



Tools For Tomorrow

FREE, after-school and online arts literacy programs integrating Creative Writing, Art, Music, and Theater for children ages eight to eleven.

NONPROFIT 501(c)(3)

FALL 2022

ART • MUSIC • DRAMA • WRITING

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- 760 601-3954
info@toolsfortomorrow.org
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SCAN ME



**WE'RE BACK IN THE CLASSROOM REACHING MORE STUDENTS IN PERSON!
H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation Awards \$25,000 Coachella Valley Spotlight Grant**

The gift from the Berger Foundation has allowed Tools For Tomorrow to rebuild its in-person programs. This fall TFT offered 21 programs, including 17 in-person integrated arts programs, a theater program and 3 online programs. Both students (3rd - 5th graders) and teachers are finding comfort, motivation, and excitement through the arts.

2023 VISION for the FUTURE AWARD GALA TO HONOR THE ROOST LOUNGE CO-OWNERS



2023 VISION GALA CHAIR - Robin Nugent

The Tools For Tomorrow VISIONARIES are thrilled to announce that **A Night at the Moulin Rouge** dinner show on Monday, February 27 will honor Jeff McDonald and Charles Thomas for their philanthropy throughout the Coachella Valley. The Roost began their support of those in need with a Christmas toy drive in 2019 for the Boys and Girls Club of Cathedral City. In 2021 and 2022, The Roost organized **Christmas in July** bingo parties, drag brunches, wreath auctions and dinner concerts to benefit TFT's after-school arts literacy programs. The 2023 gala will be held at the Agua Caliente Casino Resort and Spa Rancho Mirage, beginning with a champagne reception and silent auction followed by a three-course wine dinner and entertainment by Gennine Francis and her fabulous band, plus surprise guests.

For Sponsorship Opportunities, Digital Tribute Ads, or Tickets visit toolsfortomorrow.org or call 760 601-3954.



PHOTO: BILL SWINDLE

2023 Vision for the Future HONOREES
Jeff McDonald & Charles Thomas
THE ROOST FOUNDATION



To Reach, Teach and Inspire Children through the ARTS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Judith Antonio

It has been a productive time for TFT. We have continued to work our strategic plan for the future, and moved to a larger space. As a result of our hybrid teaching we are serving more children than ever.

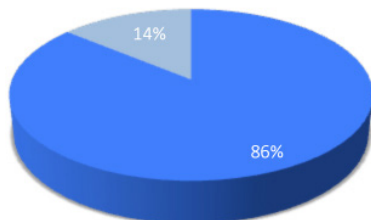
Andrea Hecht is now our Executive Director, a much deserved promotion. We have also added a new position - Program Coordinator, Sara Waters.

We started the fiscal year with an encore of *Christmas in July* at The Roost. Our gracious hosts Jeff McDonald and Charles Thomas had a sell-out crowd. Backpacks, school supplies for students and gift cards for teachers were collected for Rio Vista Elementary School. Holiday wreaths were auctioned off along with an abundance of support for the TFT program during "raise the paddle."

Our first membership event, Par-Tee, was held on October 29th. Picasso members will be recognized February 9th at the beautiful home of Robert Moon.

You won't want to miss our annual fundraiser, *A Night at the Moulin Rouge*, Monday, February 27th, honoring Tools For Tomorrow's dedicated supporters, Jeff McDonald and Charles Thomas of The Roost Foundation. *Judith Antonio*

TFT BUDGET ALLOCATION



■ 86% TFT Program ■ 14% Overhead



Tools For Tomorrow maintains an investment fund started by our Founder, Rachel Drueten and her family. It is Rachel's dream that the investment fund will one day cover TFT's administrative expenses.



Thank You to Janice Lyle, PhD and Joe Giarrusso who have stepped off the board and continue to provide their expertise as advisers.

A REPORT FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Andrea Hecht

This year TFT programs have focused on social emotional learning, giving our children hands-on opportunities to communicate, reflect, and express themselves through the arts. We are thankful for the instruction we have received from UCLArts & Healing and Louisa Higgins, Arts Administrator, Riverside County Office of Education.

