

MURDER: Tenderloin's reputation undeserved

Neighborhood ranks
No. 7 in homicides
last year, over time

BY TOM CARTER

ON the first day of this year at 3:20 p.m., 20-year-old Larry Lacy was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He was sitting with another man on the sidewalk on the corner of Turk and Taylor streets in front of the 21 Club when somebody shot him to death.

Lacy lived in East Palo Alto and generally hung out in the Bayview district across town, police said. He was under a stay-away order from the court for selling dope, banning him from that part of the Tenderloin.

The shooter fled and, as with 86% of the homicides in San Francisco in 2010, no one was arrested.

"It should be noted that the victim ... was from the Hunters Point-SF area," Capt. Joe Garrity wrote in his Jan. 21 community newsletter,

"and the suspect was from Oakland. We continue to recognize that both the victims and suspects do not live or work in the Tenderloin area."

In his office in March, Garrity said, "That seems to be what's taking place and the trend in street crime." The TL has

its crimes of passion on the street and its domestic violence inside homes, "which is unpredictable," Garrity said.

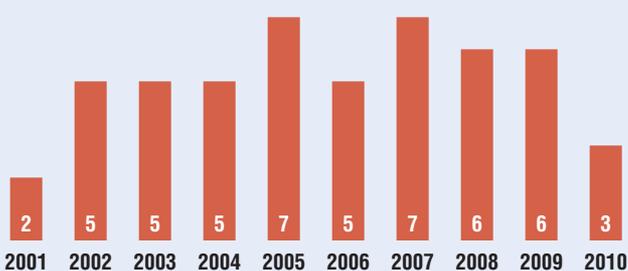
The previous homicide in the Tenderloin police district was Friday, Aug. 19, 2010, just after midnight at O'Farrell and Jones streets, four blocks away.

Based on a 10-year police report, the Tenderloin averages 5.1 homicides a year, not the city's leading district. Media reports, however, often attribute homicides to the Tenderloin because neighborhood perimeters described by the Planning Department include a few more blocks than in the police district. Two other homicides this year ascribed to the TL in media reports, one on Geary, one on Larkin, were

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TL homicides 2001-10

The number of killings in the Tenderloin in each of the past 10 years



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CAMPAIGN FINANCE UPDATE

Final figures
for District 6:
\$1.1 million

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HAS YOUR LIFE BEEN THREATENED?

Residents voice
their 2¢
on the topic

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TENDERLOIN OBITUARIES

Leah Garchik
of Chron covers
a memorial

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CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO

'PASSION'



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Panelists Allen Ellison, Alaaeddine Sabibi, Andy Choi and Becky Schweighardt give neighborhood youngsters hot career tips at the Central YMCA's "Law-Business-Science-Computer" session.

CAREER QUEST

YMCA series
tells TL youth
much about work

BY TOM CARTER

FOLLOW your passion, be articulate — and don't be in a hurry to get there. That was the main message panelists with successful careers gave to YMCA youngsters who met on three evenings in March to pelt the pros with questions and get advice about working for a living.

Having professionals open up to kids to get them thinking about their futures was the brainchild of Adam Maldonado, a new Central Shih-Yu-Lang YMCA board member and an Alameda County deputy D.A. "It's to give them perspective," Maldonado said of bringing in professionals.

The first three Wednesday evenings in March, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., four to five panelists drew on anecdotes from their personal path to their career to tell 15 to 30 teenagers and younger kids how to get there themselves.

A congenial chemistry between the kids and pros was evident at each session, spurring a nonstop barrage of questions — some from the hip — that elicited the best from the panelists.

The panelists ranged from lawyers to computer game inventors. They didn't hold back, sometimes revealing problems and confusion they had as youngsters. Some had frittered away their high school years, until

they buckled down. Some had changed careers a couple of times before they got it right. And all said they loved their jobs.

The two no-show panelists were a video game developer and movie star Danny Glover, scheduled for the March 9 "Creative Arts/Public Relations/Television" panel but he was bumped to possible later dates because of a conflict. Glover's whereabouts were a mystery. Leah Garchik's March 11 Chron column had him spotted at See's Clement Street candy store, and a March 19 Washington Post story put him in Port au Prince, Haiti, arriving in a private jet with former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. It was uncertain if Glover would join the final panel, re-scheduled for April 6, and entitled "Civil Service/Lifesavers."

At each session, the panelists introduced themselves and summarized their backgrounds. Then the questions began. The first one, March 9, was a fastball from a teenager in the back: "As a youngster, what did you think you'd be as an adult?" Finding your niche can be a curvy road, the teens learned.

"People said I should be a lawyer," said Akilah Bolden-Monifa, 53, a CBS spokeswoman for two Bay Area television and six radio stations. "So for 15 years I was a lawyer, and a professor, and I was a good one. But one day when I was 40 I looked in the newspaper at the things that interested me most and they all had to do with publicity."

So Bolden-Monifa followed her bliss and hasn't looked back, loving the stressful work and yet having fun and meeting the stars of CBS programs, such as "America's Next Top Model" host Tyra Banks.

