

ROSALIE HELLER

In Memoriam

You must be the change you wish to make in the world. Gandhi



Courtesy photograph

Founded by Mary Lou Cook and friends, Santa Fe Living Treasures began honoring Northern New Mexico elders in 1984. Three Los Alamos residents, John Manley, Rosalie Heller, and Rae Douglas were honored in Santa Fe. A 1997 book, *Living Treasures: Celebration of the Human Spirit*, chronicled the first 10 years of the Living Treasures program. A book signing party with Treasures in attendance to sign their biographies was celebrated at the Palace of the Governors. Shortly thereafter Rosalie and Karen Nilsson Brandt envisioned a Los Alamos Living Treasures program.

In 1998, as Los Alamos County approached its 50th anniversary, Rosalie and Karen began assembling an all-volunteer board and found a corporate sponsor, Los Alamos National Bank. The first Los Alamos Living Treasures Ceremony was held on April 11, 1999. Rosalie was quoted in the Los Alamos Monitor shortly before the inaugural ceremony: "It is time to celebrate the enormous role that so many of our senior citizens have played in the history of Los Alamos.

Rosalie, honored in Santa Fe for her myriad contributions to music and the arts, cofounded the Los Alamos Arts Council in 1965. She chaired the artist selection committee and also served as artistic director for the Los Alamos Concert Association for nearly 20 years. In 1979, Rosalie cofounded and became manager of the Coffeehouse, a popular chamber music series. Rosalie's love of classical music began at age five. In 2006, she began hosting a weekly classical music radio program on KRSN, which continued until shortly before her death.

Rosalie retired from Alamos Living Treasures board in December 2015. Nine board members now fulfill tasks that Rosalie performed singlehandedly.

There were numerous requests to name Rosalie a Los Alamos Living Treasure; however, she demurred. Today, we laud the enormous role that Rosalie played in the history of Los Alamos. It's impossible to enumerate all of her endeavors. For her outstanding dedication to the life, heart and spirit of our community, and for sharing her unique vision of a life well lived, we are deeply indebted to our friend and mentor, Rosalie Heller. She was and is a Los Alamos Living Treasure.

The Los Alamos Living Treasures Board of Directors

Written by Karen Nilsson Brandt, copyright ©