

Show me the money

Practical pitch to be counted makes sense to all

BY TOM CARTER

IN early March, Nabila Mango was in the Islamic Society lobby at 20 Jones St. when a man entered, went to the bulletin board and began to read a 2010 Census poster. "Are you Arab?" she asked.

He nodded. "Then write 'Arab' on question nine when you get your census form," she said. "It's under 'other.' It means more money for us."

Mango's Ayadi organization is one of four nonprofit partners handling Tenderloin outreach for the census. It's one of the city's undercounted neighborhoods, where elusive ethnicities have missed landing more than a few federal dollars for programs that affect them.

Arabs weren't counted until the 2000 census — Middle Easterners were expected to list themselves as white. But the 2000 census counted 1.2 million Arabs nationwide, about 35,000 in San Francisco. After 9/11, though, Arabs so feared reprisals and discrimination some changed their names, Mango said.

"Stand up and be counted" is a challenge in the Tenderloin

Getting Arabs now to "stand up and be counted" is a special challenge, as it is for many immigrant groups. Yet "get the money" for their neighborhood is a mighty motivator. Over the next 10 years, the federal government will send nearly \$5 trillion to cash-strapped states, counties and cities based on population, some of it headed into neighborhoods for a range of programs, from maternal and child health programs, special and vocational education, block grants to affordable housing. Communities of color and low-income areas have commonly been undercounted.

The mayor's office estimates that San Francisco is undercounted by

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PHOTO COURTESY SEACC

During the Feb. 7 Tet Festival on Larkin Street, Vietnamese flocked to the Southeast Asian Community Center's census booth with raffle tickets.

YOUTH OF THE YEAR

TL girl wins statewide honor

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MAKING OF THE MURAL

Artist's vision of the neighborhood

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ORIGINAL JOE'S GETS \$50,000

Mayor's office grant to help it reopen

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CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

MOST MEMORABLE



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Reactions to her TL mural rank as artist Mona Caron's most moving neighborhood memory.

Tenderloin moments

Many recall turning points in the hood

THE Tenderloin is a special place — historical, residential, action-packed. Dirt poor with gritty streets, it's rich in history, art and humanity. Crime is rampant, though it's not all strongarm stuff: More than half the arrests are drug-related. The Tenderloin is the face of human services in the city and the heart of its diversity. It's a most memorable place to live and work.

The Extra, with the help of journalism students at S.F. State enrolled in Professor Jon Funabiki's Ethnic News Service class, asked a number of folks active in the life of the neighborhood to recall their most memorable moment in the Tenderloin. Here are their recollections.

When the mural came to life

MONA CARON, Muralist

"I JUST had an incredibly memorable moment when I unveiled my mural (March 5). It's been a huge thing for me. The Tenderloin has been the most responsive and involved community that I've ever done a mural in and it's been a pleasure. It really took the cake," said Mona Caron, a San Francisco muralist with major works at the Muni tunnel below the Mint and at Duboce between Church and Market.

Caron's recently completed mural at Golden Gate and Jones streets portrays people of the Tenderloin and the neighborhood landscape. A huge crowd attended its unveiling, some of them immortalized in the artwork.

"It's really life imitating art imitating life," said Caron. "Some people dressed exactly the way I had portrayed them in the mural. I had seen someone carrying a painting of Michael Jackson when he had just died and I put him in the mural carrying that painting and he came to the opening carrying it."

"There are so many different communities intermingling in the same place. It's rich in the human sense. I met so many people who are doing amazing things with that community, like total rock stars," said Caron. "There's such a variety of people from different backgrounds, and it's dense. It merits a little more love put into its public spaces. Not a monetary richness but in terms of variety of cultures, and all the knowledge that comes with that. It's so full. I only managed to scratch the surface." ■



Mona Caron.

—LINDSEY LEAKE

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GOOD NEWS for...

LATE-MINUTE FREE TAX HELP Most people and families in the Tenderloin qualify. If your 2009 household income was less than \$52,000, IRS-certified tax preparers will help you file your taxes and possibly get refunds and tax credits. Call 211 or (800) 358-8832 or go to www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org for documents you'll need to bring. Earn it! Keep it! Save it! sponsors the tax-preparation program that is funded by United Way of the Bay Area. Central city locations include:

- Food Stamps & CAAP Office, 1235 Mission St., 557-5510, Tuesdays through April 15, 4-7 p.m., by appointment only, Spanish, child care.
- Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate Ave., 1st floor, 522-4307, Mon.-Fri. through April 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., by appointment and walk-in, Spanish.
- Northeast Community Federal Credit Union, 288 Jones St., 434-0738, Tue. and Thurs. through April 8, noon-3 p.m., by appointment and walk-in, Chinese.
- Tenderloin Community School, 627 Turk St., Sat. April 10, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., walk-in, Vietnamese.
- Vietnamese Community Center of S.F., 766 Geary St., 351-1038, Mon., Wed., Sat. through April 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., by appointment only, Vietnamese.
- UC Hastings College of the Law, 200 McAllister St., Tue., Wed., Sat. through April 14, 4:30-6 p.m., walk-in, Spanish.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS FORUM

After four months' hiatus, the Tenderloin Futures Collaborative will begin meeting again — with a new date, the third Wednesday of the month, and a new time, 11 a.m.-noon. Location remains the same, Tenderloin Police Community Room, 301 Eddy, and Glenda Hope continues as meeting chair. The Futures Collaborative was launched in September 2001 to carry on the work of the disbanded Lower Eddy/Leavenworth Task Force. Neighborhood activists, service providers and interested residents wanted an open, monthly forum to hear about land use changes, new businesses and organizations, emerging issues, and more from knowledgeable presenters who could answer questions at the meetings or tell people how to get answers. The collaborative doesn't take positions or endorse ideas or candidates. Sharing info is what it's all about. The next meeting is April 21. If you have a project or information you'd like to present, contact Michael Nulty, interim coordinator, at 820-3989.

Popular Senior Bingo at the Boeddeker Clubhouse draws up to 40 people twice a week.



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

THE AIR Better air for all is in the offing since March 16, when supervisors passed a tough new law curtailing secondhand smoke. The city's Tobacco Free Coalition spent three years pushing for smoking bans in such locations as outdoor dining areas; ATM and ticket lines; within 15 feet of entrances, exits and operable windows of commercial and multiunit residential buildings; bars and bingo games; farmers markets; and inside taxis. The ordinance, passed unanimously by the nine supervisors present, goes into effect April 24. Serena Chen of the Bay Area American Lung Association emailed her congratulations to coalition members: "It took countless hours of hearings, reports, a cast of hundreds, and many bottles of aspirin and Tums. And the rest of California and the nation is watching," she wrote.

