

Tenderloin liquor licenses and how they multiplied

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exceeds 20% of the county average the license should be denied. Police typically blame the high rate of arrests in a Tenderloin applicant's census tract on the substance abuse of the homeless visiting nearby nonprofits and state that the bar is unlikely to make things worse. That's what the police said about the Deco Lounge.

The battle is mainly over the continuing approval of on-sale licenses to bars in over-subscribed census tracts. There's little argument about off-sale licenses for liquor stores and corner groceries. No new off-sale license has been granted the TL in 15 years, police say.

Oversubscribed on-sale licenses pose a conundrum unlikely to be solved in San Francisco. The number, style and quantity of bars and restaurants is essential to San Francisco's prosperity and the supervisors are loath to discourage them.

LEGACY OF LIQUOR

Booze is a pillar of San Francisco's colorful heritage that began with swilling miners in the freewheeling port's Barbary Coast and went on to play a starring role in city history.

During Prohibition, San Francisco was

"the wettest of the wet" towns in California. The Fairmont's Cirque Room was the first bar to operate after Prohibition's repeal.

Liquor lobbyist Artie Samish of San Francisco bent the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act of 1935 to his desires. He called the shots for the liquor industry, bought politicians and bragged he was "the governor of the Legislature." Samish was jailed in the 1950s for tax evasion and things started to change.

SETTING THE RATIO

In 1955, the license-to-population ratio was set and the ABC was taken out from under the overworked State Franchise Tax Board and given its own director. No additional on-sale general licenses were to be issued if the total in any county exceeded 1 per 2,000 of census population.

But the large number of previously existing licenses resold over the years keep the ratio grossly out of whack, according to ABC spokesman John Carr. Additions under "public convenience and necessity," or PCN, as it is referred to, compound that. (See sidebar.)

In the Deco Lounge census tract, the ratio of on-sale licenses is 1 to 186, based on 8,188 population and 44 existing licenses, according to ABC figures. The majority of the licenses are common beer and wine transfers, mostly one restaurant replacing another at the same address. But since 2000, nine new licenses have been issued and others are lining up.

Among tract 124's licenses are 12 for full bar restaurants. Three were transfers from other tracts, two of them from other neighborhoods. The California Pizza Kitchen license on Van Ness near McAllister came from Geary and Taylor (tract 123) in February. Chevys at Van Ness and Golden Gate got one from the Outer Richmond; and Senor Peppers' license at Van Ness and Eddy came from O'Donoghue's Pub on Monterey Boulevard in July 2003.

The 1995 law, meant to stem the tide of the Samish years, has instead offered a path around the issue of oversubscription. PCN is the password.

The ABC's investigation found nothing to hold up the Deco Lounge application, so with no protests the license transfer could have been approved in three months. But this case will stretch to nine months, and if the administrative judge rules against the lounge and the decision is appealed, it could take a year.

The supervisors' seemingly automatic approvals disturb protesters.

"How are we going to get the number down to where it should be if the city and the ABC keep approving licenses?" Michael Nulty asked at the hearing. The question went unanswered.

The activists reiterated their arguments, but their salient points were dashed by the testimony of the ABC investigator.

DECO IN DECOROUS SETTING

The Deco Lounge is a cozy little bar on the tree-lined east side of Larkin Street that winces under random graffiti. It's across the street from the Phoenix Hotel, site of TNDC's annual celebrity pool toss. A travel agency, launderette, copy store and two notaries public as well as the venerable Saigon Sandwiches shop occupy storefronts on the block, which is dominated by five contiguous, six-story apartment buildings.



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Owners of the Deco Lounge figured the fate of their liquor license transfer from Polk Street would be known before the end of the holidays. It wasn't, so they got an extension on their interim license.

A pair of blue neon rods overhang the bar's smart gold and black Art Deco façade that resembles an entrance to a 1930s movie theater. Inside is a fixed bar, a piano bar, and a stage that features drag contests and male striptease. Capacity:49. The game room has pinball, video games and a pool table.

Co-owner Kapp's application to the ABC didn't miss a political trick. He wrote that he is a gay entrepreneur who fled discrimination in the Pennsylvania town where he grew up. He came to San Francisco in 1982 and landed a bartending job at The Endup, happy to find a tolerant, urban environment. Five years later, he wrote, he went to work at the Rendez-Vous, eventually buying the bar with Xavier.

The Rendez-Vous at 1312 Polk St. lost its lease when the building was sold in 2004 to the First Congregational Church, which now holds services there. Kapp says a "smear campaign" by Lower Polk Neighbors, charging that male prostitutes plied the congested sidewalk in front of the Rendez-Vous and drunks slept in its doorway, stopped him from relocating elsewhere on Polk.

