

St. Anthony dramatically downsizing

Selling the farm, shedding everything outside Tenderloin

BY TOM CARTER

WITH food costs rising, soup kitchen lines lengthening and private donations shriveling, St. Anthony Foundation plans to sell its unique, 315-acre Sonoma County drug and alcohol rehab dairy farm and close its South of Market Marian Residence for homeless women.

Five of the foundation's 11 programs will be shut down or reduced in the belt-tightening shakeup over the next 11 months, a spokeswoman said. Forty employees will lose their jobs as St. Anthony sheds all of its programs outside of the Tenderloin.

"Donations are flat and costs have risen considerably," Frances Aviani, St. Anthony spokeswoman, told *The Extra*. "Our food costs are skyrocketing — up 18% in just three months."

Meanwhile, the poor and dispossessed are flocking in record numbers to St. Anthony's highly profiled free dining room on Jones Street.

"Donations are flat and costs have risen considerably."

Frances Aviani
ST ANTHONY
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

"We average 2,600 people a day there," Aviani said. "On holidays it's more. We anticipated 3,300 to 3,500 on Memorial Day and it was 4,000, a ridiculous amount of people."

And we are having to turn away 15 to 20 people a day at the medical clinic, too."

St. Anthony is only experiencing what everyone else is with the mounting fuel and food crises, Aviani said. But, of course, on a large — and growing — scale.

"In bad economic times, people turn to us," she said.

The "difficult decisions" to restructure and cut successful programs will save \$2 million, Barry Stenger, St. Anthony's director of development and communications, told the *Santa Rose Press Democrat* in a May 10 story.

The foundation's Website shows, for the year ended June 30, 2007, income of \$19.8 million and expenditures \$19.3 million. Individual donations totaled \$4.6 million, which Aviani called "flat."

The three-story Marian Residence — women's shelter and transitional housing at 1115 Mission St. — is scheduled to close in September, a decision made after efforts to find an organization to take it over failed. The TL's Network Ministries was one that declined. The facility has 30 emergency shelter beds on the main floor and 27 beds for women chosen for the Marian's transitional program on the third floor.

The farm 15 miles west of Petaluma will close in March but isn't yet listed for sale.

Three other programs will be downsized in July, employment, the

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NO. 79
PUBLISHED
BY THE
SAN FRANCISCO
STUDY CENTER

JUNE
2008

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Salvation Army's new building on Turk Street with community center and housing.

CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

'I CAN'T WAIT'



PHOTOS BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Salvation Army worker Geenie Sounedara, 18, with kids at the Army's old 1 Grove St. program.

Transforming Turk

Salvation Army builds \$57 million center, housing

BY ANNE MARIE JORDAN
URBAN LIVING REPORTER

EVERY child needs a dream. But dreams are hard to realize in the Tenderloin. Reality doesn't stop Aaron, a bouncy 9-year-old, from wanting to be an NBA pro or 10-year-old Rachel from envisioning lavish weddings and catered affairs; she wants to

be an events manager when she grows up. Stephen, 11, who plays computer games for fun, says he wants to go to college — someday.

For now they are students at Tenderloin Community School. After school, they participate in a Salvation Army recreation program held in the basement at 1 Grove St. Bare-bones but kid-friendly, the place has brightly painted pictures on the walls and a lingering aroma of popcorn.

Soon, youth programs such as this one for 8- to 12-year-olds as well as other social service programs — day camps, teen ministry, senior activities — will be moving to an impressive new community center in the 200 block of Turk Street.

For Aaron and the others it will be kind of like going — in a Monopoly move — from Mediterranean Ave. to Boardwalk.

Costing a whopping \$57 million, the brand new Kroc Center and Railton Place, its neighboring residence of 110 — mostly studio — apartments, will be officially dedicated June 27 and projected to be in full operation 10 days later, on July 7.

It's a main event for the Salvation Army, representing its largest, and grandest, development since the Christian group started doing good deeds in the city 125 years ago, setting up its first kettle for charitable collections at the Embarcadero.

The Salvation Army purchased the rundown building at Turk Street in 1979. It was meant to house people during rehabilitation as well as to serve as a base of operation for other programs.

Eventually it became apparent that this post-1906 building needed more than just renovation. The Salvation Army came to a

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GOOD NEWS for...

COURT WATCHERS San Francisco Superior Court has gone cyber with Moving Justice Forward, its new blog: sfcollaborativejustice.blogspot.com. The site has information about the city's collaborative justice programs — Behavioral Health Court, Dependency Drug Court, Proposition 36 Court, Juvenile Drug Court, Community Court and its newest, the proposed but not-quite-for-sure-yet Community Justice Center at 555 Polk. Links abound — to the Office of the Controller's 34-page April assessment of the center; to all of the city's collaborative justice programs; to state and national community justice resources; to a national roundup of media stories and agency reports; and to a category called "Offbeat & Controversial," which currently features a CNN.com story, "Judge: Learn English or go to jail." (That was a Pennsylvania judge's order to Spanish-speaking robbers, not an editorial on the judge's language skills.) You can subscribe to the blog and get email notifications when it's updated. Blog contributors include Jennifer Pasinosky, coordinator of Dependency Drug Court; Danica Jardini, Moving Justice Forward coordinator; Lisa Lightman, director of collaborative justice courts; Leslie Cogan, assistant district attorney for the Behavioral Health Court; and Kathleen Lacey, citywide case manager for Behavioral Health Court.

MUSIC LOVERS Free live music, part of People in Plazas' noontime summer concerts, begins July 11 at newly renovated Mint Plaza, on Fifth Street between Mission and Market, and continues every Friday till the end of summer. Local artists perform reggae, jazz, swing and salsa; there also are special events, discounts and promotions. Get the complete lineup of events — sponsored by the new Central Market Community Benefit District and Friends of Mint Plaza — at peopleinplazas.org, mintplazasf.org and central-market.org.

