Central City Extra
San Francisco

Tax break tech help too for the TL

Yammer's training uses software that group doesn't have

By Mark Hedlin

The Tax-Break Tech companies got an earful from some of the neighborhood organizations they're benefitting, and a warning from a city official to keep the benefits flowing, at the Citizens-Advisory Committee meeting in September.

The city also got lambasted by community members for lax monitoring of the community benefits.

Representatives of several nonprofits came before the committee to describe how the promises of tech support made by Twitter, Microsoft, One Kings Lane, Zendesk, Zook and 21Tech in their agreements have been working out.

The six 'beneficiaries' who spoke up expressed gratitude for the help they've gotten, but were unafraid to point out some shortcomings.

Diana Yu, employment specialist at Vietnam Zoe Youth Development Center, was effusive about about three students landing $15-per-hour, part-time summer internships at Zook and Zendesk.

On the other hand, she said, Yammer's training at a lab in the Westfield Centre used equipment more advanced than the youth center's, "so we can't use the short-cuts and could not utilize the training."

Kathie Lowry, Larkin Street Youth Services chief development officer, said Twit-ter granted the agency $15,000 last year, even before it had signed its CBA, but still doesn't have a system to request a renewal, as she normally does with other benefac-tors. Lowry was asked by panel member Robert Marquez about the promotional tweet that Twitter's report touted as part of its contribution to Larkin Street.

"We don't have the capacity to take advantage," Lowry said. "We can't even get the way we're getting the help to pay."

DiPasquale told the committee that Regroup's new software is something they weren't able to engage in. She added that Larkin Street would "welcome people who are experts in the (tech) field" along with "training, hard-ware and software — and money."

DiPasquale said that the company is working on a lease to a building in the Tenderloin to house first the office and then the lab. The company is working with "the city and the Bay Area's LGBT youth community."

Because Regroup has numerous and varied investors, DiPasquale told the committee, it has been unable to register with the city as a minority-owned firm. Kahai took pains to inform the committee that DiPasquale is part of the LGBT community, but that is not a qualification for a minority-owned designation for purposes of win-ning city contracts; only ethnicity counts.

Under questioning from the panel, DiPasquale said he met Kahai some years ago at a Silicon Valley event and kept in touch, and had recently moved his company to San Francisco.

DiPasquale told the committee that 21Tech's assistance — begun last year prior to 21Tech signing the CBA — has been

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HOPE RETIRES

Ministry ends after 41 years serving the TL

Story and photos by Tom Carter

Rev. Glenda Hope, founder and executive director of S.F. Network Ministries, drew a crowd of 300 at her farewell dinner, a fundraiser for her pet project, the SafeHouse for former prostitutes.

SafeHouse began after Hope had sought out women of the street, not for religious con-versions or repentance, only to ask what they needed most in their lives. A safe place to live, they said. And that became Hope's goal. "The women broke my heart, the way they were broken," Hope said.

Among the crowd that had trolled vege-tarian food islands during the silent auction were several SafeHouse graduates. One, Toni Eby, was a featured speaker.A military veteran who fell on hard times in her early 20s, she said she had become homeless and dispirit-ed. An addiction led to prostitution. She was broke, she said, with no hope for the future, then no will to live. "Six years ago I came with nothing but the clothes on my back," Eby said, her voice quav-ering. "And I was greeted by a loving staff."

Treatment programs followed that helped her deal with the trauma of street life. Safe-House paid for her college courses. Now she works at the SafeHouse desk, has a 3.67 GPA and is well on her way toward a degree.

"It truly, truly works," Hope reported. "Eby got the second of three standing ova-tions of the evening. The others were for Hope."

The entire evening was a Glenda Hope lovefest. At the hall entrance, sipping a glass of red wine, her hair stylist hovering, she greeted most with her trademark warm hug.

