Buying local is biggest benefit from tax break

Yammer, Twitter, others claim nearly $3 million in food

By Mark Hedin and Geoff Link

THERE’S A CENTURIES-OLD saying about the need to feed soldiers: “An army marches on its stomach.” And that’s still true today in mid-Market, recently invaded and occupied by thousands of hungry tech workers. Almost 3,000 are employees of the six tax-break companies — 1,500 at Twitter, 800 at Yammer, 200 at OnLive, 163 at Zoosk, 250 plus at Zendesk and a smaller number at 21Tech, all with millions-dollar payrolls. To get the tax break, they have agreed to provide a range of benefits to the neighborhood, including a pledge to purchase from neighborhood purveyors.

So far, restaurants and caterers are the main beneficiaries, according to the first reports on file with the city administrator’s office. The reports are to be filed quarterly. These first reports were to cover activities January through April. The reports arrived in July. Two make claims of extravagant spending during this period.

Yammer reports it spent $82 million with caterer Green Heart, which operates out of a kitchen in the building at 350 Golden Gate Ave. This is the biggest single expenditure listed in any of the first-quarter CBA reports. Twitter’s $750,000 on food is a remarkable, but distant, second.

Twitter has its own kitchen and buys groceries from food distributors of which there are few in Central Market. Its report on spending that benefits the inner city says Twitter spent six figures on food, 90% of it from “no more than 50 miles away,” implying that purchases in Redwood City somehow benefit this community.

Within that distance, Twitter spokewoman Karen Wickre named two coffee distributors elsewhere in the central city that the company does business with, and four other food distributors in San Francisco, plus others outside the city. One local business is Philz Coffee, with locations across from the old Federal Building and in the 700 block of Van Ness. Workers there asked not to be identified, but confirmed that the tech influx has been good for business.

“The code writers are up all night,” another said. “It’s the closest thing to legal crack,” he laughed, adding that he believes someone in the company had a personal relationship with Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook — Philz Coffee has a location on the Facebook’s Mondo Park campus.

The other company in the neighborhood that Wickre said Twitter buys from is Nightglass on Seventh Street.

“When buying in volume — say, meat, fish and produce,” Wickre emailed The Extra, “it’s difficult to find the vendors in the immediate neighborhood for our volume of business.” Neither Wickre nor the city administrator’s staff explained how spending out

The queens’ charity

Duke, Duchess benefit marks major milestone

Story and photos by Tom Carter

THE FUNKY, CENTURY-OLD Gangway on Larkin near Geary was a site for all eyes on a Sunday afternoon in mid-August when glitzy drag queens and gay men applied to vie to be Grand Duchess and Grand Duke for the coming year.

Winning means a ton of work as fund-raising chairpersons. The anointed royalty choose a court — their assistants — to help them raise money for charities they select. AIDS Emergency Fund has been a common recipient over the years. But so has help to other nonprofits and to individuals for special projects.

Before this 40th anniversary ducal year is out in September, and a new court is chosen with their handsome royal titles, more than $50,000 will be distributed.

A few queens and their supporters lingered on the sidewalk, hugging and cooing over each other’s finery before going inside just after 4 p.m. Aug. 18 when the application filing opened.

Wide-eyed tourists in open air buses going up Larkin Street on a perfectly warm afternoon waved as they passed, not all of the dollars going to local charities. Even so, word of mouth has created a buzz.

The Gangway, one of the oldest gay bars in town, claiming a 1910 birth year, was packed and was loud and muggy. Most of the men weren’t in drag, only those vying to be Grand Duchess, members of the current court, or past winners — a dozen or more.

Near the doorway, Ken Harper is dressed in high heels, a tight, lemon-yellow sequined dress — “short,” she points out — topped by a delicate white lace bolero jacket. She has a powdered face and blue eye makeup touched off with dangling, 4-inch silver earrings. Even if you knew this lovely person and your life depended on it, you could not guess that this is Ken Harper, contracts administrator and human resource manager for the Tenderloin nonprofit, the San Francisco Study Center.

“I’m not running for Duchess, though some have asked me to,” Harper says. “But this year I am the Royal Crown Princess, a member of the court. And if the Duchess can’t perform her duties for any reason, I am the one who is supposed to step in and handle that.”

The reigning Duchess has the musical name, Paloma Volare St. James, and is otherwise known as Daniel Fortuno. In this milestone year of royal fundraising, the court’s $50,000-plus was typical, suggesting that over the decades the ad hoc charity could have pulled in $2 million. But absent a paper trail, no one knows.

