By Robinson Jeffers

TOR HOUSE

GARDEN PARTY

SUNDAY

MAY 6, 2018 2-5 PM

MUSIC & REFRESHMENTS

EXPLORE & PHOTOGRAPH
JEFFERS’ HAND-BUILT HOME,
HAWK TOWER & GARDENS
26304 OCEAN VIEW AVE
CARMEL CA  831.624.1813
ADMISSION $15
PHOTOGRAPHY PERMITTED
PLEASE NO CHILDREN UNDER 10

DESIGN & ILLUSTRATION BY DEBORAH M. RUSSELL

Illustration by Deborah Russell at www.PeridotFineArt.com
As King Solomon observed, some three plus millennia ago, “lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land.” Truly, it is that time of the year again, the time for the Tor House Spring Garden Party, an opportunity to take a closer look at this rare property and its wonders. And to consider the people who called Tor House home. Wise Solomon might have had Una Jeffers in mind when he described the ideal woman as one who “seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands…..She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff…..She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.” Tor House celebrates spring, and once more calls attention to one of the many remarkable artifacts in the Tor House collection: Una’s Spinning Wheel. In the Fall 2016 issue of this Newsletter, Kathleen Sonntag, Archivist, wrote of the history of the spinning wheel (available on the TH website).

Kris Nardello, of Santa Cruz, once again will demonstrate, at the Garden Party, the wheel and the art of spinning. Of the Tor House wheel, Trustee Debbie Sharp writes:

Tor House is full of Jeffers family possessions that speak to the family's life and the lives of the generations of family members who came before Robin, Una, Garth, and Donnan.

One of those possessions is the spinning wheel: a walking wheel was brought to America by Una's grandmother when she emigrated from Ireland in the second half of the 19th century. This type of wheel goes by many names depending on location. In colonial North America, it was called a walking wheel or wool wheel. In Ireland, it was known as a long wheel or big wheel and in Scotland it was called a muckle wheel. Regardless of the style or origin, however, the major parts are common to all of them.

Una writes of her grandmother's oak and ash wheel when her mother, Isabel Call, visited Tor House in 1927 and used the wheel: "—And so after fifty years of silence Grandmother Lindsay's wheel had performed again its intricate task. In action a spinning wheel emits a melancholy and drowsy crooning hum. There is something primitive and essential and satisfying about spinning."

Isabel herself wrote of her memories of the wheel, including first meeting her future husband when her mother brought him upstairs to meet her as she spun, barefoot, on the wheel. Isabel closes her memoir, writing, "Oh: dear old spinning wheel, with tears in my eyes I must bid you adieu, yet, I cannot but wonder who will spin on you again. I am truly glad to leave you in such loving hands as my daughter Una Jeffers."
Kris Nardello is a retired middle school teacher who has found natural dyeing and textile surface design combine both her passions: fiber arts and botany, with a touch of chemistry to keep things even more interesting. In addition to hiking and gardening with dye plants, she knits, weaves tapestries, spins her own yarn and continues to experiment with local plants as sources of dyes. Kris explains:

I learned to spin in 1972 on a Navajo spindle and was given my first spinning wheel as a Christmas gift by my husband. While earning my undergraduate degree at the Univ. of Wisconsin, I had a class in floor loom weaving and I really wanted to learn to spin and dye my own yarns. When I began teaching art in California, a weaving project was always part of the curriculum and I would bring in my spinning wheel and other tools for processing wool so my students could understand how their materials went from sheep to colored yarn.

In my understanding, it was common for immigrants to bring tools and household items considered essential in daily life with them as they traveled to America. My ancestors all came from Norway, and I have my great-grandmother’s spinning wheel which made the trip in the 1880’s in a large curved top trunk. It is smaller than the great wheel and could be disassembled. In the case of a great wheel, it would have been possible for a wheelwright or wagon maker to build a new spinning wheel, especially if the immigrant had brought the spinning head from the Old Country.

Garden party is a celebration of Springtime: the season of new beginning in nature and in the arts - all the many arts that, over the years, have flourished at this special place.

