

**IRENE MCCLENDEN**  
The heart of Antonia Manor

As much as anyone ever has, the diminutive Irene McClenden defined the spirit of the Antonia Manor with her gentle, loving ways, said a dozen of her friends who gathered at the hotel on March 22 to remember her.

Mrs. McClenden, a striking Japanese American from Hawaii, was the SRO's desk clerk in the early 1980s, the greeting face for the hotel. She made friends quickly and loved birds, often feeding pigeons with birdseed she kept in her pockets.

The 27-year resident of the hotel died of stomach cancer at Laguna Honda Hospice where she had been transferred after two weeks at St. Francis Memorial Hospital. She was 79.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID VILLA-LOBOS

"We go back to 1981 when she was a desk clerk," TL activist David Villa-Lobos and longtime friend, told the gathering. "She was like a mother to me and gave me advice. I visited her an hour every week before she went away. She was in a lot of pain but didn't complain. I loved her very much."

Over the years, he said, Mrs. McClenden always put a card under his door on his birthday and at Christmas. "It had \$20 in it," he said. "I always tried to refuse it and she wouldn't hear of it."

Off the lobby, in the middle of a tidy room where the memorial was held, a floral spray of white roses, lilies and carnations were on a table under a luminous skylight that defied the rain and gray outdoors.

"She got me sheets, and we became really good friends," said Russell Christophel, who met her in 1984 when he moved in. "She took me into her room many times to see her birds. She had little white finches in a huge cage, once six of them, and she incubated eight babies."

Christophel visited her at the hospital and said she was happy when her son, Ron Bartelo, came from Seattle to see her. "Then she said she was ready to go," he said. "But she didn't want people to be sad about it."

The group sang "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and bid her "Aloha, Irene." Her ashes were flown to Hawaii.

— TOM CARTER

**CHARLES MOBLEY**  
Former probation officer

Charles Mobley packed a lot of living into his 72 years, made many friends along the way and had a fruitful career. He had lived at the Pacific Bay Inn only five months when he died March 5.

"He was my next-door neighbor," said resident Jerome Peters. "I like to play music in my room, and after he moved in, I asked if it was too loud. He said, 'Play it as loud

as you want.' We forged a bond, even in that short time. He was a very good man. I know he's going to be in good shape in the other world."

The March 14 memorial honored both Mr. Mobley and fellow resident Timothy Poulos, who died the same day. As the memorial began, Charles Jones, a longtime friend of Mr. Mobley's, arrived bearing huge foil-covered platters of food to feed the 15 mourners.

"He was my good friend for 35 years, and many people thought I was Chuck's probation officer," said Jones, who was wearing a hat with an S.F. Probation Office insignia and a badge. "Actually, he was my supervisor when we worked together at the California State Youth Authority in San Francisco and Sacramento."

Mr. Mobley grew up in Miami, the youngest of four siblings. He was a National Honor Society member, got honorably discharged from the Air Force, and received bachelor's and master's degrees from Sacramento State University. He was a state parole agent in San Francisco until his retirement in 1983.

Jones told the mourners that last year Mr. Mobley was inducted into his Miami high school's Hall of Fame.

"He was a special person," Jones said, "the kind of friend who took me in for eight months after my wife and I separated. I think the system made him bitter, but that was later. I know he's looking around here and asking, 'Why'd you bring all this food?'"

The spread included roast chicken, rice, green beans, green salad and lemon bars for dessert. Also special was a smaller dish, prepared by one of Mr. Mobley's fellow tenants, who said his name is Missionary Yem. He'd sauteed the red, fragrant onions in wine in a rice cooker in his room, he said proudly.

"Charles was such a quiet person, but look at his picture," Yem said, pointing to a photo of Mr. Mobley. "He looks so youthful and shows such energy."

Mr. Mobley is survived by a sister in Miami and a brother who lives at the Veterans Hospital nursing home in San Francisco.