“I’ve been involved four years,” Fortuno says. “It was because of Landa Lakes. She was Grand Duchess. He stops in mid-sentence, leans toward the door and yells inside: ‘Landa! 50!’ He nods. ‘Yes, the 36th year. She basically convinced me to get involved.’

It was about the time Fortuno won the Royal Bunny contest at the Cafe Floré on Market Street, another fundraiser that netted

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

CENTRAL CITY

AT THE
SEX AT THE EXIT Plus much more during the Fringe

TU LAN FINALLY REOPENS

Total make-over after violations

40TH ANNIVERSARY

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
By Tom Carter

JOE GARRITY’S recent promotion from Tenderloin police captain to commander in the SFPD Operations Division put the iconic beat cop in a fifth-floor Hall of Justice office with a nice, tall northern exposure window. He keeps a handful of mementos on the wall and on his desk — like the miniature 49ers helmet signed by TL luminaries that Supervisor Jane Kim gave him as a going-away present. Occasionally he fumbles answering the phone: “Joe Garrity... Tenderloin... or Opera.”

“Real quiet around here,” Garrity says, flashing the smile that endeared him to legions of residents most of whom he knew by name.

The cell phone was the last he considered his top five Tenderloin cases. He rattled them off in a flood of details, unrehearsed, in not even two minutes.

Garrity, who has been a cop in the TL for 27 years, sat down with The Extra recently to explain.

1. 1994: The beating, rape and murder of Meli’nda Leung, a 3-year-old Vietnamese girl in the basement of the apartment building at 765 O’Farrell St. where she lived. “I’ll remember it till the day I die,” Garrity says, shaking his head.

This, though he was a graveyard beat cop who never saw the body nor got past the crime scene perimeter. Garrity said there are limits even among murderers that carry some hint of humanity. “I’ve seen three things, sure. But the kind of etiquette between cops and crooks in the Tenderloin, and this was over the line...it shocks any consciousness.”

The case came to mind in June when Richard “Night Stalker” Ramirez died of cancer on San Quentin’s death row. In an SFPD cold case examination four years ago, the DNA of the devil worshipper convicted of 13 murders was discovered to have been at the girl’s crime scene. He was living here at the time, months before committing his first murder in Los Angeles. “The chief, Greg Suhr, said he was an evil guy,” Garrity said. “The case is still unsolved.”

2. 2003: The Dalt Hotel lobby massacre, late on a Saturday afternoon in June. “I came in later than day. A lot of innocent people got hurt, 34 Turk, 4, and I knew John Bravard — he was a security guard, crazy gun guy.”

Bravard, a 14-year resident of the hotel, was known as a hothead and loner with mental problems. People avoided him. But the Viet Nam vet bumped into fellow resident Paul Howard in the lobby, and an argument ensued. Bravard went off to get his gun, came back and killed three people, wounded another, before going to his room and killing himself. The Chronicle quoted a resident: “Bravard was a disaster waiting to happen.”

Blood was still on the floor when Garrity showed up.

3. 1990: Drive-by shooting with an AK-47, wounding three. On April 30 at 10:50 p.m., a 1960s truck zoomed down Eddy Street near Jones with a guy firing an AK47 at the back of a street因而 dealers in a turf battle. Garrity, out of Central Station, was patrolling with his partner John ‘JJ’ Newman, and interviewed bystanders as “Inspector Lum changes them over the bar” where they ditched their vehicle and were later seen by an informant.

CORRECTION 

The credit on the Jazzie Collins photo that accompanied this story was incorrect. The photographer was Christopher D. Cook.

Sunday Street resurfaces in TL 

CBD, Zendesk, The Extra all play a role in the revival

Tenderloin crime: 5 cases that ex-Capt. Garrity will never forget

THE RESUCITATED Tenderloin Sun-day Streets was a lively success Aug. 18, with people cycling, skating and dancing at closed-off streets, thanks to a community that got involved and thus avoided being bypassed by organizers. An estimated 10,000 people joined executive director of Sunday Streets. The number of participating organizations quadrupled compared with two years ago.

This year’s event coincided with Glide’s 50th anniversary, which alone drew about 3,000. King said The area involved 15 square blocks car-free but for a few, monitored, drive-through intersections.

It was happy the neighborhood re- responded, King told The Extra. It had a lot of challenges. People had to step up and they got that. But it does take a lot of time to get traction this year was more than just the small group at the beginning.

