# GOOD NEWS for...

**60,000 MUNI RIDERS** Last August, about 2,500 San Franciscans bought Muni Lifeline Fast Passes — a \$45 value for \$35. Muni has offered the special monthly pass for more than two years but is disappointed with sales, according to Razzu Engen, Tenderloin Housing Clinic's transit outreach coordinator. The Human Services Agency estimates 60,000 people are eligible, says Engen, who, under THC's Transit Justice Project, has been charged with pumping up the sales. The \$10 savings may seem small, he says, especially compared to \$10 senior and disabled passes; still, over a year, a Lifeline pass purchaser can save \$120, enough for some necessities and a few indulgences. To buy a pass, bring photo ID and proof you're in a government benefit program to 170 Otis or 3120 Mission. Once qualified, you also can buy a pass at 11 South Van Ness. Here's the catch: Passes are on sale for four days only, the two business days before and after the first of the month. Engen and others meeting with Supe Aaron Peskin and Muni officials recommend lowering the pass price and adding sales sites and days to buy them. Call Engen for details: 775-7110 ext. 110, or go to [munilifeline.org](http://munilifeline.org).

**RECOVERING VETS** At the Ambassador Hotel, a group of residents meets weekly at the second-floor Listening Post and in January began writing letters to recovering vets at Walter Reed Hospital. It was the idea of 20-year resident Cecil Baker, a regular at the afternoon sharing program that Network Ministries started 24 years ago. "The first 10 people I talked to about this said they didn't want to do it because they are against the war (in Iraq)," Baker said at the first letter-writing session Jan. 16. "It doesn't make sense. It's sad they confuse the person with the war." Tom Laurent, one of two dozen residents who drifted in over an hour, had no such compunction. He gobbled down chocolate cake that Network hosts Francine Osenton and Francie Inesi provided along with homemade cupcakes and tea, then wrote his letter. "I'm a Listening Post regular," Laurent said. "It's a place where people listen to residents and feel for them." Still, guilt by association, akin to old anti-Vietnam War feelings, was hard for some to shake. "A pro football player quit and went over there and got killed — that was stupid," said one man who declined to write a letter. "I have people over there, and some have died," said another who refused. "But it's good to hear something good from someone," offered a man who was undecided. Leo, a self-confessed 30-year IV drug user, said his hands suffered from neuropathy and he didn't want to write. But he said he would put his name on a letter if someone wrote one for him. Inesi volunteered. At the end of the month, four letters had been written. Network Ministries put them in a big envelope and mailed them to the hospital.

**MEDICAL CANNABIS USERS** The California Supreme Court ruled Jan. 24 that employers can legally fire medical pot users — not for smoking on the job but in their own homes outside work hours. The ruling in the case of *Ross v. RagingWire* upheld the court's own previous ruling, in 2002, that defined physician-approved cannabis users as "no more criminal than" anyone who takes a prescription medication. The same day as the high court ruling, Assemblyman Mark Leno announced he will introduce a bill "in the coming weeks" to protect pot patients' right to employment. "The people of California did not intend that patients be unemployed to use medical marijuana," Leno said. The bill "secures a medical cannabis patient's right to use their doctor-recommended medication outside the workplace."

If you have some good news, send it to [marjorie@studycenter.org](mailto:marjorie@studycenter.org) or [tom@studycenter.org](mailto:tom@studycenter.org).

## Food-buying habits in Tenderloin

TNDC focus group expresses great fear for safety

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

**T**WELVE Tenderloin residents sat down in November and gave focus group moderators an earful about how lousy it is to try to buy groceries in their neighborhood.

"I call a [nearby] store 'the crack store' because of the clientele, because a lot of the drug dealers [who frequent the store] would take your money," one participant was quoted in a report from Planning for Public Health, which conducted the focus group for TNDC. "If you're going to go buy milk, you're going to lose your life buying milk."

The low-income, ethnically varied group members, all 30 to 60 years old, were served pizza and soda but weren't paid to participate. None own cars, an important factor in a neighborhood with no supermarket. Most reported spending five or six hours a week grocery shopping.

"I go to Costco. I go to three different Safeways," said one, then listed the locations and the buses needed to get

there and back.

"It's true you can get the fruits and vegetables you need in the Tenderloin. [But] they aren't always fresh. I wouldn't say rotten, just not as fresh," commented another.

High-priced, low-quality food drove the participants outside the neighborhood to shop, they said, as did fears for their safety.

"If there are more than two people in the store, I will turn around and walk out," said one. Others told of being mugged while shopping.

Ironically, because it's so hard to get the food they want to cook at home, many group members reported that they eat out at local restaurants a few times a week, usually a higher-priced alternative to home preparation. About half the participants have full kitchens, the others just microwaves and refrigerators.

