



# Tools For Tomorrow

Free after-school and online arts literacy programs integrating creative writing, art, music and drama for children grades three through five in elementary schools throughout the Coachella Valley.

NONPROFIT 501(c)(3)

FALL 2020

ART • MUSIC • DRAMA • WRITING

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*Lorri S McCune, Ed.D.*  
*Chris Metz*  
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## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

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*Susan Stein - 2020*  
*Lucie Arnaz - 2019*  
*Linda Rider - 2018*  
*Barbara & Jerry Keller - 2017*  
*Charlie Pasarell - 2016*  
*Harold Matzner - 2015*  
*Donna MacMillan - 2014*  
*Dr. Janice Lyle - 2013*  
*Michael Childers - 2012*  
*Carol Channing - 2011*  
*Mary T. Roche - 2010*  
*Steven Nash - 2009*  
*Jackie Lee Houston - 2008*  
*Lee Appel - 2007*

## STAFF

Program Director  
*David Hirsch*

Operations Manager  
*Andrea Hecht*

Administrative Assistant  
*Carol Curie*

42-600 Cook Street #132  
Palm Desert, CA 92211 760-601-3854  
info@toolsfortomorrow.org  
Tax ID 33-0889045



Lizbeth, Grade 4, Ronald Reagan

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

We hope that this newsletter finds you and yours healthy and safe during this pandemic. Little did we know how our lives were about to change on March 16th when our schools closed and we were asked to shelter in place.

### BOARDS OF TFT & VISIONARIES MERGE TO OFFER A SUPERIOR LEARNING EXPERIENCE

During this time, we have all learned to use Zoom, talk on the phone more, wear a mask and that 6 feet apart was a “socially distancing” space. Also, during this time, the Board of Directors of Tools For Tomorrow met via Zoom and voted to merge the boards of Tools For Tomorrow and the VISIONARIES.

Both boards have a tremendous amount of talent and it seemed very appropriate to have one combined organization in order to be able to offer a superior Tools For Tomorrow experience to the school children of the Coachella Valley. The newly combined board is listed here in this newsletter. We will feature photos and a short bio of each member in future newsletters and on the website.



Sakura, Grade 5, Ronald Reagan



Lily, Grade 4, Ronald Reagan

At this time, our mighty team of 8 dedicated teaching artists are serving over 130 children in 11 schools with 12 programs in the Coachella Valley using Zoom technology. For the first time in TFT history, each student has been given their very own art box full of supplies to use during their online class. Our teaching artists are energized and excited to continue to teach in spite of the pandemic. We are also reaching other students in other schools who want to join our art class. The Zoom technology has truly allowed us to reach more students in more places than ever before.

Later in the fall, Tools For Tomorrow will offer a virtual theatre class as well. Signups have started and the children’s interest and need for arts learning is absolutely there.

Our tagline statement is very clear: **to reach, teach and inspire children through the ARTS.** We are fulfilling, with your generous help, this very purpose. The children and teachers are excited to come to class.

Speaking of generosity, we need your help now more than ever. Our children tell their teachers that this art class is the highlight of their week. Please join or renew your membership and help us bring our Tools For Tomorrow integrated arts experience to even more students and schools in the Coachella Valley.

Sincerely,

**Robin P. Nugent**  
President

513 673-9568  
RPNenninger@gmail.com



**Irma Smith**  
Vice President

760 328-4835  
Irmaysmith@gmail.com



*To Reach, Teach and Inspire Children through the ARTS*

## Tools For Tomorrow Programs are in the following schools:

### Cathedral City

Rio Vista Elementary School

### Desert Hot Springs

Bella Vista Elementary School  
Bubbling Wells Elementary School  
Two Bunch Palms Elementary School

### Indio

Herbert Hoover Elementary School

### La Quinta

Harry S. Truman Elementary School

### Palm Desert

Abraham Lincoln Elementary School  
Ronald Reagan Elementary School

### Palm Springs

Cahuilla Elementary School  
Vista del Monte Elementary School

### Rancho Mirage

Rancho Mirage Elementary School

## How do we operate?

We employ qualified instructors in writing, art, music and drama using a professionally designed curriculum.

