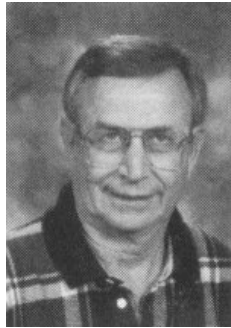




# Memories Fill Yule Trees Of Lights

They may seem ordinary Christmas tree lights and ornaments but there is much more to them than that.

Many of the ornaments on the two Christmas trees that go up in the lobby of Tempe History Museum annually in early December hold memories, both sad and dear, for some. They are members of the families and the individuals who each year attend the Historical Society's "Tree of Lights" reception, an event that had its 15th anniversary on December 4th.



LARRY CAMPBELL

The "Tree of Lights" project was inaugurated in 2002 by Tempe Historical Society's then-president, the late Larry Campbell. It was to be (and still is) a means of raising funds for the Oral History Project interviews with longtime Tempeans that had begun as the city was getting ready to celebrate its 1971 Centennial year - even before there was a museum to house them. At the same time, the tree project was to provide a unique and special way for Tempeans to remember deceased loved ones or to honor special people in their lives or in

the community. For a donation, a light or ornament would be hung on the tree in memory or in honor of the donor's person of choice. Donors, families of those being remembered and honorees were invited to a reception to see them - and the ornaments would go to family members or special honorees at holiday season's end.

All of that still holds true. But now Larry Campbell is among those honored - annually. Campbell died on March 7, 2003 at the age of 63 and the tree project now bears the name "The Larry Campbell Tree of Lights." In more recent years a second tree has been added to honor military veterans. Ornaments purchased for that tree go to support the newer Tempe Veterans History Project housed at the museum. And now the Veterans Project and Friends of the Tempe Library have joined the Historical Society as reception hosts.

A native of Farmington, New Mexico and graduate of Texas Tech University, Campbell had come from teaching and coaching in that state to Tempe in 1967. Over the years - 34 of them - he had been a history teacher, basketball assistant coach, history department head at Corona del Sol High School, a teacher and head basketball coach at McClintock. In both those schools and in New Mexico, he had shared the basketball coaching limelight with another well known local basketball coach, Sam Duane.

Larry also found time to be ASU men's and women's basketball official scorekeeper for 24 years, a spotter for ASU and Arizona Cardinals football teams, active in the Arizona Community Church and in the community (in the Tempe Sister City program for one). And to be a friend who was there for a friend when most needed.

His was, as his funeral service lauded, "A Life Well Lived."



Larry Campbell's daughter Laurie and her husband, in town from Minnesota, admire one of the pair of trees at the December 4 "Tree of Lights" reception at the Museum. (See Related Story on Page 3) - LARRY MISHLER PHOTO

## Storytellers 'Give Moments Of Magic, Joy And Emotion'

"Storytelling gives us moments of beauty, magic, joy, and profound emotion" - so has said Liz Warren, director of South Mountain Community College Storytelling Institute. "Storytelling is as intrinsic, inherent and essential to our species as language or walking upright. It is our most primal mode of entertainment, and ultimately the most satisfying, too."

Offering Tempeans and visitors opportunities this year to find out just what she means is Tempe Historical Society's 2016-17 "Lunch Talks" series which is featuring Arizona storytellers, including award-winning storyteller Warren herself. The programs, offered second Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. in Tempe History Museum's Community Room, are free and open to the public. Light refreshments are served but attendees are welcome to bring sack lunches if they wish.

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# Storytellers Have Many Tales To Tell

Everything from living near a busy railroad to growing vegetables on the desert, from the state's "colorful characters" to pioneer Arizona women who made history, has been "grist mill" for the tales told by storytellers who are featured in Tempe Historical Society's "Lunch Talk" series for 2016-17.

After stories from Tempe's former City Architect and first Historic Preservation Officer Mark Vinson and from venerable Arizona storyteller Marshall Trimble in October and November - and a December pause for the holidays - the "Lunch Talks" resume for the new year of 2017 in January to continue on second Wednesdays through April. With Friendship Village as a welcome first sponsor for the series this year, the programs start at 11:30 a.m. in the Community Room at Tempe History Museum, 809 East Southern Avenue, and are open free to the public. Visitors can bring their own sack lunches or partake of light refreshments provided by the Historical Society.