First, the poetry of Robinson Jeffers and of those he inspired. As in the past, docents will be available to explain the collections and to read Jeffers poetry in the very places where his words were first imagined. The visual arts must yield second place. Besides weaving, plein air painters will attempt to capture the beauty of the gardens in full springtime bloom. Visitors are welcome, this one day during the year, to take photographs. And then there is music: Among the many musicians will be, as last year, students of Rose Marie Dunsford. The plaintive cry of Ed Jarvis’ bagpipes will waft over the party.

And, of course, the culinary skills of docents and professional chefs will make for a truly memorable “English” Spring Garden Party, tea and punch, sweets and savories assured.

Admission to the event is $15 per person. Children must be over the age of ten. Please, no pets of any age. Weather is changeable in May, so be prepared for bright sun, ocean mists, or gentle breezes.

POEMS - FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2018 by Laura Newmark

Carmel Coastal View
A needled branch and pine trunks
frame a view toward the winter sea –
jagged cypress branches
jut above evergreen trees,
and across the bay at the headland,
beyond a soaring hawk,
white surf streams toward Point Lobos,
erupting on granite rocks.

Mist in the Santa Lucias
Following showers of late winter rain,
partially veiling the coast pines and oaks,
gauzy mist drifts across wet mountain slopes.

Photinia Blossoms
Buoyant photinia branches
sway in March wind gusts,
their glossy leaves of deep green
the background for coppery, lacy tufts
and abundant blossoms in full bloom –
a lavish display of white bouquets.

Storm Light
Between rain showers of a winter storm
Carmel Bay is a glare of light,
and bright streaks on the ocean
form a fleeting pattern of gray and white.
NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS (December 2017 – March 2018)

LIFETIME ($1000)
Douglas Borer / Judith Stiles
Alex & Claudia Webster

PATRON MEMBERSHIPS ($250)
John E Brown/Nancy L Johnson

SPONSOR MEMBERSHIPS ($100)
Howard Brunn               Richard P. Keeton
Carol Courtney            Carolyn Kleefeld
Jerilynn Crivello          Dominick & Evelyn Maio
Brian Cronwall            Michael and Nicki McMahan
Art & Betsy Fowler        Neal J Ney
George Galakatos          William T. Ondrechen
Michael Green             Robert & Diane Reid
Ruth Hartmann             Peter Serchuk
Tim & Susan Hunt

COUPLE, INDIVIDUAL, DOCENT AND SENIOR MEMBERSHIPS
Chris Anderson-Bazzoli   Jennifer Hendrickson   David W. & Nurya Love Parish
James Armstrong          Jerry Huling            James & Linda Paul
Al & Judy Babbitt        Simon & Nancy Hunt    Margaret Purchase/Paule Missud
Barbara Babcock          Neale & Ash Ingleook    Boyd & Lois Repsher
Ryan Bayless             Lindsay & Myoung Jeffers Richard Robbins
Sheila Benson            Robert Kaler           David Rothman
David & Carole Brooks    Robert Keats           David Rutgers
Michael & Patricia Busk  Frank & Barbara Keith  Sheri Sayre
Nancy Collins            Paul W. Kroll/Amy Strickland Kathleen A. Schiebold
Edwin P. Conquest, Jr.   Suzanne LaHaye        Ray & Amy Sims
Dale Ditsler             Judith Lehman          Mr & Mrs Sherwood Smith Jr.
Ed Detrixhe              Warren & Susan Long    David Stanley/Elizabeth Holliday
Diana Dunn               Teri Lovetti           Richard Stanley
Douglas & Nancie Ferguson Mr & Mrs Roland Mace    Barbara Stout
Cynthia Folkmann          XavierMaruyama/Edie McDonald Peter & Donna Thomas
Albert & Barbara Gelpi   Barbara McEnerney    Christopher & Susan Williams
Julius & Peggy Guccione  Thomas McGovern        Dan Williams & L. Anne Molin
Katharina Harlow         Francis Olson           Debra Wincott
Bernice N. Hearn         Melanie Onofrio       William & Jan Zeigler

[Please note: listings reflect only those Lifetime memberships received since the last issue of the Newsletter, as well as new and renewed memberships for the same period. 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 that fall between April and August of any given year and the Winter Issue lists September through November memberships.]
CONTRIBUTIONS (December 2017 – March 2018)

