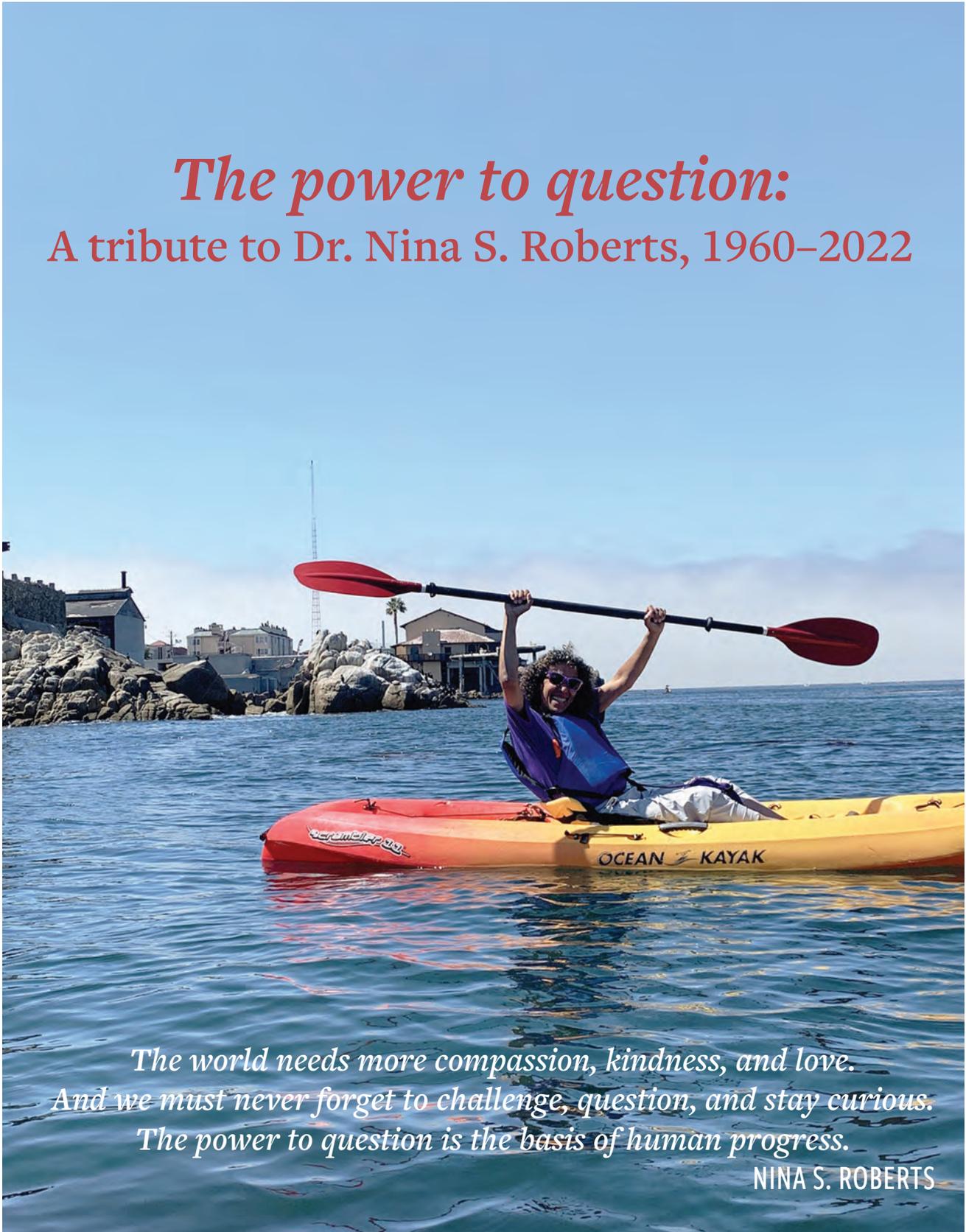




COLORING OUTSIDE THE LINES

# *The power to question:* A tribute to Dr. Nina S. Roberts, 1960–2022



*The world needs more compassion, kindness, and love.  
And we must never forget to challenge, question, and stay curious.  
The power to question is the basis of human progress.*

NINA S. ROBERTS



The body of work Nina contributed to our collective understanding through “Coloring Outside the Lines” is significant. A couple of her columns were co-authored; all of them looked at JEDI from different perspectives. As Nina herself explained it:

Why is “Coloring Outside the Lines” the title of my column in this journal? In the end, it is all about changing the narrative. Coloring Outside the Lines leads me to further action about engaging communities of color outdoors and into the natural world—for those who have not had such experiences, that is. I didn’t say “start engaging” because people of color have been immersed in the outdoors/nature for centuries. From living outdoors, working in nature and fearing the woods, to playing, exploring, and loving nature (and more), people from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds have been doing it. We are out there; always have been. For me, this also leads back to a discussion of social permission as well as addressing structural barriers. This column title speaks to innovation coupled with communities of color and arbitrary “lines.” We must expand the conversation.

Whether it was advocating for equitable access to recreational opportunities, making sure unsung pioneers got their due, or celebrating the simple joy of being in nature, she did it with insight and panache. Or, as one colleague put it, “Dr. Nina changed the lives of countless people through her social justice badassery.”

The world does indeed need more compassion, kindness, love, and abiding curiosity. Dr. Nina S. Roberts brought all of that and more. And she was not afraid to share directives in a friendly but forceful way. As she was fond of saying: “Get outside, visit a local park, and reflect on nature’s beauty and how we can increase access to our parks.”

We encourage all of us to go back and read her “Coloring Outside the Lines” columns (linked above) and rededicate ourselves to the principles of JEDI in honor of Dr. Nina.

In addition to her mother, she leaves behind her two sisters, her brother, and their families, and a loving extended family of numerous cousins, aunts, and uncles. A celebration of Nina’s life was held in June by the university. For those inclined, contributions may be made to the Dr. Nina Roberts Memorial Scholarship fund at <https://give.sfsu.edu/roberts>.





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#### On the cover of this issue

Climate change creates conditions conducive to larger, more frequent fires, particularly in the American West. As a result, historic structures and artifacts are at greater risk of fire damage. The Bent's Fort Fire started on the morning of April 12, 2022. Approximately 85% of the national historic site's 800 acres burned. Thanks to the efforts of fire crews, the reconstructed adobe fort was undamaged. | [NATIONAL PARK SERVICE](#)