COMMUNITY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP marked its 20th year in March with impressive stats: 785 units occupied by formerly homeless adults and families, 265 units in the construction pipeline, 200 employees and a \$15 million annual operating budget. Also, March 1, Jeff Kositsky ended his eight years as executive director, overseeing operations that more than doubled the number of housing units CHP owns and manages. Besides housing, CHP offers residents job training that provides workforce readiness and real work experiences and outpatient substance abuse and mental health treatment — all buttressed by intensive case management. Kositsky's successor, Gail Gilman, doesn't plan to take it easy just because things look rosy. "The economic challenges and the city's financial crisis mean we have to fight for funding year to year," she said. "The key for us is the quality of treatment and supportive services attached to our housing." Does it work? CHP reports that each year 98% of its tenants retain their housing permanently — the highest percentage among the formerly homeless in the nation, Gilman says, Happy birthday.

PARK USERS Spring, the arrival of milder weather and more daylight hours are celebrated weekdays through mid-May at the Boeddeker Park Clubhouse with a series of programs for seniors and children under the guidance of new co-directors Melvina Hill and Rob McDaniels. Mondays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., it's tea time with cakes and fruit in the park's upper picnic area; Tuesdays and Thursdays, mark your cards for Senior Bingo 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Wednesdays, bring the toddlers 10-11:30 a.m. for parent and child art exploration; Fridays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., grab a seat, have a snack and settle in for a classic movie; and every weekday, 10-11:30 a.m., build up strength outdoors, weather permitting, in the adult and senior fitness program. "Participation in the programs is growing each week," Hill says. "We've had everything from presentations on heart disease and diabetes-prevention to poetry discussions at our tea times." More info: sfreconline.org or 831-6800.

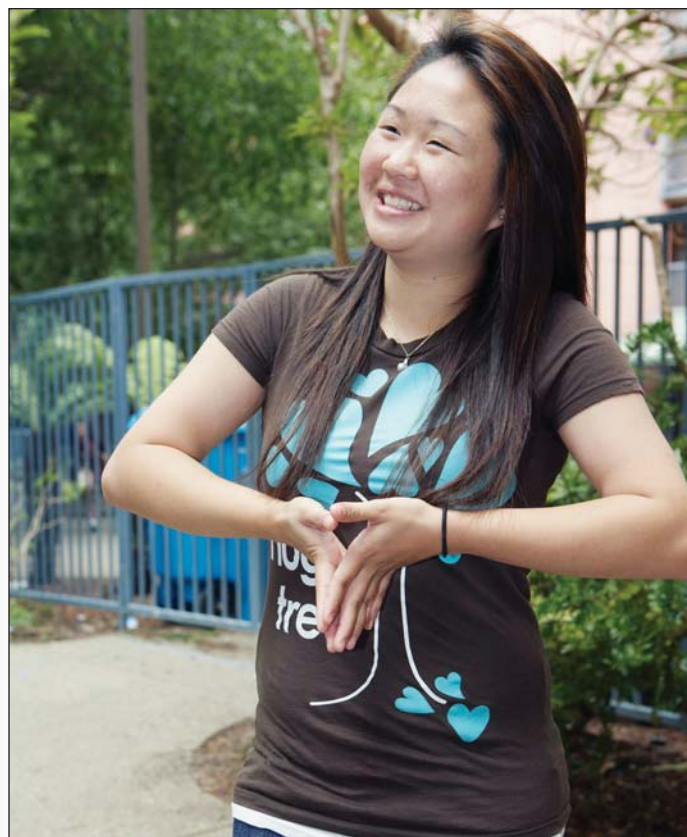


PHOTO BY ALLISON ROBERTS

Winnie Phan, 17, in the Clubhouse courtyard, has been a TL Boys & Girls Club member since she was 6 years old.

Tenderloin native youth of the year

Statewide honor for Boys & Girls Club star

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

WINNIE Phan has a million-dollar smile and good reason to keep smiling: She was just named the Boys & Girls Clubs' California Youth of the Year and will compete this summer for the Pacific region title. If she wins that, it's on to the national competition and the chance to be feted by President Obama in an Oval Office ceremony.

Phan, 17, is a central city star. She was born in the neighborhood and has been coming to the Tenderloin Boys & Girls Clubhouse since she was 6.

Growing up in the Tenderloin wasn't easy, she says. "I was scared being out on the street and it always seemed dangerous, but I got used to it."

The clubhouse became her refuge. "I felt safe there. When I was little I came every day after school, and I still come every weekday. It's my home away from home."

Phan's parents, from Vietnam, settled in the Tenderloin 18 years ago, raising Phan and her older brother in a studio apartment.

"It was hard being crammed into one room," she admits. The family recently moved to a new, much bigger apartment, and Phan got something many teenagers take for granted — her own room. "It's wonderful," she says.

Now a senior at Galileo High School with a 3.8 grade point average, Phan comes to the clubhouse for activities and to mentor younger club members. She calls mentoring "very important — we're role models and the younger kids follow us," adding that her mentors were her big brother and clubhouse staff.

Winning the Youth of the

Year competitions — in February she won the San Francisco contest — surprised her, she says. The 63-year-old award program, sponsored by Reader's Digest Foundation, recognizes young people who show exceptional character, leadership and community commitment.

When Phan highlights meaningful clubhouse experiences, it's clear why she's already run away with two awards: "Getting involved in the community is so important," she said. "In the Torch Club [for 11- to 13-year-old clubhouse members] we had a two-month project where we went to Dorothy Day Community and played bingo and cooked stir fry for the seniors."

Even better, she says, was a project depicting Tenderloin crime, street trash and eating habits. She led 10 teammates in creating a 5-minute video, showed it at the clubhouse and afterward organized a discussion about the importance of keeping the neighborhood clean.

Phan beat out eight other kids around the state for the California Youth of the Year award, which comes with a \$1,000 scholarship. She'll be up against eight or nine young people for the Pacific Region title and its \$10,000 scholarship. Then the five regional winners will compete for the national title and a \$15,000 scholarship.

Her future? Phan wants to be a pediatrician, she says, and is waiting to hear from the many California State universities where she's applied. She's sure she'll keep doing community service projects, wherever she is, and will return to the Tenderloin clubhouse as an alumna with stories to tell and support for those coming up.

"There's no leaving the clubhouse," Phan says, flashing her winning smile. ■

Muralist shows TL as it was, is and could someday be

\$63,000 neighborhood portrait on ex-porn theater was 18 months in the making

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

“WINDOWS into the Tenderloin,” muralist Mona Caron’s opus at Golden Gate and Jones, barely scratches the surface of the neighborhood’s story, she says, though her palette is two full sides of the building.