Contribution ($7,500)
Anonymous gift in support of the Tor House Gardens

Contribution ($4,000)
John and Ann Varady in support of the Tor House Annual Prize for Poetry

Contribution ($1,000)
Carol Courtney and Laura Headley, in memory of John Michael Courtney
Vince Huth
Don and Laura Newmark
Alice Phelan Sullivan Corporation

Contributions ($500 to $999)
Community Foundation of Monterey County
Albert Mears, in support of the Poetry Prize
Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts

Contributions ($100-$499)
David and Carole Brooks
John Brown
Amy Essick
Marlene Fansler
Karen Gault, in memory of Ripple Huth
Jim & Paula Karman, in memory of Lili Bita Zaller
Jim & Paula Karman, in support of Piano Restoration
Frank and Barbara Keith, in honor of the Jeffers Family
Roland and Martha Mace
Barbara Livingston
Timothy and Jane Sanders
Steven Serchuk, in honor of Peter Serchuk’s Birthday
Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts
Deborah Sharp
Fran Vardamis, in memory of Alex Vardamis

Contributions (to $99)
Mary Aldinger
Ruth S. Hartmann
Carolyn Kleefeld
Suzanne La Haye
Warren and Susan Lake Long
David Ohanesian / Susan Krivin
Francis Olson
Boyd and Lois Repsher
Barbara Stout

SAVE THE DATES: The 2018 Fall Festival will take place during the weekend of October 5-7 2018. The theme will be announced in May. Keep up to the minute with the Tor House website at www.torhouse.org.
AP students from the Steinbeck Youth Institute, Santa Monica High School, toured Tor House Saturday, March 24, with their teacher Pete Barraza, and docents Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts, Lucas Seastrom and Debbie Sharp. Afterwards, Ruchowitz-Roberts gave a mini-poetry writing workshop to the group. The students, after listening to Jeffers's poem "Tor House," were asked to write about their experience using the following first line: "If you should look for this place on a summer morning." Three of these poems follow.

**Tor House** by Ryu Akiba

If you should look for this place
On a spring morning,
Come after the rain
Brush the mud off
And search for the granite
Coarse grained quartz crystals
Guide your way to the foundations of this place.

If you can’t seem to find
That strong, solid granite
Look down the coast.
Perhaps a grain of sand
Swept by waves, flowing along the coast
Look under the sea.
Perhaps a pile of sediment
Mixed at the bottom of a deep, turbulent valley
Was once part the tower overlooking the ocean.

If not, you may have come too early.
All the pieces of this place
Gathered from around the world
Dispersed around the Pacific
Returning to the depths
Reuniting in magma
Recycling into fiery rock

If you should look for this place
On a spring morning,
Look for rock
Infused with love
Longing to connect
Searching for someone to bring them together
Into a tower by the sea.

**"By God, It Is the Sea"** by Edie Graber

If you should look for this place
On a spring morning,
Seek hawks who spread
Feathers across the bay
Listen not only to the cries
Of the sea
But to the creaks of the
Wooden steps that lead to
Nowhere in particular
If you should look for this place
On a summer morning,
Allow not your judgement
To be lost in the blinding sun
Gather shards
Put back together by millions
Of rains
Piercing the ears of the waves
That cry.

If you should look for this place
On an autumn morning,
Find yourself wishing for
The gentle light of the trees
The trees that harbor the sun,
Whose mother turned to him
And said,
“By God, it is the sea.”

If you should look for this place
On a winter morning,
Time should pass slowly,
As slow as you like
And the tower
And the desk
And the melodean
And the fire
May be yours to look for
No longer.

*******

"If You Should Look for this Place on a Spring Morning" by Larissa Lim

If you should look for this place on a Spring Morning,
you may feel spring showers
dampen your coat
dampen your hair until curls clump
dampen your eyebrows
dampen your eyelashes until each is coated in raindrops
dampen your boots
then dampen your socks
through cotton fibers, the spring showers may surprisingly permeate to your toes
These boots were made for walkin’
but they hail from a discount store in Your Town
where the little red tag said "I'm not made to receive the dark, loamy earth
on which these spring showers soak!"

They surprised me with their stubbornness to soak
me in Salinas.