Fabiola Kramsky, born and raised in

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

GOOD NEWS for...

TENDERLOIN RESIDENTS can look forward to a lively summer schedule at Boeddeker Park. The \$4.5 million renovation has been pushed back to December at the earliest, a Trust for Public Land spokeswoman said. The city approval processes and the job bidding are behind schedule. The Friends of Boeddeker Park has \$3,600 to keep the park open week-ends and perhaps for some activities such as tai chi classes, family days and Earth Day in April, said Betty Traynor, Friends chair. She said at the Friends' March meeting there also would be at least six weekday noon concerts during the summer, for which the Tenderloin CBD may help with funding. Traynor said she wants to stretch the Friends' money to year's end. Currently, the park is open weekdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a director on site; the children's playground is open 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. for children accompanied by adults.

THE COLORFUL MURAL planned for the Post Office at 101 Hyde St. goes before the Arts Commission April 4 and, if approved, work will start in May, according to Dina Hilliard, acting manager of the Tenderloin CBD. The CBD landed a \$50,000 city Community Challenge grant for the project and will contribute up to \$5,000 for anti-graffiti varnish during the five years the CBD will maintain the mural. The CBD got the building owner's consent and design approval from the Post Office. Artist Johanna Poethig will create the mural on the two streetside walls at Hyde Street and Golden Gate Avenue. The theme shows hummingbirds and plants morphing into musical instruments. Poethig did the ceramic pillars and tile floors at Tenderloin Recreation Center, the tile dragon in Boeddeker Park and the hands on the Glide apartment building façade at 125 Mason St.

DISTRICT 6 CANDIDATES' CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND COSTS

Final disclosure documents filed with the San Francisco Ethics Commission show that \$1,152,555 was raised and spent in the District 6 supervisorial contest.

Candidate	Raised	City contribution	PACs	Total	Votes	Cost per vote
Jane Kim	\$129,838	\$90,817	\$21,932	\$242,587	8,865	\$27
Debra Walker	\$73,669	\$85,314	\$149,819	\$309,180	7,528	\$41
Theresa Sparks	\$85,294	\$89,904	\$175,751	\$350,949	4,334	\$80
Matt Drake	\$14,323	0	0	\$14,323	1,200	\$11
James Keys	\$16,847	\$40,025	\$232	\$57,104	1,148	\$49
Glendon Hyde	\$18,003	0	0	\$18,003	839	\$21
Elaine Zamora	\$33,355	\$50,999	0	\$84,404	746	\$113
Dean Clark	\$6,178	0	0	\$6,178	713	\$8
Jim Meko	\$17,340	\$46,104	0	\$63,444	498	\$127
George Vazhappaly	\$2,747	0	0	\$2,747	284	\$10
h. brown	<\$1,000*	0	0	<\$1,000	205	NA
Matt Ashe	<\$1,000*	0	0	<\$1,000	191	NA
George Davis	<\$1,000*	0	0	<\$1,000	160	NA
Nate Payne	\$3,636	0	0	\$3,636	150	\$24

* Candidates filed a one-page disclosure that they raised and spent less than \$1,000 on their campaigns.
Source: San Francisco Ethics Commission

Candidates' campaign total: \$1,152,555

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

THE 2010 District 6 supervisorial election campaign cost the 14 candidates combined \$1,152,555, final disclosure documents filed with the Ethics Commission show.

Winner Jane Kim topped all candidates by raising \$129,838 in private contributions and \$90,817 in matching city funds.

Runner-up Debra Walker got \$149,819 from political action committees (PACs), and her campaign expenses totaled \$309,180. (PAC money does not count toward city matching funds.) But the campaign of third-place finisher Theresa Sparks beat all spenders at \$350,949, including \$175,751 from numerous PACs on her behalf.

Even so, Kim ended her campaign in the red with a negative cash balance of \$12,943 and a debt of \$32,024 to her campaign consultants, Left Coast Communi-

cations, which coordinated an appreciation banquet for her at New Asia Restaurant in January.

Avoiding the potential stress of disgruntled creditors, Elaine Zamora loaned her campaign \$8,350 and was able to balance out at zero.

The final weeks before election remained unkind to Jim Meko's campaign. He raised his private contributions by \$930, got \$1,940 more in matching city funds, but his spending rate of \$127 for each of his 498 votes was the costliest in District 6.

A cursory review of how the candidates spent money turns up a lot of pizza and takeout food expenses — keep those hard-working volunteers happy — endless sums for office supplies and many thousands to the U.S. Postal Service to deliver colorful artisan-designed campaign brochures directly to voters' homes.

Those culinary expenses —

less than \$10,000 across the board — were about as varied as the candidates themselves. Walker spent \$3,010 in spots from Chico's Pizza on Sixth Street to the Punjab Kabob House in the Tenderloin, while Matt Drake dropped more than half of his \$318 total food expense for sustenance at Pedro's Cantina on King Street. Kim ranged from TL's upscale Farmer Brown to Folsom Street's Mercury Lounge to Pizza Hut and beyond. For Meko, the fare at Sixth Street's Tu Lan and South of Market's Extreme Pizza eased the campaign rigors.