POLICE STATION HEARING

In switching neighborhoods, the Deco Lounge owners bypassed appearances before TL organizations but faced their representatives in the police station hearing. Kapp was there in shirt sleeves with co-owner Cox, sitting at a front table. They spoke without notes, a contrast to the ABC's lawyer and investigator in black suits nearby whose table brimmed with thick documents supporting the lounge's application.

Under oath, ABC investigator Lee Reigler said all the considerations of the police and the city Entertainment Commission had been met, including soundproofing, security inside and outside, and hiring a doorman to keep the sidewalk clear. There were 285 offenses that police reported in the census tract, three more than the maximum 282 permitted for a license there. Reigler said Vice Crimes Inspector David Falzon blamed the bump in crime on drug use and the homeless and didn't believe the bar would add "to the existing police problem," Reigler said.

The police opposed the automatic type 48 provision for off-sale beer and wine, Reigler said, and the owners agreed to drop it.

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The business of buying, selling liquor licenses

THE American Liquor License Exchange, Amlex it's called, is one of a dozen specialists nationwide in the field of liquor license brokering — the buying and selling of licenses — according to its head broker, Jon C. Mejia.

"Most of our work is in California," Mejia said. The company is in Santa Monica. "I'd say we handle about 150 to 250 licenses a year, 10% to 15% in San Francisco.

"Since I started 22 years ago, there've been no new hard liquor licenses in San Francisco, either on-sale or off-sale," Mejia said. Half a century ago the state tied the number of liquor licenses to county population. San Francisco's is relatively stable. "That means anyone who wants a license has to buy it on the open market. And as for how much it costs, it's all supply and demand."

An on-sale license in San Francisco is \$50,000 to \$60,000, he said, "pretty much middle of the road for California. In Napa County, with its low population and high demand, it can go as high as \$250,000."

After 2000, when the dot-com bubble burst, and restaurants and high-end bars were folding citywide, "you couldn't give licenses away in San Francisco," he said. Things now are back to pre-2000 levels in the city.

Mejia noted that besides buying through brokers like Amlex, restaurants, bars, stores and others wanting liquor licenses in California can participate in Alcohol and Beverage Control's annual September lottery. When there are more applicants than licenses available, ABC holds "priority drawings" in counties and issues a limited number of type 47 (on-sale for general eating establishments) and type 21 (off-sale) licenses; licenses are available only in counties whose populations increased since the previous lottery.

San Francisco was not among ABC's list of counties where there were drawings last September. Neighboring Alameda County, by comparison, issued six off-sale licenses, 27 on-sale; Fresno County had 13 on-sale and 42 off-sale. The big winner in ABC's lottery is always Los Angeles. Last year its drawing listed 32 off-sale and 115 on-sale.

Like all lotteries, the ABC's priority drawing has a financial incentive: It sells its type 47 and type 21 licenses for an economical \$12,000.

According to ABC's Web site, the agency is a "special fund agency" whose entire budget and special programs are funded by license fees. ■

— MARJORIE BEGGS

Reigler said she got no response from information letters about the bar she sent to Rec and Park, which has a minipark at Turk and Hyde. The Tenderloin Community School principal later sent a letter to the ABC saying he wanted no more bars in the neighborhood. But the Deco Lounge can't be seen from the school, Reigler said, and it isn't in session during the bar's peak nighttime hours, though it opens at 9 a.m.

Reigler said she also sent letters to residents of 120 apartments living within 100 feet of the bar and got no responses.

"Ninety percent of the residents don't speak English," Michael Nulty said.

"The letter was in several languages," she retorted.

"Is there wheelchair access?" he asked.

"It's not relevant to the ABC license."

"The applicant did no outreach."

"It's not required."

Nulty pointed out that social service agencies are nearby and homeless people linger on the sidewalks. The judge said the bar had agreed to manage any "loitering."

Phillips said the bar's video games could serve as cover for drug dealing. He said he was speaking from experience. "I was a drug dealer 20 years ago and that was my cover," said Phillips, who later said he rehabbed and has been clean and sober for going on 12 years. "I hadn't heard anything about cameras before (today), but I am glad there are cameras."

LOOKS LIKE A BREAKTHROUGH

Judge Greenberg sensed the protesters and owners were "working toward a common objective." He suggested a 20-minute conference, so Phillips and Nulty pulled up their chairs to the owners' table.

After nearly an hour the conference was a bust, having deteriorated into quibbling.