Rain and attractions elsewhere in the city practically sank the event in 2011 while incurring a hefty expense for rerouting a thick web of bus lines. It was such a dud, King said the Tender-loin out of her neighborhood planning last year That May, though, she met with a handful of neighborhood leaders to stress what had to be done to bring the popular event back in 2013.

And, in an interview in the October 2012 issue of The Extra she outlined the obstacles, which could be overcome if the community really got behind it.

“It’s time for the neighborhood to shine,” she said The Extra, then “If you want it, bring it. Or we’ll leave you alone.”

King said reporting the ultimatum helped light a fire. The first of the new tech kids on the block join the participates organizations was Zendesk, the software company that moved into the Tenderloin out of neighborhood planning last year.

They basically were the first tech company to support this,” King said. They broke the ice and gave us a $5,000 corporate sponsorship and sent volunteers, too. “She said she hoped other tech companies would jump in next year and maybe Zendesk would bump their sponsorship up to $15,000. It’s very important that the public knows these companies underwrite the costs.”

It costs about $5,000 to put on a Sunday Streets in any neighborhood. And here, the stalwart support has been the Tenderloin CBD.

“Each year the CBD has given $2,500, and it really helps us,” King said. “Dina Halliord (former executive director) attended all the meetings. The CBD is really our go-to group.”

Jones Street was a magnet. The Ten- derloin Boys and Girls Club had a disk jockey, Duy Nguyen, who played hot music for street dancing down a dozen outside while the club sold $1 hot dogs inside. There was also ANTS tennis and the San Francisco Skate Club with a ramp course, plus a block away on Taylor at Ellis, Glide had a band and a big crowd.

“This year we had a lot of activity on Jones Street and people abandoned Larkin Street,” King said. “One was so crowded you couldn’t move and the other was dead. So we’ve got some work to do to anchor activity. But alto- gether it was fairly successful.”

Sunday Streets emerges as the go-to place for a variety of activities during the revival of Tenderloin Sunday Streets.

An eight-year-old meets the challenge of a San Francisco Skate Club ramp.

Sunday Streets in any neighborhood.
Spotlight on sex at Fringe Festival

Hot topic in the eclectic lineup for TL’s main event

By Paul Dunn

This is a story about sex. But it’s not about the birds and bees, to whom Mom and Dad may have alluded. This is a story about sex on both sides of the fringe – the good, the bad and the brutal.

And it’s a story about the 22nd annual San Francisco Fringe Festival – whose spotlight this year shined on the subject.

At first glance, Oakland residents Regina Evans and Siouxsie Q seem polar opposites. A sex trafficker victimized one of them; the other loves being a sex worker.

Evans spent part of her adulthood kidnapped, raped and terrorized by a monster, the scars from the nightmare still menacing her in ways time and profound.

“I know what it’s like to be kidnapped and raped,” she said recently. “Do I know what it’s like to be brutalized? Yes.”

Though she won’t offer lurid details – she has told her story many times, she said – Evans doesn’t dive from the topic. She embraces it.

And that’s the essence of “52 Letters,” her one-hour Fringe Festival show that dramatizes sex trafficking primarily through the eyes of two girls, 8 and 15 years old.

“Want people to open their eyes to this social justice issue of our times,” said Evans, who taught herself performance skills. “People don’t believe that it’s happening, or they think it’s in Asia or Russia. It does happen right here.”

For Siouxsie Q, 28, a vibrant sex industry is happening right here, too. She and kids dig it. The bubbly, full-figured woman who does not disclose her real name, is a full-time sex worker, she emphasized – not a “dabbler.”

She’s done almost all of it, except phone sex, which is on her bucket list, she laughed.

But there’s a deeper side to her professional activity, an intellectual consciousness she seeks to publicize.

Evans – who uses poetry to tell “52 Letters” – has presented parts of the show twice, but this will be her first full go. She played four Fringe Festival shows after 45 minutes – some audience members can question on-hand experts about sex-trafficking issues.

“The show is very intense,” Evans said. “Survivors (of sex trafficking) have had their lives controlled. These kids are kidnapped from everywhere, even in the heartland.”

Fringed with humor. “The Women of Ta’Na House” continues the festival’s sort into the underbelly of polite society.

New York City resident Nancy Eng delivers this 55-minute play about an Asian massage parlor, which she pre

Garrity remembers big cases from the Tenderloin

1984

M urder of a 9-year-oldVietnamese girl at 765 O’Farrell was unsolved for years. DNA evidence later proved Sotmez and “Nightstalker” murderer Richard Ramirez was her killer.