## Where are the classes held?

In a Non COVID environment classes are held after school at individual elementary schools.

**VIRTUAL CLASSES NOW.**

## What is the cost to each child?

Classes are **FREE!** All supplies, musical equipment and snacks are provided by **Tools For Tomorrow.**

## Which schools can we serve?

All Coachella Valley elementary schools are eligible.

## What are the program costs?

\$10,000 supports the full program in a school for one school year.



## A REPORT FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR DAVID HIRSCH

**Tools For Tomorrow** has been serving the children of the Coachella Valley for over two decades, during which time we've experienced our share of growth and change. However, nothing in our history was quite as challenging as this past year. The entire educational community suddenly had to deal with new issues that were complex and consequential.

Specifically, our question was how to safely provide after school arts education when schools are closed. After a period of information gathering, it became quite clear that the need for **Tools For Tomorrow** was as strong as ever. The positive feedback from our partner schools was all the impetus we needed to make sure our program would continue.

The work was daunting. In order to offer online classes we needed new technology, training and techniques. Many of our teachers, like myself, had little experience with distance learning. In addition, many of our students did not have access at home to all the arts materials and supplies we provide in our classrooms. Thankfully, **Tools For Tomorrow** is supported by a wonderful group of caring, capable, committed people who put in the time and effort needed to overcome these challenges.

Our teaching artists enthusiastically embraced the changes, worked hard and as always their students were their first priority. Our Administration worked patiently and steadfastly through the summer to provide our teachers with new tools and training so that our online program was ready for the new school year. Our generous supporters stepped up and we were able to provide every student with an art supply kit. Our invaluable sister organization, **The VISIONARIES**, merged with **Tools For Tomorrow** giving us an incredible infusion of talent, enthusiasm and support. I have been amazed, uplifted, energized and renewed by the dedicated team of people who have worked together to help us transform our program.

Change is difficult enough without adversity. Through it all we have many stories of inspiration and hope. We are using what we've learned to improve our curriculum and broaden our outreach.

While nothing can replace in person teaching, online learning has been the catalyst to create new ways of reaching many more deserving students. We will be exploring these new ways of expanding our program until we achieve our mission of bringing arts education to every student in the Coachella Valley.

We have a great expanded board of directors, awesome teachers, a growing list of eager volunteers, and a partnership with arts organizations like **Idyllwild Arts Summer Program, Palm Springs Art Museum, CVREP**, and many others who work together to make our community a great place to live and learn. I hope we can all look forward to a healthy, happy and normal new year.

Sincerely,

**David Hirsch**  
Program Director



Grecia



Melvin



Jordan

**Online Zoom Classes  
Up and Running!**

Cahuilla Elementary Students



# VIRTUAL

→ **Out of Adversity = Find Opportunity**

ZOOM Class set up for "Still Life"



