

The 22nd Annual Robinson Jeffers Association Conference

February 19-21, 2016, Carmel Woman's Club, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA
"Jeffers and Carmel: The Early Years"



Robinson and Una Jeffers by the sundial in the courtyard, Tor House, Carmel
Photo by Horace D. Lyon, 1938

Conference Program

The 22nd Annual Robinson Jeffers Association Conference
February 19-21, 2016, Carmel Woman's Club, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA
"Jeffers and Carmel: The Early Years"

Friday, February 19

5:00 – 7:00 PM: Reception, Tor House
*Opening reception for members, which includes
an informal poetry reading by RJA members*

Saturday, February 20

8:30a Coffee & Danish

9:00 ***President's Welcome***

Geneva Gano
Texas State University, San Marcos

9:15 ***Jeffers' Enduring Themes***

Chair, Jim Baird

"Cheap Faustus and Vulgar Magicians':
Science, Technology and Fate in Jeffers"
Robert Zaller, Drexel University

"Jeffers and the Reality of Death"
Brett Colasacco, University of Chicago

10:30: ***Jeffers' Poetic Forms in Context***

Chair, Rob Kafka

"Robinson Jeffers and the California Shore Ode"
Kevin Batten, University of California, Irvine

"Narrative Poetry in 1916: Jeffers, Masters, Frost"
Geneva M. Gano, Texas State University,
San Marcos

12:00p Lunch @ Woman's Club
Sandwiches, salads, drinks [\$15]

1:00 **Presentation: Lawrence Clark Powell
Award for Distinguished Scholarship to
James Karman**

Speakers Geneva Gano, Robert Zaller

1:30 ***Sex and Gender in Early Jeffers***

Chair, Geneva Gano

"'When she's nothing else to do:' Women in
'Peacock Ranch' and 'Roan Stallion'"
ShaunAnne Tangney, Minot State University

"Love Too Near: Jeffers' Incest Theme"
Mick McAllister, Independent Scholar

2:30-4:00: *Break*

"Jeffers in Carmel"—An informal walking tour of 30-
40 minutes (weather permitting)

4:00: *Refreshments /Announcements*

Saturday, February 20

(continued)

4:15 Performance by Lili Bitá, Poet and Actress

Featuring

Monologues from *The Cretan Woman*

Lili Bitá 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.

5:15 Screening: Nick Cominos’ ONCE UPON A SUNDAY, 1957 (35 min)

“Once Upon a Sunday,” a thirty-five minute documentary film made by Nick Cominos in 1957. It contains rare footage of Henry Miller and Robinson Jeffers. Norris Pope will introduce the film. James Karman will moderate a post-screening discussion with Norris Pope, Director (Emeritus) of the Stanford University Press and scholar of literature and film; Milena Groseva Levy of De Anza College; and Joan Cominos, the wife of Nick Cominos.

Sunday, February 21

8:30a: *Coffee and Danish*

9:00: ***Jeffers’ Community: Life in Early Carmel***
Chair, James Karman

“Honeyed Truth: Robinson Jeffers and the
Myth of Carmel Point”
Dan Jensen, Independent Scholar

“Managing Robin: Una’s Life as the Poet’s Wife”
Kathleen Sonntag, Tor House Archivist

“George Sterling, Robinson Jeffers’ Friend and
Advocate”
John Varady, Independent Scholar

10:30: **RJA Annual Business Meeting**

11:30: **Action Committee Formation**

RJA 2017 Conference Planning

RJA Online Planning: website, digital archives

*RJA members are invited to attend and participate
in these business meetings.*

Light refreshments will be available

*Program subject to change

Program as of February 17, 2016

The Lawrence Clark Powell Award for Distinguished Scholarship or Distinguished Service is the highest honor the RJA bestows. To date, it has only been awarded three times.

The first awardee was Robert J. Brophy in 1998 for his heroic carrying-of-the-banner through the period from Melba Berry Bennett's death in 1968 until the founding of *Jeffers Studies* in 1997. During those three decades, Bob single-handedly edited *The Robinson Jeffers Newsletter*, arranged Jeffers Festivals, conducted research on Jeffers and things Jeffersian, published a landmark book-length study of many of Jeffers's narrative poems, taught Jeffers to his university students, and mentored scores of Jeffers scholars. The second award was presented to Tim Hunt in 2002, in recognition of his definitive 5-volume edition of *The Collected Poetry of Robinson Jeffers*. Norris Pope received the third award in 2014 for his role at Stanford University Press, in making that press a champion of the works of Jeffers, serving his legacy in a way that no other American poet of the 20th century has been served.

This year the RJA names James Karman as the fourth recipient of the Lawrence Clark Powell Award for Distinguished Scholarship, for his completion of his monumental edition of *The Collected Letters of Robinson Jeffers, with Selected Letters of Una Jeffers*. Members are already aware of the magnitude of this effort and accomplishment, and its crucial place in Jeffers scholarship. In addition to scrupulous editing of the letters, Jim (with essential help from his wife Paula) tracked down nearly all of the references and allusions in the letters, which makes the reading of the endnotes to each letter as informative and entertaining as the letters themselves.

The RJA thanks Jim for his 25 years of dedication to this all-important task, and for bringing the details of Jeffers life and work to interested scholars and readers alike.



**ROBINSON
JEFFERS
ASSOCIATION**

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