Not big bucks compared to what the consultants received. The trend readers, poll watchers and public relations spinners scored big. For the wisdom and guidance of Left Coast Communications, Kim paid \$109,553. Walker paid Stearns Consulting \$87,505 and Sparks paid a contrastingly modest \$35,750 to a variety of consultants. ■

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Commuter criminals involved in many killings,

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

out of bounds, though Tenderloin cops often respond first to these scenes.

Tenderloin figures pale next to Bayview, which last year had 14 homicides but arrests for only one. Five other districts had more homicides than the Tenderloin.

"But my biggest fear," Garrity said, "is that somebody going to a store, or to a nonprofit, or a kid walking on the street, will catch a bullet."

There has been blood. Eric Lindsay, 52, was being pushed in a wheelchair by his fiancée on his way to buy a pizza at 7:45 p.m. Aug. 3, 2006, when he was suddenly in the middle of a botched drug transaction that turned violent in the 400 block of O'Farrell Street. He caught a bullet in the chest and died.

On April 18, 2007, after midnight on the crime-ridden 300 block of Ellis Street, Lena Allen, a 54-year-old, recent Sixth Street hotel resident, became another innocent victim of a gun battle. Police said Walter Simon, 32, of Richmond was on the block returning gunfire when his rounds killed Allen. Simon, who police said had a rap sheet for drug dealing and weapons possession in the Tenderloin, was in a wheelchair, himself a victim of a shooting.

And there are other wild situations that could have easily meant curtains for a bystander. The afternoon before Allen's death, at 4:20, seven blocks away in what police called a gang execution, 16-year-old Kelvin Mencia of Oakland was chased to a donut shop at Golden Gate Avenue and Hyde Street, where a fight broke out. He was gunned down. Police arrested five suspects, four of them juveniles.

Drive-bys, because of their recklessness, are another source of fear, though the Tenderloin is nothing like the Bayview scene. So Tenderloin residents are still talking about the shooting two years ago near Grand Liquor Store where small crowds gathered out front day and night.

On Feb. 23, 2009, at 10:20 p.m. a silver Mercedes-Benz SUV with temporary license plates was traveling

west on Turk. As it approached Taylor Street, gunshots poured out of the vehicle, wounding five men and killing Leticia Hunter, 33, from Sacramento, who was believed to be part of a drug deal. The Mercedes sped off, chased by San Francisco police, who said the SUV hit 110 mph going over the Bay Bridge. Police lost the vehicle in Oakland, where it was discovered three hours later, abandoned and burning.

The Tenderloin's historic bad reputation is its albatross. It's where poor people and addicts hang out and where criminals and misfits gravitate for drug transactions. It's a Jekyll and Hyde neighborhood, the city's poorest, with scores of historic, well-kept hotels and other buildings. Hardworking Latino and Asian families co-exist with a grungy, poverty-stricken underclass seeking soup kitchens and detox centers. Mental health patients find help from a plethora of nonprofits; a high percentage of parolees and ex-cons tries to rejoin the law-abiding, and tempers flare. Anything can happen, cops say, in the neighborhood that "never sleeps."

One man, accused of killing another at U.N. Plaza in front of Carl's Jr. by clobbering him over the head with a boom box, was sent to Napa State Hospital. A judge in May 2010 found Edward Holloway, 55, incapable of helping in his own defense. The year before, Holloway had been arrested for stabbing his girlfriend in an argument over \$30 at Turk and Taylor.

That is as unnerving as the sometimes homicidal terror of gangs.

It would seem that the Tenderloin drew Joevon Bowen of Oakland. He was convicted of first-degree murder in February 2010, eight years after the slaying of a 26-year-old man walking near Polk and Willow streets at the edge of the Tenderloin. Police believe the deed was a rite in Oakland's notorious Nut Case gang to gain prestige. Another man who had driven across the Bay Bridge with Bowen had been convicted three years earlier of the killing, but gang members ratted out Bowen as an accomplice.

All of this begs the question, jilted by the trend, who's getting killed in the Tenderloin? The Extra asked the Police Department to find which homicide victims

over the past five years lived in the Tenderloin police district. The Extra's total for that period, 29, came from an analysis of department figures. Sgt. Michael Andrechak, in public relations, said his total for this search might be different. It was, 27. Further analysis showed that missing from the SFPD was one of the three homicides of 2010 and one from 2008.

The search results showed 12 victims were from the Tenderloin, four were homeless but tied to the TL, and nine were out of the district, the majority from towns ranging from Vacaville to Santa Cruz. Two of the victims police said were Tenderloin residents had been identified in newspaper accounts, based on police reports, as from Sacramento and Oakland. In 2007, five of the nine victims were from out of town. So people are coming to the neighborhood to kill and some get killed.

