"We are all in arrears to our self expression... We all have a little catching up to do."

—Keith Walker, artist/meditation teacher
I see from our windows that the street is cluttered, once again. Messy with that which has been thrown away; cigarette butts, empty Styrofoam cups, newspapers, an obsolete computer, a broken chair. I can’t distinguish; is there still a body sleeping in one of the familiar grey-mauve blankets carried by homeless wanderers? Or, because it rained last night making it a soggy burden to lug around, is it now a throw away too? Where is the person once inside? Just another throw away I guess. But where is away?

I turn from these troublesome images outside, towards the inner sanctum of the Fools Court. I see there a bright container where circles of people are in motion feeding, inspiring, and holding my rapacious soul in their centers. Bless them! For what is it I hunger in this place where wealth and poverty share the street outside my home; outside this purple building on Hyde Street where Kings and Queens pass through the doors daily? Where beggars are choosers and the choice is art and life. What does the presence of these circles assuage? Where do I go, if not here, to form questions begging for answers; to respond to my longing for an evolving community of hope? Who will breathe with me the breath of awe for that which I cannot comprehend, and for which only the artist can express. Where else can I hear a deep bellowing call to our ancestors urging them to join us; a cry for wisdom through a mouth whose opening forms the shape and sound of OM.

The stories that reach me from the expanding life of these circles tell me that art and its creators will not die at the hands of a culture that denies them the space, time and sustenance to survive. They will not be thrown away. Eliminate them from our schools or the media. Starve them, but you cannot silence them. The Will to Print Press will pour their poetry unto the streets, our copy shop gallery will keep exhibiting their paintings, plays will be performed on the stage, and music will float out our windows.

For many, art, like homeless people, is dispensable. It can be disappeared, moved around or thrown away. Wrong. There is no away!

—Kay Jorgensen
Public Art

Richard Kamler is an artist and educator at the University of San Francisco. Two years ago, Richard used the Faithful Fool’s Court and the streets of the Tenderloin as his classroom. Before sending students forth into the community to create art he would provoke their imagination with the questions, “What does it look like?” and “What do you see?” Richard sees peace.

For 30 years Richard has been engaged with creating art that takes as its premise that of social change and cultural transformation. He is working on a project called “SEEING PEACE”. Richard sees the Peace Bell being struck on International Peace Day in September of 2005 in New York. As the bell rings, pair by pair, one artist from each one of the 191 member nations, and their respective ambassador will enter the General Assembly and take their seat at the table.

“Seeing Peace, the first step, occurs through our imagination. And what better way to initiate and make visible the power of the imagination than to bring the artist to the table of our largest international forum, the United Nations. Art is our one true global language. It knows no nation. It favors no race. It acknowledges no class. It speaks to our need to heal, reveal and transform. It transcends our ordinary lives and lets us imagine what is possible.” (Richard Kamler)

—Carmen Barsody

There was a mural on a long wall going towards the presidential palace in Managua that told of the 500 years of struggle, from the Spanish conquest to the triumph of the revolution. People were outraged and sorrow-filled when one morning we awoke to find that the mayor of Managua had sent workers out during the night to paint over this masterpiece and memory. How naive to think that he could erase the history of the people.
Simply put, this play is one of those rare occasions when art serves the highest purpose of making the world a better place for all of us. And isn’t that what art is supposed to do? To uplift us? To make us realize that we are connected to all living beings and the universe itself by some invisible thread, and that there is divine power in that, a truth that truly could save us all?

—Ellen Canchik (Street Spirit) Review of The Witness

The Witness

The Witness, a centerpiece of our arts program, is a play created by director/writer Martha Boesing and performed alternately by one of two actors: Anna Brown Griswold and Rebecca Noon. It is a one-woman play depicting the journey of a young woman onto the streets of the Tenderloin, as she discovers that she must examine the assumptions of her own mind before she can truly join the community of all beings. Based on the Ten Oxherding Pictures of ancient Zen Buddhism, the play is a powerful portrayal of the work and operating ethos of the Faithful Fools.
Voices

And he heard a poet and tried to imitate that particular voice heard through the confessional window, and she heard a poet and got down on her knees praying and praising, and yet another heard a poet and walked through the woods, the rain barely ended, and they kept writing and writing, sometimes hearing entirely different voices than before, and they wrote ‘til they fell over and then got up and wrote again, and sometimes in the dead of night or at the earliest crack of morning you’d swear all their voices sang together or perhaps just created a glorious cacophony, the main thing is they kept on writing, throughout it all they kept on singing.

