



WELCOME EMILY WEINSTEIN!

BRIDGE (re)hired Emily Weinstein starting in mid-September as the new Rebuild Potrero Community builder. The “re” has to do with the fact that Emily worked at BRIDGE many years ago as an Assistant Project Manager. Emily will lead BRIDGE’s and the City’s efforts to identify and develop programs and activities that will help reinforce the social fabric of Potrero Terrace & Annex and unite the residents of Potrero Hill in common purpose. Emily has an interesting and varied background having worked on political campaigns, education reform, and in social media. Emily’s talent, energy and enthusiasm are a welcome addition to the Rebuild Potrero team.



COMMUNITY EVENTS UPDATE

(continued from page 2)

“Get Togethers”

Since late October, residents of Potrero Terrace and Annex have been meeting in small “Get Togethers” to talk about the future of their community and re-imagine what it could be. Groups of 5-10 people, hosted by a fellow resident, are engaging in an asset mapping exercise, identifying the resources that exist in the community, starting with their own talents and skills, and talking about what works and what doesn’t work.

The Get Togethers, facilitated by Rebuild Potrero’s Community Builder, Emily Weinstein, will continue through the end of the year and will culminate in a community-wide Get Together in early 2011. At this large event, stakeholders, community members and Potrero Hill Terrace and Annex residents will come together to create the outline for a shared Potrero Hill vision and broad-based community action agenda. The small resident Get Togethers are the first step in engaging residents in an organized framework, providing them with a positive, productive and comfortable environment and ensuring greater interest and investment in the community-wide Get Together in January.

Potrero Hill Festival

Rebuild Potrero had a booth at the 20th Annual Potrero Hill Festival on October 16th that benefits the NABE. Dozens of Potrero Hill residents stopped by to view drawings and color renderings, and get information about the planning for the rebuild. In addition, about 20 Terrace & Annex residents took advantage of BRIDGE’s financial sponsorship and attended the NABE’s jazz breakfast. The Festival also marked the unveiling of the Dream Boxes built by members of the Community Building Group under the moniker “Unite Potrero.”. Many people wrote down their hopes and dreams for the neighborhood and put them in the boxes. For anyone who wants to share their dreams and ideas, or just add to the dialog about uniting all residents of Potrero Hill in common purpose, the website is www.unitepotrero.org.

Potrero Hill History Night

Rebuild Potrero was also represented at Potrero Hill History Night on October 23rd. The annual event is a fundraiser for International Studies Academy at 18th & DeHaro and featured a video partially funded by Rebuild Potrero and produced by BAYCAT. About 25 Terrace & Annex residents, sponsored by BRIDGE to partake in the fried chicken and BBQ dinner, attended the event.

Rebuild Potrero

HOPE SF Redevelopment of Potrero Terrace and Annex

Fall 2010 Newsletter



PROJECT UPDATE

Since June, the Rebuild Potrero team has been busy participating in and carrying out several events that continue to engage the community in design and planning as well as building more and stronger relationships between Hill residents. Perhaps the most exciting event of the summer was the installation and planning of a community garden and an inaugural outdoor movie night. The team also recruited and hired a new Community Builder (see back page).

Formal City review of the proposed master plan started in late June with submittal of the application for environmental review to the Planning Department. BRIDGE has engaged PBS&J to conduct an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that will assess any potential environmental impacts of the proposed plan. A public scoping session on Monday, November 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the NABE will offer the community an opportunity to let the Planning Department know what issues it thinks should be addressed in the EIR.

INSIDE

- Potrero Hill Looks to the Future..... pg. 3
- Community Events Update..... pg. 2
- New Community Builder..... pg. 4
- How the Garden Grows..... pg. 3

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- EIR Scoping Meeting
Monday, November 22, 6:00 p.m. at the NABE
- Community Building Group
Thursday, December 2, 7:00 p.m. at the NABE
- Community Center Planning Workshop
Tuesday, December 14, 6:00 p.m. at the NABE

COMMUNITY EVENTS UPDATE

Community Garden Workshop

On Saturday, August 14th a group of Terrace & Annex residents, neighbors, urban farming enthusiasts and experts came together to explore and envision possibilities for a Community Garden. Marc Tognotti and Kenoli Oleari from the Institute of the Commons (IOTC) facilitated a lively discussion and “visioning” process where participants expressed their hopes for a community garden that will be developed in stages over the next months and years. The meeting covered a wide range of topics from appropriate plants for the San Francisco climate to hopes that the garden will become an educational resource, a source of healthy food, and create job opportunities for youth. The wide range of perspectives was collected on a “Vision Wall” and recorded to aid future.

Second Annual Community Action Day

The plans developed at the August 14th Community Garden workshop have already been set in motion, with the installation of a raised bed garden behind the Potrero Hill Family Resource Center at 85 Turner Terrace during the Second Annual Community Building Action Day on August 21st. The construction of the garden was a focus of the early afternoon’s activities as volunteers from all over Potrero Hill helped install raised cedar containers, haul soil, install a drip irrigation system, and plant vegetables.

