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unteer. He loved music, had a rich bass voice and sang in the Glide Choir.

"Among our 12,000 members, he was an integral part of the church," said Glide pastor Donald Guest, who brought condolences from Glide Revs. Cecil Williams and Douglas Fitch who were ill at home. "I knew him four years. And he volunteered every day he was able."

Good deeds, Guest said, are like pebbles dropped in a pond, sending out eddies of good will, and Mr. Hand "made quite a ripple."

In October, Mr. Hand began to suffer a series of heart attacks over six months. He died March 31 of congestive heart failure in Bruns House hospice in Alamo. Mr. Hand was 60.

Twenty of Mr. Hand's relatives — brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces and grand nephews — attended the memorial conducted by Buddhist priest Jana Drakka. A dozen mourners lit incense and everyone sang three verses of "Amazing Grace" before sharing their memories.

Mr. Hand was born in Oakland, eldest of three brothers who had seven sisters. Family members said he took on the role as family protector and would fight anyone, "especially when it came to his sisters." He moved to San Francisco in the 1980s and into the William Penn in 2003.

Mr. Hand helped start the hotel's recycling program, a woman said. The money from bottles and cans left in the lobby and around the SRO he donated to Glide's children's programs.

He was "the eyes and ears" of the hotel, someone said.

"He helped us when we needed



Donald Hand with his youngest sister, Pam Taylor. COURTESY FAMILY PHOTO

help," said Nancy, a resident. "I loved him and my husband loved him."

"He was always the first one to say, 'Can I help?'" Roberto Mejia, his counselor, said. "He wanted to touch people."

Margaret Dagovich, another counselor, had taken him to the hospital. She described him as "stubborn" but "a beautiful man with a heart of gold. When he found you needed help he said, 'I can do this.'"

Mr. Hand's nephew, Mike Mills, said: "I see how much you loved my uncle Donald. I remember even when I was a little kid how he could put a smile on your face. I loved him."

Mr. Hand kept his illness from his Gide friends until his massive heart attack, the family said. The day Glide learned of his condition, with his permission, Guest and some ensemble members visited him, then, to his joy, filled his room and the hospital corridor with their singing.

Drakka said Mr. Hand had

"entered vast silence" and his gift of giving was his "real treasure in life." She urged the mourners to counter the debilitating isolation of others and reach out to them, "like Donnie did, and play it forward."

She knew Mr. Hand's "connection to the lord was important." So, at Drakka's request, Guest came forward and read the 23rd Psalm. Then, he sang "Blessed Assurance," the familiar phrasing, "This is my story, this is my song," filling the room.

At the end, the mourners headed to a corner, where a big chocolate cake and other refreshments from the hotel awaited. Pam Taylor from Modesto, Mr. Hand's youngest sister, recalled a vision of her brother from her last visit to Glide.

"I remember he was out there on the food line in his yellow gear in the rain," she said. "He'd raise his hand, whistle and yell '10 more!' And they'd let 10 more inside to eat." ■

— TOM CARTER

STEVEN HANSON
Gave away books

Steve Hanson, a quirky, generous man with an astonishing library, was found lying unconscious on the sidewalk next to his wheelchair March 18, bleeding from a head injury, his bicycle helmet nowhere in sight.

Mr. Hanson, 60, was a 12-year resident of the William Penn Hotel on Eddy Street.

The exact circumstances of Mr. Hanson's death were unclear. Jose Jauregui, his case worker for three years, said paramedics found him on a Tenderloin sidewalk but he didn't know where. He said Mr. Hanson had trouble breathing and had passed out on several previous occasions. The medical examiner said cause of death was pending.

"He had more paperbacks than I've ever seen," said his friend, Percy Coleman, at Mr. Hanson's memorial in the hotel where three vases of white roses and a dozen upturned playing cards were placed on a table in his memory. "They were in big milk cartons all stacked everywhere. Must have been 10,000, all of them were categorized, like science, religion, beat poetry."

Mr. Hanson, quiet and attentive to people, was a voracious reader of fiction and poetry, and "a guy on a mission" to share the written word. The former taxi driver gave scores of books and magazines to his friends. They said his heart was big and his gifts even bigger — sometimes they didn't know what to do with the volume.

"He'd bring bags of 200 books" to weekly tenant meetings, said James Tracy of the Community Housing Partnership, where Mr. Coleman was

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