



## **Nisan Yale Matlin**

Renowned Los Angeles architect, Nisan Yale Matlin, 87, died Tuesday, May 15, 2012, in Avila Beach. Nisan was a kind and loving husband and father, devoted to the well being of his wife and children. He was married three times and partnered in raising five children and three grandchildren. In 1991, he married his third wife, Vi Tarrer Smith in Bar Harbor, Maine, while motorhoming around the United States, prior to their move to Avila Beach. He was delighted with the small community of San Luis Bay Estates and cherished his friends and acquaintances in the area. Nisan was active in the community, where he served on the Indian Hill Board of Directors, the Avila Valley Advisory Council for 13 years as a counselor for Service Corps of Retired Executives and the San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury. He was an active member of the Avila Foundation, dedicated to the Clean-Up of Avila beach, and a member of RAMS (Retired Active Men).

Nisan was born in Los Angeles in October 1924, the only child of Sarah Kavovit and Charles Matlin. He graduated from John Marshall High School and received a Bachelor of Architecture at the University of Southern California. His college career was interrupted when he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served for two years. After the War, he returned and graduated USC in 1949. Nisan spent time in New York City working with his uncle and learning the construction business. He and his father were active in the Masons. He later worked for Jones & Emmons Architects in Los Angeles, where he incorporated the concepts of usable atriums, high ceilings, post-and-beam construction and walls of glass. In 1959, he co-founded Matlin & Dvoretzky Architects, where he directed the ongoing administration of the award-winning firm. His keen awareness of economic realities and the building process allowed him to translate good design into quality construction. Their numerous recognitions included American Institute of Architecture awards as well as resolutions from the City of Los Angeles. Although most of their work was in California, he and his partner, Eugene Dvoretzky, held licenses in multiple states. This facilitated a significant list of projects, which included multi-family, government housing, office, commercial and industrial buildings, shopping centers, hospitals, medical buildings, hotels and country clubs. Most notably in Los Angeles, the firm designed the University of Judaism, as well as numerous buildings on the Olympic corridor, including the Trident Center. One of their earlier projects was Malibu West, a 1960s single-family tract development, which was recently highlighted in the Los Angeles Times. It exemplified Nisan's modern open floor plans, beamed ceilings and indoor-outdoor living. As a prominent architect, Nisan was on the California Board of Architectural Examiners. He remained an Emeritus Member of the American Institute of Architects and an American Arbitration Association Panel Member throughout his retirement.

Nisan is survived by his current wife, Vi; daughters from his first marriage to Rita Silverberg, Dayna and Trina; and grandchildren Dustin, Deanne, and Jason. He survived the loss of his son, Jason Leib. His stepchildren include Vi's son, Kent Smith and his wife, Jean and their daughter, Delaney; and from his second marriage to Marilyn Gordon, Craig and Suzie. Nisan was deeply loved and admired by his extended family and friends, who will celebrate his life with a memorial service at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 26, 2012, at the Indian Hill clubhouse in San Luis Bay Estates in Avila Beach. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make donations to Heifer International, [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).