DON'T LET THE SPRING SUPER BLOOM FOOL YOU - CLIMATE SHIFTS ARE CHANGING THE LOCAL LANDSCAPE.

May 2017

PLUS ART AS ACTIVISM UPCYCLED FASHION MOJAVE ROCK RANCH ROCKHOUNDING ROAD TRIP

# BEDAZZLING

WARM DESERT EVENINGS GLIMMERING POOLS OF WATER EXHILARATING ENTERTAINMENT DELECTABLE DINING

YOUR DAZZLING FOUR DIAMOND ESCAPE IS HERE



Four Diamond WWW WWW Aupard

I-10 and Bob Hope



888.999.1995 • HotWaterCasino.com

# Surviving. Thriving.



Karen Brobeck

# 66 Early Breast Screening Saved My Life. ??

I didn't have cancer in my family. But I still knew how important annual mammograms are, and I made it a priority to get mine every year. My lump was so tiny, I would never have felt it or known it was there. If I had put off my mammogram even six months, I would have had full-blown cancer.

Thankfully, it was caught early by the Comprehensive Cancer Center. From the moment I received the news until my last treatment, the Comprehensive Cancer Center's care could not have been more incredible.

They didn't just help me survive – now I thrive. I am back to doing the things I love most... like painting. We even started a program where we knit caps for cancer patients called CAPPS – Caring About People Palm Springs. I wanted to give back because I'm so grateful for the compassionate care that was given to me by the entire team of staff and physicians at the Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Karen Brobeck, Artist, CANCER SURVIVOR



Schedule Your Mammogram Today! 760.416.4700 Locations in Palm Springs & La Quinta • DesertRegional.com/cancer



# Life Is Just More Interesting Here



## The Desert's Coolest Place To Live"

A private community of lake, mountain and golf course view homes from \$1.2MM to \$2.4MM 760.777.1000 • 800.773.9310 | Enter off Madison, South of Ave. 58, La Quinta

#### AndalusiaAtCoralMountain.com

Obtain the Property Report required by Federal law and read it before signing anything. No Federal agency has judged the merits or value, if any, of this property. This is not an offer to sell real estate t residents of any state in which registration requirements must be met. Warning, the California Department of Real Estate has not inspected, examined, or qualified this offering. BRE# 01198421

# OUT OF AFRICA

NTENTS MAY 2017

Words by Kristin Scharkey Photographs by Lance Gerber

In Joshua Tree, Mojave Rock Ranch reflects its creators' global travels – to Kenya, India and beyond.

# 50 THE HIDDEN MESSAGES IN WATER

Words by Ashley Breeding Photographs by Millicent Harvey

As climate change brings more intense droughts to the valley, how the desert will cope depends upon an important commodity.



revivalsstores



Follow Us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @RevivalsStores

Donate Shop Volunteer V 3 Desert Locations: PalmSprings PalmDesert Cathedral City | Stop in for your Style Revival [Benefiting @desertaids] revivalsstores.com

000











Search





 Palm Springs

 611 S. Palm Canyon Dr.

Cathedral City 68-401 Hwy. 111 Palm Desert 72885 Highway 111





# CONTENTS MAY 2017





Follow us @desert\_magazine

#### 8 A Letter from the Editor

- 12 Calendar May events
- 14Street StyleNo more keeping up with the Joneses
- 16 **Fashion** Orenda Tribe
- 22 **Captured** Wilder California
- 26 Art Art as activism
- 30 **Desert Deconstructed** La Quinta's bighorn sheep fence
- 34 **Road Trip with Rick Marino** Go rockhounding with the TV host and weekend traveler
- 80 **Final Thoughts** One artist's take on how we seek – and find – beauty in the desert



#### VOLUME 16 ISSUE 5 PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

EDITOR KRISTIN SCHARKEY ART DIRECTOR

BIANCA CAMANO

GREG BURTON

SENIOR EDITOR KATE FRANCO

CONTRIBUTORS

ASHLEY BREEDING JAMES W. CORNETT LANCE GERBER

MILLICENT HARVEY

NICOLE FAY VAISMAN

ASHLEY LAPRADE

**RICK MARINO** 

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

MARK J. WINKLER ADVERTISING SALES (760) 778-4660

CONTROLLER SHERRI MAURER

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR MARK KURTICH

ESTABLISHED IN 1995 AS NEXT MAGAZINE, A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE DESERT SUN. TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE DESERT SUN, CALL (800) 834-6052 BETWEEN 7 A.M. AND 4 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, OR 7 A.M. AND 10 A.M. SUNDAY, CLOSED SATURDAY. DESERTSUN.COM

**ON THE COVER:** Cracked earth during the drought. Photograph by Millicent Harvey

## Use the MONACO touch to turn your old concrete into a MASTERPIECE



# www.monacoconcepts.com

78-005 Wildcat Drive, Ste. 101A • Palm Desert CA 92211





his year's rainy winter was my first in the desert, and I couldn't stop staring at the snow-capped mountains. The way the barren valley floor gave way to hills covered in patchworks of yellow and green, it felt as though I'd woken up in Ireland.

The lushness made the drought seemingly disappear and, in fact, Gov. Jerry Brown declared the state emergency over in early April. But that doesn't mean the Coachella Valley is through with being parched. "This drought emergency is over, but the next drought could be around the corner," Brown said in a statement. "Conservation must remain a way of life."

This month, we're exploring the ways in which these increasingly prolonged periods of drought impact our landscape, from plant survival to shifting wildlife distribution. We called on ecologists and researchers to help us understand how the desert copes without water – and what we can do to aid in its survival. Additionally, we look at another issue close to home: Local ecological expert James W. Cornett weighs in on the recent increase in bighorn sheep sightings in La Quinta – and the proposed fence to keep them away from downtown.

As always, we've also been on the lookout for the ways in which our environment inspires creativity. In this issue, photographer Jane Wilder captures the intimate details of desert botanicals, while fashion designer Amy Yeung upcycles global fabrics to create ponchos perfect for protection against the elements. Plus, local landscapers Gino Dreese and Troy Williams take us inside their Joshua Tree masterpiece, Mojave Rock Ranch – an amalgamation of treasures, both recycled and grown.

As we've seen over the last few months with events like Desert X and Coachella, the desert is continually giving of itself as a backdrop for artistry. Here, we consider our response to its current condition: giving back.

Kristin Scharkey, Editor kscharkey@gannett.com



# THEY may both be the picture of health, but her picture is very different from his.

THERE'S A LOT MORE to women's health than gynecology and reproductive medicine. Medically, men and women are very different. Women's heart attack symptoms are often more subtle than those experienced by men. And women are more susceptible to such conditions as lupus, migraine headaches, gallstones, osteoporosis, and irritable bowel syndrome. At Eisenhower Women's Health we always factor gender into the care we provide, with board certified, fellowship-trained physicians in the following specialties:

- ~ Endocrinology
- ~ Gastroenterology ~ Cardiology
- ~ Sleep medicine
- ~ Orthopedics
- ~ Osteoporosis

Find the right doctor for you by calling 760-773-1460 or visit women.emc.org



Palm Springs ~ Cathedral City ~ Rancho Mirage ~ Palm Desert ~ La Quinta

# LIFE INSPIRED BY YOUR STYLE.



Welcome to K. Hovnanian's<sup>®</sup> Four Seasons at Terra Lago, where living life to the fullest comes naturally. Here you will discover new hobbies and talents with a wide assortment of clubs and activities such as tennis, pickleball, billiards, bocce and arts and crafts. You will meet new friends at the bistro, on the basketball court or at a water aerobics class. Discover the true meaning of life and style and find a new home that was tailor made for you.

Looking for a new home, but unsure where to start? Contact our friendly Community Information Specialists at 760-625-0805.



### K. Hovnanian's® Four Seasons at Terra Lago

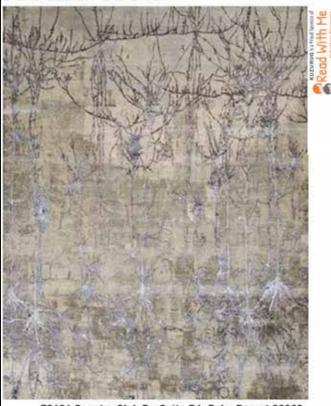
- Gated resort-style 55+ community
- 13 single-level designs and 9 model homes to tour
- Up to approximately 2,747 sq. ft.
- 30 amenities including 22,000 sq. ft. recreation center with an indoor and outdoor pool, spa, bistro, fitness center, billiard room, computer room and much more!
- From the mid \$200s



Golf Center Pkwy. & Terra Lago Pkwy., Indio 760-625-0805 khov.com/4-Seasons-Terra-Lago

K. Hownahan' Companies of California, Inc. reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to make changes or modifications without prior notice to any and all context set forth in this advertisement, and other ancillary information upon which this advertisement is based, including, but not limited to, prices, maps, plans, specifications, materials, features and exterior elevations/colors. Square footage is approximate. Any home at an advertised price is subject to immediate sale and, therefore, the availability of a home at an advertised price is subject to immediate sale and, therefore, the availability of a home at an advertised price is polyiect to immediate sale and, therefore, the availability of a home at an advertised price is subject to immediate sale and, therefore, the availability of a home at an advertised price is subject to immediate sale and to this go commonlies, at a polyicable, information economic mode. House contact a Sales Consultant for the latest information economisming and policing of policible, information about any related assessments. Att, Hownahan''s Four Salestor community including, in applicable, information about any related assessments. Att, Hownahan''s Four Salestor community in a threating polyicable, information about any related assessments. Att, Hownahan''s Four Salestor community in attention polyicable, information about attention and polying of polyicable. The Nation We encourage and a subject to a filter interview to equal housing apport and the letter and uprint of U.S. polyicy for the achievement of equal housing apportantive advertising and marketing program in which there are no barrien to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin. 602017 K. Hownahan' Companies of California, Inc. BRE Econse number 01183847

## **KUZU RUG**



73161 Country Club Dr. Suite D1, Palm Desert 92260 (760) 610 2195 kuzurug.com



#### CALENDAR

#### SHADES OF BLUE

# Mav

#### SHIBORI WORKSHOP

Join DESERT Adventure Club for an interactive workshop on shibori. Learn about this ancient Japanese indigo dyeing technique from two Makerville creatives, Debra Hovel and Kurt Cyr,

and then create your own masterpieces with their guidance. You will be provided with two items to dye and are welcome to bring additional pieces to make the most of the dye baths. Purchase tickets at desertsun.com/desertadventureclub.

#### **NEEDLE AND THREAD**

 ${f Q} th$  BIRDBRAIN'S MONTHLY SEWING MEETUP On the second Tuesday of every month, local nonprofit birdbrain hosts an evening of sewing to create dresses that raise awareness about sexual assault. Bring your sewing machine for active projects; if you don't have one, you can embroider. The crafting takes place from 6 to 8:30 p.m., and concludes with drinks at Dead or Alive bar. RVSP to fly@dressbirdbrain.com. dressbirdbrain.com

# Qth YOUR GROOVE ON

## **TACHEVAH 2017**

Over the past two months, Southern California's top bands have been vying for four spots at this final showdown. Kayves, Shawn Don, Bridger and Elektric Lucie will take to Indio's



CHARD LU

Date Shed stage to compete for a \$3,000 cash prize. Learn more at tachevahmusic.com.

#### **GLOBAL GETDOWN**

 $18^{\mathrm{th}}$ - $21^{\mathrm{st}}$  joshua tree music festival This 15th annual spring festival is billed as a "family friendly global music experience" and will feature local musicians Gene Evaro Jr., Cactus Wine Experience, Chris Unck, Megan Hutch and more. A four-day wristband is \$180, or single-day passes are available starting at \$70. joshuatreemusicfestival.com

#### **MODERN ART MOVEMENT**



#### WOMEN OF ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM

The work of 12 women who are credited with founding the "first fully American modern art movement" is on display in this Palm Springs Art Museum exhibition. Looking beyond the textbook version of history that tells this story through the work of male artists, this is the first major museum exhibition that spotlights the contributions of women to Abstract Expressionism. psmuseum.org 4



PALM SPRINGS



ESCENA

MONTE SERENO

Greg Kinsley 323.574.5093



Lisa Young 760.250.5340

\$750,000 TO \$2 MILLION • ALTAVERDESALES.COM PALM SPRINGS MOST AWARD WINNING ARCHITECTURAL COMMUNITIES

#### STREET STYLE

# LIKE A UNICORN

WHEN IT COMES TO FASHION, THESE PALM SPRINGS BUSINESSMEN ARE DOING ANYTHING BUT KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES.

# ANDREW TRAN & SCOTT STARGARDT

WHAT IS YOUR STYLE IN ONE WORD? ANDREW: "Eclectic." SCOTT: "Ruffian."

#### WHERE DO YOU SHOP?

ANDREW: "Give me a good Nordstrom, and I'm happy. Or, Zara or Topshop gives me a little bit of style with affordability." SCOTT: "I wear a lot of European designers. Vivienne Westwood, Junya Watanabe, Comme des Garçons, Issey Miyake and [Martin] Margiela. And I mix that up with Forever 21. I love Topshop as well, H&M, and I also buy a lot of vintage and thrift."