“I could only tell the story by peeking into different moments,” she said. “Like peeking into windows.” Ten panels make up the mural on the two-story, 1918 building, painted a color Caron calls a redder version of Golden Gate Bridge international orange.

Parting curtains on the northernmost panel announce the theme: change. Ten-foot-high flowers blossom in see-through soil and, below ground, seeds push up into the air, their heads made of small tiles painted by artists from Hospitality House Community Art Center and children from the Tenderloin Boys & Girls Clubhouse, right across Jones Street.

“The seeds are symbolic, seeds of change in the neighborhood,” said Caron, whose 18-month, \$63,000 project was funded through grants to the Tenderloin Community Benefit District from the Mayor’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development and the Community Challenge Grant Program, formerly the city administrator’s Neighborhood Beautification Fund.

The next two windows are side-by-side versions of the lot directly across Golden Gate Avenue: One shows the parking lot, as it is today, with people idling along the chain link fence; the other is an idealized park with green everywhere, even on the rooftops, with all manner of pleasant activities going on, many suggested to Caron by passers-by as she painted the details.

“Someone said to me, ‘Put a skating rink on the top of the building,’ and I did,” she said. “Another person suggested I put in a vegetable garden and an open-air art gallery — those went in, too.”

Under a louvered air duct painted to look like a window with drawn blinds is a scene at dusk: A saxophonist stands in an empty parking lot at Hyde and Turk, playing to the deep blue skies and surrounding buildings. His music, like smoke, floats upward and turns into a hawk, an homage, Caron says, to the world-famous Blackhawk nightclub, the hottest jazz joint in the 1950s and ’60s at 200 Hyde St.

Also anchored in the same window, but floating out to the left, are ghostly film reels and phonograph records, swirling above the Art Deco buildings on Hyde Street, where film reels were stored and Wally Heider and other recording studios once produced the best of San Francisco rock.



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

The middle panels are renderings of structures now standing at that corner. Hovering in space above them are five beautiful neighborhood buildings that are no more — the Paramount Theater, whose entrance was on Market Street with seating where the parking lot now stands; the Empress Theater; Murphy’s Department Store, which burned in the ’06 fire; the Central Presbyterian Tabernacle; and the round Panorama Building that anchored Eddy and Mason.

“The Panorama was one of several in the city,” Caron said. “People went inside and saw a 360-degree mural of famous places, complete with sound effects.” Caron credits Tenderloin historian Peter Field and photographer Mark Ellinger for helping her work some esoteric history into the mural.

A view from Market up Jones shows the mosque on the east side. Caron dubbed the panel at the far right of the building “Asian Curtains,” her attempt, she said, to represent the many Southeast Asians who settled in the Tenderloin in the 1970s and ’80s with a design that incorporates their culture’s textiles.

The building the mural graces has its own history. The ground floor, now for rent, most recently was a sewing factory. Before that it was the Mini-Adult Theater, where guys could hook up for nooner or nighttime quickies while hard-core loops played ceaselessly.

Today, the mural says, Tenderloin windows are open to change. The March 5 unveiling of the completed mural was a community celebration that drew a crowd of 150 people, some depicted in the panels. ■

Mona Caron incorporated suggestions from passers-by to create the mural that decorates a former sewing factory and porn theater at Golden Gate and Jones.

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ERRATUM In March, The Extra reported that Gene Friend Rec Center was closed to teenagers 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. It is closed to adults then, not to ages 13-18.

Original Joe's gets \$50,000 to help it reopen

Mayor's office also invests in promoting Tenderloin history

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

THE city wants change in the Tenderloin, and it's putting its money where its public policy mouth is. The latest investments: \$50,000 to help reopen Original Joe's, \$20,000 to launch the Uptown Tenderloin History Museum and \$15,000 to get historical plaques mounted on TL buildings.

The money comes from the city's general fund, a one-time allocation from last year's economic stimulus funds to the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development for grants to revitalize neighborhood and business corridors citywide. In all, OEWD has awarded \$535,464 to 14 projects.

Original Joe's has been boarded up since October 2007, when fire destroyed its kitchen and smoked out the 30-room Moderne Hotel upstairs. Owners Marie and John Duggan have periodically announced they will bring the landmark restaurant back.

The city's grant may provide the needed leverage. Or not.

Amy Cohen, director of neighborhood business development for OEWD, said the grant — to North of Market Neighborhood Improvement Corp., which will handle the agreement with the Duggans — is still being negotiated.

The Duggans' proposal asked for \$145,972 to partly repair Joe's — \$6,500 to demolish and drywall the interior; \$22,472 to improve the façade; and \$117,000 to install new heating, ventilation, air conditioning and water heater systems.

The proposal said that if that was too much for the city to handle, the Duggans had "other sources" to make up the difference. Cohen said John Duggan had estimated the total cost of reopening Joe's at around \$1 million and seemed confident he could raise it. He projected reopening the restaurant in October.

The Extra tried to confirm and update progress on Joe's, but repeated calls to Duggan were not returned. Joe's ground floor was still boarded up on March 19, but workmen were clearing furniture out of the second floor hotel.

The city's grant is only a third of the request, and Cohen says that 50 grand can go toward any costs that will help reopen the beloved eatery.

The shuttered Joe's is a hard-to-ignore eyesore, right in the crosshairs of the city's campaign to turn Taylor Street into an arts corridor.

"We consider Original Joe's to be a linchpin, but there's a caveat — we can't force it to open," Cohen said. "If the owners can't reopen Joe's, at least façade work will make it more leasable to someone else. As it is, it doesn't show very well."

She's not alone in wanting Original Joe's to return to the Tenderloin. One support letter for the Joe's proposal came from EXIT Theatre Artistic Director Christina Augello and Managing Director Richard Livingston.

Joe's, they say, was "the most important business for our patrons, staff, artists and volunteers. They went there before shows and after shows and the loss . . . [has] left an empty hole in the neighborhood."

Cohen hopes the grant will encourage other investors to commit to Joe's renovation.

"It was our suggestion that the Duggans include exterior repair in their proposal," Cohen said. "Everyone's watching Original Joe's — an improved façade can make people more excited. It can build a buzz."

Part of Economic and Workforce Development's negotiations on the grant involve what happens if nothing happens.

"We put conditions on the money," Cohen said. "If Joe's doesn't reopen in a year, they give the money back, although it can be renegotiated if



PHOTO BY MARJORIE BEGGS

The 50th plaque mounted in the Uptown Historic District summarizes the Ambassador Hotel's history.

things are under way. And if they open another active retail business in the space, that would be okay, too.

"But of course we hope it will be Joe's."

