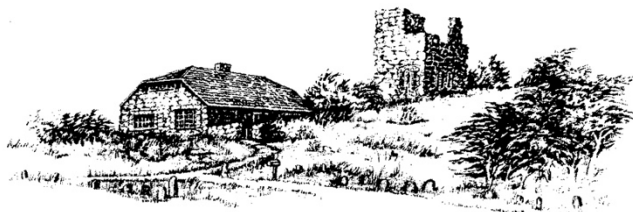


Tor House Newsletter



Spring 2024 www.torhouse.org

Robinson Jeffers

TOR HOUSE

Garden Party

*Sunday
May 5, 2024
2-5 pm*

EXPLORE & PHOTOGRAPH
JEFFERS' HAND-BUILT HOME,
HAWK TOWER & GARDENS
26304 OCEAN VIEW AVE
CARMEL CA 831.624.1813
GENERAL ADMISSION \$25
STUDENT ADMISSION \$10
BUY TICKETS @ www.torhouse.com
OR PURCHASE AT THE DOOR
NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 10



*Live Music
Refreshments
Docent Guidance & Poetry*



design and illustration by deborah russell

Updates from the Foundation President

Monterey County Gives! We received a check for \$37,757.26 from the Monterey County Gives! Fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County. That sum included an overall match of 17.93% (\$5,884.610) from CFMC. We raised a total of \$32,823 from 105 donors: \$14,073 from individual donors and \$18,750 from the Trustee challenge grant. [The donors are listed on page 5 of this issue.] The number of donors and the amount raised are the highest of the years that we have participated. Thank you all for your support.

National Historic Landmark Application: We are submitting an application for National Historical Landmark status. The application has had an anonymous peer review and reviews by Christopher Johnson, regional National Park Service Historian, and Lyn Causey, Historian with the National Historic Landmark Program of the National Park Service. FYI: “National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant places that illustrate important themes, persons, or events in American history. The National Historic Landmarks Program recognizes properties of exceptional national significance in the nation’s history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.” Once revisions have been approved, the application has to be reviewed by the National Park System Advisory Board and then designated by the Secretary of the Interior. More as the process develops.

Work on Attic of Tor House Cottage: Thanks to his generous commitment of time and labor, our new special projects docent, James Monen, has taken the rug out of the attic of Tor House cottage and will be restoring the cork tile floor that was underneath it. This is the same cork tile that was used in the living room of the East Wing and the bathroom of the cottage. It is wonderful, now that the rug is gone, to see the trap door at the east end of the attic. The attic will be used as an archival storage area and workspace.

Dogs of Tor House: *Dogs of Tor House* by Coral Amende with an Epilogue by Una Jeffers Honscheid is at the printers. Coral has put together an extraordinary collection of photos from the Foundation’s archives (think Donnan and Garth as boys holding snakes, or Una and Edith 2 [the first two Mrs. Kusters] with Billie, or Mabel Dodge Luhan watching Haig and his brother York—Mabel’s bulldog—at play at Tor House). Wonderfully researched and beautifully written and formatted, the book also contains “The House Dog’s Grave” and Thomas Hardy’s elegy to his dog Wessex, which, Coral suggests, Jeffers “...may have been at least partially inspired by.” We expect the first run of 78 books to arrive soon. There are some fifty pages of text and photographs. Here Haig contemplates his world:



Tor House Poetry Readings: Monterey County Poet Laureate Rachele Escamilla spoke on “Seeing Jeffers Landscape through New Eyes.” Escamilla, whose most recent poetry collection is *Space Junk* (Nomadic Press, 2023) is a visiting scholar at the Library of Congress and founder of writing programs in the US and China.

For up-to-date listings of poetry readings and other offerings, check our website at www.torhouse.org/events.

FROM THE TOR HOUSE ARCHIVES

Shared by Tor House Archivist/Docent/Trustee Coral Amende

A fragment as written by Blanche Mattias in October 1935

[Blanche and Russell Matthias met Robin and Una in 1926 and remained friends throughout their lives]

“Una came over to say good-bye about 5:30 this afternoon. We are leaving at daybreak for Los Angeles. Russell brought out a bottle of Bourbon and Una had two small glasses – straight. She’s never outwardly affected by the strongest, straightest liquor.