The Tor House surprised me
when I bumped my head on a stone in the wall
and my recovering head looked up to see
a stone in the wall from an ancient pyramid
stuck in the wall and collected from ventures and
more often, catalogs
If you should look for this place on a Spring Morning,
look for a surprise.
We may see what we wish to see.
Lili Bita Zaller’s interpretations of Jeffers’ Greek-inspired poetry are well known at Tor House. Here follows an abbreviated obituary, “Remembering Lili Bita, Greek-American Author and Actress” from the National Herald (NYC). The article is at: https://www.thenationalherald.com/194073/remembering-lili-bita-greek-american-author-and-actress/

Lili Bita, renowned Greek author and actress, died on February 12 in Philadelphia after a tragic accident. A powerhouse of talent, Lili left her mark on all of the people who saw her perform, who read one of her twenty-one books, or who knew her as a wonderfully loyal and engaging friend. She was a prominent figure in the cultural life of Philadelphia and the tri-state area for thirty years, and was internationally acclaimed as an actress.

In a 2015 interview produced here in English for the first time, Bita spoke with trademark candor.

“‘My father was in the military. I grew up in a very sterile environment. Don’t do this. Don’t do that. Don’t speak to men. I go to Greece every year and I see a difference. The women are now much freer. The women are taking revenge after all the years of being held down and being treated like second-class citizens. It used to be that a woman got her identity, her existence, through a man. Now we don’t need men. Freedom!’

Lili toured widely with her one-woman shows, “The Greek Woman Though the Ages,” and “Freedom or Death.” She taught and gave master classes in more than 50 American universities including Villanova University, and was Artist in Residence at Drexel University. In 1995 she toured India under the auspices of the Greek government, and returned there as part of the World Shakespeare Conference in 2002.

Her verse has been translated into French, German, Spanish and Bengali. In 2014, she was elected to the Hellenic Authors Society, the oldest and most prestigious literary society in Greece.

Somerset Hall press of Boston published her two memoirs, Sister of Darkness and The Storm Rider, and her collected love poems, Fleshfire.

Bita is survived by her husband, Dr. Robert Zaller, Distinguished University Professor of History at Drexel University,

The Last Word from Jeffers [see student interpretations of this poem on the previous page]

TOR HOUSE

If you should look for this place after a handful of lifetimes:
Perhaps of my planted forest a few
May stand yet, dark-leaved Australians or the coast cypress, haggard
With storm-drift; but fire and the axe are devils.
Look for foundations of sea-worn granite, my fingers had the art
To make stone love stone, you will find some remnant.
But if you should look in your idleness after ten thousand years:
It is the granite knoll on the granite
And lava tongue in the midst of the bay, by the mouth of the Carmel
River-valley, these four will remain
In the change of names. You will know it by the wild sea-fragrance of wind
Though the ocean may have climbed or retired a little;
You will know it by the valley inland that our sun and our moon were born from
Before the poles changed; and Orion in December
Evenings was strung in the throat of the valley like a lamp-lighted bridge.
Come in the morning you will see white gulls
Weaving a dance over blue water, the wane of the moon
Their dance-companion, a ghost walking
By daylight, but wider and whiter than any bird in the world.
My ghost you needn't look for; it is probably
Here, but a dark one, deep in the granite, not dancing on wind
With the mad wings and the day moon.

from Cawdor 1928 [Hunt, Vol 1, p. 408]
Officers: 2018
President: Vince Huth
Vice President: Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts
2nd Vice President: Simon Hunt
Secretary: Laura Courtney Headley
Treasurer: Arthur Pasquinelli
Legal Counsel: Aengus Jeffers
Board Members:
Lacy Williams Buck        Rob Kafka       Alan Stacy
Stuart Crymes            James Karman     Lynn Stralem
Gere diZerega            Jean O’Brien     John Varady
Amy Essick               Norris Pope      Fran Vardamis
Al Giovanni              Deborah Sharp    Christopher Williams
Lindsay Jeffers

Administrative Assistant: Erin Carey
Newsletter Editor: Fran Vardamis

Tor House Office (831) 624-1813 - Fax (831) 624-3696
e-mail: thf@torhouse.org
website: www.torhouse.org
Office Open Mon.-Thurs. 9-1

Spring 2018

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
Tel: (831)624-1813  •  Fax: (831)624-3696
thf@torhouse.org     www.torhouse.org