Up first for the new year on January 11 is third generation Japanese American Kathy Nakagawa, a Phoenix native and Arizona State University faculty member, whose topic is "Ganbatte ('Do Your Best'): Stories of the Japanese-American Experience in Arizona." A storyteller who teaches others to be storytellers, fourth generation Arizonan Liz Warren, will be February 8 speaker. In her talk entitled "All The Live-Long Day" she'll share stories of her grandmother's life - which for most of her 100 years took place near railroads. (including her years as Skull Valley's postmaster and grocer).

**Dr. Nakagawa's** father started growing vegetables in the Arizona desert in the 1930s, but during World War II her parents, like many Japanese-American families, were interned at the Poston War Relocation Camp in Yuma. Post-war, the family



**KATHY NAKAGAWA**



**LIZ WARREN**

came back to the Valley and leased land at the foot of South Mountain to start again, growing vegetables and flowers. (Many longtime Valley residents still remember the beauty of, and wonderful fragrance emanating from, Japanese flower gardens along Baseline Road in post-WWII days.) An Asian Pacific American Studies and Culture, Society & Education faculty member in ASU's School of Social Transformation, Nakagawa received her doctorate from Northwestern University in Human Development and Social Policy.

**Liz Warren**, director of the South Mountain Community College Storytelling Institute, one of the founders of the Arizona Storytellers Project and a Storytelling World Awardee, **IS** an Arizona storytelling "institution." Holder of B.S. and M.A. degrees in anthropology from ASU, she is most known for tales reflecting "heroic journeys of personal transformation" whether they be folktales, Celtic myths or stories of growing up in Arizona.

She has performed nationally and often in her beloved Ireland, where she is a co-producer of the Three Rivers Storytelling Festival held annually in Athlon. She is also a writer - author of "The Oral Tradition Today: An Introduction to the Art of Storytelling" and the "Hero's Journey Writing Tool."

Winding up the year's "Lunch Talks" will be award-winning author, historian and lecturer Jan Cleere speaking on "Arizona Women Who Made History" on March 8 and Dr. Beverly Poelinitz, adjunct faculty member at South Mountain Community College's Storytelling Institute and Estrella Mountain Community College's Business Institute, coming April 12 to talk about "Buffalo Soldiers of the American Southwest." More about them in the next Historical Society newsletter.



**OPENING SPEAKERS** in Tempe Historical Society's Lunch Talks in October and November, respectively were Architect/Historic Preservationist Mark Vinson (right) and Official State Historian (and humorist) Marshall Trimble. Vinson's stories were about post-WWII unique Valley buildings. In spite of some hurts from a tractor accident earlier in the morning that made him late, Trimble was at his usual humorous best as he talked about colorful Arizona characters and their (often rascally) deeds.

## TEMPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017

<b>Victor Linoff</b> President	<b>Ray Devine</b> Treasurer	<b>Mary Ann Kwilosz</b> Board Member	<b>Woody Wilson</b> Board Member	<b>Anne Chandler</b> Board Member
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# Historical Society And Tempe Lose A Longtime Friend

If you are, or ever have been over the past many years, a member of Tempe Historical Society, you most likely have a drawing in your home of some Tempe historical building or site that was created by artist Richard Nearing.



**Tempe Historical Society Board then-President Richard Bauer (right) presented a THS Lifetime Membership to former Board member and longtime Tempe artist Richard Nearing at Christmas time in 2015, just after Nearing and wife Barbara had moved to an assisted living home.**

Perhaps you treasure a Nearing drawing of Tempe's 128-year-old Hackett House or the iconic Petersen House, the 1924 Tempe train depot or ASU's Gammage Auditorium.

Dick, who through the years donated many copies of his drawings to the Historical Society and Museum for membership rewards and other purposes, died on November 29 at age 93. He and wife Barbara had been residing in a Tempe assisted living home for the past several years. A member and treasurer of Tempe Historical Society's Board of Directors several times over the years, he was presented a lifetime membership in the Society shortly after moving into the home.

Well known in Arizona for his 32 years of capturing Arizona's historic sites in drawings and various aspects of its history in books (among the latter "Drawing On History: Tempe's Heritage Through Its Historical Buildings and Homes, 1871-1996"), Nearing had been active for many years in Tempe and Chandler Art Leagues and Tempe History Museum and in his church

A native of Ohio, he had attended Miami University at Oxford in that state. He served in the Pacific Theater with the Army Air Corps in World War II and was called back in 1951 as a combat photographer for the Army Signal Corps.