4. Late 1990s:

The “mummified” body The Road Runner Club and bar at 177 Eddy was reviving in the late 1990s and a man’s body wrapped in carpet was found in the rafters. Garrity was a beat cop who got the call. The decomposing body really stunk up the place. “People smoke cigars to get over that or put Vicks under their nose,” Garrity says. “They rolled the body out and it was a missing person. Not a pleasant smell. I don’t know if the case was ever solved.

No DNA back then.

5. 1991

The Tenderloin Task force kicks off from its beatmen HQ in the old Hibernia Bank building. The Force made 5,000 felony arrests in the first nine months. It’s high drama, “Siouxsie said. “Music, mermaids and murder!”

6. 1995

Siouxsie Q digs sex and enjoys getting paid for it. But her 45-minute “Fish-girl” mermaid fantasy says a lot more than their “52 Letters” and other takes on sex will be staged during the 158 performances at the 22nd SF Fringe Festival.

Infographic by Lisa Stampeli

C E N T R A L C I T Y E X T R A / S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 3 3
Empress of San Francisco, pioneering and outspoken advocate, and followed it, will be presented in a future issue of The Extra with excerpts from Limjoco’s interview and more photos.

This provocative quote is out of context so it sounds more

ter’s Neighborhood Oral History Project. In the interview Sar- signer, who photographed Sarria in 1978 for the Study Cen-

sition that called him a “gay icon.”

The creation of the ducal court 40 years ago came from a deal to keep H.L. Perry from acquiring too much power and influence in San Francisco’s gay world.

At the time, Perry was serving on the board of the city’s Tavern Guild, consisting of gay bar own-

ers who fought police harassment (from 1962-95), and was simultaneous-

ously running for Empress of the Imperial Court system. The way he tells it, he was a shoo-in for Empress; a contest the guild had created in the 1960s and that raised money for causes mainly in the gay community.

“They told me to drop one or the other,” Perry, now 84, told The Extra from his Chula Vista home in San Diego County. “I had 44 bars behind me for Empress.”

Perry opted to forgo the Em-

press competition and instead creat-

ed another contest for Grand Duch-

ess, in a new ducal court, which he won handily. He became Grand Duchess Perry I. His inauguration was in the Fairmont Hotel ballroom, the first gay event to be celebrated in a major San Francisco hotel, he said.

“All the hotels opened up to the gay community then,” Perry said. And I have no idea how much money we raised over the years, but it was a lot and we gave it all to charities.”

Perry went on to create Atlan-

tis House, a halfway house for gay ex-cons. From all his fundraisers — associated with the ducal court or not — 10% always went to the Metropolitan Community Church, he said. The church that celebrates all sexualities is located now at 150 Eureka St.

In 2006, Perry’s work was com-

memorated with a month-long ex-

hibition at San Francisco Public Library. Last year, the state Senate awarded him a certificate of recog-

nition that called him a “gay icon.”

Perry plans to donate the inaug-

ural dress he wore 40 years ago to the LGBT Museum in the Castro.

“It was tan and pink and had lots of stones.” Perry said. “Very ex-

pensive.”

— Tom Carter

1st Grand Duchess recalls a palace coup from 40 years ago

GRAND DUCHESS PERRY I

José Julio Sarria, native San Franciscan, the first Empress of San Francisco, pioneering and outspoken advocate for gay rights, died Aug. 19 at his home in Albuquerque. He was 90. He set the pace and the tone for drag queen royalty.

His fractious progeny upped the ante with several courts all raising money for the common good. This photo was taken by the late Lenny Limjoco, Study Center photographer and de-

signer, who photographed Sarria in 1978 for the Study Cen-

ter’s Neighborhood Oral History Project. In the interview Sarria said: “I set out to be a gay notorious person, and I achieved it.” This provocative quote is out of context so it sounds more outrageous than it really is. What precedes that blunt assess-

ment, and followed it, will be presented in a future issue of The Extra with excerpts from Limjoco’s interview and more photos.

Photo by Lenny Limjoco 1978

Queens gather for royal bounty

Queens gather for royal bounty

Above and left, Paloma Valore St. James, a.k.a. Moe Jo Coxx.

The metaphor of a royal court seems an obvious organizational struc-

ture for San Francisco’s significant drag queen community. It started in 1965 with the Imperial Court that annually would select an Empress of San Franci-

co, growing to 70 chapters, including some in Canada and Mexico.