Planning for Public Health, a program of the Oakland nonprofit Public Health Law & Policy, also created a written survey of food shopping habits that TNDC handed out to 250 residents in October. In the 98 returned surveys, 43% said

they spent \$5 to \$15 per visit at small Tenderloin markets, and 27% spent that outside the neighborhood. Also, 48% spent that amount on fast food every week, and 24% spent that at sit-down restaurants.

In its report on the focus group, Planning for Public Health concluded that residents would like to be able to walk to a nearby grocery store that's large enough to stock a good variety of food — especially fresh produce, meat and dairy — but that doesn't sell liquor, cooking utensils or other nonfood items.

Focus group members wanted a safe environment with regular specials, but also didn't want a huge retailer that would "dwarf all the other types of stores," said one. "I've lived in neighborhoods that have these gigantic shopping stores, and they've been a disaster for the community."

TNDC sponsored the surveys to test the feasibility of leasing ground-floor space to a grocery store at Eddy and Taylor, the site of a 140-unit family apartment building that TNDC is developing. It's a ways off: completion 2012 or later. ■

## Thumbs-down on \$750,000 condos, Trader Joe's

No affordable housing, but city would get \$5.5 million

BY TOM CARTER

**I**F plans hold, the Galaxy Theater at Van Ness and Sutter will fall to a wrecked ball and 107 market-rate condos plus a Trader Joe's store on the ground floor will rise, a proposal two community organizations would not endorse.

After hearing presentations from Oakland builder Bay Rock Residential at two Tenderloin meetings — the Alliance for a Better District 6 and Lower Polk Street Neighbors — residents weren't swayed by Marilyn Ponte, a Bay Rock partner.

The project, one block outside of District 6, seemed otherworldly to several TL residents among the 35 people attending the Alliance's annual meeting Jan. 8 in TNDC's Alexander Residence.

The 46 one-bedroom and 61 two-bedroom condos would start at about \$750,000, and be ready to move in by mid-2010.

In response to a question, Ponte said the building would include no affordable housing at all, as required by law. Instead, the builder would pay a "substantial" in lieu fee into a city fund to build affordable housing elsewhere. She later said the fee was \$5.5 million but she would not divulge the total project cost.

"The downside is that market-rate brings in \$750,000 to \$1 million condos and it changes the demographic of the neighborhood," said Jim Meko, an activist who serves

on several SoMa advisory committees and the Entertainment Commission. He was present to receive the Alliance's first annual Jim Berk Award for "outstanding leadership and public service." The late Jim Berk was a retired engineer and senior activist.

"Another downside is it

takes the site out of the hands of affordable housing (possibilities)," Meko said.

In other action, the Alliance re-elected Michael Nulty president, a post he has held since 2000. Others re-elected were Dennis Isner, secretary, and Terrance Alan, parliamentarian. ■

CENTRAL CITY  
**EXTRA!**  
SAN FRANCISCO

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# 6th Street: 8 new businesses will start this year

➤ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At one point, the nonprofit identified the 13 worst buildings and — as added incentive to freshen up — got Redevelopment to double the matching money available to them. Aid for façade improvements went from \$9,500 to \$20,000 and interiors from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Seven owners responded, four passed but two, according to Urban Solutions, “did work on their own because they didn’t want to get involved in city contracts.”

Urban Solutions provided The Extra with additional figures: 33 vacancies existed in the corridor’s 76 storefronts in 2003; now 11 vacancies remain. In the five-year period, 12 businesses closed — four of them failed — but all have been replaced with others or will be this year.

Redevelopment has put \$482,000 into the project and has committed \$647,000 to work that’s under way.

The area’s proximity to Yerba Buena, or Emerald City as it was humorously called, is tantalizing. But attracting new businesses to the “diamond in the rough” corridor is an uphill pull. Knots of scuzzy loiterers, homeless folks and brown bag drinkers still dot Sixth Streets sidewalks. Drug use and auto break-ins are common.

“Hanging out isn’t illegal,” said Urban Solutions Project Director Tracy Everwine. “But if a business has a sign in the window (discouraging loitering) police can ask them to move on. Without police, it’s sometimes impossible to get them to move.”

It remains to be seen what impact Hospitality House’s planned SoMa senior and self-help drop-in center will have. It’s supposed to open in the Alder Hotel’s 169-181 Sixth St. storefronts. The city-funded facility may attract as many as 200 street people a day who are seeking help or respite. That it will have bathrooms will be a boon for the area, Everwine said.

The center is one of eight new tenants slated to open in 2008; six are under construction.

