

# Crime wave mobilizes Tenderloin

Residents organize: Safety chief concern

BY TOM CARTER

COMMUNITY meetings are the lifeblood of activists, and in April their pulse fairly raced. And April buzzed more than in March. For two or three months now, crime and safety has been Topic A in the Tenderloin.

Better than a half dozen community meetings addressed crime and safety last month. Familiar gripes took on a strident tone. Residents were more wary than usual, anxious, if not desperate, for solutions.

Their notorious high-crime neighborhood is experiencing a crime wave. There's been a burst of gang warfare, drug crime, gang killings, bystander and pedestrian fatalities.

A three-month compilation of the latest Tenderloin station statistics shows dramatic jumps in all arrest categories across the board compared with the year-before quarter.

Residents talked of forming a neighborhood watch, getting merchants to help them fight crime, ride-alongs in police cars, walking with beat cops, and direct action at City Hall to ask the powers for help.

**Armed gang members are entering our hood and playing rough.**

They vented pessimism over the revolving-door justice that lets convicted drug dealers out of jail. For the most part, they praised the police, especially the

efforts of Capt. Gary Jimenez, now the permanent Tenderloin station commander.

Jimenez is on the edge of his seat these days, too. As he leans forward in community meetings, he reports eye-popping arrest figures. Then his voice rises as he tells the crowd that change is in their hands.

"Are you ready to be part of creating The New Tenderloin (TNT)?" the flyer for an April 26 community meeting asked. "The Tenderloin Safety Plan KICK-OFF" shouted from a starburst at the top.

A good 125 people showed up for the two-hour TNT event.

Clearly, the Tenderloin is a neighborhood on the move, perhaps as never before. Just how frayed are the nerves of a central city population beleaguered for years by a corrosive drug scene and careless auto traffic, and now experiencing deadly escalation?

On April 26, the dozen or so neighborhood activists, nonprofits and residents billing themselves as TNT hammered out ambitious anti-crime measures in their community meeting and planned to take their mounting concerns to the Board of Supervisors. The group planned a march to City Hall on May 8, starting at 201 Turk St., stopping along the way at sites where gang killings occurred last month, "to show solidarity," its flyer said. After a 1 p.m. press conference on the City Hall steps they planned to attend the 2 p.m. Board of Supervisors session.

"We won't be on the agenda but

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NO. 67

PUBLISHED BY THE SAN FRANCISCO STUDY CENTER

MAY 2007

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Big jump could hint at speculation

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Photos document construction stages

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# CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO

## SOUTHSIDE



PHOTOS BY LENNY LIMJOCO

The new Federal Building is built but not yet open to the public. The grand opening is July 9.

# A peek inside

A sneak preview of 'extremely green building'

BY TOM CARTER

THE glimmering 18-story Federal Building at Seventh and Mission has certainly gotten its share of attention but it won't be open to the public until probably June, a spokeswoman said. A grand opening is July 9 — by invitation only.

Professional and civic groups can arrange tours through the General Services Administration office, though. And if you're curious about how this \$144 million edifice looks and feels inside, and you've got a friend who is an employee, you might get a personal peek.

What people see inside ranges from impressive to spectacular. From the soaring, slanted support columns inside to the vistas of the city outside, from the Sky Garden on the 11th floor room to the Childcare Center on the main floor — which will be available to the public — the general feeling of spaciousness and light is uplifting and energizing. It prevails despite the domination of gray concrete, black and gray faux marble floors, and silver metal stairs. Imagine the enhancement when every floor gets its colorful landscaping.

Technical people, including members of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers are drawn to the place. On May 3, its Golden Gate Chapter repeated a tour from last year. These folks are crazy about the "very innovative design" of the air conditioning, according to chapter President Glenn Friedman.

Friedman was at the building's only entrance on an early May morning checking off names as 15 engineers arrived. Two building guards near the metal detector were turning anyone away who didn't have business there.

"(The tour) was so popular that we created two more tours this year," Friedman said. Another 15 engineers were scheduled for an afternoon tour after the chapter lunch at the California Culinary Academy.

"We're interested in energy-efficient and user-friendly buildings," Friedman said. "This has natural ventilation and reduces the demand for mechanical cooling. It's attracted

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May 2, 2007



Up and running: Construction complete, landscaping yet to come.

# GOOD NEWS for...

**ROBERT MCDANIELS** The former S.F. State high hurdler-turned-Boeddeker-director was honored by the mayor's office and the Board of Supervisors on April 21 for his work with at-risk youth. He also picked up a Community Builder Award from Hayes Valley's Mo Magic Recognition. McDaniels created the MacCanDo Tenderloin Youth Track team in 1992. But the park was too dangerous to train at so the kids ran around the block. Now McDaniels conducts a monthly track meet. The MacCanDo team, 35 athletes ages 3 to 18, has outgrown its 16-person van that it takes to Northern California track meets and weekly practices at Kezar Stadium. McDaniels wishes somebody would donate a school bus. The team competes May 19 at U.C. Berkeley in the Tommie Smith one-day track event, then goes to Reno a week later for a three-day tourney.

