Surcharge at restaurants in city growing

State, national experts say it’s an only-in-S.F. trend

If you dined out in San Francisco in the last seven years, you probably encountered the infamous surcharge notice at the bottom of your check. You know the one. The wording varies from restaurant to restaurant, but usually contains some version of “SF employer mandated surcharge” followed by the restaurant’s calculations, adding 2.5% to 4.5% or more to the bottom line cost of your dining experience.

Guess what? The practice of surcharging customers — originally promoted as a means-spirited way to pay for restaurant workers’ health care — isn’t going away. Local industry watchers and city administrators believe it’s here to stay — and it’s growing.

Gwyneth Borden, executive director of the Golden Gate Restaurant Association, expects more restaurants to impose a surcharge on food and beverages, a practice that began in 2008 as a way of scapegoating the city for requiring health care for workers. Borden noted that a business has a right to exact a surcharge for any purpose.

“More and more have found that it is a reasonable way to maintain control of certain costs — not only the San Francisco health care costs, but the increased local minimum wage requirements, which will go into effect this year, as well as rising rents in the city and, for some, the increased costs of maintaining a reliable flow of goods and produce from local sources,” she said.

The city Office of Labor Standards Enforcement in 2013 found that 188 employers reported collecting $14,966,306 in surcharges from their customers, with the cost of employee health care benefits ranging from $2.48 per hour, which on top of the minimum wage for health care coverage, to $2.1 billion for health care surcharges.

“The re-greening of the Tenderloin, “ our city’s annual reporting doesn’t know the one. The wording varies from restaurant to restaurant, but usually contains some version of “SF employer mandated surcharge” followed by the restaurant’s calculations, adding 2.5% to 4.5% or more to the bottom line cost of your dining experience.”

Christin Fernandez
executive director
National Restaurant Association

“From a public relations perspective, surcharging is probably not the best option.”

By Jonathan Newman

Central City EXR!

SAN FRANCISCO, March 2015

CIVIL RIGHTS ICON
Ex-SNCC leader pitches his book on Selma

CABBIE SWITCHES TO LYFT
Easy work, few requirements

Tenderloin Trees

Trees, among the many endangered species in the Tenderloin, will be in the spotlight, likely in May, when Friends of the Urban Forest will help property owners plant several dozen trees, the first mass planting in the neighborhood since 2011.

Band-Aid coming to patch up hood’s tattered canopy

By Marjorie Begg

San Francisco has 105,000 trees on its sidewalks and median strips and an estimated 500,000 more in parks and backyards. Trees aid air quality and are good for property values. They improve people’s physical and mental health, combat climate change, welcome wildlife, manage stormwater runoff, reduce wind, encourage commercial areas’ vitality. One study even found that people drive less aggressively on tree-lined streets.

Sounds good — 600,000 plus trees — but it’s not. The city’s canopy, the layer of leaves, branches and stems that covers our 49 square miles when viewed from above, is just 15.7%, according to a 2012 Planning Department survey. That percentage puts us far down the list of cities, near the bottom with Chicago and Jersey City, and is less than half the 33% average of metropolitan areas.

The news is worse for the Tenderloin and SoMa. They’re at the very bottom of the city’s canopy list with trees covering just a shade over 4% in both neighborhoods. By comparison, gloriously green Golden Gate Park tops the list, with 47% coverage.

A tree’s chance of making it in the Tenderloin is probably about the same as a resident’s. Not so good. And at least one study confirmed that like people, trees have a harder time thriving here than elsewhere in the city.

Owner neglect, vandalism, vehicle emissions and cars and trucks running over small trees take their toll.

“Three years after planting, TL trees have only a 60% to 70% chance of thriving,” says Phil Pierce, Friends of the Urban Forest policy and outreach director. “Citywide, it’s 80%.”

Tree tales are relevant today because another Tenderloin planting is scheduled for this spring, probably in May. Friends of the Urban Forest will coordinate the effort — as it has more than a dozen times before — and is expecting at least 50 trees to go in this time.