—Mike Niemczyk
Tenderloin Poet

9@NIGHT FILMS

It has been a privilege to open the doors of the Fools’ Court to Rob Nilson and the Tenderloin Group, an acting workshop for homeless, inner city residents and professional actors. Rob Nilson, founder of 9@Night Films, is filmmaker extraordinaire, director, actor and teacher who produces meaningful cinema that speaks from the human heart.

It is not “different” films that Rob makes. He says, “I’m talking about original. And the root of that word is ‘origin’ and the work I value speaks of the origins and destinies of people apart from their fashions, their masks, their societal functions. I’m talking about character as a destination... A beginning in seed and egg, nurtured in family, developed by a long journey of discovery, and an end back into the dust of this earth.” (www.robnilsson.com)

In Bedrock Park, I was offering people baked goods left over from a Faithful Fools meeting. “No thank you, brother,” one man graciously declined, giving me a heartfelt smile. I remember him most vividly of all the people I encountered in the park that day.

Words here are live wires inserted into your brain in the middle of the night when you look out your window to see the waning Moon... These words will make and keep you awake... These words are mantras that you will never forget if you have the courage to take them seriously.

We were playing with the words, “Home is where the art is”, and asked people at the poetry reading what this evoked in them. Thomas Carewe told us that he went to art school, and chuckled when he said, “that’s why I’m broke!” He went on speaking with a moving clarity saying that, “even if I have nothing I still have a home in this world”. There’s always something to touch my soul, to reach in and touch me,” JR chimed in, “Art is a giving of oneself!”
We call on our ancestors, urging them to join us.
Lyle Hakanen
Lula Bell (Mama) Seymour
The 169 people who died
on the streets last year
All Our Relations

As we call the spirit of the ancestors we call on the spirit of Mark Claude Ruybal who joined the ancestors on July 7th, 2004. We call on Mark to help us to be silly and to make people laugh as he did.
We call on Mark to help us to love as he loved.

Community Art

HOSPITALITY HOUSE
COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAM

Over the past 37 years, the Community Arts Program and its parent organization, Central City Hospitality House, have been a vital source of support for a diverse community of homeless, poor and at-risk individuals in the Tenderloin. We have developed programs and provided services to empower people to take control of their lives, and in doing so we've helped to build a stronger community.

CCHH adheres to a self-help, peer-based model that incorporates harm reduction. We mount thirty exhibitions in-house a year and provide free workspace and materials. All of our programs are low-threshold, meaning that anyone is welcome and can simply drop in. Additionally, CAP has a wonderful writing program, going into its sixth year.

Making art changes lives, and changing lives strengthens communities. I see evidence of this change everyday in myself, in my co-workers, and in those who participate in our program. However, the most profound changes I see are in the people who come to visit the studio — perhaps out of curiosity, many times to buy art, or often to inquire about volunteering. They come in inquisitive and leave imbued with the feeling that art makes a difference, that art can change lives, even their own.

The CAP studio is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 12:00pm–6:00pm. For more information, call (415) 749-2132.

—Rick Dannell
Community Arts Program Management Team

The Faithful Fools regularly hosts exhibitions by artists from Hospitality House CAP in its front lobby.

MEDITATION

Each Monday morning our meditation schedule includes an outdoor walking meditation around our block. We walk in a slow, single file, in silence; mindful of breath and posture. On several occasions people in the neighborhood have, in various ways, connected with us. A group of men outside the Brown Derby Bar yelled, "Where’s the funeral?" along with other less flattering comments. Another time, a young man was fascinated with us. Walking up and down our file, mumbling questions to himself he finally approached me and asked if we were praying. I remember surprising myself in answering, "We are praying for you, brother."

—Keith Walker

Faithfoool Fools:

A place, a clearing; in the wooooods,
or, a House:
A LOVE BOMB FACTORY
Where?
A fighter can trade their blindness
(and) their sword and
discover the pen.
Where you can eat, meet, --The
mean, and rob blindness of its
maiming powers.

Mostly – learn the mystery
an eternal and infinite process
of what fuel doth power these
Fools, when they are sleeping
not on earth.

