



Recreation and Parks Commission of Monterey Park Agenda

Special Meeting Amended to Meeting Location
City of Monterey Park - City Hall Council Chambers
320 W. Newmark Ave., Monterey Park CA 91754

Tuesday, April 21, 2026
6:00 PM

Mission Statement

The mission of the City of Monterey Park is to provide excellent service, foster growth and opportunity, and create a joyous and collaborative environment.

Land Acknowledgment

We would like to acknowledge that the land we inhabit today was once known as Tovangaar, the home of the Gabrieleño-Tongva people. We show our respect to the Gabrieleño-Tongva people, as well as all Indigenous people, past, present, and future, and honor their labor as original caretakers of this land. We commit to uplifting the Gabrieleño-Tongva people, invite you to acknowledge the history, and join us in caring for this land.

General Information

Documents related to an Agenda item are available to the public in the City Clerk's Office located at 320 West Newmark Avenue, Monterey Park, CA 91754, during normal business hours and at www.montereypark.ca.gov/agendas.

Per the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please email City Hall at mpclerk@montereypark.ca.gov or call (626) 307-1359 for reasonable accommodation at least 8 hours before a meeting. Interpretation requests are not guaranteed and are dependent on availability. Requester will be notified of availability. Langley Center is wheelchair accessible.

Pursuant to Government Code § 54954.3(a), the public may address the Commission/Board only on matters listed on this Agenda. No other public comment will be accepted. Pursuant to Rule 5 of Resolution No. 12226 (adopted February 17, 2021), speakers are limited to a total of five minutes for Public Comment. If desirable, the Commission/Board may change the amount of time allowed for speakers. Written Communication will be accepted up to 3 hours before the meeting by completing an online form at www.montereypark.ca.gov/CBC_comm.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson

2. Flag Salute

Chairperson

3. Roll Call

Recreation and Community Services Commissioners Jesse Chang, Stephanie Lee Community Participation Commissioners Sandra Hidalgo, Fabian Raygosa, Carol Sullivan

4. Telecommunications Announcement, if requested

5. Agenda Revisions and Additions

6. Public Communications

7. Presentation

8. Consent Calendar

All items under the Consent Calendar are considered by the Commission to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. Specific items may be removed from the Consent Calendar at the request of any member of the Commission for separate consideration.

9. Old Business

10. New Business

10.A. Tree Memorial Nomination

It is recommended that the Commission consider:

1. Review the program criteria and consider the nomination of Fumiko "Mickey" Maruya and Shirley Hwong; and
2. Taking such additional, related action that may be desirable.

11. Commission Communications

12. Future Agenda Items

13. Adjournment



Recreation and Parks Commission Staff Report

Date: April 21, 2026
Agenda Item Number: 10.A.

To: Recreation and Parks Commission
From: Robert Aguirre, Director of Recreation & Community Services
Subject: Tree Memorial Nomination

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Commission consider:

1. Review the program criteria and consider the nomination of Fumiko "Mickey" Maruya and Shirley Hwong; and
2. Taking such additional, related action that may be desirable.

Executive Summary:

Background:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

1. Tree Nomination Resolution No. 10485
2. 2026 Tree Memorial Nomination for Mickey Maruya Redacted
3. 2026 Tree Memorial Nomination for Shirley Hwong_Vinh Ngo Redacted

RESOLUTION NO. 10485

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONTEREY PARK, CALIFORNIA TO ESTABLISH A TREE MEMORIAL NOMINATION AND AWARD

WHEREAS, the City of Monterey Park would like to acknowledge important and distinguished members of the City, by recognizing them with the dedication of a tree in their honor; and,

WHEREAS, on August 18, 1999 the City Council of Monterey Park directed staff to form a Committee, consisting of 2 members of the Recreation and Parks Commission and 2 members from the Historical Heritage Commission, to establish guidelines regarding an individual being considered for a Tree Memorial; and,

WHEREAS, members of the above mentioned Commissions have met and have submitted their recommendations to the City; and,

WHEREAS, City has incorporated these recommendations into a nomination process and award to honor such individuals; and,

WHEREAS, each February a committee of 3 members of the Historical Heritage Commission and 2 members of the Recreation and Parks Commission will be assembled as a Nomination Committee to accept applications for nominations; and,

WHEREAS, the Nomination Committee, will review nominations for an honor based on the submission of proper documentation and requirements, and, follow guidelines as set forth by the Tree Memorial Committee, and subsequent alternatives as recommended by staff; and,

WHEREAS, the Nomination Committee will make their recommendations to the City Council in April, with a dedication ceremony to be held in May, close to the anniversary of the City's Incorporation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Monterey Park hereby adopts the establishment of the Tree Memorial Nomination and Award, and designates staff to authorize a nomination committee as specified above to accept, review and nominate distinguished individuals as indicated in the following sections.

SECTION 1

MEMORIAL PLAQUE / TREE

Plaques to be consistent with plaques that are existing in front of City Hall. Trees that are to be purchased will be of similar type as existing. Cost for the plaques will be charged to the person or group who nominates the individual (\$500.00) City Council may waive fees at its discretion.

SECTION II

QUALIFICATIONS

The consideration for selection must include a substantial history of Community Service. For Example:


- A. Individual should have been a long term resident (10 years or more) in the City of Monterey Park, and should have provided a service benefit to the entire Community, in one or more of the following ways:
 - 1. Served on a City elected or appointed position for at least two terms or 5 years, whichever is greater;
 - 2. Voluntarily served the City as an officer, or board member of, one or more City recognized Service Clubs, volunteer community based organizations or other City service and charitable service organizations, which provide a direct service to Monterey Park residents;
 - 3. A long term community business leader who has served the Community through his/her financial or voluntary efforts to one or more service and charitable service organization or non profit organization in the City of Monterey Park for a period of no less than 10 years.
 - 4. An individual, resident or non resident, who has made a significant or cumulative and positive impact on the Community.
- B. The term "served" means that the individual must demonstrate an active role in providing a benefit to the Monterey Park Community, in addition to service to City service and charitable service organizations.
- C. Special consideration without regard to the above mentioned qualifications, should be given to an individual, resident or non resident, who has deceased while performing service to our community.

SECTION III

NOMINATION PROCESS


- A. Nominations to be submitted, accepted and considered only one time per year. No limit as to the number of years nominated. No limits imposed on the nomination committee as to how many individuals are recommended each year.
- B. Interested parties will be required to fill out an application which will require detailed justification for consideration, provide a picture and other suitable materials deemed necessary. In order to further determine merit, and to add significance to the prestige of the memorial, any individual whose name is put forth should be supported by at least three letters of reference by community members indicating the contribution made and significance, in their opinion.
- C. A nomination committee consisting of 5 members from the two Commissions, 3 Historical Heritage and 2 Recreation and Parks, shall be assigned to review the application and consider the qualifications.
- D. The time period for nominations are in February, with a selection and ceremony to be held in May, close to the anniversary of the City's incorporation.