**THE HIBERNIA BANK** The long abandoned, elegantly domed bank will shine new lights down on the McAllister Street sidewalk beginning this month, according to property manager Edward Leong. People complained that, without lighting, drug dealers and other loiterers were attracted there at night. But the building became a historic landmark in 1981 and certain physical features can't be altered, so the alteration permitting process dragged on for nine months. The Tenderloin Task Force police occupied the basement for nearly 10 years before moving to the new station at Eddy and Jones streets in October 2000. The bank has been empty since, and the surrounding area has attracted incontinent pigeons and street people. The bank's Jones Street steps were used as a public toilet until they were sealed off in May 2001. A gate and floor-to-ceiling screen to keep people and pigeons out of the entrance alcove went up in June 2004 — a consequence of a Department of Public Health violation. And police set up barricades in front of the steps in June 2005 to keep people off. The owner, Thomas Lin, a Buddhist sect leader from Berkeley also known on the sect's Web site as His Holiness Grandmaster Professor Lin Yun, bought the bank in 1995 for an undisclosed sum, though taxes were calculated on a value below \$1 million. In March, Lin put the bank up for sale with Green Bank of Millbrae. Asking price: \$20 million.

**LGBT SMOKERS** These Californians smoke way more than straights, according to statistics from the LGBT Tobacco Education Partnership, which in April received a three-year, \$550,000 grant from the state Department of Health Services. Gay men smoke 50% more, lesbians smoke at triple the rate of all women and LGBT 18- to 24-year-olds at a rate of 44% compared with 18% for that age group at large. The Partnership was formed three years ago to educate the LGBT community about the perils of tobacco. "The tobacco industry loves our LGBT community to death," says Bob Gordon, Partnership project director, "targeting LGBT people, undermining our community's health." The Partnership has launched a colorful ad campaign of its own: a rainbow flag with a cigarette replacing one of the stripes, posing the question, "When did smoking become part of us?" The Partnership works with Pride event committees across the state, advocating for smoke-free outdoor events.

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

## Keep on trackin'

Tenderloin housing boom — 'a speculation game'?

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

THE city's with-it cutting-edges have fingered the Tenderloin as "the new Mission," the next place where hot things happen in a cool setting.

"That's according to one of my younger, hip colleagues," Peter Cohen, Asian Neighborhood Design's community planning director, told the April Tenderloin Futures Collaborative. "What we're seeing is an opportunity for a demographic not usually associated with the Tenderloin." He was referring to the amount of new building going on in the Tenderloin, especially housing.

Cohen presented stats from two years of City Planning pipeline data — the number and type of residential and commercial projects on the drawing board, from Van Ness to Powell, Market to Sutter, in five phases from start to finish: pre-application (preliminary work); entitlement (permits in progress); entitled (permits approved); in construction; and constructed.

The numbers are startling, Cohen said, from 18 projects in December 2004 54 in December 2006, a 200% increase in two years.

Of the 18 projects, 12 had permits in progress, one had all permits approved, three were in pre-application and none was under construction. Nine were affordable housing projects and four market rate.

Two years later, with 54 projects on the books, 32 had permits in place and were ready to build. Market rate housing spiked to 26 projects.

Cohen said he wasn't sure if the statistics signaled a "revival of urban living or just a niche trend — the desire of middle- and upper-middle-class people to live in the city" and especial-

ly, he said, in a dense neighborhood like the Tenderloin.

"Maybe it's because living in the city is more sustainable, but these are just guesses on my part," he said. "I've been watching these trends to see what's changing, but it's hard to interpret. The data come from Planning and there's certainly some margin of error. The numbers are rough."

Completed projects seem to move almost glacially: There was only one in December 2004, three a year later and nine two years later.

"How many of these entitlements do you think go to the shovel?" asked Carmela Gold, YMCA executive director.

Cohen didn't have figures at hand, he said, but at a recent meeting he was at the Mayor's

Office of Housing said of 6,000 housing units permitted only a small percentage were built.

"Is this some kind of a speculation game?" Cohen wondered. "Maybe, because many sponsors seem to go through the entitlements, then sell the property for a lot more money."

Are entitlements forever? someone asked.

"I think they have an eight-year length, but many extensions are allowed," Cohen said.

He plans to keep on trackin'.

Meantime, to see a map of Tenderloin developments, go to TFC's Web site, <http://www.tlfutures.org/links.php>, and click on TL Development Tracking Database-March 2006. An up-to-date map should be posted soon, Cohen said. ■



**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 Kosblom 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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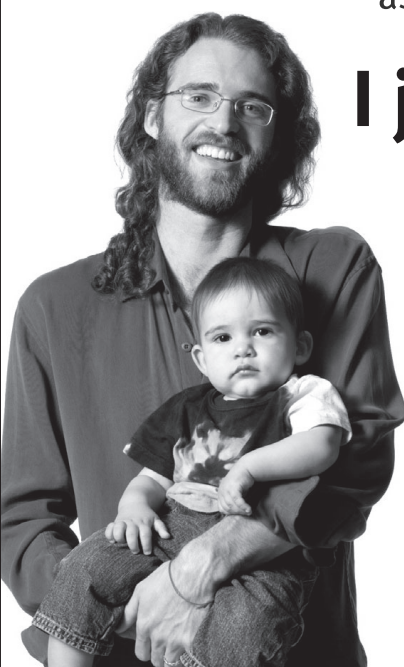
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DESIGN CONSULTANT: Don McCartney

DISTRIBUTION: Itzhak Volansky

EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE: David Baker, Michael Nulty, Debbie Larkin, Nicholas Rosenberg, Brad Paul, Tariq Alazraie


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# Federal Building — state-of-the-art green

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a lot of attention from the industry and it's one of the most popular tour events we've ever had. The architects, mechanical and structural engineers and electricians all worked together. It is an extremely green building."