Artist: Kelly



Jazmyne



Artist: Elijah



Kaylee



Artist: Bella



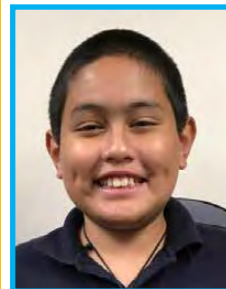
Artist: Elijah



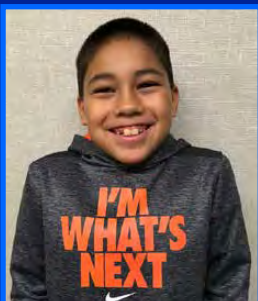
Omar



Jeremaiah



Monica



Damien, Cahuilla Elementary



# TFT GOES VIRTUAL

Pictured: Vista del Monte Elementary Students

# Chairman Emeritus James Reed

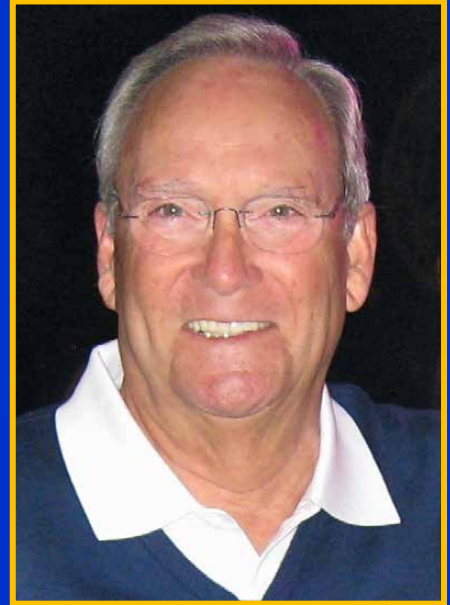
Jim likes to quote me as saying, "The Lord will provide." Partially true, the Lord provides when we're ready to accept. **Tools For Tomorrow** is the shining example. Even in the most dire times, for 21 years our needs have been met. And most certainly when Jim Reed became one of the first TFT board members.

Forty years of international general management, marketing, manufacturing, acquisitions and turnaround experience; and CEO of five different industrial companies, prepared Jim for the challenging job of President and CEO of **Tools For Tomorrow**.

I don't think Jim missed one TFT Board meeting, nor one event, from a Chico's fashion show to a children's performance in Desert Hot Springs. There he'd be with Barb at his side, a gentleman of the *old school*, always on time, always prepared, who stood for the ladies and opened the car door. Even when he was my nemeses, I had to love the guy. He was the yin to my yang. A team for 21 years.

There was a retirement party for Jim ten years ago. That lasted about a week. This time he means it. But **Tools For Tomorrow** can't let him go. The new bylaw allowing us to have a Chairman Emeritus was unanimously approved by the current Board and Jim accepted. *Welcome back, Jim!*

*Rachel Druten, Founder Tools For Tomorrow*



## SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW TFT BOARD MEMBERS Joe Giarrusso and Lorri S McCune



### **Joe Giarrusso, President COACHELLA VALLEY REPERTORY THEATRE (CVREP)**

Joe's career in the entertainment business industry included *CBS Network*, production finance head for *Tri Star Pictures* (now owned by *Sony Pictures*) as well as production finance chair at *HBO Productions* and *Entertainment Partners*, a multi-billion Entertainment Management Service Company. Joe retired from *EP* as Senior Executive VP of Marketing and Sales. Currently, he is President of CVREP, a renowned repertory theatre in Coachella Valley. Joe loves the ARTS, and is an advocate for ARTS education. He is also a committed board member on numerous children's charities. His passion for the ARTs and nonprofit board experience make him an outstanding addition to the TFT Board.

### **Lorri S McCune, Ed.D.**

Formerly Superintendent of Schools for Palm Springs, Lorri established the District's Foundation for the Arts and Technology and hired the first art specialist to bring the arts to all students in the District. In 2015 she created the District's "Digicom" program that trained teachers in the use of 21st century technology to develop students' stories to digital movies culminating in an annual film festival. Lorri was also key in the planning of the new Rancho Mirage High School, and the theatre program known as Musical Theatre University. These are a few of Lorri's numerous and innovative accomplishments that make her an invaluable addition to the TFT Board.





# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

An organization is only as strong as its leaders. **Tools For Tomorrow** is very grateful for the leadership and service of our outgoing Board Members, **Tim Martin, Andy Jessup** and **Dennis Gilmore**.

The diversity of their experience greatly benefitted **Tools For Tomorrow's** mission. Each one made a unique difference and their contributions made us stronger, able to meet new challenges and positively impacted our viability for years to come.

