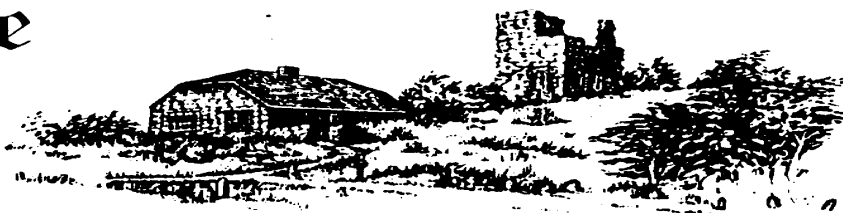


Tor House Newsletter



Winter 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of the Tor House Community:

Thanks in major part to your generosity last year through the Monterey County Gives! fundraising program, we were able to hire a part-time Program Coordinator who is working, among other projects, on recruitment and training of docents and educational outreach to local youth. We were, as well, able to resume our poetry reading programs; to continue our First Friday music programs; and to replace outdated electronic office equipment.

Tor House Foundation is honored to have been selected again this year as one of the 202 participating nonprofits for the 2022 MCGives! fundraising initiative.

As we continue to recover from the pandemic's effects on our programs, our Big Idea for the coming year is to continue and to add to the important work we started this year, especially the rebuilding of our docent corps, and to go beyond the poetry and life of Robinson Jeffers--the focus of our tours--to the influence Jeffers's poetry has had in the arts and in ecology, and to his sensitivity to social justice issues.

With a \$13,000 Challenge Grant from the Foundation's Trustees, we have a great start to this year's fundraising. All donations to MCGives! go directly to the Tor House Foundation and all donations will receive a partial match. Last year, we received matching funds of \$4,353.

To donate online by credit card, go to montereycountygives.com/tor.

To donate by check, make out your check to either Community Foundation for Monterey County or CFMC/MCGives! In the memo line, write "Tor House" so the donation will be credited to our account. Mail to: CFMC, 2354 Garden Road, Monterey, 93940, Attn: MCGives!.

Gifts of stock or IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions are also accepted. Please email [Christine Dawson](mailto:ChristineDawson@torhouse.org) or [Cecilia Romero](mailto:CeciliaRomero@torhouse.org) or call 831.375.9712 for information.

On-line donations can be made until midnight on December 31, 2022; donations sent by mail must be postmarked December 31, 2022.

Thank you in advance for your support. It allows us to fulfill our three-fold mission: to maintain Tor House, Hawk Tower and their collections, to promote the literary and philosophical legacy of Robinson Jeffers, and to be a cultural resource to the community.

~Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts, President, Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation

MC Gives! is a partnership of the CFMC, Monterey County Weekly and the Monterey Peninsula Foundation with support from the Gunde and Ernie Posey Family Foundation, Neumeier Poma Investment Counsel, Colburn and Alana Jones Foundation of the CFMC, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Cannery Row Company.

Volunteers Make All the Difference at Tor House!

A message from Tom Rusert

Enrich your life and have fun by volunteering at the Robinson Jeffers Tor House. Help us share this engaging family story and the poetry of Robinson Jeffers. The Jeffers message has never been more important. Our goal for 2023 is to grow the ranks of volunteers at Tor House Foundation to support our visitors from all over the world. If you would enjoy one or more of the following--learning the family story and guiding small group tours through the Jeffers beautiful Carmel oceanfront home, supporting unique special member programs, helping with the bookstore and/or annual events, it would be a pleasure to speak with you. New user-friendly training materials to enrich the docent experience are in the works. At Tor House preserving the heritage of family, poetry, and community matters. To learn more, please contact Tom Rusert, Program Coordinator at torusert.torhousefoundation@gmail.com or phone 831-624-1813 and leave a message.

DOCENT: do.cent

According to the American Heritage Dictionary (2016)

1. A teacher or lecturer at some universities who is not a regular faculty member
2. A lecturer or tour guide in a museum or cathedral

[German Dozent, from Latin *docēns*, docent-, present participle of *docēre*, *to teach*.