Jaime Bikis, Supervisor for Expanded Learning Programs at Desert Sands USD recognized TFT Programs as "a key component in assisting our students back into the classroom" and invited TFT's arts literacy programs into their After School Education and Safety (ASES) programs.

As we put the finishing touches on this newsletter, The Houston Family Foundation granted iPad Pros for each one of our ten teachers. With your support, TFT is enhancing and enriching the arts experiences for our students and teachers. Thank You! *Andrea Hecht*

A REPORT FROM OUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR



David Hirsch

The last two and a half years have been a challenging time. Tools For Tomorrow has had to adapt to a completely new way of teaching. Due to the dedication of our teachers, online classes were very successful. While our online program continues to grow, we are thrilled to be back in the classroom as well. We are in

seventeen schools, with a Theater specialty class two days a week at Harry S. Truman Elementary School, and a full slate of online classes. As a result, we are serving more students than ever!

Thanks to the effort and energy of so many people, staff, volunteers, VISIONARIES, and community supporters, the future is bright for Tools For Tomorrow and the students we serve. *David Hirsch*

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER



Carolyn Izu Bergmann, DMD

Carolyn Izu Bergmann, DMD - Owner of a private practice in Palm Desert, CA: General, Cosmetic and Implant Dentistry. Joins TFT after forty years of professional experience in the dental field and many years of nonprofit Board Experience. Izu Bergmann also serves on the Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Society Executive Board.

VOLUNTEERS MENTOR STUDENTS AND SUPPORT TFT TEACHING ARTISTS

Volunteers in the Tools For Tomorrow classroom are encouraged to interact with individual children as they create, assist with projects and materials, and help with snack, set-up and clean up.

Volunteers who work with the Theatre Troupe also help students learn their lines, play theater games to develop the student's focus, move sets, and communicate with parents about upcoming performances.

Your cooperation in the classroom fosters a positive environment and encourages creativity. TFT teachers appreciate the help.

**To learn more about volunteering
Contact Program Coordinator Sara Waters
at 760 601-3954 or Sara@toolsfortomorrow.org**



Volunteer Training in our NEW TFT Office



Harry S. Truman Elementary School



Ronald Reagan Elementary School

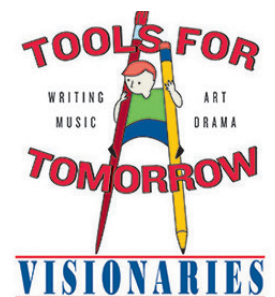


Spring into May ART & MUSIC DAY

May 2022 at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church - Student Art Exhibition, Piano Recital, Instrument Demonstration, and Hands-On Art Experiences



Program Director David Hirsch presents the Daryl Timmons Bryant Art Spirit Award to CJ Wealand, Student - Rancho Mirage Elementary School and the Rachel Bryant Drueten Founder Teacher of the Year Award to TFT Teaching Artist Sallé Kirby.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT THE ROOST LOUNGE, CATHEDRAL CITY

The Roost Foundation Raises \$55,000 for TFT Programs this Year



Suzanne Fromkin

July 2022, The Roost Lounge with Bella Da Ball hosted both a hilarious Bingo Brunch and a Drag Brunch. **Christmas in July** festivities included a dinner concert featuring popular singers Keisha D and Bill Lohnes. TFT's Program Director David Hirsch, former TFT student Abigail Carter and student Carson Tanner also

delighted the crowd with their musical performances. Throughout the events auctions of artwork by deceased artist Larry Schiller raised many dollars. Roost guests also contributed backpacks and school supplies for students, plus gift cards for teachers at Cathedral City's Rio Vista Elementary School. Cheri Liebelt from Idaho won first prize for her "Mardi-Gras" wreath in the Holiday Wreath Decorating Contest and Auction. TFT Volunteers included Lorri McCune, Alice Daby, Judith Antonio, Robin Nugent, Linda Rider, and Suzanne Fromkin.