But eight years later a rift occurred over the influence of H.L. Perry (see sidebar), and he and his retinue of sup-

porters broke away to form the Duke and Duchess system with gay bars like Gangway and Aunt Charlie’s forums for the charitable fundraising. The Gangway’s application turn-in was to precede a fundraiser to cele-

brate those 40 years with a Bay Cruise dinner in September. After 8 p.m. the bar would have an open stage for the queens to perform and donate their tips to the ducal court. A raffle and a beer bust would add more dollars.

Other applicants and past royalty were showing up, well ahead of the 2 p.m. filing deadline, including Kyle Mino-

no, who was Duchess 59 and now is campaign manager for Duke candidate Kippy Marks.

Rules forbid Minono from running for five years after winning. She said that her reign had raised $47,000, most-

ly at bars, and the money got spread over 20 organizations.

At her side, Marks wore a formal white shirt and was beaming about his candidacy. He had strong credentials.

“I’ve worked with the Duke doing charity work before,” he said. “I got involved three years ago when a friend became Duke and he landed a court ap-

pointment.”

“A lot of the charities we gave to I benefited from, and now I want to give back,” Herrera said. “This is a big step up. You form a court — one or two people can’t do it alone — and that’s what I love about it. And everybody gets a title. It’s part of a family, an army to raise money for our community.”

Recipients of this year’s funds were announced the next Sunday and included this partial list: Project Open Hand, Breast Cancer Fund, Camp Sun-

burst for HIV youth and others with life-threatening diseases, Positive Force that offers counseling and other sup-

port for HIV youth, and (SVRC.)

Suddenly, a Duchess candidate was at the door. Pat N Leather, tall and dressed darkly to the nines. She’s Prin-

cess Royale, a current court member. Later, at the deadline, surprisingly she was the sole Grand Duchess candidate. Herrera and Marks were the only two run-

ning for Grand Duke. Usually there are four to six candidates for Grand Duch-

ess, fewer for Duke, which is consid-

ered a supporting role.

“I think the strength of the Grand Duchess candidate intimidated any competition, in this case,” Harper said. “She has widespread support from dif-

ferent factions in the court, extensive connections and fundraising ability that she demonstrated this year.

‘Many think people are biding their time and next year’s race will be a free-

for-all.’

Typically, the Ducal Council, acting as a board of directors, reviews the ap-

plications to determine the candidates. The community then votes, this year on Sept. 21 at these polling places: Project Open Hand in the TL, San Francisco Eagle in SoMa and the Magnet in the Castro. The winners will be announced Sept. 29 at the Whitcomb Hotel on Mar-

ket Street at Eighth. But, in the unlikely chance the community rejects the sole candidate because of some palace in-

trigue, it’s likely the council would ap-

point a Grand Duchess.
Tu Lan reopens all clean, shiny
Closed 1 year over violations — looks the same but brand new

Sex in spotlight amid eclectic lineup at the Fringe Festival

FOOD, DRINK AND SERVERS

Bartenders and waitresses don’t ask you to forgive them, either. And therein lies the theme for three other acts at this year’s festival.

First up is 'Parly Girl.'

This is Sandra Brunell Neace’s tale about waitressing for five years in New York City while she pursued her master’s degree in acting at the Actors Studio in New York City.

Neace, 58, who now lives in Sparks, Nev., is diving into her first Fringe Festival, though she has performed ‘Parly Girl’ six times this summer at several theaters in Reno.

She hopes audience members come away with a taste of the service industry and the challenges workers face.

I think it’s working (in the service industry) a journey of humility,” said Neace, who teaches introductory courses in acting and theater at the University of Nevada. “It’s easy to get angry, jaded and downturned, and in the end you have to let go of the pride, and this is a funny take on that.

‘Serving Bart to Rich People’ adds another car to the Fringe dinner train.

New York City stand-up comedian Alex Fitzpatrick delivers this one-hour solo show chronicling her days as a bartender serving sushi to wealthy patrons at posh restaurants in New York and Aspen, Colo.

“This is the story of dating and waitressing in New York City while I pursued my master’s degree in acting at the Actors Studio in New York City.”

She said most people who have ever worked as servers or servers will relate to her jokes.

Fitzpatrick calculated she’s performed ‘Serving Bart to Rich People’ 41 times. She has been polishing her chops this summer after winning the Canadian Association of Fringe Festivals’ lottery, which enabled her to perform at festivals in New York, Orlando, FL., and in Canada’s Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton.

