The mission of the Ruth Bancroft Garden, Inc. is to preserve this exceptional example of garden design and to continue to develop its collection of water-conserving plants for the education and enjoyment of the public.
Dear Garden Lovers:

This Annual Report summarizes the Ruth Bancroft Garden and Nursery’s operations to preserve Ruth’s Garden for the enjoyment and education of the public during 2020 and 2021, recognizing and thanking the community and individual supporters listed here for their generous gifts and help during these years.

These two pandemic-filled years presented both challenges and opportunities for public gardens and nurseries to demonstrate the resilience of people and nature. Through the dramatic interruption in everyday routines, many folks found time and motivation for the healthy pursuit of visiting gardens and improving their home gardens. And RBG has thankfully grown in many wonderful ways to meet those challenges and advance our mission.

One of the most amazing things plants and people have taught me over my 16+ years of volunteering at the Garden is how creative, resilient, and generous nature and human natures can be. I hear every day at the Garden, “The Garden looks the best it has ever been!” And, after 50 years, that is a huge accomplishment.

On behalf of the board and staff and the community, “Thank You” to the generous donors, volunteers and members who supported the Ruth Bancroft Garden in 2020 and 2021, and a special thanks to those of you who have been supporting RBG for so many years before—some of you since the 1980s! Your generosity and resilience are what underlies the joy and dedication that Ruth’s Garden inspires every day.

Warmly,

Gretchen Bartzen
Ruth Bancroft Garden & Nursery Board Chair
This is a garden the world deserves to see, to experience, to ‘live’ in every season, while knowing that it was born of one woman’s dream. For the joy it brings, for the positive difference it makes in so many lives (mine included), I felt compelled to help the dream continue for generations to come.

— Gwen G., Legacy Society Member
Garden Highlights
2020 & 2021

MEMBERSHIP
Our membership grew greatly the prior two years. We saw an increase in memberships at the start of 2020 and then were amazed to see that trend continue. This support is a vital part of the Garden. Thank you, members!

2020  2021

↑80% OVER YEAR PRIOR  ↑62% OVER YEAR PRIOR

GARDEN ADMISSION
Visitation rate went down in 2020 partially because we were closed for nine weeks due to the pandemic. In 2021 we saw an increase in visitors, as restrictions started to ease.

2020  2021

↓19% OVER YEAR PRIOR  ↑70% OVER YEAR PRIOR

CHILDREN’S ADMISSION
During 2020 we were unable to hold the traditional activities, so we adapted by providing several new, and safe opportunities utilizing virtual space and social distancing.

2021

↑30% OVER YEAR PRIOR

• 2020: A story time partnership with the Walnut Creek Library Foundation which included four webinars for young children.
• 2021: The Children’s Education manager continued to collaborate with resident staff artist to create original Bingo sheets for young Garden visitors to complete while social distancing.

DESIGN SERVICES
Landscape Design Services launched in 2019 and greatly expanded in 2020 as the public discovered the value in climate-appropriate home gardens.

2020  2021

↑1,689% OVER YEAR PRIOR  ↑149% OVER YEAR PRIOR
2020 & 2021 continued

**GOLDEN BARREL DONATIONS**

Donations received are used for annual operating expenses to assist in carrying out our mission: to maintain and sustain the Garden and educate the public about waterwise gardening. Thank you for your support!

2020  |  2021
--- | ---
↑50% | ↑5%
\*OVER YEAR PRIOR

**GALA NET DONATIONS**

We held virtual versions of the Garden Gala in 2020 and 2021, due to the pandemic, which were not as successful as our traditional live events, but funds from the Gala were still major contributors to the Garden’s education programs and physical improvements.

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**NURSERY SALES**

The retail Nursery expanded its offerings and patrons continued to buy plants enthusiastically in 2020 and 2021.

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\*OVER YEAR PRIOR

**EDUCATION**

During 2020 we were unable to host in-person programs, so we adapted by providing new opportunities, which enabled us to interact with a wider audience outside of the Bay Area.

**VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Classes that fall under this category ranged from basic design principles, garden collection highlights, arts/photography and introductory horticulture in the context of dry gardens.

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**dry garden design**

We launched the Dry Garden Design Certificate Program with 33 students.

