Programs & Exhibits

September through November 2022
Library Hours
**Monday to Tuesday**
9 am to 6 pm

**Wednesday**
9 am to 8 pm

**Thursday to Saturday**
9 am to 6 pm

**Closed Sundays**

Library Closures
**Labor Day**
Monday, September 5

**Veterans Day**
Friday, November 11

**Early Closures**
Library closes at 5 pm
Wednesday, November 23

**Thanksgiving**
Thursday, November 24
Friday, November 25

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Nearly All of Our Programs Are FREE

File that under **fact**, not **fiction**!

Thanks to the support of our generous donors.

Unless otherwise noted, programs are presented by the **Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory Foundation**.

Keep up to date on everything happening at the Library and Observatory by signing up for our email newsletters! In addition to a monthly preview email, each Sunday morning you’ll receive an email with a detailed look at the week ahead. We’ll even send you “day-of” reminder emails for our major programs. Sign up today at ranchomiragelibrary.org or by scanning the QR code below.

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Cover Image: NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope image “Cosmic Cliffs” in the Carina Nebula NGC 3324 (image credit: NASA, ESA, CSA, and STScI)
Welcome to Your Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

Our 2022–2023 season of programming is shaping up to be one of the most exciting we’ve ever had. We’ll kick things off over the next three months by featuring speakers and performers who are longtime Library favorites, while also presenting innovative and engaging new programs we know you will enjoy.

You’ll likely notice some recent upgrades when attending programs in the Community Room. We have added two large screens to enhance the audience experience, improved the stage area, and added a private green room for our presenters and performers. If you can’t make it into the Library, you can also enjoy many of our upcoming programs via high definition live stream on our YouTube channel.

Highlights

• The Rancho Mirage Cultural Commission presents their first program of the season on November 16: a screening of *Jack Wrather: A Legacy of Film and Friendship* with filmmakers Alan K. Rode and Steven C. Smith (page 13).

• Join astronomer Dr. Mike Ressler of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to learn more about the beautiful first images from the James Webb Space Telescope on October 4 (page 15).

• Take an unforgettable magic carpet ride under the stars with our youth theatre production of Disney’s *Aladdin JR!* This full-scale Broadway style musical will feature our community’s talented young thespians strutting their stuff at the beautiful Rancho Mirage Amphitheater, November 19 and 20 (for audition and performance information see page 20).

• The Rancho Mirage Writers Festival Writers Series provides the opportunity to hear directly from major authors including Kate Quinn, Melissa Rivers, Jeffrey Frank, television legend James Burrows, and more (page 22).

In addition to the programs you’ll find in this guide, in the months ahead you’ll have the opportunity to enjoy an entire season of exciting lifelong learning opportunities. The support received through donations, grants, and sponsorships to the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory Foundation are what makes what we do possible. If you’d like to learn how you can help, or easily donate online, visit ranchomiragelibrary.org

Your partners in lifelong learning,
The Staff of Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

People of all abilities are encouraged to attend Library programs. If you have special communication or access needs, please contact the Library at 760-341-7323 four business days in advance of the event(s) you will attend.
Meet our Staff

Jeffery Durham, Reference Librarian

Jeff has been with the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory since October 2017. He has chosen a life of service, first as a Franciscan friar and now as a librarian. He has worked as the Medical Librarian for Desert Regional Medical Center, as a librarian with the Santa Barbara Mission Archive Library to develop and improve the find-ability of Franciscan resources, as a chaplain at the Gubbio Project in San Francisco’s Tenderloin, and as a hospital chaplain at San Francisco General Hospital. In addition to holding a Master of Library and Information Science degree, he possesses Master of Theological Studies and Master of Ministry degrees. All of these form his approach to librarianship.

“As humans we are relational beings. The library is not a closed system but rather a complex series of fluid, enriching relationships.”

Stephen Mediano, Library Clerk II

Daniel is a Library Clerk II who has been with the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory since June of 2020. He was raised in Pismo Beach on the beautiful Central Coast of California. Growing up, Daniel recalls his weekly visits to the local library. He feels those trips made a big impact on him and cultivated a love of books and reading from a young age. He moved to San Francisco and Miami before settling here in the desert in 2018. In his spare time, Daniel enjoys collecting vinyl records, vegetarian cuisine, meditation and of course, reading. Daniel is both proud and excited to be a part of the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory team.