Russell was listening to a broadcast. Una and I were sitting on the couch. I told her of our reading some of Robin’s new poems after they left us last Wednesday night. Douglas Short read aloud. He wanted to know to whom Robin was speaking when he wrote “You.”

Noel said, “He’s writing to Una.” I said, “No, not that place.” Douglas said, “I think it was to Blanche.” Again I said, “No.” So I asked Una. She couldn’t remember the verse, and laughingly asked if I wondered that so often she seemed unfamiliar with Robin’s work. She then explained that it wouldn’t do for her to come too close to it. “I must keep up and man and woman part of life for him. It is that he needs and loves. His passion for me is the same terrific thing it was 25 years ago. We have the same tension and strain that we knew then. If I were to treat him as a marvelous being all would be lost. In 24 hours he would begin to slump. I must keep out of his work. I continue to stir his passion as I used to. It is this he needs. Without it he cannot write.”

* * * *

Robinson Jeffers Tor House
2024 Garden Party
A Celebration of Spring and Poetry

Sunday, May 5, 2-5 p.m.
at Tor House, 26304 Ocean View Avenue

Admission: \$25 adults \$10 students Tickets available on-line or at the door.
Not suitable for children under 10

Enjoy strolls in the springtime gardens. Tor House docent will read poetry and offer informed context to your visit, both inside this unique early 20th Century cottage and Hawk Tower, both built largely by the poet himself. Live music performances, and gourmet refreshments complete the experience.

* * * *

Moments from Past Garden Parties



NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS between December 2023 and March 2024.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS

Coral Amende

Gary Kuris

Keyko Prinz

PATRON MEMBERSHIPS

Bruce & Marion Donehower

Peter Rigby / Lynn Field

Aliene Thompson (In Honor of the Dedicated Tor House Staff and Docents)

SPONSOR MEMBERSHIPS

Charlotte Flanagan

Carolyn Kleefeld

Peter Serchuk

Mr & Mrs George Galakatos

David & Tracy Krauter

Flo Snyder-Speck

Conell & Nancy Gallagher

Dom & Evelyn Maio

Alan Stacy / Deborah Russell

Dr & Mrs Julius Guccione

Robert & Diane Reid

Christine Hunsley

Robert Sawyer

INDIVIDUAL, COUPLE, SENIOR, STUDENT AND DOCENT MEMBERSHIPS

Robert & Melinda Armstead

Charles/Allison Hicks Greifenstein

Arthur & S Paull

John & June Armstrong

Susan Groff

Jennifer Davis Ryan

Diane Archer

Pauline Hartman

Christina Reynolds

Barbara Babcock

Bernice Hearn

Charles Rodewald

Norbert Banik

Susan Hinde

Rags Rosenberg

Patricia Buelow

Eric & Alison Jager

Lawrence Ruth

Barbara Bullock-Wilson

Lindsay Jeffers

Tom & Patricia Sanders

Michael & Patricia Busk

Janet Kluizynski

Peggy Schmidt

Chris & Sue Clark

Karen Leakins

Lawrence Spann

Nancy Collins

Julie Maher

Richard Stanley

Alan & Sherry Cosseboom

H. Var Mahoney

Rachel Staudt

Lawrence Dagesse

Thomas McGovern

Jerl Surratt

Dale Ditsler

Ann McLaughlin

Court Tanouye

Thomas M. Doerk

Gordon & Molly McCall

Brian Thayer / Sara Rubin

Stephen Doolittle

James Monen

Georgia Van Dam

Cathy Ettel

Francis Olson

William & Jan Zeigler

Lynn Geison

James & Linda Paul

General Contributions

Contribution to Bookstore Expenses (\$2,200): Coral Amende

Poetry Prize (\$600): Alan Mears

Poetry Prize (\$1,000): Lacy Buck

General Contribution (\$5000): Gene Kafka (In Memory of Rob Kafka).

