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Kevin Sharps, Episcopal Community Services' housing director. "She was part of this community but we had a chance to hold that life for a minute only."

Desk clerk Rita Whittaker sang the gospel, "Take My Hand Precious Lord," and friends remembered Ms. Lucero.

"Mona was my ex-girlfriend, the person who took care of me when I couldn't care for myself," said Kimby Faires, crying. "Thanks to all of you for the love you gave Mona — she felt your love. What we all need to do is take care of one another and stop this taking of lives."

Cassie Maxwell, who attended the memorial with her 4-year-old son, said she met Ms. Lucero when "my son was a baby. I was in a bad place. I wanted to die. I'd lay my head in Mona's lap and

she would comfort me."

Desk clerk Quentin Hoskins found Ms. Lucero in her apartment, unresponsive. His efforts to revive her failed.

"Look to your right and left, and say hello," Hoskins told the mourners. "You've got your life and health and a beautiful community here. If you ever, ever have a problem, come and talk to me — you're my family. You make me smile and you make me worry. I was worried about Ramona Lucero — I wish she had talked to me."

Ms. Lucero was born in San Pablo and lived in San Francisco for 20 years, estranged from her family, Faires told The Extra later. She was on the board of directors of the S.F. Latino Commission, an addiction treatment program, and often volunteered at women's shelters. "But she was troubled," Faires said. "She tried to kill herself many times."

At the end of the memorial, a Bishop Swing resident recalled meeting Ms. Lucero only once, the

day they moved into the building. "She seemed happy. That tells us that we need to listen to each other."

Whittaker closed with the hymn, "How Great Thou Art" — "I see the stars and I hear the rolling thunder. . ." ■

—MARJORIE BEGGS

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