

# calendar

## Community meetings: Regular schedule

### Housing

**Consumer Housing Group**, 1st Thursday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m., Mental Health Association, 1095 Market St., Suite 408. Contact: 241-2926.

**Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco**, 1st Wednesday of the month, noon, 201 Turk Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8327. Resident unity, leadership training, facilitate communication.

**Supportive Housing Network**, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., 111 Jones. Contact: Belinda Lyons, 241-2929.

### Health and Mental Health

**Mental Health Board**, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., CMHS, 1380 Howard, Rm. 537. CMHS advisory committee, open to the public. Contact: 255-3474.

**Hoarders and Clutterers Support Group**, 2nd Monday and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6-7 p.m. Canon Kip Community House, Pool Room, 705 Natoma St. at 8th. Contact: 241-2926.

**CMHS Consumer Council**, 3rd Monday of the month, 5:30-7:30, CMHS, 1380 Howard, Rm. 537. Contact: 255-3428. Advisory group of consumers from self-help organizations and other mental health consumer advocates. Open to the public.

**National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-S.F.**, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Family Service Agency, 1010 Gough, 5th Fl. Contact 905-6264. Family member group, open to consumers and the public.

**Supervisors' Health and Human Services Committee—Daly, Leno, Maxwell**, 1st and 3rd Thursday 1 p.m.

### Safety

**S.F. Safe Kids**, 2nd Tuesday of the month. Contact Ana Validzic, 206-3350. Child health and safety.

**Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting**, last Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy. Contact Susan Black, 345-7300. Neighborhood safety

**Tenderloin Futures Collaborative**, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., 121 Golden Gate. Contact Roscoe Hawkins, 592-2704, or Katie Mullin, 776-2151 for information. Network of residents, nonprofits and businesses sharing information and taking on neighborhood development issues.

**Violence Prevention Network**, last Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m., 220 Golden Gate, Rm. 4D. Contact Christina Goette, 554-2741, Violence prevention.

**North of Market NERT**, bimonthly meeting. Contact Tim Agar, 674-6142, or Lt. Juanita Hodge, S.F. Fire Department, 558-3456. Disaster preparedness training by the Fire Department.

### Neighborhood Improvement

**Tenderloin Community on Patrol**, 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 165 Turk St. Office. Contact Jim Thompson, 673-5879. Neighborhood safety.

**Mid-Market Project Area Committee**, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5:30 p.m., Ramada Hotel, 1231 Market. Contact Carolyn Diamond, 362-2500. Market Street redevelopment on Fifth to Eighth street.

**Alliance for a Better District 6**, monthly general and committee meetings. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf\_district6@yahoo.com. Districtwide association, civic education.

**North of Market Planning Coalition**, monthly meeting. Contact 474-2164. TL 2000, jobs, neighborhood planning.

**Supervisors' Neighborhood Services and Recreation Committee—Newsom, Leno, McGoldrick**, 2nd and 4th Thursday 2 p.m.

### Seniors and Disabled

**Mayor's Disability Council**, 3rd Friday of the month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, Rm. 400. Contact: 554-6789. Open to the public.

**Tenderloin Police Station Seniors and Disabled Meeting**, last Thursday of the month, 10 a.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy. Contact Susan Black, 345-7300. Concerns specific to seniors and the disabled.

### At the Main Library

THUR., DEC. 19, KORET AUDITORIUM, NOON

**Sunset Boulevard** (1950, 110 min.) – Gloria Swanson stars as fading film star Norma Desmond and William Holden plays the struggling writer who is enthralled by her madness.

THUR., DEC. 26, KORET AUDITORIUM, NOON

**The Fortune Cookie** (1966, 125 min.) – The first of Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon's many comedies. Matthau won an Oscar as an ambulance-chasing lawyer who convinces his brother-in-law to exaggerate an injury and collect a big insurance settlement.

DEC. 10 – FEB. 23 THROUGHOUT THE LIBRARY

**Our Rights as Human Beings**: Photographs created by the United Nations in 1948 to represent some of the important points of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In honor of the anniversary of the December 1948 signing of this landmark document.

### Other Events

DEC. 19, 5:30 P.M., IN FRONT OF CITY HALL.

**Annual interfaith memorial for the homeless who died.**

DEC. 22, 4:30 P.M., 555 ELLIS

**S.F. Network Ministries' Annual Tenderloin Christmas Caroling**

## Telephone Hell for County Jail prisoners

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had always maintained was a profitless venture. She said the Public Utilities Commission's position was that fraud among inmates is much higher than in the general public, thus justifying the higher rates. She also conceded that no phone company had ever shown her an analysis that backed up this assertion.

Throughout our conversations, Hirst was cheerful and helpful, in marked contrast to my experience with representatives of Evercom and Pac Bell: Evercom refused to put me in touch with anyone authorized to answer press questions, while Pac Bell would only

respond to general questions and clearly knew nothing about the contract for a pay phone in the County Jail, or even the location of the County Jail.

Hirst, on the other hand, went out of her way to get figures for me and seemed generally sympathetic toward the plight of the overcharged prisoners. At one point she even asked, "How are these prisoners' families supposed to pay for these charges?" This annoyed me to no end, since that was my question and I had been planning to ask it with a great deal of self-righteous indignation.

But indignation over sticking it to prisoners' families does not run high in San Francisco.

When asked if it had filed a lawsuit against the practice, as had been rumored, the Prisoner Law Office, a noted prisoner rights group in the city, said no, and didn't think that anyone else had either. Dorsey Nunn, with Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, never returned repeated phone calls. Hirst said she knew of no challenge to the practice.

Nationally, CURE — Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants — tried a lobbying and telephone campaign to address the inherent unfairness of the practice back in 1999. The results were mixed. They succeeded in getting some state

legislatures to change some practices, but in Michigan, where CURE is based, the correctional department actually negotiated a contract that was more punitive toward the relatives of prisoners, according to Phillis Engelbert, who works with the program, than what had been in place.

Whether you're in jail or not, calling collect is expensive. It costs a \$4.05 flat fee to call person to person (\$1.10 station to station), plus 15 cents for the first minute and 8 cents for each subsequent minute. This compared to a 0.0278 of a cent for the first minute of a normal business call and 0.8 cent for each subsequent minute.

The other big difference is that prisoners can't dial 1-800-COLLECT like Terry Bradshaw and Doug Flutie in the TV commercial. People in jail are literally a captive market for the phone company, among the least able to afford to be gouged.

Somewhere in San Francisco a young boy is being told he can't have a candy bar because he spoke to his daddy for two minutes on the phone a few weeks back. Wives and husbands are being silenced from talking with one another, and a horrible second-class citizenship is being imposed on the weakest segment of our population, the families of guys who got caught. ■

## 7-story Turk-Taylor garage on hold

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open a lingerie lounge with live models, but neighbors got wind of it and quashed the deal.) City Planning's flag means staff will keep neighborhood agencies such as TNDC apprised of any developments.

Planning issued a negative declaration for a seven-story, 53-room project at 380 Ellis.

This means Planning has approved the development that will accommodate students and visiting lecturers at the site, currently a single-story Congenital Taoist of American temple. The neg dec clears the way for a Planning Commission hearing, to be scheduled some time in December.

And yet another garage is on

hold: As the *Extra* reported in July, AGI Capital Group had to go back to the abacus and revise its parking analysis for the seven-level, 220-slot garage it wants to build at 67 Turk, currently a 100-space surface lot. Between the time the project was first planned two years ago and last July, the Planning Department had revised its codes relating to "sensitive traffic intersections." ■

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