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

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

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

PATRON MEMBERS
Ben Boychuk
Don & Nancy Colberg

SPONSOR MEMBERS
Robin Aeschilman
Rick Applegate
Kimberley Ayers
Mary Rose Breman
Joe Callaghan / Robin Rose
Gordon & Elizabeth Campbell

MEMBERS
Joanne Ablan
Mary Aldinger
Beth Barker
Tim Barnes
Jeff Baron / Kevin D'Angelo
Terry & Melissa Beers
Sheila Benson
Rebecca Bishop
Michael A. Broomfield
Kelly Burke
Martha Crewe
Brian Crowwall
John Driscoll
Brice Erickson
Luanne Erickson
Dr. Dianne Fergusson
Alice Ann Glenn
Tom Goff
(Memorial of Hugh Lloyd Goff)
Mack Arthur Gunter
Darrow & Gwen Haagensen
Laura Courtney Headley
Joan Hendrickson
Steven Harmann / Lori Goldrich
Carolyn Jeffers Hess
Bonnie Hoffman
Alice Holzman

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

CONTRIBUTIONS - $2,000
Coral Amende

CONTRIBUTIONS - $500 to $100
Boon Hughey in memory of Rob Kafka
Jim & Paula Karman in memory of Rob Kafka
Richard A. Levan

CONTRIBUTIONS – to $100
Thomas & Joyce Anne Antel
Ben Boychuck
Joe Callaghan/Robin Rose

[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.

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

7
Officers: 2023
President: Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts
Vice President: Norris Pope
Vice President: Susan Shillinglaw
Treasurer: Arthur Pasquinelli
Secretary: Melinda Coffey Armstead
Board Members:
Coral Amende  Aengus Jeffer  John Varady
Lacy Williams Buck  Dan Jensen  Fran Vardamis
Gere diZerega  James Karman  Aaron Yoshinobu
Vince Huth  Alan Stacy
Jeff Baron: Representative, City-of-Carmel-by-the-Sea
Trustees Emeriti:
Al Giovanni  Lynn Stralem
Lindsay Jeffer  Christopher Williams
Administrative Assistant: Melinda Bowman
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

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

Fall 2023

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