

Renee Brown



Women Built This Town

Provides a historical timeline and biographical information on the women who developed the world class resort of Palm Springs.

Bio - Renee Brown received her Bachelor's in Social Science with an emphasis on History, Political Science and Sociology from Chapman University in 2008. Formerly a journalist and educator today she is the Director of Education and Associate Curator at the Palm Springs Historical Society. www.pshistoricalsociety.org

C. C. de Vere



Frenchtown Confidential: SoCal's Lost French Roots

Southern California once had a flourishing French community, stretching from Santa Barbara in the northwest to Ramona in the southeast. For many years, French was the second most commonly spoken language in Los Angeles (after Spanish). French (and Francophone) immigrants and their families established cities, utility companies, schools, banks, and industries that still exist today. Yet, their considerable contributions to Southern California - and their roles in its transformation from a dusty, dangerous frontier to a world-class destination - are now ignored. This presentation will examine the history of the French in Southern California and highlight its most important figures.

Bio - C.C. de Vere is a fourth-generation Angeleno (currently living elsewhere) and a French American. She has been researching the history of Southern California's lost French community for over two years and shares her findings at frenchtownconfidential.blogspot.com

Megan Edwards



Literary Las Vegas

Books and authors may not be the first thing that comes to mind when you hear "Las Vegas," but southern Nevada has a burgeoning literary community. As home to the Black Mountain Institute, Believer Magazine, the first City of Asylum program in the United States, a couple of independent publishing houses, and a great new independent bookstore, Sin City is alive with writers and book people. It's still all Vegas, too -- a lively creative mix I'll illustrate with photos.

Bio - Megan Edwards is a writer and editor based in Las Vegas. She's the author of the travel memoir ROADS FROM THE ASHES, the humor book CAUTION: FUNNY SIGNS AHEAD, and the just released novel GETTING OFF ON FRANK SINATRA. She's online at <https://meganedwards.com>

Desiree Elliott

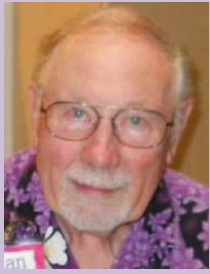


RVC Rap

Come join outgoing RVC9 Desiree Elliott for a review of what is happening in Mensa-- around the region and at the national level. Ask questions, offer feedback, and become more informed about what is going on in the organization!

Bio - Desiree Elliott has been a member of Mensa since 2004 and credits Mensa for her happy marriage and adorable nephew. Volunteer service locally and nationally is how she gives back and is finishing off four years on the AMC representing Region 9.

Stan Jones



Personality Type & You Based On the Myers Briggs Type Indicator

The purpose of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI®) personality inventory is to make the theory of psychological types described by C. G. Jung understandable and useful in people's lives. The essence of the theory is that much seemingly random variation in the behavior is actually quite orderly and consistent, being due to basic differences in the ways individuals prefer to use their perception and judgment. When you decide on your preference in each category, you have your own personality type, which can be expressed as a code with four letters.

Bio - Stan has had a varied career in multiple activities since leaving UCLA and USC. He is a CPA, Cert Assoc Exec, and Cert Speaking Prof. He was in politics, served as an Army Officer, and was a professor of Taxation & Law. He has been researching his roots and traveled to many places around the world. Another interest is the MBTI Type Indicator.

Viki Kind



Why Your Healthcare Directive Might Not Work!

As a bioethicist, I often get called in when the patient has an advance healthcare directive that isn't being honored by the family and/or physician. Do you have difficult family members who might want to keep you alive against your wishes or let you die because they want your money? Learn how to create a personalized quality-of-life statement to include with the your advance directive. Attendees will learn specific questions to ask and strategies to use to make decisions about CPR, feeding tubes and other end-of-life choices. With Viki's tools, you will be able to make more meaningful, medically informed and financially appropriate decisions at the end of life.

Bio - Viki Kind is a clinical bioethicist, professional speaker and the award-winning author of *The Caregiver's Path to Compassionate Decision Making: Making Choices For Those Who Can't*. As "The People's Bioethicist," she bridges two worlds, that of the health professional and the patient. Viki is also married to the delusional "Mr. Mensa 2014."

