

Tor House Newsletter



Fall 2017

THE 2017 ROBINSON JEFFERS FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 13 – OCTOBER 15, 2017

Friday

October 13

SUNSET CELEBRATION AT TOR HOUSE GARDENS

5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tor House Gardens, 26304 Ocean View Ave, Carmel.
Dramatic performances by Lili Bitá, Taelen Thomas and Joyce Henderson.
Music. Fine wines and hors d'oeuvres.

\$20 for Sunset Celebration. Reservations required.

Saturday

October 14

THE ROBINSON JEFFERS FESTIVAL

ROBINSON JEFFERS AND THE ANTHROPOCENE

Presentations will take place at The Carmel Woman's Club, San Carlos and 9th in Carmel

Doors open at 8:30 AM. Continental Breakfast available to attendees.

MORNING PROGRAM – 9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

Aaron Yoshinobu, Structural Geologist and Professor, Texas Tech University

JEFFERS AND DEEP GEOLOGY

Brian Calvert, Editor-in-Chief, *High Country News*

JEFFERS, GRIEF AND ECOCIDE

Dana Gioia, Poet Laureate of California, Past Chair National Endowment for the Arts

JEFFERS AND CALIFORNIA LITERATURE

David Ohanesian, Independent Scholar and Tor House Tour Docent

A PHOENIX AMONG THE UNICORNS

LUNCHEON 12:00 – 1:30 PM Lunch on your own in downtown Carmel

or pre-order a Nielsen's Market Box Luncheon (\$12)

AFTERNOON PROGRAM – 1:30 PM TO 5:00 PM

James Karman introduces **JEFFERS AND THE POETRY OF DEEP TIME**

Joyce Henderson, Award-Winning Actress, Director and Producer

A READING FROM "THE STONE AXE"

Robert Zaller, Historian, Critic and Professor, Drexel University

JEFFERS AND THE ANTHROPOCENE

ShaunAnne Tangney, Former Professor of English, Minot State University

WHY BEAUTY MATTERS, INHUMANISM AND JUSTICE

Joyce Henderson

A READING FROM "TAMAR"

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

\$65 – SATURDAY FORUMS

\$80 – ALL-EVENT PACKAGE (FRIDAY AND SATURDAY EVENTS).

Sunday

October 15

ANNUAL JEFFERS POETRY WALK with **Simon Hunt**

Meet at 9:00 AM at Carmel River State Beach parking lot, Scenic and Carmelo, Carmel Point. Bring along favorite Jeffers-related poems, beverages and a brown bag lunch for a noontime picnic. **No charge. Reservations suggested**

(FOR PROGRAM DETAILS SEE PAGES 2 AND 3. FOR RESERVATIONS SEE PAGE 7)

2017 FALL FESTIVAL

Robinson Jeffers and the Anthropocene / Jeffers and the Poetry of Deep Time

The 2017 Fall Festival begins at the Lion Gate at Mycenae and moves on through the bitter dawn of European civilization to the Hawk Tower beyond tragedy of the Anthropocene.



Friday evening's traditional Sunset Celebration highlights Jeffers, the classicist. Lili Bitá, author, poet, translator and actress who has performed in both the United States and Europe and has been recognized by the Hellenic Authors Society for her lifetime achievement in letters - who better to introduce a reading from *The Tower Beyond Tragedy*. She will be joined by Taelen Thomas, poet, performer and extraordinary historical and literary interpreter who, one might assume, will play Agamemnon to Lili's Clytemnestra. Joyce Henderson, actress, teacher and director, recipient of many awards in Chico and the San Francisco Bay Area, will bring *The Cretan Women* to life.

Fine wine will be poured and—fog permitting—the Pacific sun will set, if not on the Isles of Greece, then on the Peninsula of Tor.

The 2017 Fall Festival continues on Saturday morning at the Carmel Woman's Club.

Programs and speakers will be introduced by Tor House Trustees and Docents: **Alan Stacy**, writer and editor, Tor House docent, photo archivist and Fall Festival Coordinator; **Simon Hunt**, educator and faculty advisor at Santa Catalina School since 1998, and **James Karman**, Professor Emeritus, Chico State, Past President of the RJA and distinguished Jeffers Biographer.

The first speaker will be **Aaron Yoshinobu**, professor of Structural Geology and Tectonics at Texas Tech University, has written about the intersection of geology, stone masonry, and Jeffers' poetics. In his presentation, he notes that Jeffers witnessed and imagined the catastrophic and enduring capacity of humans – both beautiful and terrible – to observe and often ignore the natural capacity of the Earth. Jeffers asked and answered

the question of whether or not humans can affect measurable change in Earth evolution. And, whether it matters. Yoshinobu will explore the origins of Jeffers' interpretations of Earth-Human evolution in the context of geology, and develop a lens in which to view the Anthropocene.