Presents



Join us for an evening of
MUSIC, DANCING & DREAMS
to benefit
Tools For Tomorrow

EVENT SPONSOR: DAVID W. BRYANT • VENUE SPONSOR:
AGUA CALIENTE RESORT CASINO • RANCHO MIRAGE

Monday, February 27th 2023

5-6:00 CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION & SILENT AUCTION

**6-8:30 3 COURSE DINNER WITH WINE EMCEED BY
KESQ'S PATRICK EVANS FEATURING GENNINE FRANCIS
WITH HER FANTASTIC BAND & SURPRISE PERFORMERS**

For Sponsorships, Ads or Tickets, visit
toolsfortomorrow.org or call **(760)601-3954**

Tools For Tomorrow is a 501(C)(3) Nonprofit providing a free after-school and online arts literacy program integrating creative writing, art, music & theater for children ages 8 to 11. *Thank you for Keeping Their Dreams Alive!*



PHOTO: BILL SWINDE

2023
Vision for the Future
HONOREES
Jeff McDonald &
Charles Thomas
THE ROOST FOUNDATION



Gennine Francis



MUSICAL

the *Fabulous Gala Dinner Show*

EXTRAVAGANZA

2022 VISION FOR THE FUTURE AWARD GALA HONORING SANDRA C. WOODSON

**Performances by Terri Olsen & the Perfect Blend • Frank DiSalvo • Nolan & Josh Livesay
David Hirsch • Abigail Carter • CJ Wealand • Patrick Evans**





VISIONARIES MEMBERSHIP 2022-2023



Terri Neuman

Have you joined the VISIONARIES or renewed your membership? If not, now is the moment! You wouldn't want to miss the wonderful events planned for this coming season.

Two membership levels are available

Picasso: \$250 pp/Couples \$500
(Includes invitation to a private membership party)

General: \$150 pp/Couples \$300

Thank you all for your generous support and advocacy. You are partners with Tools For Tomorrow in making a difference in our Valley: one child at a time.

Terri Neuman, Membership Chair



PICASSO PARTY

Thursday, February 9 • 3-5PM

Appetizers catered by LULU's Restaurant
Champagne & Valet Parking

Picasso level VISIONARIES are invited to a COMPLIMENTARY Cocktail Party at a Steve Chase designed home in Rancho Mirage. Prospective Picasso Members are welcome.

For more information go to:

toolsfortomorrow.org/events

VISION FOR THE FUTURE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Sandra C. Woodson - 2022
Susan Stein - 2020
Lucie Arnaz - 2019
Linda Rider - 2018
Barbara & Jerry Keller - 2017
Charlie Pasarell - 2016
Harold Matzner - 2015
Donna MacMillan - 2014

Janice Lyle, Ph.D. - 2013
Michael Childers - 2012
Carol Channing - 2011
Mary T. Roche - 2010
Steven Nash - 2009
Jackie Lee Houston - 2008
Lee Appel - 2007

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Suzanne Fromkin - 2022
CJ Westrick-Bomar, Esq - 2019
Irma Smith - 2018
Joyce Bulifant - 2017
Nancy Bleiweiss-Nevil - 2016

Claire Smith - 2015
Anne Hopkins & Nancy Shuma - 2014
Joni Maltzman - 2013
Marge Dodge - 2012

HONOREES

Phyllis Eisenberg
2020 - Vision Event
Honorary Chair
2013 - Fiddler on the Roof
Sing Along

Joyce Bulifant
2017 - Up Close & Personal
Book Signing, "My Four
Hollywood Husbands"

Jennie Inch
2016 - Musical Memories
Dance Party

Patty & Arthur Newman
2015 - Sunday in the Park

Rachel Druten
2014 - Founder
Tools For Tomorrow's
15th Anniversary
Celebration

BEHIND THE SCENES

500+ Art Kits Assembled for Fall Programs

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, TFT is now providing each student with their own Art Kit. This is a significant increase in expenses for TFT, but we can see how it benefits the children. Having their own art supplies prepares the children for success and teaches responsibility. At the end of the program, children take the supplies home where they can continue to create. We have seen the TFT program grow through a positive learning environment at home where students often share what they have learned with siblings.

NO JOB IS TOO SMALL

THANK YOU to the TFT Board Members and Volunteers who assembled Art Kits.



THANK YOU to Alzheimer's Coachella Valley for bundling the markers for our Art Kits.