"Let's go back on record," the judge said. "Anything I can do to help you? If you've agreed on a condition, it can be part of the decision."

But there was no consensus. John Nulty later said the owners wouldn't agree to limit their bar operations to one of the three floors they lease.

"We've complied with every legal hurdle," Cox said.

"The neighborhood is getting shafted," said Phillips. "You can't expect us in 45 minutes to settle this."

The opposition had its turn in calling witnesses. Three were from the Rescue Mission on Jones Street.

"This is an attempt to move something into the Tenderloin that isn't accepted elsewhere," Chaplain Earl Rogers said. "And this was well down the pike before we got wind of it."

"The ABC has seen fit to go over the limit 18 times," he said of the difference between the number of liquor licenses authorized and those existing. "The highest concentration in the city is in the Tenderloin."

(ABC's Carr couldn't confirm if it is the highest. "However," he said, "the Tenderloin is one of a few areas with higher concentrations of liquor licenses. Other areas include the Mission District, Third Street Corridor and Haight-Ashbury.")

"Getting another liquor license doesn't necessarily help the city," Rogers said. "But the board (of supervisors) will approve anything."

4 LICENSES ON BLOCK IN 5 YEARS

The supervisors have approved four on-sale beer and wine licenses on the west side of the 600 block of Larkin Street since 2000. The fifth license on that block was approved in 1983 for First Restaurant, serving Chinese and Thai food. The block's latest license, approved by the ABC in October, was for Gyro Kebob, an elongated Mediterranean restaurant plopped in the middle of Little Saigon's Vietnamese cuisine.

The ABC can keep the trend rolling with the Mangosteen restaurant at Larkin and Eddy. It opened last year and applied for a type 41 license on Dec. 12. The airy, lime-green Vietnamese restaurant's imperial rolls were among the tastes leading a Chronicle reviewer to call Mangosteen "a keeper."

S.F. liquor license trends: On-sale up, off-sale down

THE granting of liquor licenses for restaurants has kept pace with the growth of San Francisco as the dining capital of the West Coast, even as off-sale licenses in the city have become almost impossible to get, according to figures furnished by the Alcoholic Beverage Control's office in Sacramento.

The city has 1% fewer liquor licenses now than in 1980. Since then, San Francisco has pared off-sale general liquor licenses by a third, off-sale beer and wine permits by 43% and on-sale beer-only by a whopping 75%. The number of type 48 licenses also indicates there are 30% fewer full-service bars in the city than in 1980.

Meantime, another trend has emerged in keeping with the city's culinary reputation. On-sale beer and wine licenses at eateries jumped from 818 to 1,362, or 67% in the same 25 years, and general licenses, which include distilled spirits, increased from 590 to 671, or 14%.

Liquor licenses for restaurants were not specified in a 1999 off-sale moratorium in the Tenderloin aimed at liquor stores. And state law doesn't require the ABC to refer those applications to a vote of the Board of Supervisors before it can act, as it does with bars. But, as if to expand the moratorium, the ABC is denying all applications for the full bar restaurant license, type 47, while approving beer and wine restaurant licenses, type 41, despite being over-subscribed.

"The only ones that can possibly be approved under the moratorium are 41s, not 47s," says John Carr, the ABC information officer. "The ABC has stopped accepting applications for 47s (the license type for full bar in a restaurant) because the licenses are oversaturated. But we are accepting them for 41s (wine and beer in a restaurant)." Reminded that 41s are included in the excess (see sidebar), he was asked why the double standard. "I don't know how to answer that," he said. "We just do."

Here is a partial list of citywide license totals.

San Francisco Liquor Licenses 1980-2005

	1980	2005
Total licenses	3,505	3461
Type 20, off-sale beer and wine	334	192
Type 21, off-sale general	1,036	708
Type 40, on-sale, beer	108	27
Type 41, on-sale, beer/wine, restaurant	818	1,362
Type 47, on-sale, full bar, restaurant	590	671
Type 48, on-sale, full bar	523	364
Other licenses (ABC has 80 different types)	96	137

— TOM CARTER

Source: Alcoholic Beverage Control

The police generally go along with a liquor license for a restaurant if the majority of its sales is food. That becomes a condition of approval.

"If it's about a restaurant opening," says Michael Torres, the Tenderloin cop who makes police recommendations on proposed licenses, "we think that's an opportunity that should be given. But just a bar, we have more than enough, and I see no benefit to the community. It's a lucrative business. And if it were up to us (the police), we'd be even stricter."

"Take a walk around the Tenderloin and see what oversaturation does. People are impacted by alcohol. But we don't give the license, like most people think. We only recommend. But somebody has to put their foot down."