FAMILY FUN-SEEKERS In May, the Asian Art Museum launched First Free Sundays — free admission the first Sunday of every month. It replaces Target Tuesdays, the popular free admission day sponsored by Target that began when the museum opened in 2003. Besides admission, also free on those Sundays will be family programs such as drop-in art classes for kids and parents, storytelling, and Yogi Kids, where yoga guru Lorna Reed brings sculptures from the museum's South Asian galleries to life through active movement and mudras (mime and dance gestures). Information: 581-3500 or asianart.org/programs.htm.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tom@studycenter.org.

Justice Center holdup

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

LISA Lightman, collaborative justice courts director, came to the May meeting just hours before facing the supes' Budget and Finance Committee — the next hurdle for the nascent Community Justice Center.

Last year, the supes put \$500,000 in reserve for the center. Besides the two holding cells for people nabbed in the Tenderloin and SoMa for misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies, the center also would have a courtroom and Superior Court judge to hear their cases, and social service providers on site to try to break the miscreants' expensive habit of cycling in and out of jail. With fanfare, in December city officials showed off their chosen site for the center, 555 Polk, which they want to lease from building owner California Culinary Academy.

Lightman described her expectations for the center and that day's committee meeting.

"We're asking for that setback — it will pay for the cells plus the buildout of the second floor," she said. "I'm here asking the community to support us, to validate the center now, today."

Asked how she expected the supes to vote, Lightman was upbeat: They were sure to release the funds, she said, because it would be "extraordinarily short-sighted of the city to end this project now and not go forward."

But that afternoon, Supervisors Chris Daly, Jake McGoldrick and Ross Mirkarami, citing the city's dire financial situation, proposed carrying the \$500,000 to next fiscal year, temporarily killing it. Supervisors Carmen Chu and Sean Elsbernd, voting against the rollover, were, well, rolled over. Next day, the mayor was reported to be talking about a November ballot initiative to get the center up and running. The following week at the full board meeting, center supporter Supe Bevan Duffy introduced legis-

lation to fund the center; it is expected to be heard June 10.

GLIDE HOUSING LOTTERY

Deborah Whittle, executive director of housing for Glide Economic Development Corp., brought news of Glide's newest building — 125 Mason St.

"I encourage providers and other workers in the 94102 area to apply for the slots in this building," Whittle said. Glide's handout calls it "affordable work-force housing in the heart of downtown San Francisco."

You'd need a job to afford one of the 81 apartments in the 14-story building, bright red with accents of yellow, white, green and blue. Rent for a one-bedroom will be \$1,079; to be eligible, a single person can earn no more than \$39,600 a year, or 60% AMI. For eight people, the maximum yearly family income is \$72,250 with a four-bedroom apartment costing \$1,425.

The building will be ready for occupancy in late September. Glide will take applications for four weeks, starting mid-June, then hold a lottery in July that gives preference to applicants living and working in the city. Hotline for more info: 674-6121.

FARMS IN TENDERLOIN?

No one who lives or works in the Tenderloin would be surprised at Kevin Bayuk's finding: The TL has the fewest empty lots of any neighborhood in the city. Bayuk, an urban gardening activist who works with the San Francisco Permaculture Guild, told the

Collaborative that he wants city dwellers to turn nonproductive spaces — whole lots or portions of lots — into places to grow food.

His survey found 1,051 privately owned spaces in the city that fit the bill; 40 are in the Tenderloin. And if they'll be vacant at least a year, he'll ask property owners for permission to bring in gardeners and plant food crops. The owner would have no liability, and the gardeners would even pull weeds.

Bayuk says he has to refine his database of owners before he plows forward. Meantime, he ran down a list of other programs that green-thumbers might want to get involved in:

- Greening sidewalks through Plant*SF, a project of San Francisco Parks Trust (plantsf.org), removes excess sidewalks and beautifies with ornamental, low-maintenance, native and drought-tolerant species.

- Victory Gardens 2008, a project of Garden for the Environment and the city's Department for the Environment, will choose 15 households to participate in the two-year pilot. A team helps install the garden and provides ongoing support. The idea is to turn backyards, front yards, window boxes, rooftops and unused land into food production areas.

"It would be great to have one of the households be from the Tenderloin," Bayuk said. "I think they'd have a good chance, since they're looking for diverse settings." See svictorygardens.org for information and application. ■

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

I really enjoyed reading your article on the Essex opening. I must admit that I liked the captions under photos of me and Mayor Newsom, especially the part about the mayor admitting I was right. However, I want to clarify that the tiff you were referring to in the story had nothing to do with the Essex. Everyone in City government, including the mayor, was very supportive of the Essex right from the start. The tiff I referred to in my speech was regarding the allocation of HUD funding for homeless programs that the city receives each year. During his speech at the Essex opening, the mayor acknowledged that the organizations I was repre-

senting won the battle over how that HUD funding was allocated. However, I do not believe the mayor thinks we were right. As I said during the opening, regardless of our various disagreements, it is nice when we can all come together to develop more housing and services for very low-income San Franciscans.

In any event, I really liked the article and have already arranged to have it framed! Thanks to Tom and everyone at the San Francisco Study Center for publishing the Central City Extra, it is a wonderful community resource.

Jeff Kositsky, Executive Director
Community Housing Partnership



CENTRAL CITY EXTRA is published monthly by San Francisco Study Center Inc., a private nonprofit serving the community since 1972. The Extra was initiated through grants from the S.F. Hotel Tax Fund and the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund. It is now assisted by the Kosbland Committee of the San Francisco Foundation, which funds the Southside coverage. The contents are copyrighted by the San Francisco Study Center, 1095 Market Street, Suite 601, San Francisco, CA 94103.

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Central City Extra is a member of the
SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOOD
NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

Cuts coming — CCSF campus near Tenderloin losing classes

BY JEAN-PIERRE BITCHOKA

A STATE budget cut has City College's Alemany campus, on the fringe of the Tenderloin, facing the prospect of offering fewer classes for spring, summer and fall '09 sessions.