#### WHO ARE YOUR STYLE INSPIRATIONS?

**SCOTT:** "I used to work for Vivienne Westwood, so she's a huge influence on me. [Particularly in regard to] the deeper understanding of the importance of fashion and how one assimilates or identifies with their own tribe. The philosophy of it is very inspirational. I also used to work for Yohji [Yamamoto], which permanently affected my style in terms of silhouette and proportion."

**ANDREW:** "Trina Turk for the prints and the style and the colors. I love colors."

## WHO IS YOUR TRIBE AND HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY WITH IT WITH REGARD TO STYLE?

**SCOTT:** "I'm a gay man, but I've had issues with this internalized homophobia within my own community. I happen to look a certain way because I'm muscular and I have a beard and all of this, but I have this philosophy: Why be a horse when you can be a unicorn? You have to mix it up and that's where the personalization comes in. Especially as gay men, I feel like we have these sorts of ideals of masculinity that are set before us, none of which we genuinely and authentically relate to because we are gay. I think that's where a lot of the internalized homophobia comes in. I'll wear women's clothes and a beard and a cowboy hat and whatever. I make it my own."

On Andrew (left): Ralph Lauren shirt, Forever 21 pants, Happy Socks socks, Ted Baker shoes. On Scott (right): Vintage shirt, Forever 21 pants, Nike shoes, vintage Charles Loloma bracelets. PHOTOGRAPH BY ASHLEY LAPRADE. LOCATION: PALM SPRINGS **ANDREW:** "I don't have a set tribe. I feel like 'tribe' confines you to a certain group of people. I like the fact that I can wear what I wear, get to know people who love fashion and love wearing what they're wearing and expressing themselves as well, and we get to express ourselves together."

# WHAT TRENDS ARE YOU INTO OR DO YOU WANT TO BRING BACK?

**SCOTT:** "I am fond of the reemergence of the fanny pack. I just bought one [with] paillettes [from Forever 21]. Oh my god, it's amazing. I'm so wearing it to my next pool party."

**ANDREW:** "This is so tacky, but I would love [for] sequins to come back in. I would wear a sequin blazer on a daily basis."

## IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SEE MORE OF IN DESERT FASHION?

ANDREW: "I can say less of. I want to see less tank tops." SCOTT: "I would like to see more individuality in the desert. The desert is this very magical, spiritual, artistic sort of a place but I feel you have that element and you also have the element of Palm Springs that's very uniform. A little 'Keeping up with the Joneses'-ish."

#### WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF FASHION?

**SCOTT:** "Fashion is not some trivial, superficial thing. Fashion is a very important creative medium in the sense that it's a personal expression. It is how each of us choose to identify ourselves in terms of societal dynamics. So, for example, if I want to look like a biker, I dress like a biker. If I want to look like a banker, I dress like a banker. If I want to look like a fashion person, I dress like a fashion person. But at the same time, we infuse it with our own degree of personal expression."

**ANDREW:** "The ability to find out who you are as a person. I think that's the exciting thing. Like Scott said, you can dress like a biker, you can dress like a goth. You can dress any way that you want but the exciting thing is if you find the right style for you, it's yours and it's no one else's."

-Kristin Scharkey

# SARTORIAL SHIFT

### THE UPCYCLED, HANDCRAFTED VISION OF ORENDA TRIBE RESONATES WITH ETHICALLY MINDED SHOPPERS

WORDS BY **KRISTIN SCHARKEY** PHOTOGRAPHS BY **ASHLEY LAPRADE** LOCATION: **LAZY SKY RETREAT, JOSHUA TREE** 

he first time I saw an Orenda Tribe poncho, it was draped over a door in Kime Buzzelli's vintage clothing shop, The End, in Yucca Valley. I was impressed by the tightness of the weave, the way the intricate handwork in its bright salmon-pink neckline settled right into the rest of the striped indigo. Completely repurposed, it and every Orenda Tribe piece is made with upcycled fabrics and trims from across the globe – think Bali, Morocco, Mexico and Argentina. "There's just some energy, a catch to the older fabrics where it almost feels like you've got some sort of beautiful protection on," founder Amy Yeung says. "They just feel different. There's something about them when they get this beautiful age." • You know those clothes that you love on their own, but then you get to know their maker and become even more obsessed? That's how I feel about Orenda Tribe and Amy Yeung. • The brand started because of a shift – a pivot in the apparel designer's career. For the past 10 years, Yeung has worked with active wear brands like Asics and Capezio through her Santa Ana design consulting firm, Lilacreative. But in 2014, she felt the need to decrease the amount of clothing creation she facilitated – and to focus on buying (and making) an upcycled wardrobe. She and her 16-year-old daughter, Lily (whose own pieces are also available at The End), had already exclusively worn vintage for two years.



She sews every piece herself – a full-circle harkening back to her Midwest upbringing with two grannies who taught her how to quilt and crochet. Already established in global textile circles, she purchases and restores the old fabrics before completing patchwork and ornamentation. Styles range from ponchos and pullovers to recently released nomad-hooded tunics made from Guatemalan handwoven plaids. In total, only 250 pieces have been made.

"It's rescued, old souls," Yeung says of the textiles. "It's things that lived another life, really. It's trying to renew them and put them together in a different way."

Damaged velvet found in an old Los Angeles millinery shop, for example, might top an indigo poncho. "Things like that, some people would look at it as seconds or something they wouldn't buy," Yeung says of the velvet. "But to me, the beauty of the color and the way that it aged gracefully, I would have paid twice as much for it. Finding those things that fit untraditional fabric choices, that's what I love is the eclectic blend."

The brand also includes tipis as well as jewelry: bold, chunky pieces made with materials ranging from Turkish evil eyes and African glass to water buffalo horns hand-carved at Taos Pueblo in New Mexico. Yeung has also been repurposing 100-year-old wooden cattle amulets from Taos into necklaces. "Inside, there's this tiny hole where they [put] a little piece of paper and scripture to protect the animal from evil spirits," Yeung says.

"They're really big, so somebody has to understand it to wear them," she adds. "... I always wear really big amulets with the ponchos or with the different things that I make. I'm not really into small jewelry."

Once Lily graduates from high school in two years, Yeung plans on moving to New Mexico so she can be "bouncing back and forth between LA and Taos, but shifting everything out there so I can eventually become Georgia O'Keeffe living in the desert doing my thing." The 53-year-old designer, who is half Navajo, is working to establish production at Navajo Nation to "shift some of the small handwoven or the smaller batch, artisanal things you see happening in downtown LA to a reservation-made product versus sending it to Mexico to get made or sending it to other countries to get the handwork done.

"We can actually do things that shift the cycle of where things are at in the world and that's the meaning of Orenda," Yeung explains. "Everybody has that within them, that ability to do good and to make the shift and to make change. You just have to set down your intention and actually start doing it. That's really my mantra. Every day, I'm trying to put time and effort into this because I know with that, it does shift the dynamic of what's going out into the world of apparel."







## THE DETAILS ORENDA TRIBE

To learn more about the brand, follow on Instagram @orendatribe.

Pieces are available locally at The End, Yucca Valley (55872 29 Palms Hwy.)



# **Remodel Door**

We transform your existing doors into beveled works of art! Your doors never leave your home!



# 760.772.9988

Chardonna

79-893 Country Club Dr. Unit I, Bermuda Dunes Visit Our Website At: www.remodeldoorandmore.com Showroom Hours: IO-5 Monday-Friday, Saturday By Appointment Only, Closed Sunday.



# We Remodel Any Door

Windows • Sidelites • Transoms Cabinet Doors

Made in the USA We can match competitors price Lic # 1002440

# STAY HERE, PLAY HERE

and discover why Red Ledges is the best Club selection you'll ever make!



Red Ledges is a private mountain community just minutes from downtown Park City, Utah. Centered around family & lifestyle in an extraordinary setting, owners at Red Ledges enjoy:

GOLF | TENNIS | EQUESTRIAN | DINING | SWIM & FITNESS | SKI LOUNGE Discovery Packages start at \$695 - call for details!



## (877) 733-5334 | Heber Valley, Utah | RedLedges.com

Exclusively Brokered by Red Ledges Realty, LLC. Obtain the Property Report required by federal law and read it before signing anything. No federal agency has judged the merits or value, if any, of this property. All descriptions, depictions, and renderings are provided solely for illustrative purposes and are subject to change. ©2017 Red Ledges Land Development, Inc.

# profound palette

At the helm of Wilder California, Bay Area photographer Jane Wilder often finds herself in Southern California to capture the flora and fauna dotting the desert. Her prints can be seen in the Pioneertown Motel and The Joshua Tree House locally, not to mention Urban Outfitters and Pottery Barn. We chatted with the artist about her simplistic aesthetic and approach to capturing native plants.

INTERVIEW BY KRISTIN SCHARKEY PHOTOGRAPHS BY JANE WILDER



#### WHERE DOES YOUR PASSION COME FROM?

I have been drawn to photography since a young age. I have several photographers in my family and became totally transfixed by photographs (actual prints!) and photo publications. I started getting serious about photography in high school and then continued to study it through college and graduate school. Part of my inspiration comes from growing up in California with such beautiful surroundings; it's difficult not to take a picture here. I launched Wilder California in 2014 and I'm so grateful for how much it has grown.

#### WHY THE SIMPLE AESTHETIC IN YOUR PRINTS?

I consider myself a minimalist and think that a simple color palette can have a profound impact on the viewer. I think my viewer/ customer is drawn to the color and simplicity of form within my work, and sees the pieces as simple resting places that emanate the beauty within nature and the landscape. Cacti and palms were a draw because they are so rampant in California and speak to the diversity of our land here. I feel very lucky that I can drive to the ocean or the desert and still be in my home state.

# ANY SPECIAL TECHNIQUES FOR CAPTURING THESE DESERT PLANTS?

The interesting thing about photographing botanicals is that they are always changing. Even a simple cactus changes color and its greenery through the course of a year. I really like when the cacti bloom and ripen, but it's a quick process and I have to be aware of when it occurs. Nature doesn't wait for us. The biggest take away as far as technique goes: Light is what matters the most. If you don't have a great light, you don't have a photograph at all.

#### WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND YOUR RECENTLY RELEASED JOSHUA TREE COLLECTION?

The desert landscape has always been an inspiration for me with its unique plant life and exceptional light. Desert plants have to survive so many extreme factors and their very existence is a celebration of overcoming adversity. That has always been very moving to me. The Joshua tree, in particular, is a real-time reminder that we cannot take the natural world for granted because it is always changing. Climate change threatens so much of our world and I think it is important to celebrate these beautiful and unique trees while we still have them.

#### FAVORITE PLACES TO PHOTOGRAPH IN THE DESERT?

The California desert is so vast and I'm just getting started. Joshua Tree is, of course, a favorite and I'm starting to explore some of the desert around Death Valley.



### THE DETAILS

To purchase prints or photo displays, visit wildercalifornia.com.



#### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

I just launched a new line of desktop photo displays! It includes chic solid brass and aluminum photo stands that are perfect for the design lover's desk. They merge beautifully with Wilder California print sets, and I hope to bring more display options into the shop. Of course, I will be photographing and keeping an eye on all the spring and summer blooms. Spring is my favorite time of year and it's much needed after all the rain we've received this year. I'm looking forward to getting outside and exploring a bit!











# CON TEMP ORARY **CAUSE**

### ACTIVIST ART IS RISING IN MYRIAD WAYS ACROSS THE DESERT.

#### WORDS BY KRISTIN SCHARKEY

If you walked into Dead or Alive bar this spring, you may have noticed a mélange of brightly colored posters on the walls. "You are getting very sleepy," read one in a ghoulish font. "Sanctuary bar," read another on a peach-colored print with a palm tree.

The posters were part of Brooks Hudson Thomas' show, "Politica/Horror Flick," 20 designs in total. The Palm Springs artist originally made them to be distributed as protest posters, but as they evolved in scale, he imagined them as a collage in a larger interior space. Enter: Dead or Alive.

While not set up to be a gallery, the bar offered an "ad-hoc vibe," which Thomas and owner Christine Soto liked. "We wanted to show up quick," Soto explained via email. "We wanted it to be accessible." During the show's month-long viewing, 10 percent of the proceeds from art sales were donated to the American Civil Liberties Union. It's just one local example of activist art in the desert.

"Activist art" is a term that covers a broad spectrum of practices, from political posters to movement murals and tactical performance. High-profile examples include the work of Beijing artist Ai Weiwei, British performance and graffiti artist Banksy and Los Angeles-based artist Shepard Fairey. The Guerrilla Girls, Yoko Ono and Pussy Riot also come to mind.

Historically, the genre has often been dismissed by critics and collectors. Some say all art is political. In *Art Monthly*, University of Essex professor Gavin Grindon makes a distinction: "Much art that is socially critical, engaged or activist, is only so within invisible but strict, institutionally defined limits. Such art might mimic





the practices or raise the issues of activism, but it does so in a context without consequence. One can be as subversive and questioning of social relations as one wishes in a gallery. In fact, it is actively encouraged: often rewarded with good reviews and funding. But doing so within actual social relations has greater risks, which many artists and institutions are less willing to take. Much that is labelled art activism is not, in fact, particularly active when it comes to changing society."

