

Beautiful San Mateo County Park Posters



Park posters for sale
on our website at
www.SupportParks.org

Our first three San Mateo County Park poster artists: Rebecca Holland with her oil painting of Memorial Park, Bruce Washburn with his watercolor of Edgewood Preserve and Sami Chang with her watercolor of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. Photo: Rob Cala

by Leslie Holzman

Last year was the Parks Foundation's 25th anniversary and this year, San Mateo County Parks turns 100. In honor of these two significant milestones, the San Mateo County Parks Foundation launched a new program to engage local artists in creating original artwork for posters that captures and celebrates the essence of each park.

We kicked off our new parks poster program with three talented artists who each took on one of our first three amazing parks. Bruce Washburn pays homage to the diversity of local flora and fauna at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve, filling his watercolor with an abundance of park details beyond the famous springtime wildflower displays in the serpentine grasslands. In her watercolor of Fitzgerald Marine

Reserve, Sami Chang focused on the community of marine life, like harbor seals, anemone and sea stars, who make their home at the Reserve, while also featuring the cypress bluffs that delight many visitors. Artist Rebecca Holland captured the majesty of the redwoods in her oil painting for Memorial Park, while conveying the serenity of camping at this popular spot.

(Continued on next page)

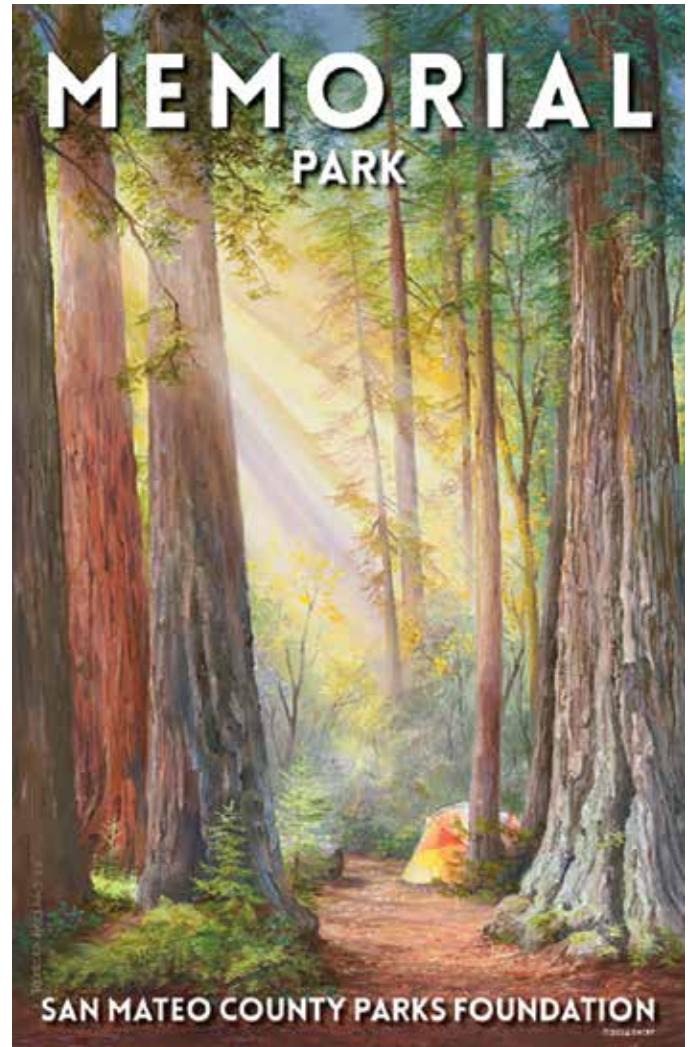
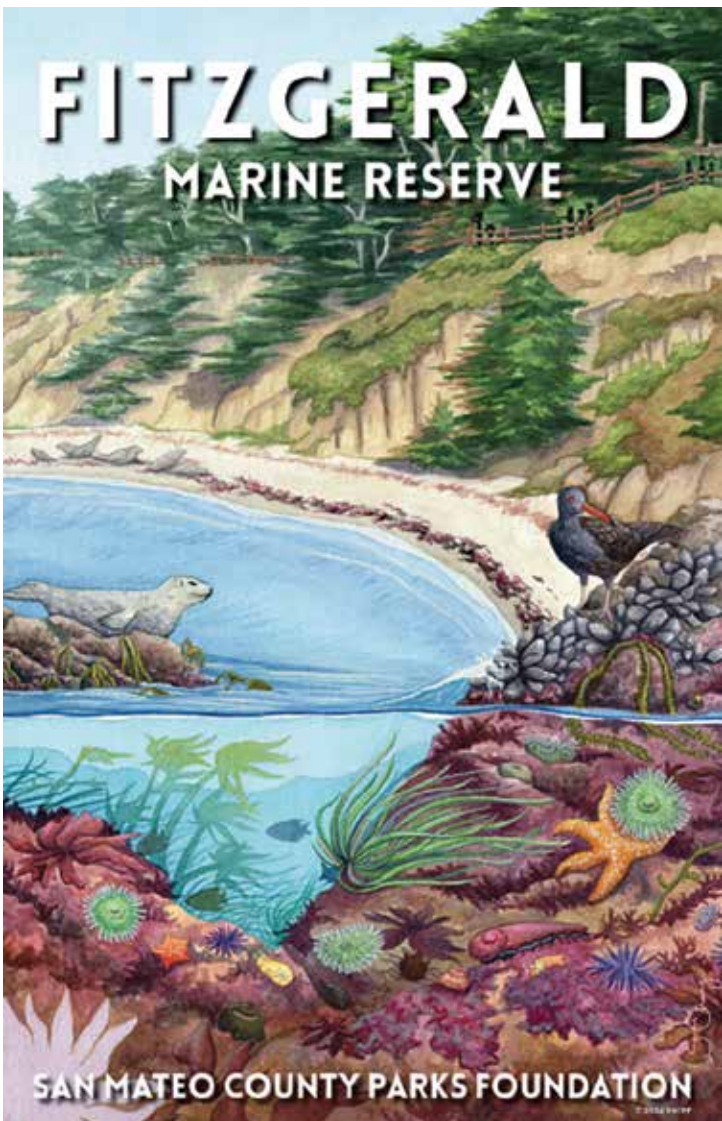
Our Artists in Their Own Words