The Alder itself is a testament to Sixth Street evolution. For years it vied, inside and out, for worst SRO fleabag in the corridor. But in December 2005, after a \$1 million renovation that included new electrical, plumbing, windows and flooring, some



PHOTOS BY LENNY LIMJOCO

The view from Market Street down Sixth, which is undergoing a renaissance.

Redevelopment matching funds along with a \$48,000 façade improvement, the five-story hotel emerged as a glistening gem. Its battered storefronts had been boarded up for 40 years. Its nostalgic Art Deco sign — flamingo pink neon against a lime green background — has been restored and Everwine says the drop-in center’s sign will match.

But the Alder is delinquent with its paperwork. If businessman Henry Karnilowicz, who handled the work for owner Vijay Patel, can deliver receipts and progress reports on the interior work, the Alder would receive \$100,000 from Redevelopment. But now, after two years, it is unlikely, Everwine says. Karnilowicz failed to collect from Redevelopment \$25,250 each for the Sharon and Shree Ganeshi hotels, she said.

The drop-in center will have employment help, case management, and group support, holistic health, medical services and recreation.

It was supposed to be ready in October, but bureaucratic approvals and structural ADA compliance problems delayed the build out. Hospitality House Executive Director Jackie Jenks expects the center to open in summer.

Other new tenants this year: SF Print, a full service shop next to the Bayanihan Community Center; Dr. Jack Sinow Optometry at 71 Sixth St., an eye doctor who was at 71 Fifth St. for 28 years and lost his lease; Rancho Parnassus, a café for musi-

cians; the Northeast Federal Credit Union at 900 Howard at Sixth; Passion Café at 28 Sixth St., a red-brick French bistro that will supplant a pawnshop; Miss Saigon at 100 Sixth St., a Vietnamese restaurant across from the venerable Tu Lan and replacing Ginger’s at 100 Sixth St.; and Mi Tierra Market at Howard and Sixth.

SF Print, now operating, follows the feds. Since 1995, its owner has run KK Printing at 500 Larkin, catty corner from the Phillip Burton Federal Building on Golden Gate Avenue. The new shop is a block from the new Federal Building at Seventh and Mission.

Mi Tierra, which has two stores in the Mission, will be a 5,000-square-foot meat and produce grocery. It will compete with the modern-looking, 11,000-square-foot Harvest Urban Market three blocks away at 181 Eighth St. and Howard. The pricey Harvest Urban opened in June 2004 and operates 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Urban Solutions helped it get financing.

The corridor community isn’t yet complete, obviously, but just eliminating darkened storefronts with lighted businesses has made the neighborhood safer, Everwine says. Some businesses have hired locally. Split Pea Seduction, a restaurant new in 2007, hired three employees from the neighborhood, she said.

“And there are more goods and services available to the community,” she adds. “We’d love to have a hardware store. We’re still working on it.” ■

## In the works: French bistro with rooftop dining, bakery

WHEN contractor Steve Barton bought the one-story building at Sixth and Stevenson last year he had no idea that behind its deceptive Pegboard walls he’d discover early 20th century secrets to launch him on the biggest “transformative” project yet on Sixth Street.

“I only knew I had bought a brick building,” Barton said. “You could see it in the basement.”

What Barton had in mind was making a café out of a pawnshop.

Peeling back the Pegboard walls of the former Can B Loans pawnshop Barton found original 1910 red brick. On the building’s south side facing Stevenson Street he exhumed double wooden doors — one with glass paneling intact — that he’s restoring. It’s all the more fetching for the Passion Café, a French bistro, that he’s creating with partner Jacques Andre.

Beyond the walls, though, a sealed-off back room — as if answering his dreams — was his greatest discovery: a bakery. He figures it was an add-on built in 1914.

“I’ve always wanted a bakery,” the muscular Barton says as he shines light into one of two awesome 15-foot-deep, almost a century old, brick ovens. “And I’ve got everything I ever wanted.”

The ovens are in a 9-foot-high, white-tiled housing that runs 20 feet along the wall. Spit and polish could shine it up like

the old days when people must have clamored to the Stevenson Street door for hot bread, cakes and cookies. But the ovens would never pass city codes now.

Even so, the space will become a bakery with new ovens, a business that has been on Urban Solutions’ wish list since it began its Sixth Street improvement project with Redevelopment in 2003.

“This is the single most transformative project we’ve had,” said Tracy Everwine, Urban Solutions project director. The economic development nonprofit has helped more than 60 projects on the street in five years.

For Barton’s “extreme green” changes he will receive façade and tenant improvement matching funds from Redevelopment in amounts yet undetermined, Everwine said.

Besides the bakery, Barton has another new Sixth Street look planned for his main attraction: the café will have solar panel-covered, rooftop dining with a garden around it. Below, he’ll knock out the building’s wall that separated the pawnshop from the Rite-By Grocery and Liquor store, and increase the café width to 30 feet.