In addition to his wife of 70 years, surviving are two daughters, Sherry Lee (Dan) and Nancy Mizzell, son Richard D. (Juli), eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

## Tempe Historical Society Happenings

### Hayden's Ferry Days Is Back!

The dates have been set, the planning is underway - and Tempe will have its Second Annual Hayden's Ferry Days celebration of Tempe's heritage in February - a little earlier than last year to avoid the heat and a day longer than the 2016 inaugural Tempe Historical Society-sponsored celebration.

Chairman Woody Wilson has announced this year's celebration is planned for February 24, 25 and 26 and its highlights will include displays and demonstrations of traditional folk arts and crafts, entertainment highlighting talent of Tempe's cultural and community organizations and tours of some of the city's most fascinating historic houses and buildings. Plans include:

- a kick-off dinner on Friday, site yet to be decided; a "Walk Through History" on Saturday with Tempe Historic Preservation Foundation hosting in the morning and Historic House Tours at the magnificent Eisendrath, Victorian Petersen and Elias-Rodriguez adobe houses in the afternoon; and a festival Sunday at Tempe History Museum with performers, kids activities, food and fun .

### All Aboard For Train Exhibit . . .

Tempe Historical Society's Board of Directors are inviting Society members and prospective members "All Aboard" for an event to include a curatorial tour of Tempe History Museum's new "Trains of Tempe" exhibit on Wednesday, January 18, from 2 to 4 p.m. Refreshments and a raffle in the Museum's Community Room will be part of the welcome-to-2017 THS activity for continuing, new and prospective Society members.

The fascinating 1,200-square foot interactive Trains of Tempe exhibit has been produced in partnership with the Arizona Railway Museum which loaned many of the artifacts on display (and has featured the exhibit in its newsletter). To run through September 2017, the exhibit shows the long and strong relationship of railroads to Tempe's history. It covers early efforts to bring rail service to the area, trains which met with disasters crossing the old RR bridge, the old Goodwin mule-drawn trolley to today's light rail and the street car slated to run in downtown Tempe.



**TRAINS and the Tempe railroad bridge weren't, you might say, always compatible back in the early days of railroad travel through Tempe. More than once or twice, trains met with disaster as the bridge crumbled under their weight.**

Museum Manager [Brenda Abney](#), as exhibit curator - did the research, wrote exhibit text, found and selected photographs, objects and archival material for the exhibit, and coordinated the production of exhibit videos and exhibit interactive elements. Jumping in to do their part were Museum Exhibit Coordinator [Dan Miller](#), who designed and installed the exhibit, creating its graphics and panels; History Coordinator [Jared Smith](#), aiding with research, reviewing and editing the text; and Collections Coordinator [Josh Roffler](#), who processed loaned exhibit items as they came in and prepared them for exhibit, as well as assisted with the installation of objects.

In the Community Room, guests will be able to read "Train Stories" from old newspaper accounts and photographs. The "Train Stories" exhibit was created by current and former Museum college interns [Myles Gallagher](#) and [Gina Amato](#) under guidance of Brenda Abney. The museum had support from the City of Tempe, Tempe Historical Society and the Arizona Humanities - as well as partnering Arizona Railway Museum - to make this exhibit happen.

**(See more Historical Society Happenings, Page 4)**



**A FAMILIAR SITE on Tempe's Southern Avenue is the grand entrance to (the seniors who live there will tell you) a great place: Friendship Village retirement community. The Village is now the first-ever sponsor for Tempe Historical Society's "Lunch Talks" series.**

## **Centennial Event Gave Rise To Tempe's Friendship Village**

Tempe's Friendship Village is a continuing care retirement community which today serves approximately 750 senior citizens with all manner of options in kinds of living quarters, health services, personal care, dining venues, fitness and fun activities, and much more. But it might never have come to be had it not been for Tempe's 1970-71 Centennial Year.

While the major "Hayden's Ferry Days" celebration took place throughout April 1971, activities leading up to the big events started a year before - from gathering of pioneer family histories and artifacts to the founding of a Tempe Historical Society with its goal of creating a Tempe museum. It was another of those earlier events, a "Town Hall" to discuss Tempe's future direction and needs, that gave rise to Friendship Village and its beautiful, approximately 46-acre campus at 2645 East Southern Avenue.