IN MEMORY OF LONG-TIME SUPPORTERS



Rich & Judy Billings

Judy passed away on November 10, 2022. Her warm heart and wonderful sense of humor brought joy to all who knew her.



Mary Ellen & Cooper Blanton

A generous man with a playful sense of humor, Cooper passed away on June 18, 2022. His kind and vivacious wife of 72 years, Mary Ellen Blanton died a few weeks later.

*Photo by Marc Glassman
courtesy McCallum Theatre*

WE'VE MOVED UPSTAIRS to Suite 202!



FUEGO from the Coachella Valley Firebirds flew up for our Open House

CJ WESTRICK-BOMAR NAMED 2022 OUTSTANDING FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEER



CJ Westrick-Bomar, Esq.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals selected Westrick-Bomar to receive this year's Outstanding Fundraising Volunteer Award at National Philanthropy Day in the Desert. Westrick-Bomar has served on the TFT VISIONARIES board since 2014. She has chaired and produced the Vision for the Future Award luncheons, honoree pictorials, on-stage performances, children's feature films and digital media. Her creativity in marketing and event production have helped raise awareness and donations, not only for TFT, but for every nonprofit she serves. **Congratulations CJ!**



TFT Board Members attend NPD Luncheon to honor CJ Westrick-Bomar

CONGRATULATIONS to CLIVE WEIGHTMAN

A TFT Supporter since 2015, Weightman was honored by the 2022 Senior Inspiration Awards for his volunteerism and ongoing work in the community.

For inspiring all of us to be active, Weightman was awarded \$500 to give to the nonprofit of his choice -

Tools For Tomorrow.



Clive Weightman

Artists & Writers Gallery - Fall 2022

HARRY S. TRUMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Teaching Artist: Kendall Contopulos

Watercolor Paintings and Haiku Poems



Giselle, Grade 4

Twilight is falling
seeking soft comfort in a
deep blue hydrangea
Ryan, Grade 4



Melissa, Grade 4

Carmine, vermilion
Rose, colorful emotions
Love, rage, passion, lust
Jolie, Grade 4

Feelings in Watercolor with Crayon Resistance



Chelsea, Grade 5



McKinley, Grade 4

I Am a Crazy Person

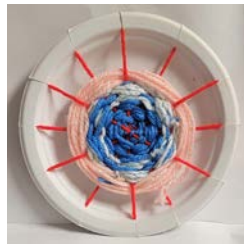
by Adalyn, Grade 4

I am a crazy person
I wonder what's in space
I hear everything around me
I want to learn more
I am a crazy person

I pretend that I'm in the ocean
I fear people don't like me
I touch a pencil and paper
I worry that I will always be anxious
I cry at night
I am a crazy person

I understand that there's lots of
people with anxiety
I say I love you
I dream of funny things
I hope I make new friends
I am a crazy person

Weaving



Adalyn, Grade 4



Crystal, Grade 5



3-Dimensional Snowflake Art

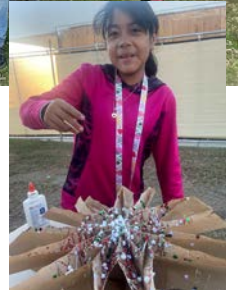
I Am a Nice Boy

by Alex, Grade 4

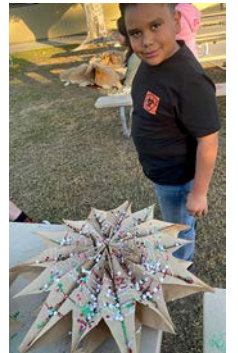
I am a nice boy
I wonder where my life will take me
I hear my teacher talking
I want to make my own choices
I am a nice boy

I pretend to know where I am going
I fear nothing
I touch my backpack
I worry that others don't like me
I cry when I am sad
I am a nice boy

I don't understand where I am going
I say I can't YET
I dream to go forward
I hope to stay a nice boy
I am a nice boy



Emily, Grade 5

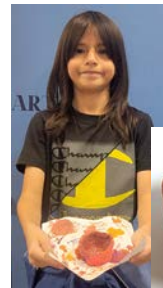


Alex, Grade 4

Clay Pots



Illiana S., Grade 4



Max, Grade 5



Dia de los Muertos



Cesar, Grade 4



Mya, Grade 5



Adalyn, Grade 4

LA QUINTA ART Celebration

Jury-selected, world-class artists from across the nation and globe exhibiting their original artworks. A portion of the proceeds supports Tools For Tomorrow. laquintaartcelebration.org



