

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Feisty Feminist Theory Series, June 11, 7 p.m., New Valencia Hall, 625 Larkin St., Suite 202. Educational program on Marxist/Socialist feminism and black revolutionary feminism presented by Radical Women. Vegetarian buffet, \$7.50, served before the program at 6:15 p.m. Info: RadicalWomen.org. For child care, call three days in advance: 864-1278 or baradical-women@earthlink.net.

NEW ART EVENTS

Ujima Artists Collective reception and summer creativity summit, Fri., June 12, Da Arts Gallery Space, 135 Sixth St., 6-8 p.m. Refreshments and music. Info: Harvey Rushing, 563-5695.

Lords of the Samurai, Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin. Exhibition opens June 12 (through Sept. 20) and features 160 works from the Hosokawa family collection: suits of armor, swords and guns, formal attire, calligraphy, paintings, teaware, lacquerware, masks and musical instruments of provincial lords of the warrior class in feudal Japan (1300s to 1860). Admission to the exhibition is \$5 on the first Sunday of the month Info: asia-nart.org/Samurai.htm,

“Soliloquy for Two” by ventriloquist Ron Coulter and his partner, Sid Star. June 12 and 13, EXIT Theatre, 156 Eddy, 8 p.m.

Two-act recital featuring edgy humor and short plays. Called “a thinking person’s vaudeville act.” Tickets: BrownPaperTickets.com or call 673-3847 to reserve a seat and pay cash at the door.

Krapp’s Last Tape by Samuel Beckett, directed by Rob Melrose, EXIT On Taylor, 277 Taylor, 8 p.m. Thu., Fri., Sat., and 5 p.m. Sun., through June 21. An older man listens to recordings he made when he was young and in love. Tickets: BrownPaperTickets.com

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

Supportive Housing Network, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., location TBA. Contact: Kendra Fuller, 421-2926 x304.

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.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 3-5 p.m.,

CBHS, 1380 Howard, room 537. Call: 255-3695. Advisory group of consumers from self-help organizations and other mental health consumer advocates. Open to the public.

Health & Wellness Action Advocates, 1st Tuesday of the month, 5-7 p.m., Mental Health Association, 870 Market, Suite 928. Call: 421-2926 x306.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of the month, Quaker Center, 65 Ninth St., noon-1:30 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive home and community-based services, expanded eligibility for home care and improved discharge planning. Light lunch served. Call James Chionsini, 703-0188 x304.

Hoarders and Clutterers Support Group, Mental Health Association, 870 Market, Suite 928. Call for dates and times: 421-2926 x306.

Mental Health Board, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 255-3474.

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

SAFETY

Safety for Women in the Tenderloin, every 3rd Wednesday, Central City SRO Collaborative, 259 Hyde St., 4-6 p.m. Informal, friendly environment, refreshments, gender sensitive to LGBTQ community and sex workers. Discuss how to make Tenderloin SROs safer for women. Information: Alexandra Goldman, volunteer campaign coordinator, 775-7110 x102.

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training (NERT). Central city residents can take the S.F. Fire Department’s free disaster preparedness and response training at any neighborhood location. See Website for schedule and training locations, www.sfgov.org/sffdnert, or call Lt. Arteseros, 970-2022.

SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location changes monthly. To receive monthly information by e-mail, contact Meital Amitai, 538-8100 x202 or mamitai@iisf.org.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy. Call Susa Black, 345-7300. Neighborhood safety.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com, a districtwide improvement association.

Boeddeker Park cleanup, 3rd Saturday of the month, 9-noon, organized by the Friends of Boeddeker Park. To RSVP to work or for information, call Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

Central City Democrats, meets four times a year, 301 Eddy St. Community Room. Addresses District 6 residential and business concerns, voter education forums. Information: 339-VOTE (8683) or centralcitydemocrats@yahoo.com.

Central Market Community Benefit District, board meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 989 Market St., 3rd Fl., 3 p.m. Information: 882-3088, http://central-market.org.

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Boeddeker Rec Center, 240 Eddy. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5 p.m. Board works to protect SoMa resources for children, youth, families and adults. Gene Friend Recreation Center, 270 Sixth St. Information: 538-8100 x202.

North of Market Planning Coalition, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy. Call: 820-1412. Neighborhood planning.

North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Call District Manager Elaine Zamora for times and dates, 292-4812.

SoMa Leadership Council, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., The Arc, 1500 Howard St. at 11th. Emphasizes good planning and good government to maintain a diverse, vibrant, complete neighborhood. Contact: Jim Meko, 624-4309 or jim.meko@comcast.net.