PASSED AND APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of March, 2000.



Rita Valenzuela, Mayor
City of Monterey Park
California

ATTEST:



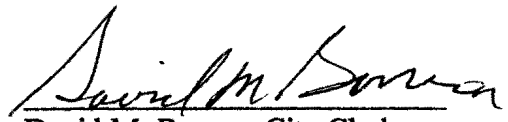
David M. Barron, City Clerk
City of Monterey Park,
California

State of California)
County of Los Angeles) ss.
City of Monterey Park)

I, David Barron, City Clerk of the City of Monterey Park, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No.10485 Was duly and regularly adopted by the City Council of the City of Monterey Park at a meeting held on the 15 day of March , 2000, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: CHU, BALDERRAMA, ALONSO, VENTI, VALENZUELA
NAES: COUNCILMEMBERS: NONE
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: NONE
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS: NONE

Dated this 15th day of March , 2000.



David M. Barron, City Clerk
City of Monterey Park
California

RESOLUTION NO. 11484

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 10485 REGULATING THE PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATIONS AND ERECTING TREE MEMORIALS.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Monterey Park as follows:

SECTION 1: The City Council finds as follows:

- A. In 2000, the Monterey Park City Council adopted a resolution to honor community members whose contributions have made a significant impact on the City of Monterey Park by establishing a Tree Memorial Program, and
- B. The City Council believes the display of these trees and plaques enhances City facilities and inspires citizens to contribute to their community; and
- C. It is in the public interest for persons recognized with a Tree Memorial to be so honored without the need for paying a fee.


SECTION 2: *Amendments.* Resolution No. 10485 is amended as follows:

- A. Section 1 is amended in its entirety to read as follows: "Plaques to be consistent with plaques that are existing in front of City Hall. Similar existing trees at Garvey Ranch Park will be used."
- B. Subsection A of Section 3 is amended in its entirety to read as follows: "Nominations may be submitted, accepted, and considered only once per year. There is no limit to the number of years in which a person may be nominated. Only three nominations will be recommended to the City Council per year. A person may only receive this honor once."

SECTION 3: *City Manager Authorization.* The city manager is authorized to promulgate administrative policies and procedures to implement and facilitate the directives set forth in this Resolution.


SECTION 4: This Resolution will become effective immediately upon adoption and will remain effective unless superseded or repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of May, 2012.



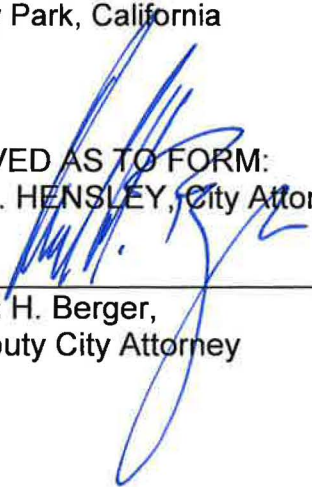
David Lau, Mayor
Monterey Park, California

ATTEST:



David Barron, CMC, City Clerk
Monterey Park, California

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
MARK D. HENSLEY, City Attorney

By: 

Karl H. Berger,
Deputy City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) SS
CITY OF MONTEREY PARK)

I, DAVID M. BARRON, CMC, City Clerk of the City of Monterey Park, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 11484 was duly and regularly adopted by the City Council of the City of Monterey Park at a meeting held on the 2nd day of May, 2012, by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members: Chu, Wong, Real Sebastian, Ing, Lau
Naes: Council Members: None
Absent: Council Members: None
Abstain: Council Members: None

Dated this 2nd day of May 2012.



David Barron, CMC, City Clerk
Monterey Park, California



Recreation and Community Services
320 West Newmark Avenue
Monterey Park, CA 91754
Telephone: (626) 307-1388
Website: <http://www.montereypark.ca.gov>

APPLICATION FOR TREE MEMORIAL 2026

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL NOMINATED: Mickey Maruya LIVING? N (Y/N)

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

NAME OF NOMINATING GROUP OR ORGANIZATION: David Ikeda

CONTACT PERSON: Same

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] CITY: [REDACTED] ZIP 91754

PHONE: [REDACTED] EMAIL: [REDACTED]

Nomination Process:

Please attach all materials, photos, documentation and letters to this application. The City will make every effort to return materials to the nominating authority listed, however, the City will not guarantee this or the condition of which the materials are returned. Please do not send original documents. Copies of these materials will be sufficient.

The submission period for applications and all materials is from Monday, February 2, 2026 through 5:30pm on Friday, February 27, 2026. Submit to the Recreation and Community Services Department via mail or email: 320 W Newmark Ave. Monterey Park, CA 91754 or Recreation@montereypark.ca.gov.

A committee of Commissioners will meet to review applications and make recommendations to City Council. Ceremony to be scheduled after City Council approval. All Committee review meetings are posted and open to the public. Nominating groups or individuals may speak and bring other pertinent materials to the meeting.

Committee reserves the right to accept, reject, approve or deny any and all of the applications it receives based on review of the materials submitted. The burden of proof as to the worthiness of a particular individual must be demonstrated by the information submitted by the applicant. Common knowledge or prestige of an individual is not enough to qualify for this recognition award.

The City shall determine the location for the tree memorial. Groups or individuals will not be allowed to request a particular site. The decision to plant a new tree versus using existing trees is at the sole discretion of the City. Wording on the plaque will be consistent with existing memorial plaques.

The intent of the program is to have the memorial remain undisturbed forever, however, the City must reserve the right to move, remove or change the existing tree or plaque as it deems necessary.

Please provide at least one picture and other suitable materials deemed necessary. In order to further determine merit, and to add significance to the prestige of the memorial, any individual whose name is put forth should be supported by at least three letters of reference by community members indicating the contribution made and significance, in their opinion.

QUALIFICATIONS

(Monterey Park Resolution No. 10485 & 11484)

Individual should have been a long term resident (10 years or more) of the City of Monterey Park, and has provided a service benefit to the entire Community, in one or more of the following ways (check items that apply):

_____ Served on a City elected or appointed position for at least two terms or 5 years, whichever is greater;

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_____ A long term community business leader who has served the Community through his/her financial or voluntary efforts to one or more service and charitable service organization or non profit organization in the City of Monterey Park for a period of no less than 10 years.