For Soto, presenting Thomas' message outweighed any associated risks: "From a business standpoint, it did cross my mind, 'Am I going to alienate some of my customers?' " she explains. "But there is very little separation between me and my business. My business is me and it's how I connect with my community in many ways, so there is no use sanitizing it." For activist artists, numerous other considerations remain.

High desert nonprofit Mojave Animal Protection, for example, is hosting "Resistance as Art: An Environmental & Animal Justice Exhibition" through April 30 at Art Queen in Joshua Tree to raise awareness (and funds) for its education and advocacy programs that encourage protection of the Mojave Desert ecoregion. The lineup reads like a who's who of activist artists. On display is work by English animal rights artist Sue Coe, "trashion" creator Marina DeBris and "Daily Trumpet" founder Jonathan Horowitz, among others. The exhibition also includes "Long Live Our 4 Billion Year-Old Mother," a poster created by Jess X. Snow for the Women's March on Washington, and "The EveryBee" by Matthew Willey - a painting that's part of his "The Good Hive" initiative, in which he'll paint 50,000 honeybees ("the number necessary for a healthy, thriving hive," according to his website) worldwide.

Overton says the show has elicited numerous reactions, with much attention directed toward a series of photographs by Mary Shannon Johnstone titled "Discarded Property," which depict cat euthanasia at an animal shelter. There's a delicate curatorial balance, he says, to be achieved between fundraising and awareness. Or, as DeBris described via email, the "fine line between having people want to engage with the work or turn away in disgust."

Financial considerations are also present: "A lot of people who make movement art, we're not really making \$100,000 a year from it," says Snow, a queer Asian-American artist, filmmaker and poet. For "Resistance as Art," she sent three limited edition prints of her poster, donating the first while splitting the proceeds of the other two with MAP. "Activism is a form of cultural work and deserves to be paid just as much as entertainment," she says, while noting two exceptions: Corporations that benefit off activist art or pieces with the name of a specific movement (Artists in her cooperative, Justseeds, designed Standing Rock posters, for example, in which proceeds were donated to the camp).

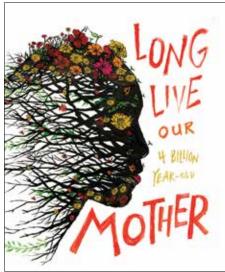
Willey shares a similar view: "I have no problem at all benefiting off of activism," he wrote via email. "I think it's absurd that teachers, people that feed hungry kids, people working to balance humans with the environment or artists would be begging for funds in such an abundant world." He created The Good of the Hive as a "for benefit" company that "could grow as big as the bees needed it to."

"I'd be lying if I said I hadn't struggled, but not because of the art activism as much as the entrepreneurial aspects," he added. "I've been blessed that people have connected with the work from the beginning and supported it. But it hasn't been the art world. It's been the beekeepers, bee advocates and educators."

The struggle for institutional respect may be starting to shift. Palm Desert gallery Heather James Fine Art, which specializes in the secondary market, presented a "Street Art" exhibition this spring with work by Fairey and Banksy, among others, that garnered "a lot" of interest, according to Montana Beutler, who handles sales and acquisitions.

"The art world is moving away from a more traditional collecting model, like Old Masters and impressionists and modernists," Beutler says. "Now, people are excited to buy contemporary art."

While the exhibition didn't include political posters, per se, the pair of Banksy works - "Black Bobby," a plywood board tagged with a police officer, and "Umbrella Rat," a steel door tagged with his signature rat holding an umbrella - are valued at more than \$100,000 each, Beutler says. She estimates the majority of collectors who purchased work were men in their 40s to mid-50s (a younger range than usual for the gallery), and points to "Internet culture and the millennial feeling of sharing these shocking images or exciting political views" as bolstering recent reception of the street art genre. Looking back through art history, she adds, these artists are not alone in being cast out then well respected. (See



"Long Live Our 4 Billion Year-Old Mother" by Jess X. Snow





"The EveryBee" by Matthew Willey



"Aquarium of the Pacific Gyre" by Marina DeBris

"Worker" by Shepard Fairey

also: Picasso and Cézanne.)

"If you even look at the realists in the 19th century who were painting people of a lower cast, but painting them on a historic scale - so painting them the size of a wall - that was a huge political statement," Beutler explains. "People got upset over it. People in the salons wanted to throw them out, and no one was going to buy it. Until they did. I think that same way, street art - any kind of politically influenced art - if you don't see the world that way then maybe you're not going to buy it, but I think a lot of people who collect art like the deeper meaning of it because these are, in a way, spiritual objects. Art is kind of the only thing we have in this world that has no use other than to make you think."

Also in the exhibition were two signed Fairey prints: "San Diego Billboard (from Urban Renewal)," which sold for \$5,000, and "Worker," valued at \$3,500. Yet, in reality, these pieces feel like the exceptions. Many activist artists will continue to create within the tension of financial efficacy – and that of impact.

"I was grateful to have a venue to try to sell [the posters], but I probably spent more money than I made," Thomas says. "... I'm thinking about how valuable is a piece of artwork as activism, like what did I really affect or change?

"Change can be as insignificant as me changing my mind [about] something or becoming aware of something that I wasn't aware of," he concludes. "It can happen on an individual basis. It's not going to change the world overnight."

For Snow, that individual can be herself: "Sometimes, it's so easy for artists to ... feel like they have to be a martyr for an activist movement," she explains. "I think that art needs to heal the individual and the creator. If it can do that, it can definitely heal other people as well."



53

Real Vice

# GOOD TIMES ALL THE TIME

-

Four Diamond WWW

100 W



# DON'T FE ME IN

STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES DEMAND A FENCE IN LA QUINTA TO KEEP BIGHORN SHEEP SAFE. ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANT **JAMES W. CORNETT** EXPLAINS THE MANY FACETS TO THIS DELICATE ISSUE.



#### Fences are hot topics.

There is President Trump's fence, or should I say "wall," along the Mexican border. Then there is the fence proposed along 9 miles of La Quinta hillsides. In both cases, the barriers are designed to keep one group away from the other.

In La Quinta, a fence is required to prevent endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep from entering residential areas and four golf course developments. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish & Wildlife mandated a barrier be erected along the city-owned SilverRock Resort (it installed a temporary one in March) and three privately-owned gated communities: Tradition Golf Club, The Quarry and PGA West. Public comments were taken this winter for the best fence option, and the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission is expected to make a determination this spring.

Golf courses and urban environments are "bad" for sheep, says Bighorn Institute Executive Director Jim DeForge. The research biologist, along with federal officials, describes a litany of negative impacts facing bighorn that choose to wander down hillsides and onto golf courses. Toxic plant poisoning, vehicle strikes and ingestion of parasites are a few noted in the CVCC's draft environmental impact report. Although there is no clear evidence indicating every potential sheep hazard described by fence proponents is actually harmful, there is plenty of evidence bighorn die if they consume oleander or are hit by cars. The report cites 12 sheep deaths since 2012, including one from an auto collision on Jefferson Street and another from oleander poisoning at PGA West. Deaths from the latter two causes have been recorded most recently in La Quinta but have occurred in and around other valley cities as well.



A temporary fence has been installed at SilverRock Resort to keep bighorn sheep off the golf course. KRISTIN SCHARKEY

# CAROL J. BUZZARD

local reverse mortgage advisor

## My Approach is Simple

I treat my clients as I would treat my own family. The same level of care, education and service that I would provide my own.



<section-header><complex-block><image>

There is a concern that if a fence is erected to separate bighorn from La Quinta golf courses, wildlife regulatory agencies could demand fences at the 12 other valley golf developments abutting bighorn habitat – not to mention residential areas that interface desert hillsides in eight of nine valley cities. The situation in La Quinta, however, is unique. Compared with other valley communities, La Quinta is furthest east, meaning it receives less rainfall compared to Palm Springs. Less rainfall means less food for sheep. There are also fewer natural springs within 2 miles of downtown La Quinta compared with downtown Palm Springs. In short, bighorn are a bit more desperate for food and water than sheep living in the upper valley.

More importantly is the lure of a year-round water source that became available with the construction of the Coachella Canal and its associated Lake Cahuilla. The animals have had access to the canal for more than 60 years and Lake Cahuilla for nearly 50 years, making the features significant sources of water. Staff at Lake Cahuilla County Park have seen bighorn drink from the lake on several occasions. The associated canal has been hazardous to sheep as they have slipped into it, been unable to climb out and drowned. Since 2012, four sheep have died in the canal, making it the most unequivocal cause of urban death for bighorn sheep in La Quinta. (The Coachella Valley Water District built a fence along the canal at SilverRock in 2015.)

As the CVCC determines the best construction option, best practices for implementation should also be considered. The sudden erection of a fence is likely to stress sheep expecting to find food on the links. DeForge notes that the erection of a similar barrier in Rancho Mirage resulted in some sheep initially attempting to jump or strike it to gain access to food and water in residential areas. Over many years, they had become habituated to the artificial resources. For that reason alone, it would seem prudent to phase fence installation, as well as install temporary sources of drinking water outside fence lines.

With regard to oleander, the path is clear. City councilpersons across the valley should be encouraged to pass ordinances prohibiting oleander planting in any new development and require removal in five years by residents living within one-quarter-mile of sheep habitat.

Jeff Thompson, a Bermuda Dunes resident and occasional golfer at PGA West and SilverRock, saw bighorn sheep on the courses and was struck with "surprise, excitement and wonder" at the experience. Thompson and most others are in awe when in close proximity. However, as any hiker or toe of slope resident knows, fences will not stop such encounters – only make them somewhat less frequent, a bit more distant and a lot more special. We know that bighorn have survived for thousands of years without golf courses. We don't know how long they would survive depending on them. With a few minor surgical adjustments around homes and golf courses, the sheep should be able to adjust to their new, albeit historical, habitat. And Thompson and other valley residents can continue to observe and admire these spectacular animals for decades to come.

### PALM DESERT | LA QUINTA | PALM SPRINGS hklane.com



# **Gail Gallaudet** Sells La Quinta's Golf Communities

Name	Price Range of Homes	Mem. Deposit & Dues*	Holes Incl.	# Homes
The Citrus	\$600,000 - \$2,200,000	\$30,000 & \$1,214/mo.	54	537
The Hideaway	\$1,300,000 plus	\$150,000 & \$2,225/mo.	36	248
PGA West	\$100,000 - \$3,000,000	\$45,000 & \$1,337/mo.	108	2941
Rancho La Quinta	\$450,000 - \$2,500,000	\$39,500 & \$1,400/mo.	36	979
Mountain View CC	\$350,000 - \$1,600,000	\$31,000 & \$1,055/mo.	18	427
The Tradition	\$1,500,000 plus	\$70,000 & \$2,275/mo.	27	215
Andalusia	\$1,000,000 plus	\$39,500 & \$1,200/mo.	18	160
The Quarry	\$1,500,000 plus	\$60,000 & \$2,000/mo.	27	42

\*As of January 2017.

## LA QUINTA MARKET UPDATE: 4 TOP PROPERTIES

**EXCLUSIVE AFFILIATE OF** 



**78820 CITRUS | THE CITRUS** 4539 sq.ft., 5 beds, 4.5 baths, custom contemporary design, full backyard remodel, perfect for entertaining! **\$1,275,000** 



79610 BAYA | THE CITRUS 2815 sq.ft., 3 beds, 3 baths, triple fairway views, overlooking 1st fairway, maintained to perfection! \$679,000



50445 GRAND TRAVERSE | LQ FAIRWAYS 2316 sq.ft., 4 beds, 3 baths, western mountain and golf course views, freshly painted exterior! \$549,000



79685 CETRINO | THE CITRUS 2815 sq.ft., 3 beds, 3 baths, popular open floor plan, located on the 18th fairway, turnkey furnished! \$750,000

**GAIL GALLAUDET** 760.203.2621 CALBRE #01309488





Cale and

## **ROCK 'N' ROLL**

VETERAN BAND TOUR MANAGER RICK MARINO – WHO HOSTS A TRAVEL TV SHOW CALLED "STATE X STATE" THAT AIRS ON THE PLANES, TRAINS + AUTOMOBILES NETWORK AS PART OF DELTA'S IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT – TAKES US ROCKHOUNDING IN THE **WILEY'S WELL DISTRICT.** 

> WORDS BY **RICK MARINO** PHOTOGRAPHS BY **KRISTIN SCHARKEY**

hen I first moved out to the desert some years back, I discovered what would become my favorite bookstore tucked back on the side of Highway 111 in Palm Desert. The sign out front reads Desert Map and Aerial Photo, and through the wrought iron gate is one of the best selections of local, world and

geological books and maps. I have bought some of each. I was fascinated by the gold maps, ghost town and rockhounding books, and the owner showed me one by Delmer G. Ross called "Gold road to La Paz: An interpretive guide to the Bradshaw Trail (Tales of the Mojave Road)," which is where this road trip was technically born. I learned that much of our desert is highly mineralized and has been prospected for centuries.

