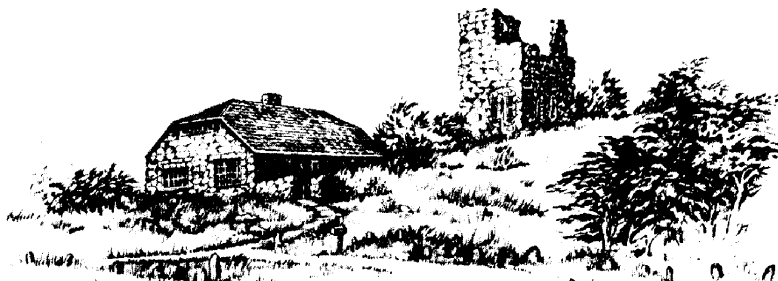


Tor House Newsletter



Fall 2023

FALL FESTIVAL October 13-15, 2023

Robinson Jeffers was the inaugural speaker in a 1941 lecture series, “The Poet in a Democracy,” held at the Library of Congress. Other speakers were Robert Frost, Carl Sandburg, and Stephen Vincent Benét. The 2023 Tor House Foundation Fall Festival will explore that theme in the worlds of 1941 and 2023, both riven by war in countries that often seem far distant but whose conflicts challenge America’s sense of democracy and world order.

The October 13-15 Festival program includes a sunset celebration, talks, panel discussion, film, Jeffers’ poetry, and a poetry walk.

Tickets: All event package, \$100. Individual event prices: Friday Tor House Sunset Celebration, \$25; Saturday box lunch \$23 (*no charge* for attendance at Saturday program); *Saturday banquet at the Monterey Conference Center, \$75.*

Friday, October 13, Tor House Sunset Celebration, 5:00-7:00 (\$25, advance reservations requested, www.torhouse.org)

Wine, refreshments, poetry readings, bird watching and music with Melinda Coffey Armstead and Barbara Ruzicka as well as Youth Music Monterey County.

Saturday, October 14, Carmel Woman’s Club. (No charge for program, please reserve \$23 box lunch in advance, www.torhouse.org)

8:30: Coffee and pastry.

9:00-9:30: “Contexts: A Tense U.S., 1935-1941,” Bruce Grelle.

9:30-10:00: “The Poet in a Democracy: Jeffers at the Library of Congress, 1941,” James Karman.

10:00-10:30: World Premiere, Audio of Jeffers reading at the Library of Congress.

10:45-11:10: Robert Frost at the Library of Congress, 1941. Taelen Thomas reads from Frost’s unpublished comments, “The Poet in a Democracy.”

11:15-11:45: “World in Crisis: 1941-1945,” Bruce Grelle.

12:00-1:15: Box lunches *which must be reserved in advance*, \$23.00 or included in \$100 Festival package. Film “Enduring Democracy” introduced by Tim Thomas.

1:30-2:00: “John Steinbeck on War: 1939-1941,” Susan Shillinglaw.

2:00-3:15: “The Poet in a Democracy” 1941/2023, Then and Now”: Panel discussion and CSUMB student poets. Panelists Rick Applegate, Rachele Escamilla, Sara Rubin. Moderator: Gere diZerega.

Saturday, October 14, Monterey Conference Center, 5:30-9:00 (\$75, reservations required by October 11, www.torhouse.org)

Reception and dinner at Monterey Conference Center. Music by Youth Music Monterey.

Keynote Speaker, Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts.

Sunday, October 15:

9:00: Poetry Walk, Carmel River Beach.

1:00: Memorial Service for Rob Kafka, East Wing of Tor House.

Musicians Friday evening and Saturday banquet:

Melinda Coffey Armstead, pianist, has performed around the globe as a recitalist and chamber musician. Denis Matthews, BBC critic, wrote of her "...exquisite pianism devoted entirely to the music itself." Melinda has been a Tor House docent since 2018 and a trustee since 2021.

Barbara Ruzicka, a native of Toronto, Canada, studied in the Bay Area with the esteemed Hungarian pianist Sari Biro. She performs as a soloist, four-hand partner, and maintains a private teaching studio in Carmel with a class of award-winning students. She is involved with the Carmel Music Society and the Young Artists' Showcase of the Carmel Bach Festival.

Youth Music Monterey County provides high-caliber music education and ensemble-playing opportunities for young people. The YMMC Woodwind Quartet, 3 flutes and a bassoon, plays music ranging from Renaissance dances to contemporary compositions. Quartet members are Sophia Pyo, Meya Lin, and Ashley James on flute and Merielle Flagg on bassoon.

Presenters:

Rick Applegate was the DC-based staff director for two US Senators and a Congressman. He served in senior natural resource management and policy positions in federal, interstate, state and local governments throughout the Pacific Northwest; founded a public interest and law operation in Montana; represented Trout Unlimited; and served on boards of Friends of the Earth and the Energy Trust of Oregon. Since his late 1960s college days, he has enjoyed Jeffers's poetry.

Gere diZerega was a professor at USC School of Medicine for 30+ years and is currently President and CEO of US Biotest, a biomedical development company located in San Luis Obispo (southern border of Jeffers Country). He is interested in the concepts put forth in Jeffers's writings that appear in the prose and poetry of other 20th century authors.

Rachelle Escamilla is a lecturer at CSUMB and an award-winning and internationally published Chicana poet from the Central Coast. She has published three collections of poetry and in 2018 was a visiting scholar at the Library of Congress, Hispanic Division, where she recorded her poems for the Library's archive of Hispanic literature on tape: *Palabra*.

Bruce Grelle is a professor emeritus of Comparative Religion & Humanities, California State University, Chico. He is the co-author of *The Practices of Global Ethics: Historical Developments, Current Issues and Contemporary Prospects* (U of Edinburgh P, 2016) and author of *Antonio Gramsci and the Question of Religion: Ideology, Ethics, and Hegemony* (Routledge, 2017).

James Karman is a professor emeritus of English and Comparative Religion & Humanities, California State University, Chico. He is the author of *Robinson Jeffers: Poet and Prophet* (Stanford UP, 2015) and the editor of *The Collected Letters of Robinson Jeffers, with Selected Letters of Una Jeffers*, 3 vols. (Stanford UP, 2009, 2011, 2015). He is also a member of the Tor House Foundation board.

Sara Rubin is a journalist and a Tor House docent. She has been on the staff at the *Monterey County Weekly* since 2010, as editor since 2016. She loves exploring Jeffers Country through reading and through hiking.

Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts is the President of Tor House Foundation, where he is a tour docent and coordinates the annual Robinson Jeffers Tor House Prize for Poetry. Recently retired as Poet-in-the-Schools for the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts, Ruchowitz-Roberts is the author of *White Fire*, a collection of poems; co-editor/co-translator of two works from the Telugu, *Sudha (Nectar)* by Chalam and *The Selected Verses of Vemana*; co-author of *Bowing to Receive the Mountain: Essays by Lin Jensen and Poems by Elliot Roberts*; and author of two poetry chapbooks, *To Mary (after eight)* and *The Sweet Taste*. His poetry has appeared in various journals and anthologies.

Susan Shillinglaw is a professor emerita of English, San Jose State University, where she was Director of the Steinbeck Center for 18 years. In addition to editing collections on Steinbeck, she is the author of *Carol and John Steinbeck: Portrait of a Marriage* (U of Nevada P, 2013) and other books and articles on the author. She is a member of the Tor House Foundation board and a tour docent.

Taelen Thomas, known also as “The Bard of Carmel Bay,” has been memorizing and performing poetry for quite a while, especially compositions by Jeffers, William Butler Yeats, Robert Burns, Hart Crane, Ogden Nash, Dylan Thomas and himself.

Tim Thomas is a fisheries historian and for sixteen years was the Historian/Curator for the Monterey Maritime Museum. He is the co-author of *Monterey’s Waterfront* (2006), *Japanese on the Monterey Peninsula* (2010), *The Abalone King of Monterey: “Pop” Ernest Doelter, Pioneering Japanese Fishermen & The Culinary Classic that Saved an Industry* (2014), and *Abalone Diving along the California Coast* (2023). He is on the board of directors of the Monterey Japanese American Citizens League and is the curator of Japanese American Heritage Center.

To receive early notice of these, and other special programs, contact the Tor House Office or the Newsletter editor at fdv528@comcast.net and make sure you’re on our digital mailing list.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS (April 2023 – August 2023)

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP (\$1000)

Anonymous Rob Archer Julie D. Dickson

PATRON MEMBERS

Ben Boychuk Abigail Myers
Don & Nancy Colberg Dan Willaims

SPONSOR MEMBERS

Robin Aeschilman Kimbeth Coventry William Ondrechen/Shirley J. Ewing
Rick Applegate Jim & Gloria Dougherty Arthur & Elizabeth Pasquinelli
Kimberley Ayers Frances Gaver Susan Peick
Mary Rose Breman DeEtta Greenwalt Phil & Sharon Scurich
Joe Callaghan / Robin Rose David Ligare / Gary Smith
Gordon & Elizabeth Campbell Neal Ney

