



Programs & Exhibits

**March through
May 2024**



RANCHO MIRAGE
LIBRARY & OBSERVATORY
FOUNDATION

Library Hours

Monday to Saturday

9 am to 6 pm

Closed Sundays

Library Closure

Memorial Day

Monday, May 27



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:
James W. Cornett

Welcome to Your Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory

Spring is a time to take notice of the new life and growth that surrounds us. Our beautiful desert foliage begins to bloom as we look forward with excitement to the year ahead. Here at the Library and Observatory our programming continues to expand as we work to provide exciting new opportunities while improving upon and growing the programs you love.

A beloved tale of growth, challenge, and family will have our community's youth lighting up the stage as we proudly present Disney's ***Moana JR.*** at the Rancho Mirage Amphitheater on May 17 and 18. The Library's award-winning youth theatre program continues to thrive, and we hope you'll mark your calendar to attend a performance along with all of our other free community offerings. Learn more about the show and find audition information for area youth on page 26.

Additional Highlights

- On March 5, join us for a special afternoon musical performance that is part concert, part history lesson as Kirsten Thien and Erik Boyd present **Women Rock! 15 Iconic Women Who Shaped Music** (page 12).
- Local bestselling novelist Steven Rowley and beloved actress and author Valerie Bertinelli join an incredible lineup of nonfiction authors appearing as part of the **Rancho Mirage Writers Festival Writers Series** (page 28).
- From Cat in the Hat to Vader with a Saber, our upcoming **Family Nights** have something for everyone (page 20)!
- You won't want to miss out on the opportunity to take in the **Great American Eclipse** alongside our expert astronomy team at Rancho Mirage Community Park on April 8 (page 27).
- Library favorite **Jason Bruecks** returns with a carefully selected lineup of films highlighting inspirational stories of youth from around the world starting April 29 (page 18).

The high-quality programs we continue to provide to the community at no cost would not be possible without the support received through donations, grants, and sponsorships. The Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory Foundation and all of you who donate to it make 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.

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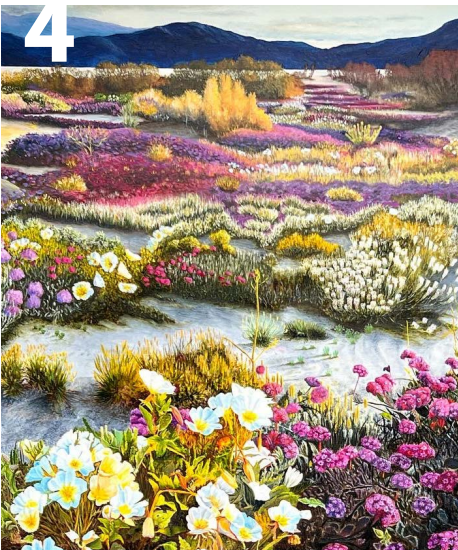
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 Look for the ram’s head icon that marks our Premier programs!

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.



Jack Lemmon and Shirley MacLaine in *The Apartment*



Disney’s *Moana JR.*

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.

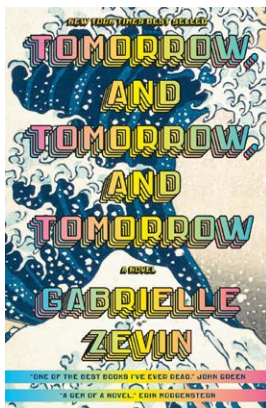
Friday, March 8
10–11 am

The Marriage Portrait
by Maggie O'Farrell



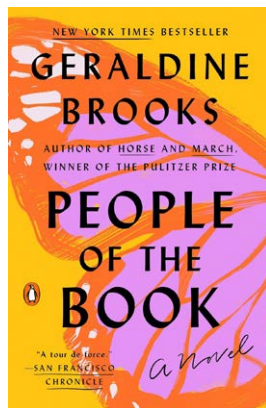
Friday, April 12
10–11 am

Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow
by Gabrielle Zevin



Friday, May 10
10–11 am

People of the Book
by Geraldine Brooks



Eleventh Annual Rancho Mirage Artists Studio Tour and Pop-Up Gallery presented by the Rancho Mirage Cultural Commission
Saturday, March 23, 10 am–4 pm

The Rancho Mirage Cultural Commission is proud to present its eleventh annual celebration of Rancho Mirage artists. Join us at the Library and Observatory to experience a special Pop-Up Gallery and to sign-in for the studio tour which takes place throughout the city. Selected area artists representing a variety of styles and media will be onsite at the Library and in their studios to discuss and sell their work. You won't want to miss this special one day event! Learn more at ranchomiragelibrary.org/artists.



**Safety and Preparedness Fair presented by the Rancho Mirage
Emergency Preparedness Commission and Coachella Valley
Disaster Preparedness Network**
Saturday, March 30, 9 am–1 pm

Learn how to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster such as a major earthquake! Bring your family to visit these informational displays: Riverside County Fire Department, American Red Cross, Chamber of Commerce, Coachella Valley Water District, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, and more!

The short film *Quake Heroes* will screen in the Library Community Room at both 9:15 am and 11:15 am. Based on true stories from America’s costliest earthquake, the film is a unique blend of Hollywood storytelling and real-life heroism, designed to inspire individual and community resilience in preparation for the next big earthquake.



Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory Foundation Book Sale

This big event features an enormous selection of gently-used books at affordable prices.

Wednesday, April 3, 9 am–3 pm

Thursday, April 4, 9 am–3 pm

Friday, April 5, 9 am–3 pm



Shredding and E-Waste Collection

Saturday, April 13, 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. For more information visit ranchomirageca.gov.

LifeStream Blood Drive

Friday, April 26, 10 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.



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 YouTube, or visit **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



Lectures

Shannon Bush Plant-Based Cooking Series

You may have heard the buzz that the longest living, healthiest people in the world eat a plant-based diet. You've probably seen new products showing up in your favorite grocery stores, and you may have noticed that nearly every restaurant now has plant-based/vegan options on their menu. Join **Chef Shannon Bush** to learn more about transitioning to plant-based eating or simply because you love to cook and want to try new products and ingredients.

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!

This program is made possible by a generous gift from Gerald and Lori Ernst.