If you've ever toured Westminster Abbey or the Hermitage or the Uffizi Palace or, for that matter, the Amer Fort in Jaipur, you've probably encountered a docent. They are the ones who provide the visitor with history and context. If you've made your pilgrimage to Yasnaya Polyana, the Boathouse, or Bogani House, or enjoyed high tea at Rydal Mount, or, closer to home, paid homage to a favorite author at Rowan Oak, or the Homestead, or Rocky Ridge Farm, then the life and literature of their former inhabitants has been channeled through the voice of enthusiastic and informed admirers, mostly volunteers, called DOCENTS. And if you paid respects at The Mount in Lenox, Mass, a docent, knowing your passion, might even have pointed out a photograph of Robinson Jeffers among the few on the writer's desk. DOCENTS are the guides who walk you through the treasures of history and culture, all over the world. A few of them are professional tour guides. Many are learned experts. But most of them are unpaid enthusiasts who answer the visitors' questions (or point them to a source that will provide answers), protect the property, and inspire the curious to delve deeper. The pay, if it exists at all, is meager. The rewards are great. Imagine being not just a visitor, but an insider, whether in Wales or Nairobi or Carmel. In these busy times, Tor House needs docents of every kind. Some give tours (those are the ones we need the most), some share their expertise, live or virtually, some make festivals possible, some clip flowers, some polish silver and some edit newsletters. Don't be shy. Step forward. There is a place for you among the docent corps at Tor House. Better call Tom. You, too, can join the ranks of some of these folks pictured below. [And if you're interested in the above-mentioned homes, palaces and burial places of illustrious people of the past, check future Newsletters]



Recent Publications from the Tor House/Robinson Jeffers Association Family

David Rothman, Tor House Member and Past President of the RJA, in collaboration with Susan Spear, announces the publication of their “*Learning the Secrets of English Verse: The Keys to the Treasure Chest* (Springer Nature Switzerland AG. 2022). Rothman describes the book as “one of the few poetry/creative writing textbooks in print that presents all the meters of English poetry, including all the major varieties of free verse, taking a historical approach that presents them roughly in the sequence of their appearance.” The eBook is available at <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-53096-9>. Or, in hardcopy from Amazon.com

Tim Hunt, Tor House Member, Editor of the multi volume Collected Poetry of Robinson Jeffers, and author of several collections of his own poetry, including *Voice to Voice in the Dark* (Broadstone Books), *Ticket Stubs & Liner Notes* (winner of the 2018 Main Street Rag Poetry Book Award), and *Fault Lines* (The Backwaters Press). Recognitions include The Chester H. Jones National Poetry Prize. Originally from the hill country of northern California, he and his wife Susan live in Normal, Illinois, which, Hunt notes, is not hill country. See: <https://www.tahunt.com/poetry/>. Hunt reports the publication of a poem; or perhaps, “rodeo wisdom masquerading as poetry or the reverse?” that is included in the latest issue of *Spank the Carp*. To be found at https://www.spankthecarp.com/issue72_hunt.html, or here:

Rodeo Ride

Ride your past.
Don't let it ride you.

Life's a rodeo:
Stay on that bull
long as you can,

and when you're
thrown, get up
out of the dirt,

look for the clown.

And move.

Then ride again
soon as your bones
'll let you.

Bones matter but
bones ain't heart.

A Decorative Border by Laura Newmark

Late on autumn afternoons
distant silhouetted trees
become a decorative border
beside the shining silver sea.

October 2021

Laura Newmark, a Lifetime Member of the Foundation, lives in Carmel, California.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS (September 2022 - November 2022)

PATRON MEMBERS (\$350 for Individual or Couple)

Mark & Sarah Morrison

SPONSOR MEMBERS (\$150 for Individual or Couple)

Jerilynn Smith Crivello
Bruce Graham
Susan Hafleigh
Eric & Alison Jager
Valera W. Lyles

Russell Miller/Kirk Pessner
Donna Pribble
George Scarman/Jeanne Clark
Susan Shillinglaw
Robert M. Zaller

MEMBERS

Molly Attell
Dionys Briggs
Lawrence Dagesse
Dale Dubrin
Deborah Fleming
Cynthia Folkmann
Marilyn Gibfried
Gary Girard
Larry Kaplan/Janice Dawe

