I can’t do it. It’s like a prison to shelters.

Elaine said, speaking from her wheelchair. “I have epilepsy, bad heart, multiple health problems, a lot of health problems,” she said, having her air mattress in a department of Public Works sweep of her encampment. having her common-law husband, Emmett, did 14 years in a Texas prison despite the judge saying it “looks like you were set up” before sentencing him to 20. He was in Texas, he says, because his Bay Area employer, Pinkerton, transferred him there. He’s from North Hollywood originally, born there in 1952. He arrived in San Francisco in the late ’80s and found work as a Pinkerton security guard at Hewlett-Packard. He came hurrying back here when he left Texas about 12 years ago.

The Amoses fit squarely in the middle of a demographic profile of San Francisco’s homeless: 66,696 homeless people. They were counted on Jan. 29 of last year, when the city conducted its one-day survey of the homeless, required every two years to maintain federal homeless support funds. It’s widely considered to be an underestimate, but in any case, 71% of those surveyed said they became homeless in San Francisco. 40% reported being 51 or older, and 25% had been on the streets at least a year.

But no statistical category captures the hometown homeless, the uncounted native sons and daughters who lived with their family until they didn’t.

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Karla had the birth she wanted and created the family she imagined.

Beyond new baby Care.

ZUCKERBERG
SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL
Hospital and Trauma Center

ZSFGcare.org
Friends of Ira Joe Robertson were distraught by his passing and invited Central City Extra to his memorial at the Hamlin Hotel on June 9 for purposes of sharing his memory in print. Pastor Paul Trudeau of City Church, San Francisco, presided, with Brandi Petri providing musical interludes on his guitar. Most of the dozen people gathered in the hotel community room remembered Mr. Robertson as a “fun, fun person.”

After Trudeau’s introductory remarks, a woman who identified herself only as Macy was first to share her recollections of Mr. Robertson.

“I will dearly miss him,” she said. “He made me laugh, sometimes so bad I wanted to hit him. I loved him. He loved me, too. He loved everybody.” After saying her piece, she swept out of the room and the building.

“This was his building,” fellow tenant Andrew Mark said. “Joe touched a lot of people. I’ll never forget the domino games we had Yahztee, too.”

Mr. Robertson had retired from work in the building trades, part time in masonry, and was living on Social Security. Mark told The Extra.

“He had hands of steel,” Mark recalled.

“We had a special bond and special relationship,” said a strapping young man in a TNDC shirt who identified himself as James. He said that Mr. Robertson once asked their mutual friend, Macy, “Who is that, walks like he owns himself as James. He said that Mr. Robertson, “whatever anger was in him, he’d let them get it out,” and then ignored the fighting, “Mark said, but with Mr. Robertson, “whatever anger was in him, he’d let them get it out,” and then stop in.

Mark said that, besides their advocacy work on behalf of fellow tenants, they would organize outings, barbecues and such.

“In Joe’s family, they all came to him. When they needed something and would call, Joe got there, never let them down, never one time judged them.” Mark said Mr. Robertson, he said, didn’t always like seeing the things they were doing, the bad habits, but would never say anything.

“He also mentioned how, with Mr. Robertson’s help, they led a tenants’ council, “one of the strongest in the Tenderloin.”

Mark, president of the Hamlin Hotel ‘Tenant Council told The Extra that Mr. Robertson was “absolutely” his right-hand man in that work. “He was a big supporter told me I had the leadership skills,” Mark said. “He was there to help me.”

Mr. Robertson, Mark said, would tell people to “keep on speaking, don’t give up” sometimes he would have to take the initiative if they couldn’t get management to deal with whatever issues they raised. Sometimes they were reluctant to raise an issue at all.

On Affordable Housing Day in October, 2012, the work they did was honored by the Board of Supervisors.

“In recognition of your outstanding service at the Hamlin Hotel, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby extends our highest accommodation and appreciation for your achievement and advocacy for affordable housing,” reads the Certificate of Honor that Mark picked up from Jane Kim’s office.

Along with the certificate, Mark said, they got a pair of 50-yardline tickets to the Super Bowlbound 49ers, but Mr. Robertson wasn’t around that day and he had to take another friend. Generally, they would watch games together.

“He was here to help me resolve problems,“I was a neighbor, a friend, a brother,” Mark said that, besides their advocacy work on behalf of fellow tenants, they would organize outings, barbecues and such.

“He was a family man,” Mark said, “very family-oriented. I think he had three kids.” He told The Extra that Mr. Robertson had raised his granddaughters there at the Hamlin during her high school years until they went off to college in Los Angeles two or three years ago.

Ernest Collins, wearing shades and a black knit cap, took the floor next. He said he’d known Mr. Robertson 35 years, as his brother-in-law. Mr. Robertson, he said, was a “hard worker, involved with many businesses, took that from his father, a business worker who knew about a lot of crafts.” The family had operated a restaurant, among other things, and “many days, they’d feed my family, no money.” Mr. Robertson, he said, was “a good man. I’ll surely miss him.”