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Nominations may be submitted, accepted, and considered only once per year. There is no limit to the number of years in which a person may be nominated. Only three nominations will be recommended to the City Council per year. A person may only receive this honor once.

Complete resolutions available at:
[https://grmservices.grmims.com/CityofMonterey/\(S\(mnoqvplvaun42o01n5f3jkce\)\)/orc.aspx](https://grmservices.grmims.com/CityofMonterey/(S(mnoqvplvaun42o01n5f3jkce))/orc.aspx)

Dear Monterey Park City Council members


I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maruya of Bijin Salon, whom I have known for over 35 years as a friend and customer at her Bijin Salon on Garfield in Monterey Park. During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greeted everyone with a wonderful smile and contagious laughter.

Bijin Salon reminded me of the TV show "Cheers". The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, gender and race. Bijin Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 50 years. The salon even survived the pandemic. In addition, for over forty years, she went to the Keiro Nursing home in Boyle Heights every Monday and donated her time giving haircuts & shampoos to the senior residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey. I strongly recommend Mickey Maruya for the Tree Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Mickey was born in Brentwood, Contra Costa County and grew up on a farm in New Mexico. During WW II she and her family were incarcerated at Gila River Concentration Camp. As noted above she has been a long time MP business owner.

Mickey would approach me during the spring of every year and ask me about the Cherry Blossom Festival. (Since I am a member of the Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Committee I would provide her posters and she would display our poster in her shop and would share them with other business owners. She would support the Festival year after year as a sponsor and or purchase lots of raffle tickets. I also believe the "tree memorial" would be an appropriate because she loved nature and had many plants and flowers displayed in her shop.

Thank you,

David Ikeda




Recreation and Community Services
320 West Newmark Avenue
Monterey Park, CA 91754
Telephone: (626) 307-1388
Website: <http://www.montereypark.ca.gov>

APPLICATION FOR TREE MEMORIAL 2026

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL NOMINATED: Family "Mickey" Maruya LIVING? (Y) (N)

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

NAME OF NOMINATING GROUP OR ORGANIZATION: Caroline Maruya

CONTACT PERSON: Caroline Maruya

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] CITY: LA ZIP 90032

PHONE: [REDACTED] EMAIL: [REDACTED]

Nomination Process:

Please attach all materials, photos, documentation and letters to this application. The City will make every effort to return materials to the nominating authority listed, however, the City will not guarantee this or the condition of which the materials are returned. Please do not send original documents. Copies of these materials will be sufficient.

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The City shall determine the location for the tree memorial. Groups or individuals will not be allowed to request a particular site. The decision to plant a new tree versus using existing trees is at the sole discretion of the City. Wording on the plaque will be consistent with existing memorial plaques.

The intent of the program is to have the memorial remain undisturbed forever, however, the City must reserve the right to move, remove or change the existing tree or plaque as it deems necessary.

Please provide at least one picture and other suitable materials deemed necessary. In order to further determine merit, and to add significance to the prestige of the memorial, any individual whose name is put forth should be supported by at least three letters of reference by community members indicating the contribution made and significance, in their opinion.

February 27, 2026

I am honored to recommend Fumiko "Mickey" Maruya for this year's Tree Memorial. Mickey opened her beauty salon Bijin in Monterey Park August 15, 1982 as a female minority owner. She served her clients and community for over 43 years. Not only beautifying her clients but also the community. Bijin was like the "Cheers" of beauty salons, where everybody knows your name and felt welcomed. She dedicated her life to her business and clients. Working 3 days a week rain or shine till she was 94 years old. Her generosity and selflessness was felt by everyone who has met her. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Maruya', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Caroline Maruya

APPLICATION FOR TREE MEMORIAL 2026

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL NOMINATED: Mickey Fumi Maruya LIVING? N (Y/N)

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

NAME OF NOMINATING GROUP OR ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT PERSON: Kasey Maruya

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] CITY: [REDACTED] ZIP 90504

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

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QUALIFICATIONS

(Monterey Park Resolution No. 10485 & 11484)

Individual should have been a long term resident (10 years or more) of the City of Monterey Park, and has provided a service benefit to the entire Community, in one or more of the following ways (check items that apply):

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It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate Mickey Fumiko Maruya to be a recipient of the City of Monterey Park Tree Memorial of 2026. For most of my life, Mickey Maruya was only known to me as "Grandma Mickey"; she was a strong-willed, giving, and always happy woman. And while grandma is almost always an honorable title, it would take many years for my world to expand and for me to realize that the woman I knew as just "grandma" meant so much to other people and her community.

Mickey Maruya was a key part of both her family's lives and her community's lives. Having grown up and suffered through the injustices of the impact that World War II had on Japanese Americans, Mickey still approached both new opportunities and new people alike - with kindness and an open heart. In August 1982, Mickey opened her salon, Bijin Salon, in Monterey Park, and for more than fifty years, Bijin was Mickey's second home. It became more than a hair business; it became a gathering place for friends and community alike to share a laugh and a donut while getting their hair cut. Being born ten years later, after the opening of her salon, I had little knowledge of the kindness that my grandmother had bestowed upon others and her community. My early years were spent helping her clean Bijin Salon, being dubbed her "best helper." This core memory developed the foundation for my realization of the impact Mickey had outside of the grandmother role in my life. As I grew older, the city of Monterey Park would later recognize Bijin Salon and Mickey for its forty years of service, a tangible recognition of both Mickey's and the salon's lasting impact on the community.

In 2014, Mickey received an award from the LA Downtown Lions Club as Citizen of the Year for her volunteer service in the Keiro Nursing Home and the Presbyterian Union Church. For six days a week, Mickey spent her time working at Bijin Salon, and on her last day off, she still spent her day serving others up confidence and a smile. In Keiro Nursing Home, Mickey spent her days with people of similar ages to her, but served them by offering shampooing and haircuts, so people could still look and feel their best. Her license in cosmetology had its work cut out for it, as Mickey washed, curled, and permed residents' hair, improving morale and confidence through her volunteer work. Having volunteered with her in my later teenage years, I was amazed at how long her "client lists" were each time we volunteered. On my days off, and unable to do hair, I spent my days being her "best helper" in Keiro as well. The residents of Keiro were always cheerful and happy to speak in Japanese with Mickey, and always thankful for her services, many of whom were only physically able to have their hair washed when Mickey was present.

Mickey dedicated her life to helping others and treating others with kindness, something she had not always been awarded by the world or others. Mickey always let the small things slide and focused on the positive and ways to improve herself and others. Unfortunately, in January 2026, Mickey passed away suddenly, leaving a hole both in her family and in her built community. Mickey played a key role in both her family and in the community that she considered family. Mickey's work ethic, integrity, and sustained impact make her an ideal candidate for this recognition. She embodied all of the qualities that many strive to maintain daily, but she performed and gave effortlessly. For these reasons, I wholeheartedly recommend Mickey Fumiko Maruya for this honor and recognition.



