

## **What's a Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation Named Scholarship?**

While listening to 2024 Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation (RSF) winner Amy Elbert tell her compelling story at RSF's September 25 Donor Reception, many in the audience shed tears. Among them was Theresa Kuo, whose husband Ta-hsia had recently passed away. As she listened, an idea flashed in her mind. Because he had supported education all his life and because she wanted to commemorate him, why not establish a "Ta-hsia Kuo Memorial Scholarship" to support the kinds of students RSF serves? After consulting with her two sons and one daughter, they decided together to fund not one, but two scholarships. "Ta-hsia would love it!" Kuo thought to herself.

Ta-hsia Kuo was a quiet, gentle man who loved nature, and even more loved hiking through it. An active member of the Rossmoor Hiking Club, with friends he carved out many of the trails currently surrounding Rossmoor's campus. "I hiked with him on many occasions," recalls Larry Barclay. "He was the quietest, strongest hiker and knew more plants and trees than any other in the group." On one occasion Kuo led a group to the top ledge of an old lime quarry, pointing out the beautiful labyrinth on the floor below. "That," Barclay notes, "was the inspiration of the plan for our Rossmoor Labyrinth, on which Ta-hsia worked very hard and for which he was primarily responsible."

In honor of their parents Rossmoorians Bill and Judy Leckonby are funding two "Norton-Leckonby Family Scholarships" in 2025. "My dad took very seriously his responsibility of providing for us financially," Judy Leckonby, the third of his four children, recalls. "It left him little time for fun and hobbies, but he encouraged us in our dreams and lived vicariously through them." "I'm oldest of five children raised in a family where education and college were a given," Bill Leckonby remembers. He and his siblings all graduated from college. "Mom and Dad dedicated themselves to higher education with exceptional commitment, generosity, spirit and joy." The Leckonbys strongly believe that "the values held by our parents and the sacrifices they made to assure us education is key to our well-being and success. From the first time we saw an article about RSF in the Rossmoor News shortly after moving in, it really resonated with both of us."

"I am honored to celebrate the life of my beloved brother, Gene Shaw, by funding two scholarships named for him," Rossmoorian Barbara Korflage wrote recently. "A quiet, soft-spoken, courageous man, he was a devoted son and generous brother. It is a fitting tribute," she notes, "to share this opportunity with hard-working students who have career goals and, often have had to overcome obstacles to achieve their dreams of a college education."

Other RSF named scholarships include four from the Rossmoor Rotary Club, four from Lorraine Mox, and one each from Penny Ittner, Rossmoor Realty, Joe Anthony, Larry Cahn, the Miller Family, the Li Family Intercultural Scholarship, the Thomas Ruckman Memorial Scholarship (donated by RSF trustee Charlotte Misner), and the Hal Skamser Scholarship donated by 1987 RSF scholar Frank Nelson. Donations from Diablo Subaru's "Share the Love" program funded ten scholarships last year, and a donation from Leftovers Thrift Shop will be funding six scholarships in 2025. RSF is extremely grateful to all of these donors.

Submitted by Wayne A. Wiegand, RSF Trustee