Winter has settled in the Mono Basin at last with a blanket of snow covering the sagebrush. Winter is our quiet time. Most travelers pass through the basin without stopping, wanting to spend as little time as possible on the icy roads, wary of approaching storms. For those of us that live here, it is a time to snowshoe and ski to quiet places where the deep snow muffles any sounds. When the snow is deep we rejoice knowing that the spring runoff will also be big and the lake will rise.

For me, this winter is a time of change as I move to a new position as Retail Manager. Erika will take over the membership desk and I know I leave that job in good hands. I look forward to meeting more of you in the store, so please say hello when you stop by for a visit!

**Special Thanks**

A special thanks to the California Native Plant Society, Sequoia Chapter, for hosting this year’s silent auction to benefit the Mono Lake Committee. They, along with the Fresno Audubon Society and the Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter, put in a lot of work to host this special event for us each year. A big thanks also to Marion Orvis for all of her hard work and dedication to make this event a success year after year.

**In Memory**

Memorial donations were made in honor of Werner Vorster of Van Nuys by Paul and Katherine Page, Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Sheldon, Rudy and Grete Wolf, The Bay Institute of San Francisco, and the Natural Resources Defense Council. Werner’s family has done much over the decades to protect Mono Lake, particularly through the expert hydrological work of her son Peter Vorster.

The Nikolai Family of Granada Hills made a generous donation in memory of Sam Brooker, also of Grenada Hills. A gift was made in remembrance of Paul Green from his children and their families.

**More Mono Basin Babies**

Jordyn Lynne Harper was born to Anna Strathman and Jim Harper on November 1, 2002. Benjamin Walker Trefry was born to Stacey Simon and Jack Trefry on November 23, 2002. Proud grandmother Eileen Simon of San Ramon made a donation in Benjamin’s honor. We would like to welcome these two beautiful new babies to the growing Mono Basin Family.

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**In Memory of Rick de Laet**

Mono Lake lost a true friend when Alberic (Rick) de Laet of Sausalito passed away last November. He is survived by his spouse and Committee Board Member Emeritus Grace de Laet. Rick was a leader in many fundraising events and always wanted to be sure that the fundraising efforts they spearheaded would actually make money for Mono Lake. In addition to the fine wine cellar drawings, (Rick was instrumental in securing wines) the de Laets conducted fundraising sailing trips to Angel Island, organized a bus tour in the early 80s from the Bay Area to Mono and then again in 2000, and even held an auction to raise funds for Mono Lake. Both have been instrumental in spreading the word about Mono’s plight and bringing others into the fold. Rick will truly be missed.

We received many donations in memory of Rick de Laet. Memorial gifts were received from Roland and Jacqueline Barakett, Bernard Berry, Neil and Mimi Burton, Dorothy Candiotti, Loralee Durkee, Gerald and Royanne Florence, Edie and Mort Gaines, Michael and Grace Gaines-Jacobs, Peggy A. Hall, Rex and Janet Hardy, Marjorie W. Hyman, Dr. Hilliard J. Katz, Mr. and Mrs. Hod Kosman, Shirley and Carl Krueger, Barbara Leaf, Marlene and Fred Levinson, Eleanor and Warren Lintz, Joan Lundstrom and Walt Wilson, Gloria Maciel, Wallace and Lucille Marinko, Herb McGrew, Richard Miller, Elve and Michael L. Peck, Leon Roegiers, Helen M. Schilbe, Helen P. Slattery, Brenda and Walter Stevenson, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Tench, Robert and Judy Van Austen, Beverly and Jim Weager, Betty and John Wood, and Daphne Zeuli.