(read more from our artists on our website, www.SupportParks.org)

"A Day at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve" by Sami Chang

"Like many in the Bay Area, my first time tidepooling was at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve where my fondness for the ocean and all the colorful and interesting creatures that live in this environment grew even more. I wanted to capture this space in its entirety — the journey to the intertidal through the cypress bluffs, the lower tree canopy red from the Trentepohlia algae that grows on the lower branches, along the stairs that climb down the sandstone cliffs, and across the beach, avoiding the harbor seals resting on the sand.

I also wanted to illustrate all the treasures that lie beneath the water and are exposed at low tide to show how diverse this intertidal habitat is. From the nudibranchs to the seagrass to the oystercatchers looking for their next meal, this space is home to so many creatures that survive through changes in the tides. I also wanted to pay homage to the sunflower star (*Pycnopodia helianthoides*), an intertidal icon that was once a common sight at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and has sadly become locally extinct due to the sea star wasting disease. I wanted to illustrate this space for all the beautiful reasons that many travel far and wide to enjoy."



"Morning in Memorial Park" by Rebecca Holland

"I have lived in the woods for 60 years. I always loved being in the woods. I remember as a child the freedom I felt while playing in the creek, picking berries and playing with crayfish and banana slugs. I still feel the awe and the magic of the huge redwood trees each time I see them. Scarred by fire, standing straight up over 300' tall, they are survivors; they have been on this planet for 200 million years. They are inspiring and very, very beautiful..."