ABC spokesman John Carr could not say whether the ABC has ever refused a San Francisco application supported by the supervisors.

27 ON-SALES ISSUED SINCE 2000

So the on-sale numbers rise because of restaurants, less so because of bars. Census tract 124, where 26 on-sale licenses are allowed, has 37 on-sale beer and wine and general licenses for restaurants, 27 of these issued since 2000, according to ABC figures. The tract also has five type 48 bar licenses. The last, and the only one since 1996, was issued June 21, 2004, for the Orpheum Theater.

Ironically, despite oversaturation, the ABC is bowing to local control. It does what the supervisors want. In the Artie Samish days, the ABC gave local communities no say about liquor licenses. And their common complaint, according to Gilman M. Ostrander, author of "The Prohibition Movement in California," published in 1957, was that the ABC "forced bars and liquor stores into communities against the overwhelming opposition of local opinion" — so the state could get more revenue.

Though the written protests accompanied the Deco Lounge file when the supervisors voted Aug. 12 for the license transfer, Daly spokesman John Avalos said the on-sale protests "haven't been brought immediately to our attention. But we'd like to hear from people about how it impacts the neighborhood," he said. "Then we can follow up."

HEARING WRAPS UP

At the November hearing, the protesters were uncomfortable with the bar's image. But Kapp was adamant about keeping it intact for his regulars who expect amusements like the Oct. 14 wet jock contest and the male striptease contests on Sundays.

"This isn't a neighborhood bar," Nulty said. "It caters to a different population coming from outside the city."

But, Kapp said, "most of the clientele is in the neighborhood." When the judge asked if Kapp was willing to get rid of exotic dancing to promote neighborhood peace, he said no.

Among the written materials the bar owners submitted was a list of more than 30 gay and straight organizations the Rendezvous had donated to, including the Larkin Street Youth Center, the American Red Cross and Project Open Hand.

Judge Greenberg's decision is expected any day. ■

Liquor licenses in TL

THE ABC has issued 179 on-sale liquor licenses of varying types to bars and restaurants in the Tenderloin's four census tracts. This is almost twice the number allowed under state law.

Census Tract 123 is home to nearly 40% of such licenses in the neighborhood. The tract is bounded by Powell, Ellis, Leavenworth and Post streets. Inexplicably, the police claim there are 77 licenses there, 6 more than the ABC's data show.

Census Tract	Licenses	Allowed Actual
122	23	28
123	20	71
124	26	44
125	25	36
	94	179

— TOM CARTER

Source: Alcoholic Beverage Control data supplied in December 2005.

KEITH STEVENS
'The best man'

Keith Stevens and his wife of 15 years, Jennifer Lee, moved into the Union Hotel in May. They were happy to be there and made everyone else glad to have them. But their pleasure was short-lived: Mr. Stevens had a heart attack and died in his hotel room Oct. 25. He was 51.

At a front table at the Nov. 16 memorial for Mr. Stevens, two huge bouquets and a foot-high card, signed by dozens of friends, flanked his smiling portrait.

"I'll always remember Keith smiling, no matter how he was feeling," said the hotel social worker. "I'm glad I got to know him."

Added Marjorie King, the hotel's residential manager, "Keith was one of our nicest residents, always so polite. And you, Jennifer, always made the staff feel good."

Lee, who attended the memorial with her son, Cordero, 19, and daughter, Kristian, 20 — Mr. Stevens' stepchildren — thanked King. She was too overcome to share anything about her husband, she said, then leaned against Kristian, who put her arm around her mother.

After the memorial, Kevine Boggess, Mr. Stevens' half-brother, told The Extra that Mr. Stevens was born in New Jersey and moved to San Francisco 20 years ago. King explained that the couple had been homeless for three years before moving to the Union, one of the city's master lease buildings for the formerly homeless.

Asked for a few details about her husband's life, Ms. Lee said he served in the military, stationed at Fort Dix in Jersey City. "I think he was in 'Nam, but he didn't talk about it," she said.

"All I know is he was the best man I ever had in my life."

— MARJORIE BEGGS

TIJUANA RIOS
Mother of 7 dies at 35

Thirty-five friends and relatives gathered at the Cadillac Hotel Nov. 30 to remember the life of Tijuana Rios.

"I am the mother of seven children, and she was my baby, a sweet, sweet girl, but she was a sick girl," said Dorothy Payton, Mrs. Rios' mother. "I told her every day that I loved her. She knew I loved her."

