



# Programs & Exhibits

**December 2023 through  
February 2024**



RANCHO MIRAGE  
LIBRARY & OBSERVATORY  
FOUNDATION

## Library Hours

**Monday to Saturday**

9 am to 6 pm

**Closed Sundays**

## Library Closures

**Winter Holidays**

Monday, December 25 to

Monday, January 1

**Martin Luther**

**King, Jr. Day**

Monday, January 15

**Rancho Mirage**

**Writers Festival**

Friday, January 26 to

Tuesday, February 6

**Presidents' Day**

Monday, February 19



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Cover Image: Caro Pierotto  
performs January 17

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](http://ranchomiragelibrary.org) or by  
scanning the QR code below.



# Welcome to Your Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

Appreciation for arts and culture is alive and well in the Coachella Valley, and here at the Library we are proud to offer plenty of unique opportunities to enjoy the arts. Now on permanent display, the *Persian Tower* by world-renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly was recently unveiled and has become the visual centerpiece at the heart of the Library (learn more on page 16). Over the next several months, you can also enjoy the one-of-a-kind pop art of Joshua Tree artist L.A. Marler throughout the Library and peruse her incredible collection of antique typewriters in the lobby showcase. In March, we'll be hosting the annual Artists Studio Tour and Pop-Up Gallery presented by the Rancho Mirage Cultural Commission, which means now is the time for Rancho Mirage-based artists to apply, as this year's entry deadline is January 15. We look forward to celebrating the arts with you this winter!

## Additional Highlights

- Film expert **Steven C. Smith** is back to discuss three more classic films that changed the movie business in our Hollywood Gamechangers series starting with *The Maltese Falcon* on December 4 (page 12).
- The Rancho Mirage Cultural Commission will help us continue to celebrate our city's 50th anniversary as local architectural historian **Melissa Riche** presents **From Small Subdivision to Country Club City: How Rancho Mirage Grew** on February 8 (page 10).
- Be swept away into the lush, romantic musical world of Spanish lyric drama on February 21 as we partner with the Palm Springs Opera Guild to present **Viva Zarzuela!** (page 21).
- Our successful new **STEAM Reads** program continues with exciting opportunities for young readers to meet authors in person and explore science, technology, engineering, art, and math through popular fiction (page 26).

The support received through donations, grants, and sponsorships to the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory Foundation is what makes what we do possible. If you'd like to learn how you can help, or easily donate online, visit [ranchomiragelibrary.org](http://ranchomiragelibrary.org)

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Library will be closed January 26 through February 6 to host the Tenth Annual Rancho Mirage Writers Festival. Resources will remain available on our website, and other libraries in the Valley will be ready to serve you in person.

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.

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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.



SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with DART spacecraft (image: NASA)



The USA in World War II (image: National Archives)



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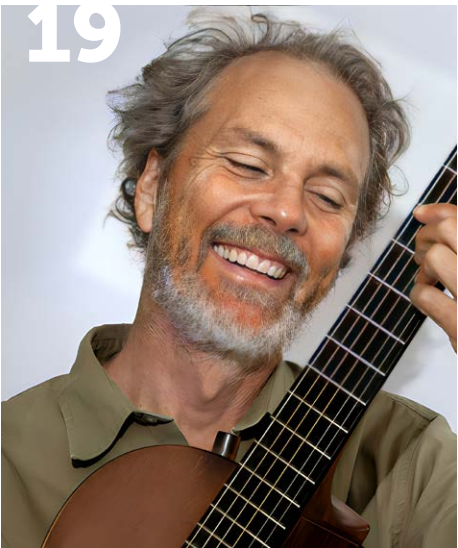
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Persian Tower by Dale Chihuly



Peter Sprague

# Did You Know Our Programs Are on YouTube ?

You may have seen Library and Observatory programs featured on Rancho Mirage Television (RMTV), but did you know that our YouTube channel has a library of over 200 videos that you can access online for free? Many of our upcoming programs will be live streamed, and you'll also find past lectures, author appearances, concerts, and more! To access our channel, simply visit our website and click on the link for RMTV, or visit **[youtube.com/ranchomiragelibraryobservatory](https://youtube.com/ranchomiragelibraryobservatory)**. Once there, you can choose to subscribe and activate notifications so that you'll know the second we've posted a new video!

## We Want to Hear from You!

Have a program idea or a connection to a person or organization we should feature?

Send us a message to tell us your ideas and let us know how we're doing!

**[programming@ranchomiragelibrary.org](mailto:programming@ranchomiragelibrary.org)**



# Observatory

## Dr. Kelly Fast • Finding Asteroids Before They Find Us!

Thursday, December 21, 2–3 pm

On September 26, 2022, NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) demonstrated our potential to respond to the asteroid impact hazard with its successful test deflection of an asteroid. But how do we know about these near-Earth asteroids in the first place, let alone if they are headed our way? NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office and collaborators are on the job finding asteroids before they find us! Astronomer **Dr. Kelly Fast** manages the Near-Earth Object Observations Program in NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC.



## OPENights

Observatory Public Exploration Nights are your portal to the Universe! Join us at the Rancho Mirage Observatory to glimpse beyond our world through our PlaneWave Instruments CDK 700 telescope. Ask questions and learn fun facts from astronomers and volunteer docents as you take in 100–350x magnified views of planets, nebulae, star clusters, and more (weather permitting). No registration is necessary for this drop-in, open-house-style event. Due to the capacity limits of the Observatory, you may experience a short wait, but everyone will have a chance to get in. For dates and times, visit [ranchomiragelibrary.org/observatory/stargazing](https://ranchomiragelibrary.org/observatory/stargazing).

## 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](https://ranchomiragelibrary.org/observatory).

## 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!

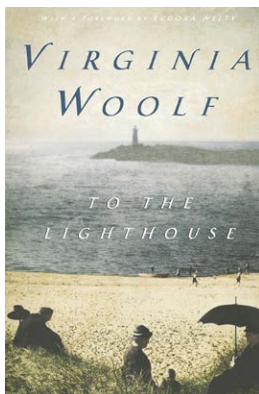
# Community Showcase

## 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. 681 or email [JefferyD@ranchomiragelibrary.org](mailto:JefferyD@ranchomiragelibrary.org).