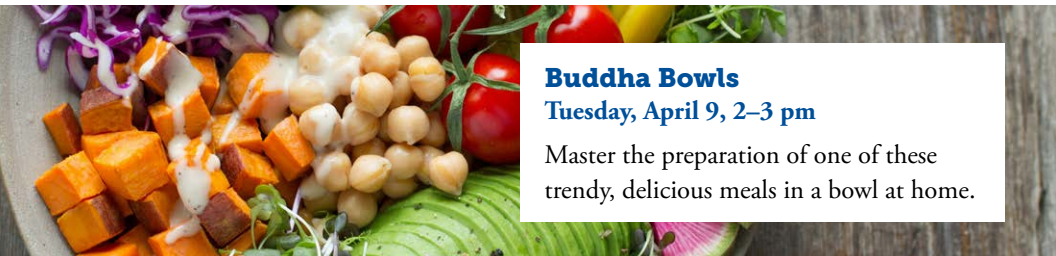
Much Ado About Mushrooms Tuesday, March 26, 2–3 pm

Learn how to make mushroom “scallops” for an elegant and delicious meal.



Buddha Bowls Tuesday, April 9, 2–3 pm

Master the preparation of one of these trendy, delicious meals in a bowl at home.



Mexican Food Favorites Tuesday, May 14, 2–3 pm

Learn to blend traditional tastes with new ingredients as you experiment at home.



**Friends of the Desert Mountains
Series • Native Planting in the
Coachella Valley**

Tuesday, April 16, 2–3 pm

Join Friends of the Desert Mountains for a lecture on the amazing native plants found in our Coachella Valley! Native plants can enhance any landscape while also providing many benefits—from increasing local biodiversity, to saving water, to saving you money on your utility bills. Come learn more about our native plants, like the blue palo verde and the honey mesquite, and learn how you can start adding native plants to your garden at home!



Oscar Ortiz joined Friends of the Desert Mountains in 2022 as the Director of Education for their Environmental Education Program. Oscar studied chemistry at Stanford University and uses his education to improve the sustainability in our community as a councilmember for the City of Indio and as an environmental educator in the nonprofit sector.



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

Bighorn Sheep in the Coachella Valley • Thursday, April 18, 2–3 pm

This program will look at our local endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep and Bighorn Institute’s recovery efforts for the species. We will discuss the challenges they’ve overcome, the ones they still face, their prospects for the future, and how you can help.

Aimee Byard is the Director of Operations and Biologist for Bighorn Institute. She has been with the Institute for 23 years and is passionate about the plight of the Peninsular bighorn sheep.



Bighorn Institute

Photo: Bighorn Institute

**Dr. Edward E. Gordon •
The Continuing Saga of Nazi
Art Theft**

Tuesday, April 23, 2–3 pm

During World War II, Adolf Hitler alone amassed thousands of paintings, as Nazis stole countless European masterpieces along with gold, jewelry, rare books, and more. Now 78 years after the end of the war, the story of the greatest theft in recorded history is far from over, as artworks that were



**Mike Thompson and Nicky Loomis •
From Ben Franklin and William
Randolph Hearst Through the
Twentieth Century: The History of
Political Cartoons and Newspaper
Opinion Pages in America
presented by the Coachella Valley
Journalism Foundation**

Tuesday, April 30, 2–3 pm

They've made us think, laugh, cringe, exasperated! Now Mike Thompson and Nicky Loomis trace the history of political cartoons and opinion pages in American newspapers, and discuss the role they've played in national dialogue through the years.

Editorial cartoonist/ animator **Mike Thompson** is the winner of the 2017 Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for cartooning; a two-time winner of the Society of Professional Journalists' national award for cartooning; and winner of the Overseas Press Club Award, the National Press Foundation Award, the National Headliner Award, the Scripps Howard Award, and the national Women in Communications Clarion Award.

Nicky Loomis is the Opinion and Engagement Editor at *The Desert Sun*. She has worked as a reporter and columnist for the *Pasadena Star News* and AP and has been published in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *New York Daily News*, and the *Los Angeles Times*.

This program is presented in partnership with the Coachella Valley Journalism Foundation and is sponsored in part by a generous gift from Gerald and Lori Ernst.



thought lost are discovered and endless litigation among individuals, museums, and nations continues over who has the legitimate claim to valued artworks.

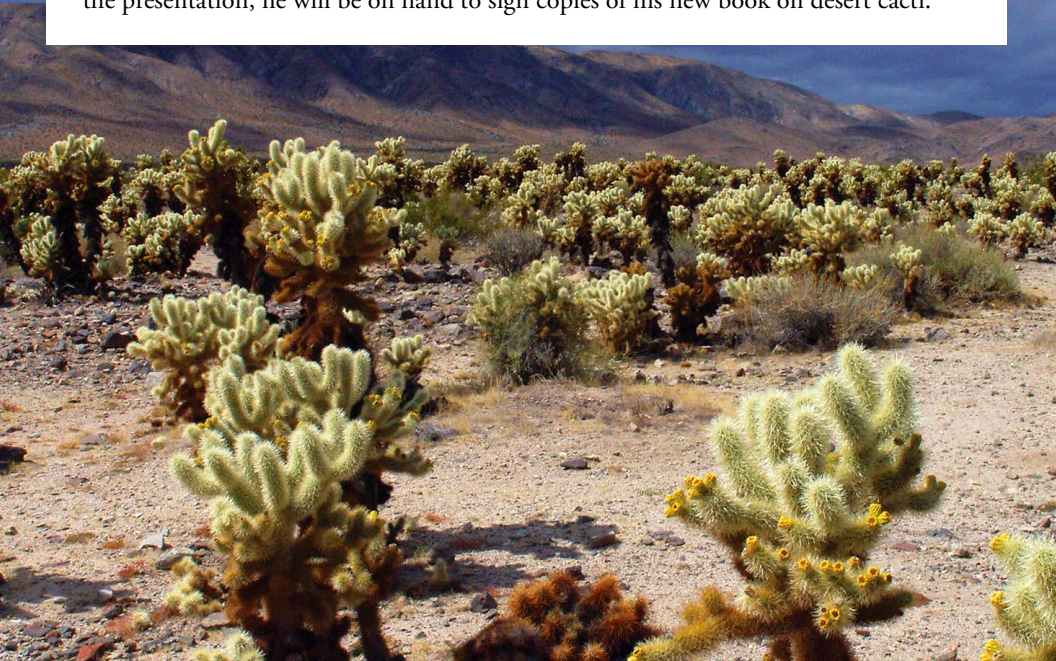
Dr. Edward E. Gordon is an internationally known historian, author, and speaker. For over 20 years he taught at DePaul University, Loyola, and Northwestern universities in Chicago. In addition to authoring over 20 books and 150 articles in the areas of history, business, and education, he has given history presentations at museums, universities, and libraries across the country.

James W. Cornett

Beauties and the Beasts: Desert Cacti of California

Tuesday, May 7, 2–3 pm

Cacti are the great enigma of the California deserts. Their spectacular flowers invite close inspection, but their sharp spines tell us to keep away. Author and desert ecologist **James W. Cornett** will take us on a light-hearted journey into the Coachella Valley and beyond to discover the most beautiful and interesting varieties. Immediately following the presentation, he will be on hand to sign copies of his new book on desert cacti.