The natural ventilation is controlled by actuators that automatically open and close windows on floors 7 through 18, depending on the weather. Lighting inside is also automatically determined by daylight.

"If it's successful, it's going to be very important in fighting the carbon crisis," Friedman said before walking through the detector. "The federal government was creative in trying this and San Francisco should be proud of this building."

Tours, though, are infrequent and limited to avoid interfering with the 1,500 employees at work. Most are

with the Department of Labor but other departments housed in the building are Defense, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Social Services and the Office of Personnel Management. The Social Security office is in the annex on Mission Street, and security keeps the public from entering the tower.

The next day, I took a casual walk-around with a friend, an employee who wished to remain anonymous. After leaving the low-ceiling security area and entering the long lobby and looking to the right, the whole place opens up, vertically and horizontally. To the left, a metal stairway that becomes marble-like terrazzo at the landing turn, leads down to the conference center area. To the right on the main floor, a large information screen will be on a metal-mesh door that can be pulled across the floor to seal off the rest of the 605,000-square-foot tower.

At the west end of the main floor, another wide terrazzo stairway leads to the second floor. It too is divided by a railing and people on one side can sit on the steps and have lunch. Terrazzo, which has the appearance of marble, consists of concrete and marble bits in it. When polished it takes on a classy look. But workers polished the floors too much, making them beautifully shiny but also dangerously slick when wet. So they had to dull them down for safety, though they don't appear dull.

The public can rent the facilities downstairs after 4 p.m., including meeting rooms and an auditorium without a stage that can be divided in half, and is due for audio-visual equipment. A fitness center nearby is free for employees now. In June it will start charging membership and be open to the public. Now, without the giant TV screens it will have on its walls, it looks like a corral for machines.

Like the restaurant that the government built outside on the corner, the fitness and the child care center operations will be run by independent contractors. Those deals haven't yet been sealed.

Every floor has electric signage, inset screens at stairways or other key places, that will be a stream of communication — directions to departments, times and locations of meetings and so on.

The dull gray walls look almost fuzzy. They feel silky. One office wall had a kid art mural in colored chalk; it wipes right off.

ADA elevators go to every floor, but regular elevators stop at every third floor. So employees and the public have to use metal stairs, making them walk up and down one or two flights. Every third floor, though, has some sort of common and roomy relaxation area. Bathrooms on all floors are in the middle, not at the end of a floor.

The outer offices of a floor have grand, expansive views of the city, and the airy illusion of no ceilings. Inner offices are spacious and some will have large communication screens on their walls.

It's very quiet. Sound-masking systems are insinuated in the attractive row lighting of the outer offices.

Windows on floors 7 through 18 open automatically through green-flap actuators on the building's north side. They control temperature. The windows below are the usual kind.

Looking south, the views of the city and the bay — even through the vast scrim of panel screens — are spectacular on a sunny day. North, City Hall seems at your fingertips.

Breezy but pleasant Sky Bridges on floors 12 and 13 have no south-north walls. They connect two east-west parts of the building.

The place to hang out — and soon to party — is the Sky Garden on the 11th floor. It's like a Sky Bridge with aspirations. Roughly 50 by 60 feet, it has more southern exposure, making it warmer than a Sky Bridge. Its gaudy vending machines are tastefully hidden in a walk-in closet, too. When it gets potted trees and ferns, it will be dandy. But when it gets its surrounding neon lights turned on, it will be spectacular — and a famous nighttime vision for freeway travelers in the south.

But landscaping and completing the Sky Garden, even the use of conference facilities downstairs, won't breathe life into the place that the Childcare Center startup will.

As for air conditioning, the temperature was perfect when I was there. But it wasn't always so, I was told. Some employees earlier this year wore coats at work. Things have improved but the perfection-seeking air conditioning engineers are still making adjustments.

Even so, it's going to be one amazing federal building. ■

## Mother's Day



One of my friends said to me the other day,  
"Thank you for being born"  
And I said, "You should thank my mom"  
He said "Yeah, you should give me her number"  
And I laughed.

Sometimes, I feel sad and upset.  
Sometimes, I'm frustrated.  
Sometimes, I'm so pissed I feel like yelling at everyone.  
Sometimes, I'm full of shit.  
Sometimes, I'm jealous.  
Rarely, I feel fine with myself.

Life isn't so simple.  
Life isn't so perfect—what is "perfect" anyways?  
Thank you for giving birth to me.  
It's been 26 years.