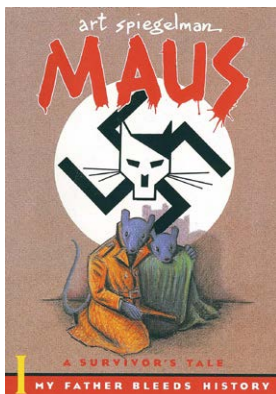
**Friday, December 8**  
**10–11 am**

*To the Lighthouse*  
by Virginia Woolf



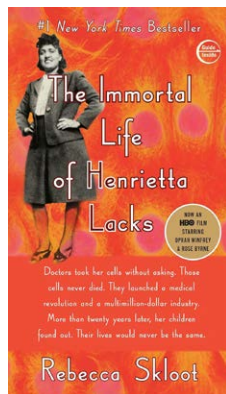
**Friday, January 12**  
**10–11 am**

*Maus*  
by Art Spiegelman



**Friday, February 9**  
**10–11 am**

*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*  
by Rebecca Skloot



## LifeStream Blood Drive

**Friday, December 22, 9 am–2 pm**

**Friday, February 23, 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](http://lstream.org/rmpl) or call 1-800-979-4484.





# RECYCLE RECYCLE

## **Shredding and E-Waste Collection**

**Saturday, February 10, 8 am–12 pm**

The document shredding and e-waste collection events are free and open to Rancho Mirage residents only with proof of residency (photo I.D., driver's license, or utility bill showing Rancho Mirage address). Residents with a local country club access sticker on their vehicle will be permitted to enter without showing proof of residency.

## **Emergency Preparedness Commission Readiness Seminar: What Is Going to Happen When the Big Earthquake Hits?**

**Monday, February 26, 5:30–7:30 pm**

Hear from a panel of police, fire, gas, power, water, and more, on what to expect during the first 72 hours after a major earthquake hits the Coachella Valley, and what you should do to get ready now. For more information visit [www.RMReady.org](http://www.RMReady.org).



## **Call for Rancho Mirage Artists**

The City of Rancho Mirage Cultural Commission invites all Rancho Mirage visual artists and craftspeople to apply for entry into the 11th Annual Rancho Mirage Artists Studio Tour and Pop-Up Gallery, set for Saturday, March 23, 2024. There is no application fee or participation fee. The deadline for entries is January 15. To learn more and complete the online application visit [ranchomiragelibrary.org/artists](http://ranchomiragelibrary.org/artists).

# Lectures

## Learning in Retirement Series

The Library is excited to be partnering with Learning in Retirement (LIR) to offer free programs for area seniors. Learning in Retirement's curriculum is taught by local experts and is designed specifically for those ages 50 and above who want to learn for the pure enjoyment of learning.

### **Dr. Larry DeBuhr • A Brief History of Plants in Medicine**

**Tuesday, December 5, 2–3 pm**

This lecture will describe how we know what plants were used by indigenous people and our more recent ancestors for medicinal purposes. Accounts will be presented on medicinal plants still being used directly or indirectly in modern medicine today. **Dr. Larry DeBuhr** has taught a number of plant-related courses for Learning in Retirement for the past three years and also leads interpretative hikes about desert plants on local mountain trails. Before he retired, he taught at the University of Missouri–Kansas City, was Director of Education at the Missouri Botanic Garden, and was Vice President of the Chicago Botanical Garden.



### **Nancy Dowling • The Hunger Games: Bird Style**

**Tuesday, December 12, 2–3 pm**

Given the huge variety of food sources on earth, birds have adapted in some amazing ways to carve out a niche of their own. **Nancy Dowling** will discuss the unusual birds here in the desert (and in far-off regions) who have evolved to boldly consume what no other bird can. Shortly after retiring to the Coachella Valley from Minnesota, Dowling began teaching for LIR and enjoying longer vacations to search for new birds. An avid reader with degrees in English and French, she teaches classes on literature (short stories) as well as birds.



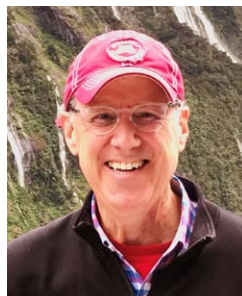
### **Shannon Bush Culinary Journey Series**

Join us as we wrap up our world travels with **Chef Shannon Bush** to explore delicious, plant-based foods inspired by the cuisine of various regions. Did you miss the first two stops in our culinary journey? You can view both the Mediterranean and Asian sessions on the Library's YouTube channel at [youtube.com/ranchomiragelibraryobservatory](https://youtube.com/ranchomiragelibraryobservatory).

## **Dr. Phil Kibort • The Great and Not So Great Mothers and Fathers of U.S. Presidents**

**Tuesday, January 9, 2–3 pm**

**Dr. Phil Kibort** will discuss the men and women who positively or negatively influenced U.S. presidents—from Washington to Biden. The discussion will focus on what might be considered the “top ten” and “bottom ten” of both groups. A retired pediatric gastroenterologist and former Chief Medical Officer of Children’s Hospital and Clinics of Minnesota, Dr. Kibort’s avocation and passion for over 25 years has been U.S. presidential history. He teaches and lectures on presidents in both the Twin Cities and for Learning In Retirement while in the Coachella Valley.



## **Jerry Swirsky • The Supreme Court and Select Landmark Decisions**

**Tuesday, January 16, 2–3 pm**

**Jerry Swirsky** will provide a brief description of the operation of the Supreme Court as well as a discussion of some selected landmark decisions. Swirsky is a graduate of Yale University and practiced law for approximately 40 years in both the State Courts and Federal Courts of Connecticut. A continued interest in American History and the Supreme Court led him to teaching over the last four years with Learning In Retirement.



Supreme Court Building (photo: Mathieu Landretti)

No registration is required to attend the Learning in Retirement programs. To learn more about all of the programs offered by Learning in Retirement visit [lirpalmdesert.com](http://lirpalmdesert.com). For questions, email [lirpalmdesert@gmail.com](mailto:lirpalmdesert@gmail.com).



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, December 19, 2–3 pm: Italian Journey**

Explore different ways to turn classic Italian ingredients into delicious plant-based meals.





## Dr. William Gudelunas • The USA in World War II: The Finest Hour for the Greatest Nation, Led by Its Greatest Generation

American history professor and Library favorite **Dr. William Gudelunas** returns to present a three-part lecture series. He'll use his humorous and entertaining style to take an over-arching view of the war that defined a generation. The lecture series will explore the war's immense impact on our society and politics from the Pacific and European theaters to the home front. Dr. Gudelunas will explore the attacks on Pearl Harbor, the vital importance of the wartime presidential elections, The Yalta Conference, the use of the atomic bombs, and more. Join us to examine the legacy of the worldwide conflict that continues to impact our lives today.