Music

Women ROCK! 15 Iconic Women Who Shaped Music

Tuesday, March 5, 2–3 pm



A fun and informative live music program highlighting 15 prolific women who left their indelible mark on the music world, forging new paths for future stars and securing their place in music history. From their creative and artistic contributions to their struggle and sacrifice for equal pay and recognition, **Kirsten Thien** covers the early innovators and pioneers, as well as

contemporary superstars from the past four decades, sharing some of her personal journey as a professional touring and recording musician. This entertaining and educational one-hour program is part concert, part history, with a dose of behind-the-scenes stories and little-known facts. Thien is accompanied by **Erik Boyd** on bass and guitar.

Palm Springs Opera Guild of the Desert Outreach and Recital 2024

Wednesday, March 13, 7–8:30 pm

Join us and enjoy a recital from this season's Palm Springs Opera Guild Vocal Competition winner **Krista Renée Pape**. Praised by the *Rutland Herald* for her “virtuoso and fiery performance, famous pyrotechnics and all,” soprano Krista Renée Pape made her professional debut as Queen of the Night with Opera North in 2020. She performed a number of roles as a resident artist at Lyric Opera of Kansas City, and in 2022 was a Fellow in the prestigious Music Academy of the West Vocal Institute.



This series is presented in partnership with the Palm Springs Opera Guild of the Desert and is made possible by a generous gift from The Bartush Family Foundation.



Wisconsin Wind Orchestra

Tuesday, March 19, 7–8 pm

Conductor and Music Director **Lawrence Dale Harper** established the Wisconsin Wind Orchestra in 1995 as one of the few professional wind ensembles in the world. They regularly perform concerts at venues throughout Wisconsin, have made numerous CD recordings acclaimed by

the American Record Guide and the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, and have appeared in concerts and radio broadcasts at the famed Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, and the Conservatorio F. Morlacchi in Perugia, Italy. In their European concert tour of 2017, they were featured artists at the Segni Barocchi Festival of Foligno, Italy, and appeared in concert for a sold-out audience at the Teatro della Concordia in Montecastello di Vibio. They were also artists-in-residence at the International Music Project's International Conducting Symposium of Umbria, Italy.

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



Farofa

Wednesday, March 27, 7–8 pm

Engaging, dynamic, and captivating: that's what people worldwide say about this smokin' hot Brazilian quartet. *San Diego Story* raves, "Farofa is bringing a much-needed fresh flavor to the contemporary jazz scene." Like "farofa", the tasty side-dish made from yucca flour, this world music band cooks up a blend of pop, jazz, Afro-Brazilian rhythms, rock, and their own originals! Farofa is propelled by the stunning virtuosity of percussionist **Felipe Fraga**, bassist **Nando Raio**, **JP Mourão** on guitar, and violinist **Ted Falcon**.

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



Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus

Wednesday, April 10, 7–8 pm

Now in their 25th season of bringing beautiful music and community outreach to the Coachella Valley, the Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus is proud to be singing at the Rancho Mirage Library. The group sings at a wide array of community based charity events throughout the year supporting a number of important causes. They'll be singing selections from their upcoming spring show *Defying Gravity*. For more information visit psgmc.com.

This program is made possible by a generous gift from Joanne and Dom Summa Jr.



Bobby Jo Valentine

Wednesday, April 17, 7–8 pm

Bobby Jo Valentine brings his award-winning, soulful storytelling and songs to the library for a fourth return visit. Stephen Schwartz, Tony award-winning creator of *Wicked* and *Godspell*, describes Valentine's music as "catchy songs with intelligent, thoughtful lyrics in the tradition of Bob Dylan, Cat Stevens, and Bruce Hornsby." His new album, *The Thing About A Heart*, explores our internal identities and their relationship to our ever-shifting outer world with imagination, poetry, and

hopefulness. Valentine was named Songwriter of the Year by the West Coast Songwriter's Association. He lives in the Pacific Northwest and tours the country bringing his soulful songs and stories to festivals, theaters, and even living room stages.

This program is made possible by a generous gift from Gerald and Lori Ernst.



Doug MacDonald • Jazz Guitarist

Wednesday, April 24, 7–8 pm

There are some musicians who earn the label “a players player.” Individuals who possess a quality and integrity that peers look up to, not for mere bursts of blazing notes or chops, but for the perfection of their performances and the joy they bring. Such a musician is West Coast-based jazz journeyman guitarist **Doug MacDonald**. He continues to tour and perform around 300 plus performances a year across the country from Hawaii to New York City. He has performed in

Spain, Finland, Estonia, and England and in venues including Cezanne (Houston), The Jazz Showcase (Chicago), and Carnegie Hall (New York City). Join MacDonald in the Library’s Community Room to experience an evening of inspiring jazz.

This program is made possible by a generous gift from Gail & Alfred Bryman.

Steinway Society’s 2024 Awards Festival Winners Concert

Wednesday, May 8, 7–8 pm

The Steinway Society of Riverside County presents the winners of their most recent Festival Competition. Winners range from 7 to 17 years of age. The Steinway Society of Riverside County and Coachella Valley was founded in 2002 to promote excellence in piano performance, bring music into schools and encourage music education at all levels, provide financial awards through competitions, and provide music lessons for deserving children.



Melissa Batallés • Thursday, May 9, 3–4 pm

Argentine-American lyric coloratura soprano **Melissa Batallés** has established her career performing as a concert soloist with pianists and orchestras throughout the country. Batallés is a three-time recipient of the Michael Masser ASCAP Scholarship and winner of the Audience Choice Award and Kreshek “Best Vocalist” for McCallum Theatre’s Open Call Competition, finalist in the Palm Springs Opera Guild Competition, winner of both the AEIOU and Professional Opera Singer’s Association competitions, and finalist in the 2012 Meistersinger Competition in Austria, where she performed with an orchestra in Austria conducted by La Scala Opera conductor, Maestro Edoardo Müller. Come join soprano Melissa Batallés and pianist **Constance Gordy** for an afternoon full of the best musical theater songs, everyone’s favorite opera arias, and the great American standards.

Film

Steven C. Smith • Sin on the Silver Screen: The Story of Hollywood Censorship

Prostitution and drug use. Glorified gangsters. Savage monsters and unpunished villains. During the mid-twentieth century, many Hollywood moviemakers defiantly ignored the strict “Production Code” guidelines created in 1930, which were supposed to keep movies morally “clean.” In this three-week series, hosted by documentarian **Steven C. Smith**, we’ll hear the fascinating story of how Hollywood censorship began, in the wake of Jazz Age scandals, and find out what brought the era to an end.