Brian Calvert, editor-in-chief of *High Country News*, will argue that Ecocide, the total destruction of our home, seems more and more likely, perhaps even inevitable. This has produced a new kind of grief, a mourning for a great loss yet to come. In the work of Robinson Jeffers, we can find ways of dealing with grief in the age of ecocide.

The third speaker will be **Dana Gioia**, Poet Laureate of California, former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. and Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture at the University of Southern California. He currently

resides in Los Angeles. Gioia will place Jeffers within the context of California literature.

Finally, the morning programs conclude with **David Ohanesian**, of Santa Cruz, an independent scholar with a specialty in Mythological Studies, and, for 19 years, a tour docent at Tor House. He will share his discovery of a remarkable artifact found in the soil of Tor House and place his find in the context of nineteenth century California.

In the afternoon, **Robert Zaller**, Distinguished History Professor at Drexel University, poet, author and critic, will, in his discussion of “Jeffers and the Anthropocene,” examine Jeffers’ evolving conception of humanity, with specific reference to social interaction, the relation of humanity to the

natural and cosmic order, and the question of its ultimate ecological impact on the planet.

ShaunAnne Tangney, former Professor of English at Minot State University with a specialty in the literature and culture of the American West, Jeffers Scholar, and Editor of the recently published *The Wild That Attracts Us: New Critical Essays on Robinson Jeffers*, will explore how Jeffers’ use of the words “beauty” and “beautiful” asks readers to contemplate social justice. In much of Jeffers’ work, Tangney argues, beauty is the foundation of a just life, a life lived not separate from but wholly connected to other human beings, a social life of goodness and decency and justice.

The afternoon presentations will be framed within Jeffers’ poetry, as read by Joyce Henderson

Save Sunday for the annual Poetry Walk on Carmel River State Beach conducted by Simon Hunt. Bring a brown-bag lunch and don’t forget the red wine of your favorite poetry.

The changing of the seasons on the Central Coast can be subtle. But they are real.
Here, a few impressions of Autumn, Spring, and Summer by Carmel poet **Laura C. Newmark**

Carmel Bay in Autumn Light

Seen beneath the summer sun,
the distant bay’s blue water
is now, in angled autumn light,
a sea of shimmering silver.

November 2016

Pride of Madeira

The year’s abundant winter rains
have multiplied on coastal slopes
the pride of Madeira’s springtime blooms –
great busts of showy purple plumes.

March/April 2017

After Morning Mist

Shimmering droplets of morning mist
bead white cotoneaster blooms
and sparkle on the purple leaves
of the now sunlit smoke tree.

June 2017

Panorama of Summer Fog Seen from Carmel Fog Bank

A pale gray fog bank forms a divide
between the blue expanse of sea
and the summer sky.

Point Lobos in Fog

Drifting fog floats over the point
from the surrounding sea,
faintly veiling, then enshrouding
the headland’s pine and cypress trees.

Carmel Valley Fog

Wisps of fog flowing in from the sea,
brushing the highest evergreen trees,
form a cottony cloud along the skyline
that spills in sheer drifts from the valley’s ridgeline.

June 2017

Moonlit Mist

On a clear summer night
the full moon’s light illuminates
a river of white mist, adrift in the valley’s hills.

July 2017

The Glinting Sea, a sampling of the poetry of **Laura C Newmark**, is available at River House Books, the Carmel Art Association, and Pilgrim’s Way Books in Carmel.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS (April 2017 – August 2017)

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP (\$1000 for Individual or Couple)

Jane Carey

PATRON MEMBERS (\$250 for Individual or Couple)

Audrey Broughton, in Honor of Lynn Stralem

Gordon & Elizabeth Ann Campbell

George Lober & Kathy Dalesandro

SPONSOR MEMBERS (\$100 for Individual or Couple)