In 1998, Mrs. Rios left her native Louisiana and started a new life in San Francisco. Within a year, she married Richard Torres Rios, a Texan, and moved into the Cadillac where he was already living. He was more than twice her age, but for six years, they were a steady couple.

In December 2004, Richard Rios died of a stroke in their room. He was 72.

In November, Mrs. Rios died in her room of an aneurysm. She was 35.

"She was sick for a long time," her mother said, "but she didn't want to have surgery."

Mrs. Rios' aunt, Hazel M. Collins, thanked everyone for coming to the memorial and, looking around the Cadillac's large lobby where the service was held, said, "I can see Tijuana had a lot of friends. I hope all of you will say a prayer for her."

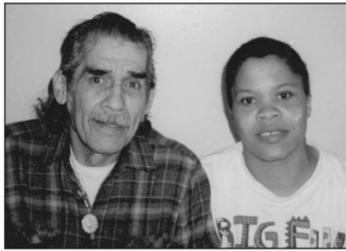


PHOTO COURTESY CARL JEROME LEWIS

Richard and Tijuana Rios

Mrs. Rios' brother, Carl Jerome Lewis, also a Cadillac resident, spoke briefly: "I'm the baby son of the family. She was the baby girl. In the last hours of her life, she was smiling — she left with a smile. Ti, I'll always miss you."

Minister Jerry Shaw of the Christ Mission Fellowship officiated. He read from Job, Chap. 28, Verse 12, delivered a sermon on wisdom, and sang and played the guitar to open and close the service.

In addition to her mother, brothers and sisters, Mrs. Rios is survived by seven children, aged 8 to 16, who live in Baton Rouge.

— MARJORIE BEGGS

JOSEPH MIKELL
'Gentle soul' who died alone

Life seemed to be on the up-and-up for Joseph Mikell, according to his public health nurse, his caregiver and his social worker at the West Hotel, where he'd lived for a year. But on Nov. 9 he died

at San Francisco General Hospital of a head injury from unknown causes. He was 64.

Mr. Mikell was in a wheelchair, all 6-foot-3 of him, when he left the West Hotel on Nov. 5. No one noticed him leaving and he was carrying no identification.

According to Tomiquia Moss, the hotel's social worker, Mr. Mikell was brought to the hospital after being injured "somewhere out in the community." He told E.R. staff his last name, but it sounded like "Michael" to them, which delayed efforts to identify him for four days.

At a Nov. 30 memorial at the West, Jan Shropshire, his public health nurse since last January, remembered him fondly.



PHOTO COURTESY WEST HOTEL

Joseph Mikell

"Joseph was such a gentle soul, and he seemed to be flowering," Shropshire said. "He was looking better than ever, though I know he had shadows and struggles. I'm just so sorry I couldn't have been with him at the hospital."

Moss knew him well. "I saw him thrive here and become part of the community. Also, he had great a support system and lots of friends in the building who were sorry not to be able to say good-bye."

She recalled that when Mr. Mikell lost all his teeth, she and his other professional supporters worked hard to get him dentures. "The day he got his uppers, he knocked on my door, and when I opened it he paused a minute, then gave me a big smile," Moss said. "His smile was lovely even without his teeth — but it was even better with."

For just under a year, Mr. Mikell's caregiver at the hotel was Rebecca Janozo. She confirmed his appreciation of the care he was receiving.

"He'd always say to me, 'Sit down and watch TV. Stop working.' And every day when I left he'd say, 'Okay, sweetheart, see you tomorrow, but be careful outside,' and he'd apologize if he spilled ashes in the room," Janozo said.

On the last day she saw him, he seemed unwilling to get out of bed, Janozo remembered, but he refused to let her call the doctor or 911.

The few people at Mr. Mikell's memorial, officiated by the Rev. Glenda Hope, agreed with Moss' last thoughts about her client: "I celebrate the kind of person he was. It was a pleasure to have known him."

Mr. Mikell is survived by two sons in Florida.

— MARJORIE BEGGS

JAN CASTRO
BERNARD CLARK
FRANKLIN MOSBY
3 residents
of Jefferson Hotel

A cloud of sorrow settled on the Jefferson Hotel at 44 Turk St. before Christmas when three residents died within a week of each other, one of them a warm-hearted maintenance man who lived there more than a dozen years and was a cherished regular at Brown Jug bar over on Hyde Street.

The hotel held a memorial for them on Dec. 16 in a bright, carpeted basement room

set with handsome wood chairs and a white cloth-covered table. On it, three floral arrangements celebrated the lives of Jan Castro, who was 53; Bernard Clark, who was 38; and Franklin Mosby, who was 61.