Each week, Smith will show a classic movie that marks an important moment in censorship. Before each of the movies, Smith will give a talk that contextualizes what we’re about to see. Over the three weeks, we’ll go from Hollywood in the 1930s—a time of gangster dramas, monster movies and Mae West; to the 1940s, when World War II led to more adult storytelling; to the 1960s, when shifting social values brought an end to the “Production Code.” The old form of censorship was replaced by the movie ratings system still used today.

Steven C. 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.



Actress Joan Blondell in a 1932 publicity photo, banned under the Motion Picture Production Code



Thou Shalt Not: Rule Makers and Rule Breakers

***Three on a Match* (1932) • Monday, March 4, 2–4 pm**

After viewing highlights from classic movies that ignored the Production Code, we'll see a complete feature that is now considered one of the most Code-flouting (and fun) films of the time: 1932's *Three on a Match*, co-starring Bette Davis—a movie that packs adultery, drug addiction, kidnapping, and other cinematic sins into just 63 minutes!

In Love and War: Bogie, Bacall, and the 1940s

***The Big Sleep* (1946) • Monday, March 11, 2–4 pm**

Despite the Production Code, smart filmmakers could still smuggle forbidden content into their movies. A perfect example is the risqué film noir *The Big Sleep*—starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, who married during its production. We'll find out how one of Hollywood's greatest directors, Howard Hawks, turned an “unfilmable” detective novel by Raymond Chandler—filled with pornographers, naked nymphomaniacs, drug addicts, and more—into one of 1946's biggest hits.



The Big Sleep



The Apartment

The Code Crumbles

***The Apartment* (1960) • Monday, March 18, 2–4 pm**

During the 1950s, Hollywood box office cratered. Its audience was being stolen by a rival that was free: television. Foreign films shown in large U.S. cities, with sexy stars like Brigitte Bardot, began baring flesh. By the 1960s, the Production Code existed in name only. In 1968, it was replaced by the MPAA ratings system, in a major victory for filmmakers. We'll watch 1960's Best Picture winner: director Billy Wilder's masterful comedy-drama *The Apartment*, starring Jack Lemmon and Shirley MacLaine. *The Apartment's* depiction of sex, love, and corruption in the world of corporate America is funny, moving, and unmistakably adult.

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

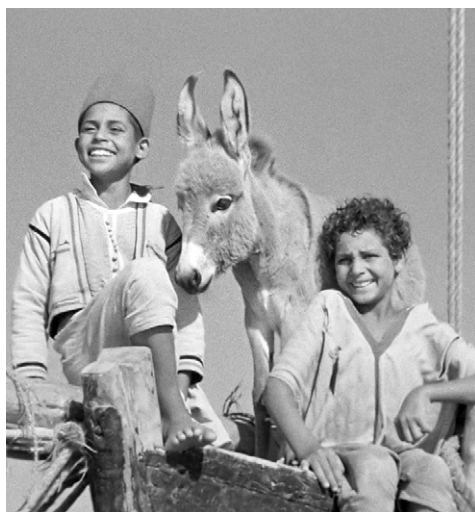
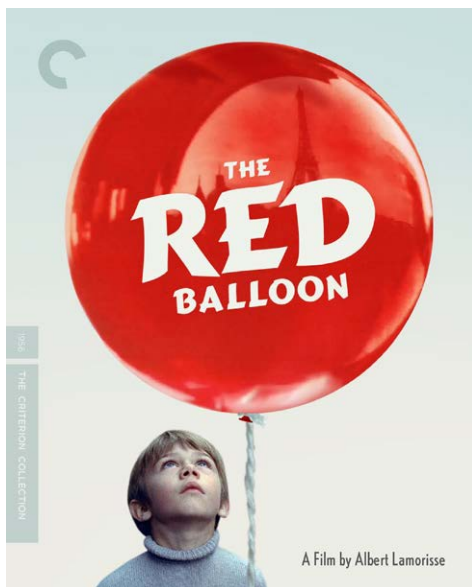
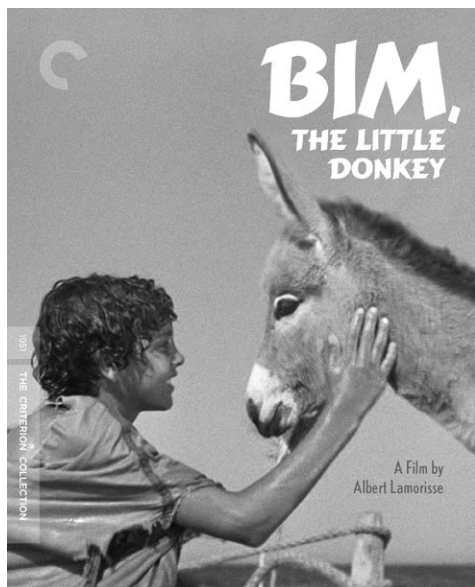
Worldwide Cinema: Inspirational Stories of Youth

Join film historian **Jason Bruecks** for a series of fantastic films that highlight moving stories of childhood and exemplify high-quality worldwide cinema.

***Bim, the Little Donkey* (1951) and *The Red Balloon* (1956)**

Monday, April 29, 2–4 pm

Our first film takes place in an Eastern country, where a poor young boy only has a little donkey, Bim, who shares all his games. But Bim is coveted by the boss's son. The two friends will have a lot to do to stay together. We'll also screen the beloved French short film in which a red balloon with a mind of its own follows a little boy around the streets of Paris!



Queen of Katwe (2016) • Monday, May 13, 2–4 pm

A Ugandan girl sees her world rapidly change after being introduced to the game of chess.



Whale Rider (2002) • Monday, May 20, 2–4 pm

A contemporary story of love, rejection, and triumph as a young Maori girl fights to fulfill a destiny her grandfather refuses to recognize.



This series is made possible by a generous gift from Gerald and Lori Ernst.

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 served.

Family Night

Dr. Seuss • Wednesday, March 6, 4–5 pm

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! Join us as we celebrate our favorite stories and enjoy a fun evening of reading and crafts!

Earth Day • Wednesday, April 3, 4–5 pm

Come decorate a peat pot and leave with a planted flower to take home to your garden!

