

GOOD NEWS for...

DRUG USERS The Harm Reduction Coalition is asking organizations to send information on their syringe exchange programs, drug treatment that takes a harm-reduction approach, hep C services, HIV prevention and care, housing, self-help groups, advocacy efforts, and "anything else that works to promote the health and dignity of individuals and communities impacted by drug use and the 'war on drugs.'" Interested organizations should send their name, services, location, hours, contact person, phone, e-mail address and Web site to hrc_west@harmreduction.org. The information will appear on the coalition's Web site, www.harmreduction.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD NONPROFITS For eight years, the Mayor's Community Support Fund has been collecting fines paid to city community courts by misdemeanor offenders, then making grants to improve public safety and the quality of life in neighborhoods where those courts operate. The good news is that funds are available again this year; the bad is that with only \$6,000 total in the kitty, the fund has capped each grant request at \$500. A year ago, nonprofits in Bayview-Hunters Point, Taraval/OMI, Mission, South of Market, Tenderloin, Excelsior/Ingle-side, Western Addition, Polk Street, North Beach, Richmond, Sunset and Chinatown could apply for up to \$2,500 for a project, event or activity that enriched their neighborhood. Past fund-supported projects include SoMa's Sixth Street Fair, Women's Day at The Rose hotel, and weekly workshops for teens in beat-making, spinning, rap and hip-hop at the Tenderloin's Vietnamese Youth Development Center. The proposal deadline is 5 p.m., April 18. Info: Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, 554-6688. RFPs are online, www.sfgov.org/mocj.

VERNAL LOVERS May 12 will be a day to celebrate spring things: Aztec dancers performing an Earth-sun-moon tribute, a petting zoo, seeds for kids to plant, a spring bunny and Mother Earth. All that and more is promised at North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District's Springtime in the Tenderloin. Jones Street between McAllister and Golden Gate will be closed from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the event. There'll be make-your-own-bonnet and hula hoop contests, a piñata, raffle and — drum roll — the Mister Geoffrey Show. "That's Geoffrey Grier, founder of S.F. Recovery Theatre," says Elaine Zamora, CBD manager. "He'll do a taped interview show at the event on TLTV — our own pretend Tenderloin TV station." She's looking for volunteers to plan and staff the day: "If you can hop to it, we will appreciate the assistance." Want to be a bunny for a day? Call 440-7570 x 21.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tom@studycenter.org.

Shaw riffs on the 'amazing' TL

History museum next on his to-do list

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

JAZZ was arguably the coolest interlude in the Loin's "amazing" history, Tenderloin Housing Clinic Executive Director Randy Shaw said at the March Futures Collaborative meeting.

Some may not know how the neighborhood grooved, but that's sure to change, once it gets listed on the National Register of Historic Places, he said. The designation opens the way for a Tenderloin History Museum that he wants to be located in the storefront at the Cadillac Hotel, itself a national landmark.

"It'll be a place with photos, artifacts, maybe oral histories on tape," Shaw said.

For a year, Shaw has been spearheading efforts to get the Tenderloin designated a Hotel and Apartment District on the National Register. It will bring, he said, "new pride" to the community and plenty of other perks.

"Historic districts tend to stimulate investment, which should increase values and lead to a drop in crime," he said.

Also, owners can mount historic markers that describe notable people or events at that property.

In August, or at the latest November, the state Historical Resources Commission will review the designation application, Shaw said. If it flies, the history museum is the next project. Shaw envisions it as modest, by museum standards, maybe with a budget of \$150,000 a year (New York's Tenement Museum budget, by comparison, is many millions, but it, too, started out in a storefront, almost 20 years ago).

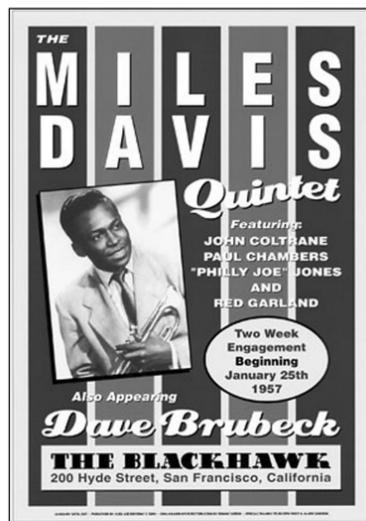
"We already have a lot of stuff for the museum, but everyone should start looking at what they may have saved," Shaw said. "We need to preserve our past. Our history is amazing."

