

A LEGACY OF THREE *Generations*

BOARD CHAIR FROM 1967 TO 1971, **DONALD RHOADES** AND HIS WIFE **DOROTHY** SET IN MOTION FIFTY YEARS OF GIVING TO CASTILLEJA. TOGETHER WITH THEIR DAUGHTER **MARILYN HOFFMAN '64** AND GRANDDAUGHTERS **KAREN HOFFMAN GILHULY '78**, **NANCY HOFFMAN '76**, AND **SHEILA LEE '83**, THE FAMILY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT FORWARD-THINKING PROGRAMS, TUITION ASSISTANCE, AND THE ARTS.

While we are eager to enjoy new spaces that will carry our teaching and learning forward for the next century, at the same time, we remember that our current buildings are more than just a collection of classrooms and offices; they are spaces where generations of students have found their voices and begun to shape their own stories. Rhoades Hall, which holds Castilleja's treasured "Green Doors" and turns 50 this year, is also an expression of faith in the power of education.

Donald Rhoades, who served as Board Chair from 1967 to 1971 and for whom the building is named, believed deeply that education forever changed the path of his life. The first person in his family to graduate from college, Donald left UC Berkeley with a lead on his first job and soon married his wife Dorothy, who was a teacher. Donald and Dorothy watched the world around them in Silicon Valley grow and change, and even as great success came to many who had chosen to walk away from formal education, they remained committed to schools. He supported every aspect of Castilleja, including creating forward-thinking programs, like hosting students from the Bahamas to attend Castilleja for a year. He was an early visionary leader in wanting to open this educational opportunity through tuition assistance.

As parents, Donald and Dorothy instilled this commitment to education in their children. One of their daughters, **Marilyn Hoffman '64**, attended Castilleja, and her daughters, **Karen Gilhuly '78**, **Nancy Hoffman '76**, and **Sheila Lee '83** did as well. Castilleja was an important touchstone for them all. The desire to give back to Castilleja also carries through the generations, and Karen has supported the Castilleja community in ways that make a difference around the Circle today. In 2007, she and her husband Ned endowed the Fine Arts Chair because she was in the acapella group here and loved singing. Beyond music, she has an appreciation for beauty. An avid gardener, she recently testified in front of Congress about the importance of preserving and propagating native plants in national parks.

The impacts of the all-girls environment have stayed with her to this day. Karen admits that she can also tell if someone has gone to an all-girls school. "It's something in their confidence and the way they carry themselves," she explains. Her sister, Nancy, worked at Castilleja from 1989 to 1998, serving as history teacher, US Head, and Assistant Head. Nancy passed away recently, and Karen still values the sense of purpose and belonging that her sister felt working at Castilleja. Like many alums, Karen remains very close to her classmates, and the relationships that they started here have only become richer over time.

As someone whose family has been committed to Castilleja through philanthropy for over 50 years, Karen is looking toward Castilleja's future, knowing that this education helps even more students seize opportunities and add their voices to the conversations that inspire them.



Karen Hoffman Gilhuly '78