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**WATERWISE GARDEN TOUR**

We co-hosted the Waterwise Garden Tour with Contra Costa Water District and East Bay Municipal Utility District.

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**PRIVATE EVENTS**

In 2020 and 2021 we were awarded Best Wedding Venue in Diablo Magazine’s Best of the East Bay.

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The Ruth Bancroft Garden is so different from any other I've seen. The Garden is a rare jewel with geometric shapes and unique flowers. I love that the plants use so little water.

— Michael, Renewing Member 2022
Capital Projects

2020

1. The Shade Structure construction begins along with renovation of the surrounding bed.
2. New covering and ventilation installed in Nursery Greenhouse
3. Electrical updated in the Nursery Greenhouse

2020 CHALLENGES & HIGHLIGHTS

• March 2020 — Shelter-in-Place begins
• Nursery staff is furloughed
• Office staff furloughed or reduction in hours
• Reimagining conduct of business
• Virtual Educational programs replaces in-person programming
• An online store expands with custom RBG merchandise
• May 2020 — the Ruth Bancroft Garden & Nursery re-opens
• Garden entrance and exits re-routed
• Nursery entrance and exit redesigned
• Personal Protective Equipment (P.P.E.) implemented, hand sanitizer stations, social distance signage purchased, and contactless transactions
• $135,000 Paycheck Protection Program (P.P.P.) Loan Awarded
• Staff brought back to full capacity
• Private Events and Weddings postponed to 2021 or cancelled
• Garden Gala goes virtual
• Sculpture Show Opening Night becomes Sculpture Stroll to provide social distancing
• Garden of D’Lights limits attendees to provide social distancing

2021

1. Pathways refurbished with leveling and crushed granite to improve path accessibility
2. Shade Structure construction and surrounding bed renovation completed
3. Expansion of parking lot
4. New soil bins built for the Nursery
5. Electrical system expanded and upgraded along Garden pathways

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

• P.P.P. loan forgiven
• Some Contra Costa County COVID guidelines are lifted
• Private Events ease into hosting ‘micro’ events
• Online educational classes continue in popularity
• Invaluable support from 174 volunteers logging over 5,055 hours of volunteer support
Donor Honor Roll
2020

GIFTS OF $100,000
William A. Kerr Foundation

GIFTS $50,000 – 99,999
Gretchen Bartzen & Mike Rippey
Donna & Ken Cott
Sharon Simpson

GIFTS OF $20,000 – 49,999
Melissa Allen & Elisabeth Andreason
Kathleen Blackman & Dick Watson
Devil Mountain Wholesale Nursery
Quest Foundation
Julie and Bernard Rose

GIFTS OF $10,000 – 19,999
Dr. William Billings
Ronald & Rosemary Clendenen
Richard Dong
Fremont Bank Foundation
Jeanne Ryan

GIFTS OF $5,000 – 9,999
Anonymous
Spencer W. Dress
Gail Giffen
Jane & Bud Rotermund
Shirley Shotwell
Susan Van Dyne & Marilyn Schuster
Monique Young

GIFTS OF $2,500 – 4,999
John Fischer
Andrea & Leo Fontana
Charla Gabert
Daly Gapasin
Kathy & Jerry Hicks
Kathy Bancroft Hidalgo & Loreto Hidalgo
Billie Hopper & David Mitchell
Sally & Richard Ingraham
Natalie Inouye
Jericho Charitable Trust
Suzanne Loquast
Neil & Amelia McDaniel Charitable Trust
Jenly & Joseph Moore
Mary & Frank Nash
Susie Newcomb
Prudence J. Noon
Linda Paravagna
Richard & Carol Perona
Peter Raisbeck
San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society
Mary & Pelle Walker
Walnut Creek Civic Pride

GIFTS OF $1,000 – 2,499
Anonymous
Barbara Cox
Bay Alarm
Bennett Berke & Lorna Wallace
Marcia & John Comyns
Contra Costa Water District
Terese & Doyle Dixon

GIFTS OF $500 – 999
Judith Abrams
Anonymous
Kim Bancroft
Blackhawk Country Club
Gail Brekke
Ena Cherry
Susan Cruz