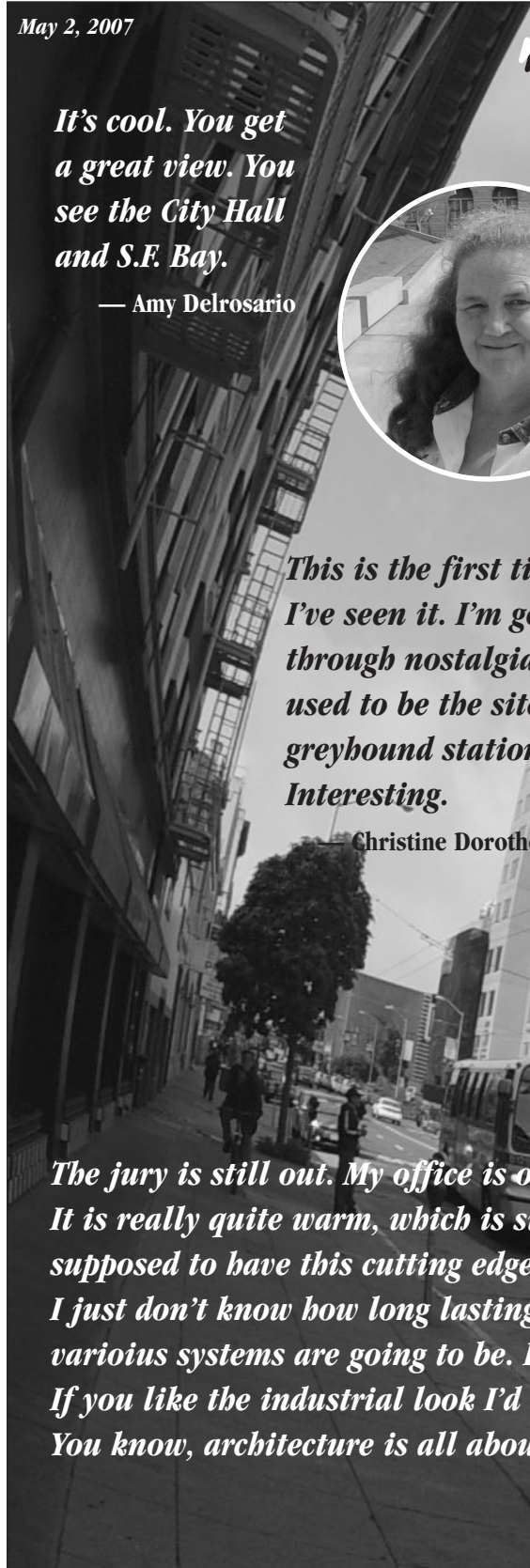
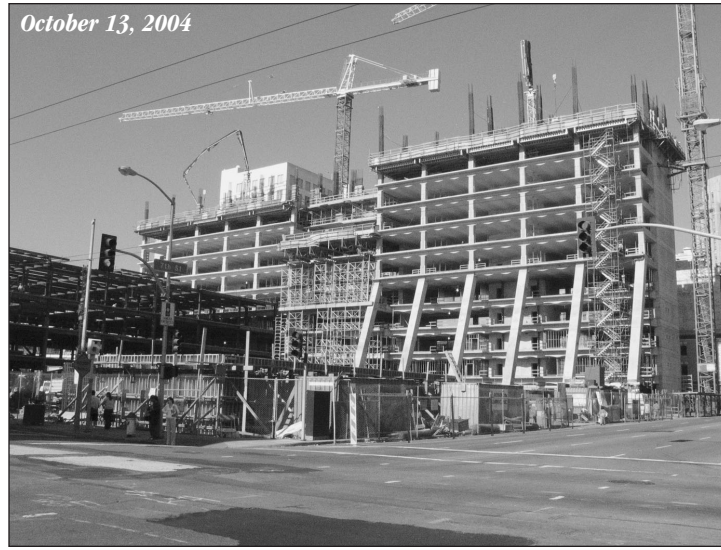
— Wakako Murata



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# The Federal Building and how it grew

Photos by Lenny Limjoco  
Interviews and photos by Doug Ahlgren

*It's cool. You get a great view. You see the City Hall and S.F. Bay.*

— Amy Delrosario



*This is the first time I've seen it. I'm going through nostalgia. This used to be the site of a greyhound station. Interesting.*

— Christine Dorothea Maris



*The jury is still out. My office is on the 18th floor. It is really quite warm, which is surprising since it's supposed to have this cutting edge ventilation system. I just don't know how long lasting and durable these various systems are going to be. It's an experiment. If you like the industrial look I'd think you'd enjoy it. You know, architecture is all about experimentation.*

— Chris Lee



*I'm not real sure. I'm just here to support a friend of mine. Seems all right.*

— Chris Treadwell



*Too much glass. If an earthquake comes a lot of people will get hurt.*

— Tanya Dove



*The building is beautiful. I don't know about the inside. I just got here. I'm in a treatment program. I'm recovering today. I came here to get my SSI card.*

— Christine Johnson and Rosanna Eingorn



*I haven't made up my mind whether I like it.*

— Steve Larson



*It's a big building, very elegant. I came here to check on my SSI.*

— James Neylaney



**PATRICIA FLORES**  
**'A good neighbor'**

Friends, some longtime, others new, gathered March 22 at the Hotel Iroquois to say goodbye to Patricia Flores, "a good lady," "friendly and warm," "someone who always listened."

