

## THE LIBRARY NEEDS YOUR HELP

The City Council is hosting two events to hear your opinions on budget items for next year. Since our Library has not received adequate funding for the past few years, it is of vital importance to voice our opinions now. This is an opportunity for the City Council to hear from you about the importance of the library to you and the community. The more people speak out on its importance, the more likely the Council will allocate needed funds.

### ***Now is the time to make your voice heard!***

#### **BUDGET TOWN HALL MEETING**

WHEN: 6:00 PM April 24

WHERE: City Council Chambers, 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way

#### **COMMUNITY FORUM**

WHEN: 5:30 PM May 1

WHERE: Palm Springs Convention Center, 277 W. Avenida Caballeros

*Following is a statement by Milt Levinson, a long-time supporter of and advocate for the Library.*

### **The Relevance of the City Library**

I have been involved with the public library for my entire life. I have always had a library card and over the past 30 years here in Palm Springs have served on and chaired the Library Board of Trustees and served on and chaired the Friends of the Palm Springs Library organization.

So it upset me when a few of our City Council members announced that the Library was no longer relevant.

My mantra regarding libraries has always been, "The Library represents the soul of the community."

I acknowledge that the Library has changed due to the digital age. With Google and other search engines, reference materials and reference librarians may be out of favor.

I remember in my youth always having an encyclopedia in our home. Indeed they were also sold to families door to door by salesmen. The gold standard in those days was the Encyclopedia Britannica. This magnificent set of reference works was published every five to ten years with yearly updates. All libraries had many sets of encyclopedias.

Now most information is obtained in digital form through computers, iPads and smartphones. Information is available almost instantaneously from anywhere. But acquiring the physical forms of information still requires a trip to the Library.

So a shift is on the way and libraries now compete with commercial establishments like Starbucks that offer free Wifi service. So many libraries are making room in former refer-



ence rooms for banks of computers. This enables the general public and those of limited means to access the Internet looking for jobs, information and finding the latest news of their community and country. Here online they can read about the local government, access council minutes and information concerning their community.

In Palm Springs, the Library continues to add more computer terminals so that daily visiting students, seniors, and children can have access.

The reading room and reading areas of the Palm Springs Library is the place you can walk into and read a daily newspaper, a magazine, or a current bestseller. The community room is the place where citizens can hear from political candidates, hear many topical speakers, view a film or documentary, join a book club, or visit with authors discussing their newest book. The children's and teen's room, in addition to books by age, also have programs that stimulate and educate our children.

Libraries also provide a meeting area where the public can congregate and share their heritage and culture. It is within libraries that we preserve our culture and the historical record of our society, our city, and our nation.

Libraries are facing budget pressures. Here in Palm Springs our chairs and tables, many over 30 years old, need replacement. The Council was reluctant to do so until a television host and reporter showed examples of torn and worn chairs. The City was shamed and agreed to replace them.

We need both the physical and digital libraries today.

Yes, our library is relevant. If we don't maintain our physical library we will lose A VITAL public and intellectual place in our community—a place where people can meet face to face. Computer terminals are a necessary as the book stacks. Everyone agrees that we need access to knowledge and sometimes this knowledge is not distributed evenly. We need innovation and digital materials along with the books. The libraries are repositories of CD's, DVD's, and books—and yes, access to e-books. We have room for all these types of knowledge.

So yes, our Library and libraries everywhere are relevant.

## AND HERE IS A BIT OF HISTORY FROM THE DESERT SUN:

The first Library Card Holder was Francis Crocker, who served as the first President of the Library Board of Trustees. He was issued the card on January 4, 1972 by Librarian Billie Lou Floan and Nancy Watt, branch Librarian at the Francis Crocker Library.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jacque Wachs

Spring is here and the Friends have been evaluating our 2017-2018 season, which proved to be very busy and productive. We had a goal of increasing our presence in the community and feel that even though we got a good start, it was only the beginning. We are in the process of planning for next season, so stay tuned.



We were very fortunate to receive additional funds from the Pollock Family Trust. Thanks to the generosity of Robert and Elaine Pollock, we were able to give the Palm Springs Library the funds to purchase additional books, CD's, DVD's, books on tape, and mobile shelving for the Youth Room. We also are supporting the Library's new online scholarship program. Read Jeannie's column for more information on this exciting venture.