“The Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory seeks to inspire lifelong learning. As a former educator, that is a vision I share. I look forward to assisting the great team here as we work to achieve that mission.”

Stephen Garcia, Audio Visual Technician

From comedy acts to rock and roll, Stephen’s production experience has included various types of shows including Joe Walsh, Bill Burr, Los Tucanes de Tijuana, and Joan Rivers. Before joining the Library and Observatory team, he passed down the knowledge he gained in the entertainment industry to his students as the Technical Director for the Compass Theatre Acting Company at Palm Desert High School.

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“Providing a service for the community is one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life. The team here is unparalleled in their devotion, drive, and talent. I feel as though I am not only valued for what I can contribute to the library and to the community, but also for who I am as a human being. The Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory truly is like a family, and I feel so very blessed to be a part of it.”
Meet our Staff • September through November 2022

David Murguia, Library Clerk II

Born and raised in California, David joined the Library in April of 2007. Over the years you may have seen him shelving DVDs, giving an Observatory tour, or at the checkout desk. His time at the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory has cultivated a passion for libraries and the communities they serve. In 2020, he earned an Associate degree in Library and Information Technology.

“During my 15 years at the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory, I have seen how valuable libraries and their services are to the communities they serve. Being here during the hard times has ignited a fervor for library services that transformed a part-time job I thought I’d be at for a few years into a career.”

J Fabian Pimentel, Library Clerk II

J was born and raised in California. He has been with the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory since July 2015. J has a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and has a work background in retail management and retail pharmacy. He loves helping people and serving our community.

“I feel very blessed and fortunate to be employed by the City. The Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory is a wonderful place for families to come learn, play, and experience programming that few places get the opportunity to offer. Also, it’s always nice seeing our patrons’ faces light up when a book they’ve been waiting for is finally ready for them to checkout.”

In Memoriam—Charles Monell, M.D. (1930–2022)

The high-quality programming and access to resources and materials we enjoy at the Library and Observatory today are the direct result of the foresight and hard work of the community leaders who created this institution over 25 years ago. It was with great sadness that we learned of the recent passing of Dr. Charles Monell, a man who was instrumental in the early development of the Rancho Mirage Public Library. He served on the City’s Library Commission and chaired the Library Building Committees for the first Library that opened in 1996 and the newly constructed building that opened in 2006. Over the past quarter century, Dr. Monell and his husband, Gerald “Jerry” Benston, M.D. (1927–2016), continued to support the Library in a number of ways. They donated priceless collections, such as the illuminated manuscripts found in the Special Collections Room, and personally contributed to and spearheaded the fundraising efforts required to purchase the Steinway Concert Grand piano so enjoyed by performers and program audiences alike. It is with unending gratitude that we celebrate Dr. Monell’s legacy: a love of learning, literature, and culture that will continue to infuse all we do at the Library and Observatory.

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Look for the ram’s head icon that marks our Premier programs!

All residents of Rancho Mirage and donors who contribute $100 or more annually to the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory Foundation can take advantage of priority seating for Premier programs by arriving early.
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Community Showcase

Book Discussion Group

The Library’s Book Discussion Group meets on the second Friday of each month. No advance sign-up is necessary! If you have any questions and for more information, please contact Reference Librarian Jeffery Durham at (760) 341-7323 ext. 781 or email JefferyD@ranchomiragelibrary.org.

Friday, September 9
10–11 am
Three-Martini Lunch
by Suzanne Rindell

Friday, October 14
10–11 am
Not For Everyday Use
by Elizabeth Nunez

Thursday, November 10
10–11 am
Our Town
by Thornton Wilder
LifeStream Blood Drive
Friday, October 21
9 am–2 pm
Support your community and join us for a blood drive! Throughout the year the Library and Observatory partners with LifeStream to host these important events. Please be sure to drink plenty of fluids and bring photo ID with proof of age. Donors under the age of 17 must bring a signed LifeStream parental consent form. To learn more and sign-up in advance, visit lstream.org/rmpl or call 1-800-979-4484.

FALL BOOK SALE BOUNTY

Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory Foundation
Fall Book Sale Bounty
This big event features an enormous selection of gently-used books at affordable prices.
Wednesday, November 2, 9 am–5 pm
Thursday, November 3, 9 am–5 pm
Friday, November 4, 9 am–3 pm
Shannon Bush • Culinary Journey Series

Join us on the third Tuesday of the month in September, October, and November as we travel the world with Chef Shannon to explore delicious, plant-based foods inspired by the cuisine of three countries.

Chef Shannon Bush has been a plant-based chef for over 30 years. She has worked as an executive chef, head baker, caterer, and culinary instructor. She loves to demonstrate the many benefits of plant-based eating and to prove that healthy food can be delicious!

Tuesday, September 20, 2–3 pm: Mediterranean Journey
Explore plant-based favorites from this “Blue Zone” area (1 of 5 regions in the world where people are the healthiest) and learn to make the food that helps these people routinely live to be centenarians.

Tuesday, October 18, 2–3 pm: Asian Journey
Learn to make meals inspired by China, South Korea, and the Philippines.

Tuesday, November 15, 2–3 pm: Americana Journey
We’ll have great fun in this class creating delicious plant-based versions of classic American favorites.
**Pickleball Pioneer Roger BelAir**  
**Tuesday, November 22, 2–3 pm**

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the world, with new players picking up a paddle every day, and Rancho Mirage resident Roger BelAir is one of the game’s most enthusiastic supporters. It is where Roger has chosen to focus his passion for promoting and teaching pickleball that is now changing the lives of those truly in need of something new and positive on which to focus. Just a few weeks after the 2022 USA Pickleball National Championships in Indian Wells, we’ll continue to celebrate the sport by hearing Roger share his journey to becoming the “Pioneer of Prison Pickleball.”
Lenore Raphael • Jazz Pianist
Wednesday, October 12, 7–8 pm

Steinway artist and Library favorite Lenore Raphael has toured the world and played in many of the great jazz spots. Along the way she has played with greats including Clark Terry, Jon Hendricks, Howard Alden, Bucky Pizzarelli, Ken Peplowski, and more. Influenced by Oscar Peterson, Bud Powell, and Bill Evans, she has taken these styles and created her own recognizable sound. Her album Loverly received the BBC Jazz Network’s “Best International Recording” award.

Lenore will be joined for this performance by Steve Hobbs on vibraphone and Hilliard Green on bass. In addition to Raphael’s original music, the group will be playing songs from the Great American Songbook, the bebop masters, and early jazz, including tunes by Duke Ellington. Join us at the Library for a night of fantastic jazz!

Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderighi • Four Hands Jazz Piano
Wednesday, October 26, 7–8 pm

Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderighi are thrilled to return to the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory and present their new four-hands piano arrangements of numbers from the classic jazz repertoire and tunes from the Great American Songbook. Pioneers in the use of four-hands piano in jazz, Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderighi have earned widespread success with their interpretations of classics from the stride piano, ragtime, and boogie woogie traditions, as well as from the Swing Era and the Golden Age of Tin Pan Alley. In recent projects, they have focused on the repertoire created during a time when musicals were at the heart of popular culture: the Classical Hollywood Cinema period and the Golden Age of Broadway, since the songs written between the 1920s and 1960s represent a high point and creative ferment in American popular music. Blending impeccable technique with mature musicality, the piano duo has performed across the United States, Europe, and Asia, winning the acclaim of critics and fans alike.

This program is made possible by the Bartush Performing Arts Fund.
Met to Broadway • It’s All About Love!

Wednesday, November 9, 7–8 pm

“It’s All About Love” features six professional singers offering selections from Opera and Broadway accompanied by local favorite Kurt Jordan on the piano. Sopranos Michelle Fiore and Ana Rangel, tenors Andrew Bird and Christian Quevedo, baritone Paul Kowal, and bass-baritone Doug Nagel will perform arias, duets, and trios from Traviata, Phantom, Bohème, On the Town, Carousel, Tannhäuser, and Into The Woods, to name some.