The doors will open onto Stevenson in time. They are covered now on the outside by a wall precariously holding a mural running the height and length of the building. The futuristic cityscape with embryonic images was painted by four artists who have since left town, Everwine says. It is popular

in the neighborhood, Barton says. But it has pieces missing, cracks throughout and it’s separating badly from its anchoring.

The Maryland Café was there before the pawnshop, Barton says, hovering over the precious door to show the old-timey pebbled glass in it.

“This is so much fun,” he said. ■

— TOM CARTER



New owner Steve Barton stands next to century-old double doors that had been walled over for decades.



# Returning From The 21 Club

BY ED BOWERS

I am a mute marching alone on the streets of the Tenderloin after returning from The 21 Club after attending The Opera.

The history of crime lurks behind shadows and doors,  
Barbary Coast ghosts toast the bloody future  
where politics and romance play practically no part in history, time and place.



In the Opera lobby at a performance of The Magic Flute.

They are watching my back for signs of w

They are death and demolition and pink t  
black plastic bags force-marched in and o

I love to walk at night in dangerous neigh  
I love to tease the man with the horns. He

I am history in the making. And so is ever

I have just returned from the bars after vie  
and know now that nothing is real in a w

This old man has temporarily transcended

It is the after party of Halloween this morn  
my every move monitored by werewolves  
We here now are hungry ghosts. The vam  
asleep or getting ready for work.

Even crack dealers have to pass out some

Look at that old man. He's a bum.

If Buddha or Christ slept here now,  
they'd never become best sellers.

But they would become one, sharing the s

A kind cop might clue them to when the  
That's at least something.

The womb of blue sky rising up the legs o  
will cause him to fade in the dawn.

# QUESTIONS

## What do these two very different

BY ED BOWERS

These two photographs each contain  
a woman; one woman is visible, the  
other is not.

In the photograph on the right the  
view of the woman is blocked by two  
police officers standing over her on  
Market Street in the Tenderloin.

Before I could shoot her with my  
camera she disappeared. But I saw her.  
She was old and sick and ugly and  
trashed and the sun was out and people  
were moving purposefully down the  
street and the police wanted her to go  
away because she was sleeping on the  
sidewalk and didn't want to wake up.

She wanted to go away too, but not  
in the way that the police wanted by





# After Attending The Opera

Weakness, these anonymous demons.

Times ended inside  
out of containers of waste.

Neighborhoods. They wake me up.  
It's the only opera in town.

Anyone who is nothing special.

Watching The Magic Flute at the Opera House  
World where I am alive enough to suffer.

Illusion.

Waking at 3:00 a.m.,  
and ghouls.  
Pirates are satiated,

Time.

Same name that is nothing.

Mayor drives by so they could scam.

Of this Man in the Moon

But if you look hard enough,  
in the light of day,  
around you, inside you,  
you will see him everywhere.

He is the opera nobody takes seriously.

He is a classic and will live forever, a repetition of form and failure.

He is a Magic Flute.



Old man on the street.

## TION

# ent women have in common?



moving her somewhere no one will see her and she will die alone.

In the second photograph, taken in a garbage room in a North Point condominium, the woman in the picture is easy to see. She is young and healthy and beautiful and vivacious and appears awake. However, she is an illusion, only a photograph of a photograph of someone who is not a photograph. She is not alive.

But the woman in the photograph is about to have her photograph thrown in the garbage where it will be forgotten.

However, I don't think she wants to be thrown away, even if she is dead. I think she likes to be seen.

What do these two very different women have in common?

# The Hugo: City's first eminent domain case in 25 years

BY TOM CARTER

A SOMA community up in arms over a blighted building that's been a neighborhood black eye for years finally persuaded the Redevelopment Agency Commission on Jan. 15 to start official eminent domain proceedings against the owners of the Hugo Apartments at Sixth and Howard streets, vacant for 20 years.

"We've worked hard and we care about our neighborhood," resident Lisa Hasen told the committee. She said the Hugo has been like "a Godzilla footprint smashing homes" in the vastly improved Sixth Street Redevelopment area that's trying to molt its skid row reputation.

In December, SOMPAC, the Redevelopment Agency's community advisory committee, recommended eminent domain.

The four-story building has been fallow and deteriorating since a fire in 1988. But in 1997, with the owners' permission, sculptor Brian Goggin and his artistic friends put up Defenestration on the façade of the Hugo, an art project that looks like the household furniture and appliances are flying out the windows. It has attracted international attention. Below discolored painted brick in the stories above, the Hugo's ground floor walls are covered with plywood and mesh metal screens and slathered with wild, cartoon-like murals.

But saving whimsical art wasn't a concern of 15 community members whose patience had worn thin.