I have spent a lot of time reading and exploring the mining areas that dot the desert. There are many "famous" ones that surround us, from Virginia Dale just north of Joshua Tree National Park to Eagle Mountain iron mine (just east of the park), which shipbuilding magnate Henry Kaiser founded after World War II and bustled for nearly four decades. There's also Mesquite Mine near Glamis in Imperial County – it is still in operation and extracts more than 100,000 ounces of gold annually, according to operator New Gold's website. There are literally hundreds if not thousands of abandoned and functioning mines across the deserts of California and Arizona, and YES, there is lots and lots of good stuff out there: Precious metals, gem stones, fossils and geodes can be found – with a little patience, of course!

Now, this trip is to the world-famous Hauser Geode Beds in the Wiley's Well District, located about 15 miles south of Interstate 10 off the Wiley's Well Road exit, which is less than 20 miles west of Blythe. According to another Ross guidebook, "Rockhounding in the Wiley's Well District of California: The GPS User's Guide," the beds are named after Blythe native Joel F. Hauser, who discovered them in the early 1930s after his father, who owned a freight company, noticed the odd, round-shaped rocks on trips between Glamis and Blythe.

The number one question I'm asked about rockhounding is, "What is a geode?" Type this into a Google search and the answer is "a small cavity in rock lined with crystals or other mineral matter." But I tell everyone they are awesome, round rocks that you break open with a hammer and crystals are inside! Geodes can be hollow or they can be solid, called nodules or "thunder eggs." They are all cool, no matter what you call them.

This morning, I am joined by Kristin Scharkey, technically my boss as she is the editor of this magazine. She has been excited to go on this trip since I told her about it when we first met, and I am excited to take her with. It's best to start with a full tank of gas – the last stop before we exit is Chiriaco Summit. Make sure you grab some snacks, or better, bring lunch and plenty of water, because there are NO SERVICES where we are headed.

Also joining us today is Tom White and his wife, Geri. I met them a few weeks earlier in Quartzsite at the annual Powwow rock, gem and mineral show in January. They were kind enough to share their love for rockhounding and take us out for the day. At the Wiley's Well Road exit, we head south and the paved road turns into a nice, graded dirt track after a few miles. We pass the Wiley Well Campground, a long-term visitor area run by the Bureau of Land Management located just north of where Wiley's Well Road intersects the Bradshaw Trail.

Side note: The Bradshaw Trail started in 1862 and was the fastest overland route to the gold fields in La Paz (now Ehrenberg), Ariz., from Los Angeles and San Bernardino. Miners looking to strike it rich, as well as merchants and suppliers, were keen on getting to the gold fields as quick as possible. William Bradshaw was the first to exploit this route through uncharted desert after Chief Cabazon of the Cahuilla Indians befriended and shared with him a map of an ancient Indian trade route, complete with springs and watering holes. Wyatt Earp even rode shotgun on stage along this route, so the legend goes. Today, it is maintained by BLM and is a graded dirt road that you can drive from the eastern side of the Salton Sea along the Chocolate Mountains and past the Hauser Geode Beds, all the way to the Colorado River. It is very remote backcountry, but many off roaders and rockhounds use it. I have taken it a couple of times and love it!



Back on the road south and soon we make a right turn at the BLM sign that says Hauser Geode Beds. Now, this is part of the trip where it is good to have another vehicle with you. It's pretty remote and a high clearance SUV is best, albeit with four-wheel drive, but not necessary.

There are several visible road tracks to follow and it's best to use GPS to get the right location.

There are several "areas" within Wiley's Well District to find geodes, and a few twists and turns across some arroyos and over some hills, and we come to the Potato Patch. The first time I came

In addition to thunder eggs, the Hauser Geode Beds and surrounding areas

## GEODE GUIDE



#### AGATE

Many rockhounds prefer to find nodules, and one variety has helped put the Potato Patch on the map. According to Delmer G. Ross in "Rockhounding the Wiley's Well District of California: The GPS User's Guide," it contains a deep blue agate, though he's never actually seen one.



#### CHALCEDONY

Ross and "a few friends" have all found biconoid thunder eggs (which are made of translucent chalcedony) along the surface of the east Potato Patch road. While rockhounding with Rick Marino, this was the mineral we found most often throughout the geode beds.



are known for other types of mineral-lined rocks.

#### JASPER

Located just over a mile northeast of the Hauser Geode Beds, the Corn Field is another area to explore and there are reports that "particularly nice white, lavender and rose colored pastelite – the fine-grained jasper preferred by most knappers – has been found," according to Ross.



#### QUARTZ

Brown-colored quartz druse can be found at the Cinnamon Geode Beds, just a third of a mile north of the Potato Patch. Ross notes several differences between the two areas: Geodes from the former are often "larger" and "more fragile," with "more spacious" interior cavities.







here, I just assumed every round rock was a geode. I would pull over, grab the hammer and go for it – but that is not the case. On the hillside, there are trails and pits where people have dug; underneath all the dark rocks is light sand and dirt that is volcanic ash. The geodes start off as gas bubbles trapped in the ash layer and, over millions of years as water

trickles into them with minerals, they solidify. That is a very broad stroke of layman's terms, by the way.

With gloves and a bucket and a hammer and shovel, you kind of just go for it. A tip from Ross: "It frequently is best to begin digging at an undisturbed surface near a hole that has been dug by another rockhound. Then, if lucky, one can sometimes unearth layer after layer, often starting with large geodes and continuing with progressively smaller ones as one digs deeper."

After a few minutes, rocks the size of marbles, golf balls and some even bigger will fall out of the ash. They have an organic look to them and are, for the most part, pretty round. Collect as many as you can get, then it's OK to move to another pit or part of the trail – technically they are everywhere around here. Keeping a sharp eye and walking in the washes around the area is an easy way to find them, and sometimes, you get lucky. Once you have a bunch, give them a tap with the hammer. This is the fun part for me, but real rockhounds like Tom take them home and cut them open with a special saw and then polish them on the wheel.

Throughout the afternoon, we drive around to a few different spots. Tom even shows us a place to pick some jasper that would polish up real nice. There are literally just chunks lying around, with lots of red and green bands that polish up like marble. Who knew? I thought they were just rocks. But I am quickly corrected and soon educated. After lunch, Tom brings out several polished-up stones, slabs and nodules of what we are finding – they're beautiful! There are so many different types of agate, jasper, quartz and chalcedony, to name a few, all around us. It's no wonder people come from all around the globe to explore this part of the desert. We are lucky, because it's just a road trip away.

Follow Rick Marino's travels on Instagram @rickmarinotravels, or write to him with questions at rickmarino@att.net.

#### Mountain Vista Golf Club San Gorgonio Course

Billy Casper Designed 36 Holes of Championship Golf Visit Our Website For Additional Discounts www.mountainvistagolfclub.com

## **500** for 18 holes - and -**500** for twilight

Sun City Palm Desert Rates are p.p. inclusive of cart. Must present ad coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Limit up to 16 people per coupon. Valid from 5/1/2017 - 5/31/2017

Now book 15 days in advance on the weekend's at Santa Rosa only. 9 hole special for \$28 at Santa Rosa only.

We Offer Beverage Cart Service On Friday, Saturday & Sunday

**ADVENTURE** 

MOUNTAIN VISTA

www.mountainvistagolfclub.com

#### Come and Play

(760) 200-2200 38180 Del Webb Blvd. Palm Desert, CA 92211 Book Tee Times Up To 6 Days In Advance!

OOKING FOR ADVENTURE? FUN COMMUNITY?

Explore the Coachella Valley with those who share the same spirit. Join DESERT Adventure Club, a new kind of community created by DESERT magazine.

Learn more at desertsun.com/ desertadventureclub.com

# Arthur Lyous FESTIVAL

Plan to attend the 18th Annual Arthur Lyons Film Noir Festival

Coming to Camelot Theatres Palm Springs, California May 11 - 14, 2017

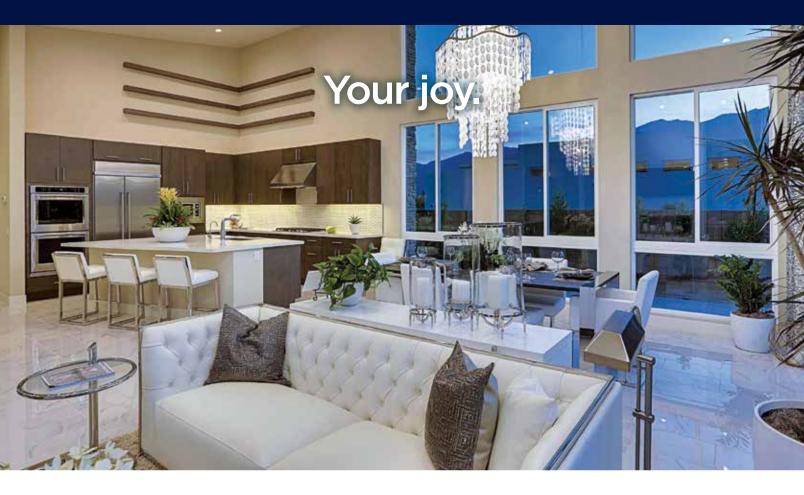
For Tickets and Passes, Visit arthurlyonsfilmnoir.org or call 760-325-6565.



A PALM SPRINGS CULTURAL CENTER PROGRAM

## Our pride.





#### Ranked #1 in homebuilding 3 years in a row by FORTUNE Magazine\*

We couldn't be prouder of this honor, or of our luxurious homes that feature great locations, award-winning designs and spectacular community amenities. Own one and it will bring your family pride and joy, too. **For information, visit TollBrothers.com/DesertMag** 

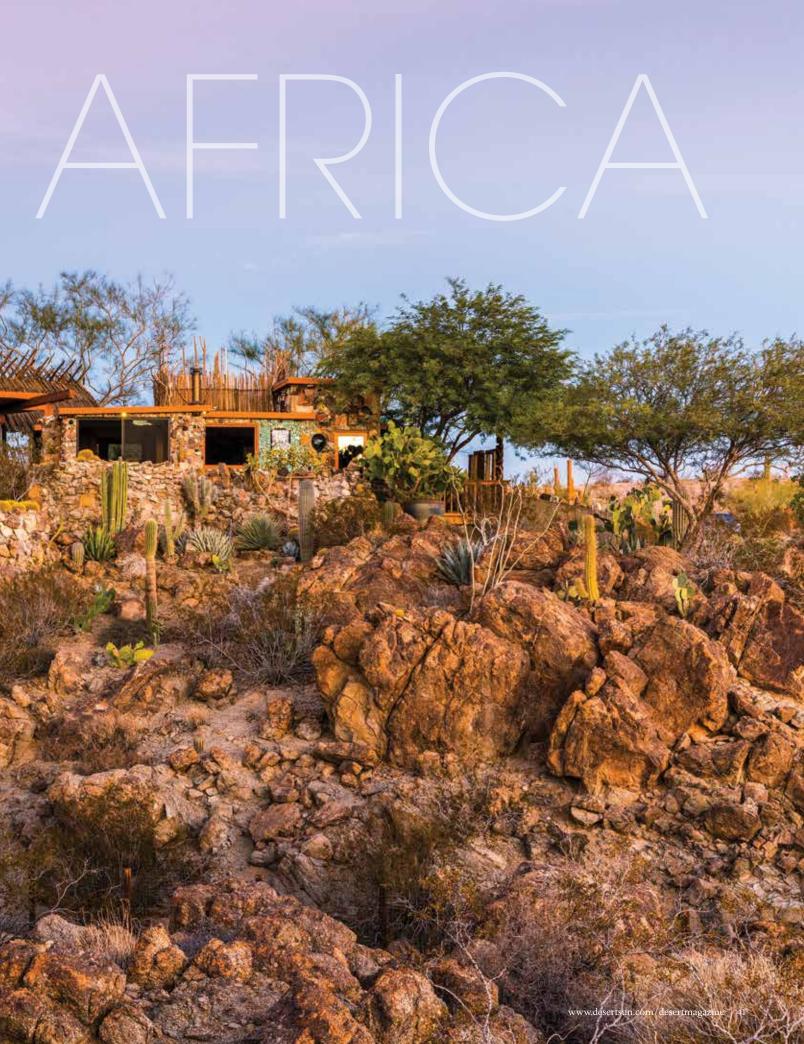
Luxury new single-family homes in the greater Palm Springs area from the mid-\$500,000s to over \$900,000