"Do you know about the parking lot at Hyde and Turk? It's where the Blackhawk Club was, where Miles Davis played and recorded."

One of San Francisco's top jazz joints in the 1950s and early '60s, the Blackhawk at 200 Hyde was a place where the greats played to enthusiastic international audiences, "where Dave Brubeck played intermission piano on Sunday afternoons, with Johnny Mathis occasionally singing, and Art Tatum, John Coltrane, Gerry Mulligan, Chet Baker, Lester Young et al. played two-week gigs," wrote the late jazz guru Phil Elwood in "Jazz and Blues," one of 10 Diverse City Destination brochures the Study Center produces for the city's Grants for the Arts.

"Godfather of the Beats" writer and philosopher Kenneth Rexroth recited his poetry there accompanied by jazz. "Jazz poetry is fun to listen to, and it is even greater fun to do," Rexroth wrote in his liner notes in a 1960 album, "Poetry and Jazz at the Blackhawk."

The club's downfall may have started when rock 'n' roll began stealing its audience, but owner-



A poster touting a show in 1957 when the Blackhawk was at its creative peak.

ship turnover and legendary griminess contributed to its demise.

"We worked and slaved to keep this place a sewer," said one-time Blackhawk owner Guido Cacianti, quoted in the Chronicle July 16, 1970. In the same story Chronicle jazz critic Ralph Gleason called the Blackhawk "the best jazz club in the world."

By the time SEIU Local 87 bought the building in 1969, the Blackhawk was just another Tenderloin bar with a reputation for B-girls and illegal booze sales.

The union tore down the Blackhawk — though no one in its office at 240 Golden Gate remembers exactly when.

"I've been here 20 years, and that site's certainly been a parking lot since then," said Warren Delahoussaye, Local 87 executive board member. "We've always wanted to build some kind of housing there. Nothing's been started yet, but we're looking into putting in low-income housing."

If the union does, it can mount a historic plaque: "Site of the Blackhawk, once 'the best jazz club in the world.'"

TECH LAB MERGER PLAN: 35 PCS FOR PUBLIC

S.F. Network Ministries has operated its Computer Training Center for kids and adults in cramped quarters at 366 Eddy for 10 years. And for seven years, St. Anthony Foundation's Employment Program/Learning Center has offered computer training, but only to clients who see case managers regularly and are committed to applying what they've learned to job searches or education.

Now, the two organizations are planning to meld their programs and, by September, hope to open a new Tenderloin Technology Lab — one that accommodates up to 50 people a day in a large space, location tba.

"We know that the new lab will be open, free, to anyone in the neighborhood — a one-stop program for beginners to advanced," said Karl Robillard, St. Anthony's center manager. "We want to make technology seem feasible and not scary for residents."

Lab funding, he said, would come from the two organizations' budgets, with some outside additional funds.

"But there'll be no public funds — neither group uses public funds," noted the Rev. Glenda Hope, Ministries executive director and Collaborative chair.

Salena Bailey, associate director of S.F. Network Ministries, said its current program, open six days a week, has 11 computers for drop-ins and adult classes and another 10 computers for kids. The schedule changes daily. On a typical Tuesday, for example, there's a beginning Word class from 10 a.m. to noon; drop-ins from 2 to 5 p.m. and again from 6 to 8:30 p.m.; and the kids' program from 3 to 5 p.m. Seniors-only drop-in is on Fridays 2-5 p.m.

During the month, Bailey and 20 volunteers teach 20 computer classes in Word — the most popu-

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CENTRAL CITY EXTRA is published monthly by San Francisco Study Center Inc., a private nonprofit serving the community since 1972. The Extra was initiated through grants from the S.F. Hotel Tax Fund and the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund. It is now assisted by the Kosblan Committee of the San Francisco Foundation, which funds the Southside coverage. The contents are copyrighted by the San Francisco Study Center, 1095 Market Street, Suite 601, San Francisco, CA 94103.

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Central City Extra is a member of the SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION