

Board President

NANCI MORRISON



As I write this, our library has been closed until further notice, wisely, in an overabundance of caution to protect our patrons, our staff and visitors. This is temporary although a bit odd, to be honest. Remember though that you can still check out e-books while we wait for things to swing back to normal.

That said, up until late March, we had a very busy season! The Library's yearly Summer Reading Program had the most sign-ups ever, with new readers of *all ages* participating in unprecedented numbers. Congratulations to the library for this outstanding program, which significantly increases literacy in our community every June-July. The Friends pay for the books given away weekly as well as the Grand Prizes, in a great program for the whole family.

In November, The Friends sponsored *The Legacy Wall* at the Library for two weeks (<https://legacyprojectchicago.org/legacy-wall>). During its installation, several local schools brought classes and Student Clubs to visit *The Wall* in what proved an enlightening exhibit for just about everyone. We also held several very successful Book Sale weekends—and our bookshelves inside the library are increasing every month.

Our partnership with Modernism Week in February was fantastic with our own board member Jay Dunaway exhibiting special selections from his vast dinnerware collection at the Welwood Murray Memorial Library. We also hosted a special home tour in Thunderbird Country Club; it sold out quickly and we received many favorable comments on the event. Many thanks to Michael Hirschbein for coordinating the event and to so many volunteers who made it so special! The week was topped off with Alan Hess and Michael Stern giving a wonderful lecture on Modernism architecture in Hollywood at the Library.

We were fortunate to once again be a benefactor/sponsor for Palm Springs Speaks. The season kicked-off in November with Robert Reich who spoke dynamically on politics and the future. Then, in January, the series brought the one and only Dame Joan Collins to our Valley... and what a life she has led! Investigative journalist Andrea Bernstein next compelled the audience with her insightful research and knowledge of the Trump and Kushner families. February saw actor and author Tembi Locke share keynotes on resilience, loss, motherhood and recipes from her memoir. Bob Woodward was the final speaker and a very energizing and gracious presence who shared stories of his life & significant history in the nation's capital, as well as his insights about today's political climate. Many thanks,

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Director of Library Services

JEANNIE KAYS

COVID-19 and the Library



We are in crazy days. Day to day, hour by hour, things are changing in our community regarding COVID-19, the virus more commonly known as coronavirus. The City of Palm Springs has taken steps to try to slow the spread of the virus by closing the library effective March 13, 2020 until further notice. Library employees are

working, some telecommuting and being paid but the building is not open to the public. Library material due dates are being flexed so that items need not be returned on time during the shutdown. We will keep you posted on when we will reopen. All library events have been cancelled through the end of May. We encourage you to keep yourself safe.

Here is how you can use your library card to access information, whether it be for news and information about COVID-19 or just as a diversion or educational opportunity.

New York Times online: through a grant from the California State Library, every library in California has access to The New York Times for all their patrons. This is full access to their digital edition and you avoid all pay walls. Click the link on our library website's eBooks, Movies, Music, Audiobooks & eMagazines page for your daily access code. This is at least a \$104.00 savings to you annually.

Overdrive: eBooks and downloadable audio books. Need to read? This is where you go! Use the Libby app for easy access. Are you paying for eBooks from Amazon or audio books from Audible? You do not have to because we buy them for you! Audible is \$179.40 annually if you pay for it yourself. Use Overdrive to save some money.

Kanopy video streaming: During the next several weeks, Kanopy has made available "Credit-Free Viewing" and "Kanopy Kids" completely free to library patrons. For films outside those two categories, the library is charged a small fee for each stream that you do but we have a budget for that, thanks to the City of Palm Springs and Friends of the Palm Springs Library.

AcornTV video streaming: Access British TV and films, Great Courses, ACT/SAT test prep. AcornTV is \$71.88 if you paid for it yourself. We do it for you.

RB Digital: eMagazines. Download over 100 popular titles including Dwell, Food Network Magazine, Newsweek, US Weekly, and more.

Freegal: Free and legal music downloading service. There are about 15 million songs, including the entire Sony catalog.