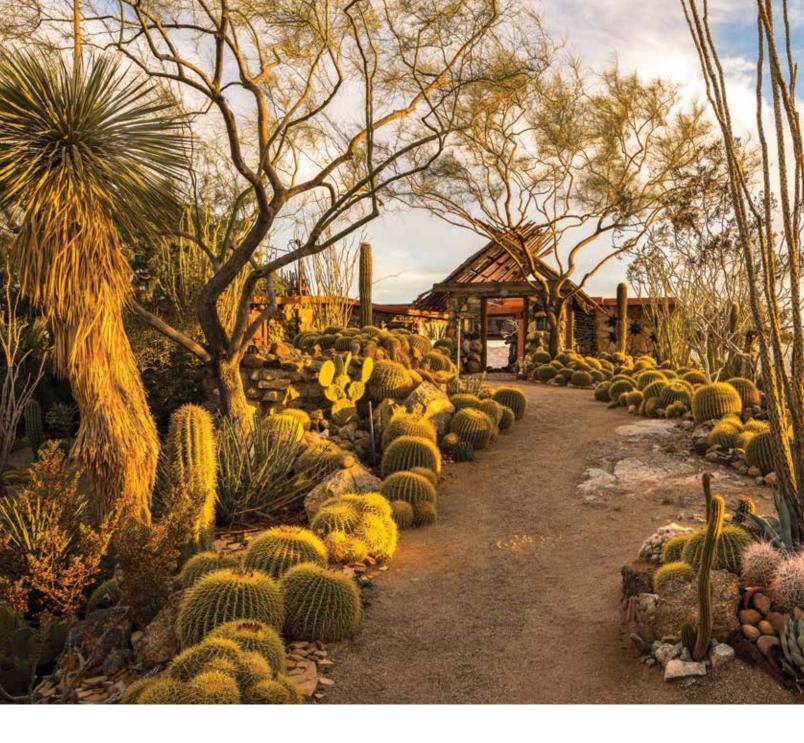




#### IN JOSHUA TREE, MOJAVE ROCK RANCH REFLECTS ITS CREATORS' GLOBAL TRAVELS TO KENYA, INDIA AND BEYOND.

WORDS BY KRISTIN SCHARKEY PHOTOGRAPHS BY LANCE GERBER





few years back, Gino Dreese and Troy Williams took a hot air balloon ride over Maasai Mara in southwestern Kenya. Up in the air, their guide cut the gas. A deafening stillness followed, as they looked out over water holes filled with hippos and the Mara River infamous for its wildebeest migration. "God, that was the coolest thing," Williams recalls. "It was so quiet."

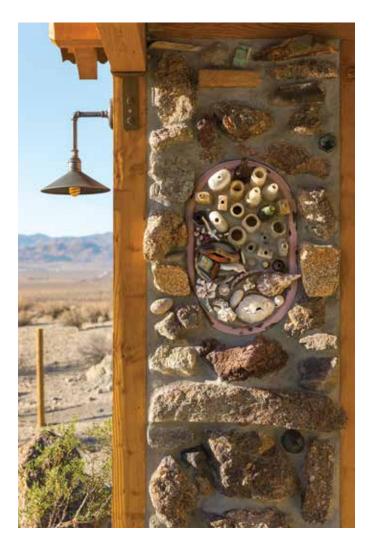
That's pretty much what it feels like to stand on the patio at their Joshua Tree residence, Mojave Rock Ranch – a two-bedroom retreat perched on a rocky knoll overlooking 225 acres of stark, open desert. The quiet shrouds your senses, save for the occasional bobcat or desert tortoise. Then, it's a serendipitous meeting between the wild and avant-garde.

Twenty-three years in the making, the project is an architectural blend of global inspirations, from Mayan temples to South African lodges. When the sun sets, neon light streams through the rock walls dotted with recycled, colored bottles – both the glass and the stones are from all over the world. The pair has been around the globe and back several times and collected the boulders that



## "No line is lined up here. Everything is off."

- Gino Dreese



make up the walls (and other facets of the home) during their travels. An outdoor bench is made of pieces from the sidewalks of Copacabana, a planter from rocks off the coast of Baja (their plane had to "take out some fuel to accommodate the rocks") and a bedroom patio with street tiles from Amsterdam.

"We travel heavy," Williams jokes.

"You put them in your suitcase?" I ask.

"No, backpacks," Dreese says.

"At security, they're always like, 'What the hell is this?' " Williams laughs. "Between that and the books, we've just given up."

You can tell a lot about a person by their bookshelves, and the landscapers' Mojave Rock Ranch collection ranges from "American Indian Art" and "Dreams of India" to "A Day in the Life of Thailand." Every country, every continent is covered. But if the library is a map of their travels, then the home is a living compass legend; alongside the bottles, the couple's global treasures are edged into crevices throughout the walls.

On a back meditation patio, for example, tin cases and rusted boxes – mostly from Holland and Belgium – frame the glass door that leads out to the deck. There, you can sit amid the collection next to a small Buddha, and look out at the hills through vintage, ornamental doors from India.



More animals can be found throughout the main house. A Haitian-art-style shark skeleton from the Florida Keys hangs suspended from a pointed tamarisk-branch roof at the front door; in the living room, an alligator head bought from a farm gift shop in Williams' home state of Florida rises out of a chest-high divider.

"It really is the opposite of how we are, because we're really into animals," Dreese says of the gator.

"We feel kind of guilty about it," Williams adds.

"Gino's like, 'Let's paint it metallic!' " "So it doesn't look real," Dreese laughs.

What is real are the dozens of yellow barrel cactuses that lead visitors throughout the property, plumped down in clusters and even growing out of the walls. "It's our theme plant," Williams explains, "in work and at this place." Some were even snagged from their Los Angeles garden, which they'd been tending to for 30 years. "It's the most widely cultivated cactus in the world, I've read," Williams adds. "It's so bizarre and terrible to think about [the fact] that where it's native to in Mexico, it's almost extinct, if not totally extinct. … They do incredibly well in Joshua Tree. They don't die! We literally have not had any die."

These "self-contained units" are just one of thousands of different types of plants grown on the property, grouped by water needs and aided by an automatic watering system for the trees. The cactuses are greener and bigger than normal – ocotillo and saguaro flowering like it's their job. Two pairs of caring hands have trained them well.

Newest to the property are a wine cellar and pool, complete with a bottle-adorned pool house sheltering four turquoise rocking chairs. Inside the latter structure, bottles have been cemented next to seashells from Curaçao and Tahiti, not to mention more vintage doors from India.

The South Asian country has "the best hotels in the world," Williams says, and the pair know a little something about hospitality. They rented the Joshua Tree home – along with five homestead cabins they bought and renovated as they purchased more land

#### THE DETAILS

For more information on Mojave Rock Ranch, please visit mojaverockranch.net. In a hallway leading out to the deck, another wall holds Dreese's baby shoes alongside a 100-year-old flask from Charleston, S.C., and a cigarette case found at a flea market. "Baby's first," Williams laughs. "My mom always joked, 'When I die, I know I'm going to get cemented into your wall.'"

"We haven't found the spot for her yet," Dreese quips.

Each collectible has a story – and as if the mosaic wasn't intriguing enough, the couple's humorous recounting brings you in like an old friend. It's like you were right there with them on a walking safari tour with a Maasai guide in Kenya: "He's like, 'If a hippo charges you, run zig zag!' " Williams exclaims.

"He said, 'If you see a lion running at you, say goodbye to each other,' " Dreese laughs.

Williams recalls how the Maasai guide wore sandals made from old car tires – the landscaper told him how much he liked the style. The next morning, Williams was given his own pair. It was a new use for old junk – a theme they seem to be drawn to – and one they brought back in nearly every facet of this design.

Three "hippos" rescued years ago from the thendilapidated Joshua Tree Lake stand guard at the front gate – the paddle boats are now planters holding an array of cactuses. Another "collection" stands unassuming in a line along the driveway: Over the years, whenever Dreese and Williams spotted downed mailboxes, they'd throw them in their truck. They've since "built up a nice junkie amount" from all over the Morongo basin. Now, they're all birdhouses.







around the property – for nearly 10 years. It was soon after they bought the "artist retreat on 40 acres" from high desert real estate agent Mel Benson in 1994. ("Mel Benson threw the keys and was like, 'If these keys don't work, just kick the door in.' That's how realtors used to be out here," Williams recalls.) The house was booked "all the time," but ultimately, it wasn't the full-time job the pair wanted. "We felt like we were cleaning ladies," Dreese recalls. "All I needed was a babushka."

So they sold the five cabins and vested their time into continuing to add to the property, built in 1957. By then, a screened sleeping porch had been turned into a master suite with a fireplace. A living room closet was transformed into a second "bedroom." And one of the most striking features of the home – burl tree trunks collected in Alaska by Williams' father – were positioned as bubbled columns welcoming visitors to the home.

Spend enough time at the ranch, and you'll start to notice the way the corners don't perfectly converge, the way the bottles and stones aren't exactly even. "We always want to do everything different," explains Dreese, who grew up in Amsterdam. "No line is lined up here. Everything is off."

Taken as a whole, however, the irregularity isn't off-kilter: It creates its own continuity. The house is at once a wonderland straight out of a Dr. Seuss book and an architectural marvel worthy of the recognition it's received over the years. During the late '90s, Williams says the Beastie Boys were among the home's temporary tenants. But now, it sits as a quiet respite for the couple whose imaginations brought it to life.

Its evolution is a bit like an open-air Jeep tour they once took through the tiger reserve at Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan, India. Williams was the first to spot one of the animals. "Secretly, I was like, 'OK, we've seen it, let's move on,' " he recalls. "[The driver] backed up closer to it and shut off the engine. I'm like, '... No, really, let's go. I'm having a massive anxiety attack.' But he stayed, got on the radio and then about five other Jeeps converged on us. But we had five minutes alone with it."

Majesty is heightened by singularity, and Mojave Rock Ranch now stands stoic in stillness. Rumor has it if you look a tiger in the eye, it's less likely to kill you. Stare into the serendipitous, and grandeur can shroud the senses.









Araby Cove wash in Palm Springs saw abundant growth and running water this past March.

## THE HIDDEN MESSAGES,IN Walk of the second se

AS CLIMATE CHANGE BRINGS LONGER AND MORE INTENSE DROUGHTS TO THE COACHELLA VALLEY, HOW THE DESERT WILL COPE DEPENDS UPON ONE VERY IMPORTANT COMMODITY: WATER.

WORDS BY ASHLEY BREEDING PHOTOGRAPHS BY MILLICENT HARVEY Araby Cove wash in Palm Springs, as it looked in 2014 at the start of the drought state of emergency

ył.

N SER S ....

20

NY MA

日本の有

-len

1.52 m

"Drought to me, a lifelong California desert dweller — even a severe and prolonged drought such as the one we've recently endured — isn't exceptional. It is the norm. It is the most intimate life force of our simultaneously alluring and repellant arid zone, a deeply felt and silent principle that shapes and rules all life here. When I think of drought here, I see, in the land around me, the dramatically carved, eternally silent presence of desert canyons whose extremely dehydrated appearance is only infrequently interrupted for just seconds or hours by the overload of water in a summer flash flood. ... To live in the desert requires the ability to do without, to appreciate absence, to revel in the rare gift of water in all its precious forms, and to not only make peace with, but to come to crave the deepest forms of silence that exist only here because of this very lack of water, and are contrasted with the sounds of rain and waterfalls and manmade fountains, which exist far and wide."

#### - Ruth Nolan

LONG-TIME RESIDENT, ACTIVIST AND CREATIVE WRITING PROFESSOR AT COLLEGE OF THE DESERT



FTER a drought that stretched half a decade, the Coachella Valley saw one of the wettest winters in recent history. Once again, gray, craggy mountaintops wore thick, white caps; parched riverbeds and streams captured what rain they could, returning to buoyant, rampant forces; and in early spring, swaths of golden-yellow, lavender, white, blue and tangerine sprung from the quenched dirt and sand, carpeting the valley floor in a magnificent "super

bloom," while lush vegetation swiftly climbed barren mountain slopes. A panoramic view of this vivid green desert, more reminiscent of the Cliffs of Moher than of the American Southwest, might bring relief to some about Southern California's future weather patterns, and more specifically, its severe water crisis. According to the area's climatologists and biologists, though, what we've just experienced was an anomaly amidst progressively rising temperatures as a result of global climate change. So be sure to stop and smell the brown-eyed primrose: It could be decades before they peep out again.

#### A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

As long as 5,000 years ago, when the Cahuilla migrated to the Coachella Valley, they arrived to a large body of water – later named Lake Cahuilla – that sustained their way of life. Its level ebbed and flowed for thousands of years, and the lake is said to have disappeared some time before 1700, its lower basin awaiting the levee break of 1905 that would create the Salton Sea, still in existence (though rapidly retreating) today.

The Cahuilla resettled in what is now Palm Springs, reliant upon what Mother Nature delivered to its springs and wells after each winter's snowfall. Early ranchers diverted water through hand-dug canals, and an underground aquifer – fed by fresh snowmelt each spring from the San Gorgonio Mountains to the north – also offered an ample supply of water via wells to settlers from the east that arrived by stagecoach and the railway.

But the desert environment was not designed for modern agriculture, dozens of golf courses or the burgeoning population the area harbors today: By the early 20th century, the Coachella Valley Water District began importing water from the Colorado River for farm fields and later utilized a 122-mile aqueduct (the Coachella Canal) once it was constructed. In 1973, the local water agency partnered with Desert Water Agency to replenish the aquifer for potable drinking water that was no longer provided by the skies in the form of rain and snow. (The latter would lead to legal disputes with the tribe, whose members argued that river water would make their own supply impure.)

