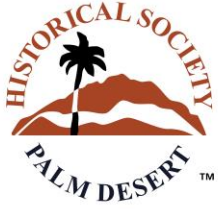


HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT



The Hourglass



Winter 2024

Ed. Merilee Colton

They've done it again!

Once again, the intrepid HSPD Modernism Week Committee has pulled it off – a new and wonderful walking tour of **South Palm Desert** will be featured during Modernism Week this February. The Modernism Week Committee is a subcommittee of the HSPD's Architecture and Design Committee - Chair, Linda Holden Clode. Here's more information about the tour and how to purchase tickets. Last year the HSPD-sponsored walking tours sold out early, so hurry! Go to the Modernism Week website to the HSPD tour page at <https://go.modtix.com/f/f24/living-large?date=2024-02-22>

The tour, titled "Living Large in Small Spaces" features condos and small homes designed by Walter White, Hugh Kaptur, Harold Bissner, William Krisel and more. Included with the tour are some interior home reveals and a catered reception.

The tours begin and end at Kings Point (Kaptur) and also include Sands and Shadows (Bissner), Sandpiper (Krisel) and several small homes (White and others) bordered by east Shadow Mountain and Edgehill. These homes have an interesting history, and your docent tour guide



will share the complete story. There are four tours: on February 22 and 23, two tours each day, one starting at 9:15 AM and one at 9:30 AM. The tours are 2¼ hours, and tickets are \$55.

Photos: Linda Holden Clode

President's Letter

As I write, it is New Year's Eve, 2023, and we are looking forward to a continuing busy season. Regarding our Friday Night Lecture series, we will have Valerie Miller speaking on January 19th about the early art scene on El Paseo. Valerie owned a few of the first El Paseo art galleries. February 16th we will have Larry Bird speaking about his recently published book, *In the Arms of Saguaros: The Iconography of the Giant Cactus*. Larry, who now lives in Tucson, is Curator Emeritus at the National Museum of American History – Smithsonian Institution. And in March (either the 1st or 15th) we will have Francis Gary Powers, Jr. Gary will be speaking about the Cold War. He served as a consultant on Steven Spielberg's movie, "Bridge of Spies", a movie based on the 1962 spy exchange for his father, U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, Sr., who was shot down over Russian airspace. Friday Night Lectures are at the Portola Community Center, 45480 Portola Avenue in Palm Desert, doors open at 6 PM.

There are still tickets available for the Walking Tour, "Living Large in Small Spaces," organized by the HSPD Architecture and Design Committee. The tickets are available on the Modernism Week website. The tour begins and ends with a reception at King's Point in Palm Desert, and tickets are \$55.00. Modernism Week is February 15th through the 25th, 2024.

Hope to see you at the Firehouse – Let's talk again in the Spring.

Rob Pitchford

Archivist's Corner



If you are interested in volunteering at the Historical Society of Palm Desert, either in the Archives or the Museum, please email us at hspd.firehouse@gmail.com with your contact information. There are Docent opportunities at the Firehouse Museum for 2024: we have eight 2 and ½ hour shifts to fill each week until the end of May, between Friday and Monday. Training is available, including partnering with an experienced docent until you are ready to fly on your own. Welcome visitors to the Museum, or help out in the Archives with cataloguing, scanning and annotating. Learn about Palm Desert's history!

Rochelle McCune, HSPD Archivist

HSPD MISSION STATEMENT

TO COLLECT, PRESERVE AND RECORD THE
HISTORY OF OUR CITY AND COMMUNITIES, AND
TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE SOCIETY'S ARCHIVES
AND ARTIFACTS THROUGH EXHIBITS,
PUBLICATIONS, PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

HSPD BOARD

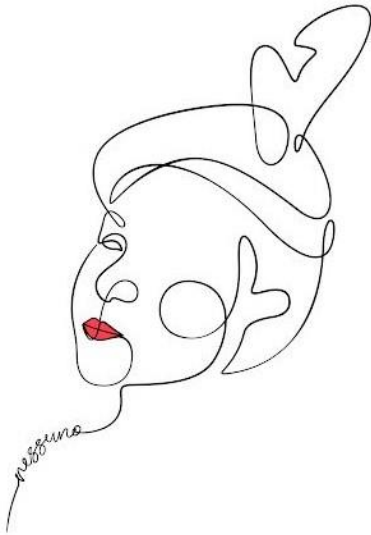
HSPD OFFICERS

Rob Pitchford, President
David Toltzmann, Vice-President
Beverly James, Secretary
Susan Marie Weber, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Linda Holden Clode, Juleen McElgunn, Don Graybill,
Matt Gonda, Nerl Porras, Jo Ellen Hughes, Erika
Sharp, Darrell Cozen, Merilee Colton

Oral History Project



Hi everyone, Leslie Roth here. It's that time again: wrapping up the end of the year and getting ready for the new year. Speaking of wrapping things up, the Legacy Interview Project is moving along. It has been a distinct honor for me to meet with almost 30 people now.

