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PALM SPRINGS MODERN COMMITTEE SUMMER NEWS UPDATE 2010

Palm Springs City Hall Parking Area

Following our joint appeal filed in February, the parking lot still remains an issue with the Planning Department not recognizing the importance of the surrounding setting of this Class One Historic Site. Board member Robert Imber will be providing arguments that the entire site is already included in the current designation. The next planning commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 8, at 1.30pm. If you can attend, please do. This key issue needs your support. For our out-of-town members, please email Planning Director Craig Ewing at craig.ewing@palmsprings-ca.gov and state your belief that the entire site is already protected under the current designation and ask Mr. Ewing to forward your concerns to the planning commissioners.

Welwood Murray Library Expansion Project

The project involves alterations to the rear of the library facing the courtyard. Located on the southeast corner of Palm Canyon and Tahquitz and designed by local architect John Porter Clark in 1941, the library has become the subject of controversy during the current review process. As a Class One Historic Site the property is subject to Historic Site Preservation Board review and the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation has provided evidence indicating that a more thorough assessment of potential negative impacts to the building's historic fabric must be completed prior to proceeding. A response from the City Attorney is imminent. We will keep you apprised of further developments.

Palm Springs Visitors Center

The interior remodel of the Visitors Center is finished. With the removal of large dividing walls, the magnificent view up Chino Canyon is finally visible. Centering the building is PS ModCom's Modernism kiosk. Pop in and take a look.

2010 Annual Awards Luncheon

On Saturday, October 2 from noon to 2pm we will be hosting our annual awards luncheon at the Riviera Hotel. This year's Lifetime Achievement

award luncheon at the Riviera Hotel. This year's Lifetime Achievement Award honoree will be local architect Hugh Kaptur whose body of work here in the desert stretches more than half a century. Others will be honored for their work in preservation, restoration, reconstruction and excellence in new modern design. Vice president J.R. Roberts will emcee the event guaranteeing his special brand of 'comic relief' (I wonder what he'll have up his sleeve this year!). This is a wonderful opportunity to publicly honor those whose efforts have helped preserve our Valley's modern treasures.

Tickets will be available for purchase later this month at a cost of \$50. Bring your friends and family and celebrate the work and dedication of the honorees. Tables (10) may be reserved in advanced, please contact me directly to make your booking.

2010 Annual Home Tour

The annual home tour, which benefits our sister organization, the Palm Springs Modern Heritage Fund, will be held on Saturday, November 6. As always, it will be an all day self-driving tour of numerous homes in and around Palm Springs ending with a poolside cocktail reception.

Tickets are priced at \$125 and will be available in early fall.

If you would like to join our fun team of volunteers please drop me an email. psmodcom@earthlink.net

Modernism Week 2011

The 2011 dates are now confirmed for February 17 - 27. The exciting new calendar of events will start posting at the end of this month. If you plan on attending the limited seating events, book early. Info is available at www.modernismweek.com

Annual Gala Benefit: Rock the Casbah

Saturday, February 19 - details to follow in our Fall newsletter

Palm Springs 1960

A big thanks to board member Chris Menrad for providing us with advance copies of the fabulous book "Palm Springs 1960" by Robert Doisneau. This was a clever fundraising idea that provided great summer reading!

Visual Acoustics: The Modernism of Julius Shulman now joins our Library of DVD's on sale through our website. Dustin Hoffman narrates this fascinating documentary celebrating the life and career of Julius Shulman. "This unique film is both a testament to the evolution of modern architecture and a joyful portrait of the magnetic, whip-smart gentleman who chronicled it with his unforgettable images". Available for \$29.95

I wish everyone a great summer and happy travels.

Stay cool!
Nickie McLaughlin
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