**Tuesday, January 23, 2–3 pm • Wednesday, January 24, 2–3 pm**

**Thursday, January 25, 2–3 pm**



Yalta Conference February 1945 (photo: National Archives and Records Administration)



Poster by Adolph Treidler 1943



## Melissa Riche • From Small Subdivision to Country Club City: How Rancho Mirage Grew presented by the Rancho Mirage Cultural Commission

**Thursday, February 8, 2–3 pm**

Go back in time with local author and historian **Melissa Riche**. Learn how Rancho Mirage transformed from a small 1930s subdivision ('A Distinctive Desert Development for Discriminating People') to the successful resort city it is today. The City of Rancho Mirage was incorporated in 1973; soon after, *The Desert Sun* named it 'Country Club City,' with thousands of homes in country club settings nearing completion or under construction, from Mission Hills to the Springs. Melissa Riche will explore the city's growth: the successes and occasional failures along the way, from the early days to the 1970s and beyond.





## Sunnylands Series

### Variations to a Theme: William Haines at Sunnylands

Tuesday, February 13, 2–3 pm

William “Billy” Haines was one of the silver screen’s leading men in the 1930s. He quit showbiz and reinvented himself as an interior designer, becoming one of the most sought-after decorators in Hollywood. In the 1960s, Walter and Leonore Annenberg brought Haines to Rancho Mirage to oversee the creation of their new winter home, Sunnylands. Haines found the couple an architect, the award-winning A. Quincy Jones, and created more than 450 pieces of furniture for the estate. Now, an exhibition of Haines’ remarkable furnishings is on view at Sunnylands Center & Gardens. The designer’s life and legacy are explored in this presentation by exhibition curators and Sunnylands staff members, **Anne Rowe**, Director of Heritage, and **Frank Lopez**, Archivist and Librarian, along with interior designer **Patrick Dragonette**.

This series is presented in partnership with Sunnylands.



## Friends of the Desert Mountains Series

### Climate Change in the Coachella Valley

Tuesday, February 27, 2–3 pm

Join Friends of the Desert Mountains for a lecture that will delve into the ongoing climate change crisis, its global impacts, its local impacts, and possible solutions as we move forward in this time of change. This presentation was created in partnership together with **Dr. Lynn Sweet** from University of California Riverside and **Dr. J. Pablo Ortiz-Partida** from the Union of Concerned Scientists.

This series is presented in partnership with Friends of the Desert Mountains.



Friends of the  
Desert Mountains



# Film

## Hollywood Gamechangers with Steven C. Smith

Award-winning author and documentarian **Steven C. Smith** takes us inside the battles and breakthroughs behind three screen classics. All of them defied the rules, advanced the art of filmmaking, and remain among the most entertaining movies ever made. Smith is an award-winning biographer, four-time Emmy-nominated producer, and 16-time Telly Award winner. His over-200 documentaries include collaborations with Steven Spielberg, George Lucas, Martin Scorsese, Julie Andrews, Stephen Sondheim, Harrison Ford, and Sidney Poitier.

### ***The Maltese Falcon* (1941) • Monday, December 4, 2–4 pm**

In 1941, after a decade playing secondary roles, Warner Bros. contract player Humphrey Bogart leaped into stardom—and began his evolution into cinema icon—with this flawless adaptation of Dashiell Hammett’s twist-filled novel. Bogie plays San Francisco detective Sam Spade, who hunts the killer of his partner. In the process, he tangles with a trio of eccentric criminals who all seek a mythic statue of a falcon, made of gold. *The Maltese Falcon* marked the directing debut of another legend-to-be: John Huston. Made on a B-picture budget, it proved a box office smash, even earning a nomination for Best Picture. Arguably, Hollywood film noir begins with this endlessly imitated classic—one that is, in the words of Sam Spade, “The stuff that dreams are made of.”

### ***Rear Window* (1954) • Monday, December 11, 2–4 pm**

Voyeurism. Sex. Murder. Director Alfred Hitchcock combined his favorite ingredients in the blockbuster that kicked off his greatest, and most lucrative, period. James Stewart stars as a pro photographer who, when stuck in his Greenwich Village apartment with his leg in a cast, starts spying—er, studying—his neighbors across the way... and realizes that one of them is a murderer. Working as his own producer after years as a director-for-hire, Hitchcock began to amass a multi-million-dollar fortune with this film. Also sharing the profits was James Stewart, one of the first actors to share in a movie’s gross take and to own a percentage of the movie. Stewart’s sexy onscreen dialogue with Grace Kelly, at her most luminous, also pushed the envelope with censors. The result remains one of the wittiest, most suspenseful thrillers ever made.



Mary Astor and Humphrey Bogart in *The Maltese Falcon*



James Stewart and Grace Kelly in *Rear Window*



### ***It Happened One Night* (1934) • Monday, December 18, 2–4 pm**

The first movie to win all top Oscars—Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Director—this irresistible road trip romance, directed by Frank Capra, helped invent a new movie genre: the “screwball comedy.” Taking romantic comedies a step further, *It Happened One Night* employed snappy, fast-paced dialogue, a strong female character who stood up to the male, and physical comedy to tell a new kind of love story. It also elevated Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert—neither of whom wanted to make the film—into top box office stars. And after Gable took off his shirt onscreen, revealing that he wore nothing underneath, undershirt sales plummeted!



Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert in *It Happened One Night*

This program is made possible by a generous gift from Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory Foundation Board Member Christine Hughes and Abe Ostrovsky.



## Docu-Fridays

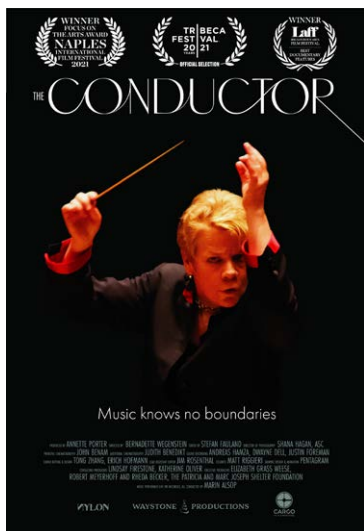
Join us for this series featuring unique documentaries selected and introduced by film historian **Jason Bruecks**.

### ***The Conductor* (2022) • Friday, December 15, 2-5 pm**

Marin Alsop, Leonard Bernstein's protege, reveals how she smashed the glass ceiling to become an internationally renowned conductor, becoming the first woman to serve as music director of a multitude of renowned orchestras.

