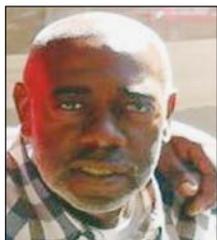


**RICHARD ALLEN FOSTER**  
**Father to 12**

Richard Allen Foster, father to 12 children, had many jobs in his lifetime and dozens of friends at the Senator Hotel who loved him for his constant cheerfulness despite his suffering.

Mr. Foster had seven children and five stepchildren. Most live in the East Bay. At his memorial in the Senator April 10, a family-written obituary said right off that he was “better known as Slick Rick or Trick Dick,” nicknames that were never explained. At the memorial, though, his dozen friends were quite clear that he was a wonderful fellow who courageously fought colon cancer. He died March 25 at age 56.



FAMILY PHOTO

Mr. Foster was “a gentle soul,” said a social worker, reading remarks of her absent co-worker who had known him for several years. In her written remembrances the superlatives flowed — “always smiling and optimistic, never disgruntled, pleasant, charming, humble — and a beloved member of the Senator Hotel community.”

One woman said Mr. Foster had moved in right after she did in 2005. “Oh, we hit it off right away,” she said. “And he’d apologize if he came at you the wrong way.”

Another woman stood immediately and sang “Precious Lord” in a full voice that filled the small community room, then sat down and wept. Many who remembered Mr. Foster’s cancer battle and deterioration were grief-stricken and quiet.

“There’s a lot of emotion in this room,” said Rev. Glenda Hope, who conducted the memorial. “It’s hard to give it voice sometimes.”

“I’m glad he’s not suffering anymore!” yelled a woman in back.

Mr. Foster was born in Pittsburg, and after graduating from high school in 1974, went on to work at the U.S. Steel mill, in construction and as a Delta Transit Bus driver throughout Contra Costa County.

Life’s twists found him at the Senator in 2005. When he was diagnosed with cancer he didn’t take it very seriously and refused services, said case worker Roberto Mejia, who described Mr. Foster as a stylish dresser and very hip. On Mejia’s first day on the job, he said Mr. Foster admired his watch, then, with a smile, stuck out his wrist to show he wore the same one.

“But when I came here two years ago he had just gotten the news about how bad his condition was,” Mejia said. “I got him services.”

Mr. Foster’s condition, and pain, worsened. Still, his friends said, he had a constant smile. His children visited him. He began using a walker to get around. He loved being outdoors in the fresh air; Mejia said he went out every day.

But soon he needed a caregiver. His son, Jeremy Foster of Oakland, moved in. Because of the medical necessity, Mejia got the 14-night-per-month maximum stay rule in the SRO Visitors Rules waived.

Three months later, in late February, Mr. Foster was hospitalized. Six weeks later, he went to the Zen Center Hospice, where he died.

He was a member of the Second Union Missionary Baptist Church in San Francisco.

Mr. Foster’s children are: Rickisha Foster of Snellville, Ga., Richard Foster Jr. and Jericka Foster of Pittsburg, Jeremy Foster of Oakland, Brandon (and wife, Hannah) Foster of Fort Hood, Texas, and Jovani Foster, Khalil Foster and Jamari Butler of Richmond. His five stepchildren: Teana Foreman of Sacramento, Dawn (“DJ”) Foreman of Vallejo, Tisa Tatum of Antioch and Telisha Washington of Pittsburg. ■

— TOM CARTER

**DALE JACQUELINE PEREZ**  
**Went out listening to Motown**

After a rough life that included physical abuse, drug addiction, homelessness and diabetes that blinded her, Dale Jacqueline (D.J.) Perez died peacefully in the hospital with the strains of “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough” on a CD soothing her, along with the awareness she was loved by her family, friends and little dog, Coco, and that a warm and secure home awaited her.

“She was getting better and we thought she’d be coming home,” said her daughter, Nila Gonzales, at Ms. Perez’s April 10 memorial at the Polk Geary Senior Apartments for low-income and the formerly homeless. “Red had gone to see if she was ready. He thought she was asleep. She looked more peaceful than ever.”

Red, several years her elder, is Ms. Perez’s longtime partner who cared for her day and night as her battles with multiple health issues heightened and her exhausting kidney dialysis treatments increased. He sat in the second row among a score of mourners clutching the Pekingese service dog Coco that friends said Ms. Perez spoiled during their two years together. Gray-bearded and wearing a baseball cap, Red had been with her 15 years, “since we first met and were homeless, et cetera, et cetera.”

Diabetes ravaged her family. It killed her mother, Gonzales said, just like it did her sister and grandmother. Ms. Perez’s mother also suffered a stroke and a heart attack and she died

in 1986 at 54. Ms. Perez’s sister (Gonzales’ aunt) died in June; she was 51.

Ms. Perez died March 28 at 55.

“My mother took me aside years ago and said the women in our family had to look out for diabetes after age 30,” said Gonzales, who is married and has two children. “I am the first one to break the cycle. I don’t have it. I don’t know how far back it went with my ancestors.”

Gonzales is a San Franciscan who used to work for Mayor Willie Brown and currently is chief of staff and board secretary of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority. She attributed her reversal of the family trend to the fact she practices what experts preach about maintaining a healthy lifestyle: balanced diet and exercise.