Ms. Fiore is the 2019 Desert Theater League’s Outstanding Supporting Female Performer, and Second Place Winner in the McCallum Open Call Talent Competition. Ms. Rangel has her Master’s in Voice from the University of Redlands. Mr. Bird sang in the Chicago and LA Symphony Chorales and sings in A Cabbello. Mr. Quevedo, who studies at UC San Bernardino, will make his operatic debut as Narraboth in Rimrock Opera’s Salome in 2023.

Mr. Kowal sings with Modern Men and A Cabello. Mr. Nagel is the former artistic director of Rimrock Opera, and a retired University Professor, residing in the Coachella Valley.

This program is made possible by the Bartush Performing Arts Fund.

Jim Borax’s California Cabaret

Wednesday, November 30, 7–8 pm

This program will take place at the Rancho Mirage Community Amphitheater, located in Rancho Mirage Community Park at 71560 San Jacinto Drive.

Join an enthusiastic audience for a memorable performance by Jim Borax’s California Cabaret, a Rancho Mirage-based entertainment group with a large following. These outstanding professional singers and dancers (several with Broadway experience) will perform unforgettable standards from the Great American Songbook. The ensemble has been featured on both CBS and CNN. The Cabaret has also performed their music and dance routines throughout the Coachella Valley. For an hour of great entertainment, come to the California Cabaret!

This program is made possible by the Borax Charitable Fund.

Held at the Rancho Mirage Amphitheater
The Films of Stanley Kramer and Spencer Tracy

Award-winning educator James Griswold returns this fall with an all new series of classic films. Director Stanley Kramer collaborated with star Spencer Tracy to create “message films” that put a spotlight on discrimination, hatred, prejudice, and excessive power. Griswold will introduce each film and provide some questions to consider as you watch, then follow up each screening with an informal “talk-back” session for those interested.

*Inherit the Wind (1960)*
Monday, October 10, 1 pm
Based on the famous Scopes trial of 1925, two great lawyers argue the case for and against a science teacher accused of the crime of teaching evolution.

*Judgment at Nuremberg (1961)*
Monday, October 17, 1 pm
In 1948, an American court in occupied Germany tries four Nazis judged for war crimes.

*Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner (1967)*
Monday, October 24, 1 pm
A couple’s attitudes are challenged when their daughter introduces them to her African-American fiancé.
Rancho Mirage Cultural Commission Presents Jack Wrather: A Legacy of Film and Friendship with Alan K. Rode and Steven C. Smith

Wednesday, November 16, 7–8:30 pm

The short documentary Jack Wrather: A Legacy of Film and Friendship tells the remarkable story of the Texas oil millionaire who produced film noir classics; built and owned the original Disneyland Hotel; produced hit TV series like Lassie and The Lone Ranger; and with his wife, movie star Bonita Granville, were successful hoteliers in their beloved Palm Springs. Join us for the first public showing of this new film, a critically acclaimed special feature accompanying the Film Noir Foundation’s home video release of 1947 thrillers The Guilty and High Tide (Flicker Alley, 2022).

The screening will be introduced by the documentary’s producers, Alan K. Rode and Steven C. Smith. After the documentary, Alan and Steven will share stories from the golden age of film noir and discuss their most memorable encounters with such stars as Kirk Douglas, Richard Widmark, and Ernest Borgnine. They will also answer your questions in what is guaranteed to be a lively Q&A.

Alan K. Rode is a biographer and film scholar. He produces and hosts cinema events and has appeared in, produced, and written numerous documentaries about classic Hollywood. Alan is the executive producer and host of the annual Arthur Lyons Film Noir Festival, which has taken place in Palm Springs for over 20 years. His latest book, Blood on the Moon and the Birth of the Noir Western, is due for publication in early 2023.

Steven C. Smith is an award-winning biographer and four-time Emmy-nominated producer whose work includes documentaries on several noir classics. Steven has written about the music of noir in two biographies: Music by Max Steiner: The Epic Life of Hollywood’s Most Influential Composer and A Heart at Fire’s Center: The Life and Music of Bernard Herrmann.
Swoon @ the Moon!
Saturday, October 1 • 7:30–9 pm
Monday, October 31, 6:30–8 pm

Please join us at the Observatory to view the Moon in its first quarter phase. Explore volcanic features, impact craters, and lunar swirls! It’s also prime time to view the terminator—where light meets dark. Everyone is welcome, and no registration is necessary for this self-guided, open house style event.

