

The Land Conservancy OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

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Estate Gift Surprises Local Nonprofit

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA -- The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County recently received a surprise legacy gift from a generous and long-term supporter; Arthur Rosen left \$5,000 to his local land trust through his will.

Rosen chose to dedicate a portion of his estate to the conservation of important landscapes unique to San Luis Obispo County. A staunch supporter of local land protection, Rosen was a member of The Land Conservancy since 2000 and donated regularly to the Visionary Vistas Land Protection Fund.

“The generosity and foresight of our supporters never ceases to amaze us,” said Brian Stark, Executive Director of The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County. *“Arthur Rosen’s gift will be appreciated for generations to come through the permanent protection of local lands in his home community.”*

Rosen served as Professor Emeritus at Cal Poly and Director of the Physics Department Radioanalytical Facility, and he was a veteran of the US Navy. He supported a variety of other community causes including Cuesta College, Foundation for the Performing Arts, Mozart Festival and the local Planned Parenthood.



The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County is using Rosen’s estate gift to leverage grant funding for the permanent protection of a ranchland property that is under negotiation. It included Rosen in their Terre Firma Society in honor of his generosity and encourages others to include nonprofits in their estate plans.

“Planned giving provides a unique opportunity for community-minded individuals to combine their philanthropic passions with financial planning to help navigate the future,” notes Stark. *“Even more exciting is the idea that people can work with nonprofits during their lifetime to set up a legacy that permanently provides benefits to community causes they care about, such as land protection.”*

The Land Conservancy’s Board President, Gary Felsman, has done just that. *“Darlene and I have been members of the Land Conservancy for more than 10 years. We have watched the Land Conservancy grow, and we continue to learn about the vital role it plays in the community preserving special places we all know and love. We have made a significant investment in the organization to help*

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support today's mission. We have also included them in our estate plans to help ensure The Land Conservancy continues to be a strong organization for generations to come," says Felsman.

Other notable members of The Land Conservancy's *Terre Firma Society* include former local philanthropists Jan Mracek, Allan Minker, and Shirley McLain.

- Mracek named The Land Conservancy as a partial beneficiary in her will. Her passing in 2007 enabled the establishment of an endowment fund to support local land conservation forever.
- McLain donated her estate, including 40 acres of land southeast of Santa Margarita, to The Land Conservancy in 2008. Since then, her property has been encumbered with a permanent conservation easement creating the "*McLain Wildlife Preserve*" and sold to a conservation buyer. Proceeds from the sale now endow the permanent protection of the property and fund other similar conservation projects.
- Minker left The Land Conservancy a bequest of his retirement savings which was reinvested in The Land Conservancy's Community Connection program. His seed funding of an internship position has now been leveraged into a more robust volunteer and outreach program that engages the public in local conservation efforts.

Those interested in leaving a legacy of permanent land protection in San Luis Obispo County should contact Brian Stark, Executive Director of The Land Conservancy at (805) 544-9096 or contact the County Community Foundation at 543-2323.

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County is a local nonprofit land trust working to protect and restore local lands for the benefit of people and wildlife. The land trust's efforts help protect drinking water sources, prevent poorly planned development, restore wildlife habitat and promote family farmlands and ranches in San Luis Obispo County. Since its formation in 1984, The Land Conservancy has led collaborative efforts to permanently protect over 10,000 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County. For more information visit www.LCSLO.org or call (805) 544-9096.



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