“The Tipped & The Tipsy” is the third in the festival’s service industry triumvirate. Veteran bartender Jill Vice offers a satiric view of the not-so-glamorous bar culture.

Vice, 33, who has lived in San Francisco since 1998, ought to know. She has worked at 28 local bars, and they’re all the same, she contended, even the one she currently works at several nights a week.

In a nutshell, they can all be ‘shit shows,’ she said. ‘People can be vomiting on each other and pulling knives.’

The 53-minute performance, she said, ‘is all based on my experiences over the years. For example, there are a group of regulars in the story who are sort of a composite of some of my real regulars, and there has always been an ‘Ace person at every bar I’ve worked at.’

But the show’s not all light comedy, Vice said.

‘I hope people get a very compelling story about our responsibilities for other people while laughing their asses off,’ she explained. ‘The audience will get to laugh at people’s foibles, but it’s also about people in the throes of their addiction to alcohol and bartenders see this.

She has performed “The Tipped & The Tipsy” at the Chicago Fringe Festival, the Rogue Festival in Fresno, and San Francisco’s Marsh Theater.

By Geoff Link

TU LAN, that decades-old fixture on the neighborhood food chain, reopened Aug. 25, one year after the Department of Public Health shut it down for serious and persistent violations.

Now it’s back, with gleaming stainless-steel equipment, rebuilt countertop, sparkling white walls, simple new tables and chairs and the upstairs room nicely redone. Plain white globes hang from the ceiling, making the city’s first Vietnamese restaurant a clean, well-lit place.

It was festooned with flowers celebrating the much-anticipated moment.

Thuy and Vinnie and nephew Anthony greeted a long line of customers, old and new, who happily found most of the old crew had returned as well.

It was as if they’d never left.

One man in line was Albert Golen-dres, 47, of Daly City. He said he has been a customer since he started working nearby pawnshop almost 25 years ago.

“This is something different,” he said, calling Tu Lan better than other Vietnamese restaurants, in part because the fried rice features curried His order, “No. 24,” has old favorite combination plate of rice, imperial roll and pork kabob. “That’s the famous one. It was $6.95, up from $6.25.

The menu is identical to the old one where customers ordered by number and good customers knew all 77 items by heart. The only difference is that prices have inched upward, but so modestly it’s hard to tell. $50 cents per item, $1 at most. The portions are just as generous and the quality maybe a notch higher. Plus, there are no shameless ‘$5 surcharges.’

Eric Louie contributed to this report.

CONTRIBUTED FROM PAGE 3

Outside, Harper was nervously waiting for his day job boss to drive by and see him in his elegant transforma-

tion. He wasn’t antsy about the boss but because he was already late for, guess what, another fundraiser.

“We’ve actually got a conflict here,” Harper said. “A fundraiser is going on at the edge, and I’ve got to be there. It’s for the royal court — to help out with the cost of our 40th anniversary celebration. We want to get the ticket price down.”

And it’s a fine drag array like Ken-
v’s that can drive those ducal dollars.

Eric Louie contributed to this report.

Flowers all around added to the festive reopening, and there was an uncharac-
teristic sense of order amid the rush and crush that surely won’t last.

Tu Lan, the regal Grand Duchess 40 who base hard-working St. James court for Grand Duke, center, is flanked on left by Kylie Minono, former Grand Duchess, and a.k.a. Daniel Fortuno, is the regal Grand Duchess 40 whose hard-working St. James court...

SEX in portrait amid eclectic lineup at the Fringe Festival...
Merchants don’t all back benefit claims

By Mark Hedon

The first written summaries of the benefits that the six tax-break companies — Twitter, Zook and 2Tech — announced to 327 Mission Street tenants last week in their court's kitchen illustrate the challenges that the companies have faced:

- The companies' websites say that they promise to present to the community benefit claims, but they don’t all back benefit claims.
- Twitter has expressed some interest in getting the benefit claims.
- The companies have yet to present any benefit claims.
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OBITUARIES

MICHAEL MALAK
Rehabilitated

Samira Morcos tightly cradled the small black box and slowly, tearfully placed it on the table in front of a vase of flowers and a picture of her son, Michael Malak.

Three dozen people filled the meeting room at the Arlington Hotel for Mr. Malak’s July 24 memorial and the chance to say what he had been to them — wonderful friend, loving son, cherished relative.

“He was such a bright light here; always stopping by my office with a smile on his face and with something positive to say,” said Melissa Eaton, the Arlington’s resident services manager. “One of the things he wanted to do was start an AA group here at the hotel.