Observatory Tours

Take a daytime tour of the Observatory to learn more about the facility and its history, see a live view of the sun through our solar telescope (when available), check out the Cosmic Office, and enjoy a presentation via our Integrated Space Theater inside the dome. No registration necessary. For dates and times visit ranchomiragelibrary.org/observatory.

Stargazing

See registration dates and times at ranchomiragelibrary.org/stargazing.

Our free stargazing programs include viewing several different objects on the deck, a constellation tour, and viewing even more through our PlaneWave Instruments CDK700 telescope in the dome. The program is led by City Astronomer Eric McLaughlin, Observatory Program Coordinator Lauren Zuckerberg, or a trained docent. Guests are provided information throughout the experience and encouraged to ask questions!

Spaces for stargazing programs fill up extremely quickly. We suggest being online to reserve your space as soon as registration opens for the next set of events. Rancho Mirage residents and Donor cardholders can register one week early by visiting the Library Information Desk.
Dr. Mike Ressler • James Webb Space Telescope First Images  
Tuesday, October 4, 2–3 pm

After a spectacular launch on Christmas Day 2021, the James Webb Space Telescope unfolded and settled into its final orbit. During the following six months, operation of the observatory was thoroughly checked, and Webb was declared ready for science by the end of June, culminating in the release of the first images on July 12. Dr. Mike Ressler will describe those images, both as beautiful pictures in their own right and as harbingers for the spectacular science that will come in the future.

Dr. Ressler is an astronomer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory who has been working on JWST’s Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI) since its original concept study in 1997. He was also a science team member and detector specialist for the all-sky survey Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) mission, and is now working on a new NASA mission to discover and characterize near-earth asteroids and comets (NEOSurveyor).

Total Lunar Eclipse Live Stream

Online program • Tuesday, November 8, 1:30–4 am

Please join us online in the wee morning hours on Tuesday, November 8 for a live stream event to view the Moon travel through the Earth’s shadow, giving it a lovely red hue, known as a lunar eclipse. Beginning at 1:30 am PST, City Astronomer Eric McLaughlin will train our telescopes on the Moon to get views of this fascinating astronomical event! Watch on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/RanchoMirageLibraryObservatory!

Library Telescope Program

Thanks to a generous grant from the Smaby Family Foundation, we are lending portable, user-friendly telescopes to patrons! Look up the Orion StarBlast in our catalog, or ask a clerk at the Checkout Desk!
Kids, Teens, and Families

Storytimes

Tiny Tots
Ages 3 and under • Tuesdays at 10 am, Wednesdays at 10 and 11 am
25 minutes of lively songs, fingerplays, action rhymes, flannel board stories, and books, followed by a coloring activity, will delight the young ones.

Preschool
Ages 4 and up • Thursdays at 10 am
30 minutes of engaging stories, songs, and active rhymes captivate the imagination of children. Coloring sheets and simple crafts round out the themed storytime experience.

We suggest that participants arrive early so that all can benefit from the total experience and minimize disruptions. Space is limited. First come, first serve.

Animal Companion Therapy • Animal Samaritans
Reading Program
Wednesday, September 7, 3–4 pm • Wednesday, September 21, 3–4 pm
Wednesday, October 5, 3–4 pm • Wednesday, October 19, 3–4 pm
Wednesday, November 2, 3–4 pm • Wednesday, November 16, 3–4 pm
Wednesday, November 30, 3–4 pm
Join us on these dates for an afternoon of fun as Animal Samaritans bring their Animal Companion Therapy Dogs to the Children’s Room for you to practice your reading skills by reading to them.

Family Night
Roald Dahl • Wednesday, September 7, 5:30–7 pm
Join us for an evening full of magic as we explore the world of Roald Dahl’s books. Come make crafts based on favorite novels such as Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, James and the Giant Peach, Matilda, and so much more!

Fire Safety • Wednesday, October 5, 5:30–7 pm
Join us as the Rancho Mirage Fire Department comes to teach us about fire safety.

Picture Book Month • Wednesday, November 2, 5:30–7 pm
Join us as we celebrate picture books. We’ll be reading some of our favorite stories and making crafts based on our favorite books.
Design It • Make It

A monthly program that sparks creativity and imagination with STEAM/STEM projects (recommended for ages 5+).

