Securing Our Future: Shanti Introduces Legacy Society

In 2014, Shanti will celebrate 40 years of providing services for our most vulnerable neighbors in San Francisco. Over the past four decades, Shanti has trained over 15,000 volunteers in the Shanti Model of Peer Support™, to provide emotional and practical support to thousands of clients with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other life-threatening illnesses. When the AIDS crisis hit San Francisco in the early 1980s, Shanti was well-established and ready to meet the needs of a community besieged by the escalating epidemic. Shanti became the first agency of its kind in the world to respond to the crisis, and nearly 40 years later, the Shanti Model of Peer Support™ thrives in a range of programs designed to address breast cancer, HIV/AIDS, and other life threatening illnesses.

In honor of Shanti’s 40th anniversary, we invite you to participate in our campaign and to join our Legacy Society. The Legacy Society recognizes those who have made a commitment to the long-term future of Shanti by naming Shanti as a beneficiary of their estate. Members of the Legacy Society play a vital role in ensuring that the organization can continue to provide critical services for individuals facing a life-threatening illness for decades to come. By becoming a member of the Legacy Society, you are investing in the future of the agency and contributing to Shanti’s celebrated legacy in San Francisco.

Joining the Legacy Society will help Shanti plan for the future of the organization and ensure that no individual should have to face a serious illness alone. For four decades, Shanti has been meeting the changing needs of the most vulnerable members of our community. Shanti has evolved over time to address the city’s most urgent health crises, and will continue to do so as long as those needs exist.

We invite you to become part of Shanti’s Legacy Society and be a part of Shanti’s future. If you would like more information about including Shanti in your estate plans, or have already done so and would like information about Society membership, please contact Rachel Hill at 415-674-4724 or rhill@shanti.org or visit our website at shanti.org/pages/legacy_society.html.

12th Anniversary Breast Cancer Program Event: The Shanti Speakeasy Cocktail Celebration

On April 13th, 2013, Shanti will honor the 12th Anniversary of our Breast Cancer Program with our annual spring event, the Shanti Speakeasy Cocktail Celebration.

(continued on page 4)

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A Message from our Executive Director

I can’t believe it has been nine years since I went through the Shanti volunteer training. I still remember distinctly what a moving and profound experience the training was, and facilitating these trainings is one of the favorite parts of my Shanti experience. We just finished our first volunteer training of 2013, and it was an inspiring reminder of the tremendous spirit of volunteerism that thrives in our community. San Franciscans are not just aware of the difficulties and suffering faced by our neighbors, but we are willing to embrace their challenges as our own. When we see that our neighbors are sick or in pain, and it might be easier to look the other way, we do not. Instead we move towards our neighbors with open arms and open hearts.

So many wonderful organizations, including Shanti, are able to fulfill our missions because people refuse to look away from those in need. Volunteers are the backbone of San Francisco’s nonprofit community, and as we continue to receive reduced levels of funding from the federal government, all of San Francisco’s nonprofits will rely even more heavily on the compassion and generosity of our volunteers.

Personally, I am humbled to be a part of the tremendous legacy of Shanti volunteers here in San Francisco, which is composed of over 15,000 volunteer caregivers. To this day, my volunteer experience has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. If you have ever thought about volunteering, I would encourage you to consider doing so now. We are lucky to be in a community where so many causes are represented. Find one that resonates with your heart and follow that path, and you may find that you are the one who gets the most from your volunteer experience.

Jackson Bowman, HIV Health Counselor

Jackson joined Shanti in 2012, and is the newest addition to the Shanti L.I.F.E. team. Throughout his career at UCSF, and previously through Larkin Street Youth Services, Jackson has had the opportunity to impact the health and well-being of HIV positive people and those that are at high risk for HIV, STDs, and their cofactors: poverty, homelessness, substance abuse, and mental illness. Originally from the Midwest, Jackson moved to San Francisco in 2004 and worked for several years in restaurants as a cook and pastry chef. He began working with HIV+ transitional age youth in 2006 after witnessing the epidemic of homelessness that San Francisco faces. Jackson is committed to the equality, health, and empowerment of his community, especially those that are underserved and marginalized in our society. He is excited to be part of the L.I.F.E. team and proud to add his contribution to the Shanti Project.

