

California Park & Recreation Society, District 2
Recreation, Parks and Leisure

2017 Hall of Honor

Regional Legacy Category

IRIS ZIMBELMAN

August 16, 1931 to May 29, 2016

Iris Zimbelman conceived the idea of the Strauss Festival after traveling to Austria with her husband Arnie and succumbing to the Old World charm of waltz performances in Vienna's Stadtpark. She organized Elk Grove's inaugural festival in 1987 and served as producer for 10 years, never missing a rehearsal. Her creative genius, attention to detail, and collaborative abilities resulted in a labor of love shared by hundreds of volunteers.

Zimbelman's irrepressible spirit, dedication, and accomplishments have been recognized by the Sacramento Area YWCA, which selected her as the 1990 Outstanding Woman of the Year in Arts and Humanities, and by her hometown, which named her Elk Grove Citizen of the Year in 1989. Having retired from the Strauss Festival board of directors after the 1998 production, Zimbelman remained a loyal and gracious supporter of the festival, cheering the efforts of those carrying on the tradition.