They pleaded for adoption of the requisite Resolution of Necessity to move on the Hugo. No one opposed it. Some cited a history of building citations the owners had ignored over the years. Others said the abandoned building discouraged prospective new businesses from locating in the neighborhood.

"It's clear what's going on," said Paul Lam, rep-

resenting a nearby business. "(The Hugo's owners) wait, wait, wait and wait until the price goes up, and the community has been paying the price."

"This (Sixth Street) is the gateway (to the city) and it's an embarrassment," said John Melone, a member of SOMPAC, which advised Redevelopment to make the owners an offer, then begin eminent domain proceedings if the offer is refused.

After public comment closed, Commissioner London Breed said she could "appreciate artistic value but this is a terrible-looking building. I know there's a cloud over Redevelopment because of

## SOUTHSIDE

what has been done in the past. But I hope we move forward."

It has been 25 or more years since Redevelopment exercised the eminent domain option that requires provable conditions of blight, which the Hugo has on several counts.

"We have fulfilled all the legal steps for the resolution and we have a community that's very offended," Commissioner Ramon Romero said. "We've watched this deterioration for many years. We don't like to use this power, but it's important."

On Romero's motion, the resolution passed 6-0-1 with Commissioner Darshan Singh abstaining.

The resolution means that Redevelopment will commence eminent domain proceedings in Superior Court within six months. The court then decides the price for Redevelopment to pay if the owners haven't already sold the building by then or declared they want to renovate and demonstrate they have the funds. Either would eliminate Hugo's blight status and end the eminent domain process.

A third possibility is for the husband and wife owners, I.M. (David) and S.I. Patel of Hillsborough, to agree with Redevelopment on a compromised sale price. The agency wants to tear it down and

build affordable housing.

The Patels rejected Redevelopment's \$3.25 million offer last year. They subsequently hired Sam Patel of CSV Hospitality Management to get an appraisal and represent them.

Sam Patel, not related to the owners, was at the hearing but did not testify. He responded to a question from Singh during the commission's deliberations, answering from his seat that he estimated the Hugo's worth at \$5.6 million.

TODCO, which transformed the burned-out Delta Hotel at Sixth and Mission streets into the splendid Bayanihan House, offered the Patels \$1.9 million in the late 1990s, the Redevelopment document in November says. In 2000, the Patels also rebuffed an AF Evans offer.

In a meeting in October 2006, I.M. Patel's son-in-law, Jack Patel, told Redevelopment staff that the family had recently rejected a \$4.6 million offer because they wanted \$5 million.

According to a Redevelopment document, in an April 2007 meeting at the Ramada Hotel on Seventh Street, which the Patels also own, the owners said they would sell for \$7 million. Apparently, according to a conversation the memorandum quotes, the owners thought the city had upped the corner's 50-foot height limit to 85 feet. But that change remains merely a recommendation by City Planning in its Eastern Neighborhoods Plan, with no adoption date in sight.

Then in July, the owners reversed course and said they wanted to develop the Hugo themselves.

"Now we're \$2.4 million apart," said Sam Patel in the hallway after the hearing. "And we're in the process of selecting a third appraisal."

If negotiations go astray, Patel said it was unlikely the owners would let eminent domain run its course, with expensive lawyers on both sides slogging through the system for "maybe two years." It's "50-50" the owners would renovate, he said, and wind up with 69 livable apartments. ■

## TENDERLOINHEALTH

a continuum of care

### Outreach and Community Events February 2008

#### Health Promotion Forum

**Topic:** Black is Beautiful, in recognition of National Black/HIV Awareness Day

**Speaker:** Taylor Morrison & Luther Carthen of TLH and TLH alumnus Blackberri

**Date/Time:** Thursday, February 7, 2 pm - 3 pm

#### HIV Treatment Forum

**Topic:** Staying On Top of Your HIV

**Speaker:** Jennie Vanderlaag, Gilead Sciences

**Date/Time:** Monday, February 11, 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, February 13, 11:30 am - 1 pm;

Wednesday, February 27, 11:30 am - 1 pm

#### Volunteer and Intern for Tenderloin Health

**Orientation:** Sunday, February 10, 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](http://www.tenderloinhealth.org)



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## OBITUARIES

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"He was a kind person, always told it like it was," Fagan told The Extra. "I remember that when we were doing the story, he seemed genuinely ready to get off the streets."

The last time he saw Mr. Dick was several months ago, Fagan said. "He seemed quite frail, but then, I was always amazed that he just kept going — he had that homeless look, thin and tough."

Ward said that the last time he stopped by the hotel to take Mr. Dick out for coffee, a monthly ritual, he learned that he had died.

"Mike was a sweetheart of a person," Ward said, "a gentle person with no pretensions, no meanness in him."