Ms. Castro went to St. Francis Hospital on her birthday, Nov. 21, and died of pneumonia on Dec. 4.

"I had a denim skirt for her," said one of the dozen mourners. "She died before I could give it to her. Her death broke my heart. She was my friend."

Ms. Castro had come to the hotel in May to be close to a companion, Jeffrey Leggett, and soon began volunteering for the hotel's social activities, said the hotel's case manager, Mariko Obrero.

Mr. Clark, who died Dec. 11, was a Jefferson Hotel resident less than a month when he went into an Oakland hospital where he died while on a support system.

"Both Mr. Clark and Ms. Castro were expected to come back, and that's what makes it so hard," Obrero said.

Mr. Mosby, a 13-year resident, died in his room Dec. 9 of natural causes. "The three losses have been very painful for our community," Obrero added.

Randy Burns sobbed and struggled as he spoke of Mr. Mosby, a drinking buddy for 20 years and a gay man like himself.

"He'd always say, 'Randy, be strong for gay people with AIDS.' He knew all the gay people who died of AIDS. I can't believe he's gone. I loved him so much. He was a very special person."

A neighbor of his on the second floor said Mr. Mosby always greeted him with "have a good day and enjoy yourself."

According to Obrero, Mr. Mosby was a diabetic. But it didn't stop him from drinking daily at the Brown Jug where he became a close friend of Ralph Schaefer, a bartender and owner for 37 years.

"He was in here every day for more than 15 years," Schaefer said over a country and western song from the bar's jukebox. The place is fairly dark unless the door is open and two muted televisions are kept going at either end of the old-timey bar. A man nursing a beer said he had known Mr. Mosby 30 years, and that he worked as a maintenance man



TENDERLOIN AIDS RESOURCE CENTER
Outreach and Community Events February 2006

HIV Education Forum
Topic: HIV Side Effects and How to Talk to Your Doctor About Them
Speaker: Bill Stewart, Cal-PEP
Date/Time: February 15, 6 - 7 pm

HIV Housing Forum
Topic: Accessing Housing in San Francisco
Speaker: Tyrone Payne, Housing Services Manager
Date/Time: February 22, 6 - 7 pm

Location for Forums: 175 Golden Gate Ave.
(St. Boniface Marion Group Room); light meal will be provided

Client Advisory Panel
Come talk with Alexander Fields, Consumer Board Representative; Tracy Brown, TARC's Executive Director and program managers about plans for TARC. Also provide input on new services and how we can improve.
Date/Time: Wednesday, February 8, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm;
Wednesday, February 22, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Volunteer for TARC
Orientations: Sunday, February 19, 10 am - 5 pm (lunch provided)
Sunday, February 26 10 am - 5 pm (lunch provided)
183 Golden Gate Ave.
You must pre-register for volunteer trainings. Stop in/call David (415) 934-1792.

For current groups' schedule or for more information
call: 415.431.7476 or go to www.tarcsf.org



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For more information visit www.tarcsf.org

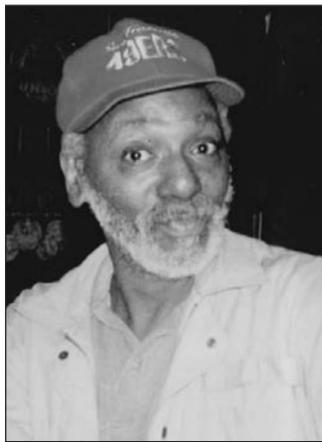


PHOTO COURTESY RALPH SCHAEFER

Franklin Mosby

third stool from the end of the bar near the door so he could look outside, Mr. Mosby was a soft touch for his acquaintances.

"People would come in and whisper in his ear, then he'd borrow \$5 from me and give it away," Schaefer said. "He always paid me at the end of the month. But he never got his money back. He was a drinker. He couldn't remember everything."

When Mr. Mosby didn't show up at his seat on Thursday, Dec. 8, Schaefer sent three people at different times to the hotel to check on him, he said. The last was a resident who got management on Friday to open his door and they found him dead.

"We were close buddies," Schaefer said. "He was gay, you know. I'm going to get a brass plate engraved with his name and 'rest in peace' and put it on the bar at his seat."

"I got a whole barful of people I'd gladly change for him. That's the way I feel about it."

— TOM CARTER

DONNA JEAN REDMON 'Proud alumni' of SafeHouse

Relatives and friends of Donna Jean Redmon crammed the small sanctuary of an Outer Mission church to overflowing in a memorial service,

and janitor at many bars in the TL such as the Ram's Head on Taylor and Leona's Cocktail Lounge on Turk.