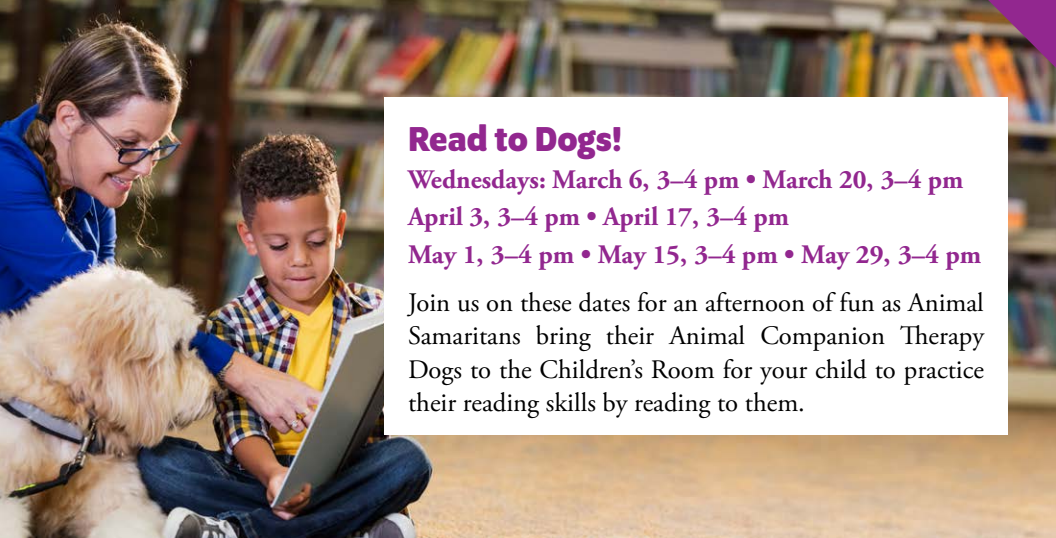
May the Fourth Be with You!

Saturday, May 4, 11 am–1 pm

Join us for a fun day of celebrating the well-loved *Star Wars* franchise. We'll have crafts, stories, and much more. Costumes welcome!

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





Read to Dogs!

Wednesdays: March 6, 3–4 pm • March 20, 3–4 pm

April 3, 3–4 pm • April 17, 3–4 pm

May 1, 3–4 pm • May 15, 3–4 pm • May 29, 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 your child to practice their reading skills by reading to them.

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.

A New Invention • Wednesday, March 27, 4–5 pm

Build Something Funny • Wednesday, April 24, 4–5 pm

Under the Sea • Wednesday, May 29, 4–5 pm



Photo: GiocoVisione/Flickr

The Scribblers

Songwriting • Five Weeks: Thursdays, April 18–May 16, 4–5 pm • Ages 9–14

In this five-week session, writers will learn the craft of songwriting by learning common song structures and listening to a handful of examples of storytelling in songs. Each session will include a snack, discussion, and the time to create and share. The final product will be an original song created in pairs or trios or quads depending on the number of students.

Registration is required. Visit ranchomiragelibrary.org.

The Scribblers Reading • Tuesday, May 21, 4–5:30 pm

The performance will start at 4 pm in the Community Room followed by light refreshment. Members of The Scribblers are invited to perform their creative work in a reading for their families, friends, and peers. In preparation for this event, young writers are asked to submit their work by April 23, either in person or by emailing angelinah@ranchomiragelibrary.org. Before the reading, students are required to attend at least one dress rehearsal on either Tuesday, May 7 or Tuesday, May 14 at 4 pm.

Teen Programs (Grades 6–12)

Craft: Easter Bunny Mason Jars • Thursday, March 21, 4:30–5:30 pm

These pastel painted mason jars make for perfect Easter décor or as Easter gifts.

Dungeons & Dragons • Friday, April 5, 2–5 pm

Start your adventure! Join us in this role-playing game by creating characters, battling adversaries, finding treasure, and more. Beginners welcome! **Registration is required. Visit ranchomiragelibrary.org.**



Craft: Wine Cork Succulent Planter • Thursday, April 11, 4:30–5:30 pm

Brighten your refrigerator or locker with these colorful recycled wine corks turned into mini planters.

Dungeons & Dragons • Saturday, May 4, 2–5 pm

Start your adventure! Join us in this role-playing game by creating characters, battling adversaries, finding treasure, and more. Beginners welcome! **Registration is required. Visit ranchomiragelibrary.org.**

Craft: Paper Poppies • Thursday, May 23, 4:30–5:30 pm

April showers bring May flowers. Create beautiful blooms out of crepe paper. No watering required.

Design It • Make It

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

Perler Beads • Friday, April 19, 4–5 pm

Come make a Perler bead design to take home!

Paper Chain Wall Hanging

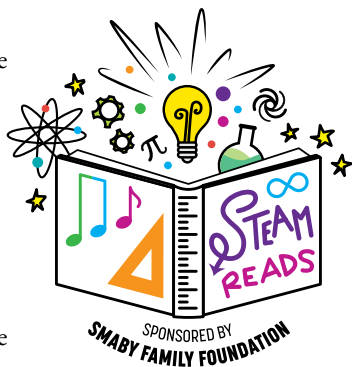
Friday, May 17, 4–5 pm

Using strips of paper, design your own paper chain wall hanging decoration.



STEAM Reads

This program highlights 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 to register.** This ambitious program is made possible thanks to the Smaby Family Foundation.



Jessica Kim Author Visit (Grades 3–7)

Saturday, March 2, 2–3 pm

The first 50 registrants will receive a free copy of the book. Jessica Kim will be discussing her latest novel *Make a Move, Sunny Park!* The story follows seventh grade student Sunny as she navigates a difficult friendship breakup and makes the school dance team. Followed by a Q&A and signing.

Jessica Kim Led Writing Workshop (Ages 9–13)

Saturday, March 2, Following Jessica's Author Visit



Jessica Kim will lead a writing lesson on how to create realistic characters. Students will brainstorm, complete a story map, and create an example character as a group before transitioning into an individual writing assignment which will culminate in a share out session.

Desert Theatricals Workshop (Ages 9–17)

Tuesday, March 12, 4–5 pm

Registration is required. Representatives and alumni from Desert Theatricals will teach aspiring thespians a musical number and surrounding scenes from a previous production. Students will be introduced to how theatre productions work, how fast they move, and what expectations are for being part of a junior theatre program. Space is limited.