When I thought about the most important message the Park had for us, I thought about the spiritual feeling, the golden light streaming down through the trees, and the healing power of nature...and so sun rays went into the painting. When we asked Park Ranger David Vasquez what was the thing most loved about the Park, he said, "for sure, camping." So, of course, there had to be a tent in the painting. The trunks of the trees show the fire scars from years past; they are a sign of good planning on the part of the trees, of their resilience and survival. The hope is that this painting of "Morning in Memorial Park" will call more people to spend time in the park, time for reflection and fun in this beautiful and very special place."



“In the Edgewood Preserve” by Bruce Washburn

“I’ve created an idealized view of Edgewood, assembling plants and animals that would typically not be together at the same hour of the day or the same season of the year. Some of my favorite views have found a place in the painting: an oak along the Franciscan trail that stands apart from others to offer shade and protection, a vantage point on the Old Oak trail looking down at another trail junction, an attentive deer on the Sunset trail, and a pair of kestrels in a madrone scanning the fields below.

I’ve accounted for some of Edgewood’s notable wildflowers, with springtime arrivals such as Miniature Lupin and California Plantain (with a Bay Checkerspot butterfly floating nearby) on the left, early fall’s Common Madia and Ruby Chalice Clarkia on the right, and the California Poppy thriving across the view. My education on this topic is informed by the Friends of Edgewood wildflower survey and their careful observations over many years.”

Artwork Commissioning Process

We released an open Call for Artists in early summer 2023 and received 29 applications. We were very impressed with this talented group of artists. After interviewing finalists, we were excited to have found our three artists who were just the right fit for each park. Throughout the process, we benefited from the guidance and expertise of the professionals on our selection jury.

We will open our next Call for Artists later this spring. We are offering a \$2,500 commission. The next three parks are Devil’s Slide, Sawyer Camp Trail and Wunderlich Park. Please encourage the artists in your life to apply!

Selection Jury

- Cindy Abbott, Executive Director of the Sanchez Art Center in Pacifica
- Rob Cala, Photographer, Videographer and San Mateo County Park Ranger
- Robin Rodricks, recently retired Executive Director of San Mateo County’s Office of Arts and Culture
- Carla Schoof, San Mateo County Parks’ Communications Manager
- Beverley Talbott, San Mateo County Parks Foundation Board Member

- San Mateo County Parks**
- Cowell – Purisima Trail
 - Coyote Point Recreation Area
 - Crystal Springs Regional Trail
 - San Andreas Segment
 - Sawyer Camp Segment
 - Edgewood Park & Preserve
 - Devil’s Slide Trail
 - Fitzgerald Marine Reserve
 - Pillar Point Bluff
 - Flood Park
 - Friendship Park
 - Junipero Serra Park
 - Huddart Park
 - Memorial Park
 - Pescadero Creek Park
 - Sam McDonald Park
 - Heritage Grove
 - Mirada Surf
 - Moss Beach Park
 - Quarry Park
 - San Bruno Mountain Park
 - Sanchez Adobe
 - San Pedro Valley Park
 - Tunitas Creek Beach
 - Woodside Store
 - Wunderlich Park

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Sweet and Fun Memorial Park Memories

"My dad was born July 3, 1924, one day before Memorial Park opened. He was a 101st airborne paratrooper and parachuted into France the night before D-Day. If you Google 'Ike visiting the 101st Airborne night before D-Day,' you'll see my dad behind Ike's thumb. My brother was in the Marine Corps and several uncles and I served in the Navy.

I first camped at Memorial Park in 1956 — the boomer generation. Lots of kids roaming about, with three to four families camping together. We would camp every holiday weekend. Camping was on a first come first served basis. In order to guarantee a campsite, my dad would take my brother and I (14 and 16 years old) in the '56 Ford station wagon on Thursday night and drop us off so we could babysit the campsite for one night to hold it for the coming weekend.