TFT Supporters volunteer at La Quinta Art Celebration

SNIPS & SNAILS - We are grateful to the following:

Media Support:

Winston Gieseke, Julie Makinen, Darby Wright, Christine Carrera, Denise Fleig - *The Desert Sun*
Pat Krause, Max Lieberman - *Desert Star Weekly*
Susan Stein, Emily Chavous, Franklin Jones - *Palm Springs Life*

Patrick Evans, Brandon Iriarte, Tiffany Goodman - *KESQ*

Joe Smith and Joey English - *Radio*

Gene Nichols - *Alpha Media*

Barbara Kerr and Lani Garfield

- *Photographers*

O'Bayley Community Calendar

HEALING_WITH_HOLLY22 - Instagram/Social Media

Musical Extravaganza Silent Auction Donors:

- | | |
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| CV Repertory Theatre | Ristorante Mamma Gina |
| Desert Winds Freedom Band | Robin Nugent |
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| Eight4Nine | Silver Pines Lodge - Idyllwild |
| European Flower Power | Thai Smile on El Paseo |
| Ferro | The Nest |
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| Judith Antonio | Piano Competition |
| Julian DiCiurcio | Wally's Desert Turtle |
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GRANTS & GIFTS 2021-2022

Tools For Tomorrow gratefully acknowledges the following foundations and community organizations for their generous support:

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- AmazonSmile Foundation
- Anderson Children's Foundation
- The Auen Foundation
- Bank of Southern California
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- City of Indio
- City of Rancho Mirage
- Coachella Valley Watercolor Society
- The Coeta & Donald Barker Foundation
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- Sunrise Giving Circle
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

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Judith Wallis

Terri Neuman

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Chris Metz

Joann & Phillip Carchman

Claire Smith

Jasmine Forman

Cora Ginsberg

Louise Escoe

Louise Escoe

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Jasmine Forman

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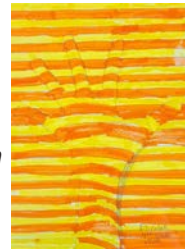
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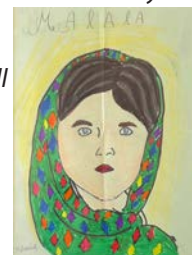


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PAID
 PALM DESERT, CA
 PERMIT NO. 149

Designed, written, and edited in-house by volunteers and staff.

How do we operate?

We employ qualified teaching artists in creative writing, art, music and theater using a professionally designed curriculum.

Where are classes held?

Classes are held five days a week in-person at individual schools and online, after regular school hours.

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. We are currently operating programs in Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, and Rancho Mirage.

What are the program costs?

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

! TFT KIDS NEED YOU !



**SUSTAINABILITY IS CRITICAL
 to maintain the program and qualify for grants**

*If you would like to help underwrite the costs of printing and mailing,
 and be acknowledged in our newsletter call 760.601.3954*

We have returned to the classroom with in person programs at 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:

Andrew Jackson Elementary School
 Dr. Carreon Academy
 Herbert Hoover Elementary School
 Richard Oliphant Elementary School
 Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School

La Quinta:

Benjamin Franklin Elementary School
 Harry S. Truman Elementary School

Palm Desert:

Abraham Lincoln Elementary School
 George Washington Charter School
 Ronald Reagan Elementary School

Palm Springs:

Cahuilla Elementary School
 Vista del Monte Elementary School

Rancho Mirage:

Rancho Mirage Elementary School

... and a Theatre Troupe Program at:

Harry S. Truman Elementary School

TFT also offers three online classes.

SAVE THE DATE

February 9, 2023

PICASSO COCKTAIL PARTY

February 27, 2023

NIGHT AT THE MOULIN ROUGE
 honoring
 Jeff McDonald & Charles Thomas

March 2-5, 2023

La Quinta Art Celebration

July 23, 2023

Christmas in July at The Roost Lounge