

The 21th Annual Robinson Jeffers Association Conference

February 20-22, 2015, Carmel Woman's Club, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA
"Humanizing Jeffers: Father, Son, Neighbor, Friend, Lover"



Robinson and Una Jeffers with sons Garth and Donnan, Tor House, 1929
Photo by Keystone Photo Services

Conference Program

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"Humanizing Jeffers: Father, Son, Neighbor, Friend, Lover"

Friday, February 20

3:00 – 4:30 PM: **Emerging Scholars Workshop, Carmel Woman's Club**
(Members welcome to audit)

5:00 – 7:00 PM: **Reception & Piano Recital, Tor House**
*To celebrate the restoration of Una Jeffers' 1905 Steinway,
pianist MaryClare Martin will play selections of Una's favorite pieces
in recitals at 5:30, 6:00 and 6:30 in the parlor. (see back cover for details)*

Saturday, February 21

8:30 Coffee & Danish

9:30 **President's Welcome**
Geneva Gano, Antioch College

9:45 **Jeffers as Husband and Friend**
Chair, James Karman

"Robinson Jeffers—His Inscriptions
Found In Books"
Kathleen Sonntag, Tor House Archivist

"Thoughts on the Friendship between
Robinson Jeffers and Charles Erskine Scott Wood"
Tim Barnes, Independent Scholar

"Liberal Arts and Campus Life"
Dale Ann Stieber, Occidental College

11:30 Remembering Alex Vardamis
Speakers, James Karman and
Elliot Ruschowitz-Roberts

12:00 PM Lunch@ Woman's Club
Sandwiches, salads, drinks (\$15)

1:30 **New Critical Work Roundtable**
Chair/Moderator, Jim Baird

*The Wild That Attracts Us—In the World and on
the Page.*
Forthcoming collection of critical essays.
ShauneAnne Tangney, Minot State University,
with
contributors Christopher Damien, Rob Kafka and
Robert Zaller

Collected Letters, Volume 3: A Status Report
James Karman, Emeritus Professor
California State University, Chico

3:00 **Jeffers and Modernism**
Chair, ShauneAnne Tangney

"Milosz, Jeffers, and the Crisis of Modernism"
Robert Zaller, Drexel University

"Inhuman Rights"
Brett Colasacco, University of Chicago

4:15 Refreshments

More

Saturday, February 21

(continued)

5:00 Performance by Lili Bitá, Poet and Actress

Featuring

- (1) An extended monologue (Medea) based on Lili's own translation of a portion of the Jeffers adaptation of Medea;*
(2) another monologue, also in Lili's Greek, from The Tower beyond Tragedy (Clytemnestra); and
(3) her poem "To Kyuja."

Lili Bitá, recently inducted into the prestigious Hellenic Authors Society, is one of the foremost representatives of Greek writing and drama in her generation. A native of Zakynthos, she has written and translated more than twenty books and performed on the stages of three continents. Her association with the work of Robinson Jeffers goes back some thirty years to a "summit conference" of Medeas at Tor House with Dame Judith Anderson and Zoe Caldwell.

Sunday, February 22

8:30 Coffee & Danish

8:30 **RJA Business Meeting**

9:45 **Jeffers' Interlocutors**

Chair, Geneva Gano

"Flaubert, Jeffers, and Stereotypes"

Ugo Gervasoni, Liceo Scientifico Lorenzo

Mascheroni, Bergamo, Italy

(Read in absentia by Rob Kafka)

"Jeffers between Aeschylus and Euripides"

Kevin Batton, University of California, Irvine

"A Stone House, Twins, and a Book of Verse:

The Model of Emerson in the Life of Jeffers"

John Cusatis, School of the Arts, Charleston, SC

11:00 **Psychology & Biomythography**

Chair, John Cusatis

"Intruding on Jeffers: Some Notes on Biographical Mythology"

Mick McAllister, Independent Scholar

"Humanizing the Broken-Winged Hawk in Jeffers' Personality"

Steven B. Herrmann, Jungian Psychotherapist

"Resurrecting God from the Grave"

J.R. Phillips, Poet and Visual Artist

*Program subject to change

Program as of February 17, 2015

The 1905 Steinway piano that Una brought to Tor House from her first marriage is one of the original furnishings. Now restored by Russell Brown, with careful attention to keep its exterior as is while restoring its exceptional musical qualities, we are gaining a greater understanding of the way the piano contributed to the “direct intelligence” of Tor House. The restoration was made possible thanks to a generous gift of Paula Karman.

Friday’s presentation is arranged by Vince Huth and the Tor House Foundation. Pianist MaryClare Martin has played the Steinway and the melodeons at Tor House. For this evening, she will play a selection of classical works, Una’s song book, and Joplin and Gershwin. Ms. Martin will be introduced by Elliot Ruschowicz-Roberts.

MaryClare Martin has a Bachelor’s Degree in piano, a Master’s Degree in Music Education, and subs as pianist and organist at local churches. Also an accomplished vocalist, she is a member of Madregalia and the Carmel Bach Festival Chorus.



Remembering Alex Vardamis (1934-2014)

Compiler of *The Critical Reputation of Robinson Jeffers* (1972), the complete bibliography of criticism of Jeffers, that has served Jeffers scholars for over 40 years, friend and indefatigable promoter of Jeffers' work all his professional life, and President of both the Robinson Jeffers Association and the Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation.



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