General Contributions (to \$500):

Ben Boychuk

Bruce & Marion Donehower

Peter Rigby/Lynn Field

Mashal Butt

Bernice Hearn

[Please note, listings reflect only new and renewed memberships and contributions since the Winter Issue of the Newsletter. Generally, the Spring Issue lists processed 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 September of any given year, and the Winter Issue lists October through November memberships and contributions.]

CONTRIBUTIONS (December 2023– March 2024)

Monterey County Gives! Challenge Grant

\$1000 to \$10000

Lacy Williams Buck
Vince Huth
Aengus Jeffers
Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts

Gregory Schopen /Alice Fleming
William & Susan Shillinglaw
Lynn Stralem
John & Ann Varady

\$100 to \$999

Coral Amende
Melinda Armstead
Laura Arnow
Steve Barghusen/Kate Knutson
Jeffrey Baron
Ronald Baxter/Robin Winfield
Ben Boychuk
William & Anne Carwile
Michael Clark
Stacy Crinks (In Honor of
Alan Stacy)
Frankie DelPapa/Michele Cobb
Susan Day (In Memory of
Tony Day)
Ingrid M Deiwiks
Gere & Laura diZierga
Richard Dobler
Hallie Dow
John Ferreira/Melinda Bowman

Charlotte Flanagan
Joe Gallagan/R.P. Rose
Francis Gaver
Edward & Jeanne Gavrin
Alice Ann Glenn
Donald & Esther Goodhue
Drew & Myra Goodman
Susan Hafleigh (In Memory of
Mandy Hafleigh)
Dan Jensen/Carolyn Donlin
James Karman
Marion Keyworth
Dennis King / Ure Lee
Matthew & Joan Little
David Ligare/Gary Smith
Karin Locke
H. Van Mahoney
Elizabeth Marinelli (In
Memory of Robert Kafka)

Michael & Nicki McMahan
Elizabeth Murray
Donald & Laura Newmark
George Norton
Arthur & Elizabeth Pasquinelli
Daniel Peristain/Laura Schulkind
Larry Pettinger
Lee & Shirley Rose
Robert & Lynda Sayre
Peter & Michele Serchuk
Deborah Sharp
Eric & Holly Smith
Alan Stacy / Deborah Russell
Alice Tao
Magnus & Mary Spigarelli Toren
Fran Vardamis (In Memory of
Alex Vardamis)
Ken Wandermann/Marsha Morah

To \$99

Joanne Alban
Mary Aldinger
Dave Awerbuck/Astrid Holberg
Stephen & Linda Bailey
Joseph Braun / Anne Gosch
Barbara Bullock-Wilson
Mark Bunter/Margaret Spring
Kay Burbridge
Michael & Patricia Busk
Lorna Claerbout
Mary Jane Dziedzic
Hugo & Karen Ferlino
Leslie Foote
Francisca Garibaldi
Kimball Hurd / Alica Fineman
Lindsay Jeffers

Sam Kiemek / AlondraValdez
Denise Klein
Lorin & Karen Letendre (In
Mem. Peggy Downes Baskin)
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Betty Matterson
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David Ohanesian/Susan Krivin
Francis Olson
David Parish
Mary Pommerlich
Richard Popchak
Keely Richter
Frederick & Cynthia Riebe
Michael & Mona Rubin
Sara Rubin

Thomas Rusert / Darren
Susan Schwartz
Sai Shohara
Timothy Smith/Kristin Markus
Elizabeth Stacey
Richard Stanley
Katherine Stoner/Michelle Welsh
Anthony Tersol
Brian Thayer
Francis & Leigh Toldi
Tim & Cammy Torgenrud (In
Mem of Peggy Downes Baskin
Larry Woodfill/Susan Raycraft
In Mem of Diane Morninglight

News and Notes

The Tor House Foundation notes the passing of veteran docent **Donna Rico** on December 17 at the age of 92. She will be missed by all those who worked with her.

Inge Kessler, docent and poet, was recently honored by the Carmel Foundation as Artist of the Month.

Tim Hunt, distinguished Jeffers scholar, announces the March 15 publication of his latest volume of poetry, *Western Where* (Broadstone Books), a celebration of the West, as place and philosophy. The volume is available from the publisher or on Amazon.

