

## Richard Calderhead - Volunteer of the Month

The Desert Art Center is pleased to announce that our Volunteer of the Month is Richard Calderhead. Richard is one of those guys who helps out wherever and whenever called upon.

Richard was born in Hawaii where his dad, a naval pilot, was stationed. When his father was killed in the Pacific, his beautiful mother moved to Palm Springs to be with her sister who owned The Nooks, a famous celebrity hangout.

During the war, there was a POW internment camp in Palm Springs that housed Italian, German and Japanese prisoners. Richard got his hands on a Hitler Youth knife and some swastikas and would hang out by the camp, teasing the Germans. He spent Fifth and Sixth grade in the school which is now home to DAC and became the class storyteller.

Richard wanted to go to the naval academy but his mother sent him to the Army and Navy Academy in Carlsbad. From there he went to San Diego State to study art, and worked nights for four years. He graduated on the Dean's List, decided he was going to be in the ad business, and drove straight to New York city, living at the Y and working nights.

Richard attended the School of Visual Arts and at 25, got a job in a prestigious ad agency where he was offered the job of Art Director in Frankfurt and Dusseldorf, for Volkswagen. Here he became friends with the famed artist Christo and his wife Jeanne-Claude.

In 1968, Richard returned to New York, opening his own ad agency. His first account was for John Kluge, a German-American [entrepreneur](#) who was at one time the richest person in the United States, best known as a television industry mogul.

Richard married Andrea Finn who owned property on Tortola in the Caribbean. When she passed away from cancer, he returned to New York and was there on 9/11. He is the only living American to survive Pearl Harbor and 9/11. At this point, he decided to move to Palm Springs where he built an award winning house.

These days, Richard volunteers at Terry Masters' gallery and DAC where "he fills in wherever needed." He's also busy preparing a book on "where is art in 2020?" Richard's life has been dynamic and promises to stay that way.