Inge Kessler
Lance Lee
Audry Lynch
Julie Maher
Ellen Maupin
Reb Monaco
David Parish
John Poet/Anna Ramirez
Fred & Cynthia Riebe

David Rothman
Sara Rubin
Raymond & Joyce Snyder
Alec Sutherland
Court Tanouye
Georgia Jo Van Dam

CONTRIBUTIONS (September 2022 – November 2022)

Monterey County Gives! Challenge Grant

Two anonymous Trustee gifts totaling \$5,000

Gifts - \$1000 to \$2500

Lacy Buck
Aengus Jeffers
Robert Kafka

James Karmen
Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts

Gifts – \$500 or under

Mary Aldinger
Melinda Armstead
Dan Gotch
Richter Keeley
Robin Rose

Sara Rubin
Thomas Rusert/Darren Peterie
Brian Thayer
John & Anne Varady
Albert & Nancy Wagner'

General Contributions

Ben Boychuk
Carolyn Jeffers Hess
George Scarmon / Jeanne Clark - \$250 for Music Programs
AmazonSmile donations
Coral Amende – gift of a multi-function printer

Betsy Fowler
Roy & Joyce Snyder

[Please note, listings reflect only new and renewed memberships and contributions since the Fall Issue of the Newsletter. If your contribution is not listed or if you have given an advanced membership please look for it in the Spring Newsletter. Generally, the Spring Issue lists memberships and contributions for December, January, February, and March. There are no listings in the Summer Issue because of space constraints (Poetry Prize winners are published in the Summer Issue). The Fall Issue contains memberships and contributions from April through August of any given year, and the Winter Issue lists September through November memberships and contributions.]

TWO JEFFERS CONNECTED EVENTS IN CARMEL

Carmel Dance Festival's resident company, **Ballare Carmel**, performed a triple world premier at the Sunset Center on November 4th and 5th. The new world-class dance ensemble is dedicated to collaborating with local artists and telling regional stories through contemporary dance.

As research for their piece inspired by Langston Hughes, “WhisperingWaves,” Ballare Carmel visited Tor House to learn about Robinson Jeffers support of and friendship with Hughes, an important early 20th Century American poet and a leading figure in the Harlem Renaissance. During his residence in Carmel Hughes was a good friend of Jeffers and of Jeffers’ patron, Noel Sullivan and a guest at Tor House. Hughes later received a Fulbright grant to live abroad, partially thanks to Jeffers’ letter of recommendation. The tour of Tor House and Hawk Tower was followed by a photo shoot.



Photo Credit: Ballare Carmel dancers Babatunji Johnson (right) and Anthony Pucci. Photo by Skye Schmidt

Dreams

by *Langston Hughes*

Hold fast to dreams

For if dreams die

Life is a broken-winged bird

That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams

For when dreams go

Life is a barren field

Frozen with snow.

Bohemian Soul: A Colony Awakens, a documentary on the world of literature and art in Carmel and Monterey, premiered in October at the Forest Theater in Carmel. Included in the documentary is a section on Robinson Jeffers with brief appearances by Lindsay Jeffers, Tor House Docent and Trustee Emeritus and grandson of Robinson Jeffers, and Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts, Tor House Foundation President.

The evening in the forest was a memorable, typical Carmel event. If you missed it, you can view the documentary on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S61sUOROP2Q>

***The Robinson Jeffers Tor House
2023 Prize for Poetry***

***The annual Tor House Prize for Poetry is a living memorial
to American poet Robinson Jeffers (1887-1962)***

**\$1,000 for an original, unpublished poem not to exceed three pages in length. \$200 for
Honorable Mention.**

Final Judge: Juan Felipe Herrera

Open to well-crafted poetry in all styles, ranging from experimental work to traditional forms, including short narrative poems. Each poem should be typed on 8 1/2" by 11" paper, and no longer than three pages. On a cover sheet only, include: name, mailing address, telephone number and email; titles of poems; bio optional. Multiple and simultaneous submissions welcome. There is a reading fee of \$10 for the first three poems; \$15 for up to six poems; and \$2.50 for each additional poem. Checks and money orders should be made out to Tor House Foundation.