CCSF expects a \$3 million shortfall this year and \$8.3 million for 2008-09, Interim Chancellor Don Griffin told members of the neighborhood press, which would mean canceling 500 classes for upcoming semesters citywide, Griffin said. However, he added, the college would "find a way to cope with the shortfall. We are going to tap into our reserve to deal with this crisis."

City College is also planning to cut non-credit and credit summer classes by 15% for summers 2008 and '09, not replace faculty and classified workers who retire, and slash other programs, including vocational.

The Alemany campus, at Van Ness and Ellis, offers noncredit classes in ESL, business, computers and English to almost 3,000 students, of whom 40% live in the Tenderloin, a CCSF official estimates.

No sections will be canceled for the fall, but next year sections will be down 1% to 2%, Griffin said. "That will mean cutting 50 to 100 classes out of the 5,000 classes offered in spring and fall."

Summer 2009 will see the biggest cut in credit and noncredit classes. Only noncredit classes will be affected this summer.

Gary Tom, Alemany campus dean, said there is no decision yet how many classes at Alemany will be cut this summer. "We are still waiting on the final budget," he said.

"We are going to evenly spread the cuts," Griffin said. However, Alemany, Downtown and John Adams campuses will have more noncredit summer classes cut than other campuses.

Lilian Tran, Tenderloin resident and ESL student at the Alemany campus, reacting to the news about the cancellations, said: "We will have to travel farther to other campuses to take the classes we need. It is convenient and encouraging to be able to take classes right there in your neighborhood. Canceling classes will discourage many neighborhood residents to pursue an education." ■



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Michael Nulty (left) and brother **John Nulty** (right) with POP honoree **Paul Lovinger** get ready to cut the cake at the post office victory celebration.

Post office going full service

TL coalition gets Postal Service to bring back 101 Hyde St.

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

IF the Postal Service again listens to its patrons, it will send out postcards to everyone living in ZIP codes 94102, 94103 and 94109 and give them the news: 101 Hyde is converting to a full-service post office.

What had become a dangerous and almost useless shell of a building — with reduced hours and nothing more than 7,989 rental boxes, 40% of them rented — now will have all this: two windows where USPS staff will sell stamps, weigh parcels, handle rental boxes, serve general delivery patrons, accept applications for passports. It may even have a place to send out letters — the drop boxes were removed from the site early this year.

A coalition of neighborhood activists was the driving force behind the change. They collected 1,000 signatures on a petition and sent it and a letter to Postal Service District Manager Winifred Groux, cc'ing them to Rep. Nancy Pelosi and the U.S. postmaster. They got Supervisor Chris Daly involved as well as TL police Capt. Gary Jimenez, and spoke at a supervisors' Operations and Neighborhood Services Committee meeting after holding a noisy rally in front of the Golden Gate and Hyde facility.

May 14, USPS sent out a press release announcing the people's victory. "The community asked us to consider upgrading... to a full-fledged retail center and we listened," Groux was quoted as saying.

Two weeks later, a small gathering of winners in this

David vs. Goliath contest cut a cake to celebrate. Renovation of the building will begin in the next two months, and Rep. Pelosi's office wants to host a grand opening.

Somehow, the work's never quite done: POP (Post Office Patrons), a group of box holders that started advocating for better box services after the '89 quake closed many postal facilities, is surveying members, asking what else they want: mail boxes; stamp machine in the lobby; first-class mail sorted into boxes daily; longer lobby hours; Saturday retail services.

Michael Nulty, POP member and Alliance for a Better District 6 president, says they'll use the survey results as they continue negotiating with USPS. ■



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Units are available through the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and are subject to monitoring and other restrictions. Visit sf.gov.org/moh for program information.



First Kroc Center since pilot features

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financial decision: It would replace rather than renew. An adjacent site — previously a parking lot — was included in the expansion.

The Kroc Center and Railton Place are the latest and plush additions to a lower Tenderloin development boom that is transforming the worst part of the neighborhood into a residential and office enclave, in a few years a nonprofit service provider's paradise and a nicer place to live.

The YMCA, St. Anthony Foundation, UC's Hastings College of the Law, TNDC and Community Housing Partnership are among the other major players with projects in the pipeline that are within two blocks of the Salvation Army's new digs — hundreds of residential units and thousands of square feet of commercial space.

Early in the design process, a staggeringly large amount of money was bequeathed to the Salvation Army by Joan Kroc, widow of the late Ray Kroc of McDonald's fame.

Electricians install the gymnasium lighting for the Kroc Center. The swimming area can be seen in the background.

In 1998, she commissioned a 12-acre Salvation Army development in San Diego with features such as indoor ice-skating rink, a sports field, a skateboard park, three swimming pools and five community buildings. All in all, it was a classy retreat with a bundle of enrichment opportunities for low-income families. The venture was so successful that before she died in 2003 she decided to leave \$1.5 billion more to the Salvation Army to create similar community centers around the country.

This is the first of those.

'I CAN'T WAIT' TO LEARN TO SWIM

But San Francisco isn't like most of the country. Buildings here go up, not out. So, even with the generous Kroc gift, there would be no soccer field or 25-meter-long competition pool, as in San Diego.

But there is a pool plenty big enough for aquatic exercise and swim lessons. That's OK for Leila, who is 11 and has never before had a chance to learn how to swim. "I can't wait," she says.

Summer swim classes will suit Leila just fine. And there will be much more for her and other school-age children to do at the new community center all year long.

On the other side of a wide see-through glass wall is the gymnasium. Natural daylight pours in from skylights above, making the gym light and airy with energy savings to boot.

Six backboards rim the gym's college-regulation court with bleacher seating on the sidelines. It's pretty much a basketball venue, yet the court can easily transition to volleyball or badminton.

Desso Linotop is the flooring — a manufactured material with inherent spring that is iron-man tough. Even the swishing of roller blades can't scratch its durable finish.

In one corner of the gym is an unusual piece of athletic equipment that possibly could be taken for sculpture. It's really a make-believe mountain a little more than 7 feet high and

easy for kids to have a simulated rock-climbing experience without ropes — or fear.