Treasurer's Report

JAY DUNAWAY

Your Treasurer has another bushel-full of positive news for the season thus far, as our efforts to improve your Library bear further fruit. To wit:



Everyone is reading more – or at least buying more books from our recently expanded, in-Library shelves (just behind the Registration Desk). Daily Book Sales for August (our slowest month, of course) totaled just over a respectable \$1100, then proceeded to increase with each ensuing month, finally racking up over \$2300 for the month of February – and a seasonal total thus far of almost \$10,500! To say we're delighted is a masterpiece of understatement, considering how much behind-the-scenes effort our team puts into bringing ever-refreshing, gently-used treasures to you for a buck or two. THANK YOU!

Membership for the season is also healthy thus far (\$8,600)–thanks to the many new faces and, especially, our familiar, continuing ones. Why not bring a friend into the Friends to further our efforts for the Palm Springs community's benefit?

Donations have also been notable at \$6,850 thus far. THANK YOU! And, in what may be an encouraging trend, the Friends have also received several smaller bequests this season in memory of specific individuals and welcome putting a memorialized (pre-paid) item into the Library's collection that reflects your loved one's taste for all to enjoy. Other donations gratefully received were from **Amazon Smile** (thanks to your continuing purchases on Amazon); **Ken Pengelly & David Engen** in support of the *Legacy Wall Mixer* in November; a collective \$800 in memory of former Board Member and sterling humanitarian **Milt Levinson** in December and the **Indian Canyon Neighborhood Organization** (\$500 in January). Finally, our heartfelt thanks to **The Literary Society of the Desert** for their continuing support of our efforts for your Library (\$2,500 in February).

Grants this season helped to plump up The Library's **CAREER ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL** program (which saw 3 graduates so far this year – CONGRATS)! Also, the amazing **AUEN FOUNDATION** gave The Friends \$10,000 to add Large Print, Audio & e-Books to the Library's catalogue as well as another sizable 5-figure grant toward funding the fantastic Palm Springs SPEAKS series. The **PALM SPRINGS CULTURAL CENTER** and all who helped make this season another success for the Library are to be commended, particularly Library Director Jeannie Kays and Library Services & Public Relations Manager, Julie Warren. Yours is an awesome team; your dedication to the Library an inspiration for us all. THANK YOU!

And speaking of successes, the Friends all salute our (retiring) Events Chair, Michael Hirschbein, for arranging our spectacularly successful MODERNISM WEEK 2020 events for the third year in a row. The Thunderbird Country Club Home Tour and Hollywood Homes lecture he produced garnered almost \$25,000 for The Friends! KUDOS go to EVERYONE who helped produce and docent for these events most especially Laura Miller, our Volunteer Committee Chair, who seemed to make the job of staffing the *Atomic Age Tablescapes* exhibits of 1955 dinner-

ware (requiring EIGHTY volunteer slots to be filled) appear to be child's play! I'm unabashedly proud to say the Dish Show entertained over 900 people and is on track to net close to \$7,500 for The Friends. PLUS, your Treasurer got to see 1/3 of his 50-years-in-the-making collection assembled for the first time ever–and was, quite honestly, just as impressed as our patrons, thanks go to Board colleague Edward Pollard's genius at Visual Display. "Giving Back" never felt so good!

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again, for those who coordinated these presenters.

Unfortunately, the season came to an abrupt end with the cancellation of our Annual Book Sale and the Library's subsequent closing until further notice, due to the COVID-19 situation. Also cancelled, sadly, is our Friends' Annual Meeting, which had been set for Sunday, May 3rd at the legendary Smoke Tree Ranch.

We had hoped the Coronavirus situation would have been in the rearview mirror by that time – but have decided to stay proactive & "preventative," just in case. We will, of course, keep you posted when a new date is chosen. Keep checking the website for updates and new information.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers in our many activities throughout the year as well as each of you who continue to support our efforts through your purchase of a membership. **Stay involved**–spring and summer are around the corner, as are our many other activities–and remember to Love Your Library!

