

Tempe Historical Society Lunch Talk Series

*"Remembering Tempe"
Where We've Been*

2015-2016

November 11, 2015

"Remembering 'This Old House'"

Marcie Gorman

Marcie Gorman spent her growing-up years in a little single-story adobe home beside a then-uncovered canal along old East Eighth Street, also known as Creamery Road. The old house at 927 East Eighth Street in the Sotello Addition, is known today as the Elias-Rodriguez House, a National Historic Place since 1984 and a Tempe Historic Property. It was built in the late 1800's by Tucson native Vicente Elias for his wife Inez and family. The home acquired the Rodriguez part of its current name in later years after the Elias' daughter Irene and her husband Reynaldo Rodriguez moved into it to care for her mother when Marcie was a youngster. Mrs. Gorman has 12 grandsons and 18 great-grandsons. Marcie lived most of her life in Tempe, in the Elias-Rodriguez house until she was 25. She attended Tempe's old 10th Street Grammar School and graduated from Tempe High School in 1952. Twice widowed, Mrs. Gorman worked for a time at Valley National Bank's Phoenix home office. She'll be speaking on Veterans Day and as part of her reminiscences she will pay tribute to those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.



January 13, 2016

"Following In Legendary Footsteps"

Christine Kajikawa Wilkinson

A rarity as one of the first women in the country to be a senior vice-president and secretary of a major university, Arizona State University's Christine Kajikawa Wilkinson was one of the state's 2012 Centennial Legacy Project's 48 Most Intriguing Women and Valley Leadership's 2009 Woman of the Year. Though born in Utah, she grew up in Tempe as daughter of Tempeans, the late Bill and Marge Kajikawa, and has followed in both their footsteps. Her father was a 40-year legendary multi-sports coach at ASU; her mother, a Tempe First National Bank officer, was legendary for her community involvement and hospitality. Like her mother, Christine is an active volunteer. Like her father, she is an ASU legend, having served in multi-positions - twice as athletic director (her husband Don Wilkinson held that job for many years at Tempe Union High School). Christine, who also serves as ASU Alumni Association president, attended Tempe schools from Payne Training Lab School through Tempe High and earned a secondary education degree at ASU. She holds a master's in Counseling Psychology and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration.

February 10, 2016

"Fired Up About Firefighting"

Cliff Jones

Hanging around fire stations and making rounds with a couple of Tempe Volunteer Firefighters as he was growing up paid off for young Cliff Jones. His interest and experiences as a youth led to his being officially hired by the fulltime Tempe Fire Department in 1971 - without having had to go through a formal recruit-training academy. Just 17 years later, in February 1988, he became only the third Fire Chief in Tempe Fire Department history, a post he held for 22 years. Under his watch, the department became the first fire department internationally accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). He later served as a commissioner and, in 2000-2003 as chairman, of CFAI and has been honored with its Ray Picard Award for "superior leadership and outstanding contribution" to CFAI and fire departments accreditation. He also has been an Arizona Fire Chiefs Association Lifetime Achievement Awardee and a national Center for Public Safety Excellence Chief Fire Officers Designee for career excellence. Now he does consulting work with the latter center and is a regular Tempe Centers for Habilitation and Tempe St. Luke's Hospital volunteer.

March 9, 2016

"Celebrating Tempe's Celebrations"