"Farmers 100 years ago realized well water would drain the aquifer," says John Powell, owner of Peter Rabbit Farms in the east valley and a board member at CVWD. His organization provides some of the valley with domestic, or "drinking," water; DWA and four other agencies across the valley supply the rest of the population.

While for centuries the desert and its inhabitants have survived dry periods, something has changed of late: "It's true that everything that lives here has seen this all before," says Allan Muth, PhD, director at the University of California's Boyd Deep Canyon Desert Research Center. He notes a drought that occurred around the year 1100 and lasted some 200 years. "But what is different now is the frequency of exceptionally dry years that are occurring more often and are more prolonged than in the past. ... And there's really nothing we can do about that unless we can make it rain," he quips.

For some, whether global warming is man-made or is caused by another climatic cycle that the Earth has experienced from the beginning is up for debate; what



Opposite page: Due to this year's above average rainfall, Coachella Valley farmers were able to irrigate less water from the Colorado River; left: Brussels sprouts at Ocean Mist Farms in Coachella

isn't, Muth says, is the rate at which it's occurring and the biological consequences of that change.

Even the above-average rainfall and snowfall is not enough to replenish the aquifer. And as the basin has less to offer, the demand for water climbs, creating an unprecedented water crisis. (In April 2015, Gov. Jerry Brown mandated a 25 percent reduction in domestic water use across the state. This came after a thenhistorically dry winter when his previous request for 20 percent reduction was not met.) While Brown declared the end of California's drought emergency in early April, he stated that "conservation must remain a way of life."

Surprisingly, drought has little effect on agriculture in the valley, Powell says. "That's because farmers here have behaved as if we're in a drought for 100 years." That means they are conservative with water, employing drip-irrigation and other methods to ensure that crops are watered only when needed and that there is no run-off. "How much water is required for farming depends on the crop," Powell adds. Dates, one of the area's top exports, for instance, grow year-round and therefore require more water than, say, lettuce, which grows only four months out of the year. "One effect of the above-average rainfall this winter is that it allowed us to skip on irrigation," he says. That meant irrigating less water from the Colorado River. "But that really only lasted a few weeks, so it didn't make a huge impact."

Carrots, citrus, broccoli and bell peppers, among other Coachella Valley crops, may continue to thrive here for the foreseeable future, but climate shifts tell a different story for the rest of the landscape.



#### THE GIVING TREE

Muth stands beside a blooming palo verde in Boyd Deep Canyon, its tiny neon leaves and bright-yellow blossoms dancing in the breeze. Around it, a montage of green overtakes the beige landscape, and robust cholla cast a dim glow beneath the morning sun. The palo verde is a drought-deciduous tree, Muth explains. That means the tree drops its leaves, which evaporate water through small holes, and its trunk and branches take over the job of photosynthesis. This survival mechanism prevents the palo verde from losing more water, thus helping it thrive in this inhospitably dry environment.

"All life needs water, but some plants do better than others," continues Muth, pointing to another drought-tolerant perennial: the creosote bush. This yellow-flowered shrub, he explains, has the ability to draw water from the soil. "During really tough times, it doesn't flower or put on much in the way of leaves, but it sits there and persists." The creosote bush can live about two years without any water. "You'll see some very old ones out here," Muth says.

Beside the popping yellow palo verde tree, another palo verde has lost its battle against the harsh dry-spell; its trunk, twisted like a stick of dark licorice, lays upturned in the wash. "Palo verdes will survive drought of moderate duration," Muth says, "but prolonged drought will stress them and eventually they will succumb to lack of water and mistletoe if they are heavily parasitized." There are also genetic differences among the trees and differences in soil moisture depending on where the tree is growing.

During a severe, extreme or exceptional drought, like the most recent one, this typically tough tree has something else working against it: the bark beetle. "The bark beetle thrives on the tree's vascular tissue that lies just below the bark," Muth explains. "When the tree is well-hydrated and one of these beetles starts



to bore into [it], the tree defends itself by secreting sap into that hole," he says. "That sap pushes the burrowing beetle out of the bark. When there's a drought, the tree can't produce as much sap so the beetles have a field day."

The palo verde is not alone in its suffering. Other droughttolerant plants, like the purple-gray smoketree, which has adapted to thrive in dry, sandy washes, can only survive for so long without water. And the evergreen juniper tree is also susceptible to California's native bark beetle, which is responsible for the coup de grâce to numerous drought-stressed trees over the past few years.

A hike through Joshua Tree National Park reveals a few fallen trees, their spiky and spindly silhouettes arched like public-art sculptures in the sand. Many of those Joshua trees died because they burned in wildfires, says Neil Frakes, the park's vegetation branch chief, though it can be assumed that a good portion of



mortality outside the burn areas is due to drought. "Overall, they seem to be doing pretty well." His team is setting up a long-term network of monitoring plots in the park to assess the health, size and reproductive rates – both from seed and asexually – of Joshua trees. Since no data was recorded "pre-drought," Frakes adds, it will take time to collect, process and analyze substantial data. "For the dead trees we are assessing, most are not recently dead but appear to have been dead more than five years." Initial data from the plots shows that, on average, about 10 to 20 percent of the trees died in the last five years, depending on location.

The challenge for adult Joshua trees might not be their ability to withstand drought, but the effect these dry periods have on their reproduction (rates of seed germination) and the survival of the trees' seedlings. Muth adds: "The Joshua tree seeds need to have the right conditions and enough moisture to survive the first few years of life. Higher elevations are cool and wet enough for young trees to make a go of it, but at lower elevations, the seedlings don't survive." The death of neighboring trees and shrubs throughout the desert adversely impacts young seedlings from the plants that use them for protection from the heat while they germinate. And fewer plants – whether they are drying up in the heat or they're just not reproducing at normal rates – means trouble for the wildlife that relies on them for survival.

"In the desert, it's all about water," says Cameron Barrows, PhD, an associate research ecologist for the Center for Conservation Biology at University of California, Riverside. "It's critical when rainfall is well below average, because it means fewer plants are growing. Plants are the starting level of the food web so all creatures are directly or indirectly tied to plant growth.

"The starting point is water."

#### LET'S TALK ABOUT THE BIRDS AND THE BEES ...

And the insects, lizards, snakes, tortoises, jackrabbits and several species that depend on desert plants. Barrows has been measuring how plants and animals (reptiles, mostly, but also insects, birds and mammals) are responding to the drought in and around the Coachella Valley, including Joshua Tree National Park and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument.

"We're identifying areas that we go back many times a year, over many years, to see how the abundance of animals and plants changes at those locations," Barrows says.

Where the topography is gentler, like in Joshua Tree, they're

able to study in large plots; where it's more mountainous or rugged, scientists are limited to trails mostly.

"What we've found is that during the drought, some plants at lower (hotter, drier) elevations are [declining]," Barrows says, noting that a brittlebush doesn't fare as well as its tougher neighbor, the creosote. At higher elevations, where there is more water, those same plants are "doing OK." Since animals at these lower



elevations don't have the ability to know where to find better conditions, they stay where they are, Barrows says. "A lizard will live its entire life in an area the size of your house." The effect is a shift in reproductive success and mortality: "At higher elevations, we see the numbers going up. At lower elevations, they're going down."

How animals respond after a drought is akin to how they will respond with climate change. With a wet year, like this one, those numbers shift downslope again. "But it's important to understand that from a projection standpoint, the last five years of drought is supposed to be more typical of what our future holds," Barrows says. "These [observations] tell us how animals will survive climate change, if at all."

For our region, with its high mountains, there appears to be sufficient space to allow most species to persist, Barrows continues. "Their ranges will continue to creep up slope. That optimism is based on the fact that they exist there today despite historic and prehistoric droughts, and that the droughts will likely be interspersed with occasional wetter periods."

Animals most at risk are those already at or near the tops of mountains, because they have nowhere to go, as well as those that can't shift up slope because their distributions are restricted, for instance, to sand dunes. But even those restricted to sand dunes are still present despite past droughts, Barrow notes, "So they may have survival mechanisms that will surprise us."

About 40 years ago, the bighorn sheep population was on the decline due to disease carried by grazing livestock. Since the number of livestock have all but disappeared from their habitat over the last decade, the bighorn sheep population is again flourishing. One of their problems, though, is that the oases that

> were once dependable water sources are no longer wet, Barrows explains. "They are drying up due to lack of rainfall and, particularly, snowfall," he says. "Where we once had snowpack all winter long, we now have a dusting. This doesn't maintain the aquifer or keep the springs wet." Barrows and fellow researchers question whether or not, over time, the sheep will be able to find the water sources

to sustain healthy populations.

"Personally, I've seen a lot of changes here over the years," Muth says. "The abundance of annual plants varies each year." He recalls two El Nino years when yellow encilias, now declining, blanketed the desert, and another five- or six-year period when plantago was the most abundant flower. Muth looks around for an example of the cone-shaped plant, but doesn't spot any. "Now we only see little patches here and there," he says.

Subsequently, the abundance of critters also varies. "Certain species of bugs, like stink bugs, will be everywhere and then disappear for years," Muth says. "And in a good year, you can stand in your driveway at night and hear the rats crunching on things."

While scientists expect to see a shift in wildlife distribution, Barrows doesn't think we'll see a lot of extinction in the Coachella Valley with climate change. "Animals will continue to exist at higher elevations where reproduction is higher and mortality is lower," he says. "Near the valley floor, unfortunately, we'll see fewer beautiful blooms, insects and birds."

Fewer plants in the desert, whether due to death or decreased reproduction rates, means less food for the wildlife that relies on them for survival.

Sec. 1



#### HOW MUCH WATER DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

A desert is characterized by rainfall and aridity, and is defined as an area that gets less than 10 inches of rain a year (The Coachella Valley averages about 5 inches) and loses a lot of its water through evaporation from the ground and transpiration (through the leaves of plants). In a desert, the rate of water loss is higher than its annual rainfall. What better defines the desert, though, is the unpredictability of this rainfall.

Plants and animals have evolved to survive dry conditions that last for days to decades. Many plants, like cactuses and succulents, collect water in tissue or have shallow roots that pull water from the soil immediately after it rains. Animals like bighorn sheep, wood rats and desert tortoises eat these plants, Barrows says. Some animals, like the tortoise, lizards and other small mammals, burrow into the moist dirt where their bodies can absorb moisture. An organism's ability to defend itself against harsh conditions depends on the intensity of the drought. An extremely wet period may relieve the valley from a prolonged drought, but it doesn't diminish its adverse effects.

"We know the ecosystem has changed drastically over the past 1,000 years," Muth says, "But since we only have short-term reliable records, we don't know exactly how it's changed." How plants and animals will continue to thrive (or where they will go) as long periods of drought happen more frequently is to be determined. How humans in the desert will fare depends, partly, on how they prepare.

"This was one of the wettest winters we've ever seen," Powell says. One might think an usually wet season would sustain the next dry one. "Unfortunately, we don't have the infrastructure to store enough water to bridge the gap between wet periods," he continues. "In 2011, our state reservoirs were full. A few years later, they were all empty. It can turn around very quickly."



As the population grows and residents of the Coachella Valley demand more water, especially for outdoor use like landscaping, the impact of consecutive droughts will become even greater. This is not only an issue here, but in several other parts of California. One option, Powell says, is for the state to erect much-needed infrastructure that captures more rain during wet periods. Another, more costly option, is desalinization, or converting seawater for agricultural and domestic use.



What is crystal-clear is that if our desert life as we know it is to survive – and thrive – long-term water issues need to be addressed. For consumers, that means continuing to conserve more water.

"The drought has caused a rise in the cost of water," says Hank McCarrick, CEO of Seco Systems in Palm Springs. "Water prices however, unlike oil prices, do not follow the availability of supply." Once water prices go up they will not likely go down just because supplies have increased. "This last drought has invoked government intervention like no drought before. Water agencies were mandated to reduce water consumption or face heavy fines. These fines coupled with lost revenues created a drive for increased prices, customer awareness campaigns and conservation practices."

While the drought may be over, McCarrick says, "It was so unprecedented that a new era of sustained water conservation has arrived."

## Vein Specialists Institute The office of Kenneth Jesser, M.D. *"Sculpt the Body of Your Dreams"*

Get back into your **Date with confidence.** smaller jeans.

Turn your body into your best outfit.

Love your reflection.

Finally lose that baby fat.



A revolutionary non-surgical treatment that eliminates stubborn fat

Enjoy trying on new clothes.

### Throw away your fat clothes.

Wear a bathing suit with pride. 35 mins non-invasive non-surgical treatment Look great and feel even better.



Office conveniently located at: 44-530 San Pablo Ave, Suite 100 Palm Desert, CA 92260 760-341-7563 www.ezveins.com

#### **FREATS** K F ES VALLE HOM C O A C LLA H

E

**DISCOVER YOUR OASIS On-Site Sales Office** @ OASIS COUNTRY CLUB 423 Casbah Way Palm Desert, CA

A PREMIUM SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION OF DESERT MAGAZINE

### SELECTION OF PROPERTIES EXCLUSIVELY BY BRADYSANDAHL REAL ESTATE GROUP



#### **3 MIRADA CIRCLE** OFFERED AT \$ 3,300,000 MIRADA ESTATES : RANCHO MIRAGE

Award-winning contemporary with panoramic views. True Indoor/Outdoor Living. Adjacent to The Ritz-Carlton. Available designer furnished.