—Stone Allen
Tenderloin Poet
The Universe Story

"Kopanang" means gathering together, building bridges, making connections. Coming together, they share their stories which have been shaped by poverty, the impact of HIV/AIDS, lack of human values and basic human rights. Beauty is key to transformation. These panels, like the universe, began in darkness — a bolt of black fabric — with each pattern traced, color chosen, needle threaded and knot tied, the universe began to appear, every stitch bringing us closer to the women of Kopanang.

Art...do you see it?

A man came by as Andrea was painting the stairway at the Fools' Court. He stood there a while, studying what she was doing. "Are you doing that?" he finally asked. "Or fixing it?" He had a point. It is, after all, a set of concrete stairs above a copy shop in a neighborhood that is often called "distressed." But open one eye; it could be a masterpiece of abstract impressionism. Pollock, perhaps? Keep winking.

This is the threshold of the Fools' Court, the stairway the Fools travel faithfully every day of our lives. And every time we cross a threshold, the stairs remind us, it is art.

When Kay Jorgensen and Carmen Barsody founded the Faithful Fools in 1998, they brought very different views of art and ministry. Kay had always lived, as she says, whirling between two sides of a slim coin — the theater and the church, the minister and the clown. "Art is a big part of my life, and always has been," she said.

For Carmen it was not so easy to articulate. She had no background in theater, none in music, painting, poetry — "zero." But then she began to find language for the creative energy within which life was unfolding.

Pretty soon she was seeing art everywhere she walked. Like walking down the stairs.

Here it is possible for poets to come together and read. Actors can come to rehearse. There are walls where painters can hang their work. The art here comes out of life, from snatches of conversation and materials at hand on the streets of a neighborhood where making beauty from the passed-over, discarded, hard-to-handle reality of the streets is a matter of survival.

Last year, textile artist Barbara Meyer started a weaving which became a community project.

"Art here is like that," said Carmen. "Everyone was invited to put in their stitches without any thought to color or pattern. And now we have this weaving."

At the Faithful Fools, people walk up and down the stairs, write poetry, sit and talk and cry together, read poetry, discuss films, rehearse plays, plan openings, sit zazen, write newsletter articles — and call it all art. "People are attracted to the Fools for a reason we haven't yet defined," said Kay. "But when they get here, whatever is in them...has an opportunity."

—Mary Ganz
We are called to a ministry of presence that acknowledges each human's incredible worth.

Aware of our judgements we seek to meet people where they are, through the arts, education, advocacy and accompaniment.

We participate in shattering myths about those living in poverty, seeing the light, courage, intelligence, strength and creativity of the people we encounter.

We discover on the streets our common humanity through which celebration, community and healing occur.

Thank You!

We extend tremendous gratitude to all who support the vision and work of Faithful Fools to:

All our individual donors and monthly pledgers
All patrons of Faithful Fools Copy Shop
All Street Retreatants
All Volunteers

Granting Foundations:
Kalliopelia Foundation
California HealthCare Foundation
Shutz Engel Trust
Unitarian Universalist Funding Program
Unitarian Universalist Society for Community Work

Catholic Religious Women's Communities for
Low-interest Alternative Investment Loans:
Loretto Sisters of Kentucky
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, MN
Mercy Partnership
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, CA
Dominican Sisters of Racine, WI
Donate

Direct Contributions
Direct donations of checks and credit card contributions can be sent to our address, made using our donation cards or through Pay Pal on the Internet at www.faithfulfools.org

Pledges
Pledges are an important way of sustaining our monthly expenses. Pledges can be made using our donation cards or through Pay Pal on the Internet at www.faithfulfools.org

Stock
Gifts of stock are a wonderful way to support our work.
Call Anton Jungherr at 510.799.1141 for details.

Bequests
Name Faithful Fools Street Ministry as a beneficiary of your estate in your will or trust.
Call Julia Wald at 415.482.7555 to discover the tax advantage that can be structured to meet your needs.

Give
Please consider giving,
Please consider pledging.
The choice is art & life.

Faithful Fools
Street Ministry
234 Hyde Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.474.0508
fools@faithfulfools.org

Recycle
Clothing and Furniture
Used clothing and household items can be taken to the Community Thrift Store
626 Valencia Street
San Francisco
Call 415.861.4910
Designate Faithful Fools Street Ministry (Agency #204) and we will receive part of the proceeds
Please bring thrift items directly to the Community Thrift Store, unless other arrangements are made. Thank You!

