

HSPD Events until the End of the Season – Don't Miss Out!

Spring Picnic in the Park(ing Lot) Sunday, April 6



Come join us for another memorable Spring Picnic and Member Meeting in the Firehouse parking lot- just like last year! Gather 11-11:30, 11:30-11:45 a brief Member Meeting, then Keedy Burgers and hot dogs with all the sides and fixings.

- ★ **RSVP by April 1st!** Call 760-346-6588 and leave a message
- ★ Opportunity Drawing / street parking
- ★ Suggested donation - Members \$15 / Nonmembers \$20

Friday Night Lectures at the Palm Desert Library

Friday, April 18 - 5:30-6:30



Joey English, publisher, writer, singer, dancer, producer and actress, is a sought-after speaker and emcee of many premier events in the Coachella Valley. Dubbed the "Voice of the Desert," she is in her 29th year of producing television and radio shows. Joey will share what

she loves about our Desert and reminisce about some of the celebs she has known.

Friday, May 16 – 5:30-6:30

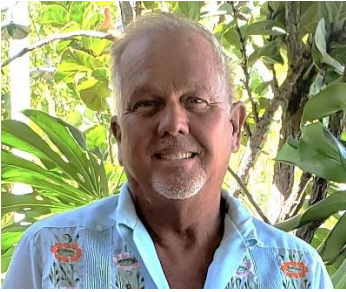


Bob Keeran, one of our most popular speakers, returns to our series with a talk about water in the Coachella Valley, its history, its current use and its future.

Bob worked for the Coachella Valley Water District as a spokesperson and his knowledge of the history of water in the Valley is unparalleled. He was regarded as the district's unofficial historian when he retired in April, 2019.

Bob has a talent for explaining the local water system in an entertaining and easy to understand way.

President's Letter



We have had a busy 2025 thus far. Thank you all for your participation in our many projects. As you know, we finished a successful Modernism Week season last month.

Along with our signature cocktail party at the Mojave Resort and our Breeze Block event at the museum, we also produced two sold-out walking tours "Still Living Large in Small Spaces". Plus, our Friday Night Lecture at the Palm Desert Library featured the renovation of the Mojave Resort.

We are looking forward to finishing our season with our Spring Picnic at the museum on April 6th, which includes our annual meeting prior to the festivities. We also have our Friday Night Lecture series continuing through April and May.

We are looking forward to the summer projects. They are: installing more Breeze Block displays in the garden, installing newly-donated original works of art in the apparatus bay, as well as a display featuring newly-donated Nina Shumway 1930's hand-made tamarisk furniture from her ranch. The 2025/2026 season at the museum will have many new features.

Come visit!

Thank you all, for the help and support with all we do and continue to do.

David Toltzmann

Archivist's Corner



Calling all volunteers for two projects!

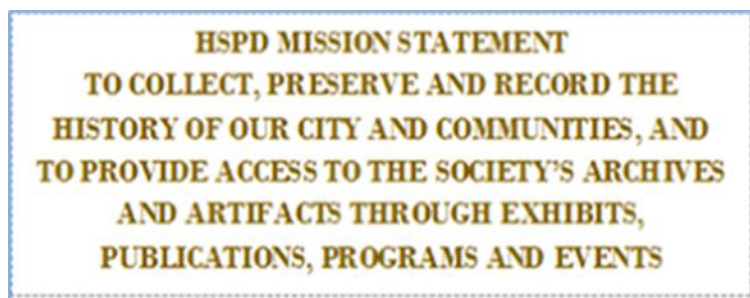
One, Photo Scanning: digitizing vintage photos of life in Palm Desert. Work at your own pace and make your own schedule.

And Two, Photo Identification: digitized photos need to be named and organized into the already-identified digital images in our collection. As part of the process, anytime we can't identify the location or subject in a photo, it is tagged as "UNK location" or "UNK person."

Then we separate which images are missing information and need to be reviewed by someone "in the know". If any long-time resident would like to take a look at these images from the past, we'd love to have their help.

Call the Firehouse Museum at 760-346-6588 and leave a message for Rochelle if you would like to volunteer.

Rochelle McCune, HSPD Archivist



Here's What We've Been Up To ...

February was a big month for the HSPD. Thanks to the Architecture and Design Committee and its Modernism Week Subcommittee, with Chair Linda Holden Clode, and to President David Toltzmann, it was a whirlwind of activity.