STEAM Reads Fair

Saturday, March 16, 11 am–1 pm

Join us for a morning of fun activities and education in the Community Room as we feature local organizations and businesses that work in STEAM. These organizations will be at the Library showcasing and interacting with our young patrons, inspiring them to see that STEAM is all around them in everyday jobs. **No registration is required.**



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 Diva and Flea* • Friday, March 22, 4–5 pm**

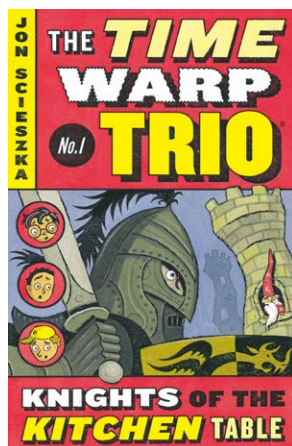
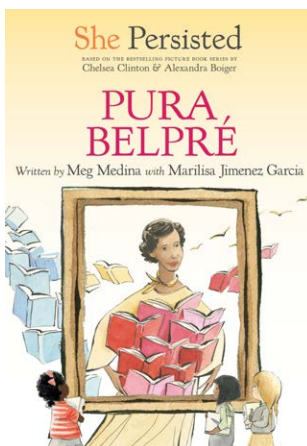
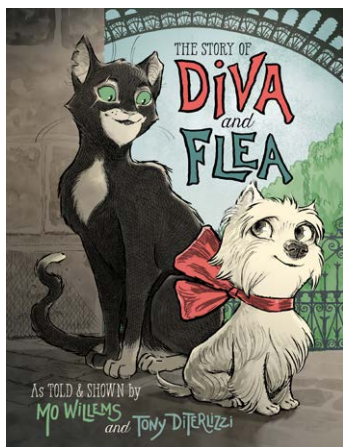
By Mo Willems (A.R. level 4.6)

***She Persisted: Pura Belpré* • Friday, April 26, 4–5 pm**

By Meg Medina with Marilisa Jiménez García (no A.R. level)

***Knights of the Kitchen Table* • Friday, May 24, 4–5 pm**

By Jon Scieszka (A.R. level: 3.8)



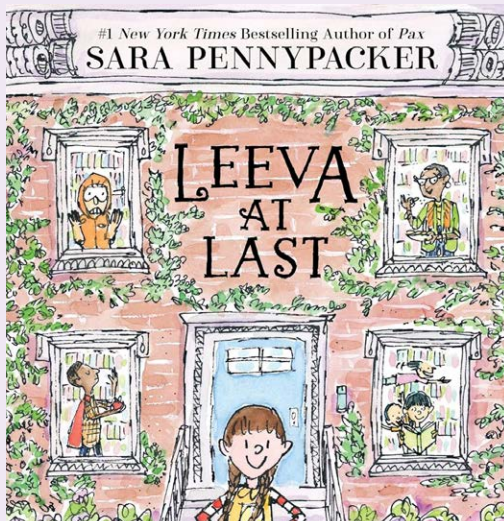
Older Kids Book Discussion (Ages 10–12)

Every second Monday of the month. Register online and pick up a copy of the book in the Children's Room.

Leeva at Last

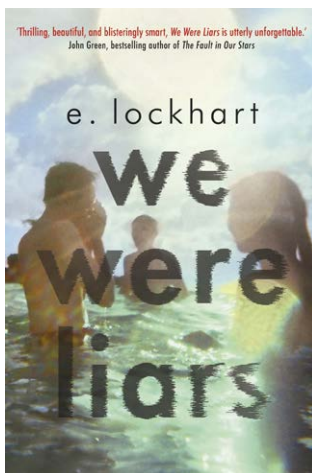
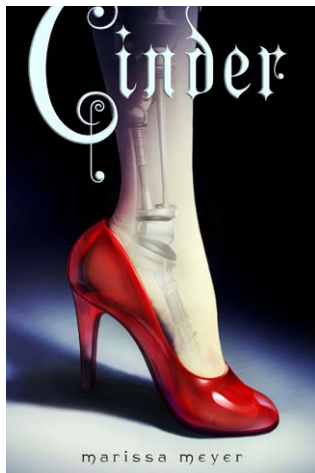
Monday, March 11, 4–5 pm

By Sara Pennypacker (A.R. level: 4.8)



Teen Book Discussion (Grades 6–12)

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



***Cinder* • Wednesday, March 6, 4:30–5:30 pm**

By Marissa Meyer (A.R. level: 5.8)

***We Were Liars* • Wednesday, April 3, 4:30–5:30 pm**

By E. Lockhart (A.R. level: 4.4)

***Scythe* • Wednesday, May 1, 4:30–5:30 pm**

By Neal Shusterman (A.R. level: 6.5)

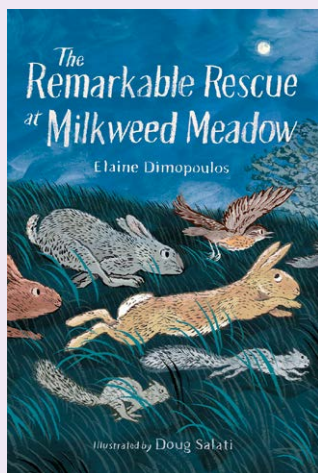
The Remarkable Rescue at Milkweed Meadow

Monday, April 8, 4–5 pm

By Elaine Dimopoulos
(A.R. level 4.7)

Wild River Monday, May 13, 4–5 pm

By Rodman Philbrick
(A.R. level: 4.2)



Theatre



Disney's *Moana JR.*

This thrilling and heartwarming coming-of-age story follows the strong-willed Moana as she sets sail across the Pacific to save her village and discover the truth about her heritage. Moana and the legendary demigod Maui embark on an epic journey of self-discovery and camaraderie as both learn to harness the power that lies within. With empowering messages of bravery and selflessness, *Moana JR.* is sure to bring out the hero within each of us.

Auditions

Monday, March 18 through Wednesday, March 20

Local youth ages 7–17 can audition to join our production of Disney's *Moana JR.* Auditions will be at the Rancho Mirage Amphitheater.

To learn more and register, visit www.desert-theatricals.com/junior-theatre. **There is no cost to audition or take part in our youth theatre program.** Journey beyond the reef 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

Friday, May 17, 8–9 pm • Saturday, May 18, 8–9 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 to reserve your tickets.

Coming this Summer: *Stuart Little!*

Rancho Mirage Library youth theatre programs are facilitated by Desert Theatricals and made possible by generous gifts from the Richard Brooke Foundation and Anderson Children's Foundation.



**Irene W. & Guy L. Anderson
Children's Foundation**

Observatory



Great American Eclipse!

Monday, April 8, 10 am–12:30 pm

We will view a partial solar eclipse from Rancho Mirage as the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun. Join us just down the road at the **Rancho Mirage Community Park** to view this exciting event safely through our telescopes, learn more about eclipses, and create your own pinhole projection viewer!

10:06 am—partial eclipse begins

11:14 am—maximum eclipse: 53% of the Sun's disk will be blocked by the Moon!

12:25 pm—partial eclipse ends

It is important to ***always*** use the proper eye protection when viewing the Sun. This requires special-purpose eclipse glasses or hand-held solar viewers that meet the ISO 12312-2 international standard for such products. Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed Sun. The Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory will have certified eclipse glasses on hand the day of the program and available for giveaway at Observatory programs leading up to the event.