Ward told Fagan about Mr. Dick's death. Both said they would have been at the memorial had they known about it.

At the gathering, Coast Case Manager Brady Skinner recalled how Mr. Dick had attended hotel meetings and coffee hours, and even helped decorate the lobby for the Christmas holidays.

A woman who identified herself as Miss Toni sang a sweet, slightly off-key song to remember Mr. Dick, "a great person," she said.

"We'd nod, but I didn't really know Michael well," said Joe Jackson, a Coast resident for 20 years who's seen the hotel change for the better. "Ten years ago, when someone died, the fact was ignored — they'd change the bedding and turn over the room. Now we have social support staff, social hours, a community room, memorials like this. We're becoming a community here."

Staff said they couldn't comment on the cause of Mr. Dick's death but all considered it untimely. ■

—MARJORIE BEGGS

### CHUI Y. TAO Tenderloin's oldest resident

Chui Y. Tao, a devout Chinese woman with a radiant smile — believed to be the oldest person in the Tenderloin — died Dec. 28, 12 days after celebrating her 96th birthday.

Mrs. Tao, weak and cyanotic, was taken to California Pacific Medical Center by ambulance Dec. 20 from TNDC's Turk-Eddy Preservation apartments, coincidentally during a memorial service for Bernard DeFoe, also a resident.

Mrs. Tao had suffered a heart attack and it prevented her from swallowing food, her daughter, Anna Cheung, said later. But the old woman refused feeding tubes. A week later, she died in her sleep.

"It was like a candle burning out," Cheung said. "In the Chinese way of counting, she was 99."

Cheung had treated her mother and friends to a birthday dinner on Dec. 15, the day before her birthday, at the Tong Palace restaurant on Clement Street, as she had for the past five years. It was a festive occasion.

Mrs. Tao had been in fair health until May when she started using a walker indoors and a wheelchair outdoors, aided everywhere by her faithful care-

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giver of 2½ years, Ming, who speaks little English. At night, Kevin Thomas, her next door neighbor on the sixth floor, looked out for her.

A memorial for Mrs. Tao was held at the apartment building Jan. 7. More than a dozen of her friends attended. Some went up to a table to view an undated framed color photo of her and bowed in the Chinese tradition. In conducting TL memorials



Chui Y. Tao

for several decades, the Rev. Glenda Hope said afterward she couldn't recall anyone as old. "I think it was a first," she said.

"Mrs. Tao had the most beautiful smile," said building manager Patsy Gardner. "You could just feel the warmth. She came down to coffee every day and, no matter how she felt, she sent

out good feelings for her fellow man. She kept a red paper cross on her door."

Her friends told how sweet she was, how she smiled and "talked nice." She read the Bible every day, they said, and prayed for everyone. Ming took her on Sundays to a Lutheran church at Anza and Ninth Avenue and to her family doctor in Chinatown and to the bank.

But for two hours every day, Cheung said, she was glued to Chinese soap operas on the TV in her apartment.

Mrs. Tao left China in 1985 to live with her son in Texas. Then she moved to London and lived with her daughter for 10 years. She came to live by herself in the Aspen Apartments in 1997 and was still there when TNDC bought the building a year ago. Her daughter now lives in town on Harrison Street.

"She was good people," said one man. "She was good to everyone. I'm glad she didn't suffer."

At the end, the Chinese women hugged Ming and each other and cried softly. Then the mourners had the hot tea and cranberry bread that Gardner set on a table. ■

—TOM CARTER

**BERNARD DEFOE**

**A joker and stylish to the end**

The impeccably dressed Bernard DeFoe had troubles enough with debilitating kidney dialysis treatments three times a week. But, returning from the hospital one day in October, he fumbled with his apartment building key, fell and broke his hip.

The accident put him in a wheelchair and one step from the grave.

"I used to push him up the ramp here," said one mourner at Mr. DeFoe's memorial Dec. 19 in the lobby of the old Aspen Apartments, where a dozen friends gathered. "He was in a lot of pain but remained upbeat."

TNDC's apartment manager Patsy Gardner found Mr. DeFoe dead in his room on Dec. 10 during a room check. He was 57.

The building at 165 Turk St. is TNDC-owned and, with another building two blocks away, is called Turk-Eddy Preservation.

His friends said the affable Mr. DeFoe loved to joke and would fib a bit to see if people could catch on.

"He was hard to read sometimes and would throw you off to the left," said one man. "I knew him a long time. He used to run a little newsstand at Taylor and Eddy. He was a good guy. Everybody knew him."



Bernard DeFoe

"He was the kindest man I every met in my life," piped up another.

