

**Sept. 7-17**

Ninth Annual San Francisco Fringe Festival, 52 performing arts groups from as far away as Australia on five stages in the Tenderloin. Most tickets cost \$8, but package deal is available. Call EXIT Theatre at 931-1094.

**Oct. 7**

Obakoso AfroCuban Music and Dance Ensemble, Celebration of Ancestry, 8 p.m. in the Forum, Yerba Buena Center. \$15 general/\$13 Center members, students, seniors. Obakoso, directed by José Francisco Barroso, honors the kings, queens and deities of the Yoruba, Bantu and Haitian traditions. In a tribute to African heritage in the Americas, Obakoso and guest artists sing and dance for Eggun (ancestors).

**At the Main Library**

**Adults**

"Arkiteknik Pictorial Exhibit," from an innovative theater presentation showcasing a sophisticated Filipino American community in a futuristic San Francisco society, 3rd Floor, Filipino American Center, through Sept. 30

**Sept. 13**

Fall Preview Lecture on Opera. Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, Noon. A lecture on the opera "The Tsar's Bride," presented by the San Francisco Opera Guild and the San Francisco Public Library.

Rincón Literario en la Biblioteca Central: An English/Spanish Bilingual Program. Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Rincón Literario is a bilingual (Spanish and English) reading and discussion series led by writer and journalist Miriam Ruvinskis. The next book for discussion is *I, Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*. For a copy of this book, call Alvaro at 557-4430 International Center. All discussions will be in Spanish and English.

**Sept. 14**

The Incas, Part 2. Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, 6-7:30 p.m. Two-part slide-driven lecture series by anthropologist David Matsuda on the Inca people and culture of ancient Mesoamerica.

**Sept. 20**

Fall Preview Lecture on Opera, "The Ballad of Baby Doe." Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, Noon.

Open Books: Alternative Voices — Mira Kamdar Motiba's Tattoos: A Granddaughter's Journey Into Her Indian Family's Past. Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, 6-7:15 p.m. — author presentation, 7:15-7:45 p.m. — book signing.

**Sept. 23**

Angel Island Project Symposium — Kearny Street Workshop-sponsored panel discussion on the history of Chinese immigration. Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, 1 - 4 p.m. Panelists: Phil Choy, speaking on the legacy of the Chinese immigration experience. Jeff Ow, discussing "paper son politics." Helen Owyong, niece of a 1929 detainee, Suk Wan Lee, who will tell her aunt's immigration story. Flo Oy Wong will present slides of the "made in usa: Angel Island shhh" exhibit. William Wong, panel moderator. Judy Yung, author of *Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco* and co-author of *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940*.

Know Your Law Lecture: The Death Penalty in the 21st Century. Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. A presentation by the Coalition of Concerned Legal Professionals featuring Robert R. Bryan, former chair of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. For more information call Terry Gwiazdowski at 557-4470.

**Sept. 24**

The Paris of Artists and Writers. Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 2-3:30 p.m. Speaker Thirza Vallois, supported by slides, tells of the emergence of the arts after the French Revolution. Vallois has lived in Paris for more than 30 years and is the author of the travel book series *Around and About Paris*.

**Sept. 26**

Open Books: Writers at the Library — Nick Bantock, *The Artful Dodger: Images and Reflections*. Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, 6-7:15 p.m. — author presentation, 7:15-7:45 p.m. — book signing.

**Sept. 27**

New Orleans 1900: The Birth of Jazz. . .And Ragtime and Blues. Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, 6 - 7:45 p.m. Dianthe (Dee) Spencer, music professor at S.F. State University, will examine field hollers, Creole street cries, and early marching bands and their development into popular forms, such as ragtime and the blues. This program is an introduction to "New Orleans: The Birth of Jazz" Oct. 20-21, 2000, Herbst Theatre, sponsored by Humanities West.

**Sept. 28**

Art of the Environment, lecture by artist Marc Pandone. Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, 6-8 p.m. In association with an exhibit of the artist's work on display in the Stegner Center. For information, call Terry Gwiazdowski at 557-4470.

**Sept. 30**

San Francisco Bibliophiles — Book discussions conducted in Russian. Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 2 - 4 p.m. Introduction to Patent Searching. 6th Floor Training Room, 3-5 p.m. Hands-on training on the seven steps of patent searching. For information, call the Government Information Center at 557-4500.