GIFTS OF $250 – 499
Alejio Chocolate
Anonymous

GIFTS OF $100 – 249
Jean Anderson
Anonymous
Asian Art Museum
Vicky Atkinson
Joseph Baem
Kathy Baine
Kimberly Benense
Karen Beck
Edith Bergstrom
Edna Birmingham
Marnie Brennan
Suzanne Brennan
Lori Bungartz & Tom Noothaar
Camp di Bocce
Carolyn & Tim Carlson
Bill Castellan
Pat Chernack
City of Walnut Creek
Lassie Cobourn
Chuck Conover
Ann Court白糖 & Andrea Gourdine
Douglas Cowden
Sue Cross
Tara Cyphers
Janean & Brian Davidson
Analice Decker
Sharyn Delano
Jeanne Delio
Carol Depandahl-Ripperda & Elizabeth Ripperda
Christy & Richard DeVoe
Teresa Donovan

GIFTS OF $50 – 99
Tammy Welcome
Julienne Weston & Kevin Coker

GIFTS OF $25 – 49
Diane Daley-Smith
Helen & Raleigh Davis
Vicki Durst
East Bay Municipal Utility District
Rozanne Fratto
Vicki & David Freeberg
Stephen Geahry
Jenny Halterman
Leolla & Ralph Haskew
Christie & John Hastings
Leslie & Scott Higgins
Lynn & Brian Hrahara
Cindy Inoos
Jeanie Kay
Laura Kennedy
Kathleen C. Lobrovitch
Linda Loveall
Sharon & Don McLaughlin
Nonprofits Insurance Alliance of California
Judy Olson
Nely Maravilla Pascual
Brad Powles
Lisa Robinson
Ann Rojas
Charlotte Saxon & Paul Glassner
Sheila & William Stein
Lyudmila & Roman Surgutchin
John Turman
Jennifer Van Fleet
Maria Vargas
Sara Walker
Kira Whitehouse & Solomon Endlich

GIFTS OF $10 – 24
Christina & Nicholas Ascanio
Autopia Car Wash
Shannya Baughman
Caroline Beverstock
David Bing
Cline Family Cellars
Patricia Christopher
Jeanne & John Cooney
Paul Cortese
Joe Ficurelli
Tracy Fletcher
Emil Friend
Joan Hughes
IBM International Foundation
Diana & Alan Ichikawa
Vicki & Troy McGregor
Barbara Niemann
Nancy V. Offringa
Carol Oxford
Aurelia & Victor Palciaskus
Aurora Pascual
Michelle Piptone
Alice Rector
Janet Reinastra & Tom Debley
Rebecca Rodriguez
Nancy Rothermich
Jean Schulz
Laurie Shapley