Larry Mishler & Peggy Bryant

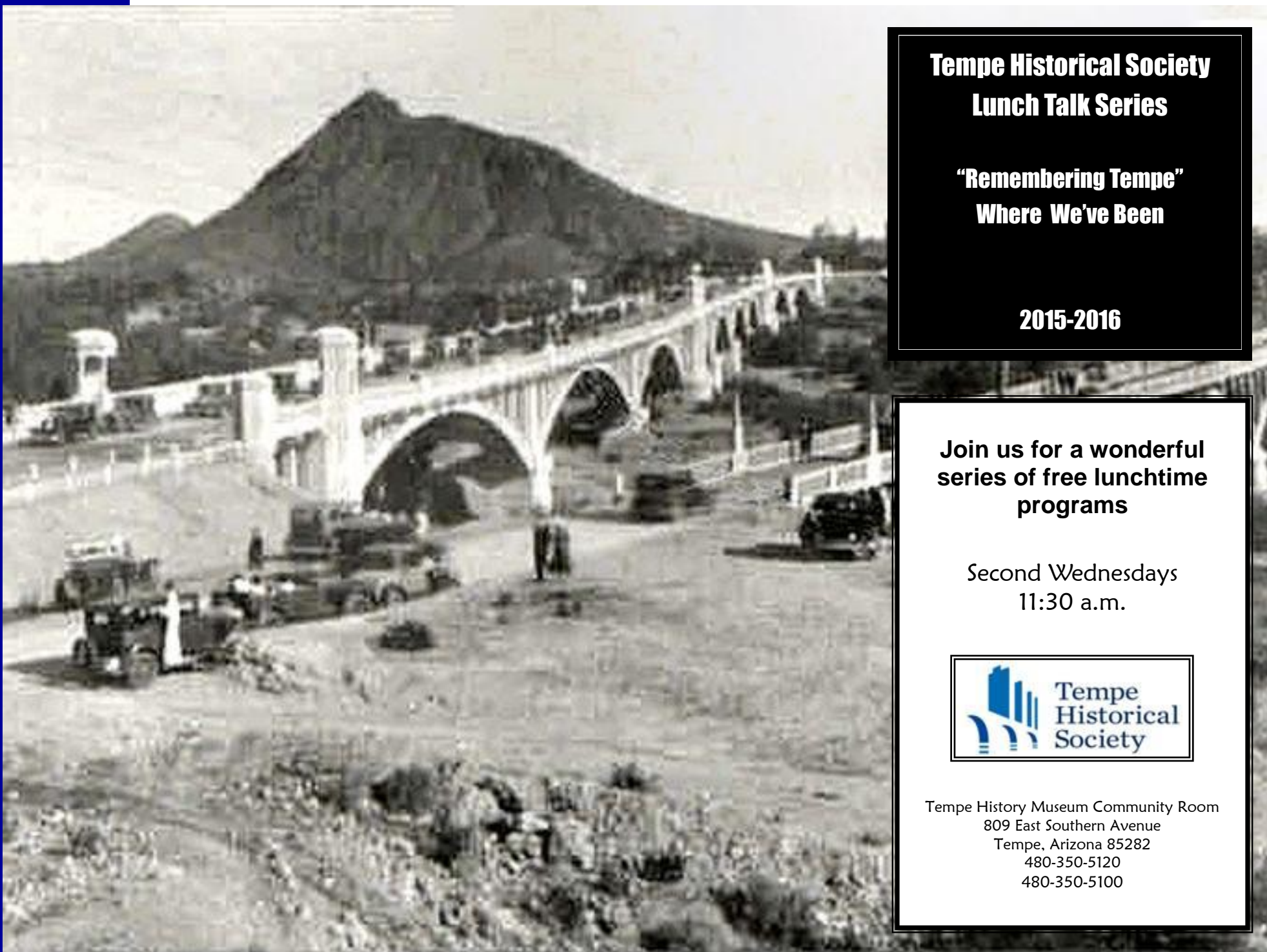
Peggy Bryant and Larry Mishler have crossed paths over many years. Both got early experience in their crafts, a few years apart, on Arizona State University's State Press newspaper. In 1953, Peggy began her career in community newspapers as reporter/woman's page editor for the family-owned Mesa Daily Tribune - and about a block away, Larry was honing his photography passion as a boy working in his father's camera shop where she sometimes dropped off photo plates for developing. In 1959, Peggy started a 22-year affiliation with the Frank and Irma Connolly-owned Tempe Daily News as variously reporter, editor and managing editor. In 1963, Larry Mishler began a 10-year TDN affiliation as a process cameraman/stripper for the commercial printing department and a sports photographer. After retiring from the newspaper business, Peggy became Tempe Elementary School District's community relations director for ten years and Larry was head of the District's print shop. Today both volunteer with Kiwanis Nuevo and Tempe Historical Society Board. They have written many words and taken many pictures of Tempe over the years - including some of its many celebrations.

April 13, 2016

"Adding Spice To Leisure Life In Tempe"

Ron Pies

In his 30 years with Tempe's Parks and Recreation and Community Services programs before retiring in 1998, Ron Pies developed most of the recreation and leisure time opportunities that Tempeans from kids to senior citizens still enjoy today. In the process, he earned himself and his department numerous awards - among them two National Gold Medals for Parks and Recreation Management excellence and a National Aquatics Gold Medal from the National Recreation and Parks Association. Ron also earned an Arizona P&R Association's Distinguished Life Member Award and, in 2000, was named by that association as one of its first 50 years "Five Leisure Legends." Hired as Tempe P&R Director in 1969 and named Community Services Director in 1984, the ASU College of Public Programs Hall of Fame member started the development of the 125-acre Tempe Kiwanis Park, developed the first computerized park maintenance tracking program in the U.S.A., wrote and received the first grant of \$100,000 from the State of Arizona for the Tempe Rio Salado Project, made the first contact and began negotiations to bring the California Angels to Tempe for spring training.



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2015-2016

**Join us for a wonderful
series of free lunchtime
programs**

Second Wednesdays
11:30 a.m.



Tempe History Museum Community Room
809 East Southern Avenue
Tempe, Arizona 85282
480-350-5120
480-350-5100