Clearly, out-of-towners waging war-bent crime in the Tenderloin is a wicked problem that looks unstoppable. It rankled and frustrated Capt. Gary Jimenez no end. He was Tenderloin captain from 2006 to 2009, the longest stretch any captain has served in the TL. He is now the department's night supervising captain for the city.

"It has long, long been a trend," Jimenez told the Extra. "The best place in California to commit a crime is

2010 homicides

The number of killings in the city's 10 police districts

Central	3
Southern	2
Bayview	14
Mission	6
Northern	4
Park	4
Richmond	1
Ingleside	8
Taraval	5
Tenderloin	3

Tenderloin kids learn importance of h

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Mexico City, worked in the hotel industry after high school, then went to college to become a translator. She later got a break when a big TV station offered to train her as a reporter and program hostess.

"Then I found what made me passionate in life," she said. "Sometimes you don't know. But you need to give your best." She is married to Cuban-born District Attorney George Gascon, the former police chief, and has been in the Bay area about a year. In January, she began hosting Univision's Spanish-speaking weekday morning programs on Channels 14 and 20.

Two panelists, one an assistant district attorney

working with the juvenile division, the other a final-year law student, said when they were kids people told them they should be lawyers because they liked to argue. The Hastings Law School student, Deanna Dyer, was out of school two years after getting a degree, then came back to go to law school.

"Take things slowly," Dyer cautioned. "You don't need to know the answers to everything. Take baby steps."

Bolden-Monifa also gave advice to ease the psychological burden of wanting too much too fast.

"Don't be concerned about what the audience is now," Bolden-Monifa advised. "It's communication you want to refine as much as you can."

Panelists on other nights echoed the advice, especially innovative computer programmers, engineers and technicians who are comfortably absorbed and isolated at their computer screens. They must be able to clearly explain their ideas to collaborators and other co-workers. One programmer, Andy Choi, who as a youngster had spent eight hours a day playing video games, said he was once an introvert who "didn't like to talk" but overcame that barrier.

"A couple of years ago I wouldn't have believed that I'd be talking to a roomful of 30 people," he said.

Generally the panelists encouraged going to college. Technical jobs require a degree. College is also a place to explore topics of interest, one of which may become the road to follow. And despite the cost — one

panelist still owed \$20,000 for loans that got him through USF — "you have to weigh what you want to do," Bolden-Monifa said, and do the work your goal demands.

One young lady in the audience at the second session was about to graduate from college, wanted to be a teacher and asked what she needed to do.

Orpheus S.L. Crutchfield had the answers. Crutchfield, a Berkeley educator with his own business, "teaches teachers how to teach," he said in his introduction. He has taught, coached school administrators on how to support cultural diversity and has trained teachers in three foreign countries.

You can teach in public schools, which are 90% of the nation's schools, or private ones, he told her. Public schools require a teaching credential, private schools don't, but they look favorably on expanded qualifications and specialties, he said. Substitute teaching doesn't require a credential. "And some college kids are getting paid to teach in middle schools, now," Crutchfield said. "I can hook you up."

The happy student said she had learned more in 10 minutes than she had from her school.

But going to college isn't the only way to find your way. Dennis Lee, 32, worked in his mother's Korean restaurant before getting a job "outside the family," only to discover he didn't like taking orders from somebody else. He wanted his own business, but realized he needed experience. Then he did a clever thing: He applied for jobs only at places he greatly admired, and he watched the way the best people worked. Now he has his own restaurant, Namu, at 439 Balboa St., and a stall at the Ferry Building Farmers' Market.

He and actor-painter Shores Alaudini, 26, emphasized the value of self-discovery and showing their passion through their work.

"I didn't go to culinary school," said Lee. "I didn't finish school. I had trouble making the commitments, but I focused on learning through experience. I think if you apply yourself to life, and are truthful to who you are, you are getting an education."

Asked what he liked to cook, he said "Korean food," then changed it to, "anything, really, as long as



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Kids after the third session sought even more comments from Lawyer Alaeddine Sabibi (left) and Adobe's Andy Choi.

"If you yourself and are to work are, you getting education"

Dennis Lee RESTAURANT

most crime in Tenderloin

ast year
stricts

in San Francisco. The system is less likely to prosecute you. It's almost against sending you to jail, especially if it involves drugs. It's the revolving door here."

Jimenez got into hot water three years ago announcing at his monthly community police meetings that commuter criminals were causing the vast majority of crime in the neighborhood and then naming their communities. It was like he was "pointing a finger," elsewhere, he was told; he wouldn't name the superior who told him to stop.

Even so, two volunteers, Dina Hilliard and Elaine Zamora, examined the sta-

Source: SFPD

at 220 Jones St. was "an ugly battle" that eventually led to a homicide that police connected to it. There were unruly crowds outside late at night, fighting and gunshots. The enraged neighborhood held community meetings to pressure the manager to control the lines. Police shut the club down briefly at times after inspections found permit violations. But the club persisted. One man police tied to the club crowd was shot and paralyzed. Another, on June 27, 2009, was shot and killed.