Recreation and Community Services
320 West Newmark Avenue
Monterey Park, CA 91754
Telephone: (626) 307-1388
Website: <http://www.montereypark.ca.gov>

APPLICATION FOR TREE MEMORIAL 2026

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL NOMINATED: Fumiko "Mickey" Maruya LIVING? ____ (Y/N)

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

NAME OF NOMINATING GROUP OR ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT PERSON: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] CITY: [REDACTED] ZIP _____

PHONE: [REDACTED] EMAIL: [REDACTED]

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Complete resolutions available at:

[https://grmservices.grmims.com/CityofMonterey/\(S\(mnoqyplvaun42o01n5f3jkce\)\)/orc.aspx](https://grmservices.grmims.com/CityofMonterey/(S(mnoqyplvaun42o01n5f3jkce))/orc.aspx)

February 25, 2026

Dear City Council of Monterey Park,

I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maruya of Bijin Salon, whom I have known for over 40 years as her friend and or customer.

During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greets everyone with a sincere smile and contagious laughter. That's Mickey. The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, gender and race. Bijin Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 50 years. The salon even survived the pandemic.

In addition, for over forty years, she went to the nursing home in East Los Angeles every Monday and gave shampoos to the residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey.

I strongly recommend Mickey Maruya for the Tree Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

February 25, 2026

Dear City Council of Monterey Park,

I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maruya of Bijin Salon, whom I have known for over 40 years as her friend and or customer.

During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greets everyone with a sincere smile and contagious laughter. That's Mickey. The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, gender and race. Bijin Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 50 years. The salon even survived the pandemic.

In addition, for over forty years, she went to the nursing home in East Los Angeles every Monday and gave shampoos to the residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey.

I strongly recommend Mickey Maruya for the Tree Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Maruya', written over a horizontal line.

February 25, 2026

Dear City Council of Monterey Park,

I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maruya of Bijin Salon, whom I have known for over 40 years as her friend and or customer.

During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greets everyone with a sincere smile and contagious laughter. That's Mickey. The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, gender and race. Bijin Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 50 years. The salon even survived the pandemic.

In addition, for over forty years, she went to the nursing home in East Los Angeles every Monday and gave shampoos to the residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey.

I strongly recommend Mickey Maruya for the Tree Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

Catalina Kamimura
Bachan's Takeout



February 25, 2026

Dear City Council of Monterey Park,

I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maruya of Bijin Salon, whom I have known for over 18 years as her friend and or customer.

During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greets everyone with a sincere smile and contagious laughter. That's Mickey. The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, gender and race. Bijin Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 50 years. The salon even survived the pandemic.

In addition, for over forty years, she went to the nursing home in East Los Angeles every Monday and gave shampoos to the residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey.

I strongly recommend Mickey Maruya for the Tree Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

Lam Kung

Harmony Tree Learning Center

February 25, 2026

Dear City Council of Monterey Park,

I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maruya of Bijin Salon, whom I have known for over Jays Pizza as her friend and or customer.

During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greets everyone with a sincere smile and contagious laughter. That's Mickey. The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, gender and race. Bijin Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 50 years. The salon even survived the pandemic.

In addition, for over forty years, she went to the nursing home in East Los Angeles every Monday and gave shampoos to the residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey.

I strongly recommend Mickey Maruya for the Tree Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. W. ...', written over a horizontal line.

February 25, 2026

Dear City Council of Monterey Park,

I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maruya of Bijin Salon, whom I have known for over 50 years as her friend and or customer.

During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greets everyone with a sincere smile and contagious laughter. That's Mickey. The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, gender and race. Bijin Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 50 years. The salon even survived the pandemic.

In addition, for over forty years, she went to the nursing home in East Los Angeles every Monday and gave shampoos to the residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey.

I strongly recommend Mickey Maruya for the Tree Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

Emiko K. Waples

February 25, 2026

Dear City Council of Monterey Park,

I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maruya of Bijin Salon, whom I have known for over 15 years as her friend and or customer.

During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greets everyone with a sincere smile and contagious laughter. That's Mickey. The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, gender and race. Bijin Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 50 years. The salon even survived the pandemic.

In addition, for over forty years, she went to the nursing home in East Los Angeles every Monday and gave shampoos to the residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey.

I strongly recommend Mickey Maruya for the Tree Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mickey Maruya", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

February 25, 2026

Dear City Council of Monterey Park,

I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maruya of Bijin Salon, whom I have known for over 70 yrs as her friend and or customer.

During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greets everyone with a sincere smile and contagious laughter. That's Mickey. The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, gender and race. Bijin Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 50 years. The salon even survived the pandemic.

In addition, for over forty years, she went to the nursing home in East Los Angeles every Monday and gave shampoos to the residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey.

I strongly recommend Mickey Maruya for the Tree Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. J. ...', written in a cursive style.

February 25, 2026

Dear City Council of Monterey Park,

I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maruya of Bijin Salon, whom I have known for over ONE as her friend and or customer.

During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greets everyone with a sincere smile and contagious laughter. That's Mickey. The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, gender and race. Bijin Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 50 years. The salon even survived the pandemic.

In addition, for over forty years, she went to the nursing home in East Los Angeles every Monday and gave shampoos to the residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey.

I strongly recommend Mickey Maruya for the Tree Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mickey Maruya", with a stylized flourish extending downwards.

February 25, 2026

Dear City Council of Monterey Park,

I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maruya of Bijin Salon, whom I have known for over 1 year as her friend and or customer.

During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greets everyone with a sincere smile and contagious laughter. That's Mickey. The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, gender and race. Bijin Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 50 years. The salon even survived the pandemic.

In addition, for over forty years, she went to the nursing home in East Los Angeles every Monday and gave shampoos to the residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey.

I strongly recommend Mickey Maruya for the Tree Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

Gram Cafe & Pancakes Team
Bryan Mori

February 25, 2026

Dear City Council of Monterey Park,

I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maruya of Bijin Salon, whom I have known for over 20 years as her friend and or customer. *my grandmother*

During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greets everyone with a sincere smile and contagious laughter. That's Mickey. The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, gender and race. Bijin Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 50 years. The salon even survived the pandemic.

In addition, for over forty years, she went to the nursing home in East Los Angeles every Monday and gave shampoos to the residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey.

I strongly recommend Mickey Maruya for the Tree Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. Woodman', written in a cursive style.

February 25, 2026

Dear City Council of Monterey Park,

I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maruya of Bijin Salon, whom I have known for over 1 year as her friend and or customer.