Tenderloin trees have been a Central City Extra focus almost since we began publishing.

“The re-greening of the Tenderloin,” our November 2004 lead story, detailed the planting of 35 trees donated by TL property owner and co-founder of Adopt-A-Block, Charles Mosser, and coordinated by Friends of the Urban Forest.

“Trees,” Mosser told The Extra back then, “give a flourish to the neighborhood. They make it seem more residential than commercial.”

Friends of the Urban Forest has been part of almost every TL planting since 1982, a year after it formed. Our re-planting story reported that, in 18 years, Friends of the Urban Forest had organized neighbors and planted — or replanted — 523 trees in the Tenderloin.

How many of those trees are still standing, how many were replacements for dead
Ex-SNCC leader Rep. Lewis packs 'em in pitching civil rights graphic novel

By Mark Heid

T he OSGARs all but snubbed ‘Sel-ma,’ but one of the stars of its sto- 
ry, Atlanta Rep. John Lewis, ‘The Boy From Troy’ as he says Martin Luther
King Jr used to call him, drew an over-
flow crowd to the Main Library's Koret 
Auditorium on the evening of Feb. 18. 
Lewis, who turned 75 three days 
later, was in town to promote the sec-
ond installment of ‘March’, an auto-
biographical graphic novel — comic 
book — that details his role in the civil 
rights movement, from lunch count-
er demonstrations in Nashville late in 
1960 to the March on Washington for 
Jobs and Freedom, in August 1965, and 
behind.

He was the president of SNCC, the 
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Com-
mittee, which was to the left of King’s 
pastor-led multitudes. SNCC, had less 
patience. He preceded King to the po-
dium at the March on Washington, af-
ter controversially tucking down some 
 aspects of his planned remarks. Since 
1987, he has represented Georgia’s 5th 
Congressional District, including most of Atlanta, in the House.

My Brother’s Keeper, the Western 
Addition youth choir, opened the pro-
gram with ‘A Change Is Gonna Come’ and ‘We Are the World.’ Then spoken 
word artist Chinaka Hodge electrified 
the auditorium with her composition 
dedicated to Jordan Davis, 17, when shot 
dead in 2012 as he sat in his car 
with friends listening to music at a gas 
station in Florida.

Following brief remarks by Board 
of Supervisors President London Breed, 
who said that without his work, she 
‘wouldn’t be here today,’ Lewis took 
the stage.

He said he grew up in Alabama, 
working on the 100 acres that his sharecropping parents bought for $500 
and his family still owns. He had a talent 
for raising chickens, he said, but aspired 
to ‘preach the gospel.’ ‘On occasion, he 
and his siblings would corral the chick-
ens, and he would preach to the flock 
like his biddies managed the perimeter. 
‘They never quite said ‘amen,’ he said, ‘but I’m convinced that some 
of those chickens that I preached to tend 
to listen to me much better than some of my colleagues listen to me to-

today in Congress.”

He recounted his first-ever meal at 
a Chinese restaurant, outside Washin-
ton, D.C., on the eve of the Freedom 
Rides, where his integrated group en-
joyed their meal while acknowledging it might prove their last supper.

Sure enough, the group was at-
tacked by Klan members in Rock Hill, S.C., and he was left bing in a pool of 
blood. Lewis recalled. Decades later, his 
attacker — never arrested — visited 
him at his D.C. office with his son in 
tow to apologize and ask for forgive-
ness, a tale of redemption of almost apolitical proportions.

He recalled Lowndes County, be-
 tween Selma and Montgomery in his 
home state of Alabama, whose popula-
tion was 80% black, yet not even one 
black person who lived there was able 
to register to vote prior to the 1965 Vot-
ing Rights Act.

‘The vote,’ he said, ‘is precious, 
almost sacred. It’s the most powerful, 
nonviolent tool we have, and we must use it. We’ve made progress, but we’re 
not there yet.

