

Frances Allen's Desert Roundup

Just when you thought it was over, save-the-date cards for the 2016-2017 season featuring upcoming gala festivities have begun dropping through the mailbox, turning the calendar for the coming year into a checkerboard pattern of "must do" events. All the old stand-by charities will be represented with sit-down, formal galas; and there will be the usual offering of various festivals.

But, unlike the one-evening affairs where all you have to take away from the evening is a wine-stained dress, there is a relatively new festival in town that takes you on a celebratory journey of the written word. Founded about two years ago by Jamie Kabler (pictured below) and co-founder Susan Rosser who wanted to bring a premier intellectual event to the Coachella Valley, the annual **Rancho Mirage Writers Festival** (RMWF) was created as a two-day conclave of internationally-honored writers.



During the day the festival is held at the Rancho Mirage Public Library, with evenings devoted to talks and panels held at the Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort, the festival's official hotel, located about a mile from the library. The RMWF has put together a 2017 festival "staycation." For \$1,550, guests receive a three-night stay at the Omni arriving Jan 27 and departing Jan. 30, two all-access passes to the festival, two boxed lunches on Saturday and Sunday at the library, two light suppers and parties after the keynote evening at the Omni on Saturday and Sunday, a special VIP concierge desk, and a 10 percent discount on spa, golf or tennis rates at the hotel.

Additional features are available for RMWF participants who choose to become "angels" at \$2,500 or \$5,000 levels. For information go to www.rmwritersfest.org.