### ***The Biggest Little Farm* (2019) • Friday, January 5, 2-5 pm**

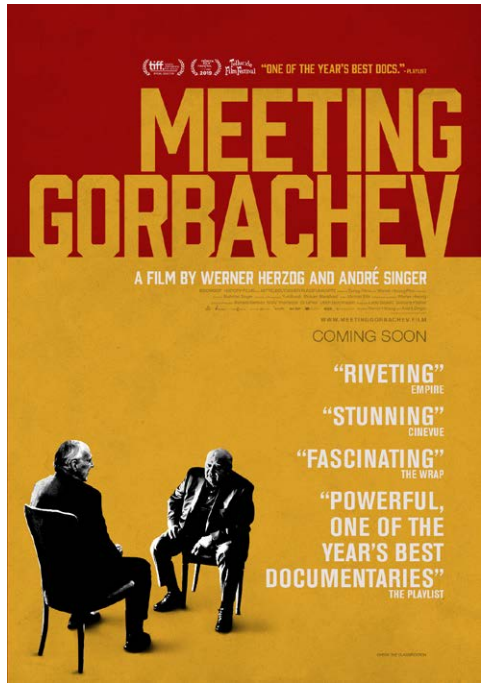
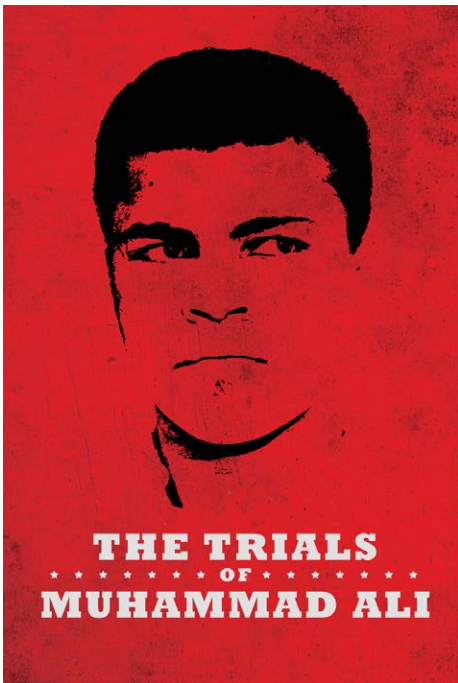
A couple are followed through their successes and failures as they work to develop a sustainable farm on 200 acres outside of Los Angeles. Over the years, the desolate land they purchase begins to thrive and is transformed.



### **JFK Remembered: 60 Years Later Screening and Q&A with Robert D. Kline Monday, January 8, 2-5 pm**

The astounding 1,000-day presidency of John F. Kennedy was filled with a multitude of dramatic moments, featuring his inaugural speech, the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban Missile crisis, and his tragic death by assassination on November 22, 1963. Join documentary director **Robert D. Kline** for a screening of his 2013 film *JFK Remembered: 50 Years Later*. He will introduce this special film which includes an overview of the Kennedy legacy, rare footage from the JFK Presidential Library, and an interview with Ronald Reagan about Kennedy's impact on the world. Following the screening, Kline will provide additional insight and take questions from those in attendance.





***The Trials of Muhammad Ali* (2014) • Friday, January 12, 2–5 pm**

Muhammad Ali's exile years when he was banned from boxing found him in the crosshairs of conflicts concerning race, religion, and wartime dissent.

***Meeting Gorbachev* (2018) • Friday, January 19, 2–5 pm**

Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the Soviet Union, sits down with filmmaker Werner Herzog to discuss his many achievements. Topics include the talks to reduce nuclear weapons, the reunification of Germany, and the dissolution of his country.

Robert D. Kline has been the Executive Vice President of 20th Century Fox, the co-founder of Lifetime Television, and producer of Oliver Stone's highly acclaimed film *Heaven and Earth*. In addition, he taught at USC for over 30 years. His award-winning profile series, *A Moment in Time*, includes Lady Bird Johnson, Princess Grace, and Gloria Steinem. Kline's more recent projects include *On the Wings of Penguins*, directed by his partner Stephanie Heredia, and *The Reagans: The Legacy Endures*.

John F. Kennedy giving a campaign speech in Florida in 1960  
(photo: Doug Kennedy for *The Miami Herald*)



# Exhibits

## Persian Tower by Dale Chihuly

### Permanent Installation

A magnificent new addition to the Library's Special Collections Room was unveiled to the public on October 26, 2023. *The Persian Tower*, created by renowned American glass artist **Dale Chihuly**, stands nearly 10 feet tall and consists of 18 pieces of blown glass on a steel base accentuated by another 13 pieces mounted on the wall. The spellbinding installation was made possible through the incredible generosity of donors Lorraine G. and Donald R. Fair.

Traditional glass factory production was about symmetry and creating perfectly formed vessels. Chihuly's way of working represents a departure from the past, utilizing gravity and centrifugal force to let molten glass find its own shape. He creates innovative, large-scale glass sculptures that often feature bright and bold colors, organic forms, and intricate details.



Photos: Jennifer Yount Photography

Chihuly's *Persians* are a celebration of wild symmetry and swirling patterns of color. First exhibited in 1986 as part of his exhibition at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Palais du Louvre in Paris, the dramatic forms are presented on pedestals and in compositions mounted on walls and suspended from ceilings in the form of chandeliers and towers. For Chihuly, *Persians* evoke an ancient sensibility and conjure notions of Venice and the Near and Far East. The use of ribbed optic molds is essential to the aesthetic of *Persians*. Molten glass, ringed by linear wraps, is plunged into these molds to create repetitive patterns. When blown out, the bubbles are transformed into swirling, irregularly shaped rondels with fascinating detail.

Displayed in museums and galleries around the world, Chihuly's installations have captured the imagination of art enthusiasts and the general public alike. His ability to transform glass into breathtaking, larger-than-life creations has made him a celebrated figure in the world of contemporary glass art.

Dale Chihuly's *Persian Tower* can be viewed anytime the Library is open. To learn more about Dale Chihuly and his work visit [chihuly.com](http://chihuly.com).

**L.A. Marler • Photo-Based Mixed Media Art: Iconic Visual Vocabulary**  
December 1 through February 29

**L.A. Marler's** authentic style has led to exhibits, art collections, and events that have integrated history, education, and entertainment. She was raised in a St. Louis family that collected, sold, and repaired typewriters. These machines and vintage cameras are part of her personal history and became part of her visual expression. She is inspired by vintage America, pop art, and digital technology and has been successful in commercial graphics, publishing, and printing for over twenty years.