‘I’m still hopeful,’ he said. ‘In spite 
of being arrested and going to jail 40 
times during the ’60s and being arrest-
ed five times since I’ve been in Con-
gress, I’m not going to turn back. And you 
must not give in This city, this state, 
is known for leading the way’

His legislative aide, Andrew Aydin, 
who wrote the text of ‘March,’ followed 
Lewis to the stage. He was inspired to 
write the book, he said, after Lewis 
told him how a dime comic book, ‘Martin 
Luther King and the Montgomery Sto-
ye,’ which King had helped edit, was a

Hoodline, The Extra’s online partner

CENTRAL CITY EXTRA has begun 
working closely with Hoodline, a 
network of neighborhood bloggers. 
Hoodline cements its already signifi-
cant Tenderloin coverage with stories from The Extra.

And The Extra gains a presence 
online, sharing the digital stage with a 
new generation of journalists.

Old school meets new school.

It’s going to be fun learning from 
their is working on a tool that will dig-
ally priy off the top of City Hall so we 
all can peer inside and review the vast 
reservoirs of data: Hoodbot, call it, and 
it’s close to launch. Eldon says.

It’s an investigative tool that can 
release the profound potential of accessi-
ble public data such as zoning varianc-
es, city department budgets and much 
more, perhaps enabling one reporter to 
do the work of a four-member team in 
the newsroom of a metropolitan daily.

Hoodline hopes to hire local writ-
ers and partner with local publications 
so the city is filled with neighborhood 
bloggers who provide micro coverage 
— new businesses opening and old 
ones closing in their hood, local poli-
tics, major crimes and accidents, plus 
investigation pieces, tree plantings, can-
didates rides and so on.

All the stuff of a neighborhood’s life.

It’s a smart idea. Central City Extra 
is pleased to play a role.

— Geoff Link

Editor & Publisher

Office of Self Help

1663 Mission St. Suite 310 
San Francisco, CA 94103 
www.sfohs.org

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and other community activists, the Office of Self 
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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

San Francisco Mental Health Clients’ Rights Advocates 
inform, supports and helps individuals receiving mental health 
services or who need help or advice about your rights by listening to 
your concerns and needs and advocating for your legal rights. 
If you’re being treated for a medical disorder, voluntarily or involun-
arily, you have the same legal rights and responsibilities that the 
U.S. Constitution and California laws guarantee to all other persons:

Contact us: 
552-8110 (800) 729-7727 Fax: 552-8109
San Francisco Mental Health Clients’ Rights Advocates 
1663 Mission Street, Suite 310
In 2008, when the city's Health Care Security Ordinance required non-profits with 50 or more employees and for-profit businesses with 20 or more employees to extend health care benefits to their workers, only the restaurant industry balked.

Some of the longest standoffs came from some of the city’s high-profile, high-priced restaurants and their nonprofit counterparts. Even after the San Francisco Urban Wine Center, which fought the ordinance when the Board of Supervisors was writing it, then attacked the law with lawsuits and appeals, culminating in an unsuccessful attempt to persuade the state Supreme Court to overturn it.

Some diners found the bait and gripped about government bureaucracy. Others took the restaurants to task, questioning the wisdom of charging a surcharge when a discreet tinkering with menu prices could have殆害 the health care benefits they must provide employees have been pushed back several times. Republican keep trying to kill Obamacare and the Supreme Court this month will hear arguments challenging the federal health insurance funding rules. But the future life or sudden death of Obamacare won’t affect the city’s health ordinance. For starters, city requirements have lower thresholds than the federal law. Employers’ coverage requirements kick in at 20 employees, not 50, and, unlike the federal program, requires coverage for both full-time and part-time employees who work eight hours a week and you’re covered.

1 RESTAURANT PER 238 PEOPLE

By December 2013, Herrera announced the completion of his compliance campaign, claiming settlements by 38 dining establishments had resulted in health care distributions of more than $2 million to nearly 4,000 eligible employees. Herrera didn’t have to sue, and he thanked the association for its input.