Mr. Malak had lived at the Arlington for nine months when he died July 16, from a heart attack. He was 49. The year before moving to the Arlington, he was a resident of the Salvation Army’s Harb- or Light rehab center.

“He was fighting a 30-year addiction,” his brother Edmond told The Extra, “and I think it was the rules and discipline that finally helped him.” Mr. Malak’s brother, Clark, and a nephew also attended the memorial.

Born in Cairo, Mr. Malak came to the United States when he was 13, and by 19, he’d begun a downward spiral that lasted three decades.

To his family, the results of his rehabili- tation were astonishing. Pulling out of it, they said, he was able to live inde- pendently at the Arlington, get a credit card, pay his bills, get back the driver’s license he’d lost 17 years before, talk to them regularly, attend family events, in- cluding a recent wedding, and visit his mother every weekend by bus.

“Let your live until you cleaned up your life,” his mother said. One by one, Arlington residents and Harbor Light clients remembered Mr. Malak, who returned to the center often to help others.

Mr. Malak was an ace pool player, Jose recalled. “The first day he walked into Harbor Light he looked at me across the pool table and said, ‘I’m go- ing to be all right here because I see my twin brother. We’d play pool morning to night.

I actually beat him once in pool,” said another client. “I’d give him crap and he’d give it right back, but all of it was good natured.”

Others said of him, “He wasn’t per- fect, but he had a glow about him. I cried like a baby when I heard he was gone.”

He always talked about the past and how he wanted to change himself on the inside.”

He came to the center same time as me. You could always tell when he was in a room — you could hear him laugh.”

“God let you live until you cleaned up your life,” her son, Mr. Malak, had said.

Photo courtesy of Malak Family

“he loved his family, wanted to stay in recovery and make you happy and proud,” Mr. Malak’s death was unexpected by everyone except, perhaps, his moth- er. A week after the memorial, she told The Extra that she had come to visit her on July 13 and complained of pain, but when he got back to the Arlington, he called her to tell her he was having trouble breathing. She rushed to see him again, he said he was okay and assured her he didn’t need to go to an emergency room. She returned home.

They talked once more, on July 15. “He called me to thank me for some movies I’d sent him,” she said. “When I called on the 16th, there was no an- swer, and again none on the 17th.”

He was found July 18 during a reg- ular pest inspection of hotel rooms.

— Marjorie Beggs

RICHARD RAMIREZ
Desk clerk an awesome man

“My life is better because you’re in it,” said the thank-you card to Richard Ramirez from Hotel Iroquois resident Angelina Herman. She read the card she’d given him in the hospital shortly before he died.

“I didn’t know he wouldn’t get well — I was thanking him for being a good friend,” she said tearfully at his July 16 memorial. “Now I’m having a hard time remembering he’s gone. I wanted to call Richard today, but I couldn’t.”

Mr. Ramirez, who had lived at the Iroquois for 17 years, died July 11 at Chinese Hospital from complications of leukemia. He was 67.

Herman was a friend with him for 10 years, a trustworthy man who looked out for you, checking to see if you were okay,” she said. “If you have a friend like that, he’s grateful.”

Before he died, Mr. Ramirez gave Herman a key to his room and asked her to take everything. “He told me, ‘It’s all yours.’” she said, which was a complete surprise and a measure of his trust. Herman didn’t disclose what was in the room, but said some things were valuable, some not.

Of the 12 people at the memo- rial, several expressed sadness at Mr. Ramirez’s passing, but none except Herman seem to have known him well, not even David Elliott Lewis, his neigh- bor on the sixth floor since 2007.

“I never got to know him, but I’m sorry he’s gone,” Lewis said.

Female residents knew little about Mr. Ramirez’s past. Herman thought he was born in Texas, lived in Los Angeles, had a sister somewhere, but had no contact with her.

What everyone knew was that Mr. Ramirez had a job he liked as a desk clerk at the Hotel Union, 811 Geary. He worked there for about 10 years, right up until he was hospitalized. “Yeah, sure I knew him,” a hotel co-worker told The Extra. “He was a cool guy.”

Danny Mendez, the Iroquois’ sup- port services supervisor, said staff were in close contact with Mr. Ramirez and his doctors during the worst of his illness, when his twice-a-week chemo- therapy took its toll, and for the several weeks he spent in the hospital before he died.

“Richard was frightened,” Mendez said, “and we were hoping for the best for him. We’ll miss him — he was an awesome man.”