Kathleen Orloff, Staff Accountant

Kathleen Orloff has joined Shanti Project as an assistant to the finance department. She has a long history of working for nonprofits, starting as controller with Randy Hayes and the Rainforest Action Network. She has also worked as controller for the That Man May See Foundation, which raises funds for ophthalmology research at UCSF. She left nonprofits to become the CFO of Syntrio, Inc, assisting with its growth from tech startup to a mature company. She is very happy to again be working with nonprofits and assisting Shanti with its endeavors. She lives in San Francisco, has a BA from UC Berkeley, and writes fiction.

Thank you to our wonderful current interns.

Breast Cancer Program—Cindy Kang and Monique Argoud
HIV Services—Tiffany Tran and Talia Roven
Compassion is Universal 2012 at Hilton San Francisco Union Square
Shanti’s 38th Annual Benefit

Thank you again to all of our generous supporters. Special thanks to our Shanti Lifetime Achievement Award honoree, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. Stay tuned for Compassion is Universal 2013.

Photos by Raul Garcia-Gonzalez and Adam Thorman
A Message from our Board Chair

It’s an honor to have been elected as Shanti’s Board Chair, and I thank my fellow board members for their faith in me to lead us through 2013. With a board as compassionate, committed, cohesive, and energetic as Shanti’s, we are poised to excel in our efforts to grow awareness, and bring needed support to our clients.

While I have known of Shanti since the early 1980s, in 2010 I became reacquainted, and subsequently involved in the organization through San Francisco’s annual non-profit “Board Match” event. Having experienced the suffering of numerous family members who did not survive their fight with cancer, as well as friends, co-workers, and acquaintances who lost their fight with HIV/AIDS, I’ve seen firsthand how difficult it can be to cope, even with an emotional support system in place and easy access to the services they need. Through these experiences, I have come to understand the issues Shanti’s clients face in managing their illnesses and the difficulty of their day-to-day challenges when they are left to cope with them alone.

The need for Shanti’s services, unfortunately, is not waning. And so, our Board, Staff, and Volunteers know that we must continue to reach out to our community so that we respond to this growing need. Each time I see the latest group of volunteers completing their training through pictures on our Facebook page, I am reassured that our growing client base will be getting the compassionate support they need.

Please feel free to reach out to me, or any board member—we are always willing to share more about the difference Shanti continues to make in the lives of San Francisco’s most vulnerable individuals.

(Speakeasy Celebration, continued from page 1)

This signature event will be an opportunity to show support for this vital program while meeting and mingling with staff, clients, and a diverse group of community members and program supporters.

Held once again in the historic Old Mint in San Francisco, this afternoon event promises to transport guests back to the Roaring ’20s with themed music, entertainment, and cocktails. Our silent auction promises to be bigger and better than ever with dozens of exciting items up for bid. Come dressed in your best jazz-age attire (suggested but not required).

Hosted by the one and only Donna Sachet, the event will honor Dr. Judith Luce, Clinical Professor of Medicine at UCSF and Director of Oncology Services at San Francisco General Hospital. The event is co-chaired by Tracy Curtis, Shanti Board Member and President of Wells Fargo San Francisco Bay Area, and Christopher Wiseman, Shanti supporter and volunteer.

The event will take place from 3pm-6pm. Tickets are available now for the earlybird price of $100—the price will increase to $125 after March 13th, so make sure you get your tickets early if you want the best deal. Tickets are available by visiting http://www.shanti.org/pages/breastcancer-12-years.html or by calling Rachel Hill at 415-674-4724. Sponsorship packages are available starting at $300.

Thank you to our current sponsors! (as of 2/19/13)

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Allie Lieber

Allie Lieber is one of Shanti’s most involved Peer Support Volunteers. She has been a part of the Shanti community for just over two years, and along with the support she’s provided her client of a year, she’s been active in volunteering with us at our Breast Cancer Program Annual Event, marching with us in the SF Pride Parade, and holding a workshop for the Breast Cancer Program’s Wellness Activites. Allie has been a valuable addition to our Peer Support Program by being a part of our training team as a volunteer facilitator and most recently has become a co-facilitator for one of our Peer Support Volunteer support groups.