Pat Kodet



Paint the Oasis in Watercolor with Pat Kodet

Have fun capturing your stay in the desert oasis using Watercolor with Black Marker. Pat Kodet will demonstrate sketching with a black marker. Less is more. Take a step outside to sketch the palms, come back in to add line work and paint. Small sample watercolors, fine marker, and watercolor brush and w/c paper will be provided for you. Experiment in using minimal line and color mixing.

Bio - Pat Kodet paints and teaches in the Coachella Valley. Pat is past president of The Coachella Valley Watercolor Society and former Artist Council Board Member of The Palm Springs Art Museum.

2017 exhibits:

3-2 - 4-22 UCR, Palm Desert, CVWS 3-9 -3-11 Palm Springs Airport Museum, Incredible Artist Gallery

website: <http://www.patkodet.com>

Raymond Moberly



An UnCommon View of the Common Core Mathematics!

Statistics and Engineering talk

Hardware-Software Co-Design

The Configurable System on a Chip (CSOC) is a commercially available Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) containing a microprocessor core. The combined architecture allows for an algorithm to be implemented using a combination of software and programmable logic techniques. The purpose of the research is to explore tradeoffs between more flexible implementation in software and possible accelerations by using custom hardware designs. The speaker will relate his experience with accelerating the LDPC decoder algorithm, which nicely lends itself to a hybrid implementation because it has potential speedups from the parallelization of portions of the algorithm.

Bio - Dr. Moberly is subject matter expert in Information Theory (error correction, cryptography, and data compression). His research engages his experience with databases, mathematical optimization, and graph and hypergraph algorithms. Raymond teaches in the College of Engineering at SDSU and at e3 Civic High School.

Jennifer Morris



Games Room

Be sure to venture into the Games Realm (next to Hospitality) to visit with your Maester of Games (daily, 8a-??). Many tables will be provided for you to enjoy a plethora of games and puzzles of diverse styles and strategies sure to lead to laughter and delight! Visitors are invited to challenge themselves as much as they desire with both old friends and new! Check the RG Schedule for some specific games and times, but requests and suggestions are always welcomed. Many games offered allow for 'jump in/jump out' playing, easily swappable with a new visitor to the realm. Maester Jennifer, along with Mavens Barbara and Jim, look forward to teaching and playing games at your request. While a variety of options are provided, guests are invited to bring their own games as well.

Bio - Maester Jennifer Morris, First of Her Name, Queen of the North...(County Gamers), Chief of Dice Rollers, Mother of Deck Builders, Grand Master Shuffler, Supreme Confidant of the Doctor, learner and lover and player of tabletop games since the tender age of 3. Visitors to her realm (next to Hospitality) are heartily welcomed (daily 8am-??) - BUT BE WARNED: entrance is granted solely to those dedicated to the pursuit of socially, intellectually, and emotionally ponderous undertakings that is modern gaming. Let the games commence!

Greg Niemann



Palm Springs Legend

For years a desert hideaway for celebrities, Palm Springs has a history as unique and varied as its residents. Nestled against lofty Mt. San Jacinto, the oasis of Palm Springs was the ancestral home of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. In the late 1800s white men began to arrive, seeking restorative cures in the therapeutic waters of the hot springs. The climate attracted not only respiratory patients and their families, but world-famous artists and writers who sought solace and inspiration in the palm-shaded canyons. Despite floods, droughts, and tribulations, these hardy settlers brought a modern village into being. Presentation will cover the remarkable pioneers and the celebrities who followed, all of whom left their mark on this special place. Learn the stories behind the inns, resorts and businesses that made Palm Springs an international destination.

Bio - A popular speaker, Niemann has presented numerous slide shows and/or book signings at venues including: Barnes & Noble, Costco, Discover Baja Travel Club; Distant Lands Travel Club, BookExpo America, and the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books. He is a member of the Palm Springs Historical Society, the Las Vegas/Clark County Library Foundation, and the Friends of Classic Las Vegas.