Ms. Flores died March 13 of complications of diabetes. She was 59.

"I found her in her room, and she had been there several days," said Dorothy Ridley, Iroquois tenant services manager. "As supervisor here, I knew her as a sweet, quiet lady. Some people took advantage of that, but like many quiet people, she was strong."

Several fellow tenants mentioned the kindness of Ms. Flores, who had lived at the Iroquois for just over two years.

"Patricia was a good neighbor," said a man. "She looked out for a few people on a regular basis, took them to the store. She is very much someone who will be missed."

Case worker Roger Blalark said that she used many of the services offered by the hotel, but still seemed to care more for others than herself.

"I knew Patricia for 30 years," said another man. "She's passed now, leaving a wound, but I'm going to try to remember the good times."

Several people at the memorial had attended a wake for Ms. Flores the previous day, held by her family — two daughters, a son and a father.

Luis Rosales, another friend of many years, brought snapshots from the wake of Ms. Flores, now at peace, in an open casket.

"She was a lovely lady," Rosales said.

—MARJORIE BEGGS

**JARMAN MICHAELS**  
**Tenant organizer**

Jarman Michaels, a tenant representative for the Jefferson Hotel and biology student at San Francisco State, was remembered as a kind soul, making strides to move from the hotel when his health took a turn for the worse.

Mr. Michaels was found dead March 15 in his fourth-floor room during a pest inspection, Mary Katherine Flynn, his case worker, said. He was 54. Flynn said Mr. Michaels suffered from diabetes.

"He was one of our most active members," said Alysabeth Alexander, a tenant organizer for the Central City SRO Collaborative. Alexander said Mr. Michaels had worked hard to alleviate the bedbug problem afflicting SRO residents.

"He was dedicated to the tenants," Andrea Edwards, a Jefferson Hotel resident, said at his March 22 memorial. "I knew he was sick. He didn't want to go to the hospital. He didn't want to go through all of the cutting..."

Mr. Michaels, who stood about 5-foot-8 on a thin frame with a large stomach and had dyed black hair with a purplish tint, liked to read and often could be seen pulling a wheeled backpack of books through the lobby of the Jefferson, Flynn said.

The memorial, conducted by the Rev. Glenda Hope, was attended by a handful of mourners in the basement of the hotel where a poster that read: "Jarman — WE Will Miss You," was taped to the wall behind an altar decorated with Hershey's Kisses and

Hugs in silver and purple wrappers.

"I use to go to his room. He was a very likable man, well-educated, well-spoken — a good guy. I miss him. His death was a shock to me," said tenant Mario Lopez.

"He really did, in his heart, want to help people," Flynn said. "He was an incredibly kind soul. I know that he'll be missed here."

—JOHN GOINS

**LINDA CHIKERE**  
**'Very sweet, very feisty'**

A bright light burned out at the San Cristina Hotel when Linda "SuSu" Chikere died in her room of complications from AIDS on Feb. 18.

Ms. Chikere, known for her tenant organizing since 1992 and her driving personality, had recently returned from the hospital, rejecting doctors' advice to stay under care. She wanted to go "home," she said. When her condition worsened, her friends said, she refused an ambulance ride back to the hospital. She was 49.

Ms. Chikere helped organize the hotel's first tenant board in 1993, soon after the hotel reopened after renovation. Alternately cantankerous and loving, she became the first board president, served nine years and inspired a host of tenants to join the board and speak up for their rights.

More than 50 of her friends celebrated her life on Feb. 27. They packed a small room off the hotel lobby. A dozen stood along the walls.

"I look at this gathering and know this was quite a woman with a legacy of love of life and drawing people into the larger community," said the Rev.

—TOM CARTER

# Tenderloin Health remembers 13 homeless at memorial

**T**ENDERLOIN Health resumed its group memorials April 25, commemorating the lives of 13 street people who had shared the neighborhood's dire living conditions and died since December in poverty and, in many cases, disease.

The more than 30 staff, volunteers and clients who attended didn't know everyone on the list, and only a half dozen were mentioned in comments. But their presence showed "how much community matters," the Rev. Glenda Hope, who officiated, said. "And everyone here contributes to that, whether it's (through) just a smile or being polite."

The service at 187 Golden Gate is where Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center was located before merging with Continuum to make Tenderloin Health. Both nonprofits had held group memorials regularly. But TARC had suspended them for six months before Tenderloin Health was formed, then reinstated them in December and a spokesman said the memorials now will be held quarterly.

Those commemorated were: Jay Hunt, Todd Werschay, Reynaldo Bombuse, Bobby C., Angel-lina

Glenda Hope, who led the service.

Marcelee Watkins and Earl Gadsen sang solos a cappella and their voices filled the room. Clapping and humming, the crowd got down with Gadsen's rendition of "Take My Hand Precious Lord."

"In honor of people who give help, we honor SuSu," Gadsen said. The nickname, her sister Lucille Daymon said, she gave herself.