*How did you hear about Shanti and what prompted you to reach out to become a Peer Support Volunteer?*

After graduating from college and living in San Francisco for a few months, I felt like I was missing something. I used to do a lot of volunteering and participating in peer support programs and was also very involved in women’s health initiatives. But what I was missing most of all was being a part of something I cared about. I hopped online and did a search on volunteermatch.com for women’s health organizations near the Lower Haight. Shanti was the first match and applications were due the following week!

*In the time you have been matched with your client, what is one of your most memorable moments with her? And are there any valuable lessons you’ve learned from her?*

One day during early summer my client and I stumbled into a free opera show in Golden Gate Park. We bought sandwiches from the food truck and had a picnic under a tree. We didn’t bring a blanket or anything so we just made ourselves comfortable in the grass. Reclining back, hands folded across her stomach with an ever so gentle grin on her face, she had an air of calmness and peace about her. I really felt connected to her and her just-enjoy-and-don’t-take-life-too-seriously spirit.

*How does being a Shanti volunteer contribute to your day-to-day life?*

I have brought listening more intentionally and fully into my day-to-day life. It really adds another dimension to my understanding of myself—both my boundaries and my openness, and of others. I also feel like part of a really amazing community.

*Last fall, you participated in the Breast Cancer Program’s Wellness Activities, facilitating a jewelry making workshop. Can you tell us what drew you to the Wellness Program and what was the most rewarding part for you?*

Whitney, the Wellness Coordinator whom I met through Shanti and is now one of my best friends, told me about the program and I starting wondering what I could offer. Because I have been making jewelry for years, I thought it would be a lot of fun to lead a workshop! It absolutely was. It was incredibly rewarding to take time out of my work day to visit with Shanti clients and help them make something beautiful.

*What is a fun fact you can tell us about yourself?*

I was in 12 musicals by the time I was 12 years old!
In Memorium: Shelia Denise Wilson-Cole

On December 30th, 2012, Shelia Denise Wilson-Cole passed away peacefully at the home of her beloved sister, Terrell Wilson. A San Francisco native, Shelia was passionate about education, poetry, gatherings, dancing, performing, and singing. Initially diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005, she became a Shanti client in 2006 and became a very active advocate in various breast cancer awareness and support groups, including Shanti, the Sister Network, the CARE Group, and Araceli (WE Project Theater Group). Shelia was a dear friend to her Peer Support Volunteers, her Care Navigators, and the entire Shanti staff. Her inspirational energy, courage, and beautiful voice will be greatly missed.

Shelia Denise Wilson-Cole (right), with her Peer Support Volunteer Ellen Lingar at the Shanti Breast Cancer Program event last year.

donor spotlight

Rick & Kathleen Meyer

Bill Meyer was seven years old when his parents Rick and Kathleen Meyer started taking him for weekly cello lessons with a teacher named Paul McNabb. When Paul suddenly fell ill with pneumonia and was hospitalized, it was revealed that he was fighting AIDS. Paul was eventually discharged from the hospital, and moved from Berkeley to San Francisco to be closer to the services that he needed. The Meyers began commuting from the East Bay for Bill’s weekly cello lessons. “Bill’s weekly lesson was one of the few things that would pull Paul out of bed; teaching cello was something he truly loved,” Kathleen recalled. “Afterwards he was would usually have to collapse back into bed.”

Over the next three years, Paul and the Meyers shared a close friendship. During the time that Paul’s health was declining, Shanti provided support in the form of care navigation and Peer Support Volunteers to help Paul meet basic needs, such as cleaning and running errands when he was homebound. “Shanti was a huge help to him,” Kathleen said.

Paul lost his fight with AIDS in 2000, but his impact on Bill was truly life-changing. Through Paul, Bill discovered his love for cello and now, at age 23, is pursuing a master’s degree in Cello Performance. In honor of the inspiration he gave their son, Rick and Kathleen Meyer have been making donations to Shanti in his memory since 2007.