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Charles Eskildsen
Faction Brewing
Colleen Fawley
Valley Feldman
Karen Ferriere
Bobbi & Georgia Feyerabend
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco
Janice Fong
Claudia & Paul Foster
Cynthia & Eric Foster
Carla Garbis
Leslie Garrow & John O'Dea
Mary Gee
Marie & Jam Gelin
Havana
Sheryl Hawes
Martha Henderson
Mary & Michael Herzog
Marilyn & Carl Hirsch
Judy Homewood
Suzanne Howard-Carter
Natalie Hung
Nancy & Scott Huseby
Anne Frye Jablonski
Cheryl Jacinto
Maria Jacobo-Walker
Phyllis & Norm Jacobs
Jane James
Paula James
Heather Joska
Art Jordan
Nina Kahn
Marjorie Yeadon Arteaga Kapi
Edie Kausch
Catherine Kawachi
Nancy Kepp
Dean Keich & Daniel Weinstein
Brian Kemble
Hanh & Jim Kent
Angela Keres
Paul Kittitch
Michael Kitchens
Janis Kitsuka-Lowe
James Kline
Margaret & Christopher Knaus
Eleanor Knebler
Mimi Knox
Diana Kottke
Beverly Kraut
Carol Kravitz
Nadja Kuhn
Barbara Kuklewicz
Anna Lamothe
Emily Lamboureux
Claudia Lange
Alleece Langlois
Malorie Larzul
Navid Lastkanian
Evelyn Laurinius
Doni Lautt
Alexandra Leader
Becky Leader
Andrea Leake
Shaila Lease
Lorna Lee & James Keefe
Judy Koby
Viggi Molfino
Angelo Monteux
Janny Moore & Jason Bonham
Nancy Moore
Heidi Morata
Janice Moura
MaryKaren Mrowka
Joan Murakami
Suzanne Mullilo
Kathy Musial
Dorothy Mussey
Flavia Muttera
Sherry Nadworny
Debbie Nausinger
Sandra Nevala-Lea
Jane Nicholson
Susan & John Norman
Betty Nostrand
Elizabet Novello
Alice Noyes
Betsy Olson
John O'Dea & Leslie Garrow
Jack O'Neil
Ada Ormsby
Casandra Ostrander
Ananth Pandian
Lindsey Pannell
Paulette Pardi
Ali Pennell
Jeff Perko
Barbara Perry
Nadine Peterson
Valerie Peterson
Nancy & Larry Pietroelli
Jan Pitcathly
Diana Placiakiene
Les & Sue Polgar
Andrea Pook
Beverly Pott
Cola Portocarrero
Emily Quinn
Karen & Dan Rainey
Lynda Rexroat
Kathie Rieder
Jose Rios
Jessica Rippey
Nancy Roberts
Joyce Robertson
Malia Robinson
Loeta Rogers
Michael Rossi & Lisa Hotchkiss
Judith Ryan
Gloria Saltzman
Diane Sasser
Megan Savage
Gian Schauer & Arthur Neudek
Valma Schnoll
Laurie Schofield
Joy Schwartz
Robert Schwiebert
Margot Sheftner
Kathy Shepler
Marian Shostrom & Harry Baker
Beverly Ann Sereda
John Shawcross
Shell Oil Company — Foundation Matching Gifts
Kathy Simons & Jeff Gustafik
Sally Shute
Paula Simon
Mira Sivick
Patricia Smith
Roberta Spalding
Rachel Stanich
Andie Sheets
Donna Stanley
Adam Stein
Melissa Stephens
Justen Summer
Cathy Swan
Dena Raffel
Ellen Rea
Susan Reynolds
Jose Rios
Teresa Ritelli
Adrienne & David Roe
Marie Roehm
Susan Rosenthal
Veronica Roussel
Ellen Rubenson
Angela Rundles
Sharon & William Taplin
Laurie Tompkin
Margie Treheyden
Terracycle US, LLC
Susan Terzuoli
Karen L. Thompson
Susan Thews
Beth Tibbits & Denise Gutierrez
Camille Tsao
Deborah Tsuyuki & Paul Banta
Hofface & Ed Ungerleider
Marsha & Alexander van Broek
Barbara A. Vaughan
Susan & C. Henry Voit
Sharon Villarreal
Joan Vinayberg
Doug Volkmer
Joanne Volponi & Neal Krug
Judith & Dale Wagoner
Donna Walton
Molly Weden
Karen Weichert
Anna Wendrof
Carrie & David Wendt
Cheri Whipp
Jean Whipp
Aase White
Miki White
Sonja Wilkin
Hal Wilkerson
Uzoelle Williams
Bev & Phil Winslow
Pat Wipf
Gail & Michael Wolfsen
Robert Worrell
Ellen Wyatt
Nan Yarbrough
Esther Yee
Wendy Zaro-Mullins
Jeanne Chiodo
Deborah R. Christman
Patricia Christopher
Chuck Conover
Devil Mountain Wholesale Nursery
Luca Donisi
Teresa Donovan
Susan Friedman
Justine Gutierrez
Sharon Seipico Hanson
Becky & John Harrington
Bryn Knowles
Nadia Kuhner
Alece Langeois
Michael Lane
Navid Lashkarian
Marla Lee
Kate McCaffrey
Annette McCormic
Lynda Moickle
Linda Middleton
Alexis Miller
Julie Moore
Elizabeth Mullins
Suzanne Murillo
Pam Nagle
Sandra Novata-Lee
Jane Nicholson
Ada Ormsby
Jeff Perko
Carol & Richard Perona
Michelle Piptone
Johnathan Plant
Jose Rios
Malia Robinson
Penny Rose
Jane & Bud Rotermund
Laurie Schofield
Derek Schubert
John Serviss
Eugene Spoor
Rachel Stanich
Plant Stars
Angele Sweet
Kimberly Taylor
Peter Tourtellotte
Kat Weiss
Anna Wendrof
Robert Worrell
Linda Yan