While local turmoil was bubbling, the nation was grappling with the implications of universal health care in insurance and Obamacare, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, that became law in 2010. The federal mandates on certain employers and what health benefits they must provide employees have been pushed back several times. Republicans keep trying to kill Obamacare and the Supreme Court this month will hear arguments challenging the federal health insurance funding rules. But the future life or sudden death of Obamacare won’t affect the city’s health ordinance. For starters, city requirements have lower thresholds than the federal law. Employers’ coverage requirements kick in at 20 employees, not 50, and, unlike the federal program, requires coverage for both full-time and part-time employees who work eight hours a week and you’re covered.

When the litigation dust settled in 2009, the restaurants were assured that the city’s 1.5% payroll tax and requirement to provide nine days of paid sick leave annually for each employee.

When the city’s Office of Labor Standards Enforcement released figures that having honored the law with lawsuits and appeals, culminating in a unsuccessful attempt to persuade the state Supreme Court to overturn it.

HERRERA OFFERS AMNESTY

But Dellar was not the only restaurant to get an informal review of restaurant surcharges reveals a range of menu nonsense associated with menu price is slightly higher, or will the surcharge covers health care in part and other costs as well. Love said. Our office only asks that the business report the amount collected for health care. We track compliance. The amount collected for health care and the amount expended on health care benefits must match.

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When the Wall Street Journal reported on San Francisco’s restaurant surcharge, citing a $100,000 windfall by One Market, an annual top 10 American-style restaurant at the foot of Market Street, the response came from the principal of the ownership group. Michael Dellar He said his business collected a surcharge not only to recover health care costs, but also to offset the city’s higher minimum wage — $9.92 an hour at that time — as well as the city’s 1.5% payroll tax and requirement to provide nine days of paid sick leave annually for each employee.

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SCAPEGOATED THE CITY

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When the city’s Office of Labor Standards Enforcement released figures that having honored the law with lawsuits and appeals, culminating in a unsuccessful attempt to persuade the state Supreme Court to overturn it.
Six years ago, John Nulty, former TL resident and activist who's been a voice for trees since the mid-1990s, surveyed the Tenderloin's crown and found 20 dead or dying trees. This January, in preparation for the spring planting, he went out again and tallied 42 trees — 18 were empty, 23 had no tree, and the other 11 had been ce-mented over, their poles or grates were protecting bare ground, or they'd been beheaded, lopped off 5 or 6 feet above their base.

101 Hyde illustrates the problem. Nulty says the corner once had eight trees. Four on each side of the Post Office. Back in 2004, Elaine Zamora, who would be named manager of the new Tenderloin CBD the next year, person-ally paid for five of them. Only three of the eight are still standing.

“One was taken out so cars could see the street signs," Nulty says. "Then the police wanted another one taken out. Then two on the Hyde Street side were wrecked when they put up the scaffolding for the mural. "One's fate is unknown.

Nulty heads up the Tenderloin Tree Campaign, formed 10 years ago with Zamora and TL resident David Baker when the ex-tenants on a huge Norfolk Is-land plot of 600 Ellis. The tree's other claim to fame is it was stand in front of one of the Tenderloin's last single-family homes (see The Extra’s Basic No. 73). The new Tenderloin efforts to save the Norfolk Island pine failed, but tree-lovers got the city to ex-cept for the Tenderloin. It's a stain-ant trees citywide. Today, about 30 dozen trees around the city have land-mark status, none in the central city.

Nulty in 2011 received kudos for 35 years of arbor and other activism from Friends of the Urban Forest and from Rep. Jackie Speier. Her certificate of recognition says she's a "John Appleseed of organizing; wherever you go, organizations sprout." John's brother er, Michael, recorded a similar commen-dation at the event.

URBAN FOREST PLAN PASSES

A City Planning consultant in 2012 surveyed urban planting in four neighborhoods — Bayview, North Beach, Outer Sunset and Western Addition — and found trees found there to extrapolate data about arbor health and benefits citywide. But, the findings in-ventoried trees were in poor condition or worse, a little over half were in fair condition and a third were in good or very good condition.

The survey also found that for every $1 spent on public trees, city resi-dents get $4.37 in social, physical and aesthetic benefits. A number that prompted the Board of Supervisors to finally pass a 12-year plan for the Urban Forest Plan.