During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greets everyone with a sincere smile and contagious laughter. That's Mickey. The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, gender and race. Bijin Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 50 years. The salon even survived the pandemic.

In addition, for over forty years, she went to the nursing home in East Los Angeles every Monday and gave shampoos to the residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey.

I strongly recommend Mickey Maruya for the Tree Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Maruya', written in a cursive style.

February 25, 2026

Dear City Council of Monterey Park,

I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maruya of Bijin Salon, whom I have known for over 70 as her friend and or customer.

During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greets everyone with a sincere smile and contagious laughter. That's Mickey. The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, gender and race. Bijin Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 50 years. The salon even survived the pandemic.

In addition, for over forty years, she went to the nursing home in East Los Angeles every Monday and gave shampoos to the residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey.

I strongly recommend Mickey Maruya for the Tree Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

 AL MARUYA

February 27, 2026

2026 Tree Memorial Award Nomination

Nominee: Fumiko "Mickey" Maruya; 12/25/31-1/27/26

Author: Christopher Adkins (grandson)

I would like to present this letter in support of Fumiko "Mickey" Maruya for the 2026 Monterey Park Tree Memorial Award. Throughout her life, Mickey has made a lasting impression on her family, friends, and community. Her memory will live on with us, but memorializing her life and contribution to community with this award would mean a great deal to all that had the pleasure of knowing her.

Mickey opened Bijin salon in Monterey Park in 1982. She ran this business for over 40 years, even up to her last days before her passing. This salon was a big part of Mickey's life, a true passion for her. Through this, she created more than just a business. Bijin salon was a lasting icon within the community. Through these 4 plus decades, her local loyal customers became more than that, they were friends. She had a gift of building up meaningful relationships with everyone she met. Her devotion to her business and community were unrelenting. Her mornings typically started at 3 or 4 in the morning to get ready for her first customers of the day. Even in her mid 90's and last days, she kept up this routine.

In addition to Bijin Salon in Monterey Park, she made a lasting impression on the greater Los Angeles area. Giving back to her community however she could was an important part of her life. She had volunteered at Keiro, a local organization for older Japanese American adults for over 50 years. No matter how busy life would be, with work or family, she made sure she was able to give back to her communities. Mickey was a larger than life figure for her family, friends, and community including Monterey Park. She will always be fondly remembered by all who know where. It would be an honor for her to be memorialized with this award to highlight what she meant to this community.

February 25, 2026

Dear City Council of Monterey Park,

I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maruya of Bijin Salon, whom I have known for over 15 YEARS as her friend and or customer.

During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greets everyone with a sincere smile and contagious laughter. That's Mickey. The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, gender and race. Bijin Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 50 years. The salon even survived the pandemic.

In addition, for over forty years, she went to the nursing home in East Los Angeles every Monday and gave shampoos to the residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey.

I strongly recommend Mickey Maruya for the Tree Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mickey Maruya", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cynthia Maruya-Adkins



February 25, 2026

Recreation and Community Services
320 W Newmark Ave
Monterey Pk, CA 91754

Re: Tree Memorial 2026

I would like to nominate Mickey Fumiko Maruya for the Tree Memorial 2026. Mickey was a native Californian who grew up on a farm and learned at a young age about hard work. Her family was interned in Arizona. After three and a half years, the family settled in New Mexico and once again farmed. As an adult, Mickey moved back to California to attend Pacific Sewing school in Los Angeles. That is where she met and married Al Maruya in 1953. She was a mother of 5, an active PTA mom, and church volunteer. Once the kids were older, Mickey attended cosmetology school at night. In 1982, she took the big leap and opened Bijin Salon in Monterey Park. It was her second home where she worked six days a week caring for and nurturing her customers. The city of Monterey Park recognized Bijin for forty years of service.

Beyond Bijin, Mickey volunteered her services at Keiro Retirement Home for over forty years. Her love and dedication to community meant everything to Mickey. She gave and never expected anything in return.

I believe the Tree Memorial 2026 for Mickey would be a fitting and lasting tribute to her love for the City of Monterey Park. It would symbolize her enduring impact on the community she cherished.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warm Regards
Cynthia Maruya-Adkins

February 25, 2026

Dear City Council of Monterey Park,

I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maysa of Rize Salon, whom I have known for over 30 years as her friend and as a customer.

During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greets everyone with a sincere smile and contagious laughter. That's Mickey. The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, genders and race. Rize Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 30 years. The salon even survived the pandemic.

In addition, for over forty years, she went to the meeting house in Van Nuys every Monday and gave champagne to the residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey.

I strongly recommend Mickey Maysa for the Tree Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,
Phil Shim

February 26, 2026

Dear Members of the Committee,

It is with deep respect and admiration that I would like to nominate the late Fumiko Mickey Maruya who previously owned Bijin Salon, located at 2416 So. Garfield Ave, Monterey Park. Although she has recently passed, her legacy of full service, integrity, compassion, and dedication profoundly impacted the community of Monterey Park.

Throughout the many years she had her salon, her loyal customers drove from as far as Orange County and the Inland Empire to be serviced. And it was because of this type of loyalty she was able to survive the pandemic when many beauty shops were closed.

Originally opened 6 days a week, Mickey's hours started at 6:00 Am to 5:00 pm. And it wasn't until a few years ago Mickey in her mid 90's finally cut back to 3 days a week, still booked with appointments and enjoying her salon and customers.

Many workers in her salon started there early in their career, mastering their trade and technique while being guided by Mickey. Unselfishly Mickey fostered a culture of collaboration and a commitment by helping one another.

On February 19, 2019, she was awarded a Service Award from Monterey Park, see attached pic. But helping and servicing was not new to Mickey, as for many years she volunteered on her 1 day off to give a fresh hair cut to the many living at the Keiro Home in Boyle Heights. See attached clipping from the newspaper, Rafu Shimpo. [Fumiko "Mickey" Maruya - Rafu Shimpo.html](#)

This small shop evolved into a small community where each customer was greeted by a friendly face offering you a hot or cold drink and a sweet treat while you wait for your scheduled appointment. By awarding this honor to Fumiko Mickey Maruya it would recognize a lifetime of her service to the community and confirm her enduring values.

Your consideration for this nomination is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Robin Kushi

February 25, 2026

Dear City Council of Monterey Park,

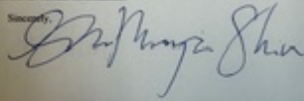
I am pleased to recommend Mickey Maraya of Bijin Salon, whom I have known for over 57 as her friend and/or customer.

