

# In memoriam for those who died on the street



TAYLOR SKILLIN, ST. ANTHONY FOUNDATION

Conducting the December Interfaith Memorial to the Homeless, from left, are Zen priestess Jana Drakka, Rev. Lyle Beckman and Rev. Glenda Hope.

The numbers still have the power to appall: 150 homeless people are known to have died on the streets of San Francisco in 2014. The annual Interfaith Memorial to the Homeless, held Dec. 18 in front of City Hall, honored the people behind the numbers and brought pledges from those gathered to work harder to prevent such deaths.

Before the memorial, St. Anthony Foundation organized a gathering for about 50 people at its building to hear a graduate of its recovery program describe his near-death experience of flatlining on the street and surviving because he was rushed to the ER — a ray of hope.

This year's candlelight vigil was officiated by Zen priestess Jana Drakka, Night Ministry Director Rev. Lyle Beckman, and Rev. Glenda Hope, former executive director of S.F. Network Ministries. Network Ministries and Travelers Aid (now Compass Family Services) initiated this ritual 26 years ago.

The Zen Drakka and the Christian Hope, who for decades conducted the majority of SRO memorials, both made a special trip for this moving event. Hope came temporarily out of retirement to attend, and Drakka arrived from her rural retreat, having been forced from the city by an impossibly high cost of living. ■ — *Marjorie Beggs*

## Office of Self Help

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Location is just off South Van Ness and is accessible by public transportation.



Through the collaboration of consumers and other community activists, the Office of Self Help was developed 23 years ago. We are here providing state-of-the-art Self Help Service Techniques and other Culturally Oriented Services.

All of our services have decades of background deeply rooted in our self-help model. If you are a mental health client having issues and want a nonjudgmental team to work with, call us.

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### IN MEMORIAM

**Leonard Roy Frank** 1932 – 2015

"... one of the most important people who helped to develop the theory and practice of humanistic antipsychiatry." — PETER LEHMANN

## New library software speeds up searches

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ever trust libraries again," said Portland, Ore., research librarian Tony Grenier, a critic of his city's adoption of the software in a conversation with *The Extra*.

Librarians, Grenier said, have "a long tradition of fighting government efforts to intrude on users' privacy," recalling that "the only legal challenge of the Patriot Act was by three librarians in Connecticut."

"The FBI and the NSA have consistently gone after library records since the '60s. This is not a paper tiger, it's a real thing."

Despite the commissioners' Jan. 15 vote, San Francisco Public Library's privacy policy is unchanged in stating its formal, repeatedly expressed opposition to the Patriot Act, which "gives law enforcement agencies expanded authority to obtain library records, secretly monitor electronic communications and prohibits libraries and librarians from informing library users of monitoring or information requests."

The policy concludes with a mention of 2004's voter-approved Proposition E, a Charter amendment that requires that requests for library, health or personal records "be routed through the Board of Supervisors instead of city department heads. The supervisors will then decide whether the request is

constitutional and whether to respond to it."

That the introduction of the BiblioCommons software requires amendments to the library's privacy policy is, on its face, alarming. Librarians have in recent years become heroic defenders of Americans' expectations of privacy and freedom from unwarranted governmental snooping, for instance, in the face of the erosion of civil liberties under the guise of antiterror strategies.

"I do feel that we have a special responsibility to do our darnedest to keep everybody's information safe," Lent told *The Extra*. However, "somebody could hack the library, too. It's a choice we all have to make now(adays)."

As for library users' data, she said, "We keep our data on our own servers." Should the government seek to access it, Lent said, BiblioCommons doesn't have it, so they couldn't give it up. Agencies would still have to go through San Francisco channels, including obtaining a warrant.

"BiblioCommons does not know what you have checked out or what your holds are. It doesn't have or store that," Lent said.

The library expects a "soft launch" this month, during which the Classic Catalog will remain the default catalog system, with BiblioCommons simply an option to explore, to be followed in March by a "hard launch," when the new software will assume a predominant place in the library's online presentation. ■