Ms. Chikere was well-known for being tough and "cussing people out," yet she won people's hearts. She was a "beautiful, strong woman" who wisely advised people.

"Very sweet, very feisty," said former San Cristina manager Brian Quinn.

"She got me out of my shell," said a man who met her 10 years ago. "She said get out and talk to people. I became a photographer. She's up there now wanting a bigger house — and saying she deserves it."

"She was unofficially known as 'the warden,'" another man said.

The 5-foot-4 woman had battled AIDS for years and weighed 75 pounds when she died, said Laurie Rudner, her friend of a dozen years.

Ms. Chikere's spirit filled the room, her friends said repeatedly. They said they needed to remember that the gathering was an inspiration to come together more frequently as a supportive family.

Tenant board President Benjamin Wynn said the board wanted to name the hotel lobby's garden with its tropical wall mural painted by residents and fountain "SuSu Garden."

"She came back," said Rudner, "and we were lucky enough to say goodbye."

Cisneros, Gwen White, Robert Girard, Mark Savage, Bobby Palmer, Martin Ellis, Randy Bates, Robert Cabral and Santiago "Christina" Mendoza.

Ushers greeted people at the door and showed them to seats in two rows of metal blue chairs in front of a table with a red tablecloth, a bouquet of mixed flowers and four lit candles.

Clinical Services Director Marea Murray read the list, pausing a moment after each name.

People spoke from their seats. Gwen White was remembered affectionately for her "enthusiasm and positive outlook on the community," and Martin Ellis for his natty, uplifting appearance, always dressed in a suit, "looking like he owned the place." These people, one man said, "you carry around (in your mind)."

A woman read a poem about "love in pain" that she said was written by Joe Case for the occasion. "We have each other to help with the pain," she read, concluding, "These things are us."

Several people talked about Angel-lina Cisneros, a strong-minded woman with "her own view of the world," an "open heart" and a temper. Someone said she was on the mayor's task force to work with sex workers, and had become a volunteer health outreach worker, going on to find people at risk of HIV and connecting them to health services.

"Lots of big personalities come through here, and Angel-lina was willing to listen as long as she could be heard. I'm here to encourage people to encourage each other," a man said.

Gwen White also was a health outreach volunteer. A grief-stricken young man said he met her 12 years ago in Las Vegas and that they had been married for two years.

"We were together all the time except for the times I was in the penitentiary," he said through tears. "She held me together. She was the backbone of my life. She died in my arms and told me how much she loved me."

"She had a TB infection for years and no one knew it," he continued. "She had AIDS. She had a psychological problem and people took advantage of her. She fell behind in her rent and the manager raped her, gave her AIDS. But I feel so guilty about her death." The Rev. Hope assured him he had no reason to feel guilty.

A bejeweled woman who gave her name simply as Momma Tracy came to the front and in her aging voice softly sang "Precious Lord" to much applause.

Afterward, the mourners repaired to a snack-and-drinks table in the back of the room.

—TOM CARTER

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# March to City Hall kicks off Tenderloin safety plan

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

we will be heard," said Elaine Zamora TL benefit district manager.

The neighborhood has suddenly changed. It no longer is the neutral zone of rampant but nonviolent street and doorway drug transactions. Armed gang members, squeezed out of other neighborhoods, or not, are entering our hood and playing rough.

The latest drug-connected fatality was April 25. A 38-year-old man was shot to death at Hyde and Turk streets shortly after midnight in a drug-money dispute. It followed a homicide April 14. A bystander, Lena Allen, 54, who lived at the Baldwin House Hotel on Sixth Street, was the victim of a gun battle's stray shots on Ellis Street. April 13, a 16-year-old Oakland boy was slain execution-style in front of the doughnut shop on Golden Gate Avenue across from the Post Office.

These slayings occurred despite stepped-up police patrols that began in late December after a shootout on Turk Street between Taylor and Mason that the SFPD Gang Force determined to be gang-related. The unanswered question then was whether it signaled a change, or was an anomaly. And now, we have the answer.

TNT is also up in arms over the high traffic accident rate and especially concerned about the safety of schoolchildren and seniors. A Muni fatality the morning of April 3 only intensified fears. A 27-Bryant bus killed a 49-year-old woman crossing Ellis at Leavenworth.

## GOLDEN GATE GROUP FORMS

Concern over neighborhood conditions began rising to new levels last year in community organizations. A quickly formed group calling itself Golden Gate Service Providers met in October at the YMCA and determined their leading issues along deteriorating Golden Gate Avenue were drug dealers, sidewalk safety, bad lighting and cleanliness. The group of nine represented: the Y, Morty's Delicatessen, the North of Market/TL Community Benefit District, Tenderloin Housing Clinic, St. Anthony Foundation, Hastings College of Law, Tenderloin Health and De Marillac Academy. They sent a memo to the mayor's office asking for increased police foot and bike patrols and more surveillance cameras on building corners. But as of May 2, they hadn't gotten a reply.

"I've been around since 1982," says Hastings CFO David Seward, who attended the meeting. "I do not remember the same level of gun violence, particularly in the Golden Gate Avenue area. The number of shootings seems way up."