Inspired by the "Town Hall," a few Tempe men determined that a place was needed where the city's older adults could retire, still enjoy life, and have health care and other special needs assistance available on site. They surveyed Tempe's older population to determine support for such a place - and in December 1976 Tempe Life Care Village was incorporated with Tempean Don Cassano as its Board president. The corporation was to "conduct the business of owning and operating a life care facility to serve three primary needs of the elderly: housing, health care and financial security." By 1980 Life Care Services, a national leader in senior living, was helping them realize that dream as it became manager of one of the region's first nonprofit, continuing care communities.

After expansions along the way, Friendship Village offers, in addition to apartments and garden homes, assisted living (added in 1997), 24 "Memory Rooms" with trained staff for dementia patients, a leased-out 14-bed Hospice unit, a bond-funded rebuilt and expanded 128-bed skilled nursing Health Center completed in 2007 (open to non-residents when bed space is available). But there's more to Village life than health care - like a library, a fitness center, a swimming pool and spa, three dining venues, rides to stores or doctors appointments or church services, arts and crafts programs, continued education classes, a Kiwanis Club doing good things for kids. (And a bonus - residents don't have to mow the lawns!)

## **Historical Society Happenings...**

### **High School Groups Entertain At 'Tree of Lights' Reception**

The 56 guests and hosts at Tempe History Museum for this year's Tempe Historical Society's "Tree of Lights" reception, December 4 at Tempe History Museum, enjoyed Christmas carols played and sung by talented teens, light refreshments and mingling around the evening's "stars."

The stars were the Museum staff-decorated "Trees of Light" - one honoring veterans, one "civilians." Ornaments and lights showcased names of deceased or special honorees submitted by individuals or families who donated \$10 per ornament to have the persons of their choices honored. The donations support ongoing oral history projects of THS and the Veterans Project.

Special "star attractions" were Meredith Johnson's Corona del Sol Chamber Music trio which played "mix and mingle" music as guests arrived and Darin Shryock's Marcos de Niza Chamber Singers who entertained with Christmas carols and songs. Adding a special touch, the Marcos singers dressed "historically" - girls in Victorian era long dresses, muffs and bonnets and boys in suits and top hats.

Historical Society President Vic Linoff spoke briefly, welcoming guests, thanking attendees and Museum staff, introducing THS Board members and, on a sad note, announcing the passing of former THS Board member, and local artist Richard Nearing. Also speaking briefly were Dave Engelhardt of the Veterans History Project and Larry Conway of Friends of Tempe Library.

Co-chairing the event for the Historical Society were Board members Anne Chandler and Eduarda Yates. Guests were greeted by Historical Society Board and Tempe Friends of the Library members, Veterans Project and History Museum staff.

Christmas trees at the museum were to be taken down on January 3, but Historical Society members on December 30 removed the remembrance ornaments which were to be sent to families or friends of those honored or remembered.

Special thanks went to Tempe merchants who helped make the evening a success: WalMart, Honeymoon Sweets, Great Harvest Bread Company, P. Croissant and Starbucks.)

### **THS Board Meets In 'Lap Of Luxury'**

Tempe Historical Society's Board of Directors held its December 14 meeting in the "lap of luxury" - and was joined by a pair of special visitors and the administrative staff of Tempe History Museum, headed by Manager Brenda Abney, to enjoy it.

The session, including a light buffet lunch, was held at the restored, famous and luxurious Pueblo-style adobe Eisendrath House in Papago Park. The special visitors were Jim Mackay of Alexandria, Virginia and Susan Ison of Loveland, Colorado who were spending two days visiting the Tempe History Museum as members of an American Alliance of Museums accreditation team. The team's job: to see if Tempe History Museum meets standards and best practices of museums and how well it achieves its mission and stated goals - and is it worthy of being accredited - a hoped-for goal of Museum staff and of Tempe Historical Society's Board of Directors.

A tour of the Eisendrath home was a special treat. The hilltop home was built in the Great Depression as a winter residence for wealthy Chicago widow/socialite Rose Eisendrath after she was refused lodging at a Valley resort because she was a Jew. Now fully restored and beautifully furnished through efforts of the Rio Salado Foundation and City of Tempe, the house has become the Eisendrath Center for Water Conservation (and if you haven't had a chance to tour it, you should!)

Historical Society President Victor Linoff presided at the session, which included many questions for the AAM visitors.