One time my brother, Dennis, and I and some other boys — all around 15 years old — rode our bikes from El Camino Real in Palo Alto to Memorial Park. My brother's brake cable broke on the way so he used his foot as a brake. Two bikes broke down on the way home. We used the pay phone in La Honda and called one of the dads with a cargo trailer to come to rescue the whole group.

I judge everything by Memorial Park. One time the families chose to camp at an old dude ranch, but the parents must have been misled as to what was there — empty concrete swimming pool, broken glass in the lake, my brother cut his foot pretty badly and we had no first aid...it was a disaster. We paid the price for not camping at Memorial Park!"

— Craig Hall, age 77

"When I was a little girl, we would have an annual extended family picnic with multiple generations of aunts, uncles, and cousins who hailed from San Francisco to Salinas all meet at Memorial Park each summer. For us kids, the thing we looked forward to most, besides S'mores, was the chance to play in the creek. We spent the day looking



for crawdads, frogs and tadpoles and braved the cold water to "swim" at the dam. We were wet, dirty and tired by the end of the day, which was probably a blessing to our parents because the ride from Memorial Park to our home in Redwood City seemed sooooo long. On the way there, we thought we were headed to the most remote forest ever and tormented them with endless moans of, "Are we there yet?" On the way home, we were usually asleep within 5 minutes.

This picture is of me (in the blue dress in the middle) with two of my cousins, circa 1969."

— Barrie Moore

"We love Memorial Park! My husband Bryan and I camped every year with our families as children in the early 1960's (we didn't know each other then). We lived in San Francisco at that time.

Once Bryan and I were married, in our 20s, we moved to the Fresno area for Bryan to attend Fresno State University. We had four children, and when they were young, we decided to start camping again at Memorial Park. It's a lot longer drive from Clovis than it is from San Francisco! Our kids loved it! They loved running around the big redwood trees and going for walks. We all loved going to the camp store and getting ice cream. At that point the creek was still damned up, at least for a while, and we all loved going swimming. They really loved going to the amphitheater and watching movies too!

One by one, our children grew up, and eventually we stopped camping at Memorial Park as a family...for a while.

Once our children started having children, we decided it was time to start camping as a family again. We now have to get two campsites because our family has grown. I make "Taufers Family Camping" T-shirts for everyone and we take family pictures wearing them. This year the shirts will say "100 Years 1924-2024".

— Debbie Tauffer

"Carol Kemnitz was a Park Ranger and Naturalist for many years (at Memorial Park). We got to be friends with her. She planned so many wonderful events that we participated in. She instilled a lifelong interest in the forest, the local animals (snakes were her specialty), camping and the whole ethos of respecting the environment in our boys and in us."

— Susan Casey

"My favorite memories at Memorial Park include camping with my dad and other dads and their kids from my church in Menlo Park when I was a kid. There was an annual event titled "Dad & Kids' Campout" and it was such a treat to escape the suburbs with my dad and my friends. That was in the early 90's.

Then, for 6 years in a row, I camped with a class of Deaf students along with the incomparable Judy Martin, now-retired Deaf Educator with San Mateo County Office of Ed. She took her students on what was almost always their first time being away from home. She did this every year of her career — about 25 years! What a beautiful place for kids to learn about the environment, try new things and test their limits."

— Amy, San Mateo, age 40



"Family, banana slug hunts, walks through the redwoods, camping under the stars, and movie nights at the amphitheater! This past summer at Memorial Park was magical! We try to come annually and hopefully my children will bring their children and carry on the tradition. My husband and I spoke of renewing our vows amongst the redwoods as well!"

Sincerely, The Caoile Family
(Anita, Delon, Catalina, Celine)

"Our friends invited my husband and I to go camping one weekend in May 2017. We had not been camping in California before, or together as a couple. We didn't know what to expect.

