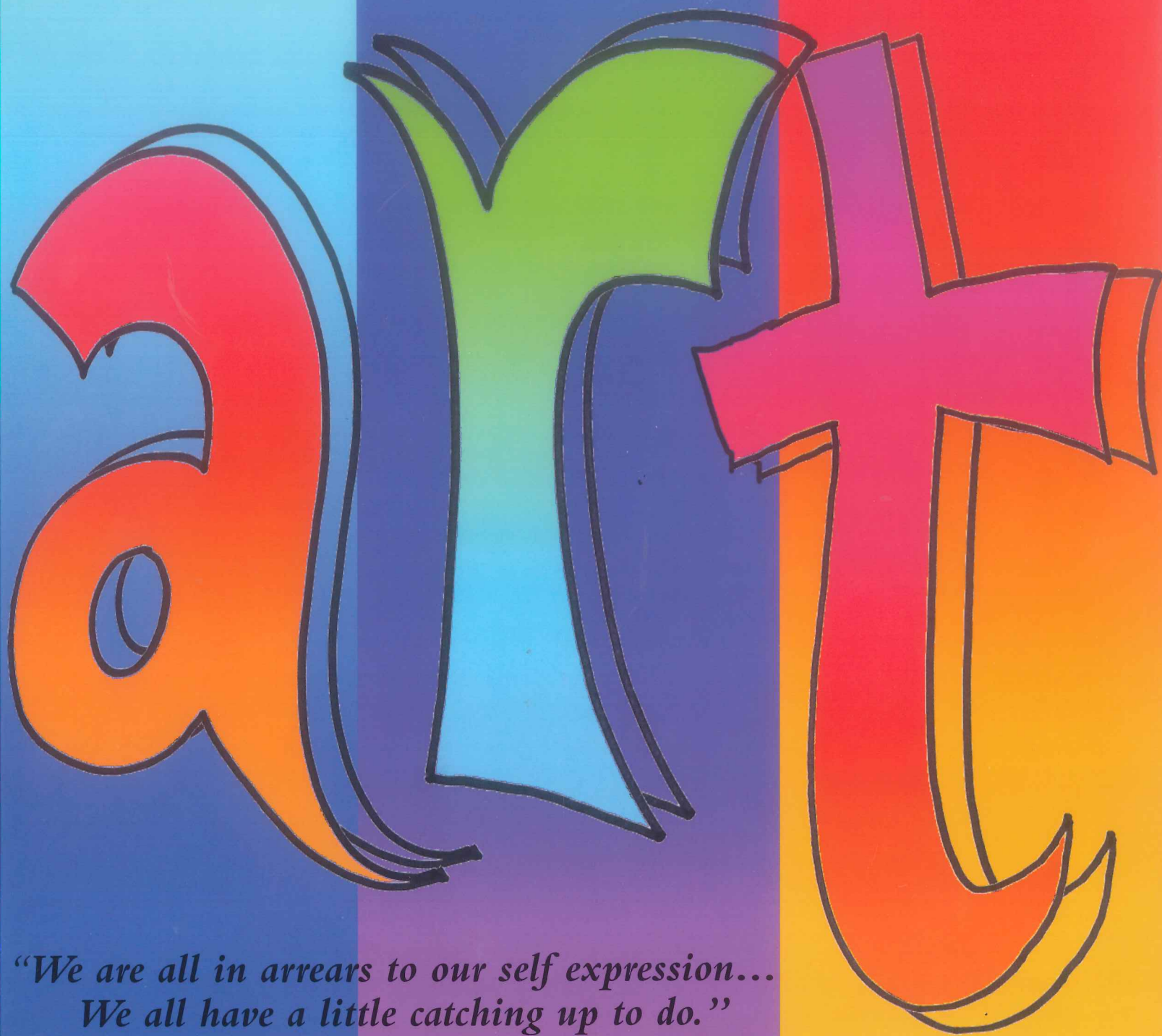




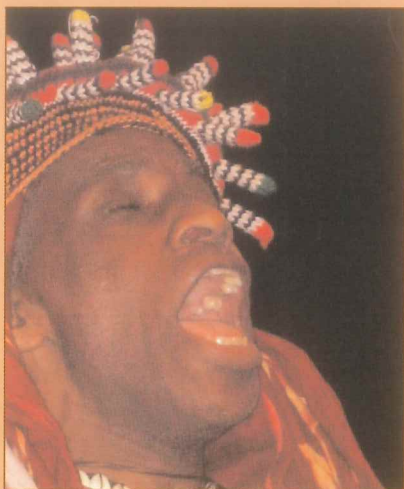
# Fools Fables

Volume VII/Winter 2004-2005



*"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



*We rarely hear the inward music, but we're all dancing by it nevertheless, directed by the one who teaches us, the pure joy of the sun, our music master. —Rumi*





# Public Art



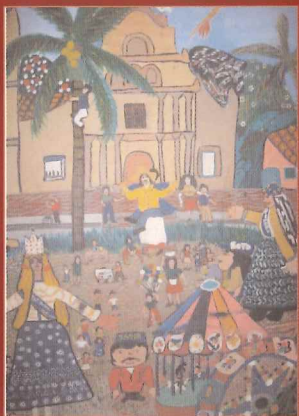
[www.richardkamler.org](http://www.richardkamler.org)

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 naïve to think that he could erase the history of the people.