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Mary Aldinger Alyson Hunter Denise Pray
Beth Barker Roberta Hunter Margaret Purchase
Tim Barnes Carol Jensen William Richards
Jeff Baron / Kevin D'Angelo Patrick Jones / Lydia Meri Richard Robbins
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Sheila Benson Francis Kelly David Rutgers
Rebecca Bishop Barbara Ketchel David S. Sabih
Michael A. Broomfield Allen Koeller Kathleen Schiebold
Kelly Burke Bernie Krause Raymond Sims
Martha Crewe Amy Krupski Bruce Smith
Brian Cronwall Linda Laviolette Deborah Smith
John Driscoll Steve Larson Eric & Holly Smith
Brice Erickson Hans Lehmann Sherry L. Smith
Luanne Erickson George Lober James B. Snyder
Dr. Dianne Fergusson Karin Locke David Stanley / Elizabeth Holliday
Alice Ann Glenn Aubry Lynch Katherine Stoner / Michelle Welch
Tom Goff Irene Lyles Barbara Stout
(In memory of Hugh Lloyd Goff) Michael Magliari John & Joan Straley
Mack Arthur Gunter Lisa Meckel Robin Sweet
Darrow & Gwen Haagenen Joe & Carol Mironov Peggy Van Patten
Laura Courtney Headley Meredith Mullins Erni Saeki Wada
Joan Hendrickson Ed Nelson Jeff & Janet Wallace
Steven Harmann / Lori Goldrich Ronald Ochsner Robert & Paula Weaver
Carolyn Jeffers Hess Dan Patterson Barbara Westover
Bonnie Hoffman Margaret Paul Brad Whitehurst
Alice Holzman Richard & Susan Platt Christopher & Susan Williams

CONTRIBUTIONS, in addition to Membership, (April 2023– August 2023)

CONTRIBUTIONS - \$2,000

Coral Amende Rachel Brophy - In memory of Robert Brophy

CONTRIBUTIONS - \$500 to \$100

Boon Hughey - In memory of Rob Kafka Allen K Mears - In memory of Rob Kafka
Jim & Paula Karman - In memory of Rob Kafka William Ondrechen / Shirley Ewing
Kafka Richard A. Levan

CONTRIBUTIONS – to \$100

Thomas & Joyce Anne Antel Maria Junge Web & Becky Styles
Ben Boychuck James Patrick / Lydia Meri Peggy Van Patten
Joe Callaghan/Robin Rose Kathleen Schiebold Christopher & Susan Williams

[Please note: listings reflect only new and renewed memberships and contributions since the Spring Issue of the Newsletter. 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 Contest 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.]

Upcoming Events at Tor House:

Saturday, September 23, 2023 :

BIRTH DUES :Tor House Fellow Ethan Koss-Smith sings poems by Robinson Jeffers.

Ethan, a student of voice from Bennington College, will perform a range of musical compositions that were created at Tor House during his residency in January 2023.

All Tickets - \$15 - Limited Seating

6:30 PM - Reception / 7-8 PM

Friday, October 27, 2023

If You Should Look - A POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP INSPIRED BY ROBINSON JEFFERS

Conducted by poet, non-fiction author, and educator Patrice Vecchione

Taking inspiration from the work of Jeffers, participants will direct their gaze toward sea and sand, the horizon and what's held in the hands, and discover what makes "stone love stone."

Members - \$75 - Non-Members - \$100

9:00 - 3:00 PM - Tour and Workshop

Please check the TH website or contact Tom Rusert at torhouse.org for additional information.



A POEM BY LAURA C. NEWMARK

Golden abelia next to green manzanita
brightens the garden on a wet autumn day
as orange bricks paving the garden patio
glisten in light rain.

December 2022

News and Notes

It is with great sorrow that we note the passing of Rob Kafka, an important Jeffers Scholar and a truly gentle person. In the words of his peers:

Rob Kafka, a mainstay of our community, has died. Rob was a founding member of RJA and a selfless contributor, working behind the scenes to make the issues of *Jeffers Studies* become reality and organizing and staging the various Carmel conferences. He and his beloved wife Kyuja were always the gentle hosts making new members feel welcome. Over the decades Rob served RJA in a number of capacities, most recently as President. He was a member of the THF Board of Trustees. Rob was an expert on Jeffers' early years in Los Angeles, and his work in compiling and transcribing the recently published *Point Alma Venus Manuscripts* is a major contribution to our understanding of Jeffers' work in the crucial period of 1920-1927. A dear friend and valued colleague, Rob will be missed—and remembered.

Rob Kafka will be remembered by the Tor House family with a memorial service in the East Wing of Tor House on Sunday, October 15, at 1 PM, at the conclusion of the Fall Festival. For further information please contact the Tor House office.