South of Market Project Area Committee, 3rd Monday of the month, 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom, between 6th & 7th sts. Health, Safety and Human Services Committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday after the first Monday, 1035 Folsom, noon. Information: 487-2166 or www.sompac.com.

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., Tenderloin Police Station community room, 301 Eddy. Call 358-3956 for information. Network of residents, nonprofits and businesses taking on neighborhood development issues.

SENIORS AND DISABLED

Mayor’s Disability Council, 3rd Friday of the month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, room 400. Call: 554-6789. Open to the public.

Senior Action Network, general meeting, second Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon, St. Mary’s Cathedral. Monthly committee meetings, 965 Mission #700: Pedestrian Safety, third Wednesday, 10 a.m.; Senior Housing Action, third Wednesday, 1:30; Information: 546-1333 and www.senioractionnetwork.org.

400,000 books, magazines wind up as landfill

BY TOM CARTER

WORKMEN tossed the dregs of famous McDonald’s Bookshop at 48 Turk St. into two curbside debris bins in April – an estimated 400,000 used books and magazines bound for the city dump — clearing the way for the next tenant, the Central City SRO Collaborative.

Landlord TNDC had given bookstore owner Itzhak Volansky several months to clear out his inventory built over 80 years before evicting him Dec. 3 for failing to pay rent for a year. Volansky’s hired neighborhood friends began removing the ocean of used books later in December. They couldn’t complete the job by late January and Volansky asked for an extension. But TNDC’s patience was exhausted.

“We’d ask him to get his things out before his lease terminated June 25,” said Bailey Williams of Ventura Partners, a property management firm TNDC hires. “He could’ve been evicted then but we gave him a lot more time. He wanted more time in January. I don’t know what else we could have done.”

The Central City SRO Collaborative will move into the empty bookstore “within two months,” Director Jeff Buckley announced in an April 7 email. The tenants rights nonprofit is temporarily at 449 Turk St. after losing its Hyde Street space when the building was sold.

Volansky has estimated his legendary eclectic stash at one million books and magazines. For years half has resided in a two-story building Volansky owns in the next

block at 116-118 Turk St. TNDC had removed the McDonald’s inventory seven years ago for a renovation of the Turk Street building, which also houses the Dalt Hotel and Edwards Tailor Shop and Cleaners. Workers stored half the load South of Market and the rest in Volansky’s building. When the upgrade was finished March 2005, movers returned only the South of Market material.

April 6, Volansky stood dejectedly outside the locked bookstore door — sipping from a large paper cup — with two of his neighborhood pals. Volansky said he only heard about the dumping three days before and had come from his home in the Sunset District to watch. Sheets of black plastic inside covered the door and windows.

Two boxes of books lay in the gutter between the massive-lidded bins. On top of one box was a pristine 1951 hardbound edition of ballerina and choreographer Agnes DeMille’s autobiography “Dance to the Piper.”

Two TNDC employees, each carrying a stack of books, emerged from the store about 15 minutes apart and disappeared with them down the sidewalk. One was Patsy Gardner, property manager at TNDC’s Turk Eddy Preservation Apartments a block away. She said later, she got TNDC’s approval to go in and look for possible items to enhance the lobby’s library.

“Mostly it was Life magazines,” Gardner said. “I’ll leave some here and take a couple home — one is from 1949, the year I was born.

“I wanted to go back for some books but I won’t. The owner was standing there

looking very sad. I just felt too uncomfortable to go back. I don’t know why he didn’t get them out of there.”

“It’s sad,” Volansky said. “Good books — average books — being dumped for landfill. TNDC couldn’t even take them to the next block and leave them. Maybe I got 20% (of the inventory) out.”

Volansky didn’t hesitate when asked what his priority commercial pick had been. “Porn,” he said.

The bookstore was founded by Jock McDonald in 1924 and was bought in the 1950s by Volansky’s father, who ambitiously added to the inventory. The father died in 1979 and left it to Volansky and his sister. For years the dusty labyrinth of overflowing shelves on two floors was high and low literary adventure for street people, students, bibliophiles, even celebrities and movie-prop researchers.

April 8, the police threw up a barricade across the storefront, which Edwards Cleaners requested to keep idlers out of the doorway.

The day after, in front of the Winston Arms Hotel next door, Volansky was sitting on a chair squinting into the sun and waiting for opportunity to knock. Three hand trucks leaned against the building and three men stood by trying to recall the final and sixth role-name of actors who played the Three Stooges. Volansky was paying the men to relieve workers of boxes of books they carried out, then to cart them to 116-118 Turk where he dreams of one day reopening his store.

“I really want the shelving, too,” he said.