"It was the city that had refused to act on it," Jimenez recalled, "not the police."

But finally the city attorney moved in September 2009 to shutter the club and a Superior Court judge in October ordered Pink Diamonds closed, citing its 230 police service calls in the previous six months.

"It could very easily happen again with that kind of venue, if it's not well-managed," Jimenez said. "In the old days it wouldn't happen because a captain could close it. But City Hall is fickle."

Solutions to stem future violence are hard to come by. Garrity is working with his police community advisory board on a plan to post signs in order to expand the use of stay-away orders for loitering drug dealers.

But Jimenez says a bigger swipe at the problem, and maybe the ultimate solution, is a long way off.

"Legalize drugs," he said. "It's going to have to happen — maybe not for 100 years — but it's the only way to change it." ■

tion's April 2009 arrest logs to see if the claim could be substantiated. Hilliard said in an interview that the results showed that 83% of the arrests were people from out of the district, and 17% were Tenderloin residents. Half of those from out of town were from Oakland, she said.

More often than not, Jimenez said, dealers are armed and on parole.

"Search the car," he said, "and you'll find a weapon, or someone is carrying it for him. They carry arms because of the threat to them — violence is a reality in that business. And some of the gangs in the 300 block of Ellis are vicious."

On Jimenez's watch, the Pink Diamonds strip club

having a job you love

someone is there to eat it."

The kids at once saw an opportunity for their Y classes.

"Will you be a guest chef at our cooking class?" they asked.

Yes, he said, and Alaudini agreed to come to their art class.

At every session the kids wanted to know if the panelists liked their jobs. Only one panelist wavered, but only for a moment. Alaaeddine Sahibi, a Moroccan-born corporation lawyer who moved to Los Angeles when he was 10, said at the March 23 session that he works on mergers and buyouts and with venture capitalists. Mounds of paperwork can be boring, he said.

"At times I do enjoy it when it makes the news and I can see, yes, I was involved with the transaction, that's exciting. And the perks are worth it, flying all around the world, everything paid for."

A 14-year-old boy wanted to know what the panelists were doing when they were 14.

Becky Schweighardt, a scientist who did HIV research for 20 years, said her early years as "a department store clerk without any high aspirations" were "not so good." Choi, serving on his second panel, said, "High school was hard to figure out."

Sahibi laughed at his own recollection. "I wanted to be the coolest guy on the planet," he said. "I don't believe it." But after high school, faced with finding a job, enlisting in the armed forces or going to junior college, he chose the latter and said it changed his life forever. Sahibi said his salary is well into six figures. He is 29.

Allen Ellison, an Adobe technology and software designer from Missouri, seemed to be the only one destined for a successful career at 14. Even as he struggled with school because his family kept moving, he was a computer whiz. He went to the local electronics store and offered to create games their customers could play in the store. In exchange, he got to play on their computer all day. That year, too, he and another kid started their own company, selling kits of software bundled on computers. It soon "dissolved," he says,

along with three other companies he co-founded. But one, effectiveUI, launched in 2005 to design custom Web, mobile and desktop applications, is going strong with 50 employees in Denver.

The panelists had similar thoughts about the meaning of success: not having to worry about money or failure, and working at a job they love. Allen recalled the thrill of arriving in Manhattan's Times Square and seeing a three-story digital billboard that plays higher-than-high-def videos 24/7 and uses software he designed. "I love my job," he said. Choi said his company gave him World Series tickets.

Not many, when asked, would change much in their past, because they had learned from it. But Sahibi's desire was poignant.

"I have a brother, a gang member at 17, who is doing life in prison," Sahibi said. "I wish I had been there more for him as the older brother. That part I'd change. One brother a lifer, one a lawyer. I'd change that."

The panelists indicated that the path to success was not easy, even for those who showed talent early on.

"You need curiosity and the will to persevere," said the scientist Schweighardt, who had spent 21 years in school, then four more in training. "You have to plod on."

"You need to find your passion," said Crutchfield, who said he was the first black teacher at San Francisco's exclusive Town School for Boys. "If you do what you love, the saying goes, you'll never have another day of work."

"Don't be afraid to ask people about what their passion is," said Choi, who works for Adobe Outreach. "It will help you understand. When I was young, I didn't know that." ■



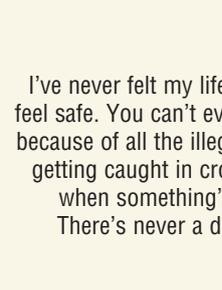
Has your life ever been threatened in the Tenderloin?

Asked of Tenderloin residents at various Tenderloin locations



Roy S.

I was mugged once. They knocked me down and tried to get my wallet. There were three of them. I tried to run, but one of them got me and started kicking me. I was bleeding, but I managed to get into my apartment. I called 9-1-1, but it took half an hour before the cops came. It's dangerous down here at night. You see all these people dealing drugs. It's usually outsiders who cause problems.



Sherice S.