*What they had in common was their  
Commitment, Innovation, Forward Thinking and Integrity.*



**Andrew Jessup, Sr.**  
**Chairman, Jessup Auto Plaza**

Andy is a pillar of the community and active in many large nonprofit organizations. The **Tools For Tomorrow** Board is very grateful he joined us and served 7 years. Andy was always generous with his time and underwrote the printing of our **Annual Newsletter** and **Anthology of Students' Work**. These publications are invaluable tools when requesting funding for our after-school arts literacy program. Andy has been a staunch community supporter and advocate of **Tools For Tomorrow** as an integral part of elementary education in the Coachella Valley. Thank you Andy for your financial generosity and your commitment of time and leadership.

**Tim Martin, Board President**  
**Retired Educator**

We can't thank Tim enough for his 5 years of service as our Board President. As our staff manager he was hands on—rolling up his sleeves writing our employee and teacher handbooks. His teaching background was invaluable when helping to develop and revise our curriculum. Tim also understood the uniqueness of our teachers who are “teaching artists.” They not only teach ART but also have the ability to “communicate the love of their craft,” thus inspiring creativity and artistic development in our students. As a member of the Grants Committee Tim gave us valuable insight from a community and educator perspective. Tim's many strengths and accomplishments contributed greatly to TFT's development. Thank you, Tim!



**Dennis Gilmore**  
**Retired Theatre Expert and Advocate**

Dennis served on the Board for 2 years. When Dennis joined the Board it was a critical time for TFT. We needed to reach the Community at Large to promote our integrated arts literacy program. Due to his background in theatre and advocacy he was able to quickly establish a Speaker's Bureau and recruit speakers to meet with local community organizations throughout the Coachella Valley to present the **Tools For Tomorrow** story. Dennis' hard work, thoughtfulness and expertise is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Dennis!

*All of you will be missed on the Board.  
Thank you for giving of your time and talent!*



# VISIONARIES of Tools For Tomorrow A Year in Review

Season 2019-2020 started out with a **Welcome Back Thank You For Your Membership Party** at **J. Willott Gallery**. What a great way to kick off the Season. **TFT Kids' Art** was displayed and festive gourmet canapes were served with live music provided by **David Hirsch**, **TFT Program Director**. The meet and greet was enjoyed by all and it was special seeing everyone back in the Desert. **Kudos to Membership Chair Chris Metz!**



## 2020 VISION FOR THE FUTURE AWARD

**VISIONARIES**  
★ OF ★  
**Tools For Tomorrow**  
PRESENTS  
**FABULOUS FASHION AND SONG**  
**FROM THE SILVER SCREEN**



**Susan Stein**  
Host and Honoree



**Phyllis Eisenberg**  
Honorary Chair

Our **Host** and **2020 Vision For The Future Award Honoree** **Susan Stein** filled both roles with aplomb. Susan is no stranger to multi-tasking. She is the **Fashion Director/Scene Editor** of **Palm Springs Life** magazine and **Creative Director/Producer** of **Fashion Week El Paseo**. We were thrilled to honor Susan who is an ideal role model and a devoted supporter of **Tools For Tomorrow**.



Our **Honorary Chair** **Phyllis Eisenberg's** enthusiasm and infectious smile filled the room. Phyllis was the **VISIONARIES'** first honoree and continues to be an avid supporter and ambassador of **Tools For Tomorrow**.

**VISION FOR THE FUTURE AWARD**  
Created and Donated by  
**Karen and Tony Barone**

**AWARD PRESENTERS**  
**Judith Antonio**  
**President Emeritus**  
**Linda Rider, 2018 Honoree**



The **Helene Galen Auditorium** at **Eisenhower Health Campus** opened its doors again for our annual fundraising event.

**The sights and sounds of a Silver Screen Affair were readily apparent—from the red carpet welcome to Academy Award Music to the glamorous attire of our guests...**

The hosted cocktail party under the elegant rotunda was the perfect setting to kick off the evening. In the dining room our guests enjoyed a potpourri of signature dishes generously provided and served by our Valley restaurants.

