

CINNABAR FOUNDATION

Announcement from the Cinnabar Foundation Board of Directors

Veteran Board Member Judi Stauffer Announces Retirement, Leaving a Legacy of Dedication at the Cinnabar Foundation



Judi and Ricky

Long-standing Cinnabar board member, Judi Stauffer, is stepping down from her position at the end of December. Judi is an artist, community activist, and wife of the late Rick Hubbard Sargent, who was the son of Cinnabar founders, Leonard (Len) and Sandy Sargent. From childhood, she was inspired by her mother's acts of community volunteerism, and as a young adult by her in-laws' environmental activism and philanthropy.

Professionally, Judi has worked for, or in support of, nonprofit organizations for nearly 50 years. She has managed visual arts organizations and individual artist fellowship grants for the State of Florida and served as the artistic director for a community arts center.

As Director of Community Relations at the University of California-Santa Barbara, she created scores of educational outreach programs, membership campaigns, and fundraising activities. Through multiple community support groups that she administered, she helped raise millions of dollars for undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, and endowed academic chairs.

It is this wealth of expertise, creativity and drive that she brought to Cinnabar, in 1997. After her husband was invited to assume Len's seat on the board, Judi became an ex-officio member, fulfilling a similar role that Sandy had held. During those years and subsequently, she attended and contributed to board discussions; participated in board retreats; proposed, created and maintained the Foundation's website; and designed and produced Cinnabar's annual reports and other external communications.

In September 2012, Judi assumed Rick's Cinnabar board position after his passing, and was elected Board Secretary shortly thereafter. Judi has helped sustain the Sargent family's environmental ethic

through her board representation. She served as vice president of the board from May 2021 through December 2024.

Upon Judi's announced departure, Cinnabar board president Grant Parker stated, "Judi has done a fantastic job supporting Cinnabar and all of our grantees over the many years of her board service. She has been an excellent ambassador for the Sargent family, and her commitment to the environment and people of Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem has been significant."

Judi received formal arts training at Franconia College (BA) and Florida State University (MFA). She lives in Santa Barbara County, California where she is involved in local efforts. In 2007 she helped found a citizen's action group, *Buellton Is Our Town*, which successfully campaigned the first urban growth boundary initiative in Santa Barbara County the following year. Judi has served on the boards of The Fund for Santa Barbara, Women's Environmental Watch, Artists Guild of the Santa Ynez Valley / SYV Arts, and the City of Buellton Arts + Culture Committee. She served on long-range planning committees including the 1999 Santa Ynez Valley Blueprint Project; and she was an active participant in the 2010 Buellton Community Visioning Process and contributed to six subsequent sub-committees that emerged from the initiative, notably chairing the sub-committee focused on arts and culture.

During her tenure, not only has she helped the Foundation maintain important historical knowledge, but she also led Cinnabar into the digital age with Cinnabar's transition to an online grants management system. She was instrumental in developing the 2021-2025 Strategic Framework and its accompanying Development Plan, and advocating for three-year general operating grants.

Of great significance, Judi founded and funds two impactful giving programs through the Cinnabar Foundation:

University of Montana, Leonard & Sandy Sargent Environmental Studies Graduate Fellowships

Back in 1992, Rick and Judi presented Len and Sandy with a unique gift on Len's 80th birthday. They established the *Leonard and Sandy Sargent Graduate Fellowship Endowment Fund* within the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Montana as a birthday gift. The purpose of the Fellowships was and remains, "... to provide support to students with a demonstrated record of environmental activism." In order for the endowment to grow more quickly, Judi has funded these annual fellowships through restricted pass-through gifts to the Cinnabar Foundation since 2016.

Rick Hubbard Sargent Innovation Award

In memory of her late husband, Judi established the *Rick Hubbard Sargent Innovation Award*, in 2012. Like its namesake, this award is intended to recognize conservation work that pushes boundaries with the intent to expand understanding through innovative applications of new knowledge or new approaches in conservation, ecology and environmental issues that have the potential to radically change prevailing practices and transform existing paradigms.

While Judi's tenure on Cinnabar's board of directors has come to a close, she remains committed to continuing the Sargent family's conservation philanthropy in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Board Treasurer, Duane Moulton said, “The Cinnabar Foundation would not be the same without Judi’s tireless efforts to the organization. She has really raised the bar to make sure our grantees are taken care of and that we are doing the best we can for Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. We are and will be eternally grateful to her and wish her the best. I have learned a lot from Judi over the past few years and will miss working with her.”



Judi and Ricky