Then he read from the Quran, in Arabic, before signing out with “I love you, I’m gonna miss you.”

“We had to have a goodbye. That’s the reason I put this together,” said Mark, who called The Extra. Mr. Robertson was “a neighbor, a friend, a brother. There wasn’t nobody he wouldn’t step in to help if they needed it. He had his problems, but always stood firm to help with yours.”

— Mark Hedin

### WILL DAVIS

Pier resident

Will Davis, resident of the Pierre Hotel, died in April at age 47 after a long illness, according to a friend who wished to acknowledge his passing but remain anonymous.

Mr. Davis was found in his room in grave condition and taken by ambulance to a hospital where he remained before being taken off life support at his parents’ request.

A memorial was held for Mr. Davis at the Pierre, a Tenderloin Housing Clinic master lease hotel at 540 Jones, where he had lived for two years. The Extra was not invited to the memorial.

Mr. Davis, said his friend, once was a mortgage broker in Chicago and his parents live in Santa Rosa.

— Marjorie Beggs

Notice of the death of this Tenderloin resident came in a call from a friend of Mr. Davis who read our announcement in the May Extra.

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**Sunday Streets back in TL**

**Ira Joe Robertson.** a “fun, fun person” helped lead the Hamlin tenants council.

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**NOTICE OF DEATH**

Notice of the death of this Tenderloin resident came in a call from a friend of Mr. Davis who read our announcement in the May Extra.
City Hall bottleneck on legacy businesses

63 applications languish at Small Business Office

The mayor’s Office of Small Business, charged with processing applications for a legacy status, has not conducted any public hearings for applicants. On June 2 at the super Government Audit and Oversight Committee, Regina Hubbel, director of the Office of Small Business, predicted the Historic Preservation Commission would review the first set of applicants in late July, prompting committee Chair Aaron Peskin to blast the continued delays.

“There was no implementation of this legislation until mid-May; I’m not convinced the legacy program will succeed. The rules seem to be made up as we go along. It’s unfair,” Peskin said.

Supervisor David Campos, co-author of the legacy legislation, shared Peskin’s concern. “We have so much catching up to do. The city has dropped the ball.”

That 30-year requirement for legacy applicants can be shortened to 20 years — if the business is in danger of displacement; the case for Fog Hill Market, a classic mom-and-pop corner grocery on upper Kearny Street; Hum Chanh, Fog Hill caves in limits; “We’ve been here for more than 20 years. Last year they raised my rent from $5,000 to $5,000. I can’t pay. Okay, they say, negotiate with the new owner. The building’s been for sale since last November, but we hear nothing. Other boys in the seller heart doesn’t divided, Chanh said. He’s filed his legacy application, with a nomination from Supervisor Peskin. He has heard his heard from anyone at the Office of Small Business.

George Jeeves’ Segan Image Cor- scans, an artist publishes in the basement of his future home in 1988. He’s been in NoBa selling fine art posters on Tenderloin Street for 27 years. He has 14 em ployees and filed his legacy application and Kam’s nomination earlier this year. “When I heard about Measure J, I was excited to see the city make so many others aware,” he said.

The Government Audit and Over sight Committee will again review the legacy problems on July 7. Repeated requests by The Extra to the Office of Small Business for an update on application numbers and status have gone unan swered.

The Tenderloin is an old residential neighborhood dense with apartment buildings and hotels and offices that went up after the 1906 earthquake and fire. Commerce is on every block, and nonprofit businesses proliferate.

Many small businesses, profit and nonprofit, could qualify for legacy status. The Extra has se lected 10 that qualify for longevity but more important, for their contribution to the community.

• Harry Harrington’s Pub, a neighborhood watering hole, anchoring the corner of Turk and Larkin since 1922.
• Curry Senior Center is at 325 Turk Street since 1972.
• San Francisco Senior Center, a fixture at 350 O’Farrell Street for more than 40 years.
• The Wharf Bar, a corner bar, first opened in 1922, in the 1940s, it was raised to 322 in 1940s. However, in the new hands of a new owner, former patron Peter Friel, the beer taps have more than doubled, the grime has been cleansed, but the friendly surroundings — so inviting to the neighborhood and the thirsty city, state and federal workers in the Civic Center — remain constant. Former patron Peter Friel, the beer taps have more than doubled, the grime has been cleansed, but the friendly surroundings — so inviting to the neighborhood and the thirsty city, state and federal workers in the Civic Center — remain constant. Former patron Peter Friel, the beer taps have more than doubled, the grime has been cleansed, but the friendly surroundings — so inviting to the neighborhood and the thirsty city, state and federal workers in the Civic Center — remain constant.
• San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 3100 Market Street, an educator and advocate helping the HIV epidemic since 1982.
• EXIT Theatre, 150 Eddy Street, a forum for theatrical arts since 1983.
• Dales, the go-to corner gravel at 1466 Turk Street for more than 50 years.