**VISIONARIES** Founder **Claire Smith** and President **Irma Smith** took centerstage to welcome all to Celebrate **TFT's 21st year!**

On stage presentations about the benefits of **TFT** included an informative and comprehensive interview of **Andrea Hecht**, **TFT Operations Manager** by Host **Susan Stein**.

Former **TFT** student **Nadia Fuentes** further elaborated how **TFT** inspired her and positively impacted her growth and development.

The Fundraising began when Dynamic Auctioneer **Freddie Silveria** took the stage. Thanks to our Guests and the Generous Auction Item Donors **\$135,815 was raised for Tools For Tomorrow.**

To the delight of the audience **TFT** students from **Abraham Lincoln Elementary** school presented their rendition of **Singing In the Rain** produced by **Joyce Bulifant**.



**Abraham Lincoln Elementary School in Palm Desert, CA**

**FINALE: HOLLYWOOD REVISITED**  
Fabulous Fashion & Song was Spectacular.  
Talented Performers  
**Amazing Authentic**  
Hollywood Fashions & Songs.  
**HOW COULD YOU MISS!**



## VISIONARIES of Tools For Tomorrow 2019-2020 Executive Board



Back row: **Marlene Cox, Jean Carnus, Suzanne Fromkin, CJ Westrick-Bomar, Esq. Judy Mathes, Louise Escoc, Chris Metz, and Terri Neuman** Not pictured: **Terri Childs**  
Front row: **Judith Antonio, Irma Smith, Claire Smith and Linda Rider**





## SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

### Adopt-A-School Angel - \$10,000+

Sherrie Auen **David W. Bryant** Linda and Manny Rider

### Benefactor - \$5,000 to \$9,999

Barbara Arnstein **Tony and Karen Barone** Richard Detanna  
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**Jacqueline and Dean Stolber** Jean Viereck

### Sponsor - \$500 to \$900

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Nancy Winton **Jane Woldenberg**

### Partner - up to \$499

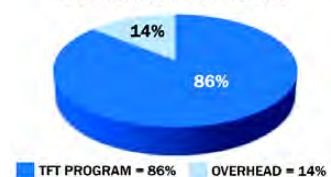
Mary Lou Alfini **Theresa Anas** Christine and Tony Anderson **Cam Anderson** Sarah Arnold **Jacqueline and William Backus**  
Douglas and Jaimee Baker **Barbara Bartizal** Bruce Bartley **Larry Beasley and William Logan** Ruth Begell **Anna Benatar**  
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**GOAL** ADMIN COST LOW

**MORE DOLLARS FOR TFT PROGRAM**

TFT BUDGET ALLOCATION



**Donations in Memory of:**

***Ronald Auen***

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Jean Carrus  
Terri Childs  
Marlene Cox  
Rachel Druten  
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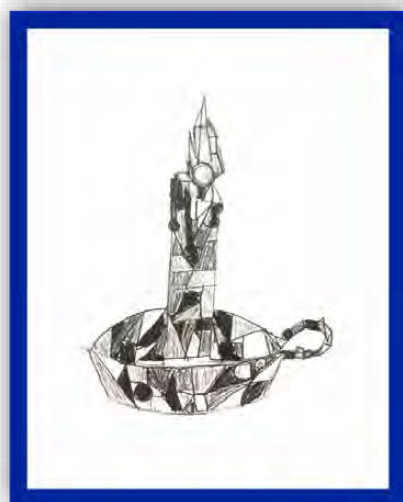
Phyllis Eisenberg

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Christine Metz Gennet  
Linda Rider  
Irma Smith  
Claire Smith  
CJ Westrick-Bomar, Esq.

***Mother of Ilona Von Roney***

Phyllis Eisenberg



Miranda, Grade 4, Rio Vista Elementary



Aurelia, Grade 4, Harry S. Truman Elementary



Isabella, Grade 5, Ronald Reagan Elementary

*Your gifts in the name  
of others  
are greatly appreciated.*

**Donations in Honor of:**

***Jean Carrus***

Mary Dana

***Rachel Druten***

Barbara Bryant

***Louise Escoe***

Judith Antonio

Donna Conforti

Lynn Silverstein

***Andrea Hecht***

Theodore and Kelly Frankiewicz

***Tim Martin***

Jim Miringoff

***Sue Miller***

Luree Ketcham

***Sal and Sherry Sinore***

Gayle Hodges

***Claire Smith***

Terri Parman

***Irma Smith***

Claire Smith



Sakura, Grade 5, Ronald Reagan Elementary

**Donations**

**6/2019 – 6/2020**



WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

# ★ Snips & Snails

# ★ Grants & Gifts 2019-2020

## Media Support:

Dan Beck, *K-LOVE*  
Joey English, *The Joey English Show* Radio  
Winston Gieseke, Julie Makinen, Marge Dodge and  
Joanne Hardy, *The Desert Sun*  
Susan Stein, Frank Jones, Derrick J. Lang and Jim Doyle,  
*Palm Springs Life*  
Pat Krause, *Desert Star Weekly*  
Steve Tolin, *Desert Charities News*  
Bob Bogard and Tim O'Bayley,  
*Community Events Calendar*  
Patrick Evans and Brandon Iriarte, *KESQ TV*  
Joe Smith and Bryan Gallo, *KMIR TV*

## Photographers:

Lani Garfield, lanigarfield@mac.com (760-567-6396)  
John Antonio, official VISIONARIES photographer

## In Kind Services:

Jack Farley's Art Supplies, Palm Springs (760.424.8438)  
Bob Smith, MSA Consulting  
Linda & Manny Rider, Catering and Picasso Party  
Judy Mathes, Boisset Collection Wine  
J. Willott Gallery, 73300 El Paseo, Palm Desert  
760-568-3180  
Old Town Artisan Studio, La Quinta

## Fabulous Fashion & Song from the Silver Screen:

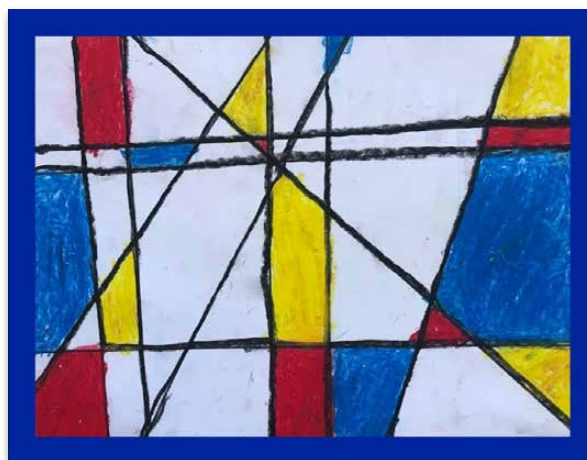
Ann Ventura and Marty Maffiolo,  
Eisenhower Health Foundation  
Suzanne Carlson and Aaron Green, Eisenhower Health  
Joyce Bulifant, Director of Children's Performance Group  
CJ Westrick-Bomar, Esq. On-screen Production  
LULU Catering & Events  
EIGHT4NINE Restaurant & Lounge  
Tommy Bahama  
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission  
Karen and Tony Barone, Vision Award Statue  
Don Hill, UCI Drama Department, Consultation  
Anna Knall (voguetreats.com), Mira McQuown,  
and Santana Mosher, Hollywood Revisited Dressers  
Amber Smith and Morgane Brezzo Smith,  
Live Auction Spotters

