

Pre-Thanksgiving scramble for the spilled turkeys

By Leah Garchik Published 6:00 am, Monday, November 17, 2014



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Turkey, bird of the season

A truck on its way to deliver more than 25,000 pounds of frozen turkeys to a distributor that would send them to Costco overturned in San Ramon before dawn on Wednesday morning. Within an hour of the news that a spill had occurred, said a food bank insider, there was a scrum of nonprofits — including Glide and St. Anthony's — eager to have the birds, which were frozen, packed in boxes and unsellable on the market.

But **Michael Altfest**, communications manager for the Alameda County Food Bank, described the process by which they became designees as collegial rather than competitive. The **Alameda County Community Food Bank** and **Food Bank of Contra Costa** will split the turkeys, he said, which were a “nice little windfall” for them, especially just before Thanksgiving. The Alameda group was named the recipient, but given the locale of the spill, “we decided to split them with Contra Costa, in the spirit of sharing.”

P.S.: Meanwhile in the Tenderloin, Friday afternoon's Four-Corner event, organized by neighborhood nonprofits and Capt. **Jason Cherniss** of the **Tenderloin Police Station**, was intended to reclaim the four corners of the intersection of Golden Gate and Leavenworth from drug dealers. Event organizers promised activities for the locals, including face painting, seed planting and “selfies with friars.”

How hip are the friars of the Tenderloin? **Karl Robillard** of St. Anthony's said he saw one standing over a sidewalk vent in front of St. Boniface a few days ago, looking coy. “What are you doing here?” asked Robillard. “Waiting for my **Marilyn Monroe** moment,” said the man of the cloth.

Thursday night, and two kinds of art crowds were milling about in two galleries:

•At the **Serge Sorokko Gallery on Geary**, perfectly turned-out society art lovers were awestruck by “The Porcelain Splendor of **Vladimir Kanevsky**.” The artist makes detailed and realistic-looking flowers out of porcelain, with painted copper leaves and stems. Kanevsky was born in Russia and trained as an architect, and didn't start making these floral works until he came to America. He's so successful that he created works for the Meissen porcelain factory in Germany, and will have a solo show at the Hermitage next year.

“I was never much interested in flowers,” said the artist. “I was a figurative sculptor at first. But then I wanted to supplement my income.” Creating the floral works uses the same “basic skills as a visual artist,” he said, and “someday I will do figurative work again.” Meanwhile, his works are in the collections of **Martha Stewart, Valentino, Daphne Guinness, Princess Gloria von Thurn und Taxis** and a host of other taste-makers familiar to readers of shiny-paged publications.

•On another continent of the art world, the opening of the **Jules Maeght Gallery**, on Gough Street in Hayes Valley, was wall-to-wall packed with artists and collectors, adults, a kid or two, and many designer-ish people wearing round-lensed spectacles, all helping themselves to tiers of multicolored macarons from France. The Maeght family's first gallery was in the south of France, specializing in 20th century art. This, the first in the United States, is run by Jules Maeght, grandson of the founder of the original gallery and longtime friend of **Natasha Boas**, who co-curated its first show, “Art in Motion.”

The exhibition includes pieces from the family's art collection (here from France, where it is shown at the Fondation Maeght) as well as works created for the occasion. **Kal Spelletich's** showstopper, literally, was a machine that, at the push of a button, poured wine from a bottle into a glass proffered by a gallery-goer. Splashes (and there were some) mostly landed in a tray placed below for that surface.

Spelletich, who called this a “whiskey pourer,” had created previous works for pouring whiskey. He'd been contemplating the project but hadn't built it yet when a **New York Times** story stated that it would be part of the exhibition. That was three days before the opening. Kinetic art, wrote Boas in an essay about the show, is where “the artist makes art out of sheer space and time.”

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“I've gotten to the point where I don't like smoking grass with my parents.”

Young woman overheard

at Stanford by Chuck Byrne