Zipline Races • Friday, September 16, 4–5 pm
With materials provided, come build a propelled racer and watch it zip down the line.

Marbling • Friday, October 14, 4–5 pm
Using different techniques, join us for an afternoon of marbling your own paper.

Paper Airplane • Friday, November 18, 4–5 pm
Come design and fold your own airplane to see it soar across the Community Room.

LEGO Night

Build with us! Each month has a theme. It’s up to you whether your creation reflects that theme or your own individual expression. Work alone or in a group. You’ll have 45 minutes to build, 5 minutes to clean up, and 10 minutes to show off your work. Creations will be displayed until the following month. For kids ages five and up.

Pets
Wednesday, September 28, 5–6 pm

Halloween
Wednesday, October 26, 5–6 pm

Gratitude—What Are You Thankful For?
Wednesday, November 30, 5–6 pm

Halloween Spooktacular
Saturday, October 29, 2019, 1–4 pm
Join us at 1 pm for trick or treating and a costume parade throughout the Library. After the parade, Christopher T. Magician will be performing his Halloween magic show in the Community Room.
Younger Kids Book Discussion (Ages 7–9)
For the first half hour, we will be discussing the books. An activity will be planned for the second half of the hour, based on our reading material. Register online and pick up a copy of the book in the Children’s Room.

**Stella Endicott and the Anything-Is-Possible Poem**
Friday, September 23, 4–5 pm
By Kate DiCamillo (A.R. level 3.9)

**Skunk and Badger**
Friday, October 21, 4–5 pm
By Amy Timberlake (A.R. level 4.2)

**Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things**
Wednesday, November 23, 4–5 pm
By Leonore Look (A.R. level 3.8)

Older Kids Book Discussion (Ages 10–12)
Every second Monday of the month. Register online and pick up a copy of the book in the Children’s Room.

**The House on Hoarder Hill**
Monday, September 12, 4–5 pm
By Mikki Lish and Kelly Ngai (A.R. level no test)

**96 Miles**
Monday, October 10, 4–5 pm
By J. L. Esplin (A.R. level 5.2)

**Restart**
Monday, November 14, 4–5 pm
By Gordon Korman (A.R. level 5.1)
Teen Book Discussion (Grades 6–12)
The first 10 registrants will receive a free copy of the book. Registration is required.

**An Enchantment of Ravens**
Wednesday, September 7, 5:30–6:30 pm
By Margaret Rogerson.

**Stalking Jack the Ripper**
Wednesday, October 5, 5:30–6:30 pm
By Kerri Maniscalco.

**The Scorpio Races**
Wednesday, November 2, 5:30–6:30 pm
By Maggie Stiefvater.

Creative Writing Club
Ages 9-14 • Thursdays from 4–5 pm, September 1 through October 27
An all new program is coming this fall! Kids ages 9–14 can join us once a week for Creative Writing Club. Participants will learn creative writing techniques and processes, become confident writers, and feel inspired to continue writing. Each weekly session will include an icebreaker, discussion, and writing exercise. Participants will receive a colorful journal and pen and have their writing included in a club anthology. Please plan to attend all nine weeks and register at ranchomiragelibrary.org.
Aladdin JR.

Disney’s *Aladdin JR.* is based on the 1992 Academy Award®-winning film and the 2014 hit Broadway show about the “diamond in the rough” street rat who learns that his true worth lies deep within. With expanded characters, new songs, and more thrills, this new adaptation of the beloved story opens up “a whole new world” for all to enjoy!

**Auditions**

*Tuesday, September 6 to Thursday, September 8*

Local youth ages 7–17 can audition to join our production of *Aladdin JR.* Auditions will be at the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory in the Community Room. To learn more and register, visit [www.desert-theatricals.com/junior-theatre](http://www.desert-theatricals.com/junior-theatre). **There is no cost to audition or take part in our youth theatre program.** Jump on the magic carpet to have fun, make friends, and learn new skills. The experience includes fully orchestrated show music, amazing costumes, professional scenery and props, performances at Rancho Mirage Amphitheater, and instruction from award-winning theatre professionals!

