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Summer Newsletter 2005

Bench on Mount Tamalpais Dedicated to Mimi Fariña By Paul Liberatore

On April 30, a sunny Saturday that would have been Bread & Roses founder **Mimi Fariña's** 60th birthday, a small group of her family and friends hiked her favorite trail on Mount Tamalpais and dedicated a memorial bench in her honor.

The gracefully curved redwood bench overlooks Muir Woods and commands soaring views out to the ocean. "In Loving Memory of Mimi Fariña" is engraved on a black stone plaque along with the Bread & Roses logo.

In an informal ceremony, Mimi's sister, **Joan Baez**, sang a funny little ditty that she and Mimi used to sing when they were growing up.

Mimi's cousin, **Skip Henderson**, read a prescient poem that Mimi wrote for a high school English assignment in 1960, when she was 15. Titled "What is Good?", it goes:

"Searching for the real good is like looking into a rose; in each petal grows an idea from the stem that holds the answer. A rose must be nourished for the beauty of its bloom, as a person must give kindness to experience 'good.' If a flower isn't cared for, like a person it will die with all potential goodness just wasted. As a stem is to a flower, the heart is to a man, every beat a starting point of kindness to do with it what he can."

After Mimi's death in July 2001, I launched the memorial bench project, working with B&R advisory board member **Jan Yanehiro** to get approval from Mount Tamalpais State Park. **Dan Nowell**, a former B&R Board member, installed the bench, generously giving of his time and skills.

To visit it, take Panoramic Highway and turn left on Ridge Avenue. Park in the lot at the end of Ridge and walk down the paved roadway. Proceed west on Redwood Trail to Mimi's bench, which is on the right at the top of a rise. It's beautiful, just as she was.

Journalist Paul Liberatore writes for the Marin Independent Journal and was Mimi Fariña's partner.

[Prev](#) | [Next](#) | [Index](#)



Dan Nowell, Paul Liberatore and Joan Baez on Mimi Fariña's memorial bench.

Photo by Ken Friedman

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