“If this consciousness existed 30 years ago, she and a lot of others might be alive.” The expanded social services for the poor have lengthened lives, as well, Gonzales said.

Louie Ramos was Ms. Perez’s case manager for eight years. During that period, she went blind; blindness can stem from diabetes.

“She had multiple health issues, including asthma,” Ramos said. “But she never cared about medical issues — she was always high-spirited. And serving her in the hospital, I saw she was an inspiration to others.”

“Her love for her partner and her pet were her beauty,” said a woman who had been around her just a half a dozen times. “She never complained.”

Gonzales learned from family members about the abuse her mother endured as a youngster. Her mother’s secrets were the tormenting “dark clouds” that nudged her into drugs. “It was too much for her,” said Gonzales, who is completing a psychology

degree at San Francisco State University. “I understand that people want to mask it. It’s a typical way to deal with it, and it got worse over the years.”

Ms. Perez had been hospitalized August through January. Back at home, Red was helping her get ready for a March 23 dialysis treatment when her breathing became so labored he had to call for an ambulance. “She had had many close calls,” Gonzales said.

Even though the family felt that this time Ms. Perez was improving in the hospital, Gonzales took the precaution of lining up a fully medically equipped hospice in case the reverse was true. “It’s very hard to find one for a person needing dialysis,” she said.

Another thing she did was to bring her mother CDs of all of her favorite Motown tunes, which included Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell’s classic. ■

— TOM CARTER



FAMILY PHOTO

D.J. Perez at her 29th birthday.

**City and County of San Francisco**

**May, 2012 Monthly**

**Call for Artists: 2013 Art on Market Street Kiosk Poster Series**

**Application Deadline: Wednesday, May 9, 2012, 11:59 PM (PST)**

The Art on Market Street Program, which has commissioned new artwork by Bay Area artists on an annual basis since 1992, includes a bus kiosk poster series and other temporary projects that take place on San Francisco’s main thoroughfare. For the kiosk poster series, the Art on Market Street Program commissions three consecutive three-month poster exhibitions annually. Each poster series consists of a set of six original and related designs that are professionally reproduced and printed as six sets of posters, 68 inches high by 47 ¼ inches wide (trim size), for installation in 36 bus kiosks on Market Street between 8th Street and the Embarcadero. All artists’ designs must be approved by the Arts Commission and are expected to be appropriate for a broad public audience.

Applications are available through [SlideRoom](https://sfgov.slideroom.com/), <https://sfgov.slideroom.com/> an online application system. There is no charge to artists for using SlideRoom. First time users of SlideRoom, please allow adequate time to learn the use of this system. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline.

For more information, please visit [www.sfartscommission.org](http://www.sfartscommission.org) or contact Zoë Taleporos, at (415) 252-3215 or by email at [zoe.taleporos@sfgov.org](mailto:zoe.taleporos@sfgov.org).

**San Francisco International Airport**

The Airport Commission has commenced the RFP process for the Airport Advertising Lease. The proposed minimum financial offer is \$7,500,000 with a term of eight years.

The Informational Conference will be at 10:00 a.m., May 10, 2012, at SFO Business Center, 2nd Floor, 575 N. McDonnell Road, San Francisco International Airport.

Please see <http://www.flysfo.com/web/page/about/b2b/conces/> for additional information or call Gigi R. Ricasa, Senior Principal Property Manager, at (650) 821-4500.

**San Francisco International Airport**

The Airport Commission has commenced the RFP process for Terminal 3 Common Use Club Lease at San Francisco International Airport. The Informational Conference, originally scheduled for 2:00 p.m. PST, April 24, 2012 at San Francisco International Airport, has been postponed until further notice.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Nashir at 650-821-4500

**Notice of Funds Availability**

**RFQ - Financial and Expanded Audit Services**

First 5 San Francisco announces the Availability of Funds for Financial and Expanded Audit Services. Approximately \$30,000 is available for the period of 08/01/2012 to 12/30/2013 and renewable up to two years. Funding supports financial audit review, financial reporting and expanded audit services. Final awards and renewals are subject to availability of funds, grant terms, and rights.

The RFQ may be downloaded from [www.first5sf.org](http://www.first5sf.org) or picked up in person 9 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday, at First 5 San Francisco, 1390 Market St, Ste 318, San Francisco. Proposals are due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15, 2012. Guidelines are noted in the RFQ.

For more information, contact Derik Aoki at [derik@first5sf.org](mailto:derik@first5sf.org) or 415-557-9912.

The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

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PHONE: (415) 626-1650  
 FAX: (415) 626-7276  
 EMAIL: [centralcityextra@studycenter.org](mailto:centralcityextra@studycenter.org)

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER: Geoffrey Link  
 ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Heidi Swillinger  
 SENIOR WRITER/EDITOR: Marjorie Beggs

COMMUNITY REPORTER: Tom Carter  
 REPORTERS: Jonathan Newman, Mark Hedin, Brian Rinker, Ed Bowers

DESIGNER: Lenny Limjoco  
 PHOTOGRAPHER: Lenny Limjoco  
 CONTRIBUTORS: John Burks, Diamond Dave  
 DESIGN CONSULTANT: Don McCartney  
 DISTRIBUTION: Mark Hedin  
 EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE: David Baker, Michael Nulty, Debbie Larkin, Nicholas Rosenberg, Brad Paul, Tariq Alazraie

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