Bill Meyer
SF HIV Health Services Planning Council Spearheads Needs Assessment of the Aging HIV+ Community

The San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council, housed at Shanti, has teamed up with Loren Meissner from SFSU’s Gerontology Program to conduct a needs assessment of the aging HIV+ community in San Francisco. Modeled after the Gay Men’s Health Crisis 2010 study “Growing Older with the Epidemic: Aging and HIV,” this needs assessment targets HIV+ individuals over 50, with a focus on the unique medical, practical, and emotional challenges faced by this population. Over the years, the landscape of the HIV/AIDS pandemic has changed drastically, and with the development and widespread use of antiretroviral therapy, people with HIV can expect to live much longer lives than in the early days of the disease. Aging has now become one of the largest issues faced by the HIV positive population.

Recent research has shown that HIV can actually accelerate the development of diseases associated with aging, including cardiovascular disease, cancers, liver and renal disease, and neurocognitive degeneration. In addition, socioeconomic factors play a crucial role in how HIV+ individuals experience aging.

The study has been well-received, with survey sessions filling up to capacity with a diverse range of participants. By the end of the survey, the data collection team will have surveyed over 150 HIV+ individuals over the age of 50 from San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin counties. Researchers hope this data will provide significant insight into the experience of aging HIV+ individuals and help identify gaps in the continuum of care. This survey aims to inform public policy decisions and enable providers to more effectively address their clients’ needs, giving voice to the positive community and taking steps towards eliminating barriers to health and wellness.

-Ali Cone
SF HIV Health Services Planning Council Administrative Assistant

Shanti Breast Cancer Program Research Project Enters Final Phase

Now in the final phase of an 18-month research grant entitled “Clinical Trials information and Access for Underserved Women” awarded by the California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP), the Shanti Breast Cancer Program, in collaboration with researchers from University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) and BreastCancerTrials.org, has been selected to present at the CBCRP’s Annual Symposium in Southern California this coming May. Key community partners, Shanti clients, and Breast Cancer Program staff all participated in this pilot effort to create an innovative breast cancer health research education curriculum offered in Chinese, English, and Spanish, specifically tailored to our underserved and immigrant client population.

Join us for the Richmond Ermet AIDS Foundation (REAF) Summer Gala, Help is on the Way XIX

Don’t miss Help is on the Way XIX, the Bay Area’s largest annual, star-studded AIDS benefit concert and gala on Sunday, August 18th at the historic Palace of Fine Arts Theater in San Francisco. From the fabulous pre-show gala reception, the Broadway-quality concert to the sumptuous dessert party with the cast after the show, this is one of the summer’s hottest events. Mark your calendars now! Tickets go on sale in May. Proceeds will benefit Shanti and other Bay Area HIV/AIDS organizations. Visit www.richmondermet.org for more information.

Shanti is grateful for the longstanding support of the Richmond Ermet AIDS Foundation. REAF recently raised over $15,000 for Shanti at their December 2012 event, Help is on the Way for the Holidays.
board profile

Constance E. Norton
Shareholder, Littler Mendelson, P.C.

Connie joined Shanti’s Board of Directors in 2012, and now serves as its Vice-Chair.

How did you first hear about and get involved with Shanti?

I first came to know about Shanti because its Breast Cancer Program was a grant recipient from the San Francisco Bay Area Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, with which I was affiliated for nearly a decade. More recently, last February, I attended a Board Match event, and I stopped by the Shanti booth. I had a wonderful conversation with Kaushik Roy (Executive Director) and Alyssa Nickell, PhD. I was struck by their vision and passion for the wonderful work that Shanti does—and I was hooked! In August 2012, after serving as the Co-Chair for the 38th Annual Compassion is Universal Dinner with Bob Michitarian, I was elected to the Board of Directors, and now serve as its Vice-Chair.

What about Shanti’s mission resonates most with you?

The Shanti Project is founded on the premise that no one should have to face a life-threatening illness alone. In my early 40s, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Despite all my resources, the health care system was incredibly difficult to navigate, reliable information regarding my medical options was difficult to obtain, and the enormity of experiencing a life-threatening illness so early in life and with a young child was overwhelming. It was a terrifying and difficult time in my life, and my friends, family, and entire community enveloped me with love and support.