New Library Advocates

The newly constituted *Palm Springs Public Library Foundation* is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit with a fifteen member still growing Board. Its mission is to continue the Library's legacy of Enriching Lives; Connecting Community; Inspiring Growth & Sparking Creativity. The Foundation also seeks to increase and broaden its use as a cultural and educational institution through financial support securing its continued place as an essential community resource. Visit the website www.PSLibraryFoundation.org and consider joining.

Annual Meeting and Book Club

The Friends Annual Meeting has been postponed while the April and May meetings of our Friends' Book Club has been moved online, contact the coordinator DavidJaxKelley@gmail.com for info.

How much will you save by using your library? Visit our website, www.palmspringslibrary.org for access to our digital resources and take some time to explore what is available.

We know that you find plenty to keep you busy! (Some of these options can be accessed directly through their mobile apps too, like Mango and Freegal.

Do not have a library card? During the library closure, email us at library.info@palmspringsca.gov, call us at 760-322-7323, or message us on Facebook, facebook.com/palmspringslibrary.org and we will get you a free temporary digital library card.

Dinnerware at Modernism Week Proved a BLAST!

ROSEMARY FLAHERTY, Friends' Board Member

As a docent for several days at the Atomic Age Tablescapes display during Modernism Week this year, I was reminded of – and inspired by – the optimism and creative modernity of the post-war period. This avant-garde dinnerware exhibit couldn't help but take most guests back to their childhood, reminding them of the special role dishes played at family meals and gatherings; no meal was ever boring when dishes like these were part of the evening's entertainment!

Nor were the dishes the only attraction – the associated visuals were also stunning. Entering a room with perfectly displayed 1955 dinnerware of extraordinary shape, color and pattern induced universal "WOW's" of inspiration, thanks to the flawless beauty created by the impressive talent of Friends' Board Member Edward Pollard, a former Visual Display professional in Manhattan.

Walking into the Cornelia White community room at the Welwood Murray Memorial Library was a wonderful experience; like re-visiting my childhood—thanks not only to the dishes on display, but to the homey accents of classic, honey-blond Heywood-Wakefield furniture and a quartet of uniquely dramatic 1950's lamps as well (by Majestic Radio and Lamp and the Heifetz Lamp Companies).

Jay Dunaway, (Friends' Treasurer and the collection's owner), was present to answer questions and share his stories with patrons every day; his warm smile, friendly conversation and extensive knowledge of the collections provided a most enjoyable experience for guests to happily reminisce about their own "Family Dinnerware Set" stories. (One guest also tipped us off to the fact that the show was the "Talk of the Town" at Modernism Boot Camp –at which we were, naturally, delighted!)

Many patrons lingered casually, touring these artistic displays more than once, trying to determine their personal favorite, which was, truly, no easy feat! CA AZTEC, the outrageously-shaped "Twilight Zone" pattern, seemed the most popular, though its sister pattern, the Calder-esque CA CONTEMPORA, proved a close second. As for third place, the "Manhattan Beatnik"-y SMART SET proved slightly more popular than the hip, hash-graphics of JACK STRAW and OASIS.

Acting as docent also provided a great opportunity to meet new friends – and new Friends of the Palm Springs Library! Among those who attended, smiles abounded, stories were told by fascinating visitors and I must admit to having enjoyed every minute of my docent experience at *Atomic Age Tablescapes*. Jay, Edward (and their crew) provided The Friends with an amazing experience that unquestionably contributed to the success of the 2020 Modernism Week.

Bravo!

In case you missed the exhibit... Here are some of the highlights





FRIENDS OF THE PALM SPRINGS LIBRARY
300 S. SUNRISE WAY • PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262

Friends of the Palm Springs Library

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An Update On The Library Building Project

After a thorough evaluation with much public comment and evaluation of criteria for five sites, the Building Committee, comprised of members appointed by the City Council, recommended to the City Council that it modify and expand the current library location in Sunrise Park. However, that consensus is now being co-ordinated with efforts to develop a Master Plan for all of Sunrise Park. And, although money had been authorized to upgrade the Frey Building (where The Friends hold their Book Sales, adjacent to the Library on Baristo Road), those funds have also been put on hold while the Park's Master Plan is developed. In the interim, The Friends hope to continue using the Frey building throughout the renovation period. the community.