People not just in the Tenderloin but throughout the city and the Bay Area have known her as a multidimensional woman of the cloth with ideas and action, resolve and stubbornness tempered with a droll sense of humor aggressively supportive and alternate-ly defiant. Her low, slow Georgia drawl seems incongruous for her slight, 100-pound frame. Her clerical collar, winsome white hair. Her clerical collar, winsome smile and compassionate blue eyes have worked wonders for her from the street to City Hall. In battle, the smile vanishes and the eyes glaze into an icy stare. She's been

Continued on page 6
Experimental public urinal recycles the waste

By Tom Carter

RESULTS FROM the 12-day public trial offering on Ellis Street in July show a surprising success, says Dina Hilliard, executive director of the Tenderloin CBD, reported at the Friends of Boeddeker Park meeting in September. The trial run was to see how the open-top PPlanter urinal created by Hyphae Design Lab of Oakland would be received in the neighborhood. Hilliard said there was no graffiti during the trial and ‘20 to 30 gallons of urine was collected’ during the trial. The urine was combined with water from 50-gallon barrels next to the urinal to nourish the PPlanter’s attached bamboo vegetation.

The PPlanter is now retired and vacationing at the Tenderloin National Forest but will be reconstructed to carry out the facility: Hyphae is building it. It will feature a toilet and two urinals and is planned for the street in February.

‘We’ve applied to the Department of Public Works for a permit for it for a year,’ said Hilliard. But DPW was not eager, she added, because ‘all the money’ for the new design came from the city’s Community Challenge Fund and an $80,000 block grant.

Hilliard, executive director of the Tenderloin CBD, has long been an advocate of developing a prototype.

Hyphae the first $20,000 in 2011 to develop a prototype. The PPlanter occupied two parking spaces in a white zone in front of the Tenderloin CBD, but a planter box that is attached and filled with growing bamboo, the greenery nourished with the diluted urine.

Tenderloin CBD, has a planter box that is attached and filled with growing bamboo, the greenery nourished with the diluted urine.

“Lívame” means ‘wash me’ in Spanish. With a little twist to personalize it, the word became Lava Mae, a new nonprofit raising funds to customize a bus with mobile showers.

“The CBD has been in the forefront of establishing a portable public toilet for the Tenderloin’s whose sidewalks and streets are relentlessly abused as an outdoor bathroom. The CBD gave Hyphae the first $20,000 in 2011 to develop a prototype.”

The PPlanter occupied two parking spaces in a white zone in front of the Tenderloin CBD, but a planter box that is attached and filled with growing bamboo, the greenery nourished with the diluted urine.

Hilliard later gave more details of the July 12-24 total run. About ‘75 people used the urinal, based on estimates of ‘pooping’ in the urinal. A no-poop sign was made showing a squatting man encircled in a red ring with a line through it ‘and it never happened again,’ Hilliard said. ‘Pretty incredible. We didn’t know what to expect. People were really respectful once they knew.’

But after the PPlanter was removed, many feces piles appeared near the area, according to Hilliard, ‘a reason to put it back there.’ It was assumed that men only used the facility. It is uncovered and the feet and head of a person using it can be seen. ‘We had one complaint over a lack of privacy,’ Hilliard said.

“It’s a prototype and it was a success!”

There were no needles found, she said, but the first day had three instances of ‘pooping’ in the urinal. A no-poop sign was made showing a squatting man encircled in a red ring with a line through it “and it never happened again,” Hilliard said. “Pretty incredible. We didn’t know what to expect. People were really respectful once they knew.”

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“Lívame” means ‘wash me’ in Spanish. With a little twist to personalize it, the word became Lava Mae, a new nonprofit raising funds to customize a bus with mobile showers.

“It would have two completely separate showers,” says Lava Mae founder Donniece Sandoval, “and the bus would move daily on a schedule we’d set up with partner organizations — public and private — that lack showers for their homeless clients.”

Sandoval’s figures: “$75,000 will outfit one bus. She hopes to raise enough money to take delivery of the bus by November and begin testing the service early next year in the Tenderloin.

