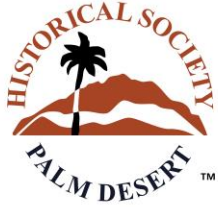


HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT



The Hourglass



Summer 2024

Ed. Merilee Colton

SPRING PICNIC

In a departure from tradition, the Spring Picnic in the Park was celebrated in the park (ing) lot behind the Firehouse Museum. Tents and tables were set up and a wonderful time was had by all. Special thanks to Erika Sharp, Board member, and David Toltzmann, incoming President, for putting on the Spring Picnic once again.



The parking lot was transformed

Left, Docents Carol and Dan Scanny enjoy the food and conversation. Right, David and Erika share a joke.

Photos by Bev James and David Toltzmann

President's Letter



Scout Troop 76 would sell programs and pairing sheets each year for the Bob Hope Classic in the early 70's. One of those years it rained off and on. Somebody in the troop had the bright idea of cutting three holes in a garden leaf bag and selling them as rain ponchos for five dollars a pop. Our side hustle paid off and we cleaned up. Rain Bags funded a few campouts later that year.

When our son Robert was old enough, we signed him up for Scouts. He eventually chose Troop 76 as his Troop. He worked his way up and earned the rank of Eagle in 2015 – Judi and I could not have been prouder. For a portion of this time, I served as Scoutmaster for the troop. We started helping out with the yard sale at the Firehouse Museum each year, with Scouts helping folks carry purchases to their cars. The President at the time, Don Graybill, asked if I might be interested in also serving on the Board of the Historical Society.

After six years as President, it's time to move on. David Toltzmann takes over the reins starting in July. I wish him the best and know he will be a great President (no pressure David). Most of what we see today at our Firehouse Museum is due to David's hard work. And there are great things coming!

I'd like to thank Merilee Colton for early encouragement – "You know... You could do this." I'd also like to thank Don Graybill, Brett Romer, Hal Rover, Susan Marie Weber and Past President Harry Quinn, who left pretty big shoes to fill. I'd also like to thank all who served on the Board during the past six years – I hope you all had some fun. I did.

Palm Desert is a pretty special place. I'm happy I was able to be part of keeping its history alive.

Rob Pitchford

Archivist's Corner



We need volunteers for the Summer Archives Project – come join us! During the summer while the museum is closed is a great time to "make a mess" and work on big projects. Here are some July to September projects:

- ★ Photo scanning – we'd love some help to get the last of the photo collection scanned.
- ★ Photo ID parties – many of our photos need descriptions, such as who-what-where. Come in, take a look, and let us know who or what you recognize.
- ★ Organizing and cataloging – are you a neat freak? Come and help us label our collections.
- ★ Research histories – help us research Palm Desert's history.

All work parties will have snacks and drinks. There will be morning and afternoon sessions, mostly on weekdays but some weekends. If you'd like to help, email us at hspd.firehouse@gmail.com. We will add you to the summer volunteer list and email you about work sessions. Let us know what days and times work best for you, and which projects you'd be interested in. Thank you!

Rochelle McCune, HSPD Archivist

A Note to All Long-Time Residents

We are excited to continue our Legacy Interview Project for long-time residents of Palm Desert. Volunteer to be interviewed! It's fun, and you get your very own link to send out to family members as a keepsake. You do not have to be a senior and interviews are approximately one hour. Call or write Leslie at lesliedeane@usa.net. or 213-810-7228.

You can view recent oral interviews at the HSPD YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@historicalsocietyofpalmdes3519> and historic interviews from the 1970's and 1980's on the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org> , search on Historical Society of Palm Desert and select "audio".



Shirley Spork Inducted into World Golf Hall of Fame, Class of 2024

Former Palm Desert resident and long-time Monterey Country Club member Shirley Spork was honored posthumously as one of the 13 LPGA founders at a June 10 ceremony at the Pinehurst Resort and Country Club in North Carolina, coinciding with the 124th US Open Championship.