The memorial was momentarily interrupted when an ambulance arrived to take an elderly woman to the hospital. The Rev. Glenda Hope, who was officiating, paused and said a prayer for her.

Mr. DeFoe was from the Bronx where his mother and sister live. He came to San Francisco 25 years ago. He moved into the Aspen in 2003 and became a tenant activist.

He worked part-time at Pete's grocery at 289 Eddy St. across from Boddeker Park, now called Downtown Grocery, for about eight years. His nine-year battle with kidney disease forced him to slow down, but not melt down.

"He was an immaculate dresser and very cordial," said one woman. "It's not every day you meet somebody like that. He had nice clothes, color coordinated, tidy and neat. He was from New York — that's where we get our classy men from."

Kelvin Nance, Mr. DeFoe's support service worker for 10 years, said he and his wife invited Mr. DeFoe for holiday dinners at their South San Francisco home and that he often brought presents to Nance's granddaughter.

"We were his only family," Nance said. "He liked to think he was like my father — I just let it go. I miss him already." ■

—TOM CARTER

**JOSEPH BRUCE JENSEN**

**Vietnam vet**

Lively, funny, good-hearted but desperately ill is how fellow residents and staff at the Empress Hotel remembered Joe Jensen at his Dec. 19 memorial.

"He lived here for three years and, in that short time, he helped build our community," said hotel Property Manager Roberta Goodman.

Mr. Jensen, who'd had both a heart attack and stroke recently, died in the hospital Dec. 9 of complications from cardiac disease and diabetes. He was 63.

"He was my neighbor," said one man. "He kept me laughing — he made everyone laugh."

A staff member recalled that if she asked how he was feeling, he'd tell her what was wrong, "but in the next breath, he'd crack me up."

Resident Ron Rucker said that Mr. Jensen was a Vietnam vet, though he didn't know his military branch or other details of his life.

"I was an Army medical corpsman in Vietnam, so I let him know I was a fellow vet and that I might be able to help him," Rucker said. "Joe surely had lots of problems. Many of us have come down to this" — he swept his arm around the room — "but we need to support each other."

A former hotel tenant representative echoed Rucker: Mr. Jensen was not the kind of person who reaches out to get help, he said, "but we need to know how we're all doing."

Another man also identified himself as a vet. He rarely attended memorials, he said, and he had few "warm relationships," but he did with Mr. Jensen. "I'm going to miss him a lot." ■

—MARJORIE BEGGS

**GERALD HENRY**

**"The King"**

Everyone who knew Gerald Henry called him "The King," and he called himself that, too, according to James Weyland, his good friend and fellow resident at Franciscan Towers.

"He always wore a crown — a real one — and he had several different crowns," said Weyland, who met Mr. Henry four years ago.

"He's the one who encouraged me to go to church. We attended Hamilton Memorial (Church of God in Christ). And I was the one who gave him his medication, put on his oxygen mask at night, took him to the hospital and took care of his cat," Weyland said.

Mr. Henry, who was born in Detroit, lived at the Seneca Hotel before moving to the Franciscan two years ago. He died in his room Dec. 2, probably of a heart attack, said Liz Delgadillo, Franciscan social worker. He was 64.

At the Dec. 19 memorial for Mr. Henry, Delgadillo remembered him as a man who lived the way he wanted, despite disabilities that confined him to a wheelchair.

"He was always strong, even with going in and out of the hospital a lot," she said. "He really was the king of his castle — though I was always reminding him to keep his cat, Tinker, in his room."

Thomas Heintz Jr., a Franciscan Towers resident for 23 years, said he conversed often with Mr. Henry, who "talked a lot and really fast — almost like he was talking in tongues."

Another resident at the small gathering, Sharon Ray, said she didn't know Mr. Henry well but felt she had to come to his memorial: She happened to "see the coroner" taking his shrouded body down in the elevator and only learned later that it was "The King" who had passed. ■

—MARJORIE BEGGS

**KATHY FIELD**

**"Only one Kathy"**

Purple mums in pots, glowing candles and a copy of a poem that began, "Light a candle for those we mourn..." graced the table at the Hamlin Hotel in memory of Kathy Field, who'd lived at the hotel for almost eight years after being homeless for nine.

She died Jan. 7 in her Room 505 — a month shy of her 60th birthday.

Eighteen people came to remember a woman they admired but who, they admitted, often drove them nuts with her honesty and abandon.

"You just had to love her, even though she shocked you," Donald Thomas, an eight-year resident of the Hamlin, said at the Jan. 15 memorial. "She had an incredible passion for all creatures. There was even a rumor that she was feeding milk to the hotel mice. There was only one Kathy, and I'm going to miss her."

Loretta Ball lived on the sixth floor, right above Ms. Field, and they became fast friends. "We had good times and bad times, like all friends," Ball said. "Often we'd bang on our floor and ceiling to communicate — bang, bang, bang with a broom to say good night."