When we arrived at campsite #12, I thought I was in a fairy tale. The amazing redwoods towering above were magical! We had the most amazing time just feeling so small and humbled in such a beautiful and tranquil forest. We fell in love with camping in California that weekend! We've been camping all over northern California ever since and have Memorial Park to thank for it! So excited to come back to celebrate 100 years!"

— Cindy & David McIntosh

"My grandmother was born in 1924 and she grew up camping at Memorial Park. This hidden gem so close to home is something that can't be beat. She continued to go her entire life, brought our entire family, friends and even brought her Girl Scout troops there. She passed away at 95 but we brought her until she couldn't go anymore which was her 93rd birthday. We even had her celebration of life there. Memorial Park has always been our whole heart.

Junior ranger activities were a must and I always learned so much while having a blast. Ice cream cones at the store and walking down to the swim hole. Movie nights at the amphitheater. I can't even begin to say the endless amount of campfire hot dogs and s'mores I've had there. Forever my favorite camp meal. When I turned 18, I asked for my own camping gear so I could go on my own and do it all myself. I not only learned to love nature but my grandma taught us so much respect and responsibility there. Cleaning up after ourselves, no way can I litter, doing dishes, playing cards and bingo, learning plants and animals and I think above all 'dirt don't hurt'! I have gone every year for my whole life and will hopefully continue to do so until I can't anymore. I hope to grow old still going there just as my grandma did. I hope to get married in that amphitheater, to bring my future kids there and even grandkids, hopefully. I am forever grateful for Memorial Park and the endless memories I have and will continue to make throughout my life. Thank you!"

— Katie Colclough, age 32

"My family first camped at the park in 1977, when I was six years old. Two years later, we joined a group of nine other local families who camped together at the park each August, a tradition we still carry on today. Memorial Park was the main impetus of my most cherished childhood memories, and the closest friends I have today were the ones I spent all of those years camping with almost a half century ago.

As a child my siblings, friends, and I would spend hours each day at the old swimming hole that had a lifeguard who would sit on the dam that has since been removed. I spent most of my allowance at the park store buying bubble gum ice cream, Star Wars collector cards, and Garbage Pail Kids cards. We were very fond of the park's resident Bee Keeper and the Friday and Saturday night movies showed at the amphitheater. I remember growing up through my awkward teenage years taking showers in the old stalls before they required quarters to operate, but you could lodge a stick against the shower button to keep a constant flow of water as opposed to having to push it with one hand to keep the water running. I quite literally know every foot of every trail in and around the park better than I know my own neighborhood.

Thank you and the Foundation for the investment you are making in the park's future. Visiting natural places like Memorial Park can be the cheapest and most effective method of maintaining mental health, a crisis among people of all ages and demographics nowadays. Any investment in the park is an investment in humanity."

— Lenny Wiersma



"My family and I have been going to Memorial Park for as long as I can remember. One of my favorite memories is when I was 11 or 12 years old, my cousins and I would enter the Talent Show that was located at the Amphitheater. We would perform dances and skits in front of everyone and we had the best time! I love bringing my own kids back to Memorial Park and sharing the same experiences with them. A few years back, we

had a group of about 30 family members go camping and we even created our own family talent show one afternoon at the Amphitheater. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and grandchildren all performed. Here is a picture of the next generation. I can't wait to make more memories!"

— Colleen Williams, age 41



"To swim or not to swim, that is the question!"