MUSEUM TO BE A DESTINATION

In his proposal, Tenderloin Housing Clinic Executive Director Randy Shaw said the Uptown Tenderloin History Museum will improve the neighborhood's image, stimulate business, create jobs and give the TL "what it has long lacked: a prime daytime destination that attracts tourists and others into the heart of the community."

And it will be more than a museum with exhibitions of the neighborhood's colorful past — jazz joints, rock recording studios, musicians hanging out at the Musicians Union, swinging hotels, tea dances and more. The museum will mix in live music, community events and a cafe, and it will be the starting point for neighborhood tours, including one of an occupied SRO.

Shaw began envisioning the museum a couple of years ago, about when he started pushing for the Uptown Tenderloin Historic District.

The 6,400-square-foot museum will be in the Cadillac Hotel, at the corner of Eddy and Leavenworth, where Tenderloin Housing Clinic has a 50-year lease and now houses one of its programs.

His target opening date for the museum is early 2012.

Like the Original Joe's grant, the \$20,000 museum grant will cover only a portion of the work to get it up and running: repainting the lower level of the Cadillac exterior, designing and fabricating a sample corner window exhibit, and mounting banners above the windows, illuminated at night, that announce the site as the museum's future home.

Shaw estimates that he needs about \$3 million to get its doors open. One option for raising a big chunk of that is a \$2 million HUD loan, he said. On Jan. 14, the mayor announced plans to create an \$11.5 million pool of low-interest loans through HUD for mid-Market and Tenderloin projects that

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Original Joe's, the most important restaurant in the Tenderloin, caught fire in 2007 and has been shut since.

Celebrating 22 years of customer service in the Tenderloin

TIP-TOP Market

90 Turk St.

Offering a 10% senior discount with the purchase of \$25 in food items with the presentation of this coupon

Our prices fit the budgets of the neighborhood

No cash value; expires 6/30/10

City invests in Tenderloin

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

contribute to the area's cultural interests and generate jobs for low-income residents — a perfect fit for the museum, Shaw says.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

The Uptown Historic District's listing on the National Register of Historic Places in February 2009 also sparked a building plaque project.

In the historic district's 33 blocks, 380 of the 470 buildings are considered architectural, historic or cultural "contributors" to what makes the area unique — and for \$259.50, building owners can buy and put up a plaque that says so.

By mid-March, 80 owners were on board and plaques were appearing all over the Tenderloin. Shaw, who spearheaded the project, is confident they'll easily get to 100.

March 10, in a media- and Tenderloin stakeholder-packed community room at the Ambassador Hotel, Shaw, Mayor Newsom and TNDC Director Don Falk (TNDC owns the Ambassador and 14 other plaque-worthy buildings) unveiled the 50th plaque to go up.

The Uptown District's first plaque went up March 3 at THC's building at 126 Hyde. Unlike the Ambassador, 126 Hyde has no notable history, Shaw said, so the text on the plaque is "pretty basic": the building's construction date (c. 1923), its inclusion in the Register of Historic Places and the district name.

Other plaques have a bit more info: The one on the Padre Apartments at 241 Jones says it first was the Crystal Hotel, then the Padre Hotel. Also, "Located across the street

from the former Musicians Union Hall, this hotel was well known for providing lodging to local and traveling musicians."

Building owners who purchase a plaque get to approve the text. They can take a crack at describing their building's claim to fame, if they wish. Otherwise, Shaw and plaque project manager Sarah Wilson will draft the language.

"TNDC drafted the text for all 15 of their plaques," Shaw said. "The Ambassador had a lot of history that Sarah and I edited and condensed."

Wilson's job is funded by a \$15,000 Workforce Development grant last year to the Tenderloin Community Benefit District. The CBD, in turn, allocated the funds to a new nonprofit, Uptown Tenderloin Inc., formed to coordinate the historic district's activities.

Shaw also heads up the new organization, housed at THC. Board members include Hastings CFO David Seward, housing consultant Brad Paul, Cadillac Hotel co-owner Kathy Looper, former Hilton Hotel PR rep Debbie Larkin, and Tenderloin CBD General Manager Elaine Zamora.

After the Ambassador plaque dedication, Shaw told The Extra that the Tenderloin has "incredible untapped potential" and could have been a far worse place without so many people dedicated to its preservation.

"This all could have been high-rises," he said. "Areas like this are usually redeveloped or torn down."

The Tenderloin is almost ready to bestow on San Francisco a new title, Shaw says: "The only U.S. city that has preserved the old buildings and the residents' quality of life in its inner city without gentrification." ■

Celebrate 20 years of true success!

Since 1990, San Francisco's very own Community Housing Partnership has built safe homes and established strong communities for the city's formerly homeless.

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Activists recall their best, worst

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The day Original Joe's burned

DAVID BAKER
Resident and activist

DAVID Baker was just a block from Original Joe's when the wail of fire trucks caught his attention. He immediately ran to investigate, only to find the favored Tenderloin restaurant engulfed by fire and water.

"When I came upon the fire, I thought, 'My god, no!'" said Baker, a longtime resident and activist. "I kept telling myself, This can't be a real bad fire. But it was."

The fire erupted around 11 a.m. Oct. 13, 2007, when a member of the kitchen staff lit a charcoal burner. Flames and smoke quickly spread upward through an exhaust flue, forcing residents of the Moderne Hotel upstairs to flee.

"I didn't linger. I thought at the time that the damage would be limited," said Baker. "How wrong I was."

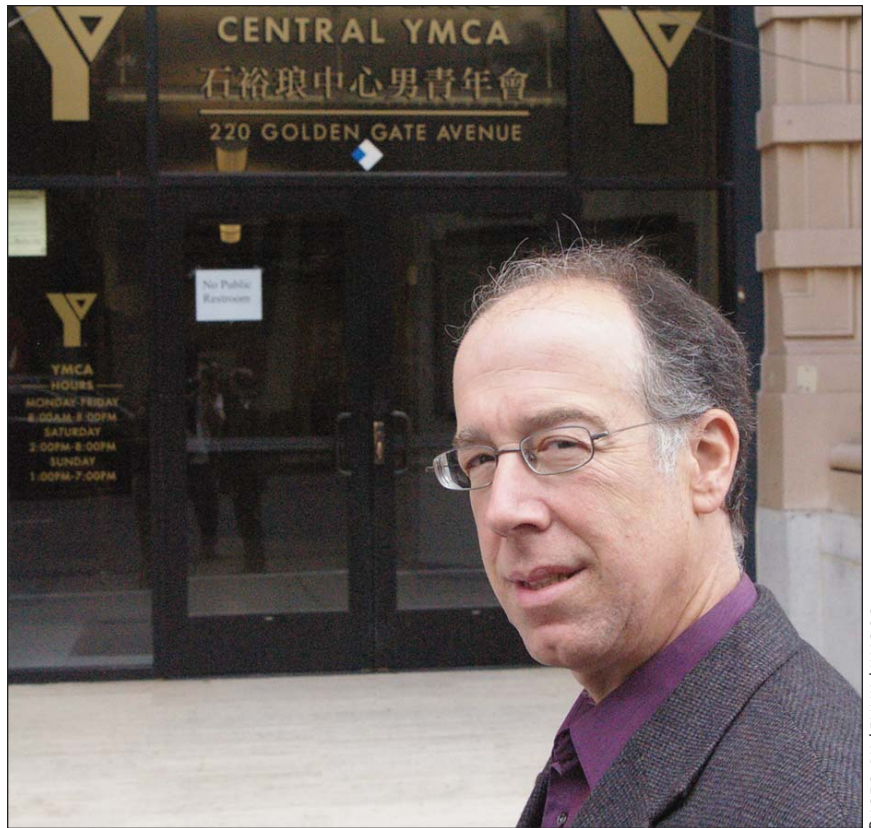
The Tenderloin icon was predicted to be closed only for a couple weeks, but a dispute with the insurance company put those plans on hold. It's been closed ever since.

