

ROBBIN MCLEOD
Nominated for a Tony Award

"Robbin was one of the first people I met here and he lived right across the hall," a Civic Center Residence tenant said of Robbin McLeod, who died on the Fourth of July at the age of 56. "He was a quiet person, a supportive neighbor, a son of Scotland like me."

Mr. McLeod, who was raised in Coos Bay, Ore., lived in the Tenderloin for many years and most recently did volunteer work at the Main Library, reshelving books. "But it was the stage that was Robbin's life," said his friend of several years, Andrea Weever, also a Tenderloin resident. "He was a child actor, did commercials, acted in Broadway productions and knew lots of Hollywood actors. There's a hole in my heart now that he's gone. I thought he'd be here for decades."

In 1964, Mr. McLeod was nominated for a Tony Award for his role in *The Sign in Sydney Brustein's Window* by playwright Lorraine Hansberry.

— MARJORIE BEGGS

ANTHONY "TONY" GAGLIANO
The loving bartender of North Beach

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Anthony "Tony" Gagliano had one thing on his mind: seeing the love of his life, his wife, Janith, nicknamed "Kip," who moved into a rest home on 26th Avenue two years ago.

Dressed in his red robe, which he wore everywhere, the five-foot-tall hunched man with white hair would go downstairs to the Antonia Manor lobby and shuffle to the front desk.

"You know what I want," he would declare, beaming to clerk Yoshida Ellis. "Call me a cab!"

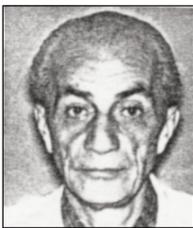
He often carried fresh fruit or presents for Kip, who had lived with him at the Manor for 18 years. The rooms are so small, theirs adjoined on the seventh floor. Mr. Gagliano kept his door open so he could hear if she needed anything.

In July, Mr. Gagliano suffered chest pains and was taken to the hospital, where he died. He was 80. At a July 22 memorial service, Manor General Manager Peter Shanley said how moved he was when he found Mr. Gagliano's love letters in his room.

"Their love was so fresh," Shanley said. "They always joked so much. It was like they had just met. He was a blessed man."

"It was true love every day," said Ellis.

Mr. Gagliano was a retired North Beach bartender. His friendliness and ready smiles, his "presence," as his friends



described it, had helped give Mike's Pool Hall and Enrico's a warmth beyond their cool reputations.

He met Kip at Raposa, a long-gone Broadway bar, in 1950. They were married in Reno, and their love lasted 54 years. They had no children.

"He was the most considerate person I have ever known," Kip later told The Extra.

At the memorial, Alejandro Loma struggled behind his dark glasses but found the words: "He was my neighbor, a good neighbor. He always greeted me. He gave me food. He was a good man. His face is always full of smiles. I never thought he'd die. I am very sorry. I loved him. He was like a brother."

Russell Christopel knew him at the Manor since 1984. They would talk about sports, especially horses. Mr. Gagliano had been playing the ponies since 1944, Christopel said. "If he made a bet, he'd ask me not to tell his wife because it would upset her."

His friends all felt lucky to have known Mr. Gagliano. He seemed to have cast a larger ring of love than he might have imagined. One woman at the memorial, new to the Manor, said she hadn't known him but wanted to attend anyway. "This is a tribute to him for his huge contribution in setting the tone for this place," she said. "It's a wonderful place to live."

— TOM CARTER

LESLIE CHASE
'Big teddy bear of a guy'

"Leslie Chase was a really quiet man and not many people knew him," said the manager of the Ritz Hotel, where Mr. Chase had lived for a little over a year. "But he did have a wife in the city who came here every day — really, every day — to bring him food."

Mr. Chase died in the hospital on July 20. He was 52 years old.

The hotel social worker remembered Mr. Chase as "a big teddy bear of a guy who kept to himself and who was really sick."

At a July 26 memorial service, Ray, a Ritz resident, said he barely knew Mr. Chase, but he talked at length about what it means to live in an SRO. "People here have helped my soul to be a better person," he said. "When we lose somebody, we lose a part of our history."

— MARJORIE BEGGS



JAMEY MEDORS
'A Cinderella story'

His sister Lygia called

him "an unfolding soul." His brother, Jody, remembering their many "movie nights," wondered how he could keep going without him — "We watched scary movies together. 'Carrie' was our favorite, and we knew all the lines." His partner, Garrett Jenkins, a longtime neighborhood activist, called him "a man without a bad bone in his body."

In a room at the Dalt Residence filled with family photos, candles and flowers, more than 40 relatives and friends gathered July 26 to say good-bye to Jamey Medors, who died of natural causes July 13. He was 33.

Born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, Mr. Medors also lived in Texas. He moved to San Francisco in the late 1980s, held a variety of jobs, and for four years was the assistant manager of the Empire Theater in West Portal.

A co-worker from the theater, holding his toddler daughter, described emotionally how Mr. Medors had trained him at work, befriended him and his wife and child, offered financial help when it was needed, gave presents and support, always. "And we had so many fun times, with a lot of joking," he said.

Jenkins, also a Dalt resident, recalled meeting Mr. Medors nine years ago and how they became partners after "being friends for a couple of years. It was like a Cinderella story when he moved here to the Dalt." Mr. Medors had many friends at the

hotel, he said, one of them the victim of a shooting rampage in June 2003 that left four residents dead in the Dalt lobby.

Jenkins called himself a person who could get easily angry about things. "But Jamey — he was a man who could soften my heart. I've dreamed about him three times already. I thank him for the love he gave me."

— MARJORIE BEGGS



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