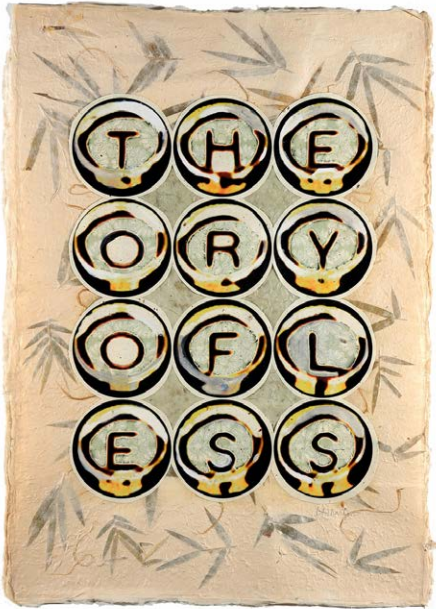
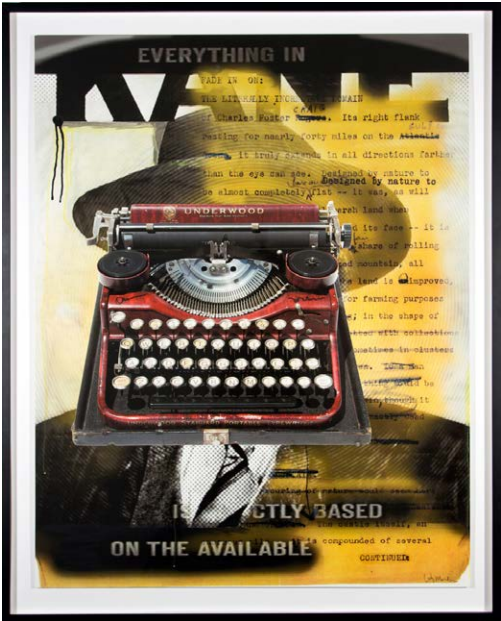
Marler developed her unique art style in a Santa Monica Airport hanger turned art studio. She now spends her time living and working in both Joshua Tree, California, and St. Louis, Missouri. Her work has been featured in a large number of films and TV shows, including *The Typewriter (In the 21st Century)*, *Friends with Benefits*, *Two and a Half Men*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Criminal Minds*, and *Arrested Development*.

**Career Highlights:**

- Actor Tom Hanks added Marler's artwork to his collection and gifted her with a signed Olivetti from his typewriter collection.
- Selected by Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department for The Big Read (an NEA grant) for curation of a group art exhibit including Shepard Fairey.
- Selected by Goldenvoice to exhibit at The Desert Trip in 2016.
- Inclusion in the Smithsonian Museum of American History.

To learn more about L.A. Marler and her work, visit [lamarler.com](http://lamarler.com).

Art: @LA\_Marler



# Music



## **Palm Springs Opera Guild 40th Annual Vocal Competition**

**Saturday, December 2, 1–3 pm**

Produced by the **Palm Springs Opera Guild of the Desert** over the past thirty-nine years, the Palm Springs Vocal Competition has awarded scholarships to hundreds of young men and women preparing for a career in the operatic arts. The finalists are selected through an auditioning process and will perform before a live audience. The finalist judges include opera company professionals from around the United States charged with discovering new talent for their opera productions. Eight finalists will compete for over \$30,000 in cash scholarships. This series is presented in partnership with the Palm Springs Opera Guild of the Desert.

## **Jim Borax's California Cabaret**

**Thursday, December 7, 3–4 pm**

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.



## **The New Joslyn Singers Holiday Concert**

**Thursday, December 14, 2–3 pm**

For years the **Joslyn Singers** have performed a holiday concert here at the Library. We are so happy to welcome them back again this year as they've entered a new era as the "New" Joslyn Singers where they will once again help usher us into this festive time of year.





**Peter Sprague Plays the  
Music of The Beatles  
presented by the Rancho Mirage  
Cultural Commission**

**Wednesday, January 10, 7–8 pm**

Guitarist **Peter Sprague** leads his group on a magical mystery tour of Beatles classics with carefully crafted jazzified arrangements. They'll start with the familiar and then sonically travel to new frontiers of jazz and improvisation. Melt when the guitar intro for *And I Love Her* kicks in, tap your toe to the funky vibe that *Norwegian Wood* provides, and sing along to the chorus of the psychedelized *Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds*. Join us as the Liverpool Four goes polytonal!



**Caro Pierotto**

**Wednesday, January 17, 7–8 pm**

From the moment she strikes her first note, singer **Caro Pierotto** captures the audience with her presence and vintage voice. Accompanied by her all-star Brazilian band, she sings originals and covers in Portuguese, Spanish, and English. Her music has found audiences all over the globe with a repertoire that includes samba, reggae pop, and soul! Her fun-loving spirit and charming personality are backed with musically mature renditions of classic and original songs.

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

A lively group of seniors who love to share the joy of music with the Coachella Valley communities, the group is now directed by **Robert K. Rutt**, who has performed as a singer and pianist worldwide, and serves as Music Director for local theatre producers Desert Theatricals.



**Stephanie Trick & Paolo Alderighi**  
**Four-Hands Jazz Piano**  
**Valentine's Day Concert**  
Wednesday, February 14, 7–8 pm

Celebrate love and music this Valentine's Day as we welcome back a very special couple that has become a Library audience favorite. 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. 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 a generous gift from David and Colleen Pascale.



**Sean Gaskell • West African Kora**  
Tuesday, February 20, 2–3 pm

**Sean Gaskell** returns to the Library with a special afternoon performance featuring the kora, an ancient 21-stringed harp from West Africa. This beautiful and educational presentation will include traditional songs that are the heart and soul of the kora's musical repertoire.

Gaskell first heard the kora performed live in his hometown of Olympia, Washington, in 2006. That performance by Kane Mathis, who would become his first teacher, inspired him to immerse himself in the music of the kora and travel to its homeland in West Africa. The kora is traditionally played by oral historians known as Griots, often called Jalis or Jelis. Many songs tell stories of war, hardship, love, and loss all while presenting the history and fabric of Mande society, from which

the instrument originates. Visits to Brikama, Gambia, West Africa provided Gaskell the opportunity to study the kora under the instruction of Moriba Kuyateh and his father, the late Malamini Jobarteh. Gaskell has presented adult, youth, and family programs at over 350 libraries and a multitude of K–12 schools, colleges, universities, and assisted living facilities throughout the United States and Canada.

## Viva Zarzuela! presented by the Palm Springs Opera Guild

Wednesday, February 21, 7–8 pm

**Dr. John Ballerino** accompanies soprano **Oriana Falla** and tenor **Xavier Prado** in an hour-long program of arias and duets that includes hits like *No Puede Ser* and arias and duets from *Lusia Fernanda*. Immerse yourself in this incredible art form's lush, romantic music while learning its history and how it swept through the Spanish-speaking world! Special funding provided by PS Opera Guild member Josie Gomez.

This program is presented in partnership with the Palm Springs Opera Guild.



## Encore Saxophone Quartet

Wednesday, February 28, 7–8 pm

Touted during their South African tour as “Masters of the saxophone, impressing their listeners not only by brilliant virtuosity but equally by some of the most delicate sounds imaginable,” the **Encore Saxophone Quartet** is the only American chamber music group selected to perform at the prestigious 2019 Lansum International Music Festival.

