

ABED "ABE" EID
Corner store owner

Family, friends and the Tenderloin mourn the unexpected passing of Abed "Abe" Eid, owner of G&H Liquors & Grocery at 201 Jones St. Three days before New Year's, Mr. Eid died of a heart attack. He was 55.

For almost 30 years Mr. Eid ran his corner store on one of the grittiest blocks in the Tenderloin. Most days he could be found sitting on a stool or standing behind the counter, for 16 hours. Mr. Eid was a respected neighborhood fixture and his store was a safe haven from the chaos on the streets. He ran his business with the community in mind.

"Abe loved this store. He was here all the time, and there were never any problems," says Mamum Siddi, three-year employee of G&H. "He always treated me like a brother, never like I was just an employee. He was a very good person."

Mr. Eid received many awards over the years. A few years back, he was awarded a Certificate of Honor from the mayor's office for being an excellent neighbor. In 1989, he helped spearhead a campaign to remove fortified wines from Tenderloin shelves by ending sales in his own store, although during that first quarter it cost him \$10,000 in sales, he was quoted in the New York Times.

"It's my principles, my dignity, more than money," Mr. Eid said in a 1989 Times interview about why he chose to stop selling fortified wines.

For his loyal customers, Mr. Eid stocked the shelves according to their

wishes. He made sure there were plenty of WIC products. He respected mothers and cared for children, often giving kids candy and ice cream. Sometimes, if a customer asked for an item not in stock Mr. Eid would leave immediately, and have the product stocked within hours. He treated his

personal tragedy. Mr. Eid, she said, was her rock, always there to lend a hand and tell her things would be okay. If Rochelle hadn't stopped by the store for a few days, Mr. Eid would give her a call or come by her apartment to make sure she was all right.

"He was my friend, my mentor, a shoulder to cry on. He was admired by all," she adds.

Rochelle wasn't the only customer Mr. Eid cared for. He demonstrated similar kindness to many and went out of his way to meet the needs of all.

"He had a big heart," says John Connolly, who lives down the street and has been going to G&H for 11 years. "He was one of the most caring individuals I've ever met."

Connolly, a coordinator for Episcopal Community Services, says Mr. Eid's store is the best mom-and-pop in the neighborhood. And the reason for his success was that Mr. Eid was loyal to his customers and never judged them.

His death was unexpected and the cause, a heart attack, caught many by surprise. Those who knew him well said he was a strong man without a history of heart problems. After his death, neighbors and community leaders brought flowers and condolences. One of the largest neighborhood memorials sprung up on the corner of Jones and Turk streets, according to neighbors.

"I believe in angels," says Rochelle, misty-eyed. She has taken Mr. Eid's death hard. But, she smiles and looks upward. "Abe is up in them clouds, with his wings on, flying over the TL, looking down and watching over us."

Mr. Eid, a Muslim, was originally from Palestine. He died on a Wednesday night and by Friday, family and friends were in the mosque dedicating prayers to him. Afterward, well over 500 people, according to family, met at Woodland Memorial Park in Colma, where Mr. Eid was laid to rest.

The days following his death, hundreds of guests visited the Eid family home in San Bruno to pay their respect to his wife, Sylvia, their four daughters and only son, Frankie.

Frankie Eid has stepped up and after ending his locksmith career will be running his father's store.

"There is no way I'm going to let this store go to waste," says Frankie Eid, who has been working almost every night since his father's death. "My father dedicated his whole life to this store."

Customers continue to come in and offer their sympathy, bringing so many flowers that Frankie says there isn't enough room for them all. ■

— BRIAN RINKER



Abed Eid (right) is congratulated by police Capt. Kathryn Brown (left) as he receives a mayor's office Certificate of Honor for being a good neighbor Feb. 28, 2006, for not allowing any nuisance and non-sense outside his store.

customers with respect — as friends.

"Abe went above and beyond what was required of a store owner in the TL," says Linda Rochelle, an eight-year resident and assistant manager of the Marlton Manor, across the street from G&H market. When Rochelle moved there, she was going through a

AMANDA JANE BURKS
Big heart, constant smile

Amanda Jane Burks died with a sterling reputation of loving and caring for everyone and being a guardian angel of children.

She was a regular volunteer at TNDC's children's after-school program under the Franciscan Towers where she lived 16 years.

"She felt like those kids were her own," said Laura Choe, who has been with the TNDC program 13 years. "She looked out for them, advocated for them and was very strong."

More than a dozen mourners gathered at Curran House to say goodbye Jan. 10 in a memorial to a woman they said had a big heart and a constant smile. Ms. Burks moved into Curran House after TNDC's Franciscan Towers burned in October. A few months later she moved to Oakland with her daughter and died there, apparently of a stroke, Dec. 26. She was 80.

Ms. Burks had suffered two strokes in recent years, and Mike Williams, her fifth-floor next-door neighbor at the Franciscan, took care of her for a while.

"I made her meals every day and took them to her bedside," Williams said. "I knew her before she moved up to my floor. She used an electric wheelchair and had a vibrant personality, always a joke or a smile. She loved all the children."