Next year, both the Luggage Store Gallery at 1001 Market St. and Aunt Charlie’s Lounge at 155 Turk St. will pass 50 years in business.
Whether you’re a contractor working on a major job site or a homeowner planting a tree in the yard, no job is too small—always call 811 at least two working days before you dig. One simple call gets underground utility lines marked for free and helps protect you from injury and expense.

Promoting the 811 program is just another step we’re taking to ensure the safety of our gas system in your community. Visit pge.com/811.

“No matter how small the job, always call 811. A call to 811 before any digging project gets your underground utilities marked for free so you can dig safely.”

FRANCISCO GARCIA
Gas Compliance Representative
Hometown homeless woman and husband await housing

I learned by my mistakes, " she says, but who was from Havana and got arrested. the Fillmore, raised by a grandma who he speaks of growing up fighting in Division Street. The other, Miguel Lopez, Chavez.

Elaine says she began evangelical and single bed. Unit amenities: sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2-burner stove, kitchen, 24 hour staff & surveil-

Emmett and Elaine Amos are living temporarily at the Navigation Center on Mission Street. Elaine was born at Kaiser Hospital S.E., and Emmett years ago came to the city as a refugee from Southern California. They became homeless in 2010 and recently were among the Division Street tent city community.

"I don’t mind doing it, ‘cause I live here. Keeps me busy. “She’s rad. I’m a huge fan of her,” Kelley Cutler, Human Rights Organizer on Homelessness, told The Extra. Elaine credits Cutler for helping them land in the Navigation Center, but Cutler won’t accept that credit. The Navigation Center is “the gold-en ticket” for people on the streets, Cut- ler said.

"There’s been a few situations in particular for us, we just really need to get in — services, health — or who continue to keep trying and trying and keep hitting roadblocks. When there’s someone that we see time and time again, we’ll do an extra push to get peo-
ple connected.” But “it’s usually pretty extreme situations. Everyone needs some extra advocacy. I’ll definitely do what I can to get them in touch with those who can connect them up.”

“when we heard about the Naviga-
tion Center, we were trying to get up here, because I couldn’t go back to no shelter,” Elaine says. “I was getting sicker and sicker.” This was on Emmett. I couldn’t stand seeing him go through this all the time.

“We finally got in here, it was much better.” Elaine says. “Twenty times better than Pier 80. Staff here is a lot more cooperative. They don’t label you, they really do help you, listen to you,” she said as Emmett nodded in agree-
ment.

“They care, they show they care,” Emmett said. “That’s good.”

Elaine said their goal is to find per-
manent housing “as quick as we can. I want to continue to try to help other people,” she said.

In late June she said she expects to move on from the Navigation Cen-
ter and into permanent housing soon. “They said sometime next month we’ll probably be out of here, hopefully.”

Without discussing the Amoses in particular, Julie Leadbetter, director of the Navigation Center for the city’s of-
ce of H.O.P.E. (Housing Opportunity, Partnerships and Engagement), said that everyone who is brought into the Nav-
igation Center is guaranteed housing eventually.

“keep them until they’re housed,” she said. “It will be permanent and affordable. It depends on what they need to screen them for what they qualify for.”

The Amoses are eager to move on.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tenderloin Sunday Streets, July 10, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. See page 3.

Epigenetics: A Closer Look at Genes and Environment, July 10, 5-7 p.m., Main Library, lower level. Illustrated talk by Dr. Barbara A. G. Lewis about how gene expression can be altered by environmental factors. Science background not needed. Info: spl.org.

ARTS EVENTS

The Black Woman Is God, SOMArts Cultural Center, 364 Brannan St., July 7-Aug. 17 exhibition of more than 60 black women artists working in various media. Info: somarts.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. Info: spl.org.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 3rd Friday of month, 6-9 p.m., Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. SDA Housing Collaborative Team meeting, 2nd Wednesday, 1010 Mission St., 3rd Wednesday, 1 p.m. HealthCare Action Team meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 1 p.m. Info: pwdf.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

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

CENTRAL MARKET

Central Market Community Stabilization Fund Advisory Committee, 1st Thursday of month, 5:30-7:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBAG advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 255-3474.

FUTURE EVENTS

See San Francisco with the Push of a Button.

sfmta.com/munimobile

THE BLACK WOMAN IS GOD

An exhibition of more than 60 black women artists working in various media. Curated by Mai Black Luke, the exhibition will be on view at SOMArts Cultural Center, 364 Brannan St., July 7-Aug. 17. The exhibition will feature works by artists in a variety of media, including sculpture, painting, photography, and digital art.

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