Friends of the Urban Forest Plant.

Their unanimous approval of the plan Feb. 10 says they're all in favor of planting 50,000 more street trees city-wide in the next 20 years and setting a goal for canopy coverage that will give us some street cred, treewise.

The plan’s major goal is to change who’s responsible for tree care. Right now, the onus is on property owners who opt to put in a street tree, while DPW tends those it plants. The plan makes the city responsible for all existing and projected 150,000 street trees, not just those it plants.

Nice idea, but the supers didn’t allo-cate any of the maybe $20 million need-ed to back it up. Voters may be asked next year to approve an annual parcel tax of $60 to $80, Supervisor Scott Weiner, who introduced the legislation, told the Chronicle.

Trees aren’t cheap to buy, but the big-ticket item is maintaining them, and property owners don’t always do due diligence.

If an owner hires someone who doesn’t use good arbor practices, trees not only are unlikely to thrive but it can create really hazardous conditions," says Ray Montez, certified forester and owner of Urban Forest Associates who works with businesses, residents and government entities all over the Bay Area. "The city’s plan to take over main-tenance will be a game-changer if the money can be raised.

When Friends of the Urban Forest sponsors a bill with the city with annual inspections and provides lots of tips for keeping trees healthy. The Tender-loin CBD went that one better. When it was established in 2005, it included an annual budget line item for tree main-tenance.

“The city’s plan to add 50,000 trees sounds like big jump, but it isn’t. Over 20 years, that’s only 2,500 a year, though it’s 46% more than San Francis-co plants each year now. Friends of the Urban Forest, working neighborhood by neighborhood, puts in 1,200 and DPW the rest. The city’s Urban Forest Plan calls for 50,000 trees. It also includes a ‘portion’ of replacement for removed or dying trees, but it ‘does not represent a significant in-crease in forest canopy.”

Pierce says the plan ‘may change how we do business but we’ll still be planting trees in the central city every couple of years. Tree care is the key to the plan’s success — DPW could be out maintaining trees every three years, not every 12 years like it does now.

THE SPRING PLANTING

Concurrent with the upcoming neighborhood planting is a long-planned greening around Hastings, part of an almost $2.5 million project that will stretch along both sides of McAl-lister between Leavenworth and Larkin streets. The county Transportation Au-thority put in $1.8 million and Hastings $640,000 for the streetscape changes. City-removal are about all we can afford. Still, I’m sure it will be put back, maybe in a year or so.

The plan’s call to add 50,000 trees sounds like big jump, but it isn’t. Over 20 years, that’s only 2,500 a year, though it’s 46% more than San Francisco plants each year now. Friends of the Urban Forest, working neighborhood by neighborhood, puts in 1,200 and DPW the rest. The city’s Urban Forest Plan calls for 50,000 trees. It also includes a ‘portion’ of replacements for removed or dying trees, but it ‘does not represent a significant increase in forest canopy.”

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For more tree stories, see those by Eric Eldon, editor in chief at Hoodline, The Extra’s new neighborhood journal website: http://11TKd64G and http://11TKd64G.
How green are San Francisco’s neighborhoods?

Percentage of tree canopy coverage

The Tenderloin, and even the rest of District 6, has the least greenery of all S.F. neighborhoods at 4.1%. The most, not surprisingly, is the Presidio with nearly a third of it covered. The life expectancy of a tree in the Tenderloin is also the lowest in the city with more than a third dead or dying within three years of planting.

Why cabbie went to Lyft

Details ease of hire by e-ride firm vs. rigorous training, background checks

What it takes to be a cabbie is a lot more than what a Lyft driver goes through to get his pink mustache.

Cornelio Greer has been both cabbie and ride-share operator. He told The Extra what was required before he could get behind the wheel in both capacities and the regulations that pertain to each. Here’s what we found the public surrenders for the convenience of a Lyft or Uber ride:

Training to become a taxi driver: Greer told The Extra, “was real intense, and there’s a lot of steps to it.”