Ms. Burks' sister, Sedonia Broussard, 85, said she visited her once a week from elsewhere in the neighborhood until her sister moved to Oakland. They had planned a big dinner in January.

"She loved everybody and helped everyone she could," Broussard said. "She was a Good Samaritan. We were blessed to have her." ■

— TOM CARTER

WAYNE OLIVER
Bad lungs, good heart

Wayne Oliver was afraid he'd die if he went to sleep. And that's what happened four days before Christmas. He was found dead on his bed, Bible by his side, in his second-floor room next to the elevator. An Ambassador Hotel assistant building manager and a social worker found him.

"He hadn't been feeling well, and hadn't been seen for a while," said Jackie Mollitor, another hotel social worker, after Mr. Oliver's memorial Jan. 3.

Mr. Oliver had lived at the hotel nine months and wasn't well-known. But four residents who saw him regularly described him as thin, 5 feet 6, with a craggy, sallow face. He was nearly lost in his black leather jacket. They said he avidly read the Bible and kept it on his bed in his tidy room. He was an "all right" guy with "a good heart" once you got to know him.

"He had a face that looked like he had seen a lot," Mollitor said. "I called him 'Mr. Oliver' because we were never formally introduced. He always looked in a bad mood, but when I said hello he would perk up."

J.L. Marrible said he talked to Mr. Oliver every day. Originally from New York, Mr. Oliver had two sisters, one a BART administrator; the other worked in the New Jersey criminal justice system. One had given him a cell phone.

Marrible said Mr. Oliver suffered from severe emphysema and had told others he thought he'd die if he went to sleep.

"He was a real smoker," Marrible said. "I used to give him a couple of bucks when he needed it, never for cigarettes, oh no. He did crack, too. I'm not putting him down, though. I've been clean a year myself. He was a good person."

Mr. Oliver was 53. ■

— TOM CARTER



A shrine of flowers sprouted at G&H market after Abed Eid's death.

City and County of San Francisco
February, 2012 Monthly

CALL FOR ARTISTS:
DAGGETT PARK PUBLIC ART PROJECT REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The San Francisco Arts Commission is currently seeking artists for a new public art project, which will be located in Daggett Park, a planned open space sited in a triangular parcel bounded by 7th Street, 16th Street, and Hubbell Street in the Showplace Square neighborhood. Deadline for applications is Friday, February 3, 2012 (11:59 PM Pacific Daylight Time). For further information and eligibility, visit sfartscommission.org/pubartcollection.

SAN FRANCISCO DEPT. OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The City & County of San Francisco along with the San Francisco Green Business Program is proud to congratulate and honor the 49 newly recognized Green Businesses of 2011!

The 49 green businesses recognized at the 6th Annual SF Green Business Awards Reception are made up of architects, designers, retail spaces, clean technology firms, law offices, commercial printer, CPAs, caterers, nonprofits, and more. Some of these green businesses are large with multi-floor operations and others are small home offices. The one thing they all have in common is that they have all met extremely stringent environmental standards set forth by the San Francisco Green Business Program in areas such as waste reduction, energy efficiency, water conservation, and pollution prevention. By implementing these green standards in their business practices, these awardees have shown their commitment to making a positive environmental impact to improve their business and their community.

To see a list of San Francisco Green Businesses and find out more about the Green Business Program visit www.SFGreenBusiness.org.

SAN FRANCISCO COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Commission on the Environment Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, Room 421, San Francisco, CA 94102.

2012 BOARD of SUPERVISORS
Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – Come see your San Francisco government in action.
Tuesdays, 2:00pm, City Hall Chamber, Room 250.

January 10, 24, 31
February 7, 14, 28
March 6, 13, 20, 27
April 3, 10, 17, 24

INFORMATION ABOUT BOARD of SUPERVISORS COMMITTEES

All meetings are held at City Hall in the Chamber (Room 250) or Room 263.
Please check the website for further details, including agendas and minutes:
<http://www.sfbos.org/index.aspx?page=193>

**Meeting days and times are subject to change; please consult the website to confirm weekly scheduled meetings. <http://www.sfbos.org/index.aspx?page=2314>

Budget & Finance Supervisors Chu, Avalos, Kim Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. weekly	City Operations & Neighborhood Services Supervisors Elsbernd, Chu, Olague 2nd and 4th Monday at 10:00 a.m.
Government Audit & Oversight Supervisors Farrell, Elsbernd, Chiu 2nd and 4th Thursday at 1:00 p.m.	Land Use & Economic Development Supervisors Mar, Cohen, Wiener Monday at 1:00 p.m. weekly
Public Safety Supervisors Avalos, Olague, Mar 1st and 3rd Thursday at 10:30 a.m.	Rules Supervisors Kim, Farrell, Campos 1st and 3rd Thursday at 1:30 p.m.
City and School District Supervisors Campos, Olague, Chiu 2nd and 4th Thursday at 3:30 p.m.	

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