"The fire at Joe's was not just an isolated incident but affected the area's identity, the positive aspects of it anyway," Baker said.

Original Joe's originally opened in 1937 and currently is owned by John and Marie Duggan.

"I guess when we talk about memories, we're thinking of pleasant memories. But, you know, the Tenderloin is sort of hard living," said Baker. "And when something disappears that conjures good feelings, well, that hurts morale, that hurts community morale." ■

—DYLAN LIENHARD



First time in the Tenderloin and TNDC's Don Falk gets in the middle of a gunfight.



Rob McDaniel

Newbie's harsh introduction

DON FALK,
executive director, TNDC

FOR the last 16 years, Don Falk has been developing affordable housing in the Tenderloin for low-income residents, but his first experience in our gritty neighborhood could have scared him off for good.

Falk was overseeing a housing program in West Oakland, and heard about a job opening at Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corp. He ponied up \$25 to attend TNDC's first fundraising Pool Toss, figuring he'd find out more about the job.

Nothing eventful happened until he was walking back to BART with a friend and all of a sudden: "Rat-a-tat-tat."

"It was gunfire on the street and we quickly ducked behind a car," says Falk. "As we looked around, people were clearing the sidewalks and hiding."

Falk peeked over the car and saw men with guns running right at them. He braced himself, and then the armed men passed right by.

"It's ironic that that was my first experience in the Tenderloin and it could have stopped me from joining TNDC," said Falk, adding that was the only time he has ever seen or heard gunfire in the Tenderloin and considers that fact a sign of how far the Tenderloin has come. ■

—KRYSTAL PEAK

Fish story with a happy ending

DAVID SEWARD,
chief financial officer,
UC Hastings School of Law

DAVID Seward enjoys roaming the Heart of The City Farmers' Market at U.N. Plaza each week.

"It is the best in town," says Seward, who works two blocks away.

But one Wednesday afternoon three years ago stands out in Seward's mind.

"I was attacked by a gentleman wielding a dead fish," he remembers.

Seward was walking around the market and reached the fish truck. He was checking out what looked freshest and started speaking



David Baker, when he saw the flames: "I thought, 'My God, no.'"



Hastings CFO David Seward's moment was when something bad could have happened, but didn't.

First moments in the Tenderloin



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

McDaniels at Tenderloin Playground. He started the MacCanDo Tenderloin Youth Track team in 2004.

to a man he thought worked there. Suddenly, the man — fish in hand — came at him.

“It was a big one, too,” Seward says.

He got out of the way and his attacker got arrested.

“If I can be here working in the Tenderloin 30 years and only have one guy coming at me with a fish, that’s not bad,” says Seward. ■

—KARISSA BELL

Sgt. Kenny’s games create critical mass

ROBERT MCDANIELS,
Rec and Park director, Boeddeker Park

WHAT moved Rob McDaniels like nothing else in his 20 years as a Rec and Park director at Boeddeker Park and at Tenderloin Children’s Playground was the final day of the annual Sgt. Kenny Sugrue Tenderloin Games in 2001.

Sugrue, a popular Tenderloin cop who loved youth work, started the games in 1997 but died unexpectedly in 1998. It wasn’t until June 2001 that Tess Manalo Dentresca, who was running a youth-oriented recycling pro-

gram, organized the games again. McDaniels estimates 500 to 700 kids participated in athletic events at both parks.

“All these organizations had come together to make it happen,” McDaniels recalls. “Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, Glide, the Tenderloin after school program, Asian groups, Salvation Army, Rec and Park, the Police Department. It was five straight days of games for kids.

“The last day, I drew four lanes on the walkway at Boeddeker,” he said. About 30 kids took turns racing in the lanes.

“At the awards ceremony, I was just very, very happy I was part of it. It was a powerful moment. People came up to me afterward and said we need more of this. We need to do more.” ■

—TOM CARTER

When the Hilton became an ally

RANDY SHAW,
executive director,
Tenderloin Housing Clinic

ONE day in summer 1980, when Randy Shaw was a young law student trying to halt gentrification in the Tenderloin,

he and his group met with the Hilton Hotel management.

“Our committee wanted the luxury hotels to contribute to affordable housing in the neighborhood, but we definitely got a surprise that day at the Hilton,” Shaw remembers.

It was around lunchtime and the Hilton managers welcomed the protesters with a banquet: An impressive array of cold cuts, vegetables and cakes for dessert.

“They had prepared this big spread. In the moment we did not really know what to do,” Shaw says.

He huddled with his band of brothers, mostly Tenderloin residents and a handful of people from the Gray Panthers.

They did not want to go soft on the Hilton because of a sumptuous spread. Their goal was to signal that the Tenderloin must remain a diverse neighborhood, not become just a destination for affluent travelers. But could a free lunch be such a crime?

“We decided that we could eat their cake, as long as we kept our position,” Shaw says.

Today he says it made good sense to accept the banquet. They established helpful relationships for the neighborhood. And even an activist has got to eat. ■

—JOHAN VARDRUP

Empowerment to the people

MICHAEL NULTY
The most active activist

MICHAEL Nulty remembers the ninth anniversary of the Tenants Associations Coalition in 2007.

Nulty is a TAC program director and possesses a roomful of activist hats.

As part of the anniversary celebration, the coalition party also featured the first mayoral candidate debate of that campaign season, and the party was open to the public.

“It was an opportunity for the public to ask the candidates questions; it was a really empowering moment,” said Nulty, who added that the celebration is also remembered for another reason: “One of the mayoral candidates got arrested for disrupting the event by blocking doors and pulling the fire alarm.