## Live Auction Items:

Karen and Tony Barone, and Mary Orlin--"Pregnant Canary Party"  
Robert and Irma Smith – One week escape to Vancouver, BC  
Harold Matzner – Spencer's Restaurant  
Willie Rhine – EIGHT4NINE Restaurant & Lounge  
BMW Performance Driving School Experience

## Special Thanks to the Foundations, Businesses and Community Organizations Who Make A Difference!

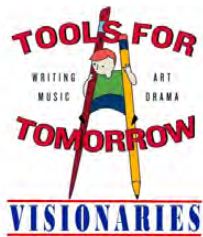
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Spencer's Restaurant



Colin, 4th Grade, Harry S. Truman Elementary

The Arts Unlock the Door to Learning and to Success!

*To Reach, Teach and Inspire Children through the ARTS*



Dear Members,

We can't thank you enough for your support and being a member of the **Tools For Tomorrow VISIONARIES**. Your financial contribution brought art, music and creative writing to Coachella Valley students in fourteen schools this past year. We also offered two theatre programs and featured our students' art at J. Willott Gallery on El Paseo.

It is now time to renew your membership for 2020-2021. At this critical time, we need you more than ever to sustain our current schools and be able to reach even more children in the Coachella Valley.

**Two membership levels are available.**

**Picasso \$250 pp / Couples \$500**

**General \$150 pp / Couples \$250**

Picasso includes an invitation to a private membership party.

For your convenience please find the Membership Application and Donation Form inserted in this publication.

You can also join by phone at: 760-601-3954

Or online at: [toolsfortomorrow.org/membership](http://toolsfortomorrow.org/membership)

As a **VISIONARIES** member, you personally make it possible for us to continue to offer this valuable Arts Literacy Program that reaches, teaches and inspires children in elementary schools throughout the Coachella Valley. Exposure to the ARTS stimulates new passions, develops confidence and promotes resiliency in children of from all backgrounds.

**Nadia Fuentes**, a student from Harry S. Truman Elementary School (2008) wrote, "I never realized that I could be praised for being creative until I was in **Tools For Tomorrow** and for the first time I was encouraged to share my creativity which helped me 'get out of my bubble.' . . . **Tools For Tomorrow** gave me the confidence to keep putting myself out there and made me love going to school."

During this pandemic our classes are now open virtually. The online arts program is receiving rave reviews from the children and their families who welcome it more than ever in this time of social distancing.

*Thank you again for your Incredible Support and Advocacy to help us Make a Difference in our Valley One Child at a Time!*