**Performances**

*Saturday, November 19, 7–8 pm • Sunday, November 20, 7–8 pm*

Performances will take place at the Rancho Mirage Community Amphitheater, located in Rancho Mirage Community Park at 71560 San Jacinto Drive. Admission to the performance is free, however tickets are required. Visit [www.desert-theatricals.com](http://www.desert-theatricals.com) to reserve your tickets.

**Coming in 2023: Willy Wonka JR. and Charlotte’s Web!**

Rancho Mirage youth theatre programs are facilitated by Desert Theatricals and made possible by the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory Foundation and a generous gift from the Richard Brooke Foundation.
Astro Art
October 1–31

In just a few short years, our patrons have been inspired by the architectural beauty of the Rancho Mirage Observatory and the endless wonder of the night sky. Check out our exhibit in the David Bryant Showcase in the Library's lobby to see our collection of paintings, drawings, photography, and even LEGO art! You will also find photos of the most captivating astronomical objects that our PlaneWave Instruments CDK700 telescope has taken. This display will be available during October 2022.
Rancho Mirage Writers Festival

Writers Series

The Writers Series is sponsored by the Rancho Mirage Writers Festival Foundation and presents a series of talks by eminent authors throughout the year. These talks will also be live streaming on our YouTube page youtube.com/ranchomiragelibraryobservatory and available to view at www.rmwritersfest.org/videos/writers-series.

Ashley Weaver • The Key to Deceit
Friday, September 23, 2–3 pm

Ashley Weaver is the Edgar Award-nominated bestselling author of the Amory Ames mysteries and the Electra McDonnell series. In addition to being a popular author of mystery books, she is also the Branch Manager for the Allen Parish Libraries in Louisiana. *The Key to Deceit* is Weaver’s second book in the Electra McDonnell series and is a delightful World War II mystery filled with spies, murder, romance, and wit. **The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of *The Key to Deceit***.

Edward J. Larson • Franklin & Washington: The Founding Partnership
Friday, October 7, 2–3 pm

Edward J. Larson is a historian, educator, and author. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1997 for his book *Summer for the Gods*, which covers the Scopes trial and America’s continuous debate over science and religion. Larson’s most recent book, *Franklin & Washington: The Founding Partnership*, is a masterful, first-of-its-kind dual biography of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, showing that theirs was truly an intimate working friendship that amplified the talents of each for collective advancement of the American project. **The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of *Franklin & Washington***.
Kirk Wallace Johnson • The Fishermen and the Dragon: Fear, Greed, and a Fight for Justice on the Gulf Coast
Thursday, October 20, 2–3 pm

Kirk Wallace Johnson is an author and screenwriter. His books include The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century and To Be a Friend is Fatal: the Fight to Save the Iraqis America Left Behind. Johnson’s gripping new book, The Fishermen and the Dragon, depicts a community set on fire by hatred, xenophobia, and ecological disaster. Drawing upon a trove of never-before-published material, case files, and interviews, the book braids corporate malfeasance with a battle over shrinking natural resources, at a turning point in the modern white supremacist movement, and highlights one woman’s relentless battle for environmental justice. The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of The Fishermen and the Dragon.

Kate Quinn • The Diamond Eye
Tuesday, October 11, 2–3 pm

Kate Quinn is the New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of historical fiction. Quinn’s latest book, The Diamond Eye, is an enthralling historical novel about two women—a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947—who are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption. Based on a true story that takes place in Kyiv, The Diamond Eye is a haunting novel of heroism born of desperation, of a mother who became a soldier, and of one of history’s deadliest female snipers, who found her place in the world and changed the course of history forever. The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of The Diamond Eye.

Melissa Rivers • Lies My Mother Told Me: Tall Tales from a Short Woman
Tuesday, October 25, 2–3 pm

New York Times bestselling author and award-winning producer Melissa Rivers is an entertainment journalist and correspondent, an equestrian, an Ivy League graduate, an accomplished public speaker, and an animal advocate. While her professional achievements are plentiful, it is her role as a single parent to her son Cooper that Melissa calls her greatest accomplishment. She is the daughter of the late comedian Joan Rivers and author of numerous books, including the just-released Lies My Mother Told Me: Tall Tales from A Short Woman. The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of Lies My Mother Told Me.
Janet Skeslien Charles • The Paris Library
Thursday, October 27, 2–3 pm

Janet Skeslien Charles is the award-winning author of Moonlight in Odessa and The Paris Library, an instant New York Times, Washington Post, and USA Today bestseller. The book has two protagonists: a young Parisian woman who loves books and becomes a war bride and an American girl who, years later, becomes captivated by her elderly French neighbor. But the real star of The Paris Library is the American Library in Paris, the largest English-language library on the European mainland. Founded in 1920, the library remained open during World War II and managed to get books into the hands of its subscribers, as well as to English, American, and French soldiers. The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of The Paris Library.