— Constance Mills, age 1 ½ in 1942 at Memorial Park

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Jorge Gomez
Jennifer Gonzales
James and Laura Gran
Scot Griffin and Alice Chang Kaufman
Rita Guiliano
Eloise Gularte
Heather Hardy and Matt Nelson
Robert Haxo
Sam and Leslie Herzberg
Steven Hibshman
Dan and Margaret Hilberman
Raymond Hodges
Christine Hollender
Leslie and Jeff Holzman
Traci Hornbaker
Peter Ingram and Ann Yvette Pirie
Amy Jensen
Mark Kaminsky
Jane Kikuchi
Ashley Larsen
Alice Leung
Kirk Lindstrom
Kimberly Marlow

(Continued on page 8)

The Parks Need Our Support

Here are three park projects you can support with a gift today

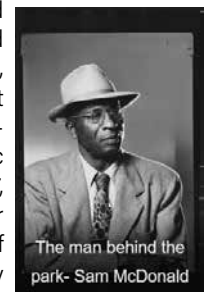
Memorial Park's Nature Center could use a little updating so that it becomes an inspiring introduction to the rest of the redwood forest for children and adults alike. A new diorama, 3D watershed map and murals are vital elements that will spark imaginations and help visitors learn more about the redwood forest, creek habitat and local history. First, we are getting the room ready with fresh paint and new lighting fixtures. (Thanks to Ace Handyman Services for help with installation of the new lights!) Then it will be time for the new interpretive displays. This work is getting started now — your support will be most impactful!



Flood Park's playground is currently out of commission, as it does not meet safety standards, and needs a complete renovation. An accessible playground is one of many improvements coming to a reimagined Flood Park, which will also include new playing fields, picnic areas and a demonstration garden. A well-attended community meeting on March 16 saw local residents weighing in on possible playground design features. An online survey was also open to capture people's preference for types of sensory play, play area layout and experience, seating, shade, accessible features, and much more. Next steps in the design process will happen later this spring.



Inclusion of **Sam McDonald Park in the National Register of Historic Places** is a wonderful way to recognize Emanuel B. McDonald (Sam), who was born free, the son of former slaves, in Louisiana in 1884 and who later worked at Stanford for over fifty years. In 1908, he was given the job that would be his until he retired-Superintendent of Athletic Buildings and Grounds. In 1917, Sam acquired a home site near La Honda and built himself a little retreat. Sam's legacy of compassion and generosity is worth honoring with this important historical designation. Help us connect Sam to even more people who are sure to be inspired by his life.



Enhancing Equitable Access Program

Grantee Spotlight: Puente de la Costa Sur

The San Mateo County Parks Foundation created our Enhancing Equitable Access Grant program in the fall of 2021. It has a goal of funding and supporting organizations that increase opportunities for people of color, and low-income and marginalized youth and their families to enjoy the many benefits of being in parks and nature. This year we awarded five outstanding organizations grants up to \$4,000 each. They are Brown Girl Surf, Redwood City Together, Siena Youth Center, The Wilderness School, and Puente de la Costa Sur.

This year we want to shine a spotlight on Puente de la Costa Sur. Parks Foundation Program Coordinator, Adriana Fernandez Arriaga, sat down with Puente's Executive Director, Rita Mancera, for a conversation.

Adriana: What is Puente's mission?

Rita: Puente de la Costa Sur is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster wellness and prosperity in the San Mateo South Coast communities of Pescadero, La Honda, Loma Mar, and San Gregorio by promoting and advocating for equitable access to education, health, and economic security.

At Puente, all programs build on one another to contribute to the person's whole well-being. For example, Puente provides financial assistance, mental health support, community health programs, education, and more. Although some of these programs may seem like they work separately from one another, they are inter-related. When someone has no debt and has access to health insurance then they have less stress, and can dedicate more time to their wellness.

San Mateo's South Coast presents unique challenges for the people who live there. There is no public transportation in and around Pescadero, which is a barrier and limits the things people can do and the

places they can go. For those who own a car, they think twice about driving for recreational activities because the price of gas is very expensive.

Adriana: How does connecting people to parks align with Puente's mission?

Rita: Having this partnership with the Parks Foundation to connect people to parks is aligned with our mission because health is part of our mission and because the community informs our mission. One concern that came up was the lack of services or activities for the senior community, especially those who are isolated and low-income. This is how the 60+ Connection and Wellbeing Program began.

Adriana: How will this grant help Puente connect people to San Mateo County Parks?