The Freedom Climber has a rotating disk within a compact square frame that moves clockwise and counter clockwise by mere force of the climber's weight. You step on and grip rubber projections for ascent and descent — all manual fun, no electricity involved.

A tall climbing wall — the more typical style — is upstairs in the outdoor courtyard with a roof garden that provides a welcome touch of greenery against the concrete cityscape.

But there won't be much time for meditation amid the containers of shrubs and bamboo — an interactive electronic game called Neos, located here, is guaranteed to bring out whoops and hollers. It's life-size, not handheld, and tests skill and agility in kids as well as adults, if they are energetic enough and like fast action.

GAME ROOM AND FITNESS ROOM

In the game room are some old-fashioned tabletop favorites: Ping-Pong, pool, foosball and air hockey. Capacity: 111. And, yes, there are video and computer games, too.

A professional-like dance studio is on the fourth floor to be used by ballerinas as well as hip-hoppers. And, maybe, once in a while, there will even be the sound of Benny Goodman or Artie Shaw, background music when the seniors do their exercises. A chairlift is available for anyone not quite able to make it up the stairs.

The fitness room, equipped with 40 of the latest in cardio and aerobic machines, should be a big draw for those who like to build up a sweat.

Arts and crafts, graphics and other classes will be offered. And, just to prove that it's not all fun and games and physical exercise, there are offices and other rooms designated for the serious business of meetings, presentations, tutoring and homework.

Rohit, a fourth-grader, plans to do math and reading after school at the center. But, he says with a grin, he also wants to play all the new games.

Maj. George Rocheleau, who has taken on the formidable job of managing everything from administration to program planning, expects the new center to become a hangout right away — a good kind of hangout, where kids can be nurtured and inspired.



PHOTOS BY LENNY LIMJOCO

St. Anthony's beloved Marian Residence

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planned Learning Center and services at the Madonna Senior Center. Two outreach employees will be sent to the Social Work Center at 150 Golden Gate, St. Anthony's new five-story administration building.

Left untouched: the dining room, free medical clinic, clothing and housewares, Father Alfred Treatment Center, Social Work Center and Madonna Residence, 51 units for low-income women over 60.

The board's recommendations come after a two-year program evaluation, Aviani said, though the situation could change over the next six months. But St. Anthony will now only operate programs in the Tenderloin.

"The farm is isolated and it will close," Aviani said. "It doesn't make sense for St. Anthony's to put resources there. We will be expanding the Father Albert Rehabilitation Center here where we have overlapping services and programs and the medical clinic."

MOVING ACROSS THE STREET

The shift comes just after St. Anthony completed its five-story administration building at 150 Golden Gate Ave., a property bought in 1999 that employees are just now getting ready to move into.

Across the street, at 121 Golden Gate Ave., St. Anthony will build with Mercy Housing a \$66 million, 10-story building, supplanting the three-story building that now houses the dining room and the clinic. The clinic will move permanently across the street and the dining room temporarily when demolition starts next year.

But the money for 121 has to be raised, and 150 is not yet free and clear either. In March, Aviani told The Extra in an e-mail that the foundation is still looking for those final dollars.

"We'll finish out our capital campaign for 150 and then launch the campaign for 121," Aviani wrote.

FARM BECOMING TOO COSTLY

The dairy farm at 11205 Valley Road outside Petaluma appears to be at the height of its development. It was a gift to St. Anthony in 1954. The dream then was for it to provide food for the dining room, but the bucolic land was found unsuitable for farming, according to Stenger. For a while it was a pig farm and provided some meat. But, in 1970, it became a working dairy farm where penniless addicts and alcoholics from the streets of San Francisco could stay for six months, get clean, get themselves together.

Now, 40 men live on the farm. They receive daily counseling in a 12-step program while working at the organic dairy — even helping deliver calves, as one man did — and tilling a one-acre garden started in 1993. Actor Martin Sheen explains the farm in a four-minute narration on St. Anthony's Website.

The farm has 250 cows that are milked twice a day, producing 1,800 gallons of milk that is sold to Clover Stornetta. The farm has a new creamery and this year plans to sell organic butter to Clover Stornetta, a potential buyer of the farm.

The farm's fame is spreading. The Associated Press and Los Angeles Times wrote about the rehab program this year and in November the Oakland Tribune's business section featured the farm's biogas system that converts cow manure into 40 kilowatts of electricity, enough to run the creamery.

"For a long time the farm helped subsidize our work with the homeless," the Press Democrat quoted Stenger as saying. "But, with the price of feed, the farm is becoming something we have to subsidize. It's no longer the best place for us to put our energies."

In a climate of record prices for rice, corn and wheat, the farm makes about \$162,000 a year, but the treatment program costs

gym, climbing walls, range of games

As for playing games, he says, “Boys and girls need to learn how to win and how to lose. They need to be challenged to improve and to succeed.”

The administrator says he selected a lot of the games and equipment himself. Thirty-three years of service in Salvation Army youth programs throughout the Bay Area and beyond has given him some idea of what makes kids happy.

This father of three grown sons also has a background in carpentry. He came aboard one year ago when construction was midway checking over floor plans and interior installations, even taking care of such a small detail as selecting the exact location of the basketball scoreboards.

Rocheleau and his wife, Dawn, also a major, are a team. She works right next door and is in charge of the residential operation at Railton House — named in honor of an early Salvation Army founder.

She manages the residence and oversees all of the programs affiliated with the housing unit, including ones for adults in recovery. The housing population will be a mix of veterans, people in drug and alcohol rehabilitation and former foster kids from 18 to 24.

“Many of the youths who age out of the foster care system are out on the streets without having skills to make it on their own,” she says.

At Railton House, 27 apartments are set aside for former foster children. Each will be offered a completely furnished apartment, for which they’ll pay affordable rent, plus they will get skills training — as basic as balancing a checkbook and preparing a dinner to applying for a job.

FUTURE-ORIENTED BUT ROOTED IN PAST

The program even has been set up to look ahead two years or so when the youths will be required to move on, thereby giving others a chance to live here. When it’s moving time, a portion of the rent money will be returned to each of the young adults to help them get them started in the outside world.