IN HONOR OF TRIBUTES
In honor of Brian Kemble by Diana Arsham
In honor of Lindsay Meyer by Katherine Elseth
In honor of Mel Weinstein by Carol Kravitz

THE SHERI MERCIAI MEMORIAL FUND
Bill Castellan

THE ERICA BOEHNKE MEMORIAL FUND
Anonymous
Martha Barclay
David Birt
Julia Brady
Liza Cady
Bill Castellan

Without the enthusiasm and dedication of volunteers, the Ruth Bancroft Garden would not be here today. Volunteers are instrumental in maintaining the garden and supporting the organization. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers!
I was first drawn to the Garden by the webinar classes during the pandemic shut down. When the shut down was lifted, I was able to visit the Garden in person. The pictures only capture a portion of the real-life beauty in person. I couldn’t believe it when I saw Brian, the Garden curator, in the Garden and he kindly answered a few questions I had. I was star struck and just love the Ruth Bancroft Garden community.

— New member and supporter, 2021
Donor Honor Roll

2021

GIFTS OF $100,000 – $150,000
Kathleen & Don Nielsen

GIFTS OF $50,000 – $99,999
Donna & Ken Coit
William A. Kerr Foundation
Sharon Simpson

GIFTS OF $20,000 – $49,999
Elisabeth Andreason & Melissa Allen
Gretchen Bartzen & Michael Rippey
The Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation, Inc.
Goldsmith Family Charitable Fund
Quest Foundation

GIFTS OF $10,000 – $19,999
Anonymous
Dr. William Billings
Kathleen Blackman & Richard Watson
Gail Brekke
Gail Giffen
Jeanne Ryan
Richard Turner

GIFTS OF $5,000 – $9,999
Chevron — Your Cause
Matching Donations
Contra Costa Water District
Mara Featherston
Fremont Bank Foundation
Julie & Berrie Rose
Jane & Bud Rotermund

Susan Van Dyne & Marilyn Schuster
Marilyn & Luman Hughes
Julius-Ingram Family Charitable Trust
Sally Ingraham
Jericho Charitable Trust
Nell & Amelia McDaniel Charitable Trust
Troy McGregor
Carol & John Maerzke
Jerilyn & Joseph Moore
Cheryl Nobusada & Ryan Kosakura
Prudence J. Noon
Peter Raisbeck
Rossmoor Lions Club Foundation
Cindy & Thomas Silva Charitable Fund
Dennis Snyder
Walnut Creek Civic Pride
Stewart Winchester

GIFTS OF $2,500 – $4,999
Anonymous
Robert & Alice Bridges Foundation
Cactus & Succulent Society of San Jose
Shelley Gardner
Chevron Government Affairs
Nina Bancroft Dickerson & John Dickerson
Spencer W. Dress
Charla Gabert
Gwen Gallagher
Heritage Bank of Commerce
Linda Ingham
Claire & Paul Maxwell
David Mitchell
Anne & Joe Roberts
Susan & Earl Ruby
Sloat Garden Center, Inc.
VMware Foundation
Monique Young

GIFTS OF $1,000 – $2,499
Anonymous
Bay Alarm Company
Bennett Berke & Lorna Wallace
Barbara Cox
Andrea Fontana
Jane Freeman
Green 17 Design
Kathry & Jerry Hicks
Kathy Bancroft Hidalgo & Loreto Hidalgo

GIFTS OF $500 – $999
Anonymous
Kimberly Barensen
Blackhawk Country Club
Stephanie Bodoff
Ken Borelli
Justin Cannon
Vicki Durst
East Bay Municipal Utility District
Kay Estoy
Sarah Gianan
Glen Park Garden Club
Anna Halverson
Loella & Ralph Haskew
Christie & John Hastings

Karen J Hughes
Natalie Inouye
Jean Kay
Harri Kent
Flavia Krasilchik
Larry Mona
David Mudgett
Mark Mueller
Judy Olson
Larry Pietrelli
John Ricca & Chris Coddington
Salesforce, Inc.
Laurie Shapley
Shirley Shotwell
Valorie Stillwell
Allan Tobias
John Urban
Claudia Hansen Wentworth
Family Foundation