Noted at the meeting, too, was a more aggressive approach to the drug scene. "Residents are starting a campaign to confront drug dealers" through community watch, the minutes said.

Drugs, traffic safety and violence dominated the attention of the throngs who attended the Safety Plan Kick-Off. The meeting, two months in the making, was first suggested by Safety Network Partnership community organizer Dina Hilliard. She formed a working committee of volunteers and, as preparation for closer work with the police, also arranged for Police Academy instructors to come to the TL station Community Room and give free, three-hour courses on three Saturdays in April on: Gangs and Narcotics, Emergency Communication and General Orders & The Law. These normally are 15-hour academy courses.

"It's the first time (the academy) has done this," Hilliard said. "And now the Mission and Bayview want them. We averaged about 15 people per session and would've had more but the classes weren't confirmed until a week before the first one started."

## DRUGS, TRAFFIC SAFETY, VIOLENCE

Before entering the meeting room to come up with the Safety Plan, people ranging from old-timers to new mothers signed in at welcoming tables. They were given the agenda, a volunteer form to fill out, a Safety March flyer and two adhesive red dots for voting for their two priority concerns.

The top three vote-getters were: Drugs, 125; Traffic-Pedestrian Safety, 98; and Violence, 79. Counted, too, were some prior votes through a Web site and a written form on the Safety Plan flyer. TNDC's Tomiquia Moss, acting as emcee, said discussion groups would form around them in the one big room. The group leaders were: Terrance Alan, Violence; Elaine Zamora, Drugs; and Hilliard, Safety.

The sessions were often raucous. Anxious people talked over each other, ignoring the ground rules of etiquette. A Russian interpreter hooked up to five Russian participants with listening devices at the Drugs session talked simultaneously as loud as the speakers.

"I'm concerned about personal retaliation," said one man in the Violence group.

"You don't have to worry," a woman said in reply. "They're killing each other."

"Why are some people victims and others aren't?" came a question.

"I remember when I was young," said a tall black man. "The frailest got picked on. I think the elderly should be given badges so they wouldn't be preyed upon."

"Whenever I'm followed," said one woman, "I pull out a can of Mace and let them see it. But sometimes they throw things at you."

At the Drugs session they talked of boycotting businesses that don't follow good practices.

"I'm playing chess every day with children's lives," said one teacher who walks children through the neighborhood.

"I heard this all two years ago," said one man. "Get the legislation to stop drug traffic on the street. Otherwise we're talking in circles."

In the Violence group, Alan said, "Give the (TL police) captain the tools to fight back."

"Get legislation passed for more foot patrols," said activist Michael Nulty, standing and practically shouting to be heard. "Ask for a hearing. Close the loopholes on loitering and ask the courts to cooperate. Hold the judges responsible."

The groups voted on their lists. Tops for the Safety group was to meet with Chris Daly and other supervisors to get TL crosswalks repainted. Next was putting volunteer crossing guards at streets near schools.

The Drugs session bit off the biggest challenge: getting 10,000 signatures on a "strongly worded" petition saying the TL wants a higher quality of life and is not a "containment zone," or dumping ground, for the poor and needy. Signers didn't have to be TL residents, either. The petition would be delivered to the supervisors the day of the march. It was ready to be circulated May 2.

The Violence group aimed to make cards identifying merchants as partners against violence with the residents. The cards would be put in the merchants' windows. And they were going to organize escorts for kids groups that walk through the Tenderloin.

A delighted Capt. Jimenez came to the front of the room and applauded the group.

## POLICE CAPTAIN: 'GOOD LUCK'

"This is the best and most impressive of all the community groups I've gone to," he said. He promised to discuss the group's solutions with his lieutenants. "Good luck at City Hall," he said. "Your support means a lot to me and the officers who work here."

Seniors and parents in the neighborhood continue to rail about speeding and reckless traffic. They often bring up the death of two youngsters killed in traffic last year near Little Saigon. Then the April 3 Muni bus fatality at Leavenworth and Ellis heightened tensions. The Transportation Authority's Tenderloin-Little Saigon Neighborhood Transportation Plan published in March earmarks the intersection for traffic-calming bus bulbs — but that could be two years away.

In community meetings, Jimenez says that the significant change in the neighborhood can only come from citizens' action. Increasingly, Jimenez gets an earful about shameful quality-of-life issues such as

public urination and defecation, drunkenness, group loitering and surly behavior that can make a walk through the neighborhood a nightmare.

"The Board of Supervisors say the homeless can use the sidewalk," Jimenez said at an April 18 TL station meeting on the Mayor's Violence Prevention Strategic Plan. Conducted by the Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice, the meeting was to glean information to develop a three- to five-year Violence Prevention Strategic Plan applicable to each neighborhood. The feedback determines guiding policies and funding priorities. A summary report is due in June.

"But people call and say get rid of them — the same ones who voted in the supervisors," he continued to the eight people at the table. "Maybe it's time to go back to the supervisors and rethink this. If the supervisors had this on their block they might think differently. Part of my job is to be impartial — we're prohibited from addressing the problem. But you can get it changed."

## THE NEW WRINKLE

Dale Butler who lives at the Hamilton Apartments added what has been said for years in the Tenderloin, but included the new wrinkle.