Future-oriented in concept and style, this imposing eight-story building with 135,380 square feet delivers a mighty punctuation to the neighborhood.

The exterior is contemporary. Surface materials are a combination of exposed concrete, plaster infill and a curtain wall of alu-

minum. Modified bay windows project at an angle beyond the flat façade. Vivid colors of red, yellow, turquoise and mint trim windows for splash.

Even though a very modern-day expression of architecture, the building’s design reflects a sense of connection to the past. “We looked at the old neighboring buildings for their historic vocabulary,” says architect Bob Herman.

Inspiration for his design came from the type of old building it is, with a tall, ground-floor lobby combined with retail space and, often, an illuminated blade sign out front. Above would be several floors of housing, topped with an attic and a prominent cornice.

“I wanted to honor the architectural history of the Tenderloin, but at the same time, relate this new building to the future, symbolizing hope and possibilities for the new residents,” explains Herman.

Inside, there was a conscious effort to keep the place bright with a feeling of openness. Careful interior planning helped to provide an illusion of added space throughout.

There are two distinct front desks — one to serve residents, the other to assist anyone wanting to enter the community center. Throughout, there are security checks and camera monitors.

The Roy & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center will be open to all Tenderloin residents and nonresidents, day and night, Monday through Friday, with reduced hours on weekends. Limited garage parking may be available before and after staff work hours. Exact hours for the center and parking are still being worked out.

There will be a seniors’ lunch program each weekday in the street-level dining room that transitions into a place of worship on Sundays. This is also the area that would serve as a neighborhood center in the case of a major disaster such as an earthquake.

All applications for housing at Railton House must be made through established



Railton House
kitchens all come with appliances and custom cabinetry.

social service agencies. No on-site applications are being accepted.

Cost of membership for the Kroc Center varies. For now, adults pay \$20 monthly, with a reduced \$10 fee for youths and seniors. Family memberships are \$40 a month; \$30 if there is one parent only. Drop-in visits run \$3 to \$5, depending on age.

Partial scholarships are available for youths and for families. A campaign is under way to raise an additional \$5 million to fund endowments to help pay for these scholarships and also for the foster youth housing program.

United Parcel Service, Bank of America, Wachovia, Wells Fargo and other companies, as well as the Yuen and Herbst foundations have been involved. The Kroc Center’s annual operating budget will be about \$3 million, with an additional \$1 million for Railton House.

The Kroc bequest of \$32 million, along with funding from various other private and public sources, went to the project’s construction and outfitting. An additional \$27 million of Kroc funds is in endowments to be used, over the years, for a portion of operating expenses. ■

idence, all SoMa programs to close

\$800,000, Aviani told Associated Press.

There is great hand-wringing over these draconian steps within St. Anthony’s “culture of caring” where people are sensitive to even small changes, according to an employee who requested anonymity.

KEEP IT HUSH-HUSH, STAFF TOLD

Three years ago the foundation was just weeks away from closing its Living Room to save on staff and food. The popular, five-day-a-week, drop-in respite program inside the Madonna Residence served free breakfast to seniors, had several programs and stayed open until 4 p.m. But, as reported in the June 2005 Extra, a chapter of the Secular Franciscans volunteered to take it over.

The foundation didn’t want the latest pending closures disclosed, fearing that the publicity would send an erroneous message that the foundation was crumbling and possibly scare potential donors away, said the employee, who had attended a May meeting at which staff were told of the board’s decision.

A second employee said staff were told that if they didn’t act “professional” and direct inquiries to the foundation’s public relations office — but instead spoke to the press — their severance package would be in jeopardy.

Aviani called the employees’ comments “disconcerting to hear.” She said that the restructuring is simply to put the future on solid footing. Any story saying “the sky’s falling” would be extremely detrimental,” she said. “I was at the meeting and that wasn’t anything I heard.”

A former Marian resident, now at the Madonna, said she and others who had been at the Marian were stunned by the news. The Madonna notified its residents of St. Anthony’s closures in a memo May 5 and asked them to keep it confidential.

“The Marian was safe and I felt very secure while I was there,” the wistful resident said. “The staff was completely and totally supportive. They care about you and they worry about you. I told my case worker how devastated we all are.”

LOSS OF THE MARIAN

The Marian Residence opened in 1996. St. Anthony also owns the one-story building next to it at 1183-85 Mission, used for the clothing and kitchenware program, and the lot next to that at 1187 Mission at Eighth Street.

The Marian gives out 30 shelter beds by lottery at 7 p.m. daily. The bed can be renewed before the next day’s lottery and there’s no limit on length of stay. Residents

also get three meals a day.

After they’ve been there a while, some women are chosen for the Marian’s 27-bed program upstairs with room and board. Over the course of six to 24 months, staff help them find permanent housing while they work with a case manager.

“The staff was very accessible and you could tell they cared,” the Madonna resident said. “When I got picked for the third floor, I had a room with my own key and two roommates. I think it was important for us to meet others. One became a very good friend. We went to Point Reyes together one weekend.”

The average age of the Marian’s residents is mid-50s. Half the residents in transitional housing have jobs.

Another sign of the times is an increase of seniors.

“People who haven’t been homeless before — a half dozen last year — working people or recently divorced or in a financial downturn are showing up,” one employee said. “It’s because of a lack of affordable housing.”

“These women are scared to be around men, and just coming and going is daunting to them. I hope the city recognizes that women on the street are a lot more vulnerable. It’s such a valuable resource being lost.” ■

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

Supportive Housing Network, 2nd 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 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, 870 Market, Suite 928. Call for dates and times: 421-2926 x306.

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

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-S.F., 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Family Service Agency, 1010 Gough, 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.

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

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.

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 District Manager 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.

South of Market Project Area Committee, 3rd Monday of the month, 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom, between 6th & 7th Sts. 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 Station 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.