GIFTS OF $250 – $499
Anonymous
Karen Beck
Cristine Bjork-Hilsinger
Fonda Bonner
Judith Coleman Cohen
Jacqueline Cormier
Douglas Cowden
Rebecca Ferguson
Joe Ficurelli
Sally Jo Flage
Dely Gapsins
Kathy Geddes
Marie Gelin
Linda Garham
Robin & Bob Griffiths
Becky & John Harrington
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<td>Christian Iversen</td>
<td>Mary Caroline Russell</td>
<td>Mary Williamson</td>
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<td>Joel Jackson</td>
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<td>Ann Wingren</td>
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<td>William James</td>
<td>Judith Ryan</td>
<td>Lesley Wright</td>
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<td>Birthe Kirsch</td>
<td>Bob Sauter</td>
<td>Winny Ruzette</td>
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<td>Kimberly &amp; Alexander Moore</td>
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<td>Howard Nelson</td>
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**GIFTS OF $1 – $99**

- Jennifer Abe
- Donna Adrian
- Barbara Alexander
- Sharon Alvarez
- Anchovy
- Beth Andersen
- Anonymous
- Eduardo Araugo
- Christina Ascencio
- Molly Ashford
- Mina Askari
- Nancy Bemis Parazica
- Alma Bentiez-Yee
- Alison Berndt
- Sally Blackwell
- Emily Blanck
- Leonie Bonarius
- Judy Boriskin
- Greg Bornstein
- Karen Bouttier
- Margaret Bowerman
- Sue Branagan & Kelsey Rogers
- Linda Brecken
- Diana Brown
- Sandra Brubaker
- Jacki & Tim Byrd
- Denise Caldwell
- Darlene Campbell
- Samantha Campbell
- M Sarita Cardozo & Karyn De Souza
- Diana Carlton
- Janey Castagniri
- Alice Castellanos
- Janice Cattolico
- Chris Cello
- Mabel Chan
- Sandra Chaw
- Linh Chen
- Kate Cheng
- Pat Chemack
- Diane Ciardello
- Clayton Valley Garden Club
- Barbara Coenen
- Kim Coleman
- Diana Cooner
- Katrina Cookman
- Joanne Cordova
- Camaguey Convelli
- Carole Cosimano
- Mary Cosola
- Vicki Cuniff
- Linda Damrel
- Elizabeth Delalanza
- Sharyn Delano
- Sharon Doi
- Mary & William Duncan
- Mona Dunlop
- Lea Echon
- Cynthia Egan
- El Cerroto Garden Club
- Crystal Eng
- Nancy Esewin
- Vickie M. Faine
- Fairytale Town
- Ann Farley
We would like to acknowledge the contributions of the following individuals:

**IN MEMORY OF ELISABETH ANDREASON & MELISSA ALLEN**
- By Jeanette Farley
- By Marcine & Scott Singley
- By Elizabeth Bade
- By Ellen Gilman
- By Kathryn Halbrook & Bill Cobran
- By Robert Peters
- By the Julius-Ingraham Family Charitable Trust

**IN MEMORY OF CAROL MAERZKE**
- By Ron Ayers
- By Elisabeth Andreason & Melissa Allen
- By Gretchen Bartzen & Mike Rippey
- By Karen & Stephen Beck
- By Tamara Belew
- By Marilyn & Dick Bowles
- By Sandra & Dale Brubaker
- By Klara Cheung
- By Norma Dillon
- By Kay Estley
- By Eileen & Stan Feldman
- By Glen Park Garden Club
- By Shelly & Joe Herkhaus
- By Valerie Leong
- By Hisako P Nii
- By Lisa Parker
- By Renee Silvaeva
- By Tony Suh

**IN MEMORY OF BILLIE HOPPER**
- By Virginia Hodgson
- By Sharon & Robert Peters
- By the Julius-Ingraham Family Charitable Trust

**IN MEMORY OF STACY ANDERSON**
- By Virginia Hodgson
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- By Christian Iversen

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**IN MEMORY OF RICHARD TURNER**
- By Virginia Hodgson
- By Sharon & Robert Peters
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- By Christian Iversen

Kindly notify us of any error or omission in these listings so that we can correct our records.

Thank you!
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