She’s going after public and private funding and is doing crowdfunding through Indiegogo. That’s already brought in $47,000, and a little goes a long way. A $25 donation can pay for a day’s worth of showers — 100 chances to get clean, Lava Mae estimates.

The plan is to have the side of the bus carry the organization’s motto: “Delivering dignity, one shower at a time.” — Marjorie Beggs

Photo courtesy of Tenderloin CBD

The PPlanter, developed with $115,000 from the city, $200,000 from the Tenderloin CBD, has a planter box that is attached and filled with growing bamboo, the greenery nourished with the diluted urine.
organizations and companies as possible. We need to make sure that happens in as many or - from Twitter and Yammer.) “We need to provide some training workshops on how to use its technology to promote Hospitality House, and had vowed to encourage staff to support a fundraising event Oct. 24 at Arc Gallery on Folsom Street. Had criticized how the city administrator has handled the CBA process — for example, not responding to CAC members’ repeated requests to reconsider the conflict-of-interest rules — and he thought the May purge of four CAC members over an unusual and complicated attendance rule was extreme because it was based on a ‘technicality.’ The city’s lack of active oversight of companies seeking the Twitter tax break companies get too far along in negotiating them. The city’s lack of active oversight of companies seeking the Twitter tax break has resulted in several CBAs with no apparent benefit agreements was also cited by Cancino, who pointed out that Twitter’s quarterly report lists providing 30 laptops for a new Catholic Charities youth program, dubbed Laptops for Success. However, he said the computers ‘have not been delivered yet.’ A few days later, he told The Extra that Twitter had told him the laptops awaited only identification stickers before being delivered. He said he’d simply been trying to drive home his impression that Mayor Lee and his staff “have not been invested in making sure that we’re successful.” preliminary meeting to its calendar in hopes of reviewing this year’s CBAs and providing feedback for next year’s agreements before the city administrator and the tax break companies get too far along in negotiating them. ‘We’re not in on the negotiations, we’re in the prediscussions. If we’re going to evaluate, it’s going to take a few months,’ Marquez said, recalling how little public or CAC input went into reviewing the six CBAs being executed this year. ‘That opportunity to really engage in discussions wasn’t there.’ The city administrator is responsible for negotiating the CBAs with the companies seeking the Twitter tax break, and for taking CAC input into consideration when doing so. Two representatives of the city administrator’s office were present. One, project manager Bill Barnes, gave a cursory review of the firms’ first quarterly reports and said he expects all six firms currently enjoying the tax break and executing CBAs to reapply for 2014 and be joined by the music-sharing Website Spotify, which is moving into the Warfield Building. Barnes said the companies, in general, were making ‘good progress’ toward meeting their commitments, but he also fired a warning shot across their bows. ‘If you complete less than 80% we’re not going to even discuss a CBA next year, or the tax break.’ The 80% completion figure is written into all the CBAs as the threshold of value of their tax break on their CBA commitments, two community liaisons have told The Extra. Barnes also told the panel it had the option, but not the requirement, to make a six-month progress report to the Board of Supervisors and said that he would work with District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim to request a hearing if the CAC wished. The panel voted to make the report, with the expectation that the hearing would likely be scheduled for mid-October.
NINE STORIES HIGH on the roof of a Tenderloin building, the sun is to day a micro solar food farm, the moon by night a nighttime breath-taking view.

Up here — in the heart of the battered, 58-square-block neighborhood — fast, trouble-free food is king and verdant vegetable plants quiver at the warm touch, the sun powering the nourishing produce to swell the Tenderloin’s pull toward prepackaged food. When the sun sets and the moon stokes its magic on a $12,000 annual budget, that moonlight and a $20,000 San Francisco Community Challenge grant won in 2010 through the mayor’s office More recently, Twitter has twice helped sustain the garden by donating garden supplies, and it and other of the tech-brok companies send volunteers regularly.