“When you plan an event, you don’t like it when unexpected things happen.”

Regardless, TAC’s event was a success and, most memorable of all, it even ended with food left over. ■

—JULIETA KUSNIR



PHOTO BY KARISSA BELL



PHOTO BY LUKE THOMAS, FOGCITYJOURNAL.COM

Randy Shaw recalls a turning point in the neighborhood preservation fight.



Michael Nulty accepts TAC award from Housing Rights Committee’s Sara Shortt.

PHOTO BY COLIN HUSSEY

City's major census outreach is in Tenderloin

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

100,000 and has lost \$300 million over 10 years. The 2000 census put the city's population at 776,733; the 2008 census' updated projection put it at 809,000. A year before, the June 2007 Extra reported that the state Finance Department had estimated the city's population at 809,844. The department does its own calculations using more complicated data than the feds. In January 2009, the state said San Francisco's population was 845,559.

San Francisco receives \$3,862 per person from federal assistance programs using census data, the mayor's office said, quoting a Brookings Institution study. This year, when the feds undertook the largest civic outreach and awareness campaign in U.S. history, the city awarded \$809,000 in grants to nonprofits to beef up the count campaign in hard-to-reach neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, a cadre of census organizers working throughout the city — but concentrating in poor communities — hooked up months ago with TNDC, Community Housing Partnership, Southeast Asian Community Center and Ayadi to promote the census in the Tenderloin. They promote compliance and recruit census takers to go door-to-door for follow-up interviews with heads of households who received census forms in mid-March but didn't complete and return them by April 1.

The Tenderloin, with the largest concentration of census muscle, landed five of the city's 18 grants from the Office of Civic engagement and Immigrant Affairs. Bayview, next, has four.

NAGGING PROBLEM IN SROS

But before March ended, outreach workers in Chinatown had already discovered a nagging problem crimping compliance in SROs that have bulk mail drops instead of individual mailbox delivery. Residents in a shabby SRO without a name at 688 Commercial St. found their forms in mid-March scattered on a second-floor counter, some missing, and others with the wrong addresses, all meant to be handed out by a desk clerk. Up to five people occupy each of the 71 units.

City Attorney Dennis Herrera, after a battle local

activists had fought since 2005, sued the U.S. Postal Service in May, insisting its carriers treat SROs like apartment buildings, which is to say, unit-by-unit mail delivery, not a bulk drop at the desk. Some SROs now do have lock boxes — a result of a 2006 ordinance sponsored by Supervisor Daly — but many do not.

At a press conference March 26, census worker Jade Wu said the short, 10-question census form is a contrast to 2000's 40 questions — the long form that 1 in 6 families received. The mail-back rate then was 67%. The extensive data the census will provide over the next decade does not come from answers given on the 2010 form. Education, occupation, household vehicles and more come from American Community Surveys that are sent monthly to 300,000 households. Only the population and ethnicity info from the 10-question form are actual counts.

"Our charge more than a year ago was to go out and build relationships with local organizations," David Lloyd, a census spokesman, said on opening day, Feb. 10, outside the TL census resource center at 476 Eddy St. The space in a TNDC-owned building, donated to the U.S. Department of Commerce for four months, is one of a score of testing centers in the city for census job applicants. It also serves as one of 10 questionnaire-information centers in the Tenderloin, all found on www.sfgov.org/OCEIA. They are open 15 hours a week, and offer advice in 30 languages until April 19, about the time the testing centers close.

Outsiders are often distrusted in the TL. And although Lloyd is a 30-year city resident and a Hastings Law School graduate, he's no neighbor.

"I've been asked if I'm with the FBI," Lloyd said. "But people in the Tenderloin will trust TNDC."

The Eddy Street center may be the hottest job site in the city. It has been administering the 30-minute test in a small room to about 20 job applicants per session. There are three sessions Monday through Friday, two on Saturday, plus less frequent sessions at two other sites. The aim is to test 1,200 TL residents. Preferred are high-scoring bi-linguists. The pay is \$22 an hour.

"We'll need follow-ups to those (households) that didn't respond," Lloyd said. "We expect a 70% (compliance) rate nationwide. For every 1% that

don't respond it will cost \$75 million for follow-up procedures. That's mostly personnel costs."

By April 1, San Francisco's was 46%, which Lloyd said was good.

Armed with single-sheet census questionnaires on March 29, 350 counters launched a three-day homeless count in the Tenderloin by visiting shelters at night. The next day they focused on soup kitchen lines. March 31, from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., 800 spread out here and over the city to count street people.

Expected to be a boon to the count is Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi's SRO legislation. Traditionally, desk clerks have made it difficult for guests to visit SRO residents. Mirkarimi's legislation, passed March 9, ensures census workers access to SROs from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. to conduct surveys and distribute handbills, without "harassment or other inappropriate interference" by hotel employees.

At a standing-room-only census rally Feb. 25 in CHP's San Cristina SRO on Market Street, Mirkarimi aide Jeremy Pollock reminded the mostly SRO residents attending that the 100,000 residents the mayor says are undercounted "are low-income people" and the city needs a complete count for maximum government money.

Among the speakers was Angelica Chan, a Latina mother of a 6-year-old daughter in the Tenderloin Community School and an 11-month-old son, who she wheeled into the stuffy room in a baby carriage. She too, stressed the importance of the count for poor, struggling people. Her remarks were translated from Spanish by Bobbi Lopez of La Voz Latina, who later spoke to The Extra.

The major causes for noncompliance in the Latino community are lack of information, cynicism and language problems, Lopez says. For many Latinos, English is a third language they are trying to learn behind Mayan, first, then Spanish, Lopez says.

"When I tell them the census will help them get services, they laugh," Lopez says. "They just don't believe the government will do that, they've had such a lack of response when they go to City Hall. I tell them we need statistical data because it's more effective than anecdotal evidence."

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Over 11 Million Victims of Identity Theft Last Year.

Source: Javelin Strategy & Research. "2010 Identity Fraud Survey Report." February 2010.

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Census courts ethnic communities in Tenderloin

➤ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The Tenderloin Latino population is growing fast, she says, estimating it at from 5,000 to 7,000. The cost of living is forcing families out of the Mission and into the cheaper Tenderloin, she says.

But some Latinos just aren't paying the census any attention.

"I've had seven or eight calls from people I know in the last few days asking me if they should throw away the forms," Lopez says. "They ask why is this necessary."

Lack of outreach caused the Vietnamese in San Francisco to be undercounted in 2000, according to Philip Nguyen, executive director of the Southeast Asian Community Center on O'Farrell Street. They numbered about 10,000, with up to 70% in the Tenderloin, but that total today could be 15,000, Nguyen says.