To begin with, he had to write a 10-sentence essay for the S.F. Municipal Transportation Agency, telling what he typically does on weekends. “It didn’t seem relevant and still doesn’t now,” he told The Extra.

Robert Lyles, SFMTA deputy spokesman, said the essay is the second part of a two-step process to verify drivers’ English-language skills.

Greer then needed to provide SFMTA with a 10-year DMV printout and get a live-scan background check through a federal database. After that, he was required to sign up for a weekend-long training course at one of four cab companies.

The first day, he said, was on how to use maps, plus the fare meter, the dispatch radio and taxi console.

He was also trained in paratransit safety driving and had to pass a final test on all the material covered. Once he’d cleared those hurdles, he said, he was approved to take a Scantron test of 60 to 80 questions following a full-day test on all the material covered. Once he’d cleared those hurdles, he said, he was approved to take a Scantron test of 60 to 80 questions following a full-day test on all the material covered.

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“I’ve had physical jobs,” Greer, 26, said, “but after driving in a cab for eight to 10 hours,” he was so exhausted “I didn’t want to eat or cook.”

After paying the ‘gate fee’ of $80 per day to rent the medallion and fuel the cab, he said, “You would have $10 days and you would have $100 days.”

He worked about a week at DeSoto.

“A friend suggested he consider working for one of the companies that are driving taxis out of business,” he said. “I spent two days researching the hell out of it,” Greer said, and decided to try working for Lyft. “Uber seemed a little more uppity and fuzzy.”

“I downloaded the app and signed up online. It took about three days for them to respond, then finally they send a Lyft driver to examine your car, take pictures so people know it’s your car, and go for a ride-along for maybe 10 minutes. It was really nonchalant,” Greer said. His 2011 Ford Fusion easily passed the requirement that a driver’s car be less than 8 years old.

The Lyft driver told him, “You seem safe, know the streets and stay focused,” even while talking with his passenger. He also encourages his drivers to do, along with fist-bumping.

“in another two days,” the native San Franciscan said, “a box came” with supplies for the job, including the familiar pink mustache for the grille, which, Greer said, the company doesn’t require its drivers to use.

“I don’t really know what kind of background check they did,” he said. “They did ask for insurance,” but not for “DMV (driving record printout) or a live scan,” he said.

“I’m not 100% sure,” he said about his insurance coverage, “but I think they do cover us, but only when we’re driving with a passenger.”

So far Greer said, he’s enthusiastic about working for Lyft. Instead of the exhausting eight-hour shifts at the wheel of a cab, he can switch the app on and off at his convenience. When his girlfriend tells him that she needs more time at the office before being picked up, for instance, he picks up a fare or two to pass the time. “It’s cool,” he said.

Greer said he typically works from 7 a.m. to noon and from 4 to 8 or 9 p.m.

“I haven’t picked up anyone from the airport, but I’ve dropped people off there.”

— Mark Heiden
SEE OUR PROGRESS
in San Francisco

Jesse Cottonham
Human Performance Senior Specialist

“I grew up in San Francisco and am proud to still call this city my home. I like being able to put a personal face on the company to help my neighbors understand all the work we’re doing to provide safe, affordable and reliable service.”

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SEE THE FACTS IN SAN FRANCISCO

- Replaced approximately 28 miles of gas distribution pipeline
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- Connected more than 4,500 rooftop solar installations

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pge.com/SeeOurProgress
Kenneth Lima

from a baby. He should have had heart surgery when he was a baby. He was in awful pain the past six months."

Ken was an air hockey champ," Dorey said. He also graduated from ITT Tech in Santa Clara and worked at a company called Atmel. "They poisoned him and he got a cash settlement in the late '90s."

She said he'd grown up in Mountain View and had an affinity for poker. "He had a hard time beating me, though," she laughed. "We used to play online poker tournaments," and for Mr. Lima's 40th birthday, she said, they went to Thunder Valley, near Las Vegas.