I cannot imagine for a moment having to go through that experience alone, with few financial resources or unable to effectively communicate with my doctors. Yet thousands of women and men diagnosed with breast cancer and HIV/AIDS in this City are forced to do so on an annual basis. Shanti’s care navigators and peer support volunteers provide resources and compassionate support to our clients when it is needed most.

Since joining the Shanti Board, you took on the role of Ticket Chair for the Breast Cancer Program’s 12th Annual Event. What is that experience like?

This year’s Breast Cancer Event will take place on April 13 at the Old Mint. The Speakeasy theme promises to make the event lots of fun and our Co-Chair, Christopher Wiseman, is a genius in finding the most tantalizing auction items—so I urge you to get your tickets soon!

I’m also on the Committee for our Second Annual Swim for L.I.F.E. event on August 25th. We’re reaching out to masters, high school, and age group swim teams to join us in swimming a mile to raise funds for L.I.F.E.—the nation’s leading HIV self-management and health-enhancement program. In San Francisco, L.I.F.E. provides knowledge, motivation, skills, and support necessary to establish and maintain health-protective routines so as to optimize health outcomes for those living with HIV and to reduce the number of people who become infected. My daughter will spearhead the fundraising efforts in our family for this event (and do all the swimming).

What do you do when you are not serving as a Shanti board member?

I am an employment law trial lawyer and Shareholder in the San Francisco office of Littler Mendelson – the nation’s largest law firm exclusively devoted to representing management in employment litigation, employee benefits, and labor law matters. Additionally, I am proudly “Mom” to my 14-year-old daughter, Aidan, who is a freshman in high school, and a competitive swimmer. She and my husband, Perry Lisker, are extremely supportive of my work with Shanti.
client spotlight

Paoli Lacy

By Simone Seeley, Shanti Peer Support Volunteer

This was originally intended to be a Q&A profile of Paoli Lacy, clown (professionally and spiritually) and Shanti Breast Cancer Program client. But life doesn’t always cooperate with our timelines, and about the time the profile article was due, Paoli wasn’t quite her usual funny, sharp self after a month of infection, meds, and two years of fighting Stage 4 breast cancer. So instead, while she gets the rest she needs, I’ll offer up a few words about my favorite clown.

First, some highlights about the woman from long before I first met her two years ago. As a clown, aerialist, actor, director, writer, student, teacher, and coach, Paoli has journeyed all over the world. She has an MFA from the University of Washington and a diploma from the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College. She has directed over three dozen world premieres, and her work has been seen throughout the U.S., as well as in Japan, the UK, Italy, Haiti, and Australia. But it took reading her bio to know just how big-time she is in the clown world because she certainly hasn’t bragged about any of this when we’ve just been hanging out on a Saturday afternoon.

Instead, her history peeks out through the photos on her shelf, the costumes and ostrich plumes in her storage unit, the comedic acts from a recent tribute, and the two large traveling chests she still uses as dressers in her bedroom. It shows through in how well-loved and respected she is in the arts community, and in the stories others tell of how she’s helped friends and students get through tough times and refine their talent for entertaining.

She’s been pivotal in the clown world, and as one friend recently wrote, “I know that without Paoli there would be no San Francisco Clown Conservatory today. Without Paoli’s tenacity and passion, the CC would never have survived its ups and downs of the past decade. And the spread of clown training, work opportunities, clown ensembles, and continued ripples throughout the circus universe would have been greatly diminished.”

She is also the “Godmother of Clown Therapy” and author of The Clown Therapy Handbook, which uses clowning to recognize, address, and contend with physical and/or emotional difficulties. She’s shared some of her own journey in her suicidal clown play, Angry Gods and Lost Marbles.

About a year or so ago, we were hanging photos in Paoli’s bedroom and one showed her hanging high in the air by one foot, her body bent like a bow, one foot “braced” against the thick rope holding her. I think it was that day that she told me about the fall from the trapeze that ended her aerial career. It was a brutal accident and painful recovery (reinforced recently, when I met her mother, who couldn’t look at the photo), but in typical Paoli fashion, it was a very matter-of-fact rendition of the story, without any desire for sympathy. And that’s how I see her approaching Stage 4 cancer: cancer sucks, but she’s not going to wallow in it. This is her life, and she’s going to keep living it as best she can for as long as she can.