"We need to get groups of drug dealers off the streets," he said. "But I'm not going to ask people to go over and write down their names on a clipboard — they've got guns." He laughed nervously.

Jimenez said if the police can't find a place to keep arrested drug dealers, "then we'll need policemen on every block, 24-7."

At the same meeting the captain showed he's not about to let up on nonviolent crimes, either. That day he said six of his officers gave 43 citations for traffic violations in a six-hour period.

On April 12, 15 people at a Community Leadership Alliance meeting at the Tenderloin station discussed creating community patrols and neighborhood watch groups. Safety Network's Hilliard said she was looking for volunteers to patrol the Tenderloin on foot.

Gary Delagnes, president of the S.F. Police Officers Association, told The Extra later that police encourage citizen walk-alongs or ride-alongs, as long as they sign waivers.

"But you want to be pretty careful if you are identifying people," Delagnes said. "You don't want to be seen. And any help is appreciated."

"Witness protection hasn't really been successful," said resident Michael Pedersen. "How can you do this in a neighborhood of this character? You might be living in the same building with that person and see him on the stairs."

What Delagnes didn't like was the mayor's stance against helping the feds go after illegal aliens here.

"If you don't prosecute illegal aliens," he said, "it affects the quality of life. Most arrests in certain areas of the TL are illegal Hispanic aliens."

The 16-year-old who was shot in the head at the doughnut shop at Golden Gate and Hyde had been "accosted by three Latin males," according to Capt. Jimenez's April 27 newsletter report. A surveillance camera had recorded the activity. The camera was up about 10 feet on the southeast corner on a Hastings College building. It had gone up a week before the Golden Gate Avenue slaying, a change brought through the nonprofits' concern for the street. ■

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Myths & Facts About Medicare**, last of a four-part series, May 16, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Morrissey Hall, 2250 Hayes St., co-sponsored by S.F. Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program and St. Mary's Medical Center. Open to the public. Information: 546-2089. Reservations: 750-5800.

**Free walking tours of Tenderloin**, Sun. May 20, 9 a.m., meet at Eddy and Powell (eastern Tenderloin) and May 27, 9 a.m. at Leavenworth and McAllister (western Tenderloin). Tours led by Peter Field, who is researching the Tenderloin history from its earliest days. Information: City Guides, 557-4266.

**EXIT Theatre, DIVAfest 2007**, through May 26, 6th annual theater festival dedicated to new work by women writers. For program and locations: [www.theexit.org/diva07/divafest07.html](http://www.theexit.org/diva07/divafest07.html).

**Springtime in the Tenderloin**. Celebrate spring on May 12 on Jones Street between McAllister and Golden Gate Avenue from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's a free event for Tenderloin kids and families and will have a petting zoo, a pinata, arts and crafts, music, a hula hoop contest and a Mr. Geoffrey Show, all compliments of the North or Market/TL Community Benefit District. You can also make your own spring bonnet.

## COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

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

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

## HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

**CBHS Consumer Council**, 3rd Monday of the month, 5:30-7:30, CBHS, 1380 Howard, Rm. 537. Call: 255-3428. Advisory group of consumers from self-help organizations and other mental health consumer advocates. Open to the public.

**Healthcare Action Team**, 2nd Wednesday of the month, Quaker Center, 65 Ninth St., noon-1:30. Focus on increasing supportive home and community-based services, expanded eligibility for home care and improved discharge planning. Light lunch served.

Call James Chionsini, 703-0188 x304.

**Hoarders and Clutterers Support Group**, 2nd Monday and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6-7 p.m. 870 Market, Suite 928. Call: 421-2926 x306.

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

**National Alliance for the Mentally III-S.F.**, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Family Service Agency, 1010 Gough, 5th Fl. Call 905-6264. Family member group, open to consumers and the public.

## SAFETY

**Crime and Safety Committee** meets bimonthly on the Wednesday after the first Monday, SOMPAC, 1035 Folsom, 6 p.m. Information: 487-2166 or [www.sompac.com](http://www.sompac.com).

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

**SoMa Police Community Relations Forum**, 4th Monday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location changes monthly. To receive monthly information by e-mail, contact Meital Amitai, 538-8100 x202 or [mamitai@iisf.org](mailto: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](mailto:sf_district6@yahoo.com). Districtwide association, civic education.

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

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

**Community Leadership Alliance**. CLA Community Advocacy Commission monthly meeting, City Hall, Room 034.

Subcommittee meetings and informational forums held monthly at the Tenderloin Police Station Community Room. Information: David Villa-Lobos, [admin@CommunityLeadershipAlliance.net](mailto:admin@CommunityLeadershipAlliance.net)

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

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

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

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

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

**SoMa Leadership Council**, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., The Arc, 1500 Howard St. at 11th. Emphasizes good planning and good government to maintain a diverse, vibrant, complete neighborhood. Contact: Jim Meko, 624-4309 or [jim.meko@comcast.net](mailto:jim.meko@comcast.net).

**South of Market Project Area Committee**, 3rd Monday of the month, 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom, between 6th & 7th. Call: SOMPAC office, 487-2166.

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

## SENIORS AND DISABLED

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

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

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