Another resident, a young man named Romano, remembered Mr. Ramirez as quiet and respectful. “I’m glad you’re having this memorial for him,” he said. “It’s scary how many peo- ple pass away here every week.”

— Marjorie Beggs

Housing Applications are Being Accepted for Single Room Occupancy Buildings (SROs)

Please go to 2416 6th Street, San Francisco, CA for applications.

The TOUCO Housing Waiting List is now open for the BAYANIHAN HOUSE AND THE HOTEL ISABEL. If your name is currently on any TOUCO Housing Waiting List and you would like information on your current status please call the TOUCO Marketing Office at 415-957-0227 on Fridays only.

Building Size/Occupancy Limit Max./Min. Income Limit Rent

Hotel Isabel
905 Mission Street
(Bromley Project Based Section 8)
1 person
$34,600 a year
1 person
$14,600 a year
30% of Income
In the unit there is a sink, micro- wave, refrigerator, 2-hour sun- stone, closet, single bed, community kitchen, 24 hour staff & surveillance, laundry facility

Rent $545.00
No Minimum Income

Bayanihan House
521 24th Street
1–2 person
$38,560/year
1 person
$30.25a month
No Income

Shared Bath
Single 1½ to 2
Double 12×12
In the unit there is a sink, micro- wave, refrigerator, 2-hour sun- stone, closet, single bed, community kitchen, 24 hour staff & surveillance, laundry facility

Starting 1-2013
Rent $95.00
Utilities included

www.ComingofAge.org/BayArea/Explore-
Your-Future for info & an enrollment form or call (888)308-1767.

Comprehensive workbook included. Sign up today!

Explore! Your! Future!

Enroll now for the next San Francisco session:
Wednesday, Sept. 18, 25 & Oct. 2, 9: 4 to 6 pm
Eastern Park Apartments: 711 Eddy St. (between Van Ness & Polk)

Fee: $79 for Coming of Age: Bay Area members (membership is FREE), or $129 for non-members. Comprehensive workbook included. Sign up today!

Visit www.ComingofAge.org/BayArea/Explore-
Your-Future for info & an enrollment form or call

Capturing the Talent, Energy & Expertise of People 50+

Find your passion and chart your path — Marjorie Beggs
City of San Francisco Outreach Advertising 2013 August #2
Assessment Appeals Board (AAB)
Notice is hereby given that 6 vacancies on the AAB. Applicants must have at least 5 years experience as one of the following: Certified Public Accountant or Public Accountant; licensed Real Estate Broker; Property Appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized organization, or Property Appraiser certified by the California Office of Real Estate Appraiser. For additional information or to obtain an application, please call 415-554-6778 OR visit the Board of Supervisor’s website at www.sfbos.org.

Department of Public Health
Healthy Foods and WIC Nutrition Services at No Cost to You
Eating well during pregnancy is important. The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program can help. WIC serves pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and young children under five years who meet 185% or below of the federal poverty income level. WIC benefits include nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and food furnished to improve the diet and health of women, infants, and children. Also, WIC checks to buy healthy foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables and refills to low cost or free health care and other community services. Enrollment in WIC early in your pregnancy will give your baby a healthy start. Also, WIC staff can show you how to use and how to save. Migrants are welcome to apply as well.
San Francisco WIC has six offices throughout the City. For more information, call (415) 575-5778. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Health Benefits!
For recently granted Asylees, Refugees, and Victims of Human Trafficking Newcomers-Health Program works to promote the health and well-being of newly arrived refugees, asylees and immigrants throughout San Francisco by providing access to excellent medical services and community referrals.

We offer health assessment services, and access to, in-person medical interpretation, referrals and ongoing health services for new refugees, asylees and victims of trafficking (VOTs). Our health workers are professionally trained medical interpreters who speak more than 8 languages and we have access to interpreter services for many other languages. These services are FREE to you if you have Medi-Cal (public health insurance). You must apply for Medi-Cal within the first 8 months of your legal status as a refugee, asylee, or VOT.

Call us at 415-206-8680 for help with Medi-Cal or for any other questions about the program.

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The Board of Supervisors is evaluating the effectiveness of Outreach Advertising. Was the information in this ad helpful and/or interesting to you? What types of articles would you like to see? Please provide your comments at 415-206-7230, or email boardofsupervisors@sf.gov. Please include the publication name and date.

Board of Supervisors Regular Meetings
Open to the Public, Tuesdays at 2:00pm at City Hall - Room 200
September 3, 10, 17, 24
October 1, 8, 22, 29
The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The city and county newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors or omissions.