Warmest regards,

**Linda Rider,**  
**Membership Chair**



**GIVE TODAY!**

**For Kids' Sake**



*To Reach, Teach and Inspire Children Through the Arts*

**22 years serving Coachella Valley Schools**

**Grades 3-5**

**After School Arts Literacy Program**

42-600 Cook Street #132, Palm Desert, CA 92211 760-601-3954

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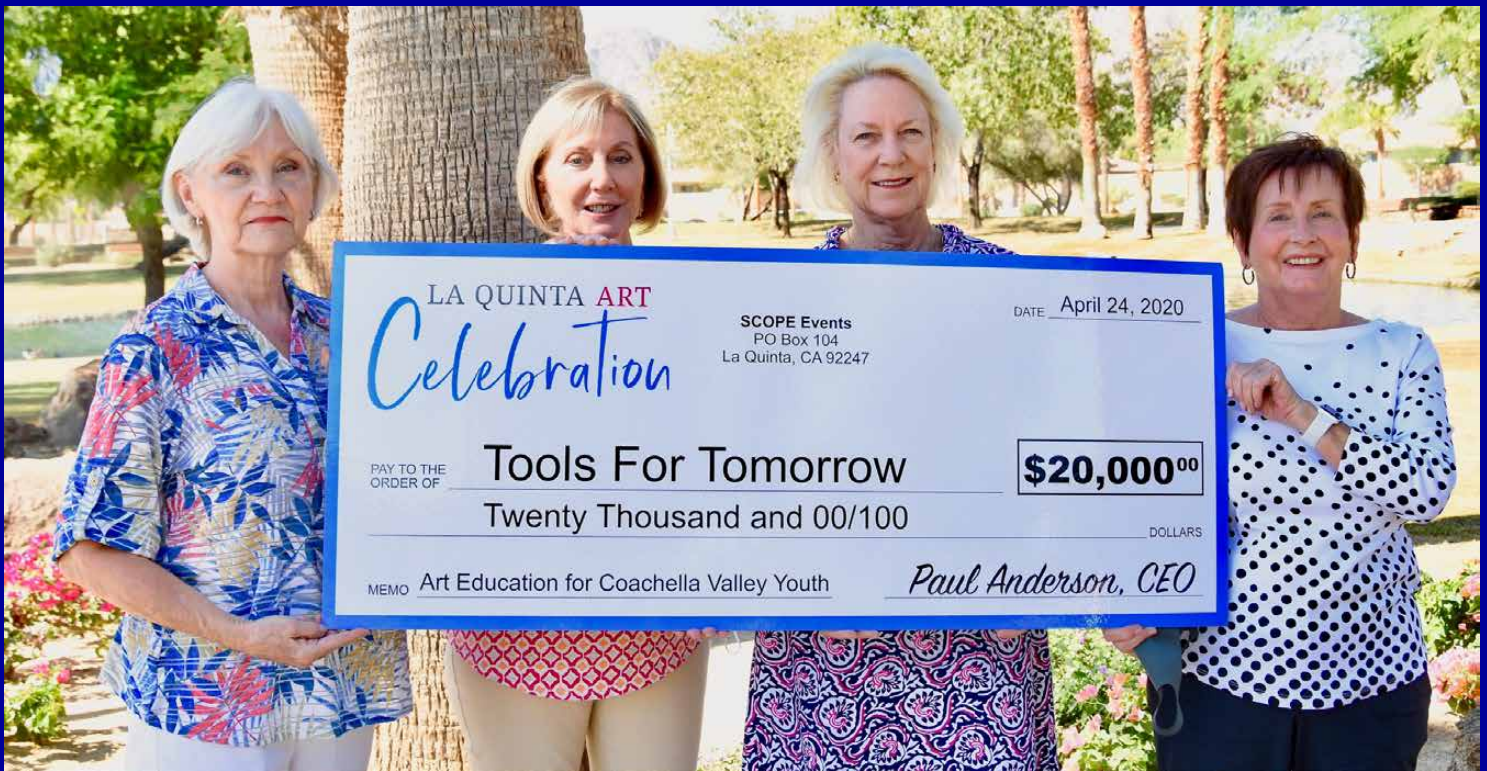
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# Tools For Tomorrow

Celebrates receiving a grant of \$20,000 from

## La Quinta Art Celebration

2021 La Quinta Art Celebration — March 4-7, 2021 [www.scopeevents.org](http://www.scopeevents.org)



Pictured left to right: Art Celebration Volunteer Manager Debby Nelson, Event Director Kathleen Hughes, TFT President Robin Nugent and TFT Treasurer Judith Antonio.

*“It has been a pleasure collaborating with Tools For Tomorrow to help them fulfill their mission of providing after school art experiences for children,”* said Paul Anderson, CEO of SCOPE Events, LLC. *“Community partnerships like these are an important way for the La Quinta Art Celebration to reach our goal of supporting our artists of today and tomorrow. We look forward to an ongoing collaboration!”* TFT Board President Robin Nugent said, *“the La Quinta Art Celebration donation enables us to continue serving so many deserving students in our 22<sup>nd</sup> year.”*

2020 Fall Newsletter Editor: CJ Westrick-Bomar, Esq. Contributors: Andrea Hecht, Suzanne Fromkin and Rachel Druten  
 Photo Credits: Lani Garfield and John Antonio

*To Reach, Teach and Inspire Children through the ARTS*