— MARJORIE BEGGS

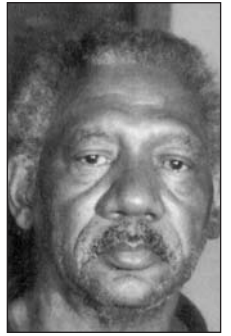


PHOTO COURTESY OF MR. MOBLEY'S FAMILY

**TIMOTHY POULOS**  
Runnerup for Mr. Hollywood

Timothy Poulos had lived at the Pacific Bay Inn for almost four years. He died in his room March 5 at the age of 58. A joint memorial was held March 14 for Mr. Poulos and fellow tenant Charles Mobley.

"Timothy was very ill at the end," recalled Jane Hannigan, who moved into the hotel about the same time as Mr. Poulos. "We'd talk in his room, and the goodness of him impressed me, and his education. He didn't take out his misery on others. I'm so sorry he had to suffer."

Missionary Yem remembered him for the way he extended himself to others. "He taught me to do Italian cooking," Yem said, "and he also knew holistic healing that helped me eliminate some pain from my legs. When I think of him, there's still happiness inside my mind, in my heart."

Adam Grossman, a friend of many years, found Mr. Poulos in his room shortly after he died. Grossman came to the memorial but, overcome with grief, left before it started. He called The Extra later to talk about how he was feeling.

"I wish I'd done more to be his friend — now it's too late," Grossman said. "I'm having a hard time with this. I guess he just wanted to go, and wanted to for a while. Once when he tried to commit suicide, he resisted going with the paramedics when they came. He was a terrible alcoholic and his smoking may have killed him."

The S.F. medical examiner determined that Mr. Poulos had died of complications of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Grossman cheered up slightly as he talked about his friend's life: "Tim was just so nice, so sweet. He came from a big Greek family, grew up in Oak Park, Ill., lived for a while in Hollywood — he was a runnerup for Mr. Hollywood — and was a United Airlines steward for a summer. He and his identical twin brother, Mark, were the original male Doublemint gum twins. [The ad campaign's first twins were women, in 1959.]"

— MARJORIE BEGGS

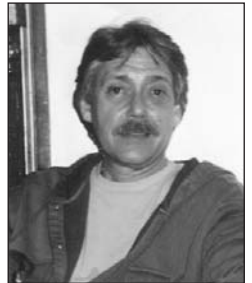


PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM GROSSMAN



**Healthy Women, healthy lives**

Knowledge is good. Especially when it comes to your health. We'd like to invite you to visit our **Women's Health Event**.

**Thursday, May 12, 2005, 6 - 8:45 p.m.**  
**Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Medical Center**  
**2238 Geary Blvd. at Divisadero, First floor lobby**

This event is free and open to the public.

**Reception 6 - 8 p.m.**

Enjoy free refreshments and talk with Kaiser Permanente representatives.

**Presentations 6:45 - 7:30 p.m.**

- **Mind and body sampler** – Discover the power of your mind as it relates to your physical well-being through various mind-and-body experiences.
- **Fitness for your bones** – Learn how to help keep your bones healthy so you can prevent osteoporosis.
- **Diet myths and truths** – What's the real truth about the latest fad diets? Come and learn about the benefits of different diets and the realities of weight management.

**Presentations 8 - 8:45 p.m.**

- **Mind and body sampler** – Discover the power of your mind as it relates to your physical well-being through various mind-and-body experiences.
- **The Health Coach—Is this for you?** – Learn more about our new Health Coach.\* Compute your body mass index. Learn about healthy living tips and simple life changes you can make to optimize your health.
- **Looking your best—Skin rejuvenation** – Learn the latest about plastic surgery\* and how to look your best.

To reserve your space at our women's health event, please call **415.833.9043** or send an e-mail to **healthy.women@kp.org**. Please RSVP and indicate your lecture choice before 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11, 2005.

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