*Editors Note: We are deeply saddened to report that Paoli Lacy passed away on February 28th, just as this newsletter was going to print. To honor her memory, we felt it important to include this story.
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$1,281,899 Government Contracts
$1,760 Other
$66,615

$2,266,374 Expenses
$121,156 Management & General
$339,535 SF HIV Health Services Planning Council
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Thank you to all our in-kind donors!
We sincerely apologize for any accidental omissions or
misspellings. Please contact
Scarlett Chidgey with comments
or corrections at 415-674-4725 or
schidgey@shanti.org.

support
Creative Ways to Support Shanti
DONATE YOUR CAR! Just call 888-SHANTI-4 (888-742-6844) to speak
to a representative. You can also donate online by going to http://www.
shanti.org/pages/shanti-ways-to-donate.html. When you donate your car,
you avoid the costs associated with selling or maintaining your car while
helping your favorite cause. You are entitled to receive a tax deduction equal
to what the vehicle is sold for if you itemize your deductions.
COMMUNITY THRIFT — You can take in-kind donations to Community
Thrift Store and tell them to credit Shanti. Please see their website for
details on acceptable donations and donation hours: www.communitythriftsf.org.
Call them at 415.861.4910 and visit them at 623 Valencia Street.
HAPPY HOUR — If you know of a bar that would like to host a happy
hour fundraiser for Shanti, please contact Rachel Hill at 415.674.4724 or
rhill@shanti.org.

connect
Help build a community of compassion —
connect with us today!
Stay up to date on Shanti’s programs, events,
stories, and more by joining our email list.
Sign up on our homepage: www.shanti.org
and while you’re at it, check out our blog.
Become a fan of “Shanti Project” on
Facebook, or follow us at @shantiprojectsf
on Twitter.

Thank you – your participation strengthens our community.
Ongoing Activities and Workshops

**L.I.F.E. (Living Immune Function Enhancement)**
- **L.I.F.E. Health Workshop Cycle 34** (2/12-5/28)
  Call Karl at 415-674-4706.
- **Latino L.I.F.E. Cycle 8** (3/18-6/17)
  Call Karl at 415-674-4706.
- **L.I.F.E. Experience**
  Wednesday Evenings. Call John at 415-674-4713.
- **Yoga for HIV-Positive Health**
  Tuesdays, 4:15pm – 5:30pm. Call 415-674-4713.
- **L.I.F.E. Hep C Survivors Group**
  Monday Afternoons. Call John at 415-674-4713.

**Volunteer Services**
Our next Peer Support Volunteer Training is scheduled for May 3-5 and the evening of May 8. For more information, please visit www.shanti.org or contact Volunteer Services at volunteerervices@shanti.org or 415-674-4708.

We are currently recruiting volunteers to help out at Shanti’s Breast Cancer Program 12th Anniversary Speakeasy Celebration on Saturday, April 13th and our SF Pride Contingent on June 30th! Please contact Volunteer Services at volunteerervices@shanti.org or 415-674-4708 for more information.

**HIV Services**
- **Drop-in Center & Service Hours**

**Breast Cancer Program Services**
- **Care Navigation**

**Calendar**

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**Upcoming Breast Cancer Wellness Workshops**
(contact Whitney Miley 415-674-4781 to register)
- Two-Part Nutrition Workshops with the University of California Cooperative Extension Program in English, Spanish and Cantonese; plus additional one-time Nutrition Workshops in all three languages; Jewelry-Making Workshop; "Girls Love Mail" Letter Writing & Coffee Hour; Embodying Wellness with the California Institute of Integral Studies.

**Qi Gong**
- A 6-week series starting in March with Christie Sekino.

**Reiki**
- Wednesday mornings with Deena Berger and Christopher Tellez.

**Massage**
- Thursdays with Rachael Martinez, Jude Fauconnier and Ashley Ross.

**Yoga**
- Hatha Yoga with Maria Colina: an all levels class offered free of charge for all Shanti clients; Tuesday and Thursdays from 7:30pm-9pm at The Mindful Body (2876 California St).