

Spring 2004

Wishtoyo and Ventura Coastkeeper's Third Annual Rainbow Bridge Dinner

In November Wishtoyo held our third annual Rainbow Bridge Dinner and Silent Auction at the Embassy Suites Mandalay Beach Resort in Oxnard.

The evening was a great success. Robert Kennedy Jr., founder and President of the Waterkeeper Alliance - www.waterkeeper.org - attended the event as special Guest of Honor. His brilliant speech captured the spirits



of everyone; his genuine passion for the well being of our natural environment shone through every word. We were also fortunate to have the superb Live Auction leadership of Terry Tamminen, and appreciate that his new position as Director of Cal. EPA has not at all diminished his other many talents!

This year Wishtoyo had the honor of awarding a few eco-warriors and cultural heroes for their achievements. They were:

Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson: Environmental Achievement Award;

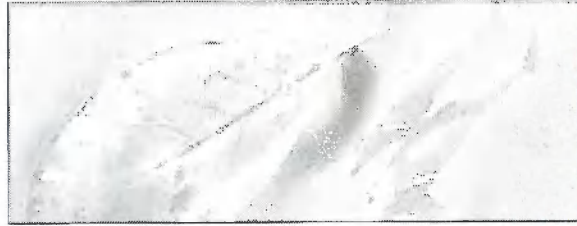
Kote Lotah of the Chumash Owl Clan: Cultural Preservation Award;

Toyota Motor Co. Advanced Motor Sales Division Manager - Ed LaRocque: Corporate Environmental Award;

Oxnard City Corps: Special Recognition Award.

Well-attended by an enthusiastic crowd, the evening featured music by flutist and singer Guillermo Martinez. Wishtoyo was pleased to welcome, along with Robert Kennedy Jr., Laurie David of the Natural Resources Defense Council, who is working avidly on environmental issues in California and nationwide, ranging from land conservation to hydrogen-fueled cars.

We also want to express our sincere thanks to Mike Horn of CRN Radio for broadcasting the event, and to everyone who attended and donated to the Silent Auction and to our valuable and hard-working volunteers- without your generous support and participation, the successful event would not have been possible!



The gathering included many of our Keeper friends as well, whom we thank sincerely for making the trek on a week day to share the evening with us.



Helpers at the event included: (l-r) Sasha Sicks, Wishtoyo guest, Kathleen Kuepper, and Angie Kim with Wishtoyo's Lin Myerson.

At Right: Santa Barbara Channelkeeper volunteers Leigh Ann Grabowsky and Christina Michael, talking to guest Dave Myerson.



In Memory of Our Friend and Fellow Eco-Warrior ~ Roma Armbrust ~

Many of you knew Roma Armbrust, a major force for Ormond Beach Wetlands Preservation over the last two decades. Mati said a prayer in honor of Roma at the Rainbow Bridge Dinner, commemorating her strength and perseverance in dealing with all the challenging forces impacting the effort to preserve hundreds of wetlands acres at Ormond Beach.

A street is now named for Roma, who was so dedicated to the cause, it was infectious to all around her.

We were honored to have her husband Bill attend the event; we will always feel Roma's spirit at the sacred place where she gave her time and strength to protect the wetlands for future generations and for the wildlife that depends upon its resources.

Died Oct 10, 2003
Age 76



of Pancreatic Cancer

Ormond Beach
Observer

