

Tempe Society Among State's Top 10

Tempe's Historical Society has been named one of Arizona's Top 10 historical societies in Americantowns Media's "Best Things AZ" listings. It's listed as #7 behind the historical societies of Jerome, Northern Arizona Pioneers (Flagstaff), Glendale, Tubac, and the B26 Marauder Historical Society of Tucson. Winding up the list in 8th through 10th spots are the Arizona Jewish Historical Society, Grand Canyon Hisocirical Societ of Flagstaff and the Seligman Hlistorical Society.

Noting that "Arizona may be young but it has plenty of history," the online item adds "The 48th state has its fair share of events, cultures, and traditions worth documenting. It's also home to some great historical societies that bring this history to life. These societies focus on different aspects of history that are each uniquely Arizonan."

Of Tempe Historical Society, it reports: "The Tempe Historical Society promotes programs, events, and conversations aimed at illuminating Tempe's history. The group began in 1969 and immediately began gathering artifacts related to Tempe's history. Their rich collection can be found at the Tempe History Museum. The museum creates new, featured exhibitions each year that showcase Tempe's history. The society focuses on Tempe's history from the 1870s through the post-World War II-era population boom. Additionally, they host many events geared towards local history such as the talk series Arizona Storytellers."

That's a tribute not just to the Tempe Historical Society Board, but to the general membership of Tempe Historical Society who support the Society - and the Tempe History Museum. A big "thank you to you!"

And Our Membership Just Keeps On Growing

April/May are membership renewal months for Tempe Historical Society - and "we're already a third of the way onto renewing our 2017-2018 members," THS President Vic Linoff has reported to Board of Directors members.

"Thanks to Richard Bauer and our membership committee, we've had steady growth in the last few years," said Linoff

Exhibits You Should See At Our History Museum

Train buffs (and there are a lot more of them than anyone would expect!) and those of us who still get nostalgic about Tempe's earlier days can whet their interests through a pair of exhibits at Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Avenue.

For those who find them fascinating, have ridden them or have wanted to, the Museum's "Trains of Tempe" exhibit is right up your alley (or railroad track if you prefer). The exhibit which will close at the end of September, has been provided in partnership with the Arizona Railway Museum. And it's one of the programs Tempe Historical Society has helped fund - and it's magnificent.

For those who "remember when" Tempe was a whole lot different along Mill Avenue and Apache Boulevard (on part of that famous old Route 66' that brought many of us to Arizona), you only have through Sunday, May 7, to see a special exhibit in the Museum's Community Room - if you haven't already seen it.

Students from a history class taught by Marc Tebeau at Arizona State University have curated the "Apache Boulevard" exhibit - with help in the research and production departments from Historical Society President Vic Linoff, architect Mark Vinson and Museum research historian Scott Soliday.

Bauer, who previously was a member of Tempe History Museum's staff, is the Society's immediate past president and is credited with having giving it new momentum in the four years he served as president.

Society memberships help support the preservation of Tempe's history and heritage. Memberships funds assist the Museum with exhibit opening receptions, some performances and programs so they may be offered free to the public, assistance for children's programs, museum acquisitions and special needs (among them a pet project - the Petersen House!).

Those becoming Historical Society members get something out of it, too - depending on the level of memberships which start at \$25 and go on up to lifetime memberships. All members get 10% discount in the Museum store, the newsletter and a 10% Museum store discount. Other gifts come with different membership levels.

Veterans History Project, Museum Have Invited THS Board To Lunch

Tempe Historical Society's Board of Directors have been invited to join staff of the Tempe Public Library-based Veteran's History Project and Tempe Museum staff for an informal noon luncheon Tuesday, May 23.

The luncheon, described as "a very informal, congenial get-together" by the hosts, will be in the break room at the Museum and food is being prepared by the hosts. THS Board members who plan to attend should let Board President Vic Linoff or member Mary Ann Kwilosz know so a total count can be given to Museum manager Brenda Abney or Dave Neibergall of the Veterans History Project. All three groups are involved in the Christmas holiday time "Tree of Lights" program at the museum

Tempe
Historical
SocietyMay 2017
Newsletter

IT'S OFFICIAL!

Tempe Museum Is Now Among The Elite

After months and months - and more months - of assessing, purposing, planning, re-directing, making changes, growing and making more changes and improvements, Tempe History Museum's staff learned in March that it had reached the top of the line. It is now officially an accredited museum, a hard-won honor granted by the American Alliance of Museums. It's an honor that will bring many benefits both to the museum and to its patrons. Other than museum staff, no one could be more pleased than Tempe Historical Society's Board of Directors. The museum began as a hoped-for goal of the Tempeans who formed the Society back in 1969 as the city's Centennial approached.

In the words of current Tempe Historical Society President Victor Linoff:

May 7 Ice Cream Social Set For HS Membership

Tempe Historical Society Board of Directors member and event planner extraordinaire Mary Ann Kwilosz is planning yet another social for THS's general membership as a new Society year begins in May.

It's a free ice cream social for members and prospective members in the Community Room at Tempe History Museum, 809 East Southern Avenue. The Sunday, May 7, event - from 2 to 4 p.m. - will offer, she says, "ice cream sundaes, prizes, surprises" - and a message or two from THS President Vic Linoff about the year ahead.

Come and pick up your membership gifts if you're a paid-up member - or come and join up as a new member if you're not. Museum membership levels run from \$25 for supporters and \$50 for - on up.

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"March 6, 2017 was an important day for the Tempe History Museum.

"It was the day, after many years of hard work, initiated by former Museum Director Amy Douglass and continued by Brenda Abney and her incredible staff, the Tempe History Museum was awarded the highest honor a museum can receive from its peers.