#### 9 MAKENA LANE OFFERED AT \$ 2,695,000 Makena : Rancho Mirage

Brand new custom home close to retail, restaurants, and multiple country clubs. 5 beds, 5.5 baths with south-facing backyard.



#### **10 VERDE VISTA** OFFERED AT \$ 3,200,000 MIRADA ESTATES : RANCHO MIRAGE

Custom-built on a double lot with mountain, valley floor and city light views from Palm Springs to Palm Desert. Adjacent to The Ritz-Carlton.



#### **1120 EAST ALEJO ROAD** OFFERED AT \$ 2,150,000 Movie Colony East : Palm Springs

Mid-century modern by Herbert Burns, AIA and Arthur Elrod. 6 beds, 6 baths. Multiple entertaining areas inside and out.

#### CALL OR TEXT FOR A PRIVATE SHOWING 760.409.1540



760.409.1540 brady@bradysandahl.com www.**BRADYSANDAHL**.com CalBRE #01416687

## BRADYSANDAHL REAL ESTATE GROUP

#### OFFICE LOCATIONS IN PALM SPRINGS AND RANCHO MIRAGE

R©





#### **475 EAST VALMONTE SUR** OFFERED AT \$ 3,175,000 MOVIE COLONY : PALM SPRINGS

Tennis estate on double-lot within two blocks of downtown. 4 beds, 4.5 baths, multiple entertaining areas with ultra-private yard.



#### **417 EAST VIA ALTAMIRA** OFFERED AT \$ 1,985,000 MOVIE COLONY : PALM SPRINGS

Custom renovation within two blocks of downtown. Premier finishes. Ultra-private south-facing backyard that delivers premier views.



**17 AMBASSADOR** OFFERED AT \$ 1,535,000 Artisan : Rancho Mirage

Contemporary home with open floor plan and private backyard. Views to the south and west. 4 beds, 4.5 baths, 3 car garage. Solar!



**3 MAKENA LANE** OFFERED AT \$ 2,795,000 Makena : Rancho Mirage

Brand new custom home close to The River and minutes from El Paseo. 5 beds, 5.5 baths with resort-style pool and spa.



#### **34 CLANCY LANE ESTATES** OFFERED AT \$ 1,965,000 CLANCY ESTATES : RANCHO MIRAGE

Custom-built in 2014 on a ½ acre lot. 4 beds + office, 4.5 bath with open floor plan and south-facing pool and spa. Stunning!



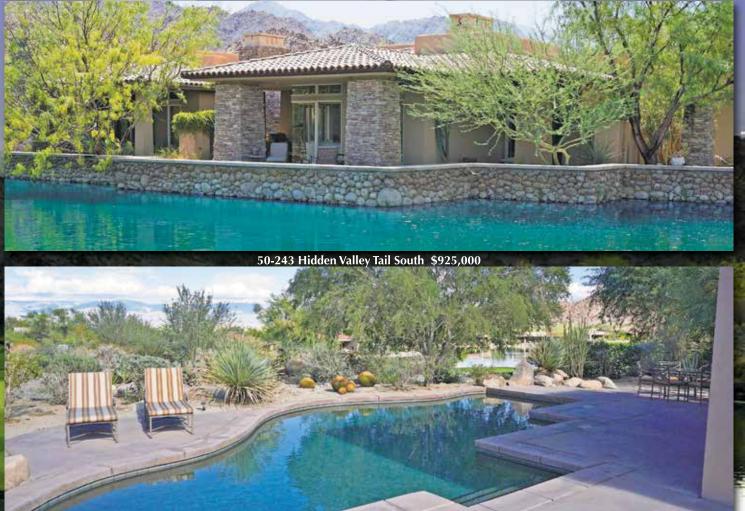
**4101 AMBER LANE** OFFERED AT \$ 975,000 ESCENA GOLF CLUB : PALM SPRINGS

Highly upgraded 4 bed modern home with west-facing pool and spa. Outstanding value and big mountain views. Solar!

**F** CONNECT WITH US AT FACEBOOK.COM/BRADYSANDAHL



#### UNRIVALED LIFESTYLE . SECLUDED RESIDENCES . SPECTACULAR GOLF



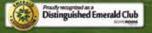
73-836 Desert Bloom Trail \$1,495,000



49-760 Hidden Valley Trail \$4,200,000



**RESERVE REALTY** 74-001 Reserve Drive • Indian Wells • California



www.TheReserveClub.com • Real Estate Sales • Sandy Walton and Tom Cullinan 760-568-5599



#### DESERT LUXURY REIMAGINE YOUR DESERT DREAM HOME with the LOUISE HAMPTON TEAM

## LOUISE HAMPTON



Palm Springs | Old Las Palmas | \$2,895,000 Magnificent estate beautifully restored to an architectural masterpiece sited against the San Jacinto Mountains. Pure lines, simple forms, is private & decidedly modern.



Palm Springs | Monte Sereno | \$1,695,000 The chic & acclaimed "Modern Villa" is one of the very few south facing & has a lushly landscaped yard to showcase panoramic mountain views.



Palm Springs | Little Tuscany | \$1,399,000 | PRICE REDUCED! Contemporary Mediterranean. Ageless beauty on approx. ½ acre with mountain views. Resort style backyard great for entertaining. Offered furnished.



Palm Springs | Bella Monte | \$1,399,000 | PRICE REDUCED!Fee land at south end! Colorful entertainer's home with<br/>magnificent mountain & city views. Owned solar system. 24 hr<br/>guarded community.



Palm Springs | The Mesa | \$1,225,000 Modern contemporary. Exquisitely remodeled with highest in quality & design. Mountain views & lush landscaping enhance the resort feel of pool & spa.

#### 760.320.4586

#### Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties

2905 E Tahquitz Canyon Way I Palm Springs CalBRE #00802409 I CalBRE #01365316

#### www.Louisehampton.com



facebook.com/thelouisehamptonteam instagram.com/louisehamptonteam





©2017 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently owned and operated franchise of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of HomeServices of America, Inc.® Equal Housing Opportunity.

## STANFIELD

#### STANFIELD REALESTATE.COM



#### 38 SKY RIDGE | \$16,500,000

**RANCHO MIRAGE:** This exquisite custom estate features over 13,000 square feet of luxurious living space and is situated on almost three acres of award winning landscape artistry. The interior showcases distinctive and handcrafted elements designed by the finest artisans in the world. This home is truly one of a kind.



#### 71450 PAINTED CANYON | \$1,299,000

**PALM DESERT:** Nestled at the mountain base, overlooking the valley below, sits this eclectic and colorful property. Filled with unique architecture and details from early 1950's Palm Desert homesteaders, this five bedroom, six bathroom estate offers approximately 5,000 square feet of living space on approximately 2.32 acres.



#### 30 SANTA ROSA MOUNTAIN | \$1,166,900

**RANCHO MIRAGE:** Nestled in the Santa Rosa Foothills, this estate offers every high-end amenity. Large open concept great room opens out to the tranquil saltwater pool and spa, creating the ultimate indoor/outdoor living experience. This new build is situated near the best shops, hiking, golfing, and dining.



74-890 Highway 111, Indian Wells, CA 92210 • HOMGROUP.COM

## STANFIELD



#### 48 AMBASSADOR | \$1,495,000

RANCHO MIRAGE: The synergistic flow of this estate in the heart of Rancho Mirage in the Artisan gated community, embodies the traditional soft lines of contemporary architecture. A former model home, this 4,500 square foot upgraded property is warm and welcoming, showcasing immaculate lush landscaping and the ultimate in indoor/outdoor desert living.



#### 15 TOSCANA | \$1,100,000

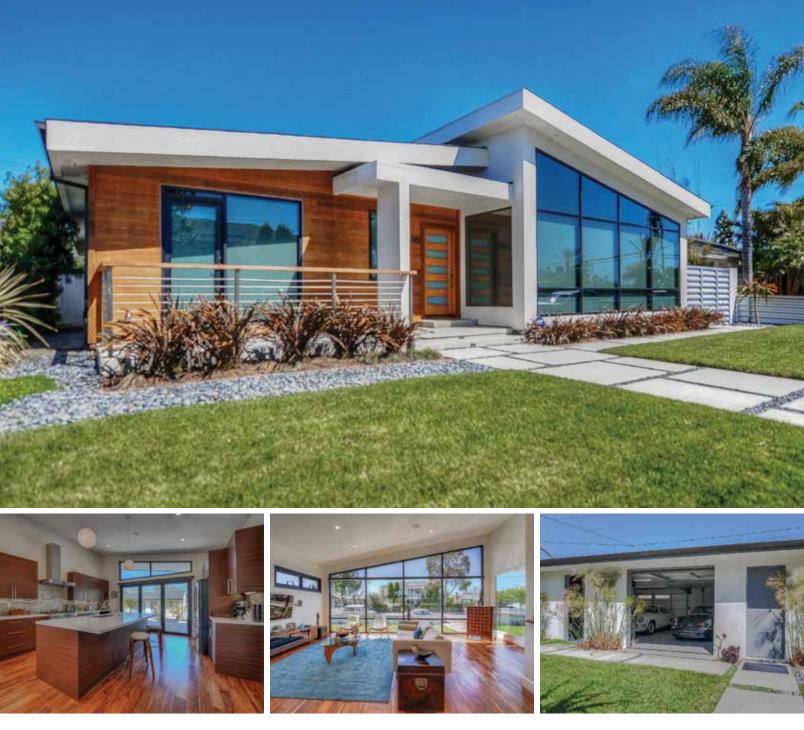
**RANCHO MIRAGE:** Lavish luxury abounds in this immaculate Rancho Mirage estate on a corner lot with approximatey 1/3 acre. Featuring four bedrooms with a separate casita and five bathrooms with over 4,100 square feet of living space. Overflowing with upgrades and a tropical backyard with custom pool and spa.



#### 54840 AVENIDA MADERO | \$649,000

LA QUINTA: This contemporary home invites you to make that desert dream come true. Featuring four large bedrooms, including a master suite opening out to the private and secluded pool and lawn. The open concept floor plan offers a large chef's kitchen with upgraded appliances and a massive eat-at prep island and a walk-in pantry.

SEAN STANFIELD | 760.851.5992 | SEAN@STANFIELDREALESTATE.COM CRAIG CHORPENNING | 760.777.2389 | CRAIG@STANFIELDREALESTATE.COM STANFIELDREALESTATE.COM



#### COSTA MESA | \$1,997,000 486 broadway

Amazing 2,500+ square foot single story four bedroom Mid-century Modern home, built in 2015. Stunning quality and attention to detailbeautiful warm Alder wood floors, Quartz countertops, skylights, huge open great room, extra wide hallways and soaring ceilings. Walls of glass open to a cool outdoor living area with fireplace, barbecue, exercise area, three car "display" garage with drive through door to back yard and attached movie room/man cave. Additional parking for two more cars accessed via the newly paved extra wide alley. Live on family friendly Broadway, send the kids to Mariners School and live in a hip, modern home like no other in Eastside Costa Mesa.



м 949.466.3224 т 949.554.1247 vlee@homgroup.com

VICKI LEE



1200 NEWPORT CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 100, NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA 92660 WWW.HOMGROUP.COM



#### LA QUINTA • \$3,995,000 52530 del gato drive | tradition golf club

Stunning celebrity-owned estate with over 8,000 lux square feet. Freshly painted, staged and furnished with fab water views. *www.530delgato.com* 



LA QUINTA · \$3,849,000 53824 via bellagio | the hideaway



LA QUINTA • \$3,099,000 79390 tom fazio lane | the quarry

A rare offering. Private estate owned by the Developer of The Quarry. Premier home site with breathtaking views. *www.79390tomfazio.com* 

Completed in 2015 with spectacular southern views of mountains and fairway. Five bedrooms, six and one-half baths. *www.53824viabellagio.com* 



LA QUINTA · \$2,750,000 53480 del gato drive | tradition golf club

Desert chic home with remodeled kitchen. Four bedrooms, four and one-half baths, two great rooms, four-car garage. *www.480delgato.com* 



#### INDIAN WELLS • \$2,550,000 77240 black mountain | Indian wells cc

A timeless and tranquil compound includes regulation tennis court and separate guest house on a quiet interior culdesac in guard gated community.