TENDERLOIN HEALTH

a continuum of care

Outreach and Community Events June 2008

Health Promotion Forum 7th Annual Transweek

Tons of surprises to be had, including information, festivities and, of course, lots of FUN!!!

Date/Time: June 16-20, stay tuned for times!

HIV Treatment Forum

Topic: Lipoatrophy/"Fat Loss"

Speaker: Jay Fournier, Abbott Pharmaceuticals

Date/Time: Monday, June 23, 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, June 11, 11:30 am - 1 pm;

Wednesday, June 25, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Volunteer and Intern for Tenderloin Health

Orientation: Sunday, June 8, 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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JASON MOSLEY
San Cristina desk clerk

Jason Mosley was a friendly young desk clerk who, everyone could see, was blooming like a spring flower. At 29, he had turned his life around. He loved his job at the San Cristina hotel on Market Street. The residents appreciated his smiling face and that he was always eager to help. He was going to get married soon, too, and he was excited about becoming a father.

But his life ended April 27 at 6 p.m. when he was shot in his Western Addition neighborhood near Fulton and Octavia streets. He was pronounced dead at the scene and the police had no suspects.

An April 28 Examiner story on the weekend's shootings described the incident without naming the victim. But the numbing truth spread quickly among San Cristina's residents with news no one wanted to hear.

"He was always smiling, courteous and considerate — the kind of people we need," said desk clerk Paula Elliott as people filed into the community room for Mr. Mosley's May 2 memorial. "There was nothing about him to suggest this (the shooting)."

The tragedy gripped the 30 mourners. Some had to stand for lack of seating.

"My name is Rita and I lost my son in West Oakland in December," said a woman who came to the front of the room. "He was shot in the head."

Then she sang her strong Mahalia Jackson rendition of "How Great Thou Art" and the burst of applause that followed seemed to momentarily relieve the intensity of grief.

Another mourner said he recently lost his mother and it was only with courage that he could come to this memorial to pay his respects when it brought so much sadness. "But my uncle said, 'It's a good old world, if your knees don't weaken,'" he said.

People said amen to that.

Still, Selina Arceneaux, Mr. Mosley's mother who was sitting in the second row, was overwrought. After they spoke, mourner after mourner came to hug her. She repeatedly thanked them for their kindness and support. It was her only child, she said, her baby, and suddenly he was gone. The inescapable thought nearly made her delirious.

"He would come home and fix meals for his grandmother and take care of her and walk the dog," she said. "He was a good boy."

"Yes," the audience chorused.

"I tried so hard," she continued, speaking with difficulty from her seat to the full room, clutching a handkerchief. "I made him come here and take this job — and he became interested in it. And he came home and fixed dinner for me and his grandmother and went out to his car and it was the last I saw him. My baby, my baby, my baby."

Mr. Mosley was the only man in the family and his manner of death scared his mother and she feared for her own life.

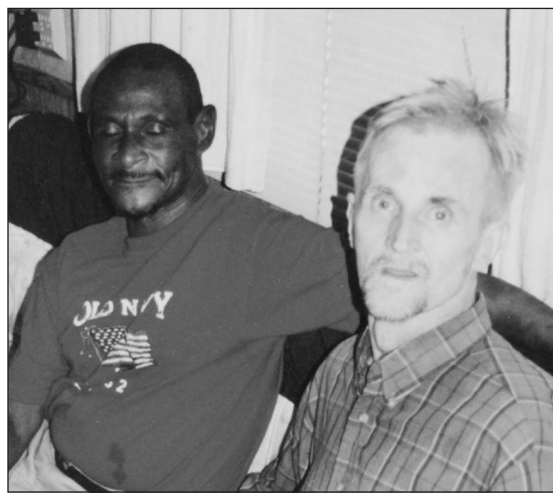
In others' descriptions, the stocky Mr. Mosley grew in dimensions he never heard for himself. They loved his smile, his desire to learn, his gentleness, they said. He never bothered anyone, knew his job well and when to be calm. One man said Mr. Mosley's love of his job and delight at becoming a father were an inspiration to him. Another said he came across a homeless man who said Mr. Mosley gave him a dollar every time he saw him.

A tall, husky young man named Roger said he wanted people to know Mr. Mosley wasn't in a gang but "was a victim of where he was staying." The young man choked back tears when he said he had been Mr. Mosley's mentor and one night had sat with him in the street discussing life crises, and crying, holding hands and praying.

"I want you to know," he said to the mother, "that he had Christ in his life."

Ms. Arceneaux could not linger afterward with the mourners as they delved into three large trays of sandwiches and drinks. The funeral for her son was the next Tuesday across town, she said, and she had to finalize arrangements and deliver the clothes he'd need for his final viewing. ■

—TOM CARTER



James Marshall (left) and George Stoltz

JAMES MARSHALL
Died in best friend's arms

For 24 years and in several central city apartments, James Marshall and George Stoltz were roommates and best friends. Their happiness at the Alexander Residence, where they lived for the last four years, was cut short when Mr. Marshall died April 21.

"James was the most loyal, most truthful person I ever met," Stoltz said at the April 28 memorial for Mr. Marshall. "He died in my arms here at the Alexander."

Mr. Marshall was 62.

About 20 people attended the service, officiated by Chaplain Clinton Earl Rogers of the San Francisco Rescue Mission.

"I can see that James was a person with many friends, and that's a blessing — none of us can do it by ourselves," Rogers said.

Rogers related a few facts about Mr. Marshall's life, which Stoltz had shared with him before the memorial: Born in Oklahoma, he had two brothers and no children. He served in the Army, saw action in Vietnam, attended nursing school but never practiced, working instead in restaurants. A recent serious lung condition required him to use oxygen full time.

"But despite his illness, we've heard that he never bothered anyone with his problems," Rogers said. "Our memories of him are treasures — and everyone who knew him can keep these."

Alexander resident Donna Lisa, who attended the memorial with her small dog, Spike, described her longtime friendship with Mr. Marshall.

"James loved Spike and had to see him every night," she said. "James, We're all going to miss you so much."