By the time a few more people had shared memories of Ms. Field, many in the room were in tears.

Vanessa Brown, a former case worker, called Ms. Field "a bright light, a warm, caring soul."

A man called Dr. Joe said he was her special friend: "When I was ill, messing myself, she brought me clean clothes and took care of me 24/7."

Resident Ma Anand Rekha remembered how Ms. Field would hang things to dry on the back fence. "Then she'd bring them to me, smelling of fresh air. I just wish she'd taken care of herself. I wanted her to heal, and maybe I was mean to her toward the end, but she was getting worse and worse."

Tenant Services Supervisor Kathleen Flanagan said it was she who found Ms. Field dead, the latest of seven bodies she's found since working in SROs.

The cause, she said, was "uncertain."

Flanagan took the opportunity to ask residents to also remember Willy Miles, a Hamlin tenant of several years, who died Thanksgiving day in a nursing home at age 74. ■

—MARJORIE BEGGS

**TIMOTHY TOOHEY**

**Homeless, he died in a shelter**

A memorial was held for a homeless man that people at the Episcopal Sanctuary, where he was sleeping, hardly knew.

Timothy Toohey died Jan. 4 of unknown causes in bed on the men's second floor. He was 47. His memorial was three days later.

"I didn't know him, but this was Mr. Toohey's second visit here," shelter Director Linzie Coleman said in the small chapel on the main floor where the women's beds were already turned down for the night. About a half dozen people attended the service, giving "the final dignity to one who died," said the Rev. Glenda Hope, who conducted.

On a beat up piano behind her was a small nativity scene that she couldn't help but notice had been adorned with two small bars of motel soap that clients are given.

"This touches me," she said. "Jesus was homeless, too."

One man stood and said he didn't know Mr. Toohey either but that he seemed like "a nice easy-going person" when he had passed him on the floor. Later in the evening he saw across the room that Mr. Toohey had his shirt pulled up over his head and appeared to not be breathing.

"My greatest comfort is that he didn't die on the street but here among people who cared for his well-being," said Coleman.

Episcopal Sanctuary, begun in 1983, is an emergency shelter on Howard and Eighth streets that serves 200 adults who stay up to six months.

"It's important that we care for each other and gather and say his name," said Phil Clark, a member of the Grief Response Team the shelter started a year ago. "It's changing the way we approach death," he said. "We work with a medically frail clientele." ■

—TOM CARTER

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Community Safety Forum**, Tues. Feb. 12, 201 Turk Community Room, 6 p.m. Public meeting on safety programs implemented in District 6 by the police, probation, district attorney, judges. Sponsored by Central Market CBD, Chinatown Community Development Center, Grand Liquors, La Voz Latina de La Ciudad Central, Market Street Association, North of Market Planning Coalition, Safety Network, St. Anthony Foundation, Tenant Associations Coalition, Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation. Information: 820-1560.

**Small Business Taxes workshop**, March 5, 6-8 p.m., West Bay Conference Center, 1290 Fillmore St. Urban Solutions-sponsored free advice and tips on filing taxes from guest speaker, CPA Steven Price. Light refreshments. Public parking at Fillmore Street garage at Ellis. Information: urbansolutionsSF.org. To register, 553-4433 ext. 101.

## COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

**Supportive Housing Network**, 4th Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., location TBA. Contact: Kendra Fuller, 421-2926 x304.

**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 p.m., 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 p.m. Focus on increasing sup-

portive 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**, 870 Market, Suite 928. Call for dates and times: 421-2926 x306.

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

**National Alliance for the Mentally III-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 x102.

**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 x202 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, a districtwide improvement association.

**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, 931-1126.

**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.

**Central Market Community Benefit District**, board meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 989 Market St., 3rd Fl., 3 p.m. Information: 882-3088, <http://central-market.org>.

**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](mailto: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 Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

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

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

**North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District**. Call Elaine Zamora for times and dates, 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](mailto: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](http://www.sompac.com).

**Tenderloin Futures Collaborative**, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., Tenderloin Police community room, 301 Eddy. Call at 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](http://www.senioractionnetwork.org).

**SUPERVISORS' COMMITTEES** City Hall, Room 263

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

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

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## JOIN COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Attend the hearing to establish a full-service  
Post Office in the Tenderloin

**Thursday • February 14 • 1 p.m.**

City Hall, Room 263  
City Operations and Neighborhood  
Service Committee

The postal facility at Hyde & Golden Gate  
should sell stamps and mail packages.

For more details:

<http://postofficepatrons.blogspot.com/>

To receive community announcements,  
email: [district6insfssubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:district6insfssubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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