

# GOOD NEWS for...

**US** Central City Extra has won the Community News coverage category for nondailies of the Northern California chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists' annual Excellence in Journalism contest. The Extra submitted five stories published between July 2010 and June 2011: "Home sweet SRO" (August), "Tenderloin's only free shower" (September), "World Series parade" (Dec.-Jan.), "The Tenderloin closer" (February) and "Murder: Tenderloin's reputation undeserved" (April). The award will be given at SPJ's annual banquet Nov. 15 at Jillian's Restaurant. ■



Rev. Glenda Hope reads scriptures on a Leavenworth Street sidewalk where a 20-year-old father, who had grown up in the Tenderloin, had been shot to death Aug. 27 in North Beach. PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

## 'FINAL DIGNITY'

**The Tenderloin closer**  
Rev. Glenda Hope gives residents a caring sendoff

"The memorials are a final dignity to those who couldn't have them," Hope says. "They offer a place of comfort and the beginning of healing for mourners." Most memorials take place in SRO lobbies or community rooms, which vary from threadbare and musty to clean and cheery. Sometimes only a couple of people show up and a few who do may not have even known the deceased. Memorials with 40 to 50 mourners are exceptional. A bouquet or music always on a table in front, sometimes

BY TOM CARTER

**PARK BUFFS** Boeddeker Park is getting \$209,274 for outdoor fitness equipment from Rec and Park, a Community Opportunity Fund distribution from the city's 2008 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks bond. The equipment — ranging from a vertical pulldown press to cross-country ski exerciser — will be installed during the park's \$5 million renovation, expected to start in the spring. Betty Traynor, Friends of Boeddeker Park chair, gathered letters of support from the Tenderloin police, TL CBD, Mercy Housing, S.F. Parks Trust and District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim. She then helped write the grant proposal with Trust for Public Land staff who had spearheaded the renovation project. Rec and Park got 22 applications asking for \$3.1 million in this round of funding. Only \$1.25 million was available; 10 projects were funded. ■



PHOTO: COURTESY SEACC

**Philip Nguyen**, SEACC executive director, presides at the agency's 36th anniversary celebration at St. Mary's Cathedral when he announced three new projects.

## SEACC at 36: Free clinic in the works

BY ANH LÊ

**S**INCE it opened in 1975, the Southeast Asian Community Center has served more than 150,000 people, providing them services to meet their social, health and economic needs.

"SEACC has long been a leading advocate for the Southeast Asian community nationwide and a key player in transforming the Tenderloin into a more vibrant and livable community for families," Executive Director Philip Nguyen told an audience of 120 at St. Mary's Cathedral's St. Francis Hall.

The event celebrated the nonprofit's 36 years, introduced several new projects SEACC is hoping to launch, and recognized program supporters and volunteers.

"Look at our Immigrant Free Food Distribution Service," Nguyen said. "Every Friday at 5 a.m., rain or shine, 20 to 30 volunteers help unload food from the San Francisco Food Bank's truck, clean tons of fresh groceries, arrange them in order and distribute them to 200 households. In the past nine years, these volunteers, happy to make a difference in peo-

ple's lives, helped distribute 1.5 million pounds of dry foods and groceries."

On the economic front, SEACC has provided technical assistance to 2,000 Bay Area businesses, made microloans — \$5,000 to \$50,000 — to 250 businesses, and created 550 new, permanent jobs, all programs the organization hopes to expand in 2012, Nguyen said.

New projects on the drawing board include a free medical clinic, a Southeast Asian Night Market and a Southeast Asian Village.

Health care for new immigrants has been a SEACC focus since its inception. AIDS/HIV prevention, smoking cessation, First 5 California (a health program for children under 5), and cancer-awareness programs are among those SEACC has sponsored.

Today's health problems have been made worse by the recession, "which has cut off health insurance coverage for many laid-off workers," Nguyen said. "They have nowhere to turn for even very basic services such as screening or flu shots. Fortunately, we've received a generous commitment to address some of these problems from a physician in

our community, Dr. Tam Bui."

Dr. Bui, formerly a medical school dean in Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, has pledged to head up a team of several doctors to operate a free outpatient clinic at SEACC, provide basic health treatment, medical consultancy and advisory information to those without insurance, Nguyen said, adding that SEACC will raise the funds to cover the costs of the facility, support staff and outreach.

The ideas for a Southeast Asian Night Market and a Southeast Asian Village are only on SEACC's "radar screen," now, Nguyen said. Both would be located in the Tenderloin's Little Saigon, the two-block corridor of Larkin Street between Eddy and O'Farrell streets.

Among those attending the Oct. 12 event were Supervisors Jane Kim and Eric Mar, and guest speakers Charles Phan, owner of the Slanted Door Restaurant, and John Nguyen of Imperial Investment and Development. Food was provided by the Tenderloin's Ha Nam Ninh Restaurant and the Golden City Inn in SoMa. ■

Marjorie Beggs of Central City Extra contributed to this story.

## The North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District presents the 5th Annual Santa Sightings Holiday Event!

Fun Games, Raffle Prizes, Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Photos with Santa, Live Music and Performances!

Saturday December 10th from 11am-3pm on Jones between McAllister & Golden Gate

Volunteers needed! Call 415-292-4812 or email [dinanomtlcbd@att.net](mailto:dinanomtlcbd@att.net) for more info



north of market tenderloin community benefit district



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