Michelle Tucker, another Ritz resident, said Mr. Lima, who she'd known for two years, "was one of my best friends here. We used to talk about our dreams," she said. "He wanted to be a cartoonist. He did good impressions. I miss him so. He was a good guy."

"He was real nice," said a man named Lee. Mr. Lima was active in the community as a member of the Medical Cannabis Patient Working Group and applied to the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee for an opening on the Medical Cannabis Task Force in late 2011.

"If he couldn't help you out of a problem, he'd at least make you laugh," Dorey said. "One thing we all have in common, we love our cats."

Tucker concurred. "He would babysit my cat Frankie. We had our differences, but he was still a friend I didn't realize he was in such pain. We used to watch Jeopardy. He was real smart."

"No matter how bad a day I had, he'd always cheer me up. He called everybody mate," Tucker said.

Less was said about Mr. Arpan.

One person who did speak up, Michael, another Ritz resident, said Mr. Arpan, "the guy with the bicycle, the soldier," appeared to be Native American and "stuck me as a guy who would not be in fear of anything. I'm sure as he went through the passage he was."

"He looked good as yellow," Michelle, another attendee, said. "It's hard to lose two people in two weeks," Michael said.

Mahoney brought the joint memorial to a close with "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and was applauded for her effort.

— Mark Hedin

Rep. Lewis at Main Library

Continued from page 2

valuable tool in '60s organizing. It was eventually republished in Spanish in South America, banned in apartheid South Africa, and, in an Arabic translation, served as a blueprint for resistance at Cairo's Tahrir Square during the Arab Spring movement in 2011 and beyond.

He echoed Breed's earlier comments about the potential of the graphic novel format to reach a wider, younger audience.

When the event concluded, the line of people buying books and waiting to meet Lewis and have their copies signed extended all the way to the back of the auditorium and out the door.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING
Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francis- co. 1st Wednesday of each month, noon, 201 Turk St., Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8327. Resident unity, leadership training.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH
CBHS Client Council, 3rd Tuesday of month, 3-5 p.m., 1380 Howard, Room 515. Consumer advisors from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public welcome. Info: 255-3895. Call ahead as meeting location may change.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of each month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 255-2474. Tenderloin Healthy Corner Store Coalition, 4th Thursday of each month at 3 p.m., 501 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor auditorium or 5th floor gym. Public meetings to discuss legislation that encourages corner stores to sell fresh food and reduce tobacco and alcohol sales. Info: Jessica Estrada, jessica.healthyretail@gmail.com, 415-2483.

SAFETY
Soma Police Community Relations Forum, 1st Monday of each month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly email info: 538-8100 x202.

Senior & Disability Action (formerly Planning for Elders/Senior Action Network), general meeting, 2nd Thursday of month, 9 a.m.-noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. SDA Housing Collaborative meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 1 p.m. HealthCare Action Team meeting, 2nd Wednesday, 1010 Mission St. (Bayanihan Community Center). For info about SDA’s Survival School, University and computer classes schedules: 546-1533, www.sdadistrict6.org.

DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR

FREE MUNI for Seniors and People with Disabilities
To qualify for free Muni rides, you must be low-to-moderate income and either be a senior or person with a disability. Program begins March 1, 2015.

For more information and to apply for the program visit www.sfcta.com/freemuni or call 311 (415.701.2311).

Mental Health Board, 3rd Wednesday of each month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 255-2474. Tenderloin Healthy Corner Store Coalition, 4th Thursday of each month at 3 p.m., 501 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor auditorium or 5th floor gym. Public meetings to discuss legislation that encourages corner stores to sell fresh food and reduce tobacco and alcohol sales. Info: Jessica Estrada, jessica.healthyretail@gmail.com, 581-2483.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT: www.sfmta.com/freemuni or call 311 (415.701.2311).

To apply for free Muni rides for seniors or people with disabilities:
- Visit www.sfmta.com/freemuni
- Call 311 (415.701.2311)
- Apply in person at any Muni Ticket Office

For more information, please visit www.sfmta.com/freemuni or call 311 (415.701.2311).