Mr. Marshall had worshipped at Providence Christian Center (a.k.a. The Hot Dog Church) on Turk Street for 2½ years. His pastor there, Eric Gabourel, praised his faithfulness and loyalty.

"James had the gift of giving," Gabourel said. "He gave away things he thought people would like, CDs, paintings, poetry that he wrote."

Another Providence member, Tony Davidson, recalled that one of Mr. Marshall's gifts to others was less tangible — he stressed the idea that everyone should seize the day.

"Tomorrow you won't have that day, or the chance to tell others that you love them," Davidson said. "James was a very kind person in a community where a lot of people suffer from entitlement syndrome. He had dignity and courage in his sickness. I see a lot of people die here and I hope I can have as much courage as he did."

Toward the end of the memorial gathering, Rogers summarized Mr. Marshall's life neatly: "You know how there are people you'll cross the street to avoid? Well, James was someone you'd always cross the street to see." ■

—MARJORIE BEGGS

AMBROSIO 'BRUCE' SIGUA
'A jolly spirit'

Everyone at the Alexander Residence called him Bruce — that's certainly how the 25 people at his May 14 memorial knew Ambrosio Sigua. He and his wife, Carmen, a handsome couple, moved into the Alexander 16 years ago when they came to the United States from the Philippines.

Mr. Sigua, a World War II Filipino veteran, died March 28 during surgery for an aneurysm. He was 82.

Almost all the mourners were Filipino and only four were men. Pastor Francisco Hidalgo, whose card reads "Jesus First Christian Ministry (SFMD Foursquare Church)," officiated at the memorial,

switching fluidly between English and Tagalog.

He began by leading a hymn, "Our Father," in Tagalog. People stood and raised their hands to shoulder height, palms out, or clasped the hands of their neighbors, and sang with emotion.

"I always called him Mr. B," Hidalgo recalled after everyone was seated. "He would laugh at that — Mr. B — he was always happy. And he was a strong man, though physically weakened. He was a jolly spirit. He knew when he was going to die and he's a happy person now, in death."

Hidalgo shared other memories of Mr. Sigua, who had been a regular at his church for five years. "When we'd come together in church to sing 'Our Father,' he was one of those who wasn't afraid to raise his hands."

The service stressed mortality but also the benefits of a life lived with respect for others. Hidalgo read — "especially for Brother Bruce" — an excerpt from Proverbs 22: "To be esteemed is better than silver or gold."

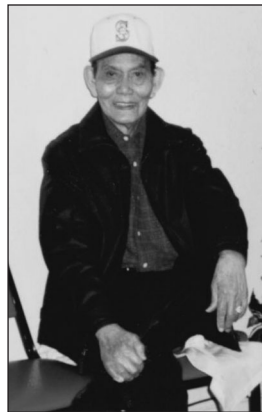
Mr. Sigua had such a good relationship with so many people, Hidalgo said, he personified that esteem.

Then, he quoted Ecclesiastes 7:1 — "A good name is better than fine perfume."

At the conclusion of the service, Carmen Sigua stood at the front of the room before vases of pink and white roses and hydrangeas and three candles burning for her husband. She thanked everyone for coming and invited them to share Filipino sweets and savories on a side table.

Married for 55 years, the Siguas' three children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren live in the Philippines. ■

—MARJORIE BEGGS



LINDA SLINKARD PARSONS
Mother of three

The clients at Tenderloin Health were enamored of Linda Parsons' joy, and her smile and youth. But in the end, the 13 mourners who attended her May 22 memorial service knew she had gone to a better place.

"She was my friend," said a young man in a front seat in the center's lobby, "and she always had a kind word for everyone and a smile on her face. I heard she was in the hospital. And then I heard she had passed."

He turned and sobbed in the arms of a friend next to him.

Linda Slinkard Parsons died May 8 of liver failure after suffering in St. Francis Hospital for a month, her friends said. She was 37. Four pictures on a table in front beside a bouquet and two lighted candles showed her smiling; two of them were with her steady companion of three years, James Sellars, who didn't attend.

"I know she's in a better place," said her case worker, Sandra Torres. "She had HIV and hepatitis C and she was in a lot of pain."

"She had a beautiful spirit," said another, "and I just know she's up there looking down, hoping we're doing the right thing."

Five years ago, the blonde Ms. Parsons left her parents and her children — sons Jacob, Joey and Alex and daughter Amanda — in Sacramento. The case worker said the estranged young woman came to the city to party and didn't have HIV at the time. She was staying at a hotel on Leavenworth Street.

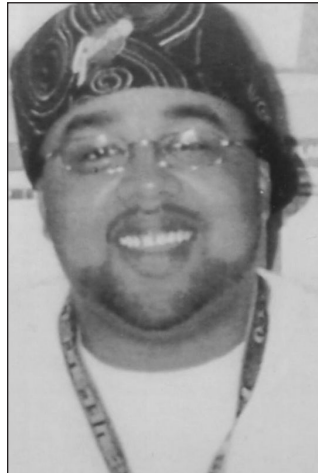
"She was sociable and caring and all she wanted was a stable, loving relationship," Torres said.

Ms. Parsons' therapist and Torres said that in her final days Ms. Parsons made up with her mother and oldest son, Jacob, 18. A service was held for her in Sacramento May 17.

Tenderloin Health holds memorials for its clients every fourth Thursday of the month. ■

—TOM CARTER

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

PAULETTE CARNEGIE
Matriarch of the Lyric

She could boss you around, tell you when you're wrong, be that shoulder to cry on — make a whole room laugh — and everybody ended up loving her. That was Paulette Carnegie, the “mother of the Lyric” Hotel.

A seven-year resident, Ms. Carnegie often sat in a lobby chair as if watching over her flock as they came and went, available for conversations, which she dominated with her rough-tough, kind-sweet personality. She was at her best in heart-to-heart talks.

More than two dozen residents and staff gathered at her May 2 memorial and fondly reminisced about how her strong personality had affected them. Ms. Carnegie, who had high blood pressure, died April 9 in her second-floor room of unknown causes. One man said she complained of “headaches

one day and the next day she passed away.” She was 64.