Amy Odell • ANNA: The Biography
Friday, October 28, 2–3 pm

Amy Odell is a veteran fashion and culture journalist who currently authors the influential newsletter Back Row, which reaches thousands of readers in the fashion industry and beyond. Her primary interest is the intersection of power, fashion, culture, and social issues. Her latest book, ANNA: The Biography, is the definitive biography of Anna Wintour and follows the steep climb of an ambitious young woman who would—with singular and legendary focus—become one of the most powerful people in media. ANNA was an instant New York Times bestseller and was named by Bloomberg as one of the “10 Most Compelling Books to Put on Your Reading List This Spring.” The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of ANNA: The Biography.

Jeffrey Frank • The Trials of Harry S. Truman: The Extraordinary Presidency of an Ordinary Man, 1945–1953
Monday, November 7, 2–3 pm

The Trials of Harry S. Truman, is the first full account of the Truman presidency in nearly thirty years. Jeffrey Frank reports that at his low point in his time as president, Truman’s popularity rating was at 16 percent. However, seventy years later, according to the latest C-SPAN survey, he was ranked sixth most effective of the 46 U.S. presidents. The book recounts how so ordinary a man met the extraordinary challenge of leading America through the mid-twentieth century. The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of The Trials of Harry S. Truman.
Jeffrey Frank • Ike and Dick: Portrait of a Strange Political Marriage
Tuesday, November 8, 2–3 pm

In Ike and Dick, Jeffrey Frank offers fresh views of the striving, uneasy young Nixon and of Eisenhower, the legendary commander in failing health, far more comfortable with international affairs than with problems besetting the United States. Behind the scenes and beyond the headlines, Ike and Dick, informed by deep archival research and dozens of interviews, provides a captivating look at the presidency and the nation. The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of Ike and Dick.

James Burrows in Conversation with David Lee • Directed by James Burrows: Five Decades of Stories from the Legendary Director of Taxi, Cheers, Frasier, Friends, Will & Grace, and More
Thursday, November 10, 2–3 pm

Legendary sitcom director James Burrows has spent five decades making America laugh. Burrows is one of Hollywood’s most loved and prolific directors, best known for his smash TV hits such as Friends, Cheers, Taxi, Will & Grace, The Mary Tyler Moore Show, and more. Directed by James Burrows is an insightful and nostalgic memoir that offers a bounty of behind-the-scenes moments from our favorite shows, peeling away the layers behind how a successful sitcom comes together—and stays that way. David Lee is the co-creator of Wings and Frasier, for which he also wrote, produced, and directed. The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of Directed by James Burrows.

Patrick Radden Keefe • Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty
Monday, November 14, 11 am–12 pm

Patrick Radden Keefe is an award-winning staff writer at The New Yorker and a New York Times bestselling author. Empire of Pain is a grand, devastating portrait of three generations of the Sackler family, famed for their philanthropy, whose fortune was built by Valium and whose reputation was destroyed by OxyContin. It is a portrait of the excesses of America’s second Gilded Age, a study of impunity among the super elite and a relentless investigation of the naked greed and indifference to human suffering that built one of the world’s greatest fortunes. The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of Empire of Pain.

This series is made possible by a generous gift from the Rancho Mirage Writers Festival Foundation.
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**Community Showcase**

**RMWF Writers Series**

**Lectures**

**Theatre**

**Kids, Teens, and Families**
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Assorted Day 1: AstroArt 21
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- **Community Showcase**
- **Lectures**
- **RMWF Writers Series**
- **Music**
- **Film**
- **Observatory**
- **Theatre**
- **Kids, Teens, and Families**
- **Premier Program**