"He was my h a n d y m a n , " Schaefer said. "He'd do plumbing and electrical, small things. I'd pay him. And when I'd have a bar party he'd always volunteer to do the cooking."

Sitting at his regular spot, the

describing her as a strong-willed woman with a winning personality who weathered her stormy life with flair.

About 80 mourners of all ages, most dressed in church finery, some of them the staffs of recovery programs that Ms. Redmon successfully completed in the Tenderloin, filled all 16 pews and stood in back of the First Presbyterian Church at 32 Ocean Ave. clutching eight-page programs.

In front, flower sprays surrounded a handsome blown-up picture of Ms. Redmon whose soulful eyes looked out over the sanctuary. Near the pulpit, a poster on the wall read: "Together we make a difference." During vocal tributes, some mourners burst into spontaneous song at the Nov. 11 memorial conducted by the Rev. Glenda Hope, who officiates at many services for Tenderloin residents.

Ms. Redmon died Nov. 5 of a heart attack. The mother of five children and grandmother to 11 was 60 years old.

A native of San Francisco, Ms. Redmon lived for a period in Alabama. She once resided in the Hamlin Hotel at Eddy and Leavenworth, according to close family friend Phil McKnight, a longtime Sixth Street grocery operator, now retired. She had a "magnetic personality," he said, and had successfully battled a substance abuse problem. "She was a graduate of Walden House and had been clean for four years," McKnight said.

Her son Thaddeus said his mother was raised in "racist times" but taught him "not to hate, and I'm better because of that." Her sister, Bethola Harper, said Ms. Redmon was remarkable for quickly apologizing after losing her temper, and never holding a grudge against anyone.

"My mother was strong, strong, strong," said her only daughter, LaRonda Anderson, a Department of Public Works employee. "She taught me to hold my head up when I walked and I always have. And she worked hard. I never wanted for grits."

Ms. Redmon, a former nursing assistant, had trouble breathing the afternoon of her death. But she wouldn't call 911 to her sister's residence near the church where she was living because it was "too expensive," her daughter said. Instead, she called a cab.

When it arrived, Ms. Redmon got as far as the

sidewalk and collapsed. The cab driver then called 911. An ambulance came and took Ms. Redmon to St. Luke's Hospital where she died. Anderson said her mother was "jokin' till the last."

The memorial program said Ms. Redmon was a "proud alumni" two years ago of San Francisco SafeHouse, a program for women leaving prostitution. It was founded in 1998 by the Rev. Hope through her San Francisco Network Ministries in the Tenderloin.

"She was one of our most successful graduates," Hope said afterward. "She even came back to work with the staff and to help and encourage other women. She was helping on the day she died. She loved children, too."

"She'd be alive today if we had a health care system that served everyone," she said.

The mourners attended a repast downstairs in the church dining hall.

— TOM CARTER

LORI KOHNKA and LUCINDA CARLOS Women of the West

A half dozen mourners gathered at the West Hotel to commemorate the lives of Lori Kohnka and Lucinda Carlos, residents of the renovated hotel since it opened a year ago at 141 Eddy.

Ms. Kohinka died Thanksgiving Day in St. Francis Hospital. She was 44. Hotel social worker Tomiquia Moss said Ms. Kohinka had recovered from a blood clot in her leg that had traveled to her heart. But after returning to the hotel, she relapsed and went back to the hospital where she died of complications. She is survived by her husband of 15 years who lives in another Tenderloin SRO, Moss said.

Ms. Carlos, who has family in the Bay Area, formerly worked as a dental assistant and on a factory assembly line. She attended all the hotel's social events and was "a sweetheart," Moss said. She died alone in her room of natural causes on Dec. 1 She was 56 .

"It's been very hard," Moss said of the losses.

The Rev. Glenda Hope suggested the mourners seek out people during the holidays who are alone. "Give them the gift of your presence," she said.

— TOM CARTER

A MESSAGE FROM SAN FRANCISCO FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 798:

THANK YOU SAN FRANCISCO!

Thank you for voting to save our neighborhood firehouses by supporting Proposition F, the Neighborhood Firehouse Protection Act.

Thanks to you, San Francisco will be a safer city — better protected against fires, medical emergencies, and major disasters. When the alarm rings, our neighborhood firehouses will be open and fully operational, and our local firefighters will be better equipped to protect every San Francisco neighborhood.

San Franciscans know what's best for San Francisco.

Thank you for keeping Neighborhood safety one of our highest priorities.