ABUNDANT CROPS

Though garden organizers can’t say how much produce has been harvested at the site, they point to abundant, flourishing crops of lettuce, spinach, collards, tomatoes and beets growing side by side with fig, lemon and lime trees. “For residents, the rewards are just a short vertical ig for the taking,” said Dyer. “If they want greens for their dinner, they go up, harvest a fistful of greens, and descend back to the street.”

“Everyday you can imagine”

Greens, tomatoes, berries and pears — the kind of food residents at the 172-unit Kelly Cole Community plant in a dozen 6-foot troughs tugs at like those at Curran House and have produced 30 pounds of food so far. “The benefit is enjoying taking care of the plants,” she said. “They are like your little pets or your children. You take care of them and watch them grow.”

“Food Justice is the notion that everyone has the right to food,” said Deborah Whittle, Glide’s Cecil Williams house, 333 Taylor.

“Eating, excitement and engagement factors in doing urban gardening in the middle of the Tenderloin,” Whittle said.

“The garden is our platform,” she explained. “We use it to educate the residents, and for them to lead healthy lives by eating the food.”

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Volunteers will receive training from both the SFFD and the SFPD. ALERT volunteers will be trained to patrol commercial and business areas, and reporting criminal activity. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. (NERT). The ALERT program will train members of the public to assist law enforcement in performing essential tasks after a major disaster. Such tasks may include: traffic control, foot patrol of neighborhoods, community organizing and providing first aid. As chair, she was blunt and fair, notorious for running a tight meeting, enforcing time limits with a firm if not intimidating. She was said 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 and omissions. The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated to see? Please provide your comments at (415) 554-7710 or email board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org. 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) 554-7710 or email board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org. Please include the publication name and date. The City where curb ramps are needed most! Do you use a wheelchair, walker, or scooter? Do you have trouble getting to the nearest curb ramp? Please call the SFPD's Curb Ramp Hotline at (415) 401-4615. Do you need free expert advice about money? Come to the San Francisco Financial Planning Day, hosted by the CSFP Office of Financial Empowerment, the Financial Planning Association and Consumer Credit Counseling Service on Saturday, October 19, 2013, from 9am-4pm at U.C. Hastings School of Law. Certified Financial Planners and Credit Counselors are volunteering to offer free one-on-one counseling and financial workshops through the day. Visit www.sffinancialplanningday.com for more information. Get your voice out! The City of San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) looking for the right public school for your child? Come to the SFUSD enrollment fair and find out what options are available to you. Meet with representatives from other parents about what they love about their school. Saturday, November 2, 2013 from 9:30am-12 noon at the Golden Gate Civic Center, 601 Civic Center Dr. (SFUSD is committed to fair and equal transportation to the fair, visit www.sfusd.edu/orient or call (415) 241-6085. The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide the newest public outreach 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 and omissions. CNS#2536373
WILLIAM McLEORY
'The Piano Man'

If you walked the narrow streets in the Financial District, or stopped at Heart of the City Farmers Market, or shopped in the Financial District, or shopped at the Arling

ton, Rev. Glenda Hope softly reminded us: "Amen," came the reply. Lim played Scott Joplin's "Cakewalk" and after a short break, "The Entertainer." She may get to keep McLeod's old keyboard, a Yamaha PSR E235 plus his Crane amplifier. — Jonathan Neuman

BRENDA 'BUCKIE' BOWMAN
Spoke from the heart

Bowman, her friends knew her as 'Buckie' — died July 19 at the Arlington Hotel, her home for the past 15 years. Her death at 56 was unexpected.

Ms. Bowman, an only child, was born in Natchez, Miss. She lost her mother as an infant and had no contact with her father about 40 years ago, she traveled west with a boyfriend and when they reached San Francisco, she decided to stay. Her friends said she often spoke of her youth in the South with a warm nostalgia.