Bill Plachy



The Truth About the Black Death

Everything you think you know about the Black Death is probably wrong.

The Black Death has been called the greatest tragedy in human history. Something over half of the population of western Europe died in the space of less than two years. For nearly 800 years since, people have been trying to figure out who to blame: God, for punishing people for their sins, the stars, for being in an evil conjunction, bad people, for poisoning the wells, etc. Conventional wisdom has given up on those and moved over to blaming rats, for carrying bubonic plague, and finally settling on the rat's fleas, for carrying the plague from the rats over to people. Surprisingly enough, it's possible that notion, too, is wrong. The true story of the Black Death is a tale full of surprises, right up to today.

PS: That's a fennec fox named Rommel in the picture.

Bio – Bill started out as a degreed physicist, so he obviously couldn't do that for a living. He moved on to tech writing and then got captured by a large aerospace firm. He was a project engineer, operations manager, and project manager, ending up working on FLIR systems. Next he became a computer consultant for a dozen years, then more or less retired to go back to his first love, history.

Robert Julian Stone



The Politically Incorrect History of Palm Springs

Palm Springs is hot. Young and old visitors from all over the world are rediscovering today's Palm Springs. But the history of this small town on the edge of a California desert is anything but ordinary. It first belonged to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, until the railroad came through and the U.S. Government carved up their lands. In the town's early days, agriculture was the primary industry. But when pneumonia and other respiratory illnesses began taking their toll in colder climates, Palm Springs was discovered as a health retreat. Then came the movie stars. The town jumped to a syncopated beat at the Chi Chi Club and other hip boites. And Mid-century architecture flourished. Until it didn't. The cycle of boom and bust repeated from the early 20th Century through the crash of 2008. Somewhere in the middle, there was Sonny Bono - and all those gay boys. This isn't your granny's history lesson, but bring her. She'll have a great time.

Bio - Robert Julian Stone (pen name Robert Julian), is the author of four books, including Postcards from Palm Springs. He is currently an Official Blogger for the Huffington Post. He is the former editor of the Bay Area Reporter and his work has appeared in many national publications since 1986. In 2013 he starred in the Canadian tv series, Golden Gays.

Matthew Thompson



Daedalus: Designing a Legend

The jet age promised jetpacks and flying cars, but gridlock is de rigueur in the 21st century. What is it about the physics and economics that have kept human powered flight from becoming a thing? Daedalus (and Icarus) managed, kinda. Many others in the 60s and 70s attempted, and often failed. More recently, a team of MIT students, professors, athletes, and friends, carried aloft on the wings of giants, posted the unbroken FAI record flight from Crete to Santorini, resulting in a spinoff sports drink and a scientific platform to study the ozone layer. Come enjoy a multi-media presentation on the forefathers of human powered flight with a unique peek into the design, construction, and launch of the Daedalus human powered aircraft, complete with anecdotes on what inspired an HPA space race, learn who won the first annual "Nose Off", why it's dangerous to nap around engineers with access to adhesives, and how the Daedalus aircraft qualified as the perfect Formula One race car.

Bio - Matthew Thompson--As a Daedalus HPA team member from MIT, he helped bring the unbroken FAI record setting flight from myth to reality through visioning and technology application. An avid sailplane/RC model pilot, aerospace and flight have been the focus of his career. Residing in San Diego, he shares his love of flight with his two daughters.

Bob Tutelman

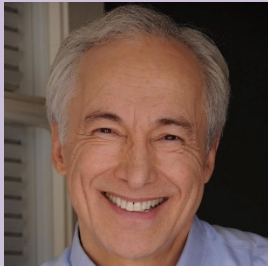


Sing-along

Medieval ballads, golden oldies, or songs from the times of your life. We'll sing your favorite folk songs and some good old rock and roll. Bring your voices, guitars, harmonicas, and kazoos. (Use an accordion -- go to jail!)

Bio – Bob Tutelman is famous for his sing-alongs. They were his passport to a successful career as a beach bum in the early seventies, and the only reason girls paid any attention to him at all for several decades. We still hope he can be rehabilitated someday.

Ed You



The Werewolves of the Inland Empire RG.