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.

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.



RMWF 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.



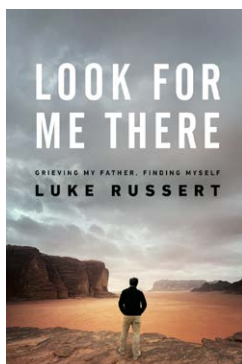
Luke Russert

Look for Me There

Thursday, March 7, 2–3 pm

Luke Russert is a multiweek *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author and an Emmy Award-winning journalist. His first book, *Look For Me There*, is a reflection of his deeply personal internal journey across many diverse external places. Russert says, “I reached a crossroads in my early thirties where I felt

empty and unfulfilled. I wanted to know—why? So I set out into the world, hoping to feel something. The reward of travel was that it made me much more aware of my surroundings—the beauty of nature, the weight of history, and the common good of the larger human family.” **The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of *Look for Me There*.**



Steven Rowley • The Celebrants

Thursday, March 14, 2–3 pm



Steven Rowley is the bestselling author of *Lily and the Octopus*, a *Washington Post* Notable Book of 2016; *The Editor*, named by NPR and *Esquire* magazine as one of the Best Books of 2019; *The Guncle*, a Goodreads Choice Awards finalist for 2021 Novel of the Year and winner of The 22nd Thurber Prize for American Humor; and *The Celebrants* published May 2023.

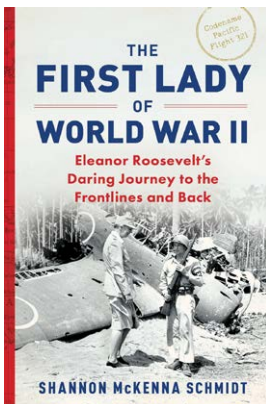
The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of *The Celebrants*.



Shannon McKenna Schmidt • *The First Lady of World War II*

Thursday, March 21, 2–3 pm

Shannon McKenna Schmidt is the author of *The First Lady of World War II: Eleanor Roosevelt's Daring Journey to the Frontlines and Back* and the co-author of *Novel Destinations: A Travel Guide to Literary Landmarks from Jane Austen's Bath to Ernest Hemingway's Key West* and *Writers Between the Covers: The Scandalous Romantic Lives of Legendary Literary Casanovas, Coquettes, and Cads*. In addition, she has written for *National Geographic Traveler*, NPR.org and other publications and websites.



From 2010 through 2017, Schmidt traveled full-time—first in the United States by RV and then backpacking around the globe. She now lives in Hoboken, New Jersey.

The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of *The First Lady of World War II*.

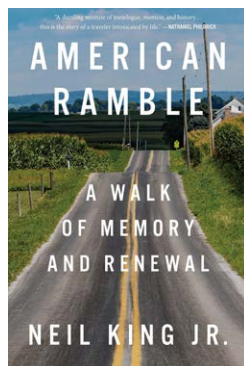
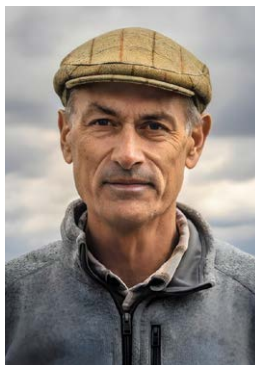


Neil King Jr.

American Ramble

Thursday, March 28, 2–3 pm

A fourth-generation Coloradan, Neil King Jr. is a longtime former *Wall Street Journal* editor and reporter who covered beats ranging from national politics, foreign policy, and terrorism. He spent much of his career abroad and was part of a team that won a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of 9/11. He has since written for *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, and other publications. *American Ramble: A Walk of Memory and Renewal* is his first book. King studied philosophy at Columbia University and earned a masters in journalism from Northwestern University. He splits his time now between Washington, D.C. and New York City, the beginning and endpoints of the walk that later became *American Ramble*.



The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of *American Ramble*.



J. Randy Taraborrelli • Jackie

Thursday, April 11, 2–3 pm

J. Randy Taraborrelli is the author of 20 biographies, most of which have become *New York Times* bestsellers, including: *Jackie*, *Ethel*, *Joan: Women of Camelot*; *After Camelot: A Personal History of the Kennedy Family 1968 to the Present*, which was adapted as a mini-series for Reelz; and *Jackie, Janet & Lee: The Secret Lives of Janet Auchincloss and Her Daughters, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Lee Radziwill*, which he is adapting for television.



Jackie: Public, Private, Secret is a fresh and often startling look at the life of the legendary former first lady, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Based on hundreds of interviews with friends, family, and lovers over a thirty-year period—as well as previously unreleased material from the JFK Library—Kennedy historian J. Randy Taraborrelli paints an unforgettable new portrait of a woman whose flaws and contradictions only serve

to make her even more iconic. “I have three lives,” Jackie told a former lover, “public, private and secret.” In this revealing biography, readers will become intimately familiar with all three.

The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of *Jackie*.

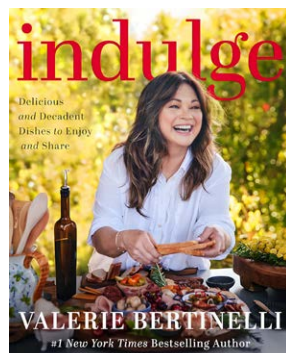


Valerie Bertinelli • Indulge

Thursday, April 25, 2–3 pm

Beloved actress and *New York Times* bestselling author **Valerie Bertinelli** returns with her most indulgent cookbook yet. When she turned 60, she said “Enough already!” and ended her battle with the scale for good. She stopped counting calories. She stopped thinking of certain foods as good or bad. She quit saying no and began saying yes, finally learning how to enjoy the pure pleasure of being alive—starting in the kitchen. In short, she learned

how to indulge. With this gorgeous cookbook, Bertinelli shares her secrets for indulging so you can start living your best, most fulfilling life too. Written in her warmhearted and intimate style—including heartfelt essays about how to savor moments big and small—this cookbook is a permission slip to enjoy food, and more importantly, enjoy life. **The first 200 people at this event will receive a FREE copy of *Indulge*.**



This series is made possible by a generous gift from Jordan Schnitzer, funded by the Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation.