Like the moon emerging from a cloud,  
the Fool sees there is no separation  
between one sentient being and another.  
She goes onward no matter who may  
wish to call her back.

*The Bull Transcended*



You know what is so amazing  
about art at Fools' Court? It's the  
only place I've ever been where  
you have accomplished artists –  
working, 'known' artists –  
working alongside people who are  
just coming in from the streets,  
and other people who are just  
dropping by. And you can't tell at  
a glance which is which.



Martha Boesing

*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



Anna Brown Griswold

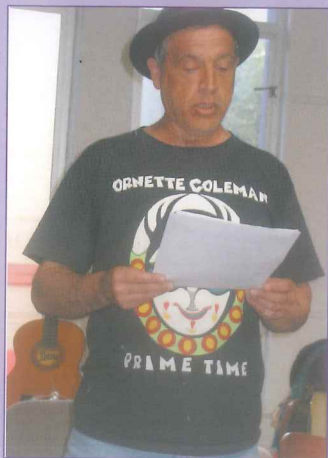
**T**he Witness, a centerpiece of our arts  
program, is a play created by director/  
writer Martha Boesing and performed  
alternately by one of two actors: Anna Brown  
Griswold and Rebecca Noon. It is a one-woman  
play depicting the journey of a young woman onto  
the streets of the Tenderloin, as she discovers that  
she must examine the assumptions of her own



Rebecca Noon

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.

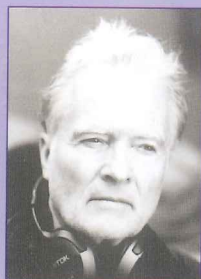




## Voices

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

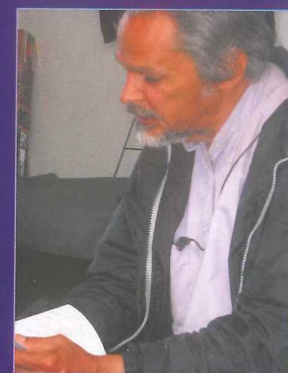
It has been a privilege to open the doors of the Fools' Court to Rob Nilsson and the Tenderloin LyGroup, an acting workshop for homeless, inner city residents and professional actors. Rob Nilsson, founder of 9@Night Films, is filmmaker extraordinaire, director, actor and teacher who produces meaningful 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](http://www.robnilsson.com))

*In Boeddecker 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.*

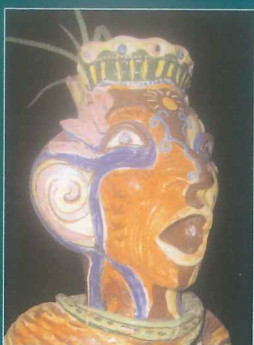


*Words here are live wires  
inserted into your brain in the  
middle of the night when you  
look out your window to see  
the waning Moon... These  
words will make and keep you  
awake... These words are  
mantras that you will never  
forget if you have the courage  
to take them seriously.*



*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 Carney 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 Hakanson  
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 Darnell  
Community Art Program Management Team

*The Faithful Fools regularly hosts exhibitions by artists from Hospitality House CAP in it's 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 wooodds,  
or, a House:  
A LOVE BOMB FACTORY  
Where?

A Righter 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 masterwork 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





## Faithful Fools Street Ministry

230/234 Hyde Street

San Francisco, CA 94102-3324

e-mail: fools@faithfulfools.org

## FAITHFUL FOOLS STREET MINISTRY



*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:  
Kalliopeia 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](http://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](http://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.



## Faithful Fools Street Ministry

234 Hyde Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
415.474.0508  
[fools@faithfulfools.org](mailto:fools@faithfulfools.org)

# Give

Please consider giving,  
Please consider pledging.

*The choice is art & life.*

# 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.

# 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!*

## 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.

# 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

## 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](mailto:copyshop@faithfulfools.org) [www.faithfulfools.org](http://www.faithfulfools.org)



## STREET RETREATS

December 11, 04  
February 19, 04  
March 19, 05  
April 16, 05  
May 21, 05  
June 18, 05

Seven Day Retreat, March 20-27  
(Prior participation of a 1 day retreat required)

Call 415.474-0508 for  
information and to Register.

tenderloin  
monthly community  
**Open**  
series

## Poetry Readings

Second Saturday of Every Month  
4:00 pm  
Fools Court  
234 Hyde Street

*Anyone welcome to read*

## THE WITNESS

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.

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

## 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



## ROUND TABLE



**Eat, Reflect, and Inspire**  
Pot Luck  
Open to All

## Gathering of Fools

First Monday of Every Month  
5:30 pm  
Fools Court

## 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

## Sunday Night Prayer and Meditation



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

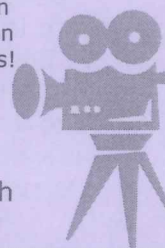
FAITHFUL FOOLS STREET ZENDO

## Film Night

Watch a Film at  
The Fools' Court and  
Share in Discussion  
Afterwards.

December 25  
Film Marathon  
Begins @ Noon  
Call for Details!

Fourth  
Saturday  
Every Month  
7:00 pm



## OSCARD'S FEAST



CELEBRATION  
AND FUNDRAISER

**APRIL 1ST, 2005**  
**FOOLS' HIGH HOLY DAY**

SAVE THE DATE!

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

## FAITHFUL FOOLS COPY SHOP

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

## 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