By night, werewolves kill off villagers. By day, enraged villagers kill off suspected werewolves. (But sometimes they mistakenly kill off "innocent villagers" oops.) "Werewolf" requires observation, deduction, and a lot of bold-faced lying. Who will prevail: the werewolves or the villagers? One fun-filled game takes 25-40 minutes, and then repeats. Newbies are always welcomed. (Werewolf is similar to, but better than, "Mafia") The village includes: 2-4 Werewolves, ordinary Villagers, and an assortment of special villagers with special abilities.

Bio - Ed You: "Mr. Mensa 2014," is a lifetime member, actor, singer, clinical pharmacist, and former game entrepreneur. He loves his incomparable wife, Viki, and their adorable cats, "Lovey, Pixie," and "Cassie"

GAMES

7 Wonders –

Each player is the leader of a city from the Ancient World - gather resources, develop commercial routes, affirm your military supremacy in this card development game.

Balderdash - The hilarious bluffing game –

The hilarious bluffing game. Players try to bluff each other by creating phony definitions for some of the zaniest, most unbelievable words in the English language. Players are awarded points for bluffing as well as for choosing the correct meaning.

Cards Against Humanity –

A party game for horrible people.

Catan –

Strategy game to develop holdings and trade and acquire resources to earn victory points.

Carcassonne -

Tile-placement game to develop the French landscape and place meeples to earn points.

David and Goliath –

A simple game, until you try to come up with a system that works for winning.

Dizios –

A brain-bending domino game with a twist! Take turns placing tiles into the grid by matching up edges, and earn points according to the pieces on the board that your tile touches. Another 2010 Mensa Mind Games winner.

Exploding Kittens NSFW –

Highly-strategic (and sometimes random luck), kitty-powered version of Russian Roulette!

Mexican Train Dominoes –

A version of dominoes worthy of Mensans. Any number can play.

Encore –

Your team will get an ordinary word, and you've got to help them out by thinking of a song that has that word in the lyrics. Any song will do even old commercial jingles or TV theme songs. Actually, you'll have to sing at least eight words of the song, but no one cares how badly you sing or if you're off-key – just sing it!

Forbidden Island –

Cooperative mission oriented game to collect treasures in paradise before the island disappears!

Oh Hell! –

A strategy card game where sticking it to your opponents is half the fun! Very easy to learn, 3 to 20 players can participate.

Scattergories –

The objective of the 2-to-6-player game is to score points by uniquely naming objects within a set of categories, given an initial letter, within a time limit.

Splendor –

Game of chip-collection and card development as Renaissance merchants buy gems and other cards to acquire prestige points.

Spontaneous –

Party game based on trigger-words leading players to break into song!

Ticket to Ride –

Path-building train-adventure across turn-of-the-century Europe, easy to learn (no in-game hyphens)

Time's Up –

A little like the old game of Password (but much faster moving) and a little like charades. Go through a collection of cards with the name of a person, or the title of a book, movies, etc., and try to get your teammates to blurt out the answer. Creative clue giving, and the remarkable ability of your teammates to get the answers based on your clues make this game fun.

Tri-Spy –

The fast-paced game challenging players to look and react quickly and spy-out matching patterns. This is a game that no matter who you are, you are guaranteed to beat Barbara, the Game Room Maven.

Uno –

The game's general principles put it into the Crazy Eights family of card games.

Upwords –

Test your word building and altering skills in this scrabble variation!

What's Yours Like –

A player in the hot seat must deduce a word that everyone else knows. Players will describe what "theirs" is like, with truthful but clever answers. Any number can play, people can drop-in or drop-out at will.

Wise and Otherwise –

Given a funny and unusual old saying from around the world, and with a little wit and imagination each player writes their own ending to go with the beginning. The made-up sayings are read aloud along with the actual old sayings, and everyone tries to guess the real one. You'll get points when other players think your ending is the real one, and points for guessing the real old saying.

Word on the Street –

Team members frantically brainstorm words that fit the category while the opposition tries to sidetrack them. This is another 2010 Mensa Mind Games winner.

Dozens of other games are available at all times. Come and browse.