Nguyen said that 10 years ago, many immigrants simply didn't know the importance of the census or that they were supposed to participate — or that the form was confidential. They were intimidated by the length of it, too. And some Chinese Vietnamese immigrants declared as Chinese.

Because no legal consequence resulted from noncompliance, no one was the wiser until the 2010 Vietnamese outreach began. In December, Nguyen began asking the 200 Vietnamese families that come to his center every Friday for food distributions to listen first to a census pitch. Next to voting, it is Nguyen's favorite topic.

"They don't understand it, especially the new ones," he says. "But I explain they must — by law — declare themselves for us to get federal money. If not, we will lose money."

Nguyen has four different flyers that he has distributed in recent weeks explaining the census and exploding the myths and misunderstandings.

"Many do not speak English very well and they're reluctant to come to anything unless it is (spoken) Vietnamese and they can ask questions," Nguyen says. "So we designed our own brochures and flyers in both English and Vietnamese."



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Tenderloin census supporters gathered Feb. 9 in front of the mural on Leavenworth at Golden Gate Avenue for a poster shot (see page 11) taken by photographer Stephanie Heald.

Jan. 30, during a month Nguyen distributed 5,000 flyers, SEACC manned a popular census booth at the Health Fair at 201 Turk. At the big Tet Festival on Larkin Street, the census booth again was swamped.

"Everybody wants to win something," Nguyen says. "So we have raffles. Lucky winners. People love it. But the items are practical things — census calendars, noodles, vegetable oil — things they wouldn't have to buy."

Feb. 26, prompted by a flyer, 147 Vietnamese attended a census community forum at SEACC headquarters.

"Lots and lots of questions," Nguyen said. "They didn't understand. But they will believe it in Vietnamese. And they went back home to tell their children about it."

Nguyen doesn't expect the Vietnamese count to be as high as once envisioned. Many who could afford to have left the city for a home elsewhere to raise a family. Vietnamese immigrants who came from pre-1975 families typically had four children and grandparents, too, living with mom and dad. But here in expensive San Francisco smaller families were more "practical for apartment life."

"In a home, they can do what they want and

can have more children," Nguyen says. "It's the Vietnamese dream, the culture, and much like Latino families."

"We expected the population to rise in the city but I think it has leveled off."

Nabila Mango, the point person for Arab outreach, thinks the TL's Arab population could be 5,000 — "nobody knows," — and for them she created handsome green, red and black posters and postcards, and held forums to promote the census. Her pet phrases are "It's good for the neighborhood," "participation helps your identity," and "it's part of the Constitution."

It's still a hard sell.

"After 9/11 there was such distrust and fear over what the government does with information," she says. "They were hesitant to fill out anything and even to go into public places. Kids get called names in school and some get beat up."

"Their fears are multiplied by lack of education. We have a large number of illiterate people in the Tenderloin, young and old," Mango says.

"They don't know their rights."

Knocking on their doors can be problematic. "They need to know that people who knock are appropriate. Otherwise, they think it's the FBI. And depending on who's home," she says of the male-dominated culture, "nobody may answer the door."

She has hosted a couple of meetings with Arab women in the TL to explain the census and its importance. She offers "incentives" like chocolate or food that no one would pass up. She has found no resistance, just ignorance about what the census is. After she explains, she asks them to explain it back to her.

Sunday, May 2, the nonresponse follow-up begins, and going door to door, Census workers will try to sit down with those who didn't stand up. ■

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Census block party at Boeddeker

TNDC is throwing a block party April 17 at Boeddeker Park to lure neighbors who haven't filled out census forms to an education booth where the 10-question forms are available.

The 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. bash will be like TNDC's 2008 voter registration party at the park, and 1,100 people are expected. Everyone gets a "Yes We Count!" T-shirt. A raft of kids' activities, live entertainment and food will be available — fried chicken donated by Glide and other fare from TNDC.

For every 100 people who go uncounted in a neighborhood, an estimated \$1.2 million is lost over 10 years, TNDC said in a news release.

Two years ago, at TNDC's voter registration bash, the lure of 600 hot dogs and hamburgers, T-shirts and games drew a crowd of 1,400, and 136 people got registered to vote. ■

—TOM CARTER

Ground Zero Poetry Reading

at 21 Club, Taylor & Turk

8 p.m., Wed. April 14 Ed Bowers, emcee

JASON BISHOP
A merry prankster

The Library and Listening Post is a cozy room just off the roof garden at the Ambassador Hotel, 55 Mason St. It was barely large enough to hold two staff members, four residents and Buddy, a small, well-behaved dog belonging to resident Kellie Noss. All were assembled there Feb. 22 to remember resident Jason Bishop, who had died several weeks earlier at age 40.

"Jason made people laugh," Noss said. "And Buddy loved him."

Gerry Kirby, an Ambassador resident since 1999, said he and Mr. Bishop had a lot in common — "people we knew and bad habits, but we had our clear moments. What a full life he had! He was an AIDS advocate, starting when he was 14 or 15, but he also had a wild sense of humor."

Kirby praised Mr. Bishop for the work he did "to make the world better. It's really hard to hold onto this, but it's important not to give up 'cause you can live better, feel better, and you don't need to get

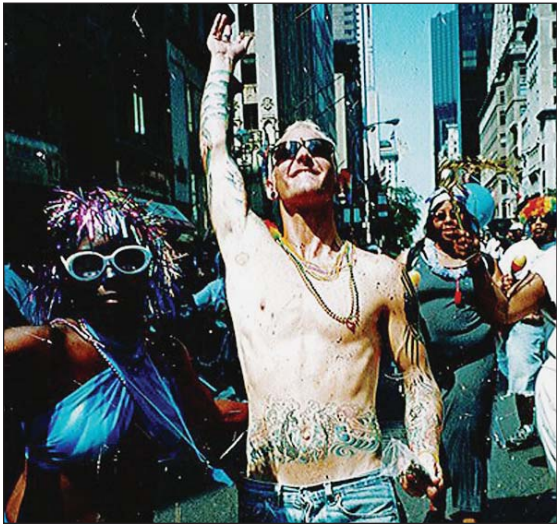


PHOTO COURTESY OF FAMILY

Jason Bishop in a parade in New York.

stuck in a routine," Kirby said.

Mr. Bishop's mother, who lives in Penn Valley in the Sierra foothills, later told The Extra that her son's advocacy was a source of pride for her. He was active in Reach Out, a mental health resource group, Act Up for AIDS advocacy, the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center (now Tenderloin Health), and was a senior outreach counselor for Hospitality House, she said.

"He watched every one of his friends die of AIDS," she said. "There was no one left for him."

