



# From the Mailbag

News from Members and Friends

by Erika Obedzinski

## In Memory

We are sad to hear of the recent death of **Mortimer Gaines**, age 92. Mort was the father of the Mono Lake Committee's founder, David Gaines, who preceded his dad in death in 1988. His grandchildren, Vireo and Sage, have nothing but fond memories of their frequent visits with Mort. He introduced them to fishing, one of his pastimes when in the mountains, as well as ping-pong in his backyard in Los Angeles. His widow, Edith, plans a trip up to Mono Lake this summer to revisit an area important to the entire family. The Committee will acknowledge gifts made in Mort's memory in the *Newsletter* and we are happy to pass on to Edith any cards or notes we receive.

**Robin Roberts & Erica Chapin** of Santa Cruz made a donation in memory of **Ludwig Huber**. A gift in honor of the memory of **Robert B. Johnson** was

given by his family. Gifts in memory of **Jane Standifer Owens** were received from **Barbara Arnold** of Hillsborough, **Gabby Fuller** also of Hillsborough and **Violet S. Taafe** of San Francisco. **David Wimpfheimer** gave a gift in honor of his mother, who had a special appreciation for unique, wild, beautiful places like Mono Lake.

## In Honor

**Camden Richards and Josh Dickinson** of Alexandria, VA gave a gift in honor of their grandparents **Martha & Bob Conley** and **Paul & Kathy Richards**. **Hardy Drane** of Wilmington, DE made a contribution through the **United Way of Delaware** in honor of **Kent Fickett**. **Mr. & Mrs. Gary Kawamura** of San Jose made a donation in honor of **Sue Imada's** birthday. **Stacy Brown** of Los Angeles made a contribution in honor of the dedication and good work

of the Mono Lake Committee staff and Board of Directors. **Carleen and Mike Bedwell** of Escondido gave a gift in honor of **Carol Rakich**.

## Thank You

Thank you to **Planet Inc.** for their annual donation of environmentally friendly cleaning supplies for use in our Lee Vining office! Thank you to **Kelly Ogle** of Tuolumne County who is collecting pledges on behalf of the Mono Lake Committee while he hikes the Appalachian Trail this spring and summer. We'll have an update on Mr. Ogle's trek in an upcoming *Newsletter*. If you would like to make a pledge towards his efforts, contact Erika at the Membership Desk (760) 647-6595. ❖

*Erika Obedzinski is the Committee's Membership Coordinator. She has been scouting wildflowers from Death Valley to Mono Lake to Marin this season.*

## In Search of Flatscreen Monitors

The Committee is supported in a variety of ways: donations through the mail, donations over the phone, donations in the bookstore, folks who stop by each warm season and drop off a boxful of fruit, letters of support in response to action alerts and letters to just let us know you love the lake and think we're on the right track. Several years ago we started receiving support with a new twist: donations made by IBM employees which could be matched for a greater value if the Committee put their donation towards the purchase of IBM equipment.

In the years since we started participating in the IBM matching grants program, we've been able to purchase a printer, a new hard drive and several flat screen monitors. In our Lee Vining office space which is always jam-packed with people

and bustling with projects, this equipment goes a long way.

This is true especially in the summer months when our usual team of 13 year round staff swells with 12 additional seasonal staff members who help out in the bookstore, run the canoe and South Tufa tours, lead bird and creek trail walks, and work on a variety of other projects in the office. Not to mention the visitors and researchers coming into the bookstore looking for internet access or a place to download their digital photos. Out of necessity we've become creative with our space, and we've quickly learned how useful flat screen monitors can be.

So far the use of flat screen monitors has helped staff members make a tiny desk area a little more spacious, create a more ergonomic set up, and

save precious counter space in the bookstore. Plus they are more energy efficient and require fewer resources in production. So, this is a call to anyone who would like to make a special one-time donation to buy an additional flat screen monitor for use in our Lee Vining offices. To replace the rest of our old-style CRT monitors, we could use flat screen monitors in 14 more places in the office. A 17" flat screen monitor runs about \$300 including tax and shipping. If you'd like to make a donation for this purpose, send us a check with a note saying "For purchase of flat screen monitor" or contact Erika ([erika@monolake.org](mailto:erika@monolake.org)) at (760) 647-6595 if you'd like to make a credit card donation or have further questions.