I've never felt my life was at risk, but I don't feel safe. You can't even get down the streets because of all the illegal actions. I'm afraid of getting caught in crossfire. You never know when something's going to happen here. There's never a dull moment — instead of 24/7, it's 25/8.



Natasha Sims-Captain

I don't live here, but I work here and I've never felt my life was at risk. I feel safe — I specifically wanted to come here to work. I walk around with my purse and both cell phones, and I don't feel any threat. I feel safer here than I do in Oakland.



Larry G.

I've never felt my life was threatened, but you've got some crazy people running around here. I come from the Bayview-Hunters Point, and I haven't seen anything here I haven't seen before. I think older people are at risk, though.



Rose R.

I do find people who are rude to those of us in wheelchairs, but as far as safety, I've never felt threatened. In fact, once people get used to seeing you sitting out here, they actually look out for you.



Barbara P.

I never feel safe. You see people get jumped over a drink or money, get robbed. I'm scared being here — that's why I'm going to a friend's house now. It's ridiculous. People just don't care anymore. They've got some respect for elderly people, but they don't care about your sex.



Leslie L.

I got my teeth knocked out in the middle of the street when someone tried to rob me. I also had an abusive boyfriend. We were together a couple of years, and he was fine until he did too many drugs — then he transformed into a delusional psychotic. It's a miracle I'm still alive, and I'm grateful. The upside is that even though I'm not fond of the police, they've been stepping up their presence. We've had a lot less knifings and shootings.



DEWAYNE BISHOP
Member, Black Brothers Esteem

The death of Dewayne Bishop was discovered Feb. 15 when police found him on the floor of his room at the Ambassador Hotel. At a service Feb. 24 in the hotel's Listening Post, about a dozen friends and fellow residents gathered to remember him.

Mr. Bishop was born April 12, 1969, perhaps the only certainty about his past. His social worker will say nothing about his roots; the medical examiner says his birth certificate will reveal nothing. At his memorial, a vase of flowers — provided by social workers, as is traditional at the TNDC-run Ambassador — sat on the windowsill. On the floor, encircled by the chairs of those who came to remember, lay a lone blossom broken from its stem.

Mr. Bishop, with diabetes and kidney failure, had been on a transplant list, but prospects were bleak. He had missed his last six or so dialysis appointments, said his friend, Cecil Baker. Dialysis "can be painful and unpleasant," said the Rev. Glenda Hope, who presided over the gather-

ing. "I don't think anyone could judge Dewayne's choice."

Billie Cooper, who'd known Mr. Bishop for five or six years and had brought him home to the Ambassador after a recent hospitalization, said Mr. Bishop's medical problems were many, including blindness in one eye. "He wasn't taking care of himself," said Cooper, and over the past few months, physical weakening may have caused him to appear "a little standoffish. He was a troubled soul. Like most of us, he was confused."

"When a person is sick," said Henry Banks Ladd, who honored Mr. Bishop by singing a powerful version of "His Eyes Are on the Sparrow," "you think that they can do things. But they can't." Ladd had met Mr. Bishop at a group meeting. But when they played tennis together in Golden Gate Park, "He allowed me to see another side of him: vibrant and healthy."

"Some people said he was withdrawn," said Tom Laurent, "but we had lively conversations. Before Christmas, he knocked on my door and handed me a stocking filled with

various items he had hand-picked for me.... He showed great respect for other people. We enjoyed talking for long periods of time."

Several of those gathered identified themselves as "fraternity brothers," fellow members of Black Brothers Esteem, a group that is part of the S.F. AIDS Foundation. Mr. Bishop had been a client, then volunteered in a variety of events around the city to help promote health. Black Brothers' Tony Bradford called Mr. Bishop "a great spirit," and the group's Micah Lubensky said Mr. Bishop had done "a lot of speaking, talking about how important HIV prevention was. He was very passionate about making a difference in the community."

When Mr. Bishop worked at a Starbucks, said Lubensky, he was "very well-organized, very clear on deadlines, on making sure he'd stay on track at work. And that's one of the reasons he was a very good volunteer for me. I asked him to speak publicly; he was very happy to do so. And he was a very sweet person, a very sweet individual."

Edmund Juicye recalled that Mr. Bishop had been working at a 7-Eleven when he was recruited by Black Brothers Esteem. "Coming to BBE was really great for him." Juicye described him dressing as a bishop — reflecting his name — at a Halloween party, and the great appetite he had for chicken pizza from Trader Joe's. "He would always eat with great appetite. ... He liked to listen close. He had people he bonded with and cared about."

"To Dewayne," said Cecil Baker, "everybody was special. He related to each of them differently." ■

— LEAH GARCHIK

JOSEPH BARROW
A well-regarded man

On a brisk mid-February afternoon, a small group of friends and relatives gathered to mark the passing of San Francisco native Joseph Barrow, a former merchant seaman who is survived by his wife and three children, who live in the Philippines.

Mr. Barrow collapsed Feb. 8 in the elevator on the sixth floor of the Coast Hotel, where he'd lived quietly for the past six or seven years. Emergency medical staff were unable to revive him. "He didn't suffer," Shelly Brown, the hotel's assistant support services manager, said. Mr. Barrow was 62.