Purchase
Poetry Anthology
A collection of writings from the Tenderloin Poets. Unabridged and in their original form. Available at the Faithful Fools Copy Shop. Suggested Donation of $8.00 per copy

Hats and T-Shirts
Wear a Fools' Hat or our purple T-Shirt.
Many hat styles available. T-Shirt has "Fools" Logo on front. Back reads:
ONE SIMPLE ACT OF COMPASSION CAN FEED A STRANGER OR END A WAR
Suggested Donations of $15 to $20

Participate
Street Retreats
Attend a Street Retreat to raise your awareness of life on our streets.

Volunteer Fool
Most of our daily work is done by Volunteers! Come find your way as a Fool.

Fundraisers
Help prepare for our events, purchase a ticket for yourself or for someone who cannot.

The Witness
Schedule a performance for your group at school, work or church.

Donate Your Car
truck, boat, motorcycle or even an airplane.
Your vehicle will be picked up at your home. You can get a tax deduction for your charitable contribution.
Call Volunteers of America at 510.567.1112 or 800.559.5458
Be sure to mention The Faithful Fools.

Ink Cartridges
Bring your empty ink cartridges to the Faithful Fools Copy Shop or to the Fools Court and we receive refunds for returning them to the manufacturers.

Copy Shop
Bring your copy and printing business to the Faithful Fools Copy Shop. All profits from the Copy Shop directly support the work of the Faithful Fools Street Ministry.
Call Richard Nichols 415.673.4567 phone 415.673.1027 fax copyshop@faithfulfools.org www.faithfulfools.org
**MEDITATION**

**FAITHFUL FOOLS STREET ZENDO**

Monday
9:00 - 9:30 Zazen (Sitting Meditation)
9:30 - 9:40 Kinhin (Walking Meditation)
9:40 - 10:00 Zazen
10:00 - 10:15 Kinhin (Outdoors)
10:15 - 10:45 Zazen

Tuesday
9:00 - 9:30 Zazen
9:30 - 9:40 Kinhin
9:40 - 10:00 Zazen

Thursday
9:00 - 9:40 Zazen
9:40 - 10:00 Reading

Friday
9:00 - 9:40 Zazen
9:40 - 10:00 Reading

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**TENDERLOIN**

**MONTHLY COMMUNITY READING SERIES**

**Poetry Readings**
Second Saturday of Every Month
4:00 pm
Fools Court
234 Hyde Street
Anyone welcome to read

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**ROUND TABLE**

**EAT, REFLECT, AND INSPIRE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pot Luck</th>
<th>Open to All</th>
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First Monday of Every Month
5:30 pm
Fools Court

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**Sunday Night Prayer and Meditation**

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
Nichiren Buddhism
Chanting and Prayer
Contact Rev. Ryuei McCormick 415-350-9908

**FAITHFUL FOOLS STREET ZENDO**

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**OSCARD'S FEAST**

**CLOWNBURST**

**CELEBRATION AND FUNDRAISER**

APRIL 1ST, 2005
FOOLS' HIGH HOLY DAY
SAVE THE DATE!

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**THE WITNESS**

A one-woman play depicting the journey of a young woman into the streets of the Tenderloin, and her discovery of the joy she must examine the destruction of her own mind before she can truly join the community of all beings.

Please call the Faithful Fools 415.474.0508
For Performance Schedules
To Book a Performance
Call Martha at 510.530.6188

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**A SERIES OF SIX PERFORMANCES**

First Performance December 21
4 pm to 8 pm
Ramu Aki invites performing artists to grow a world reality of justice and peace.

Strong Medicine Show
Strengthen, Arouse, Nurture, Heal

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**Film Night**

Watch a Film at The Fools' Court and Share in Discussion Afterwards.
December 25
Film Marathon Begins @ Noon
Call for Details!

**FAITHFUL FOOLS COPY SHOP**

Support the Work of the Fools!
Bring your Business to the

- Binding, Printing and Copying
- Brochures, Legal Briefs, Posters, Manuals and Directories
- Digital Direct Premium Quality Color and Black and White
- Fiery RIP Technology, Lithographic Methods

OPEN MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 9:00 am UNTIL 5:30 pm

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**Calendar of Events**

For Information on any of the above Events please call 415.474.0508
Faithful Fools, 234 Hyde Street, San Francisco, CA 94102