One man said he had been “stupid” a number of times and, in a conversation in her typical honesty, she cut through his story to remind him he had no one to blame but himself.

“No matter who you were, right or wrong, she'd always tell you the right,” the man said. “We got nobody now to run down to. The angels will watch over her. And we'll miss you, Paulette.”

A woman identifying herself as Geraldine sang a song she composed for the occasion about life's trials and tribulations and the importance of being able to “lean on someone who truly cares for you.”

“She had problems like everybody else,” said another resident. “But you couldn't help but like her. She was a really kind person. And she made so many of us laugh.”

Ms. Carnegie made friends because she was easy to talk to and gave generously to anyone who

needed anything, if she had it to give.

One woman said that when she was in the community kitchen cooking Ms. Carnegie would come in and tell her what to do and how to do it, “and never picked up a spoon or a pot. But I will really, really miss her.”

A woman on the staff said whenever Ms. Carnegie attended resident-staff meetings she monopolized conversations with stories about goings-on in the Lyric, making them the grist of standup comedy and setting a meeting rollicking. But she also attacked things that were wrong.

“I'll miss her waiting for us to come in,” said one man. “She had an eye out for everybody.”

In the adjacent kitchen afterward, residents served Ms. Carnegie's favorite foods, macaroni and cheese, fried chicken and cakes and pies. Originally from Philadelphia, she leaves two sons who live in San Francisco. ■

—TOM CARTER

Bringing Back The Heart of the Presidio

Discover the birthplace of San Francisco at the heart of the Presidio, the historic Main Post. Imagine the once lively center of a military post as a home for history and culture...past, present, and future.

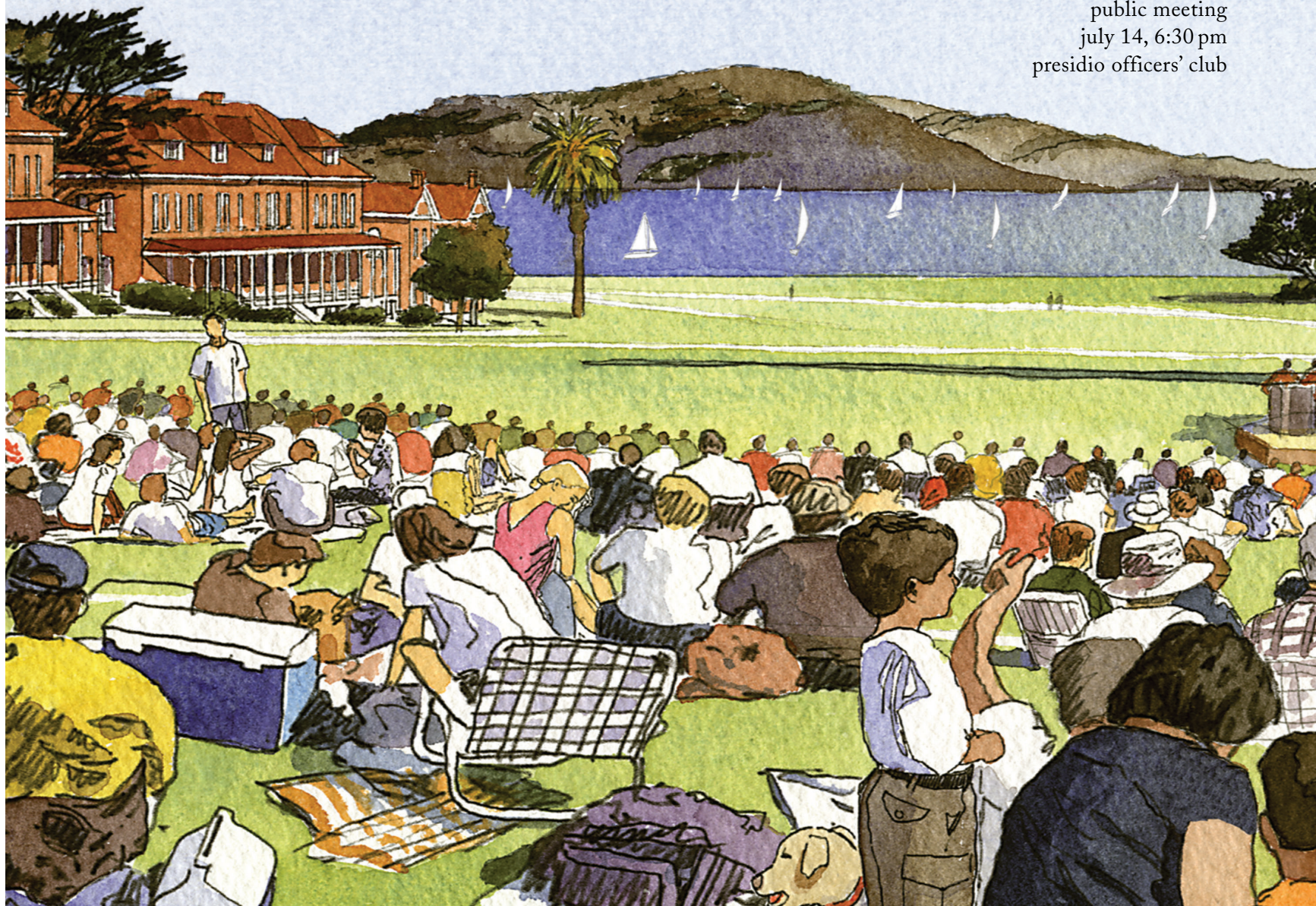
Come for a walk and tell us what you think about proposals for a Presidio heritage center, an archaeology lab, public uses in the iconic brick barracks, a park lodge, and a museum of contemporary art.

come for a walk

main post walks, june 15 to july 30
sundays & wednesdays, 2–3:30 pm
presidio officers' club, 50 moraga avenue
no RSVP needed
*group / special request tours also available

tell us what you think

mainpost@presidiotrust.gov
public meeting
july 14, 6:30 pm
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