During this time, Mickey demonstrated kindness and positive energy to everyone in the salon. She greets everyone with a sincere smile and contagious laughter. That's Mickey. The salon was a "Community Center" for all ages, gender and race. Bijin Salon has been in business in Monterey Park for over 50 years. The salon even survived the pandemic.

In addition, for over forty years, she went to the nursing home in East Los Angeles every Monday and gave shampoo to the residents. Imagine that over forty years. She never complained as she always demonstrated a spirit of service and kept smiling and laughing. That's Mickey.

I strongly recommend Mickey Maraya for the Toot Memorial Award. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,



Dear City Council of Monterey Park:

Tengo el Placer de recomendar a
Mickey Maruya of Bijin Salon.

La conocí por casi 17 años y trabajé
con ella por casi 7 años en su
salon y solo puedo decir que
ella era una persona muy buena
y dedicada a su clientela, para
ella sus clientes era primero, era
una persona muy bondadosa, daba
su tiempo para sus clientes y ayudaba
a cualquier persona que lo necesitaba
aunque estuviera enferma siempre
se preocupaba por que sus clientes
estuvieran atendidos y era muy querida
por toda la gente, mis clientas la
querian mucho y yo mas, fue mi
ejemplo y la extraño. Ella siempre tenia
una sonrisa para todos.

Sinceramente

Leticia Alvarez



Recreation and Community Services
320 West Newmark Avenue
Monterey Park, CA 91754
Telephone: (626) 307-1388
Website: <http://www.montereypark.ca.gov>

APPLICATION FOR TREE MEMORIAL 2026

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL NOMINATED: Fumiko "Mickey" Maruya LIVING? N (Y/N)

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

NAME OF NOMINATING GROUP OR ORGANIZATION: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Zaragoza

CONTACT PERSON: Frank A. Zaragoza

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] CITY: [REDACTED] ZIP 90033

PHONE: [REDACTED] EMAIL: [REDACTED]

Nomination Process:

Please attach all materials, photos, documentation and letters to this application. The City will make every effort to return materials to the nominating authority listed, however, the City will not guarantee this or the condition of which the materials are returned. Please do not send original documents. Copies of these materials will be sufficient.

The submission period for applications and all materials is from Monday, February 2, 2026 through 5:30pm on Friday, February 27, 2026. Submit to the Recreation and Community Services Department via mail or email: 320 W Newmark Ave. Monterey Park, CA 91754 or Recreation@montereypark.ca.gov.

A committee of Commissioners will meet to review applications and make recommendations to City Council. Ceremony to be scheduled after City Council approval. All Committee review meetings are posted and open to the public. Nominating groups or individuals may speak and bring other pertinent materials to the meeting.

Committee reserves the right to accept, reject, approve or deny any and all of the applications it receives based on review of the materials submitted. The burden of proof as to the worthiness of a particular individual must be demonstrated by the information submitted by the applicant. Common knowledge or prestige of an individual is not enough to qualify for this recognition award.

The City shall determine the location for the tree memorial. Groups or individuals will not be allowed to request a particular site. The decision to plant a new tree versus using existing trees is at the sole discretion of the City. Wording on the plaque will be consistent with existing memorial plaques.

The intent of the program is to have the memorial remain undisturbed forever, however, the City must reserve the right to move, remove or change the existing tree or plaque as it deems necessary.

Please provide at least one picture and other suitable materials deemed necessary. In order to further determine merit, and to add significance to the prestige of the memorial, any individual whose name is put forth should be supported by at least three letters of reference by community members indicating the contribution made and significance, in their opinion.

QUALIFICATIONS

(Monterey Park Resolution No. 10485 & 11484)

Individual should have been a long term resident (10 years or more) of the City of Monterey Park, and has provided a service benefit to the entire Community, in one or more of the following ways (check items that apply):

_____ Served on a City elected or appointed position for at least two terms or 5 years, whichever is greater;

_____ Voluntarily served the City as an officer, or board member of, one or more City recognized Service Clubs, Volunteer community based organizations or other City service and charitable service organization, which provide a direct service to Monterey Park residents;

_____ A long term community business leader who has served the Community through his/her financial or voluntary efforts to one or more service and charitable service organization or non profit organization in the City of Monterey Park for a period of no less than 10 years.

_____ An individual, resident or non resident, who has made a significant or cumulative and positive impact on the Community.

The term "served" means that the individual must demonstrate an active role in providing a benefit to the Monterey Park Community, in addition to service to the City and charitable service organizations.

Special consideration without regard to the above mentioned qualifications, should be given to an individual , resident or non resident, who has deceased while performing service to our community.

Nominations may be submitted, accepted, and considered only once per year. There is no limit to the number of years in which a person may be nominated. Only three nominations will be recommended to the City Council per year. A person may only receive this honor once.

Lynn Nakamura

City of Monterey Park
320 West Newmark Ave.
Monterey Park, CA 91754
Attn: Tree Memorial

Feb 25, 2026

To Whom It May Concern, I recommend that a Memorial Tree be named in honor of Mrs. Mickey Maruya. Mrs. Mickey Maruya owned and operated the Bijin Salon, located at 2416 S Garfield Ave, Monterey Park, CA 91754, for over 40 years. Mickey was a much beloved hair dresser to her clients and friends. She befriended everyone and became "mom" to many who knew her. Her untimely passing a few weeks ago has left a major void in the lives of her family, friends, and clients.

Mrs. Mickey Maruya represents the best of Monterey Park, and it's my honor to write a recommendation for a tree be named in her memory for all the love and friendship she gave to the fellow citizens of Monterey Park.

She is greatly missed.

Sincerely,

Lynn Nakamura
Life-long resident of Monterey Park.

In memory of Mickey

Knowing Mickey means more than words can express...

She was kind, thoughtful and generous person with everybody.

I remember The Time we went To Las Vegas on The bus. She was caring and thoughtful with everybody she gave presents To everyone on The bus. She Tried To make all of us happy and comfortable.

We all going To miss her.
May God bless her.

I live in Montebello and my name is Carmen Ramos

Mr. Frank A. Zaragoza

February 27, 2026

City of Monterey Park
Ad Hoc Committee of Community Participation and Recreation and Park Commissioners
320 West Newmark Avenue
Monterey Park, CA 91754

Dear Committee Members,

I write this letter on behalf of the memory of Fumiko “Mickey” Maruya, who passed away peacefully on January 26, 2026, at the age of 94. Born on December 25, 1931, Mrs. Maruya lived a life defined by resilience, generosity, and unwavering service to the Monterey Park community she cherished for more than four decades. The city’s community provided Mrs. Maruya not only a thriving business, but one which gave her the purpose and passion to serve its community members well into her 90’s.