The inspiration started with HSPD Archivist Rochelle McCune, who mentioned that there was a need for new oral histories. Previously, there had been some interviews done by Hal Rover and Brett Romer, and before that, in the late 1970's through the early 1980's, over 50 oral histories were done by a professional interviewer from Fullerton State. These were mainly of the early pioneers, and they are posted on the Internet Archive. To listen to them, go to:

archive.org/details/audio?query=historical+society+of+palm+desert

I so enjoy interviewing our wonderful residents. Technology has greatly improved the functionality of the interview process. I pre-interview on the phone, followed by a visit with the interviewee, usually at the Firehouse. It takes about an hour. I simply use my iPhone and have a designated spot with good lighting, or I can go to the interviewee's house. I sit behind the camera and off we go! Please look at the HSPD YouTube page, you can see the recent interviews at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@historicalsocietyofpalmdes3519>

HSPD President Rob Pitchford has been fantastic. I send the videos to him, he does his magic, and then posts them on YouTube. You can send the link to your YouTube interview to friends and family! We are always ready to schedule a time for anyone who steps up to be interviewed, or to follow up on a recommendation.

If you would like to volunteer to be interviewed, or suggest someone to be interviewed, please call the Firehouse at [\(760\) 346-6588](tel:7603466588) and leave a message. Thank you to all the past, present and future interviewees for the opportunity!


Leslie Roth, HSPD Oral Historian

Nominations Now Being Accepted

Did you ever want to serve on a Board? Are you interested in Palm Desert history, and giving back to your community? Nominations are now being accepted to sit on the Board of the Historical Society of Palm Desert. The HSPD has a "working" Board; come bring your energy and talents to the organization! Board terms are four years. You can self-nominate or nominate someone you know would be interested and the nominating Committee will contact them. To nominate or to find out more, call Nominating Committee member Erika Sharp at (760) 341-9522. Deadline for nominations is **January 15, 2024.**

Upcoming Events


Watch your inbox for a notice about the Spring Picnic, tentatively scheduled for early April, and of course the Friday Night Lectures, normally on the third Friday of the month, through May. Check out the Events page on the website at hspd.org.



Express frame
THE PICTURE FRAMING EXPERTS

SUE DUFFY
Owner

44-489 TOWN CENTER WAY, SUITE A
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA 92260
(760) 773-9228 FAX (760) 674-0595



"An Adventure in Maps and Aerials"

Desert Map & Aerial Photo

Del & Lori Gagnon
Proprietors

73-612 Highway 111
Palm Desert, CA 92260-4022
www.desertmapandaerial.com

E-mail: mapshop@aol.com
Phone (760) 346-1101
Fax (760) 346-6875



JANET GALIPPO
Membership &
Communications Director

**MARRAKESH
COUNTRY CLUB**

Business (760) 568-2688 Ext. 106
Fax (760) 568-4087
47-000 Marrakesh Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92260
memberservices@marrakeshcountryclub.com
www.marrakeshcountryclub.com



PALMS TO PINES
Automotive

74-725 Joni Drive
Palm Desert CA 92260

p2pent@verizon.net
760-346-3115

Management Essentials



Susan Marie Weber
760.831.5416

Accounting Systems | Consulting | Notary Public



**MOLLER'S
GARDEN CENTER, INC.**

72-235 Painter's Path
Palm Desert, California 92260
(760) 346-0545 • Fax (760) 773-0425
www.mollersgardencenters.com

Do you know someone who would like to be a member?
Fill out the information below and mail along with credit card information or a
check payable to **HSPD** to:

Historical Society of Palm Desert, P.O. Box 77, Palm Desert, CA 92261-0077

OR

Join or renew quickly using PayPal on our website: visit www.hspd.org and click on "Join!"

Name _____

Membership Level - July 1 to June 30 yearly

Address _____

- Individual \$30
- Family \$35
- Supporting \$50
- Business \$75
- Contributing \$100
- Patron \$250
- Bronze Lifetime \$1000
- Silver Lifetime \$2500
- Gold Lifetime \$5000
- Please contact me about volunteering
- This is a change of address



City/State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Signature:

Credit Card Number

Exp Date

CVV

Historical Society of Palm Desert. P.O. Box 77, Palm Desert, CA 92261-0077 Phone 760.346.6588

Email: hspd.firehouse@gmail.com

501c.3 Federal ID 95-3326699

Website: www.hspd.org