Fran Vardamis reports that volunteers of the Friends of the Harrison Memorial Library are offering meticulously curated, gently read books at inflation-busting prices at Carmel's unique book venues: Tue, Thurs, & Sat. at their Sunset Center Book Room, daily in the Park Branch lobby and Thursdays at the Carmel Farmers Market. Books and venues are donated, and all proceeds go to the library. Recently a first edition of *Such Counsels You Gave to Me* went for \$5 and for a good cause. Good conversation available. Visitors welcome.

Tom's Talk

Tom Rusert, Program and Docent Training Coordinator and **Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts**, Foundation President recently honored **Melinda Bowman**, departing Administrative Assistant and introduced her replacement, **Susie Joyce**



Tom also notes:

Linda Laviolette Joins the THF Tour Docent Ranks

Having spent her first 40 years in the SF Bay Area and her next 30+ years in the Northwest, Linda chose Carmel in 2023 as the magical place for her next life chapter. Linda's first career was as an environmental planner, including at US EPA in its infancy. Starting to work in the nonprofit sector in 1980, her three executive directorships and decades of consulting have fulfilled her desires to contribute to the well-being of the communities she has lived in, as well as all over the world. Linda has helped birth a few children as a coach, and is now helping loved ones in their death transitions. From the moment she attended her first tour at Tor House, she knew she wanted to be a Tor docent! [*Inspired? Tor House is always looking for new docents.*]

Tom coordinated an enrichment program and guided a group in an introduction to Robinson Jeffers. He notes: "For the first time, five young poets from Watsonville and Aptos, accompanied by Bob Gómez, Watsonville Poet Laureate, visited Tor House on Saturday, March 23. Eva Sophia Martínez Rodríguez, one of two Watsonville Youth Poets Laureate, was joined by 4 other young contributors to "*Tierra y Justicia: Artists United Combating Climate Change*," and the Executive Director of the project, Dr. Leonor Pérez. The students presented their original poetry and also read several Jeffers poems in Spanish, while in Hawk Tower and Tor House. These poets will be featured at a culminating music, dance, and poetry event on May 10 at the Henry J. Mello Center for Performing Arts in Watsonville."

THE LAST WORD FROM JEFFERS

With sea level rise and climate change intensifying winter storms, officials are bracing for more severe erosion along the cliffs and rocky escarpments that undergird Highway 1. The road's geography has always been tough. San Francisco Chronicle 4/3/24



CA Rte. 1. The Big Sur Coast Highway, was completed in 1937

THE COAST-ROAD

A horseman high alone as an eagle on the spur of the mountain over Mirmas Canyon draws rein,
looks down
At the bridge-builders, men, trucks, the power-shovels, the teeming end of the new coast-road at
the mountain's base.
He sees the loops of the road go northward, headland beyond headland, into gray mist over Fraser's
Point,
He shakes his fist and makes the gesture of wringing a chicken's neck, scowls and rides higher.

I too

Believe that the life of men who ride horses, herders of cattle on the mountain pasture, plowers of
remote
Rock-narrowed farms in poverty and freedom, is a good life. At the far end of those loops of road
Is what will come and destroy it, a rich and vulgar and bewildered civilization dying at the core,
A world that is feverishly preparing new wars, peculiarly vicious ones, and heavier tyrannies, a
strangely
Missionary world, road-builder, wind-rider, educator, printer and picture-maker and broad-caster,
So eager, like an old drunken whore, pathetically eager to impose the seduction of her fled charms
On all that through ignorance or isolation might have escaped them. I hope the weathered
horseman up yonder
Will die before he knows what this eager world will do to his children. More tough-minded men
Can repulse an old whore, or cynically accept her drunken kindnesses for what they are worth,
But the innocent and credulous are soon corrupted.

Where is our consolation? Beautiful beyond belief
The heights glimmer in the sliding cloud, the great bronze gorge-cut sides of the mountain tower
up invincibly,
Not the least hurt by this ribbon of road carved on their sea-foot.

From *Such Counsels You Gave To Me* (1935-1938) Hunt II, 522-523



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

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

Spring 2024

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/Giving for online 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

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