

Ellis to exercise sessions are sometimes harassed and intimidated. People defecate and urinate in front of the rehabilitation room's windows, too, and follow residents into doorways, it was pointed out.

"I can get someone out there," Brown said. The captain promised to bring in No Trespassing signs for the building.

Thirty years ago Brown seemed an unlikely candidate to be a cop. She was at San

Francisco State, majoring in psychology and women's studies, and taking a few courses in creative writing. She loved the liberal politics of the times and as a bra-burning rebel she was ready on a moment's notice to join any women's lib demonstration. "It didn't matter," she said, then added with the hint of a grin, "I didn't particularly like cops."

She was never arrested. Even if she had been, it wouldn't have kept her out of the academy, she said.

Never athletic, yet self-conscious about her thin, 5-foot-7 frame, Brown at 21 started lifting weights. Her part-time job as a systems analyst for Bank of America at Van Ness and Market, which got her through school, turned into full-time after graduation. She could have made a career of technical challenges, too, she said, but one day her roommate decided to go to the San Francisco Police Academy.

"She told me stories then about the training and how they chase guys over the fences—and I knew right then that was for me," Brown said. "There was absolutely nothing more I wanted to do than that. It was the excitement and danger that attracted me to police work."

Brown did well at the academy, and because of weight-lifting, "the physical demands were a snap. The academy," she added, "was so much fun that I knew immediately this was what I wanted to do in life. And I have loved every day of this job. It is a diverse department and has a progressive approach to the job."

She reflected a moment.

"I was such a rebel, and then I fell quite easily into the paramilitary role," she said.

What has aided her throughout life is her confidence, apparent to anyone from her firm handshake to her self-introductions in a crowded room. It stemmed from a sense of self-worth her parents gave her growing up in Stockton, she said. Her father, a stern livestock supply salesman with a great sense of humor, and her mother, a housewife, were "very empowering." They told her she could accomplish anything she set out to do.

When she telephoned her father in the 1980s, nervous about the police sergeant's test that she and more than 1,000 officers had signed up to take, he said not to worry, she would do well. She went on to finish 24th and in the top 2%.

Brown loves to travel. She has been to Africa and Indonesia. Egypt is next. Different cultures "feed her soul," she says. To stay in shape she runs marathons and swims twice a week at the USF Koret Center. There's nothing stuffy about her, and she won't turn down a peanut butter and jelly sandwich in the morning.

"If I wasn't a cop?" she repeated, "well, it would be forensics for me. I love putting the pieces of a puzzle together. But if I could making a living at it, I would write."

At home, Brown, an unpublished author, has a drawer full of short stories. Most, she says, are based on her experiences in the Tenderloin, including a poignant tale about an incoherent man who smelled bad and was threatening people at a bus stop. ■

## Captain to Collaborative: 'Call me with concerns'

LOOKING around the room, smiling slightly, making eye contact, new TL police Capt. Kathryn Brown launched her own introduction with a crowd pleaser.

"Your purpose is fabulous," she told Tenderloin Futures Collaborative participants at their March meeting, "and I'm thrilled to be here!"

"I worked in the Tenderloin for three years," she said. "This was where I started to listen to people on the street."

Brown said she had to go off to another meeting soon but certainly had time for questions.

"We were working with Capt. (David) Shinn on enhanced penalties for drug dealers caught dealing within 1,000 feet of our four Tenderloin schools," said YMCA Executive Director Carmela Gold. "Can you tell us what's happening with that?"

Brown said she believed that the police were already "doing the enhancements" on busts that double the penalties for dealing.

Gold explained that she and others working on this were supposed to be notified every time the police made such a bust so they could follow up on it. They've heard nothing, Gold said. They also were promised a map of the 1,000-foot perimeter around the schools [Tenderloin Community Elementary, DeMarillac Middle, Youth Chance High and the Christian Academy], but never received it.

"I will look into it," Brown said, "and I'll let you know."

[Gold later told The Extra that since last September, the police have made three busts under the enhancement category and that none stuck.]

"I'd like to ask about the regular captain's meeting with the community [last Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m.]," said Jim Thompson, property manager of 165 Turk. "Will you revise the format of the meeting so it's more user-friendly?"

Brown looked puzzled. "I've never been to one of those meetings so I don't know the format."

Years ago, before Capt. David Shinn's and Stephen Tacchini's watches, the police-community meetings were "dynamic," Thompson said. "We got a lot of work done, but then it turned into a lecture series rather than a dialogue."

Gold added that besides the good general dialogue at those meetings, participants split into smaller groups that included city reps who could really tackle specific problems that came up.

"The previous captains didn't know how to use the meetings," said resident David Baker. "It can be very useful in helping you do your work."

It sounded like a great idea to revive, Brown said.

"And I want to tell you about some new technology," she said. "Within a month there will be a crime mapping Web site up on the Internet. It will be like the old pin maps, showing where violent crimes have taken place, but the public, and the police, will be able to see pockets of activity instantly and we can deploy officers where needed."

Brown thanked everyone for coming out to meet her. "I want to meet with many of you one-on-one, so just call me with any concerns that you have," she said. "This community is close to my heart."

—MARJORIE BEGGS

## Spring Cleaning



Here are some quick tips to make your spring cleaning fun and environmentally friendly

- Buy environmentally safe products.
- Purchase only what you need.
- Donate unused products to friends or community organizations.
- Dispose of leftover products properly (by taking to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center at 501 Tunnel Road near 3 Com Park).

For more information visit [www.sfenvironment.com](http://www.sfenvironment.com) or call 415-355-3700



SFEnvironment

Our home. Our city. Our planet.

Department of the Environment  
City and County of San Francisco

## Café do Brasil

1106 Market Street at Jones

LIVE MUSIC  
Wed. & Thurs.  
Starting at 7 p.m.

2 FOR 1  
LUNCH  
SPECIAL

GOSPEL BRUNCH  
with S.F. Choir  
Sundays 11 a.m - 2 p.m.

ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET EVERY DAY

PH: (415) 626-6432 [www.cafedobrasil.com](http://www.cafedobrasil.com) FAX: (415) 626-6450