Mickey’s business, Bejin Salon, formerly located at 2416 S. Garfield Avenue, was in operation up until the week she passed away. In fact, from her hospital bed of that same week, she was making calls to her clients to reschedule their appointments and apologizing for any inconvenience they might experience!

In 1981, Mrs. Maruya opened her hair and skin salon, Bejin, in Monterey Park. What began as a small business soon became a place of comfort, dignity, and human connection for countless residents. For over 46 years, she volunteered her time and professional skills at the Kairo retirement home, providing essential grooming services to seniors—many of whom were physically unable to attend to their own personal care needs. Time and again, family members of those elderly clients expressed gratitude to Mickey for providing a restored sense of dignity the family member was receiving as a direct result of Mrs. Maruya’s seemingly simple act of hair or skin care. Other salons may have given up on these dismissed members of Monterey Park’s community, however, Mickey did not and offered her services with patience, gentleness, and deep compassion, never seeking recognition.

For over forty years Mrs. Maruya volunteered at the former Kairo Retirement Home and Intermediate Care Facility, now known as Sakura Gardens, located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. Mickey was instrumental in planning and developing an onsite beauty and barber facility for the residents of Kairo. Every Monday on her rest day from Bejin Salon, Mrs. Maruya and her personally chosen assistants would provide hair and skin services for the scores of residents needing the care

In addition to her volunteer duties at Kairo, on Sundays, Mrs. Maruya volunteered in the kitchen of her church, Union Church, located in the Little Tokyo neighborhood of Downtown Los Angeles. This is the place of worship where her recent memorial service was held. The church was filled to capacity by attendees of her memorial service.

Mrs. Maruya's volunteerism at both Kairo and Union Church are significant because although those facilities are not in Monterey Park, scores of residents at Kairo as well as church members of Union Church have deep ties to Monterey Park as do family members of the residents and church members. A sizable number resided or still reside in Monterey Park.

From the 1950's through the 1980's, Monterey Park had a significant portion of its population being of Japanese and Japanese-American descent. Kairo and Union Church are very well known to the Japanese and Japanese-American community of Monterey Park. By extension, Mickey's volunteerism at Kairo and Union Church in Los Angeles, was a service to the community members of Monterey Park.

Mrs. Maruya's life was also marked by profound resilience. As a Japanese-American child, she endured internment during World War II from 1942 to 1945 at Gila River Internment Camp located in the Arizona desert which had stifling heat and wind storms in the summer and frigid temperatures in the winter. Despite this injustice endured by Mrs. Maruya, her family members and other American citizens, she went on to build a life rooted in service, entrepreneurship, and compassion. Her story reflects both an important chapter of American history and the enduring strength of those who persevered through it.

Nearly seventy years after Mrs. Maruya and her family were interned, the City of Monterey Park, in 2021, honored and officially recognized Mickey's forty years of service in the business community of Monterey Park.

Now that our beloved Mickey's salon's lights have gone dark, the light of her influence, however, have merely been dimmed by her passing. I respectfully ask that this Committee contribute to brighten Mrs. Maruya's light of influence by memorializing a very special human being.

In recognition of her extraordinary and decades-long volunteerism—performed with diligence, humility, and heartfelt kindness—I ask that the City of Monterey Park's Ad Hoc Committee of Community Participation and Recreation and Park Commissioners consider installing a memorial marker adjacent to one of the city trees in her honor. Such a marker would serve not only as a tribute to Mrs. Maruya's contributions, but also as an enduring symbol of community service, resilience, and compassion for future generations.

Dear Committee Members, a memorial tree marker would be a fitting tribute to a woman whose life quietly enriched the lives of so many in Monterey Park. Her legacy lives on in the countless individuals she served and uplifted.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this request. I would welcome the opportunity to provide any additional information that may assist in your review.

With Sincere Thanks to the Committee for Consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Frank A. Zaragoza". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with large loops and a prominent initial "F".

Mr. Frank A. Zaragoza
On behalf of the family and friends of
Fumiko "Mickey" Maruya and her legacy.

February 27, 2026

City of Monterey Park

Recreation and Community Services Department

320 West Newmark Avenue

Monterey Park, CA 91754

To the Recreation and Community Services Department,

This letter is submitted with deep respect to formally propose the installation of a memorial marker adjacent to a city tree in honor of Fumiko "Mickey" Maruya (December 25, 1931 – January 26, 2026). Mickey was a long-time business owner whose life was defined by resilience, entrepreneurship, and an extraordinary spirit of volunteerism that spanned over four decades in Monterey Park. Mickey has both family and friends who currently reside in Monterey Park.

Mickey Maruya was a fixture of our local business community, opening her hair and skin salon, Bejin, in 1981.

I was one of her satisfied clients for 10 years. The shop had a warm, friendly and fun atmosphere. Sometimes I would go just to her, have tea and discuss the next Vegas bus trip. My husband and I participated in the bus trips for 10 years. We only missed one because my father's funeral was on the same weekend. Mickey made the bus trips unforgettable. She made sure everyone got a special gift and treats she put together, always wrapped so beautifully. She made us feel like children in anticipation of what the gift would be this time. In the 10 years, she never repeated the same gift.

Fumiko "Mickey" Maruya was honored by the City of Monterey Park in 2021.

This recognition was a celebration of her 40th anniversary as the owner of Bijin Salon in Monterey Park, which she had operated since 1981.

Beyond her business success, she was a cornerstone of the community known for:

- She served the Keiro Retirement Community for over 40 years, providing haircuts and coloring for seniors.
- She spent many years cooking meals at Union Church.
- She organized community bus trips to Las Vegas for 43 years, providing first-class service for her local customers.

However, her impact went far beyond the walls of her shop. Mickey's life was a testament to the "Golden Rule," fueled by her own experiences as a Japanese-American who was interned during World War II from 1941 to 1945. Rather than letting that period of hardship define her with bitterness, she chose a life of radical kindness.

Her contributions to our city include:

- For over 46 years, Mickey volunteered her professional skills at the Kairo retirement home. She provided essential grooming services for residents who were unable to care for themselves, ensuring they maintained their dignity and self-esteem.
- At her salon, Bejin, Mickey was known for welcoming clients that other businesses turned away. She continued to serve those with advanced age or physical limitations, often being the only person willing to provide the patience and specialized care they required.
- Her decades-long service was never for recognition; it was done with a quiet diligence and a compassionate heart that became a cornerstone of the Monterey Park community.