At her Aug. 1 memorial at the Arlington, Rev. Glenda Hope softly reminded friends: 'We're here to honor the life and mourn the death of one who lived among us.' She asked the mourners to share stories of Ms. Bowman.

Johnnie Norris Jr lived across the hall from her. 'Her death was question-

able. She was a loving

person, gave me food,' I still can't believe it hasn't hit me yet,' Norris said.

Her doctor, Monica Gandhi, an award-winning physician and teacher at S.F. General Hospital and a noted author of texts used to train clinicians treating HIV/AIDS patients, recalled an affection-

ation at 1909 McLeod became a pa-

tient at S.F. General's Ward 86, a clinic famous for its cutting-edge treatment of HIV. In 1986, he had contracted pneumonia the previous year and her HIV disease was discovered during her treatment. Ms. Bowman was an exempla-

ry patient, Gandhi said, taking her med

cations regularly and steadily improv-

ing throughout her treatment.

Melissa Eaton, the SRO's resident ser-

vice manager, remembered Bowman as

warm-hearted. 'She was fully involved in all our activities here. She was always a bright spot in my day.'

A man named Frank spoke: 'She was a warrior if I saw something not right, she was on it, and she was big enough to admit it, when she was wrong. I'm going to miss her.'

Her neighbor Ms. Vee, recalled: 'She always called me Mama. I told her if I was your Mama, I'd probably try to murder you. But that she was a good friend and if she was your friend, she was your friend for life.'

After the memorial, Dr. Gandhi re-

flected: Her death is shocking. She was thriving, doing well, taking her medica-

tions. We'll know more when the cor-

oner's report comes in. She was a very

loving and extremely grateful person in the clinic who always appreciated any-

thing that was done for her.

'Ve will all miss her terribly at Ward 86,' Dr. Gandhi said.

— Jonathan Neuman

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Housing programs for low income seniors & families.

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This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

On Powell Street any time in the last 15

years. chances are you caught the jum-

py notes of a ragtime tune from an elec-

tric piano keyboard sounding through the air from a small portable amplifier.

The piano player was William Mc-

leroy, tall, thin with a mop of red hair. Mr. Mcleroy died of cancer Aug. 30. He was 56 years old.

A dozen friends gathered Sept. 13 at the Arlington Hotel to celebrate Mr. McLeod’s last home, to celebrate his life and to remember a quiet man of soft-spoken politeness.

"Yeah, The Piano Man Thats what I called him. We met at Medical Respite (a convalescent hospital) about 10 months ago. We both moved into the Arlington the same day," Darren Barrett said. "Both of us were into keyboards. He said he was from New Orleans.

"I don’t know if he had any next of kin. He never mentioned family. He was a heavy smoker and he used to be a heavy drinker When you played in those clubs, they kept the liquor flow-

ing," Barrett added.

Before he became a street musican, Mr. McLeod played at many small joints and bars in San Francisco, most-

ly around Union Square. But he was proudest of the newspaper writer up-and-coming street player earning, often show- ing friends old Herb Caen columns where his name appeared as a colorful part of the citscape, or when he was galled by bystanders who told him they had spotted great piano players of the past.

When she first met Mr. Mcleroy she ad-

ressed him formally and Mr. Mcleroy cor-

rected her, "I’m from New Orleans. It’s pronounced Mac-Leroy," he said. In truth, he was not fussy about his name, friends recalled. "You could call him William, or Tim, or Red and he’d an- 

swer you as always," Barrett said.

His neighbor, Evelyn Lim, also met Mr. Mcleroy at the Department of Public Health’s Medical Respite. "I once told him I envied the way he played. I only learned to play by ear," Lim said. "Like this," she said. Mr. Mcleroy joked, gently tapping the side of his head against the keyboard Lim panned his action.