Mr. Bishop, who grew up in San Mateo, moved into the Ambassador in 2006, but kept his close connection with his mother. Social worker Rachael Throm said she could always tell when he'd been with his family because he just looked better. Mr. Bishop went home at Christmas and died there the first week in February.

"I was comforted to know he was with his mother when he passed," Throm said.

Another friend at the Ambassador was Minyon Harlin, who recalled how she and Mr. Bishop would visit in each other's rooms and play pranks on other people. "We also did recycling together," Harlin said. "I'd go speak at school and he always encouraged me to keep it up."

While Mr. Bishop urged others to stay the course, he wasn't good at taking care of himself, said Jim Johnson, a money manager for Conard House, who said he knew Mr. Bishop for five years. "I've learned that people don't do what they need to do for themselves, and I've learned to accept people as they are. Jason, he had a gift — he was upbeat despite his problems."

Without knowing it, Mr. Bishop may have left a cheerful legacy. Another resident admitted, shyly, "I find myself doing little pranks, like he did, making people laugh." ■

—MARJORIE BEGGS

ROBERT SMITH
Radio announcer

Robert Smith — ever grateful for his own SRO accommodations — was just at ease in City Hall as on the street when expounding in his resonant

voice on his favorite topic: affordable housing for the poor.

He was a familiar sight alongside fellow activists, a tall, thin Southern gentleman dressed typically in T-shirt and baseball cap and carrying a rumpled paperback mystery novel held together with a rubber band.

"He had a knack for simplifying gobbledygook and making things understandable," said James Tracy of the Community Housing Partnership, who was among more than a dozen mourners at Mr. Smith's March 18 memorial at the CHP-owned and -operated Senator Hotel. "He was always very excited about housing and knew how to use his voice for public speaking."

Mr. Smith, an 11-year resident of the Senator, died in the hotel March 7 at age 52. The medical examiner has not yet determined the cause of death.

His friends said Mr. Smith was from Alabama where he had been a radio announcer, and that he came to San Francisco in the 1980s. Tracy said Mr. Smith was seeking a more tolerant environment but later realized that real change to eliminate racism would "have to come up from the South" — because he thought people here "were too polite" to confront racism.

Mr. Smith testified at hearings for affordable housing for the poor, was active with the Coalition on Homelessness and promoted Safe Havens, where shopkeepers offer safety and a phone call to people fleeing street violence. Mr. Smith served on the neighborhood committee of activists that adopted the Safe Haven concept four years ago.

"He had a Southern accent and was always pleasant and thoughtful," said one mourner.

"He was very grateful for the services at the hotel and often expressed that," said another. "He was glad to be here. But outside of his activism, he kept to himself."

Tracy will remember Mr. Smith as a "Southern gentleman" who was always ready to help causes that aid the poor.

"I could put him on a phone bank — and with that voice — he was fantastic," Tracy said. ■

—TOM CARTER

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Central City Democrats 4th anniversary annual meeting, April 26, 5:30 p.m., 201 Turk St. Community Room. Club endorsements, board elections, presentation of the Steve Conley Champion Award and the James Leo Dunn Memorial Award. Open to the public. Info: 339-8683 (VOTE).

ART EVENTS

Lady of the 'Loin. Chanteuse Shannon Day sings a dozen sizzling stories-in-song, including "Eat At Joe's," by songwriters Don Seaver and Sean Owens. Four performances only, EXIT Theatre, Saturdays April 10, 17, 24 and May 1, 10 p.m., 156 Eddy St. Online tickets, brownpapertickets.com, or call 673-3847 for reservations and pay cash at the door.

"Forbidden City: The Golden Age of Chinese Nightclubs," April 10-June 12, Main Library, S.F. History Center. Exhibition of vintage photographs, costumes, menus from San Francisco Chinatown clubs and the performers who appeared there from the late 1930s to the early 1960s, a time when the clubs were the only venues for talented Asian singers and dancers.

Shanghai exhibition continues at the Asian Art Museum, including "Jews of Shanghai: One Woman's Miraculous Life," a talk by Leah Jacob Garrick, April 15, 6:30 p.m., Samsung Hall, free with museum admission. Garrick, a fourth-generation Jew born and raised in Shanghai during World War II, describes the migration of Iraqi, Russian and European Jews to Shanghai from the 1840s to the 1930s.

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

Supportive Housing Network, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., Dorothy Day Community, 54 McAllister. Call: 421-2926 x304.

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

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of the month, 5-7 p.m., CBHS, 1380 Howard St., room 537. Call: 255-3695. Advisory

group of consumers from self-help organizations and other mental health consumer advocates. Open to the public.

Health & Wellness Action Advocates, 1st Tuesday of the month, 5-7 p.m., Mental Health Association, 870 Market St., Suite 928. 421-2926 x306.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 1010 Mission St., Bayanihan Community Center, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive home and community-based services, expanded eligibility for home care and improved discharge planning. Light lunch served. Call James Chionsini, 703-0188 x304.

Hoarders and Clutterers Support Group, Mental Health Association, 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 St., 5th Fl. Call: 905-6264. Family member group, open to the public.

SAFETY

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training (NERT). Central city residents can take the S.F. Fire Department's free disaster preparedness and response training at neighborhood locations. See 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 varies. To receive monthly e-mail info: Meital Amitai, 538-8100 x202 or mamitai@iisf.org.

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

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com, a districtwide improvement association.

Central City Democrats, meets four times a year, 301 Eddy St. Community Room. Info: 339-VOTE (8683).

Central Market Community Benefit District, board meets 2nd

Tuesday of the month, Hotel Whitcomb, 1231 Market St., 3 p.m. Information: 882-3088, <http://central-market.org>.

Community Leadership Alliance. Last Wednesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Infusion Lounge, 124 Ellis St. Information: David Villalobos, 559-6627, admin@communityleadershipalliance.net.

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Boeddeker Rec Center, 240 Eddy St. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact Betty Traynor, 931-1126. Boeddeker Park cleanup, 3rd Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.-noon, organized by Friends of Boeddeker Park. To RSVP to work or for information, call 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/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Full board meets 3rd Monday of every other month, 5:30 p.m., 134 Golden Gate Ave., 292-4812.

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

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 11 a.m.-noon, Tenderloin Police community room, 301 Eddy. Presentations on issues of interest to neighborhood residents, nonprofits and businesses. Information: tlfutures.org, 820-3989.

SENIORS AND DISABLED

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

Senior Action Network, general meeting, second Thursday of the month, 9 a.m.-noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. Monthly programs, 965 Mission St. #700: Senior Housing Action Committee, third Wednesday, 1:30. Call for info on health program and Senior U: 546-1333 and www.sfsan.org.

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