Postmark deadline for submissions: March 15, 2023

The Prize winner will be announced by May 15. Include an SASE for announcement of the Prize winner. Poems will not be returned.

For more information, visit our web site or contact us by email.

**Mail poems, check or money order, and SASE to:
Poetry Prize Coordinator, Tor House Foundation
Box 223240, Carmel, CA 93922**

**The Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation
P.O. Box 2713, Carmel, California 93921
Telephone: (831) 624-1813**

www.torhouse.org Email: thf@torhouse.org

We welcome Tom Rusert to the Board approved position of Program Director. Tom has already made major contributions, including cleaning out the upstairs office so it can actually be used as an office by Tom, Trustees and docents. He worked with bookstore docent/manager Lorna Claerbout in providing storage space for bookstore inventory in the room.

NEWS AND NOTES

So many events, so many happenings in this seemingly quiet year. The return of the Garden Party, the Fall Festival, the resumption of tours, the ever closer cooperation between the Robinson Jeffers Association and the Tor House Foundation as exemplified by the continued vibrancy of the RJA-THF Webinars (past programs accessible at <https://robinsonjeffersassociation.org/news-2/> or on You Tube) and the fascinating Point Alma Venus discussions (audio available also on the RJA website), our continued presence on Facebook, the departure of beloved Trustees and docents (we hope they have not strayed far) and the arrival to our new Program Director, Tom Rusert – all events worth noting, as is a post from *The Marginalian*: “Robinson Jeffers on Moral Beauty, the interconnectedness of the Universe and the Key to Peace of Mind.” Anyone thinking of updating *The Critical Reputation of Robinson Jeffers*, let me tell you, the Internet and information overload have made that impossible. Two photos must stand in for many words: A moment from the Fall Festival and another from one of THF’s monthly "Not At Home Before 4 P.M." concerts, alas without sound. In place of Fall Festival presentations on the Jeffers family’s trips to Ireland, we give the last word to the poet.

Happy Holidays everybody! Don’t forget to contribute to MCGives and remember to enter the poetry contest. Next year’s sure to be a memorable one.



* * * * *

THE LAST WORD FROM JEFFERS

SHANE O'NEILL'S CAIRN

to U. J.

When you and I on the Palos Verdes cliff
Found life more desperate than dear,
And when we hawked at it on the lake by Seattle,
In the west of the world, where hardly
Anything has died yet: we'd not have been sorry, Una,
But surprised, to foresee this gray
Coast in our days, the gray waters of the Moyle
Below us, and under our feet
The heavy black stones of the cairn of the lord of Ulster.
A man of blood who died bloodily
Four centuries ago: but death's nothing, and life,
From a high death-mark on a headland
Of this dim island of burials, is nothing either.
How beautiful are both these nothings.

From *Descent to the Dead, Poems Written in Ireland and Great Britain* (1931) Hunt II, 107.



**Robinson Jeffers
Tor House Foundation**
P.O. Box 2713 • CARMEL, CA 93921

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Vice President: Susan Shillinglaw
Treasurer: Arthur Pasquinelli
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Newsletter Editor: Fran Vardamis
Program Coordinator: Tom Rusert

*Tor House Office (831) 624-1813
e-mail: thf@torhouse.org
website: www.torhouse.org
Office Open Mon thru Thurs: 9-2*

Winter 2022

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please check one:

- Full-time student/TH Docent \$25.00
- Senior 30.00
- Individual 50.00
- Couple 70.00
- Sponsor 150.00
- Patron 350.00
- Lifetime 1000.00

My payment for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel/FAX: _____

e-mail: _____

Please make check payable to:
TOR HOUSE FOUNDATION
Mail to: PO Box 2713, Carmel, CA 93921
Consult Website for on-line payment

Your contribution assists in the preservation of the unique home of the poet, Robinson Jeffers, and in community outreach programs.

Membership benefits include:

- ◆ Free tours of Tor House
- ◆ 10% discount on merchandise
- ◆ Advance invitations to coming events
- ◆ Quarterly newsletter

**ROBINSON JEFFERS
TOR HOUSE FOUNDATION**

Tel: (831)624-1813

thf@torhouse.org www.torhouse.org