Case workers and fellow residents recalled a genial man held in warm regard by those who knew him. Resident Larry Taylor, called him "a good guy, one of the nicest, pleasantest residents. I miss seeing him getting off the elevator every morning to get his coffee. I called him my coffee-drinking buddy."

Anita, a housekeeper at the hotel for the past four years, fought back tears as she remembered how Mr. Barrow would give her a box of candies every month for her kids. "He was very nice, he was very appreciative."

Fellow resident Robert Majitt commented that life in their Tenderloin hotel "is a stressful environment sometimes, but I never saw it get to him. Here, it's easy to lose your temper, but I never saw Joe lose his."

Brown called Mr. Barrow "a very sweet guy. He was very well-mannered, didn't seem like he belonged here. We talked about going to the doctor, and he told me, 'Don't hold me to that yet, we'll talk about it at our next meeting.' But our next meeting never came."



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NEWS IS A COMMUNITY SERVICE

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Paulette Baker, Mr. Barrow's sister, said their family was raised in the Fillmore, and that as a youngster Joe liked music and lifting weights. He'd attended Polytechnic High. His poor eyesight disqualified him from military service, but he worked as a merchant seaman for many years.

"I don't think he liked it very well," his sister said. "He got off that boat and wouldn't even get on a ferry. He was done with boats."

He came ashore for good in the late '90s to help care for his aging parents — his mom and stepfather, the late Christine and Sterling Jones — in the Fillmore. He worked as a janitor at San Francisco General, as he had previously on ships, and as a property manager. Caring for the family became "a bit much" for him, Baker said, and she had little contact with him in recent years. "There's always issues, but you leave the door open, keep the same number. You don't close your heart."

He "liked to watch TV and listen to music," she recalled. "James Brown, that was his guy. He liked soul."

Mr. Barrow was "basically a loner," she said, though he treasured his family. He displayed their pictures prominently in his room, and kept all their letters calling him dad.

She had not heard much from her brother in recent years, Baker said, but figured he was saving his money to visit his family. His middle child, Christine, had recently given birth to his first granddaughter, she said.

"He was getting ready to do something. I think he wanted to see his kids. I'm sure they were the highlight of his being. I think every penny he got on the side he would send them."

"This is where he chose to live,"

she said of the community of friends at the Coast, many of whom had signed cards displayed at the memorial.

"I will miss our little talks," one wrote. "Your smile was so warm," wrote another, and a third wrote how Mr. Barrow was "always very kind."

"I never saw him in anything other than the best moods," Jon, a fellow resident, said. "He was always outgoing and about his business." He saw him frequently sitting in the lobby, typing on his laptop. And more than one resident said he'd had a lot to say about Michael Jackson's death in 2009.

Besides his sister, daughter and granddaughter, Mr. Barrow is survived by his oldest son, Joseph. Baker did not know whether the youngest son, Richard, is still alive. ■

— MARK HEDIN

CARLOS NUNEZ
Sports talk show caller

Boxing fans lost a colorful sports commentator when Carlos Nunez, a regular contributor on the "Into the Night" Tony Bruno radio show and the daytime Gary Radnich program on KNBR, died Feb. 2 after collapsing in front of Boeddeker Park, a block from his Ritz Hotel room.

At Mr. Nunez's Feb. 10 memorial at the Ritz, Craig Martinez said his friend had been in apparent good health but had collapsed during the day at Eddy and Jones in front of the park gate. Paramedics came but couldn't revive the 74-year-old Cuban American after 45 minutes, he said.

His friends said Mr. Nunez frequently called the three-hour, week-night Bruno show and Radnich's KNBR 680 weekday morning show. The talk show hosts always welcomed Mr. Nunez's comments with a hearty,



PHOTO COURTESY LINDA BARR

"Buenos dias, Carlos!"

Mr. Nunez commented on other sports, too, and promoted American sports to Latino youth. But his specialty was boxing.

"He was on (radio) at least once a week," said William Leary, a social worker who formerly worked at the Ritz where Mr. Nunez lived for 13 years. "They dedicated a program to him, talked about him, remembered him. Bruno's show-previews used his voice, too. I heard him hundreds of times."

Mr. Nunez was born in Cuba. His father was a doctor. Linda Barr, a neighbor, said Mr. Nunez was in the Bay of Pigs battle to stop Castro's takeover, but was taken prisoner, "The United States traded a tractor for him and he came to Florida," she said. "But he didn't want to talk much about his past." Mr. Nunez lived in Boston 20 years and his friends thought he came to California in the 1970s but were unsure when he

arrived in San Francisco.

A half dozen friends drew a colorful personality profile of Mr. Nunez, who looked younger than his age, they said. He loved adults and children, Latin music and dancing salsa, singing karaoke, and all sports, including sailing. His press connections got him into Giants' home games. He also wrote movie reviews for newspapers. Someone said he once interviewed Cher in Las Vegas as part of his Sports and Entertainment contribution on the sports channel.

