



COURTESY CANON KIP

HERMAN DUNBAR
Well-remembered

The gathering was small, the sense of loss large at the memorial service July 2 for Canon Kip resident Herman Dunbar, who died in his room five days before. He was 70.

"We're gonna miss him a lot," a social worker said, fighting tears. She described Mr. Dunbar as "a very sweet, nice guy," and recalled him laughing and joking at morning coffee. He was just "a very nice person," she said. "He looked great on Friday," just hours before passing.

"I was holding his hand as he took his last breath," neighbor Sandra Bacon told The Extra afterward as she scrolled through her iPad, calling up photos of

the man she'd taken trips and gone to ballgames with, watched TV, sang together and teased each other as they passed the time. "Oh, we had some good old days," she said.

"Death," another friend said, "comes like a thief in the night. You don't even expect him, he just shows up on your bed. Either that or it shows up with bright lights. Next day, bam! I hope I go like that."

"He called me the guardian angel, and I called him Lucifer," Bacon said. "We used to just go back and forth. We were opposite. He liked different music. I'd put on gospel and he'd put on the blues. And he was a scholar, so intelligent, always teaching me. I loved it. Last night I accidentally phoned him."

She told the gathering how she'd long tried to get him to church, and was grateful that he'd finally accompanied her two weeks before his death. Another Cannon Kip resident interrupted saying he'd never seen them argue.

"Oh quit playing, we argued every day!" Bacon said.

"It was always fun to say hi to Herman because he was so crazy. I don't mean crazy, I just mean funny," said a woman who arrived late and left early.

"I couldn't stop crying when I heard," said a man who called Mr. Dunbar his oldest friend. "I been knowing him since I was 21. I'm 68 now. You do the math. He used to read all day," and was "very intelligent."

Mr. Dunbar died 50 years to the day after he'd enlisted in the Air Force, Bacon pointed out, as she passed his military ID card around the room, along with her iPad showing a video of Mr. Dunbar in his room and stills of him in the Warriors T-shirt she'd bought him.

Mr. Dunbar had served in Vietnam, Bacon said, arriving at Travis Air Force

Base from Arkansas to begin a four-year enlistment. "After he got out, he never wanted to go back," Bacon said.

"I was going to have him cremated," she said, "but I can't find it in my heart to do that." She was planning another memorial service.

"We're not really ever finished," Rev. Kathryn Benton said, concluding the service by reading, "On Joy and Sorrow," from Kahlil Gibran's "The Prophet." It described how those emotions are intertwined. The depth of one's grief is proportional to the joy that preceded it, she said, and joy runs as high as the sorrow was low.

Bacon lingered as the gathering dispersed and softly broke into song, singing snippets of "This Little Heart of Mine" and "He Touched Me." ■

— Mark Hedin

THOMAS "TOMMY" GALIATA
A good neighbor

Remembrances came fast and heartfelt at the July 7 memorial for Thomas Galiata: "a good friend," "such a joker," "always willing to talk," "my coffee buddy."

Nineteen people filled the room at Bishop Swing Community House to celebrate the life of Mr. Galiata who had moved from the streets to the brand-new South of Market supportive housing facility soon after it opened six years ago. He died in hospice June 16 at age 59.

"This is an important gathering," Travis Hamilton, support services manager, told the mourners, about half residents and half staff. "It's our opportunity to say our personal goodbyes to Tommy."

Rev. Kathryn Benton, co-minister of the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples, on Larkin near Broadway, officiated, opening with a prayer based on a Quaker hymn — "Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease..." — then invited people to share their memories.

"Tommy was my neighbor," said Yolanda Kennedy, who moved into Community House around the same time as Mr. Galiata, "and he came every morning to see me when he was well. He'd check to see if my garbage needed emptying or if I needed anything else."

When his health failed and he was in and out of the hospital, he'd share the results of his medical tests with her, a sign of his trust and friendship, Kennedy said.



COURTESY BISHOP SWING COMMUNITY HOUSE

"And in the end, when he was so sick, I'd bring him smoothies. He was a good friend to me, and I'll miss him."

"Stella" — preferring the anonymity of her middle name, she said — prefaced her remembrances by expressing dismay about how few people attend memorials at Bishop Swing Community House: "I'm quite upset about this. We should all come to honor people like Tommy."

Stella admitted that she liked to give friends special names: "I called Tommy 'The Weasel,' but affectionately, and he'd answer to that, like when I'd ask him to help me with something. I call myself 'Big Mouth.' So Weasel," she ended, crying, "this is the last goodbye from Big Mouth."

