

# Child of city, now disabled, and husband out of the cold

## Street minister waits for housing

Homegrown homeless

*This is the second installment of The Extra's Hometown homeless series for the Homeless Media Project that the Chronicle got going. Seventy outlets around the Bay Area contributed to the massive multimedia effort.*

By MARK HEDIN

ELAINE AND EMMETT Amos have seen some hard times in their days. Elaine, who goes by Pastor K, a name she earned doing what she calls “street ministry” work, was born at Kaiser Hospital S.F. in 1964. She bounced through more schools than she can remember in her years living on Potrero Hill and in the Bayview and spent decades living on the streets. Her mom raised her two sons.

Her common-law husband, Emmett, did 14 years in a Texas prison despite the judge saying it “looks like you were set up” before sentencing him to 20. He was in Texas, he says, because his Bay Area employer, Pinkerton, transferred him there. He’s from North Hollywood originally, born there in 1952. He arrived in San Francisco in the late ’80s and found work as a Pinkerton security guard at Hewlett-Packard. He came hurrying back here when he left Texas about 12 years ago.

The Amoses fit squarely in the middle of a demographic profile of San Francisco’s 6,686 homeless people. They were counted on Jan. 29 of last year, when the city conducted its one-day survey of the homeless, required every two years to maintain federal homeless support funds. It’s widely considered to be an undercount, but in any case, 71% of those surveyed said they became homeless in San Francisco, 30% reported being 51 or older, and 25% had been on the streets at least a year.

But no statistical category captures the hometown homeless, the uncounted native sons and daughters who lived with their family until they didn’t.

We asked Sam Dodge, who brought in the Navigation Center model, how many, or what proportion of the homeless were born in San Francisco. He didn’t know. Jeff Kositsky, first head of the new Department of Homeless Services, didn’t either. Jennifer Friedenbach, whose Coalition on Homelessness is their chief advocate, also couldn’t say.

Elaine Amos may be in a class by herself. She was a nomad at an early age and has lived outside for many of her 50-some years. Emmett Amos, like the probable majority of sidewalk squatters, came to San Francisco; they weren’t born here.

Nowadays, the couple calls the first Navigation Center home.

“I have epilepsy, bad heart, multiple health problems, a lot of health problems,” Elaine said, speaking from her wheelchair. “You should see all the meds I take.”

The wheelchair’s been part of her life for two years, she says, ever since she lost her air mattress in a Department of Public Works sweep of her encampment. Having

NO. 168

PUBLISHED  
BY THE  
SAN FRANCISCO  
STUDY CENTER

JULY  
2016

SUNDAY  
STREETS  
COMING

Taking over the  
TL July 10

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LEGACY  
BUSINESS  
SAMPLER

10 in the hood  
that may qualify

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TENDERLOIN  
OBITUARY

Ira Joe Robertson,  
tenant organizer

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# CENTRAL CITY

# EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

## LEGACY BUSINESS



JONATHAN NEWMAN

**Daldas** has been on the Northwest corner of Eddy and Taylor streets for more than 30 years. It is a model mom-and-pop for the Tenderloin Healthy Corner Stores Coalition, highlighting fresh fruits and vegetables, and downplaying the alcohol and cigarettes that are the mainstay of most similar Tenderloin stores. Daldas has not applied for legacy status, but it meets the criteria.

# Small, worth saving

## 3 old-timers in D6 apply, none in TL seek status so far

By JONATHAN NEWMAN

THE CITY BUDGET and legislative analyst two years ago reported a staggering change in the number of small businesses closing or leaving San Francisco each year: 3,657 had disappeared in 2011, compared with 518 in 1992. The report predicted the closure or displacement of nearly 4,400 in 2014.

The continuing trend is linked to the rising sale price per square foot for commercial property — from \$189 to \$675 in the two-decade span.

The economic tide triggered by the Twitter tax break and the massive changes to the mid-market landscape wrought by development were helping to sink, not raise, the small-business boat.

A year after the budget analyst’s report, the Board of Supervisors crafted a two-pronged approach to curb the small-business erosion — a March 2015 ordinance to create a Legacy Business Registry to formally recognize the cultural value that longstanding businesses bring to the city. It was quickly followed by Measure J, establishing the Legacy Business Preservation Fund to provide grants to legacy businesses and qualifying landlords, which voters approved in No-

vember 2015.

The registry is open to small businesses, including nonprofits, that are 30 years or older, nominated by a supervisor or the mayor, who can prove to the Small Business Commission in a public hearing that they contribute significantly to their community. A small business has no more than 100 employees. This makes TNDC and Tenderloin Housing Clinic ineligible, as the longtime Tenderloin nonprofits are too big.

Supervisor Jane Kim has nominated three small businesses for the registry: SF Party, Image Conscious and Lone Star Saloon. None is in the Tenderloin, though all are in District 6.

Dan Cerf, owner of SF Party on Post Street, for 35 years a purveyor of costumes, confetti, balloons and all things party in this renowned party town, filed his legacy application with Kim’s office in April 2015. No word for months. Finally, after much pestering of Kim’s office, the application landed in the Office of Small Business earlier this year.

And that’s where it languishes along with 62 other applications. The two other District 6 nominees are a bar and a fine arts poster merchant. They’ve been waiting for months, too.

“The process has been arduous, very frustrating,” said Cerf.

Cerf can trace his original business back a hundred years, when it started as a toy store with door-to-door salesmen hawking the latest inexpensive gewgaws then being newly manufactured in the Far East. He worked for the business for several years, before buying it outright in 1984.

He employs 18 workers and marvels at

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