As part of our Community Outreach we have been one of the benefactors for Palm Springs Speaks, a speaker series. Together with the Cultural Center we were able to bring Dan Savage, Al Gore, Deepak Chopra and Lisa Scotto-line to address packed Palm Springs audiences.

We have also had some very sad news this year with the loss of Jim and Carole Hicks, and are still devastated by the unexpected loss of our fellow board member Barbara Stanford. We cannot express our gratitude for all they have given to the Friends and they are deeply missed. We appreciate those of you who have made a donation in their name to the Friends.

I want to personally thank our Friends Board: Milt Levinson, Kat Weyer, Kate Dillon, Michael Hirschbein, Richard Ellis, Wanda Turman, Laura Miller, Jay Dunaway, Nanci Morrison, Chris Seidel, Barbara Stanford, Christine MacCalla and Cathy Brant. Your dedication, your support and your commitment to The Friends and the Palm Springs Library are priceless additions to our mission. Special thanks to Jeannie Kays, Julie Warren, and the staff of the Library for your special support.

And lastly, we want to thank all the dedicated Friends and Volunteers of the Friends for we cannot do what we do without you. We are truly fortunate to have you.

*Thank you for "Loving Your Library."*



For tickets and more information, please visit:

[palmspringsspeaks.com](http://palmspringsspeaks.com)

## DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES

Jeannie Kays

### ***Need a High School Diploma? We Can Help!***

We try to inform you regularly about how your donations benefit the library and our community. Recently the Friends Board voted to approve funds for a new program, Career Online High School (COHS). This is a program that has been gaining momentum throughout public libraries in California. The program provides a fully-accredited high school diploma and career certificate to adults ages 19 and over, free of charge.



Our Library Operations Manager, Lisa Brock wrote and successfully received a grant from the California State Library for matching funds to begin this program. We fund the scholarships so that there is no charge to students. There are now 10 scholarship slots available for adults who are committed to getting their high school diploma. Prospective students should visit our website, [www.palmspringslibrary.org](http://www.palmspringslibrary.org) and click on the link for Career Online High School to begin the two-week prerequisite program.

We encourage you to tell your friends and neighbors about this program. While we only have 10 scholarships now, we are looking forward to having successful graduating classes and offering more scholarships in the years to come. You might even know a business or individual who would SPONSOR scholarships. We encourage local businesses who have employees who need diplomas to reach out to us.

Career Online High School launched in 2011 and was accredited in February 2012 as the world's first private online school district by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission. Since February 2012, more than 12,000 students have enrolled in the program nationwide with a retention rate of approximately 65%.



**Los Angeles Public Library's most recent graduating class.**



## BOOK SALES

*Richard Ellis*



Thanks to everyone who helped with and attended our terrific Annual Sale in February and our Spring sale on April 14! Our next sale is a Summer Reading Sale scheduled for Wednesday, June 27, 2018 from 10am to 2pm in the Library lobby. And make sure to stop by our new sale area in the library any time, which is restocked daily with newly donated titles.

As we move into the slower summer months, please remember that we still need your donations of gently used books, DVDs, CDs and magazines. We also need donations of clean shopping bags to use at our sales. The many stores who once donated bags now charge for them. All donations may be deposited in our donation bin on the right as you enter the library.

## EVENTS

*Michael Hirschbein*

In February, the Friends hosted two sold-out events that netted over \$11,000. The morning featured a tour of the Dr. Hugh Stephens House, which is an early design by the architectural firm of Frey and Clark (Albert Frey and John Porter Clark), which is recognized for its use of innovative materials and forms, and as having the very first Family Room.

This tour was a collaboration of FOPSL and the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation, and we hope to do more partnerships with them in the future. The 200 tour-goers not only got to see an iconic piece of early Palm Springs architecture, but also took home the handsome PSPF publication Architecture 100 featuring 100 of the most important buildings in Palm Springs. The Board of FOPSL thanks our volunteers, the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation and the very generous homeowners, Judy and Glenn Hudgens, for making this all possible.

The afternoon event was a richly illustrated talk by noted architectural historian Alan Hess in the Library's Learning Center. Of Alan's 13 books, two deal specifically with Palm Springs (Palm Springs Weekend: The Making of a Midcentury Oasis, and Julius Schulman: Palm Springs), thus he is a true expert on our architectural heritage. The talk was titled "Desert as Muse" and offered a look into how our desert environment, both physical and social, has shaped the built environment of our community.