The group includes founder **Douglas Masek** on soprano saxophone, **Ken Foerch** on alto, **David Brennan** on tenor, and **Damon Zick** on baritone saxophone; all are distinguished soloists and chamber music artists who perform nationally and internationally. The Quartet's unique blending of innovative and diverse programming, along with informal narrative, transports its listeners on a musical journey that exhibits the many colorful possibilities encompassing the sound spectrum of the saxophone in a quartet setting.



This program is made possible by a generous gift from David and Colleen Pascale.

# 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.

## Family Night

**Gingerbread Houses • Wednesday, December 6, 5:30–7 pm**

Ho Ho Ho! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be joining us for a fun evening of holiday cheer! Come build and create your own gingerbread house! While supplies last.

Sponsored by Gary Galton, Christine Hughes, Patrice Merritt, Robert Moon, Alison Soltysiak, Leslie Usow, and Rancho Mirage City Council Members Richard Kite and Ted Weill.

**Bluey Night • Wednesday, January 3, 4–5 pm**

Come join us for an afternoon of crafts and stories as we celebrate adorable puppies Bluey, Bingo, and friends!

**Chinese New Year • Wednesday, February 7, 4–5 pm**

Come celebrate the Year of the Dragon for Chinese New Year.

Family Nights are sponsored by the Grace Helen Spearman Charitable Foundation.





## Teen Hot Cocoa & Crafts

Open to grades 6–12.

### **Festive Cross Stitch • Tuesday, December 19, 4:30–5:30 pm**

Cross stitch uses x-shaped stitches to create images. Teens will be able to select a pattern, receive a staff-guided start, and be given the tools to continue working on their project over winter break. All supplies provided.

### **Pressed Flower Lanterns • Thursday, January 11, 4:30–5:30 pm**

These lanterns use upcycled glass yogurt jars and pressed flowers that add a pop of color. They emit a soft glow when tea light candles are lit from inside.

### **Beaded Friendship Bracelets • Tuesday, February 20, 4:30–5:30 pm**

Beaded friendship bracelets gained media attention this past summer. Come design your own bracelets to wear or gift.

## The Scribblers

### **Mini Session: The Five Senses**

**Friday, December 8, 4–5 pm • Ages 9–17**

In this one-day mini session, young writers will immerse themselves in the five senses through sensory play and discovery. This session will include a snack and a brief discussion with time to write and share. Writers will receive a personalized chapbook and pen at the end of the mini session.

**Registration is required at [ranchomiragelibrary.org](http://ranchomiragelibrary.org).**



### **Creative Nonfiction: The Art of Self**

**Five Weeks: Thursdays, February 15–March 21, 4–5 pm • Ages 9–14**

Focused on memoir, autofiction, and affirmation art, this five-week session is designed to give young writers a crash course in creative nonfiction. Each session will include a snack, discussion, and time to create and share. **Registration is required at [ranchomiragelibrary.org](http://ranchomiragelibrary.org).**

## Read to Dogs! • Animal Samaritans Reading Program

**Wednesday, December 13, 3–4 pm**

**Wednesday, January 10, 3–4 pm • Wednesday, January 24, 3–4 pm**

**Wednesday, February 7, 3–4 pm • Wednesday, February 21, 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.

## 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.

### ***The Story of Gumluck the Wizard* • Friday, December 22, 4–5 pm**

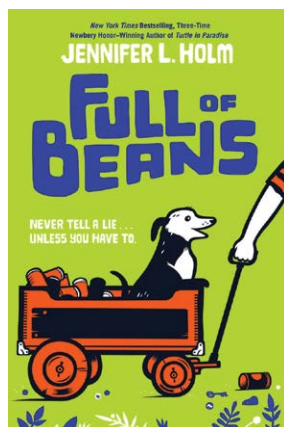
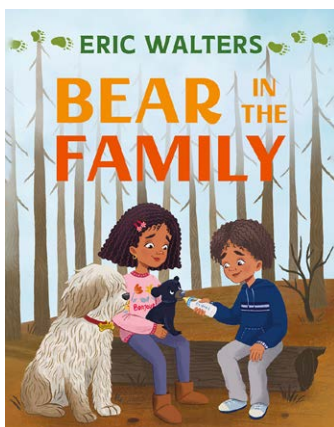
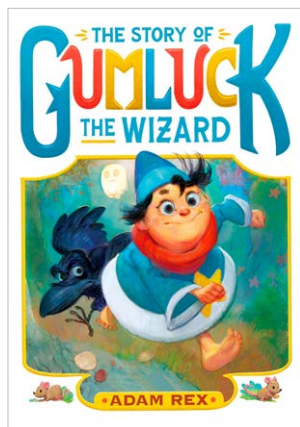
By Adam Rex (A.R. level 3.5)

### ***Bear in the Family* • Thursday, January 25, 4–5 pm**

By Eric Walters (A.R. level NT)

### ***Full of Beans* • Friday, February 23, 4–5 pm**

By Jennifer Holm (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.

### ***Three Times Lucky***

Monday, December 11, 4–5 pm

By Sheila Turnage (A.R. level 3.9)

### ***The Shadows: The Books of Elsewhere, Volume 1***

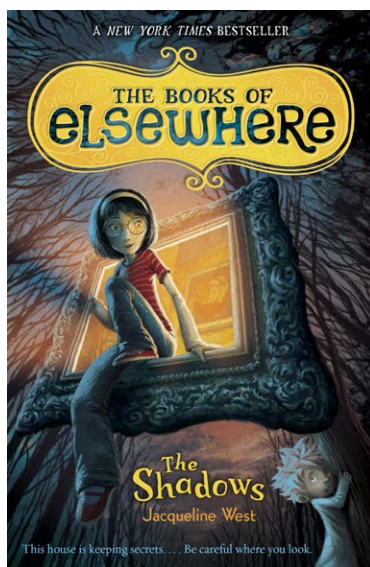
Monday, January 8, 4–5 pm

By Jacqueline West (A.R. level 5.1)

### ***A Place to Hang the Moon***

Monday, February 12, 4–5 pm

By Kate Albus (A.R. level 5.0)



## Teen Book Discussion (Grades 6–12)

The first 10 registrants will receive a free copy of the book. Registration is required.