(Photo credits: Linda Holden Clode)

The Cocktail Party



The owners and management of the renovated Mojave Resort invited homeowners and volunteers of the 2023 Walking Tour, “Mystique of Shadow Mountain,” to a cocktail party on Feb. 11th, just before sunset. The 2023 Walking Tour ended at the Mojave Resort, and owner David Gold promised that we would be among the first to view their renovations and restoration. The doors have just opened, and we enjoyed a wonderful sunset cocktail party in perfect weather. Guests were treated to hors d’ oeuvres, music, and a fun “sunset cocktail” in Mojave orange.

Keeping as faithfully to the original 1957 Villa as possible, the owners replaced infrastructure and upgraded wiring and plumbing. The original kitchens had to go, but some of the

bathrooms were kept. Although windows were replaced, the vintage jalousie windows in the office remain. The property was completely re-landscaped to re-create the oasis that was there in the 1960's. Our volunteers really appreciated the wonderful Mojave Team opening up their beautiful resort to us. The evening ended with a perfect sunset.

The Breeze Block Garden Open House

Over 170 Modernists enjoyed the new Breeze Block Garden at the HSPD Firehouse Museum Open House on Feb 19th, as part of Modernism Week. Breeze Blocks are enjoying a revival as people appreciate their simplicity, affordability and great design.

HSPD President David Toltzmann conceived the project while HSPD Board member and retired Architect, Charlie Franks, did the exacting drawings for city approval of the installation.

Visitors also enjoyed the museum’s displays both inside and on the parking lot out back, while sipping a cold drink and nibbling cookies baked in the shape of a Breeze Block.

The history of the Breeze (aka Screen) Block was up on the museum displays for visitors to enjoy. These decorative blocks have an excellent pedigree! Come to the Firehouse Museum and check out Architect Edward Durall Stone, and learn more about this key characteristic of many midcentury buildings.



The “Living Large in Small Spaces” Walking Tour



Once again, The HSPD in partnership with Modernism Week offered our 4th annual sold-out walking tour on February 20th and 21st, 2025 in South Palm Desert. These small homes (mainly 1200-1400 sq. ft) were an important addition to the growing community at the time.

This year we welcomed 96 participants and viewed 5 interiors and a garden. Once again, we began and ended at Hugh Kaptur's Kings Point on Shadow Mountain. After admiring a stellar condo at Kings Point, we had a first-time ever viewing of a vintage Patten and Wild on Shadow Mountain followed by Walter White's own home on Hedgehog. William Krisel's Sandpiper once again was greatly admired as was the 1960's

original art of homeowner, Gene McGuire. Along Beavertail we were invited into the garden of long-time homeowners who regaled the walkers with stories of the floods of the early 1970's. Finally, we enjoyed the lovely condo of Jim Caponigro and Colleen Kelly in Sands and Shadows II by Harold Bissner, Sr. and Bob Pitchford. Following the tour, participants gathered for refreshments at Kings Point.

We are already contemplating 2026 and welcome your ideas. After exploring Shadow Mountain and Painters' Path, we are considering a tour of DuBois homes in South Palm Desert. Stay tuned! But for now, we remain grateful to the homeowners, both new and returning, who so graciously shared their homes and reminded us how lovely it is to be “Still Living Large in Small Spaces.”

The Friday Night Lecture

As part of our Friday night lecture series, on February 21st during Modernism Week, Mojave Resort Manager Bruno Santos and one of the owners, David Gold, gave an informative talk on the challenges and rewards of tackling the renovation and preservation of a vintage inn.



The audience was very appreciative of the efforts made by the Resort including preserving the jalousie windows in the reception area, and understood the necessity of replacing the sliding glass doors. The balance between restoration and preservation was stressed. A question-and-answer session followed.

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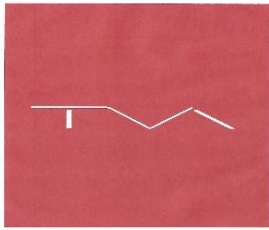
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Business members (\$100 yearly) receive a free business card-sized ad in every issue of the newsletter, and the opportunity to place business cards and brochures in the museum. Larger display ads in the newsletter are available. Call the office at 760-346-6588 to find out more.

Would you like to be a member? Would you like to gift a membership?
*Fill out the information below and mail along with credit card information or a check payable to **Historical Society of Palm Desert** to:*

HSPD, P.O. Box 77, Palm Desert, CA 92261-0077

OR

Join or renew on our website: visit www.hspd.org and go to Get Involved/Become A Member

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Membership Level - July 1 to June 30 yearly

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