We believe that a memorial marker placed near one of Monterey Park's city trees would be a fitting tribute to a woman who spent her life "rooting" herself in service to others. A tree symbolizes the growth, shade, and endurance that Mickey provided to so many of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Such a marker would serve as an inspiration to future generations, reminding us that the true measure of a life is found in how we care for those who cannot care for themselves.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the specific guidelines, locations, and costs associated with the city's memorial programs. Please let us know the best way to move forward with this request to ensure Mickey's legacy of compassion continues to be felt in the city she loved.

Thank you for your time and for your dedication to preserving the history of our community's residents.

Sincerely,



Leticia Zaragoza



Recreation and Community Services
 320 West Newmark Avenue
 Monterey Park, CA 91754
 Telephone: (626) 307-1388
 Website: <http://www.montereypark.ca.gov>

APPLICATION FOR TREE MEMORIAL 2024

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL NOMINATED: SHIRLEY HWONG LIVING? Y (Y/N)

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

NAME OF NOMINATING GROUP OR ORGANIZATION: VINH T. NGO

CONTACT PERSON: VINH NGO

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] CITY: [REDACTED] ZIP 91755

PHONE: [REDACTED] EMAIL: [REDACTED]

Nomination Process:

Please attach all materials, photos, documentation and letters to this application. The City will make every effort to return materials to the nominating authority listed, however, the City will not guarantee this or the condition of which the materials are returned. Please do not send original documents. Copies of these materials will be sufficient.

Deadline for submission of application and all materials is Thursday, February 29, 2024 by 5:30pm. Submit to the Recreation and Community Services Department via mail or email: 320 W Newmark Ave. Monterey Park, CA 91754 or Recreation@montereypark.ca.gov. A committee of Commissioners will meet to review applications and make recommendations to City Council. Ceremony to be scheduled after City Council approval. All Committee review meetings are posted and open to the public. Nominating groups or individuals may speak and bring other pertinent materials to the meeting.

Committee reserves the right to accept, reject, approve or deny any and all of the applications it receives based on review of the materials submitted. The burden of proof as to the worthiness of a particular individual must be demonstrated by the information submitted by the applicant. Common knowledge or prestige of an individual is not enough to qualify for this recognition award.

The City shall determine the location for the tree memorial. Groups or individuals will not be allowed to request a particular site. The decision to plant a new tree versus using existing trees is at the sole discretion of the City. Wording on the plaque will be consistent with existing memorial plaques.

The intent of the program is to have the memorial remain undisturbed forever, however, the City must reserve the right to move, remove or change the existing tree or plaque as it deems necessary.

Please provide at least one picture and other suitable materials deemed necessary. In order to further determine merit, and to add significance to the prestige of the memorial, any individual whose name is put forth should be supported by at least three letters of reference by community members indicating the contribution made and significance, in their opinion.

QUALIFICATIONS

(Monterey Park Resolution No. 10485 & 11484)

Individual should have been a long term resident (10 years or more) of the City of Monterey Park, and has provided a service benefit to the entire Community, in one or more of the following ways (check items that apply):

Yes Served on a City elected or appointed position for at least two terms or 5 years, whichever is greater;

Yes Voluntarily served the City as an officer, or board member of, one or more City recognized Service Clubs, Volunteer community based organizations or other City service and charitable service organization, which provide a direct service to Monterey Park residents;

Yes A long term community business leader who has served the Community through his/her financial or voluntary efforts to one or more service and charitable service organization or non profit organization in the City of Monterey Park for a period of no less than 10 years.

Yes An individual, resident or non resident, who has made a significant or cumulative and positive impact on the Community.

The term "served" means that the individual must demonstrate an active role in providing a benefit to the Monterey Park Community, in addition to service to the City and charitable service organizations.

Special consideration without regard to the above mentioned qualifications, should be given to an individual, resident or non resident, who has deceased while performing service to our community.

Nominations may be submitted, accepted, and considered only once per year. There is no limit to the number of years in which a person may be nominated. Only three nominations will be recommended to the City Council per year. A person may only receive this honor once.

1. PTA President / Monterey Highlands School
2. Woman of the Year / Congressman Adam Schiff 2010
3. Honored at the Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library Gala 2014
4. Alameda Education Foundation (AEF)
5. Environmental Commission Vice-Chair (5 years)
6. Sister Cities Commission Chair (5 years)
7. Community Participation Commission - Chair (15 years)

Complete resolutions available at:

[https://grmservices.grmims.com/CityofMonterey/\(S\(mnoqvplvaun42o01n5f3jkce\)\)/orc.aspx](https://grmservices.grmims.com/CityofMonterey/(S(mnoqvplvaun42o01n5f3jkce))/orc.aspx)

8. Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACA)
(Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge) GSGV, President
9. Monterey Park Woman's Club
10. Monterey Park Rotary and Lions Club

Resident since 1976

February 19, 2026

Re: Shirley Hwong – [REDACTED]
Letter of Recommendation for Monterey Park Memorial Tree

To: City of Monterey Park – Tree Memorial Committee:

It is my privilege to write this letter of recommendation in support of Shirley Hwong for nomination of the Monterey Park Tree Memorial as recognition for her 50 years of outstanding services to our City.

Shirley and her family moved to Monterey Park in 1976 and have demonstrated 50 years of voluntary services here. Shirley raised her family in the Monterey Highlands area and was involved as the PTA President for a few years. A devoted mother and spouse, she not only managed her home, but also contributed to the success of many Monterey Park non-profit groups such as numerous MPK City Commissions, Lion's Club, Rotary Club, Women's Club, and Alhambra Education Foundation.

Shirley's 50 years of dedication and counting...to Monterey Park is extraordinary. Below is just a sample of her wide range of voluntary services, all to the benefit and success of Monterey Park.

- Commissions/Committees she has served on:
 - Environmental 5 years / Vice Chair,
 - Sister City 5 years / Chair
 - Community Participation 15 years / Chair
- PTA President at Monterey Highlands School
- Alhambra Education Foundation
- Monterey Park Lion's Club member
- Monterey Park Woman's Club

Outside of the City of Monterey Park, Shirley also volunteers and serves for the community at large: Current President, Chinese American Citizens Alliance – Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge. The above civic activities highlight her personal passion and dedication that contribute to the success of the various organizations she is involved with. Her extensive volunteerism has garnered many praises, Community Award recipient with Alhambra Education Foundation, Woman of the Year from Congressman Adam Shiff in 2010, and the Monterey Park Library Foundation honoree in 2014.

It is fitting to recognize Shirley Hwong for her legacy of community services and dedication to our City, because she loves the City of Monterey Park and continues to want to give back by volunteering. I recommend Shirley Hwong to be recognized by a Monterey Park Tree Memorial for her legacy of leadership, strong civic engagement and outstanding citizenship.

Sincerely,



Vinh T. Ngo
Resident of Monterey Park
Monterey Park City Council Member