## BERGSMA • CERF • TRISCARI



CHRISTINA BERGSMA | 760.485.0019 cbergsma@homgroup.com PATTI CERF | 760-989.9661 pcerf@homgroup.com TOM TRISCARI | 760.485.1000 ttriscari@homgroup.com



LA QUINTA · \$2,450,000 53600 del gato drive | tradition golf club

Inspired Oasis with a trio of private outdoor spaces at the top of Tradition. Fabulous Master Retreat. *www.53600delgato.com* 



78015 main street, suite 205, la quinta, california 92253 760.541.5300 . www.homgroup.com



#### YOUR ON-SITE CLUB AND REAL ESTATE EXPERTS

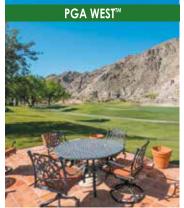
ITRUS

CLUB

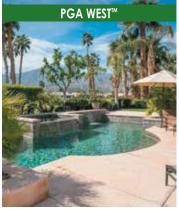




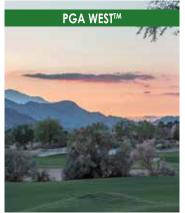
MUNTAIN DUNES.



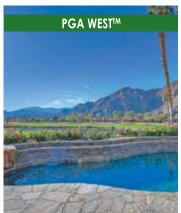
\$649,000 • 3bd/3.5ba, 2645 sf 54295 Riviera Gregg Gard 310.592.8200



\$899,000 • 3bd/3.5ba, 3102 sf 80981 Bellerive Kathleen O'Keefe 760.567.7822



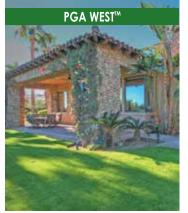
\$1,049,000 • 4bd/3.5ba, 3829 sf 55645 Turnberry Way Geri Dardi 760.831.0267



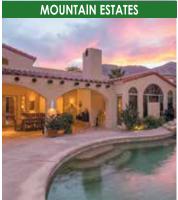
\$1,199,000 • 4bd/4.5ba, 3880 sf 54130 Riviera Joe Vetrano 760.963.0587



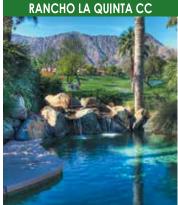
\$1,295,000 • 4bd/4.5ba, 4379 sf 81460 National Drive Rick Parnell 360.280.4178



\$2,388,000 • 4bd/4.5ba, 4519 sf 57240 Peninsula Lane Joe Vetrano 760.963.0587



\$2,250,000 • 4bd/4.5ba, 4478 sf 48730 Via Linda Carol-Lynne Mittelbusher 760.449.6216



\$1,129,000 • 4bd/4ba, 3377 sf 48055 Manzanita Lane Mary Williams 760.567.7282



\$639,000 • 2bd/3ba, 1674 sf 77130 Vista Flora Kathleen O'Keefe 760.567.7822



\$2,350,000 • 3bd/3.5ba, 4837 sf 53741 Via Bellagio Petra Jacobs 760.774.8196



\$699,000 • 3bd/3.5ba, 1,922 sf 77243 Calle Mazatlan Diana Vietor 760.964.3736



\$1,369,000 • 3bd/3.5ba, 3508 sf 76950 Avenida Fernando Diana Vietor 760.964.3736







DISCOVER TRADITION GOLF CLUB. A PLACE THAT IS, BY ANY STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION, MAGNIFICENT.



3 Bed, 3 1/2 Baths , 2,892 sq. ft.

\$1,499,000

78611 DEACON DR. E.



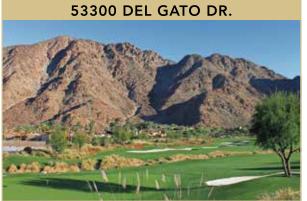
52380 DEL GATO

3 Bed, 3.5 Bath, 3,300 sq. ft.

4 Bed, 4 Bath, 4,091 sq. ft.

\$1,599,000

\$2,295,000



3BR/4BA plus office 4,225 sq. ft.

\$2,099,995



4 Bed, 4.5 Bath, 4,204 sq. ft.



78682 TALKING ROCK TURN

4BR/6BA 7,419 sq. ft.

\$4,999,500

Bill Albers Amy Albers Real Estate Broker Mobile: 760.774.8787 Bill@TraditionProperties.net

Realtor Mobile: 760.774.8245 Amy@TraditionProperties.net BRE#01126489 BRE#01877750



Your On-Site Specialists at Tradition: Lucy Ondo, Bill Albers, Amy Albers, & Lisa Putnam





### TOSCANA. ITALIAN FOR GIRLFRIENDS.

Coscana COUNTRY CLUB

The most splendid temples were reserved for the goddess and her court. Our version may be even more splendid, a 28,000-square-foot monument to the art and science of wellness. Here, the hands of time seem to have no grip on those who call Toscana home. Come and join our celebration of a glorious lifestyle in Indian Wells, and la dolce vita.

36 HOLES OF JACK NICKLAUS SIGNATURE GOLF · LAVISH SPA BELLA VITA · SPORTS CLUB · CASUAL & FINE DINING LUXURY PROPERTIES & RESIDENCES FROM \$995,000 TO OVER \$4,000,000

> Visit Our New Beautifully Decorated Show Homes Open Daily 9am - 5pm Eldorado & Fred Waring Drive in Indian Wells 760.772.7000 ToscanaCC.com

# Desert Island Rancho Mírage

## Debra Manning

Real Estate Broker Desert Island On-site resale office BRE License 00817588





2 Bdrm + 2 Bath, 2,159 s.f. \$439,000



2 Bdrm + 2 Bath, 2,100 s.f. \$409,000



2 Bdrm + 2 Bath, 1,855 s.f. \$379,000



Fabulous End Penthouse 3+3, Family Room 3,300 s.f. \$1,150,000



2 Bdrm + 2 Bath, 1,918 s.f. \$242,000



2 Bdrm+2 Bath, 2,159+ s.f. \$437,000

Jeserils and H

760 673-6155



2 Bdrm+2 Bath, 2,159+s.f. \$375,000



2 Bdrm+2 Bath, 2,159 s.f. \$279,000



nies.



Fabulous Penthouse 3+3, Game Room/Office 3142 s.f. \$1,150,000

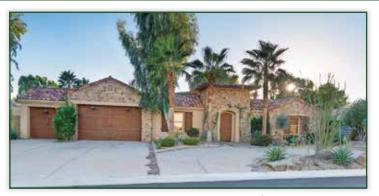
Fab PenthouseViews!

900 Island #703

2 Bdrm+2 Bath, 1,800 s.f. \$329,000

# DIANE FLAHERTY THE GOLFER'S AGENT





#### 79785 Bermuda Dunes Drive | \$809,000

4BR/4BA. Great Room Floor Plan. 3,595sf / 10,890sf elevated Lot. Courtyard pool/spa. Detached casita w/spacious Bedroom & Bath. Southern views across 5th fairway.



**43229 Moore Circle I \$693,000** 4BR/4BA. Great Room Floor Plan. 3,537sf /14,801sf corner lot. Private Tennis Court for enclave of only 10 homes.



**79740 Ryan Way | \$787,000** 4BR/4BA. 3,264sf. APPROVED RV PARKING. Views of the San Jacinto Mountains, 7th Green & 8th fairway.



**79815 Bermuda Dunes Drive I \$1,320,000** 4BR/6BA. 3,686sf / 13,068sf lot. A South Point Construction Custom designed home built in 2014. Includes outdoor 320sf Cabana w/ 3/4 bath, heaters/misters/BBQ & Kitchen. South mountains views.



**78770 Starlight Lane I \$1,589,555** 4BR/7BA. 6,856sf / Lot: 31,799sf. Custom Fairway Estate. Double glass etched doors open to the grand foyer, music room & strikingly large Great Room.



Diane Flaherty CaIBRE #01172949 760.774.3836 cell · 760.834.7500 office Email: DianeFlaherty@outlook.com



78770 Saint Thomas Drive | \$1,275,000

5BR/4BA. 4,562sf / Lot: 15,682sf. Includes an attached two-room casita w/kitchenette. Outdoor paradise with waterfalls, pool, spa & stream-like water feature. Plus a 16'x40'RV Coach garage that extends to 52'.

# For Virtual Tours of all of our Listings, www.thegolfersagent.com



#### RANCHO MIRAGE | \$675,000 19 corte del sol

Many upgrades are available in this gorgeous salt pool/spa home with three bedrooms, plus a den or office located on a cul-de-sac in La Terraza Monterey Estates.



l he Oasis

ROD EDMONDSON

M 760.409.6149 T 760.424.3037 *redmondson@homgroup.com* CAL BRE NO. 01211646

500 South Palm Canyon drive, palm springs, California 92264 760.424.3000 . www.homgroup.com



# PARADISE IN THE DESERT OASIS COUNTRY CLUB



Don't miss this stylish detached home, exceptionally maintained with tasteful decor. Once inside you will appreciate the attention-to-detail and the immaculate condition of the home. This floor plan has space for your guests and plenty of outdoor areas for patio entertaining. The views of the golf course are postcard perfect! A patio cover and drop down shades adds an element of privacy, along with a second patio off the formal dining with even more privacy. Offered furnished (per inventory list.) Just lock and leave! MLS # 217001584 Offered at \$349,000

JEFF Overman BRE 01478355

**RAE Crogan** BRE 01467819

MIKE Kays BRE 01387349

CHERYL Overman BRE 01886524

760-200-0522 1-800-821-4332 DESERT-HOMES.COM



ON SITE OFFICE OPEN DAILY 10AM-4PM

# Give Now. Build Hope.

Abby was born to a mother who was HIV positive. Her adoptive mother did not know what the future would hold for Abby's health. The only thing she could do is hope.

Through our Vision 2020 campaign, we are embarking on a journey to give hope, provide cures and save the lives of our youngest patients by building a new children's hospital tower.

Give today to help us build hope for kids like Abby.

Visit us on the web at **GiveVision2020.org** and make your pledge today.

Give to your local Children's Hospital LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Final Thoughts

ONE ARTIST'S TAKE ON THE WAYS IN WHICH WE SEEK - AND FIND - BEAUTY IN THE DESERT.

Words by Jose Bastidas

y mom opens my bedroom door on a Saturday morning. I get up, change from my pajamas into a simple T-shirt, gym shorts and tiny tennis shoes. I'm 6 years old and I'm happy.

My mom, my sister and I drive to the entrance of the Sabas Nieves trail of the El Ávila Mountains in Caracas, Venezuela. I always get lazy at the start, but once we start going up the trail, the trees, the views of downtown Caracas and the promise of my favorite ice cream once we get back down keeps me going.

Hiking the Sabas Nieves trail was a weekend tradition back then. Years have passed, our family grew and traditions changed, but the memories of our hikes have always stayed in the back of my mind.

It's been almost eight years since I left Venezuela and almost five years since I left my parents' house in Texas for college. When I accepted an internship at *The Desert Sun* and relocated to Palm Springs almost two years ago, I knew nothing about the Coachella Valley. I had lived in the U.S. for six years and, having resided in Houston and Baton Rouge, I forgot that living in an area surrounded by mountains was a possibility.

Now, Caracas and the Coachella Valley could not be more different. One's a city within a valley in a tropical, humid area merely an hour from the Caribbean Sea, and the other is an arid, desert region with cactuses, intense heat in the summer and a whole lot of sand. But the first time I saw the San Jacinto Mountains along the desert cities, I remember feeling like I was back home.

But being far away from family and old friends, working hard and dealing with life's ups and downs can be isolating. So, I hold on to old memories and make sure I create new ones by exploring the world I now found myself in.

Every Friday, I set my alarm for an early morning wake-up call, and hit the snooze button about 10 times. I get up, change from my pajamas into a simple T-shirt, gym shorts and somewhat bigger tennis shoes. I pick up my friend at her house and we hike South Lykken Trail.

We talk about work, our lives, plans for future vacations and where we are going to have lunch when we're done. Between admiring the recently revived plants (thank you rainy winter) and each other's support, we make it to the top.

As I look at the valley from above, I think about my family and how they're always with me even when we're apart. I think about my friends and the many adventures we've gone on. I think about how lucky I am to have landed in a place like this and in that moment, even after the worst of weeks, I am happy.

Jose Bastidas is the food reporter and producer for The Desert Sun. Originally from Caracas, Venezuela, Jose moved to the U.S. in 2009 and studied Mass Communication at Louisiana State University. He first moved to the Coachella Valley when he accepted an internship at The Desert Sun in 2015.



#### HIDEAWAY PROPERTIES WWW.HIDEAWAYGOLFCLUB.COM



NEW LISTING 52285 Via Castile 4 BD | 4.5 BA | 3001 sf \$1,295,000 | Furnished



80753 Via Savona 3 BD | 3.5 BA | 3291 sf \$1,475,000 | Furnished



80566 Via Pessaro 4 BD | 4.5 BA | 4006 sf \$2,195,000 | Furnished



80250 Via Capri 4 BD | 4.5 BA | 5382 sf \$3,295,000 | Furnished



80170 Via Capri, Lot 44/45 \$485,000 | 17860 sf



53079 Via Savona, Lot 31/32C \$770,000 | 25265 sf



CalBRE# 01366121

#### YOUR HIDEAWAY ON-SITE SPECIALISTS

Bob Ravis, Alysia Sanchez, George Van Valkenburg Jr., Anna Hurley & Alex Smith



73520 EL PASEO SUITE E PALM DESERT 760-773-1040 ELPASEOJEWELERS.COM () EL PASEO JEWELERS