**Sept. 13, 20, 27**

Free weekly Business Counseling Sessions by S.C.O.R.E. (Service Corps of Retired Executives). One-hour sessions, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the 4th floor Business, Science and Technology Department. To schedule an appointment, call S.C.O.R.E., 744-6827.

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# Reports that Glide and the Hilton planning a competing project

**T**he Tenderloin Pavilion project, which the Leavenworth/Lower Eddy Task Force has been talking about developing for years, might be running into some competition from within the neighborhood.

At the Aug. 9 Task Force meeting, Craig Adelman, of TNDC, announced that the Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide had teamed up with the Hilton to develop a competing proposal for the very property that the Task Force wants to turn into meeting space and a parking garage that would be managed by the nonprofit corporation the Task Force is forming.

Williams, Glide Memorial Methodist Church's not-so-retiring pastor, confirmed this, said Adelman, but would give no details. As for the Hilton, Adelman said, it has "lost confidence in this group" because "of the bickering."

Everyone in the room immediately sensed the threat this alliance of money, expertise and political clout represented.

"It will be a pretty tough road to compete against this group," Adelman said. "Money has been earmarked for this project, but that's not to say that the powers-that-be couldn't redirect that money."

He was referring to the \$6.7 million the city has promised to give to the project, about 10% of the anticipated cost of the pavilion.

The property in question is the block bounded by Mason, Eddy, Taylor and Ellis, with the pavilion and parking to be incorporated into some parcels at the northeast corner.

The Task Force has been planning this project for several years. It has instituted a comprehensive project of neighborhood improvements that together with the pavilion reflect the core of the original Lower Eddy Street Revitalization Plan.

The Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund and the San Francisco Foundation, in particular, have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in these improvement projects such as Adopt-a-Block, Sidewalk Improvement Project, and others, which are helping to tame the Tenderloin and make it safe even for families.



The thought that all of the hard work and dreams could be jeopardized — by someone from within the neighborhood — was unthinkable, but everyone in the room was thinking it just the same.

Michael Nulty, president of the Alliance for a Better District 6, pointed out that the Hilton's rep on the Task Force, Debbie Larkin, had recently resigned as Task Force co-chair. "Maybe that's a sign of their intentions," he said.

The group decided to form a committee to seek a meeting with Cecil Williams to talk about his and the Hilton's plans.

Before the meeting

adjourned, the community's corporation-to-be was named: Central City Center Corporation. It was a name that all seemed to like.

In a phone interview days later, Debbie Larkin was asked to comment about the Hilton's plans for a project with Glide.

"I'm pretty much out of it," she said.

Is the project the reason you resigned as co-chair of the Task Force?

"The main reason I resigned was that it didn't look possible to develop such a complicated project with a community process given the demands for expertise in regard to development."

So what is being planned?

"Where it stands today is not for me to say," Larkin said.

The Rev. Williams was less forthcoming. The Extra called him four days in a row, but he was always "in a meeting."

And then he was "out of town until Tuesday," his assistant said, but she would again tell him I had called.

I called again upon his return and was told to call back on Thursday at 2:30 p.m. At the appointed time, I phoned, apparently at a fortuitous moment.

"He's just coming out of a meeting," his assistant said, and put me on hold while she told him who was calling. When she came back on the line she said: "He's not available now."

Is there a time I should call back?

"Well, no," she said. "He's not available."

## Youth platform developed South of Market

**A**n eight-member panel of SoMa youth and leaders met on Aug. 17 at United Church of Christ sanctuary on Howard and Sixth streets to formulate an agenda for youth-related issues to be addressed in the November elections.

"The SoMa Youth Platform will be a strong, clear voice advocating for youth in this neighborhood," announced Amy Paterson, a South of Market community organizer. "This platform, once developed, will be signed by all participating youth and organizations that back it."

Topic A for the panel was renewal of Proposition D, the Children's Amendment, which provides millions of dollars for dozens of programs funded by the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families.

"My hope is that the youth in this community continue to have resources to access for success," said Rick Bond, a youth program supervisor at the Jewish Vocational Center.

"I hope to see children and youths become a priority in San Francisco," stated 17-year-old youth representative Nalea Mouton-Fuentes with the SoMa group Youth Making A Change (YMAC). "The Children's Amendment is one way this will happen."

Patricia Johnson, a SoMa advocate for higher wages for child care workers and more affordable child care, called for more technical assistance to nonprofits that serve children and after-school tutoring and Internet programs. "We believe that SoMa youth deserve a new Bessie Carmichael School now," she said.

— by Challa Tabeson



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