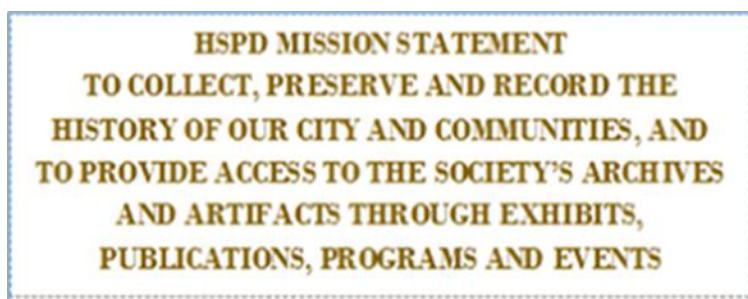
The Ladies Professional Golf Association was founded in 1950 by 13 original LPGA players, another one of whom was a local resident, Helen Detweiler. You can hear an oral interview with Helen at this link: https://archive.org/details/capdhs_000071

Special thanks to HSPD member Margaret Wallace for alerting the editor to Shirley's induction. Margaret was fortunate to have golfed with Shirley Spork at the Monterey Country Club.

POW/MIA Bracelet Display Curator Seeks Additions to the Collection

Dr. Dave Thompson, Curator of the POW/MIA Bracelet Display in the Vietnam Hangar of the Palm Springs Air Museum, is looking for additions to the collection of over two thousand bracelets honoring POWs, MIAs and KIAs that are currently on display. Dr. Dave would be honored to include your bracelet in the Display should you have one. If you no longer have your bracelet or wish to keep yours, or are a spouse, fiancé, sibling, child, grandchild, cousin, niece, nephew, or close friend, one can be ordered for the display with funds donated by Air Museum visitors. You can contact Dr. Dave at dr.dave.psam@gmail.com or call 760-328-0859 or 760-464-6843.

Here's a link to the display: <https://palmspringsairmuseum.org/vietnam-pow-bracelet-display/>



Calendar of Events

Friday July 12 from 5-8 PM	Midsummer Madness Potluck Picnic – Portola Community Center 45480 Portola – Potluck Salad or Dessert – sandwiches and drinks provided - \$15 per – RSVP by July 8 to 760-346-6588
Friday October 4 at 10 AM	Opening Day for the Firehouse Museum
Tuesday November 12	Save the date for the annual Fall Luncheon

Also in October: Mini Muster at local elementary schools, the Golf Cart Parade on Sunday October 27 -- come see the vintage fire truck - and the Friday Night Lecture series begins

New Board of Directors and Officers Effective July 1, 2024

Officers

President - David Toltzmann
Vice President - Beverly James
Treasurer - Tracey MacDonald
Secretary - Merilee Colton

Board

Welcome to Charlie Franks, Leslie Roth, Christel Prokay and Barbara Keedy Eastes

Continuing Board members: Rob Pitchford, Linda Holden Clode, Don Graybill, JoEllen Hughes, Nerl Porras and Erika Sharp

Goodbye and best wishes to Susan Marie Weber, Darrell Cozen and Juleen McElgunn

You Are Invited to Join the Historical Society of Palm Desert's



Midsummer Madness Potluck Picnic

Friday July 12, 2024 from 5-8 PM - 5-5:30 Gathering, 5:30 Dinner
Portola Community Center 45480 Portola Avenue Palm Desert

Bring your favorite salad or dessert to share Sandwiches and Drinks provided \$15 per person




Members, Family and Friends are Welcome

RSVP by Monday July 8 to 760-346-6588 or hspd.firehouse@gmail.com

Opportunity Drawing


Do you have an item to donate to the Drawing? Bring your auction items to the Firehouse by July 8 - Contact us to coordinate dropping off your contribution



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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
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OR

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

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- Business \$75
- Contributing \$100
- Patron \$250
- Bronze Lifetime \$1000
- Silver Lifetime \$2500
- Gold Lifetime \$5000
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- This is a change of address



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