After the talk, Alan took questions from the audience and generously stayed on for some one-on-one discussions.

We look forward to next year's Modernism Week for more interesting events. Volunteers are always welcome.

Our last social event of the season was our Annual Meeting in March, thanks to the generous owners of Amin Casa (which means our house in Tagalog, a Philippino language) who allowed us the use of their lovely grounds at no cost. Friends were able to tour the small, lovely home of movie legend Gloria Swanson. Over seventy-five guests enjoyed light appetizers and drinks before listening to a fascinating talk by Gary Smith on the life and times of Ms Swanson. Thanks to all the Friends' Board members and volunteers who helped make this an unqualified success.

Our volunteers were busy with Library events this spring. First was the Family Fun Fest, now in its fifth year.

The next big event is the Library's Summer Reading Program, which starts June 11th and ends with the celebration on July 19th. All ages are welcome! There will be weekly programs, prizes and lots of fun for the whole family. We will need volunteers for registration and check in every week, so please let Laura know if you would like to help. Our contact information is: [info@friendsofthepalmspringslibrary.org](mailto:info@friendsofthepalmspringslibrary.org) or call 760.668.8838.



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## TREASURER'S REPORT

*Jay Dunaway*

As Spring winds down and readies to segue into Summer, The Friends can look back on a very successful 2017-2018 season; not only did we establish "Palm Springs SPEAKS" (in partnership with Palm Springs Cultural Center) – a long-dreamed-of series to sponsor leading authors – we also received contributions (particularly some well-planned estate donations) that are certain to insure our future efforts on behalf of our community's most valuable asset.

Our gifts to the Library this year included the smaller "behind the scenes" adjuncts such as monthly Event publicity and maintenance of the Grand Atrium's Koi Pond as well as our more ambitious support: \$12,000 for another full year of the exceedingly popular "Hot Off the Press" titles; \$9,400 for colorful new modular furnishings for the Youth Room; over \$3,000 for the Library's seminal "Born to Read" program geared toward the mothers of newborns; and nearly \$20,000 to provide a new age- & grade-appropriate book each week to almost 900 children in the Summer Reading Program (which literally doubled the number of attendees from the previous year).

Thanks to your generosity, the Palm Springs Library can look forward confidently to beneficial changes big (very very big!) and small on the horizon, certain that the future will hold greater enrichment for our community, backed by financial peace of mind. And with many more similar plans on the drawing board, I suggest, with a minimum of trumpeting, that you STAY TUNED because "Y'all ain't seen nothin' yet!"

## LIBRARY EVENTS

**Wednesday, April 25th Health Lecture: "Get Your Motor Running: Metabolism and Lifestyle"** presented by Regina Basterrechea the lecture will begin at 6:30 p.m. in The Learning Center at the main Library. This program is presented in partnership with the Certified Farmers' Market, a Palm Springs Cultural Center event.

**Wednesday, May 2nd Film Screening: Mixed Matched.** This film explores the role that race plays in medicine through the perspectives of mixed-race blood-cancer patients who reflect on identity and genetics in their at-

tempts to find matching bone marrow donors. The movie (Closed Captioning included) will begin at 6:30 p.m. in The Learning Center at the main Library.

**Thursday, May 3rd Resume & Job Searching Basics Class.** This hands-on, free class is offered every third month but advanced registration is required as the class size is limited. The class is from 3:00-4:30 p.m. in The Learning Center at the main Library. To register, come in to the Library or call and ask to speak to a Librarian.

**Saturday, May 5th "Lineage Societies and Huguenots"** Presented by the Palm Springs Genealogical Society with guest speaker **Wayne Rogers** followed by round-table sharing. This FREE program will be from 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in The Learning Center at the main Library.

**Thursday, May 17th PowerPoint 101--Basic Skills class.** This hands-on, free class is offered once a quarter but advanced registration is required as the class size is limited. The class is from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. in The Learning Center at the main Library. To register, come in to the Library or call and ask to speak to a Librarian.

**Saturday, May 19th PSPL Comic Con®.** All ages are welcome! There will be free swag, prizes and more! Meet local artists, pick-up free comics and get creative at the drawing and creator stations. Wear your best costume for the cosplay contests, prizes will be awarded to an adult, teen, and youths. Admission is FREE and the program will be from at 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. throughout the main Library. Fun for the whole family!

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