She remembered when Mr. Mc-

leroy played at the farmers’ market last December it was chilly and damp and tips were low. "You’ve got to play Christmas carols," Lim told him. Mr. Mc-

leroy hated Christmas tunes, but final-

ly agreed. After an up-tempo medley of "Silent Night" and "O, Come All Ye Faith-

ful," the bills piled up on the piano to drop in the plastic bucket Mr. Mcleroy kept nestled beside his amp. A small crowd gathered, recording his playing on cell-

phones. Mr. Mcleroy was happy, but he always insisted he got more money in his bucket when he played on Irving Street in the Outer Sunset.

Barrett closed the celebration: "He’s not suffering anymore. He’s in that place of peace and serenity." Amen," came the reply. Lim played Scott Joplin’s "Cakewalk." She may get to keep

Mr. Mcleroy’s old keyboard, a Yamaha PSR E235 plus his Crane amplifier. — Jonathan Neuman

min. Income of $560.00 Certificate of

Housing applications are being accepted for single room occupancy buildings (SROs)
SPECIAL EVENTS
Tenants Associations Coalition of San Francisco
15th anniversary event, Oct. 25, noon-3 p.m., 201 Turk Street Community Room. Award ceremony, door prizes, refreshments. Info: 339-8327.

ARTS EVENTS

Tango at Mint Plaza, Oct. 10, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Mini Plaza. Demonstration and lessons by Tango & More Argentine Dance, plus LINES Ballet students perform works from upcoming fall performances. Info: blog.linesballet.org/2013/09/03/dance-at-mint-plaza.

Lilac2013, Oct. 11-19, 160 events at venues citywide with 800 Bay Area arts, business and community leaders, appearing, including Peter Kern, TC Boyle, Mary Gaitskill, Detra Ehrenph, ZZ Packer, Sandra Tung Loh, Lewis Lapham, Ann Parker, Isabelle Allentuck, Andrew Stein Green, Michelle Tea, Diola Girard, Adam Mars-butch, Kevin Sessions, Jane Smiley, Anne Perry and Beth Lisick (Lisick will be at Edith Fisch Castle, 910 Geary. Oct. 13, 4 p.m.) Many events in the 14-year-old annual (library celebration are free, but some require tickets. Info: lilac2013.org.

Twisted Sister: Reimagining Urban Portraiture, Oct. 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m., North Light Court of City Hall, opening reception. Traveling exhibition, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the sister city relationship between San Francisco and Zürich, showcases 15 emerging and established artists’ conception of modern cities. Artist and curator panel discussed, Oct. 17, 6:30-8 p.m., SF Camerawork, 1011 Market St. Both events are free, RSVP: aimer.besen@zur.org

REGULAR SCHEDULE
HOUSING
Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of each month, noon, 201 Turk St., Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8327.

SAFETY
SOMA Police Community Relations Forum, 1st Monday of each month, 6-7 p.m. location varies. To receive monthly email info: 538-8100 x202.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH
CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of month, 5-7 p.m., 1380 Howard St., room 537, 255-3695. Consumer advisors from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public welcome.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of each month, 1010 Mission St., Bayanihan Community Center, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Focus on improving supportive home services, expanded eligibility for home care, improved discharge planning. Light lunch. Call Carl James, 701-5580.

Mental Health Board, 2nd Wednesday of each month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 256-3647.

Tenderloin Healthy Corner Store Coalition, 4th Thursday of each month, 3 p.m., Kedly Cullen Community Building, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor community room. Focus on increasing access to nutrition and healthy food for neighborhood residents. Info: Jessica Estrada, jessica@sfdpw.org, 771-2600.

COMMUNITY CAFE
Lines Ballet dancers, kids and adults from the neighborhood work on a routine at the 2012 Dance, Create, Connect at Mint Plaza.

PRIVATE EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION
Contact the San Francisco city supervisor (district 6). To receive monthly email info: 519 Ellis St. Contact Jane Kit, 554-9532.

Photo courtesy of Lines Ballet
Lines Ballet