PHOTO © MICHAEL MUSTACCHI

Our special thanks go to these courageous individuals and organizations who stood with us by standing up for public safety:

- | | | |
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| COALITION FOR SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOODS | AARON PESKIN | LAURENCE GRIFFIN, FORMER S.F. FIRE COMMISSIONER |
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[PARTIAL LIST]

Paid for by Yes on F: San Franciscans To Protect Neighborhood Firehouses, Sponsored by and Major Funding by International Association of Fire Fighters Local 798 San Francisco. FPPC ID# 1277335.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Adult Health Screening Day, Feb. 10, 330 Ellis, Freedom Hall, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., sponsored by Glide Health Services. Free blood pressure, cholesterol, asthma screenings, HIV testing, immunizations and more. Info: 674-6140.

Mark Ellinger's "Hotel Project," more than 100 images on display in Supervisor Chris Daly's office during the month of February. Opening event for the exhibition TBA.

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE

HOUSING

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

Supportive Housing Network, 4th Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., location TBA. Contact: Alecia Hopper, 421-2926 x302.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

Health & Wellness Action Advocates, 1st Thursday of the month, 1-3 p.m., Mental Health Association, 870 Market, Suite 928. Contact: 421-2926 x306.

Mental Health Board, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., CMHS, 1380 Howard, Rm. 537. CMHS advisory committee, open to the public. Contact: 255-3474.

Hoarders and Clutterers Support Group, 2nd Monday and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6-7 p.m. 870 Market, Suite 928. Contact: 421-2926 x306.

CMHS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of the month, 5:30-7:30, CMHS, 1380 Howard, Rm. 537. Contact: 255-3428. Advisory group of consumers from self-help organizations and other mental health consumer advocates. Open to the public.

National Alliance for the Mentally III-S.F., 3rd Wednesday of

the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Family Service Agency, 1010 Gough, 5th Fl. Contact 905-6264. Family member group, open to consumers and the public.

SAFETY

SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location changes monthly. To receive monthly information by e-mail, contact Lisa Block, 538-8100 ext. 202 Lblock@iisf.org.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy. Note change: previously was last Wednesday of the month. Contact Susan Black, 345-7300. Neighborhood safety.

North of Market NERT, bimonthly meeting. Contact Tim Agar, 674-6142, or Lt. Juanita Hodge, S.F. Fire Department, 558-3456. Disaster preparedness training by the Fire Department.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Land Use Subcommittee of the Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 1st Friday of the month, 11 a.m., 100 McAllister, Room 325. Tracks new and continuing building projects and other land use changes in the Tenderloin. Open to public, but call to confirm attendance, 557-7887.

Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com. Districtwide association, civic education.

Mid-Market Project Area Committee, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5:30 p.m., Ramada Hotel, 1231 Market. Contact Carolyn Diamond, 362-2500. Market Street redevelopment on Fifth to Tenth street.

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., Tenderloin Police community room, 301 Eddy. Contact Jerry Jai at 358-3956 for information. Network of residents, nonprofits and businesses sharing information and taking on neighborhood development issues.

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 5-6:30 p.m., Boeddeker Rec Center, 240 Eddy. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact: 552-4866.

South of Market Project Area Committee, 3rd Monday of the month, 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom, between 6th & 7th. Contact: SOMPAC office, 487-2166.

North of Market Planning Coalition, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy. Contact: 820-1412. TL 2000, neighborhood planning.

Boeddeker Park cleanup, 3rd Saturday of the month, 9-noon, organized by the Friends of Boeddeker Park. To RSVP to work or for information, contact Betty Traynor at the Neighborhood Parks Council, 621-3260.

Community Leadership Alliance, quarterly informational forums with guest presenters and speakers, sharing news of upcoming events, proposals, resources. Meetings are first Thursday in Jan, April, July, Oct. Contact David Villa-Lobos, 921-4192 or admin@CommunityLeadershipAlliance.net

SENIORS AND DISABLED

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

Senior Action Network, general meeting, second Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon, St. Mary's Cathedral. Monthly committee meetings, 975 Mission #700. Fundraising, first Thursday, 2 p.m.; Pedestrian Safety, second Friday, 10 a.m.; Sr. Housing Action, third Wednesday, 1:30; Health, last Thursday, 1:30. Information: 546-1333.

SUPERVISORS' COMMITTEES

Budget Committee Daly, Dufty, Peskin, Thursday, 1 p.m.

City Services Committee McGoldrick, Dufty, Ma, first and third Monday, 1 p.m.

Land Use Committee Maxwell, Sandoval, McGoldrick, Wednesday, 1 p.m.

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