### ***My True Love Gave to Me: Twelve Holiday Stories***

Wednesday, December 6, 4:30–5:30 pm

Edited by Stephanie Perkins

### **Special Edition Book to Movie: *A Monster Calls***

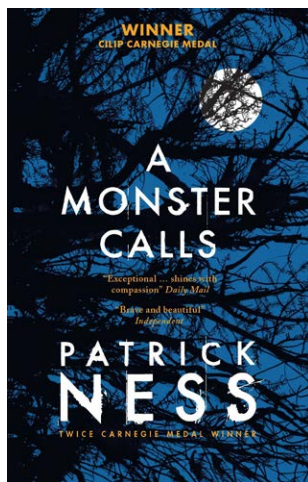
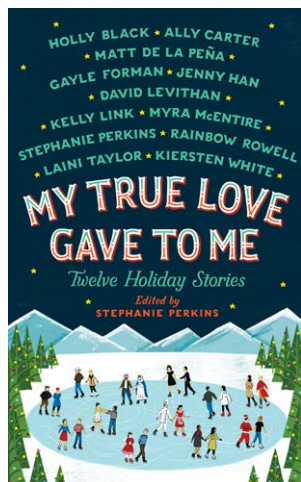
Wednesday, January 3, 3:30–5:30 pm

By Patrick Ness • Watch the movie then discuss the book

### ***Borrow My Heart***

Wednesday, February 7, 4:30–5:30 pm

By Kasie West



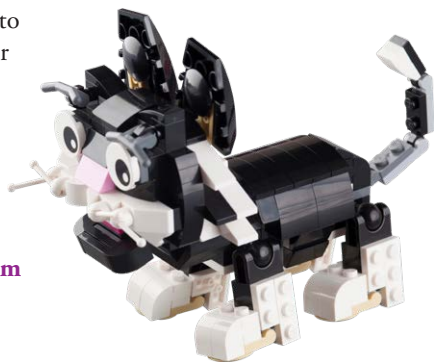
## LEGO Night

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.

**North Pole • Wednesday, December 20, 4–5 pm**

**Pets • Wednesday, January 24, 4–5 pm**

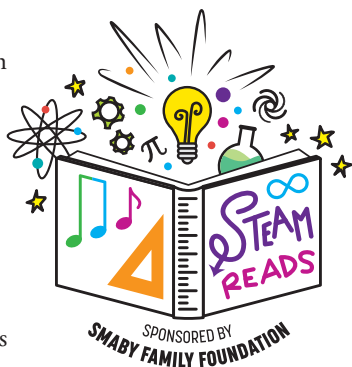
**Dr. Seuss • Wednesday, February 28, 4–5 pm**





## STEAM Reads

This six-month long program will highlight popular fiction titles to inspire young readers to learn more about science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) concepts. Through author visits, book discussions, hands-on activities, and more, we hope to encourage children to grow more excited about STEAM subjects and careers. **Unless noted, registration for each session is required. Visit [ranchomiragelibrary.org](http://ranchomiragelibrary.org) to register.** This ambitious program is made possible thanks to the Smaby Family Foundation.



### Debra Green Author Visit (Grades 3-7)

**Saturday, December 9, 2-3 pm**

**The first 50 registrants will receive a free copy of the book.** Green will be discussing her novel *Violet and the Pie of Life*. Violet is twelve-years-old and has two great loves: math and pie. If only she could apply math to solve her parents' problems. Filled with warmth, humor, heart, and don't forget the pie! Includes charts, graphs, and diagrams throughout. Green includes lots of humor while teaching readers about writing. Followed by a Q&A and signing.



### Turning Milk into Plastic Experiment (Ages 7+)

**Wednesday, December 13, 4-5 pm**

**Registration is required.** During the early 1900s, milk was used to create plastic ornaments, buttons, comb sets, and jewelry. Plastic from milk is referred to as casein plastic. How is that possible? Students will find out how through adding an acid (vinegar) to warm milk and learning the science behind the reaction. Students will create their own casein plastic ornament.

### Citrus Fruit Volcano Experiment (Ages 7+)

**Friday, December 15, 4-5 pm**

**Registration is required.** Our junior scientists will learn more about chemical reactions through creating a lemon volcano. They will learn how a chemical reaction occurs when an acid (lemon juice) mixes with a base (baking soda) to create a gas called carbon dioxide. A variety of citrus fruits will be tested to see which one has the best eruption.



Photo: [littlebinsforlittlehands.com](http://littlebinsforlittlehands.com)





## **Tae Keller Author Visit (Grades 3–7)**

**Saturday, January 6, 2–3 pm**

The first 50 registrants will receive a free copy of the book. Register starting Monday, December 4. Tae Keller will be discussing her novel *The Science of Breakable Things*. The novel follows Natalie's uplifting story of how she tries to apply the scientific method in helping with her mother's battle with depression. Followed by a Q&A and signing.

## **Watercolor in Nature (Ages 9+)**

**Wednesday, January 17, 4–5 pm**

Registration is required. Register starting Sunday, December 17. Participants will be introduced to still-life drawing and nature painting with watercolor. Works of well-known artists will be shared as examples. Students will be given their own travel watercolor set, and time will be allotted for painting.



## **Egg Drop Engineering (Ages 9+)**

**Friday, January 19, 4–5 pm**

Registration is required. Register starting Tuesday, December 19. The goal is for participants to design a container that will safely allow a raw egg to be dropped from a high height without breaking. Students will be given specific design challenges. Time will be set aside at the beginning for design drafting. Discussion will follow the drop.

## **Botanical Boughs (Ages 9+)**

**Wednesday, February 14, 4–5 pm**

Registration is required. Register starting Sunday, January 14. Students will learn how to create a beautiful bough for their door using fresh, dried, or faux flowers. They will walk away from this session with an upside-down bouquet. This program will also introduce flower varieties and explore the language of flowers.

## **DIY Musical Instruments (Ages 9+)**

**Friday, February 16, 4–5 pm**

Registration is required. Register starting Tuesday, January 16. Let's make some noise! This program's mission is to create musical instruments and introduce students to several musical theory concepts. Students will create a rubber band guitar and popsicle harmonica.



# Donors



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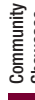