Louis Caminici, who's lived here for five years, said he'd seen Mr. Galiata just a week before he died. "He looked fine and was friendly, like always. He always had a smile and was willing to stop and talk — and he was a paisan, too, like me."

Caminici picked up a guitar, moved to the front of the room and, with three others, led the mourners in "Amazing Grace." He was joined by Ralph Reyes, a three-year resident, Stella, here six years, and intern case manager Ted Atwood, also on guitar. For five months, Atwood has been leading weekly Music in Therapy sessions for residents, a popular activity that draws up to eight people.

"I can still sense Tommy's spirit here," said Rev. Benton when the song was done. "I can hear it — he's still alive in our hearts." ■

— Marjorie Beggs



HOUSING APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE KNOX AND BAYANIHAN HOUSE




The Knox

Bayanihan House

Please go to 241 6th Street, San Francisco, CA for applications

The TODCO Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Housing Waiting List is open for the Knox and the Bayanihan House. If your name is currently on any TODCO Housing Waiting List and you would like information on your current status, please call the TODCO Marketing Office at **415-957-0227** on Fridays' only.

Building	Size & Amenities	Max/Min Household Income Limits	Rent as of Feb. 1, 2015
The Knox SRO located at 241- 6th St. & Tehama is accepting applications and has an OPEN WAITLIST	SRO – 1 Person or Couple	1 person	Move-in deposit
	Room size: 10 ½ x 18	\$34,600/year	\$687
	(Semi-Private) bathroom 7 x 7	2 person	Monthly rent
	Unit amenities: sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2-burner stove, closet, single bed	\$39,520/year	\$687 plus utilities
	Building amenities: small gym, library, private lounge, roof top garden, community kitchen, laundry facility, 24 hour staff & surveillance	Minimum income of \$1,374/month	
Hotel Isabel located at 1095 Mission CLOSED WAITLIST	SRO – 1 Person	1 person	30% OF INCOME
	Shared bathroom	\$34,600/year	Requires a
	Unit amenities: sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2- burner stove, closet and single bed	No minimum income	Certificate of Homelessness
Bayanihan House (Non-assisted units) located at 88 – 6th St. & Mission. OPEN WAITLIST	SRO – 1 Person or Couple	1 person	As of Jan. 1, 2015
	Room single: 10½ x 12, shared bathroom	\$30,275/year	Move-in deposit
	Double occupancy: 12x12, shared bathroom	Couple	\$590
	Unit amenities: sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2-burner stove, closet, single bed	\$34,580/year	Monthly rent
	Building amenities: community kitchen, 24 hour staff & surveillance, laundry facility	Minimum income of \$889.40/month	\$590
			Utilities included

TDD: (415) 345-4470



Tenderloin turns to technology

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

derloin Tech Lab program manager for three years, now Zendesk community program manager. The data will be crucial in creating future versions of Link-SF, Trotter said.

Of Link-SF's 2,700 visitors a month, nearly 25% are from outside San Francisco, according to Trotter. More than 350 are repeats. Last January's biennial count pegged the city's homeless population at 6,686.

St. Anthony's is finding that the cost to maintain Link-SF and conduct scheduled updates on its own is still within the agency's means. Julie Berlin, the Lab's manager, handles the site's upgrades and corrections, often brought to her attention by site users and St. Anthony staff, as well as the service providers themselves. She credits Zendesk with building an "extremely user-friendly database update platform."

"I am able to do it now. Zendesk is a remarkable, constant partner. I know I can call on them, if problems arise," Berlin said. According to Trotter, Zendesk engineers who developed Link-SF meet weekly and they'll step in, if technical glitches pop up that St. Anthony's can't handle.

HAP tries to update its resource manual every two years, according to

Julie Rosenthal, director of services at the S.F. Bar's Justice & Diversity Center, which oversees HAP. When major overhaul of Link-SF is needed, St. Anthony's will have to return to the Zendesk experts to build a bigger, faster and more complete site and to make access to the information available for a new wave of hand-helds and computers.

"We've shown what's possible to achieve, what can happen when people work together," Robillard said. "When the next generation of new equipment comes into wider use, we'll be inviting our tech neighbors to help us again."

Aside from the mechanical aspects of equipment and the need for compatible portals and platforms, Berlin notes the larger question lies in how society recognizes and uses tech-based responses to poverty.

"I go to community meetings and I tout Link-SF," Berlin said. "It is the default opening Website on all the Lab's computers and prominently mentioned in our Lab brochures. Case managers and service providers need to be aware of how the site can help people and how it can market their services. In the future, as we all get more tech-savvy, site navigation will be more sophisticated and open referral networks and individual portals will be answering people's needs." ■