**Shasha Family Establishes New Endowment and Conservation Education Fund in Oregon**

Longtime TNC donors Dennis and Karen Shasha reside in New York but also own a home in Hood River which they visit for skiing, climbing, hiking, windsurfing, and now (tentatively) kitesurfing. With the purpose of honoring Dennis' late parents and giving back to a part of Oregon they love, the Alfred and Hanina Shasha Foundation has established the Shasha Family Endowment and the Shasha Family Fund for Conservation Education.

According to Dennis, his parents “fervently appreciated the openness and acceptance of the United States and particularly loved the varied nature of the country.” Both Alfred and Hanina were born in Baghdad, but had to leave Iraq due to religious persecution. They eventually immigrated to the United States where they met and were married. Alfred was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1946 after being awarded three Bronze stars for his service in World War II. Hanina studied Islamic architecture in Egypt, earned an interior decorating degree, taught French and enjoyed painting nature.

The Endowment will provide dedicated funding for stewardship in Oregon, with preference given to activities at the Tom McCall Preserve in Rowena. Some of the earliest fruits of this gift can be seen at Tom McCall this summer with the installation of new interpretive and trail signage for the preserve, a project long identified by staff as a priority for this beautiful and heavily visited property.

The Fund for Conservation Education will support a TNC fellowship at a university in support of our conservation goals or fund priority conservation education opportunities for employees of The Nature Conservancy. It is truly a privilege to have been chosen by the Shasha family to help honor Alfred and Hanina Shasha in this way.