Tim Barnes

Mel & Barbara Blevens

Lorna Claerbout

Don & Nancy Colberg

Edwin & Fumiko Cranston

Connell & Nancy Gallagher

Sheila Doyle Kiernan

Barbara Livingston

Roland & Martha Mace

Timothy & Kirsten McCarthy

Russell Miller & Kirk Pressner

Jean O'Brien

Kriss Ostrom

Joyce Snyder

Michael Stamp & Molly Erickson

Alden Taylor

Bill True & Louise Flick

May Waldroup

Linda Zinn

MEMBERS

Mary Aldinger

Pauline Allen

Nancy C. Armstrong

Steve & Molly Attell

Terry & Melissa Beers

Beverly Boyd

Michael A. Broomfield

Stuart Crymes & Leticia Aninzo

Carol Deuel

Jean Donnelly

Donald R. Engler

Luanne Erickson

Dr. Dianne Fergusson

Deborah Fleming

Donald & Frances Gaver

Alice Ann Glenn

Don & Esther Goodhue

Nathan Goodman

Dan Gotch

Colleen A. Graff

Darrow & Gwen Haagensen

John Hardy

Laura Courtney Headley

Joan Hendrickson

Kenneth Hinshaw

Alice Holzman

Carol Jensen

Carol Krantz Johnson

Judy Karas

Barbara Ketchel

Shirley Kirkpatrick

Jacqueline Koenig

Charles Lee

Jeffrey Lehr & Marlene Martin

Julie Maher

Dennis Maloney

Phyllis Mazzocchi

Angie Montalvo

Crystal Ochenfuss

Mary Jane Perna

James Phillips

Terry Phimister

Richard & Susan Platt

Norris Pope & Janet Gardiner

Charles Rodewald

Jo Rogers

Marina Romani

Joan Rosen

Lawrence & Ruth Rosen

John M Sanders

Robert Sawyer & Charlotte Barnard

Penelope Scott-Doherty

Phil Scurich

Grant & Linda Seltzer

Carol Sharon

Bruce Smith

Charles Stewart

Cara Stimpson

Katherine Stoner/Michelle Welsh

Jerry & Pat Swan

Taelen & Charlotte Roberts Thomas

Jeff & Janet Wallace

Jeff Walt

Robert & Paula Weaver

Douglas Weisfield

Robert & Lili Zaller

CONTRIBUTIONS (April 2017 – August 2017)

CONTRIBUTIONS - \$10,000

Bennett Family Foundation Fund c/o Central Valley Community Foundation

CONTRIBUTIONS - \$1,000

Vince Huth

Josephine Shuman, in memory of John Robert Shuman

CONTRIBUTIONS - \$500 to \$999

Alan Mears in support of the Prize for Poetry

CONTRIBUTIONS - \$100 to \$499

Mr. & Mrs. Alfred N. Hales, in honor of Tim and Jane Sanders

Norris Pope and Janet Gardiner

CONTRIBUTIONS – to \$100 Marina Romani

[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 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.]

Theodore Hancock’s “Portraits” of Tor House
Joan Hendrickson, Tor House Foundation Archivist, Emeritus

Way back in the history of the Tor House Foundation, even before the move to Sunset Center in May 1989, President Hadley Osborn accepted the gift of three watercolors painted by artist Theodore Hancock and generously gifted to Tor House by Mrs. Carolyn Tyson. Mr. Hancock had been commissioned by her to paint watercolor “portraits” of three rooms of Tor House to include: the west sitting room, the bedroom and the dining room. Original cost was set at \$6000 but the artist waived his usual retainer fee of one third of the cost so the final price was \$4500. The artist noted in a letter to Tor House in care of Mrs. Ritter-Murray (dated February 20, 1989): “I am proud and delighted to have been asked to paint portraits of three rooms at Tor House. This commission means more to me than most since I have had the privilege of staying there by reason of my long friendship with Mrs. Donnan Jeffers.” Those three “portraits,” currently displayed (1) in the library and (2) in the rear docent office, are poignant portrayals of the rooms as they appeared to the artist when he began working on them on site in late February, 1989.

Theodore (Theo) Hancock was a British-born (1923), naturalized American citizen. He went to school in Kent in England’s North Downs area and began painting as a school boy. Watercolor was his chosen medium and landscapes and representational art his predominant theme. He excelled at portraits of homes, interiors and exteriors, estates and churches. In 1948, he attended Brown University in Rhode Island on a fellowship and was introduced to New York. From this emerged his mural “American City: Manhattan”. He is represented at the Smithsonian American Art Museum by a watercolor: “New York Skyline,” painted in 1963.

In a more adventurous vein, his interests included oil refineries and led to two murals entitled: “Man and Technology,” commissioned by the University of Texas at Galveston. Mr. Hancock was an official artist to NASA and the APOLLO space programs in the 60’s as represented by “Pad 37” and “Count Down to a Mars Mariner Launching.” He was commissioned by the US Navy and ventured undersea on Polaris nuclear submarines.

Theodore Hancock died in July of 1989, shortly after completing the Tor House images.



On your next visit to Tor House, do take the time to view Theodore’s three watercolors captured with a kind of “fish-eye” lens and filled with exacting detail. They express forevermore the essence and uniqueness of the settings created by Una and Robinson Jeffers so many years ago and preserved by the Tor House Foundation.

