



## Ways to Plan Your Gift

### Bequests

You can provide now for a future gift to The Ruth Bancroft Garden by including a bequest provision in your will or revocable trust. A bequest is simple to prepare, revocable, and can be accomplished in several ways: specify a dollar amount, designate a percentage of your total estate, or gift a residual portion of your estate.

### Beneficiary Designations

Naming The Ruth Bancroft Garden as beneficiary of retirement plans, life insurance policies, transfer-on-death accounts and commercial annuities allows you control of the funds during your life and provides a probate-free transfer of assets. This type of estate gift can lessen both income and estate taxes.

### Life Income Gifts

A life income gift enables you to make a significant contribution while protecting or improving your personal financial situation. These irrevocable gift plans provide income for life or a term of years, an immediate income tax deduction, and the potential for reduced estate taxes. The most common life income gifts are charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts.

### Life Estate Reserved

A gift of a remainder interest in your home or farm would allow you to transfer ownership while retaining the right to live in your residence for the remainder of your life. You would receive a current income tax deduction for the remainder value of your home or farm.

## Endowment Gifts— A Lasting Legacy

You may designate your planned gift for any of the following uses:

- ◆ **Permanent Endowment Gift (Centennial Fund)**
  - ◇ Investment which produces earnings for long term support
- ◆ **Unrestricted Endowment Gift**
  - ◇ Funds can be used to meet immediate priority needs

*Please know that The Ruth Bancroft Garden does not provide tax, legal, or financial advice. The Ruth Bancroft Garden strongly encourages all of our donors to seek counsel from their own legal and financial advisers.*

### We Thank You

The Ruth Bancroft Garden Legacy Society honors individuals who have included a gift to The Garden in their estate plan through a bequest, trust or other planned gift. Legacy Society members are honored at an annual recognition event hosted by the Board of Directors and are acknowledged in The Garden's publicity materials. Legacy gifts are an example that may serve to encourage similar philanthropy in others.

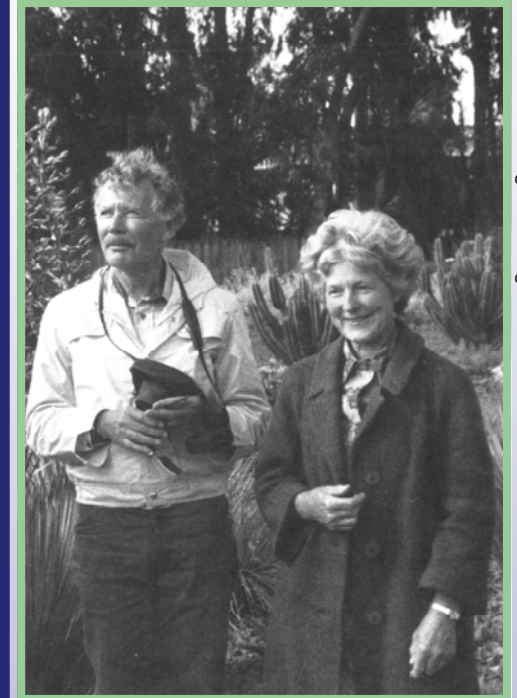
### Mission

*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.*



The Ruth Bancroft Garden  
(925) 944-9352  
[www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org)

## The Ruth Bancroft Garden Legacy Society



Ruth Bancroft with garden designer Lester Hawkins, 1970s.

“This journey of gardening has been my lifelong passion. I am pleased that there is now a way to preserve The Garden that so many have enjoyed. Thank you for helping my vision live on.”

-Ruth Bancroft

## One Woman's Legacy

Ruth Bancroft is a woman on the cutting edge of sustainable gardening. In 1972 she began an experimental garden of drought-tolerant succulents that would become well known as a fine example of garden design and would inspire countless others to consider water conservation in their own gardens.

For 35 years she worked tirelessly in her garden, building a reputation as a plants-woman of the highest caliber. Ruth and her garden inspired the founding of the Garden Conservancy and became its first preservation project. In 1993, Ruth gave the world an amazing gift when she deeded her exceptional garden for future generations to enjoy.



Photograph by Karl Mondon

## Preserving a Remarkable Resource— Now and for the Future

The Ruth Bancroft Garden, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that now owns and maintains the garden. A conservation easement ensures that the garden will be preserved in the spirit of its founder for the public to enjoy. The Ruth Bancroft Garden is internationally recognized as one of the finest botanical gardens in the world.

This public, nonprofit garden seeks to increase private support to be able to continue Ruth's inspiring work.



Ruth has not only created and maintained this remarkable resource since 1972, but she has also included a remainder gift from her life estate to The Garden in her will. With this inaugural bequest, the Board of Directors has established *The Ruth Bancroft Garden Legacy Society* in Ruth's honor and to help carry on her legacy.

## An Invitation to Join

We invite you to become a member of *The Ruth Bancroft Garden Legacy Society* and help shape our future and ensure that The Garden will thrive for years to come.

A planned gift is a special investment in The Ruth Bancroft Garden that will strengthen our Endowment and allow us to look to the future with confidence, assured of the necessary resources to both maintain and grow this exceptional garden.

To join the *Legacy Society*, simply inform us that you have made The Ruth Bancroft Garden a beneficiary of your estate plan. We have an Enrollment Card for your use.

## Yes! I would like to know how to update my will and benefit The Ruth Bancroft Garden.

Please send me your free *Wills and Estate Planning Kit*

I have not previously informed you, but I have already included The Garden in my estate plan through:

- My will                       A trust arrangement  
 An insurance policy  
 My retirement plan assets  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I have a question. Please call me!  
Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

*This information is strictly confidential*

### Please Return To:

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[www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org)