Rita: This grant has helped Puente take community members from the 60+ Connection and Wellbeing Program to three different San Mateo County parks. Our outreach for outings is intentional. In addition to flyers, we have a dedicated staff member calling the community members to invite them in a language the community member understands, which is key. This approach creates a warm welcome to the program and the parks they plan to visit and most importantly builds strong relationships within the senior community. Seniors have the opportunity to get exercise, spend time in nature, and build experiences together. The funds also help cover the cost of transportation, gas, park entrance fees and lunch.

Adriana: Can you tell me about the 60+ Connection and Wellbeing Program?

Rita: The 60+ Connection and Wellbeing Program has multiple components. It starts



Out and about in nature with Puente!

with the intake process, which helps determine a person's needs. If food insecurity is an issue, then Puente will provide them with a \$100 weekly gift card for groceries or staff will deliver groceries or meals to their home. Puente staff also stays connected to community members by calling them monthly to check in on them. If needs are beyond Puente's capacity, we partner with other groups for help such as with installing railings on stairs. This program is bringing the senior community, which is isolated and facing multiple socioeconomic challenges, together and helping them overcome some of these challenges.

Being in the parks helps the seniors disconnect from everyday stressors and instead connect with nature and each other. By the end of the field trip, they are already asking about the next park on the schedule. They are very grateful for the program and act as outreach by inviting others to join them next time.

In conclusion, Puente de la Costa Sur has a very impactful 60+ Connection and Wellbeing Program, which connects the local low-income senior community to one another, resources, and their San Mateo County parks. It helps those with transportation challenges explore nearby parks, combat isolation, and loneliness, and create long-lasting support networks and experiences. This is what the Enhancing Equitable Access Grant Program is all about.

(Continued from page 7)

Susan and Jack Marquis
Perry McCarty Jr.
Timothy McHenry
Dennis and Donna Meixner
William Meyer
Julieanne Nagal
Anna Nastari
Jane Nettesheim
Pamela Noyer
Russell H. Miller and Kirk Alan Pessner
Stephen and Patricia Pickford
Tim Powers
Danae Ramirez
Ma Grace Rivera
Ronald Rogers
Diane Ross
Robert Ruth
John Salcido
Cleo Salisbury

Anne Scanlan-Rohrer
Robert Scruggs
Ida Sim
Gladys Smith
Georgia Stigall
Matthew Suarez
Donna Vaillancourt
Sharron L. Walker
Katherine Wilson
Nanette Wylde and Kent Manske
Diana Yen Shu
Veneranda Zamora Redmond

Gifts in Honor

Anonymous in honor of Dong Lin
Belinda Arroyo in honor of SEBA
Rebecca Haseleu and Paul Hackleman in honor of Ranger Laurel Finnegan
Gloria Schulz in honor of Karen Maki
Beverly Talbott in honor

of Terry Castle & Blakey Vermeule

Gifts in Memory

Arlene Andrews in memory of Anthony Gularte
Michael and Susan Casey in memory of Carol Kemnitz
Katherine Bradshaw Chappellear in memory of Daniel N. Chappellear
Shawn Christianson and Philip McLeod in memory of Elizabeth Coonan
Ann and Anthony Clifford in memory of Don Horsley
Celeste Evans in memory of Alden & Dorothea Evans
Eloise Gularte in memory of Anthony J. Gularte
Lynne Higgs and Bruce Iwamoto in memory of William R. Higgs
David Hou in memory of Makenna Hou

Kim Hurst in memory of Elizabeth Coonan
Anita Lusebrink in memory of Karen Lusebrink
Timothy McHenry in memory of Caroline McHenry
Mark Nakano and Josephine Leung in memory of Sam Nakano
Jonathan Penn in memory of Peter Grace
Anne Scanlan-Rohrer in memory of Dorothy Scanlan
Margie and Dan Thompson in memory of Don Horsley

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