In September of 1939, the Second World War began with the German invasion of Poland. Two poets of the English language memorialized the occasion in verse. They both clearly understood the implications of the day. WH Auden, British expat who would become an American citizen six years later, describes in his poem, "September 1, 1939" how he "sat in one of the dives / On Fifty-second Street [in Manhattan] / Uncertain and afraid." A continent away, Jeffers, an American who, except for the 1st World War, might have settled in England, wrote "The Day is a Poem" from Tor House two weeks later. This year, as we consider the Poet in a Democracy, and as we once more watch "the lights grow dim in Europe," as they used to say, it might be constructive to consider the two poems by these two great poets who, though in content and style, very different, seemed, on this occasion to converge in message. Auden's poem is too long to be included here, but it is available on the web at poets.org and elsewhere. Since this is the Tor House Newsletter, we offer...

The Last Word in Poetry from Jeffers

THE DAY IS A POEM

(September 19, 1939)

This morning Hitler spoke in Danzig, we heard his voice.
A man of genius: that is, of amazing
Ability, courage, devotion, cored on a sick child's soul,
Heard clearly through the dog-wrath, a sick child
Wailing in Danzig; invoking destruction and wailing at it.
Here, the day was extremely hot; about noon
A south wind like a blast from hell's mouth spilled a slight rain
On the parched land, and at five a light earthquake
Danced the house, no harm done. To-night I have been amusing myself
Watching the blood-red moon droop slowly
Into black sea through bursts of dry lightning and distant thunder.
Well: the day is a poem: but too much
Like one of Jeffers's, crusted with blood and barbaric omens,
Painful to excess, inhuman as a hawk's cry.

From *Be Angry at the Sun* (1941) Hunt III, 16.

RESERVATION FORM FOR JEFFERS FALL FESTIVAL 2023

[See program schedule, page 1, for details]

To assist the Foundation in planning, and to assure a place, we encourage early advance reservations.

NAME[S] _____

ADDRESS/email/PHONE: _____

SUNSET CELEBRATION AT TOR HOUSE GARDENS

Friday 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Tor House Gardens, 26304 Ocean View Avenue, Carmel.

13 Oct Wine and refreshments.

Poetry readings, bird watching and music.

Featuring Melinda Coffey Armstead, Barbara Ruzicka, and Youth Music Monterey County.

SUNSET CELEBRATION (Reservations suggested) – \$25 See below.

Saturday **THE ROBINSON JEFFERS FESTIVAL, Morning and Afternoon Programs**

14 Oct Carmel Woman’s Club. San Carlos and 9th in Carmel (Opposite Sunset Center).

Doors open at 8:30 am. Coffee and pastry.

Programs: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 12:00 to 3:15 PM. See Page 1 for details.

NO CHARGE FOR THE PROGRAMS. Please reserve \$23 box lunch in advance. See below.

EVENING PROGRAMS

Monterey Conference Center, 5:30 - 9:00 PM (\$75, reservations required by **October 11, @**

www.torhouse.org or by mail)

NO CHARGE FOR WOMAN'S CLUB PRESENTATIONS AND FOR SATURDAY POETRY WALK

All event package - \$100

For _____ persons \$ _____

OR

Individual Event prices:

Sunset Celebration - \$25 (Reservations suggested)

For _____ persons \$ _____

Box Lunch - \$23 (Advanced Registration Required)

For _____ persons \$ _____

Evening Program \$75 (Advanced Registration Required) by October 11

For _____ persons \$ _____

Sunday **ANNUAL POETRY WALK AND BROWN BAG LUNCH**

15 Oct - Meet at 9 AM at Carmel River State Beach Parking Lot

at Scenic and Carmelo near Carmel Point

Bring along favorite Jeffers related poems, beverages, and a brown bag lunch.

POETRY WALK IS, AS ALWAYS, FREE

1:00 PM - Memorial Service for Rob Kafka, East Wing of Tor House

Mail or E-mail Reservations. Payment, as required, through checks to the Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation.

PO Box 2713, Carmel, CA 93921

For on-line credit card payments or reservations, see website at www.torhouse.org.

For further information call: (831)624-1813)



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

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President: *Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts*

Vice President: *Norris Pope*

Vice President: *Susan Shillinglaw*

Treasurer: *Arthur Pasquinelli*

Secretary: *Melinda Coffey Armstead*

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<i>Gere diZerega</i>	<i>James Karman</i>	<i>Aaron Yoshinobu</i>
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<i>Lindsay Jeffers</i>	<i>Christopher Williams</i>

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 Newsletter Editor: Fran Vardamis
 Program Outreach/Docent-Training 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

Fall 2023

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 events
- ◆ Quarterly newsletter

**ROBINSON JEFFERS
TOR HOUSE FOUNDATION**
 Tel: (831)624-1813 thf@torhouse.org www.torhouse.org