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Calendar • March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Women's History Month International Women's Day is March 8 Pi Day is March 14					
3 Library Closed	4 Three on a Match 2-4 pm p. 17	5 Women ROCK! 15 Iconic Women Who Shaped Music 2-3 pm p. 12	6 Read to Dogs! 3-4 pm p. 21 Family Night: Dr. Seuss 4-5 pm p. 20 Teen Book Discussion: Cinder 4:30-5:30 pm p. 25	7 Look for Me There 2-3 pm p. 28 The Scribblers 4-5 pm p. 21 OPENight 7-8:30 pm p. 27	8 Book Discussion Group: The Marriage Portrait 10-11 am p. 4	9 OPENight 7-8:30 pm p. 27
10 Library Closed	11 The Big Sleep 2-4 pm p. 17 Older Kids Book Discussion: Leela at Last 4-5 pm p. 24	12 STEAM Reads: Desert Theatricals Workshop 4-5 pm p. 23	13 Palm Springs Opera Guild of the Desert Outreach and Recital 7-8:30 pm p. 12	14 The Celebrities 2-3 pm p. 28 The Scribblers 4-5 pm p. 21 OPENight 8:30-10 pm p. 27	15	16 STEAM Reads Fair 11 am-1 pm p. 23 OPENight 8:30-10 pm p. 27
17 Library Closed	18 The Apartment 2-4 pm p. 17 Moana JR. Auditions 4-6 pm p. 26	19 Moana JR. Auditions 4-6 pm p. 26 Wisconsin Wind Orchestra 7-8 pm p. 13	20 Read to Dogs! 3-4 pm p. 21 Moana JR. Auditions 4-7 pm p. 26	21 The First Lady of World War II 2-3 pm p. 29 Teen Craft 4:30-5:30 pm p. 22 OPENight 8:30-10 pm p. 27	22 Younger Kids Book Discussion: The Story of Dina and Flea 4-5 pm p. 24	23 Artist Studio Tour 10 am-4 pm p. 4 OPENight 8:30-10 pm p. 27
24 Library Closed	25	26 Plant-Based Cooking Series 2-3 pm p. 8	27 LEGO Night: A New Invention 4-5 pm p. 21 Farofa 7-8 pm p. 13	28 American Rambles 2-3 pm p. 29 OPENight 8:30-10 pm p. 27	29	30 Safety and Preparedness Fair 9 am-1 pm p. 5 OPENight 8:30-10 pm p. 27
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Kids, Teens,
and Families

Observatory

Film

Music

RMWF
Writers Series

Community
Showcase

Theatre

Lectures

Premier Program

Calendar • April

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book Sale 9 am–3 pm p. 6 Read to Dogs! 3–4 pm p. 21 Family Night: Earth Day 4–5 pm p. 20 Teen Book Discussion: <i>We Were Liars</i> 4:30–5:30 pm p. 25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book Sale 9 am–3 pm p. 6 OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book Sale 9 am–3 pm p. 6 OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book Sale 9 am–3 pm p. 6 Teen Dungeons & Dragons 2–5 pm p. 22 	
7 Library Closed	8	9	10	11	12	13
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great American Eclipse! 10 am–12:30 pm p. 27 Older Kids Book Discussion: <i>The Remarkable Rescue at Milkweed Meadow</i> 4–5 pm p. 25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant-Based Cooking Series 2–3 pm p. 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus 7–8 pm p. 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jackie 2–3 pm p. 30 Teen Craft 4:30–5:30 pm p. 22 OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book Discussion Group: <i>Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow</i> 10–11 am p. 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shredding and E-Waste Collection 8 am–12 pm p. 6 OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27
14 Library Closed	15	16	17	18	19	20
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friends of the Desert Mountains Series 2–3 pm p. 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read to Dogs! 3–4 pm p. 21 Bobby Jo Valentine 7–8 pm p. 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bighorn Sheep in the Coachella Valley 2–3 pm p. 9 The Scribblers 4–5 pm p. 21 OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design It • Make It 4–5 pm p. 22 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27
21 Library Closed	22	23	24	25	26	27
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Continuing Saga of Nazi Art Theft 2–3 pm p. 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEGO Night: Build Something Funny 4–5 pm p. 21 Doug MacDonald 7–8 pm p. 15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indulge 2–3 pm p. 30 The Scribblers 4–5 pm p. 21 OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LifeStream Blood Drive 10 am–2 pm p. 6 Younger Kids Book Discussion: <i>Pura Belpré</i> 4–5 pm p. 24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27
28 Library Closed	29	30	Jazz Appreciation Month Global Astronomy Month National Poetry Month			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Bim, the Little Donkey and The Red Balloon</i> 2–4 pm p. 18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The History of Political Cartoons and Newspaper Opinion Pages in America 2–3 pm p. 10 	Drop Everything and Read Day is April 12 National Library Week is April 7–13 Day of the Child is April 30			



Calendar • May

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ■ Read to Dogs! 3–4 pm p. 21 ■ Teen Book Discussion: <i>Scythe</i> 4:30–5:30 pm p. 25	2 ■ The Scribblers 4–5 pm p. 21 ■ OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27	31	4 ■ Family Night: May the Fourth 1–5 pm p. 20 ■ Teen Dungeons & Dragons 2–5 pm p. 22 ■ OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27
5 Library Closed	6	7 ■ Beauties and the Beasts: Desert Cacti of California 2–3 pm p. 11	8 ■ Steinway Society's 2024 Awards Festival Winners Concert 7–8 pm p. 15	9 ■ Melissa Batallés 3–4 pm p. 15 ■ The Scribblers 4–5 pm p. 21 ■ OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27	10 ■ Book Discussion Group: <i>People of the Book</i> 10–11 am p. 4	11 ■ OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27
12 Library Closed	13 ■ <i>Queen of Katwe</i> 2–4 pm p. 19 ■ Older Kids Book Discussion: <i>Wild River</i> 4–5 pm p. 25	14 ■ Plant-Based Cooking Series 2–3 pm p. 8	15 ■ Read to Dogs! 3–4 pm p. 21	16 ■ The Scribblers 4–5 pm p. 21 ■ OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27	17 ■ Design It • Make It 4–5 pm p. 22 ■ <i>Moana Jr.</i> 8–9 pm p. 26	18 ■ <i>Moana Jr.</i> 8–9 pm p. 26 ■ OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27
19 Library Closed	20 ■ <i>Whale Rider</i> 2–4 pm p. 19	21 ■ The Scribblers Reading 4–5:30 pm p. 21	22	23 ■ Teen Craft 4:30–5:30 pm p. 22 ■ OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27	24 ■ Younger Kids Book Discussion: <i>Knights of the Kitchen Table</i> 4–5 pm p. 24	25 ■ OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27
26 Library Closed	27 Library Closed	28	29 ■ Read to Dogs! 3–4 pm p. 21 ■ LEGO Night: Under the Sea 4–5 pm p. 21	30 ■ OPENight 9–10:30 pm p. 27	31	



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