# Calendar • December



Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> Library Closed	<b>Persian Tower</b> by Dale Chihuly p.16 <b>L.A. Marler</b> p.17					<b>2</b> Palm Springs Opera Guild Vocal Competition 1–3 pm p. 18 OPENight 6–7:30 pm p. 5
	<b>4</b> <i>The Maltese Falcon</i> 2–4 pm p. 12	<b>5</b> Learning in Retirement Series 2–3 pm p. 8	<b>6</b> Teen Book Discussion: <i>My True Love Gave to Me</i> 4:30–5:30 pm p. 25 Family Night: Gingerbread Houses 5:30–7 pm p. 22	<b>7</b> Jim Borax's California Cabaret 3–4 pm p. 18 OPENight 6–7:30 pm p. 5	<b>8</b> Book Discussion Group: <i>To the Lighthouse</i> 10–11 am p. 6 The Scribblers 4–5 pm p. 23	<b>9</b> STEAM Reads: Debra Green Author Visit 2–3 pm p. 26 OPENight 6–7:30 pm p. 5
<b>10</b> Library Closed	<b>11</b> <i>Rear Window</i> 2–4 pm p. 12 Older Kids Book Discussion: <i>Three Times Lucky</i> 4–5 pm p. 24	<b>12</b> Learning in Retirement Series 2–3 pm p. 8	<b>13</b> STEAM Reads: Turning Milk into Plastic Experiment 4–5 pm p. 26 Read to Dogs! 3–4 pm p. 23	<b>14</b> The New Joslyn Singers 2–3 pm p. 18 OPENight 6–7:30 pm p. 5	<b>15</b> <i>The Conductor</i> 2–5 pm p. 14 STEAM Reads: Citrus Fruit Volcano Experiment 4–5 pm p. 26	<b>16</b> OPENight 6–7:30 pm p. 5
<b>17</b> Library Closed	<b>18</b> <i>It Happened One Night</i> 2–4 pm p. 13	<b>19</b> Culinary Journey Series 2–3 pm p. 8 Teen Hot Cocoa & Crafts: Festive Cross Stitch 4:30–5:30 pm p. 23	<b>20</b> LEGO Night: North Pole 4–5 pm p. 25	<b>21</b> Finding Asteroids Before They Find Us! 2–3 pm p. 5 OPENight 6–7:30 pm p. 5	<b>22</b> LifeStream Blood Drive 9 am–2 pm p. 6 Younger Kids Book Discussion: <i>The Story of Gumluck the Wizard</i> 4–5 pm p. 24	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Library Closed <b>31</b> Library Closed	<b>25</b> Library Closed	<b>26</b> Library Closed	<b>27</b> Library Closed	<b>28</b> Library Closed	<b>29</b> Library Closed	<b>30</b> Library Closed

# Calendar • January

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Library Closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> ■ Teen Book Discussion: <i>A Monster Calls</i> 3:30–5:30 pm p. 25 ■ Family Night: Bluey Night 4–5 pm p. 22	<b>4</b> ■ OPENight 6:30–8 pm p. 5	<b>5</b> ■ <i>The Biggest Little Farm</i> 2–5 pm p. 14	<b>6</b> ■ STEAM Reads: Tae Keller Author Visit 2–3 pm p. 27 ■ OPENight 6:30–8 pm p. 5
<b>7</b> Library Closed	<b>8</b> ■ JFK Remembered: 60 Years Later 2–5 pm p. 14 ■ Older Kids Book Discussion: <i>The Shadows</i> 4–5 pm p. 24	<b>9</b> ■ Learning in Retirement Series 2–3 pm p. 9	<b>10</b> ■ ✶ Peter Sprague Plays the Music of The Beatles 7–8 pm p. 19 ■ Read to Dogs! 3–4 pm p. 23	<b>11</b> ■ Teen Hot Cocoa & Crafts: Pressed Flower Lanterns 4:30–5:30 pm p. 23 ■ OPENight 6:30–8 pm p. 5	<b>12</b> ■ Book Discussion Group: <i>Maus</i> 10–11 am p. 6 ■ <i>The Trials of Muhammad Ali</i> 2–5 pm p. 15	<b>13</b> ■ OPENight 6:30–8 pm p. 5
<b>14</b> Library Closed	<b>15</b> Library Closed	<b>16</b> ■ Learning in Retirement Series 2–3 pm p. 9	<b>17</b> ■ STEAM Reads: Watercolor in Nature 4–5 pm p. 27 ■ Caro Pierotto 7–8 pm p. 19	<b>18</b> ■ OPENight 6:30–8 pm p. 5	<b>19</b> ■ <i>Meeting Gorbachev</i> 2–5 pm p. 15 ■ STEAM Reads: Egg Drop Engineering 4–5 pm p. 27	<b>20</b> ■ OPENight 6:30–8 pm p. 5
<b>21</b> Library Closed	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> ■ ✶ The USA in World War II Series 2–3 pm p. 10	<b>24</b> ■ ✶ The USA in World War II Series 2–3 pm p. 10 ■ LEGO Night: Pets 4–5 pm p. 25 ■ Read to Dogs! 3–4 pm p. 23	<b>25</b> ■ ✶ The USA in World War II Series 2–3 pm p. 10 ■ Younger Kids Book Discussion: <i>Bear in the Family</i> 4–5 pm p. 24	<b>26</b> Library Closed	<b>27</b> Library Closed
<b>28</b> Library Closed	<b>29</b> Library Closed	<b>30</b> Library Closed	<b>31</b> Library Closed	<div> <div>■ Persian Tower by Dale Chihuly p.16</div> <div>■ L.A. Marler p.17</div> </div>		



# Calendar • February

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Black History Month American Heart Month						
4 Library Closed	5 Library Closed	6 Library Closed	7 Family Night: Chinese New Year 4–5 pm p. 22 Teen Book Discussion: <i>Borrow My Heart</i> 3:30–5:30 pm p. 25 Read to Dogs! 3–4 pm p. 23	8 From Small Subdivision to Country Club City 2–3 pm p. 10	9 Book Discussion Group: <i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i> 10–11 am p. 6	10 Shredding and E-Waste Collection 8 am–12 pm p. 7 OPENight 7–8:30 pm p. 5
11 Library Closed	12 Older Kids Book Discussion: <i>A Place to Hang the Moon</i> 4–5 pm p. 24	13 Variations to a Theme: William Haines at Sunnylands 2–3 pm p. 11	14 STEAM Reads: Botanical Boughs 4–5 pm p. 27 Stephanie Trick & Paolo Alderighi 7–8 pm p. 19	15 The Scribblers 4–5 pm p. 23 OPENight 7–8:30 pm p. 5	16 STEAM Reads: DIY Musical Instruments 4–5 pm p. 27	17 OPENight 7–8:30 pm p. 5
18 Library Closed	19 Library Closed	20 Sean Gaskell 2–3 pm p. 20 Teen Hot Cocoa & Crafts: Beaded Friendship Bracelets 4:30–5:30 pm p. 23	21 Viva Zarzuelal 7–8 pm p. 21	22 The Scribblers 4–5 pm p. 23 OPENight 7–8:30 pm p. 5	23 LifeStream Blood Drive 9 am–2 pm p. 6 Younger Kids Book Discussion: <i>Full of Beans</i> 4–5 pm p. 24	24 OPENight 7–8:30 pm p. 5
25 Library Closed	26 Emergency Preparedness Commission Readiness Seminar 5:30–7:30 pm p. 7	27 Friends of the Desert Mountains Series 2–3 pm p. 11	28 LEGO Night: Dr. Seuss 4–5 pm p. 25 Encore Saxophone Quartet 7–8 pm p. 21 Read to Dogs! 3–4 pm p. 23	29 The Scribblers 4–5 pm p. 23 OPENight 7–8:30 pm p. 5	 Persian Tower by Dale Chihuly p. 16  L.A. Marler p. 17	



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