Parents and students from Starr King Elementary also came out to patch the gopher holes on the field at Potrero Rec Center to make it more hospitable for soccer playing. Community members and residents made another batch of beautiful commemorative tiles, which will find a home in the rebuilt Terrace & Annex. There was barbeque and music, with jumpy houses and other kids’ games. This year had the added element of an outdoor movie night. Those who braved the winter weather of late August enjoyed popcorn, ice cream and the new Disney classic, *The Princess and the Frog*, on a large outdoor screen. It was a fun-filled family event with people from across Potereo Hill. Thanks to all who donated time and materials to make the Second Annual Community Action Day a success.



Potrero Terrace Residents Graduate From HOPE SF Leadership Academy

On Friday, September 17th, two Potrero Terrace residents, Benita Johnson and Sarah Gillette, along with nine people from other public housing developments, graduated from HOPE SF Leadership Academy. Cheered on by friends, family and colleagues at City Hall, they received certificates and talked about their personal experiences, community building projects, and visions for the HOPE SF revitalization. This completes the third year of the HOPE SF Leadership Academy, which engages HOPE SF residents in the public housing revitalization process by building strong leadership skills. Congratulations Sarah and Benita!

Potrero Terrace/Annex Youth Participate in Youth Leadership Academy

During the summer, seven enthusiastic and talented young residents took part in the second session of the HOPE SF Youth Leadership Academy. Sisters Abriel and Alanis Toeaina, brothers Edwin and Young Potasi, and their friends and cousins Filoi Savaaetasi, Kashee Tafui-Stewart and Velia Suisala spent four days a week learning urban planning skills that helped them see their community in new ways. Creating maps, taking photos, interviewing their neighbors, visiting City institutions, and engaging in spirited discussions about how their neighborhood and the City interact, the group worked closely with Rebuild Potrero team members and City staff to define what a renewed sense of community could mean for them, their friends and their families. The summer culminated in a gathering of the Youth Leadership teams from all of the HOPE SF sites, hosted at the Fillmore Jazz Heritage Center, where the young women wowed the rest of the crowd with their a capella harmonies.



Potrero Summer 2010 Youth Leadership Academy Team: Abriel Toeiana, Edwin and Young Potasi, Lia Suisala, and Kashee Tafui-Stewart

POTRERO HILL HISTORY LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

By Peter Linenthal

I moved to Potrero Hill in 1975 but had never set foot in the public housing here until Rebuild Potrero held its first community action day in August 2009. Before then, I hadn’t known anyone who lived in the public housing and it seemed that whenever the area was in the news, it was because of a robbery or shooting. During the community action day, I helped plant vegetables outside the Family Resource Center and ate barbecue with a big crowd that included public housing residents and neighbors I’d known for years. Just spending time in a part of my neighborhood I had never visited changed how I saw Potrero Hill - it seemed a little less divided.

I started going to Rebuild Potrero Community Building Group meetings that often began with brainstorming about the meaning of community and imagining what the future could look like. We looked for areas that the most members thought were important. Three committees formed: Safety, Gardening, and Oral History. In the Oral History group, we printed and distributed cards that asked “Please Tell Us Your Story!” looking for people willing to talk about life in the Potrero Terrace and Annex. I met with the public housing Grandparents Group; some of them were open to being interviewed and they knew others who were. The Oral History group heard about BAYCAT, an organization that has taught media skills to youth in the Bayview district for years, and decided to partner with them to record video oral histories and eventually involve neighborhood youth in the process.

On October 23rd, the Potrero Hill Archives Project held its 11th annual History Night. BAYCAT showed a short video, “Public Housing on Potrero Hill: a Timeline” that traced how public policy created and shaped the Terrace and Annex using old photos the Archives has collected over the years. You can see it on www.youtube.com by searching “public housing and Potrero Hill.” BAYCAT also filmed an interview with three men who grew up in the public housing in the 50s and 60s; the days when the Potrero Terrace and Potrero Annex were known as the old projects and the new projects. They have been close friends all their lives and call themselves “The Unique Ones”. All three men were raised by strong single mothers and the peer pressure of those days was to stay in school. Older kids looked out for younger ones and there was a strong sense of community pride. It wasn’t until the late 1960’s that the problems brought on by drugs began affecting the community. All three men spoke about the importance of providing today’s youth with safe opportunities to just be kids.

Little by little, we are hearing each other’s stories and gradually Potrero Hill becomes a less divided community. The oral history project gives us an opportunity to know the history of the place that we all share - an important step in helping the community understand itself and better plan for the future.

Peter Linenthal is the author of two books on the history of Potrero Hill and co-director of the Potrero Hill Archives Project as well as an active member of the Rebuild Potrero Community Building Group.

HOW THE GARDEN GROWS

The garden is thriving! Terrace & Annex residents have been harvesting collard greens, lettuces, and other fresh, organic vegetables. The teachers at Oscaryne Williams Infant and Toddler Center are cooking food from the garden for the children who, in turn, are planting seeds and watching them grow. David Globber, a dedicated Potrero Hill community member, is acting as the interim garden manager. David is overseeing the health and maintenance of the garden, organizing workdays, and working with other gardening professionals, including local resident Betsy Davis, to develop educational and other programs for interested residents. The Garden Committee of the Community Building Group is meeting on a regular basis to plan for a larger garden to be located on Texas Street as well as developing a program for individual households who would like to have a small garden closer to home. For anyone interested in getting involved in the garden (working, teaching, learning, or just harvesting and eating fresh food!) or the Garden Committee, please contact Emily Weinstein at 415-806-1429.



The Family Resource Center Garden