June 2017

FOOTPRINTS

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of **Ronald P. Olowin**, of Lafayette, California, at the age of 72. A professor of Physics and Astronomy at St. Mary's College in Moraga, CA, Dr. Olowin is remembered for his transformative, illustrated presentation on "Cosmic Perspectives of Jeffers" at the 2004 Fall Festival at the Brazil Ranch on the Big Sur Coast. A man of faith and a man of brilliance, Dr. Olowin went on to share his memorable understanding of Jeffers at many events in the years that followed. In 2011 he assumed the mantle of president of the Robinson Jeffers Association. His insights and his gentle personality will be greatly missed by the Jeffers community.



Dr. Olowin at Brazil Ranch in 2004

White Fire, a new volume of poems by **Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts** has recently been published by Ping-Pong Free Press. With cover design by **Alan Stacy**, this is a handsome and moving addition to any poetry library. Elliot has, for many years, served as Director of Poetry for Tor House. He coordinates the Prize For Poetry.

His Place for Story: Robinson Jeffers: A Descriptive Bibliography by **Michael Broomfield** (Oak Knoll Press, 2015) has been submitted as an entry for the Breslauer Prize for Bibliography, sponsored by the ILAB, International League of Antiquarian Booksellers. This prestigious award, with a prize of \$10,000, will be awarded in 2018.

The Last Word from Jeffers

IONA: THE GRAVES OF THE KINGS

I wish not to lie here.
There's hardly a plot of earth not blessed for burial, but here
One might dream badly.

In beautiful seas a beautiful
And sainted island, but the dark earth so shallow on the rock
Gorged with bad meat.

Kings buried in the lee of the saint,
Kings of fierce Norway, blood-boltered Scotland, bitterly dreaming
Tracherous Ireland.

Imagine what delusions of grandeur,
What suspicion-agonized eyes, what jellies of arrogance and terror
This earth has absorbed.

from *Descent to the Dead* (1931) [Hunt II, p.121]

RESERVATION FORM FOR JEFFERS FALL FESTIVAL 2017

[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/PHONE #/email: _____

Friday SUNSET CELEBRATION AT TOR HOUSE GARDENS

13 Oct 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Tor House Gardens, 26304 Ocean View Avenue, Carmel.
Wine and hors d'oeuvres.
Live music and performances by Lili Bitá, Taelen Thomas, Joyce Henderson.

SUNSET CELEBRATION (Reservations Required) – \$20

For ____ persons \$ _____

Saturday THE ROBINSON JEFFERS FESTIVAL

14 Oct. ***Robinson Jeffers and the Anthropocene***

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

Doors open at 8:30 am. Continental breakfast available for registered attendees.

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

1:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Aaron Yoshinobu – Jeffers and Deep Geology

Joyce Henderson reading "The Stone Axe"

Brian Calvert – Jeffers, Grief, and Ecocide

Robert Zaller – Jeffers and the Anthropocene

Dana Gioia – Jeffers and California Literature

ShaunAnne Tangney – Why Beauty Matters

David Ohanesian – A Phoenix Among the Unicorns

Joyce Henderson – A Reading from "Tamar"

Luncheon on your own at one of Carmel's outstanding restaurants

or

Preorder a Neilsen's Market Boxed Luncheon (Sandwich, Chips, Cookie - **\$12.00**)

Sandwich choice: Chicken Salad (). Ham (). Vegetarian (). \$ _____

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR BOTH FRIDAY AND SATURDAY EVENTS

SATURDAY FORUMS ONLY - \$65

For ____ persons \$ _____

ALL EVENTS PACKAGE

(FRIDAY SUNSET CELEBRATION / SATURDAY FORUMS)

\$80

For ____ persons \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Sunday ANNUAL POETRY WALK AND PICNIC with Simon Hunt.

15 Oct. Meet at 9 AM at Carmel River Beach State Park
Scenic and Carmelo, Carmel Point.

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

FREE Reservations suggested.

_____ Yes, I'll be joining the walk with _____ (number) friends and colleagues.

Mail or E-mail Reservations. Enclose or bring a check made out to the Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation.
PO Box 2713, Carmel, CA 93921

For on-line reservations see www.torhouse.org

For luncheon orders or for further information call: (831)624-1813



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

Officers: 2017

*President: Vince Huth
Vice President: Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts
2nd Vice President: Simon Hunt
Secretary: Laura Courtney Headley
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Legal Counsel: Aengus Jeffers*

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Administrative Assistant: Erin Carey
Newsletter Editor: Fran Vardamis

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website: www.torhouse.org
Office Open Mon.-Thurs. 9-1*

Fall 2017

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please check one:

- Full-time student/TH Docent \$15.00
- Senior 25.00
- Individual 40.00
- Couple 50.00
- Sponsor 100.00
- Patron 250.00
- 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**
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thf@torhouse.org www.torhouse.org