He was "very neat" and insisted his clothes be dry-cleaned. But sometimes he was broke and hit up his friend Martinez for a loan, using a big trophy he had won as collateral. Mr. Nunez won the 20-inch-high, gold-colored trophy topped with a boxing figurine in 2000 for being "Spanish Boxing Broadcaster of the Year," the inscription on the base reads. But the organization giving the prize isn't mentioned. Barr said she thought it came from the American Broadcasting Association.

"He'd leave it as collateral and I'd give him 50 bucks," said Martinez, holding the piece he brought along to show everyone. "We did this over the years, maybe five or six times. He'd always pay me when he got his monthly check."

Mr. Nunez got his check on the third day of each month, Martinez said. But Mr. Nunez died on Feb. 2, when Martinez was still holding the trophy.

Martinez eyed it with admiration and said it "must be worth something," but he was unsure what to do with it.

"I just don't want it to go into mothballs," he said. ■

— TOM CARTER

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CMCBD Board of Directors Meetings

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The Central Market Community Benefit Corporation (CMCBC) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) community-based organization formed in 2006 to provide programs and services to improve the quality of life experienced in the public realm of San Francisco's Central Market Community Benefit District (CMCBD)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Community Reading Night, Fri., April 15, Salvation Army Kroc Center, 240 Turk St., 5-7 p.m. Reading, games, activities, food, free books and fun for all ages. Info and RSVP: 345-3400.

Healthy Kids Day, Sat., April 16, Central YMCA, 378 Golden Gate Ave., 2-5 p.m. Free event for children and families: performers, games, prizes, demonstrations, screenings. Info: 447-2523.

Central City Democrats' 5th anniversary annual meeting, April 25, 201 Turk St. Community Room, 6 p.m. Awards, guest speakers and board elections. Open to the public. Info: 339-8683.

Artist Preview Show, Sat., April 30, 111 Minna Gallery, 6-9 p.m. Asian American artists preview their performances for the May 21 Asian Heritage Street Celebration in the Civic Center and Little Saigon. Portion of ticket sales benefit tsunami relief. Info: event-see.com/view/7thannualahscartistpreviewshow

S.F. Housing Action Coalition 5th annual Housing Summit, May 4, 77 Beale St., PG&E auditorium, 7:30-10 a.m. Local experts discuss how to spur housing development during the economic downturn. Info: sfhac.org/events or 541-9001.

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

Supportive Housing Network, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., Dorothy Day Community, 54 McAllister. Call: 421-2926 x304.

Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of the month, noon, 201 Turk St., Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8327. Resident unity, leadership training.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of the month, 5-7 p.m., CBHS, 1380 Howard St., room 537. Call: 255-3695. Advisory group of consumers from self-help organizations and other mental health consumer advocates. Open to the public.

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

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 1010 Mission St., Bayanihan Community Center, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive home services, expanded eligibility for home care, improved discharge planning. Light lunch. Call James Chionsini, 703-0188 x304.

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

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

SAFETY

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training (NERT). Central city residents can take the S.F. Fire Department's free disaster preparedness and response training at neighborhood locations. www.sfgov.org/sffdnet, or Lt. Arteseros, 970-2022.

SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly email info: Meital Amitai, 538-8100 x202 or mamitai@iisf.org.

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

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for a Better District 6, 1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com, a districtwide improvement association.

Central Market Community Benefit District, board meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, Hotel Whitcomb, 1231 Market St., 3 p.m. Information: 882-3088, <http://central-market.org>.

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

Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5 p.m. Board works to protect SoMa resources for children, youth, families and adults. Gene Friend Recreation Center, 270 Sixth St. Information: Tim Figueras, 554-9532.

North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Full board meets 3rd Monday of every other month, 5:30 p.m., 134 Golden Gate Ave., 292-4812.

SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Advisory Committee, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor. Info: Claudine del

Rosario 749-2519.

South of Market Project Area Committee, 3rd Monday of the month, 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom St. Health, Safety and Human Services Committee meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday, 1035 Folsom, noon. 487-2166 or www.sompac.com.

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 11 a.m.-noon, Tenderloin Police Community Room, 301 Eddy. Presentations on issues of interest to neighborhood residents, nonprofits and businesses. Information: 928-6209.

Tenderloin Neighborhood Association, 2nd Friday of the month, 842 Geary St., 5 p.m. Nonprofit focuses on health and wellness activities to promote neighborly interactions. Info: tenderloinneighborhood@yahoo.com.

SENIORS AND DISABLED

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

Senior Action Network, general meeting, 2nd Thursday of the month, 9 a.m.-noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. Monthly programs, 965 Mission St. #700: Senior Housing Action Committee, 3rd Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. Call for health program and Senior University: 546-1333 and www.sfsan.org.



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The Harm Reduction approach acknowledges that relapse is often part of the cycle of recovery. Our staff works with clients to prevent relapse. But if relapse occurs, we remain committed to the client.

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— Roy Crew, Director,
Office of Self Help



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