"After several grueling days in December in which we were visited by an onsite inspection panel that examined every aspect of the museum's operation and review of our standards and practices, the American Alliance of Museums awarded the THM National Accreditation.

"That means we are an institution which meets or exceeds national museum standards for care and conservation of artifacts, educational programming and exhibits.

"To put the honor into context, of the nation's approximate 33,000 museums, only 1,065 are accredited. That's less than 3%. In Arizona we join an elite list of 17 other stellar facilities, like Sharlot Hall, Arizona History museum, Heard Museum, Arizona State Museum, Pueblo Grande and Phoenix Art Museum.

"Why is this important? For donors of artifacts, it means the THM exercises the greatest care in protecting and preserving its collections. It means each staff member meets the highest standard for education, knowledge, experience and dedication to competently carry out the complexities of running a museum.

"Brenda and her staff are quick to acknowledge the support and contributions made by the Tempe Historical Society in helping achieve the Accreditation. In turn we recognize and thank our members, because without your support we wouldn't exist.

"On your next museum visit, be sure and congratulate the staff on their impressive achievement."

TEMPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017

Victor Linoff President	Ray Devine Treasurer	Mary Ann Kwilosz Board Member	Woody Wilson Board Member	Anne Chandler Board Member
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Have Fun At February's Hayden's Ferry Days? Could Be Bigger And Better Ones Are Ahead

Tempe Historical Society's Second Annual Hayden's Ferry Days In February gained momentum over its first running in March 2015 with approximately 1,400 folks - big and little - turning out for the major wind-up Hayden's Ferry Days Festival at Tempe History Museum.

But the best is yet to come as the Society, Museum and partnering community groups look toward a major event coming up in our city in the not-so-distant future: the 150th anniversary of the founding of Hayden's Ferry which began what is now Tempe. For that Sesquicentennial Year, planners are hoping to make Hayden's Ferry Days a major, community-wide, week-long celebration. To lead up to it, plans are to add one day to the celebration each of the coming years before the big year of 2021,

If all goes well, Ferry Days will expand to three days in 2018 when the celebration is being planned for the first weekend in March, four days the following year and five the next. All that depends on how well funding shapes up, says Richard Bauer, the Society's immediate past president and planning committee chairman for next year's Hayden's Ferry Days. The committee includes representatives from several community organizations, but

many more partners will be needed to help with planning and preparations for a major community-wide Sesquicentennial celebration.

Bauer is hoping to get a grant that was awarded the Society for this year's Ferry Days about doubled (to \$5,700) for next year's celebration. While event planning "depends on how much money we raise," he said, as of now plans include moving the major festival events from Sunday to Saturday and having historic sites tours on Sunday. As Bauer said, "We would like to expand, but we need more partnerships to do it." Other groups interested in helping grow the celebration should contact him or leave word at the Museum.

Museum manager Brenda Abney said about 1,400 visitors participated in February's Hayden's Ferry Days festival events in the museum and around the museum/library courtyard. A Friday night dinner at the museum attracted 67 guests. And on Saturday's historic sites tours, 173 people visited the Eisendrath House, 81 toured the Petersen House, 42 dropped in at the Hackett House (home of Tempe Sister Cities), and slightly more than 30 took in the Elias-Rodriguez House.

More Storytellers Will Be Coming Next Fall To Regale "Lunch Talk" Guests With Tales

Tempe Historical Society will, for a second year, bring "storytellers" front and center in the Tempe History Museum's Community Room to entertain guests with their tales for the 2017-18 "Lunch Talk" series. Open free to the public, the programs will be offered at 11:30 a.m., second Wednesdays, starting in October and continuing through April of 2018.

Longtime Historical Society Board member Mary Ann Kwilosz has lined up the speakers for the new season of programs. They will include story tellers Marilyn Szabo, Kyle Mitchell, Betsy Fahlman, Sule Wilson, Liz Warren and Shawn Jordan. Warren will be making her second appearance on the "Lunch Talk" series as director of the South Mountain

Community College Storytelling Institute. Szabo is a photographer and lover of history. Mitchell and Jordan both have ties to the Navajo Reservation - Mitchell was raised on it and became an Army Ranger; Jordan, an Arizona State University assistant professor of engineering education, worked with the Navajo Nation to create STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Camps on the reservation for Navajo kids.

Fahlman, also an Arizona State University faculty member, teaches art history and is author of "New Deal Art In Arizona."

And Sule Wilson is a professional storyteller and musician.

As always, "Lunch Talk" guests will be allowed to bring their own sack lunches for the programs - or just partake of the light refreshments, coffee and water provided by the Society.

A Stately Welcome Awaits ASU's 2017 Graduates

... (And You, Too!)

With a slew of graduations, commencements, stole ceremonies, ROTC commissioning ceremonies and other special events on the schedule to honor 2017 graduating students - and with parents, other family members and friends expected to be flocking to campus for many of those activities - Arizona State University will be humming May 6 through May 13. But for graduates and parents who may want a bit of a respite from the on-campus hecticness and to see "something different," Tempe Historical Society will be doing a rare thing especially in their honor.

For the May 6 and 13 opening and closing Saturdays of the ASU graduation festivities, what is one of Tempean's most prized and loved historical treasures will be open for them (and the general public) to visit, admission free - between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on both Saturdays, May 6 and 13. The ornate Victorian era Petersen House Museum at 1414 West Southern Avenue (on the northwest side of Southern Avenue and Priest Drive) is rarely open to the public and primarily only during the Christmas season.

Designed by Architect James Creighton for Niels Petersen, a Danish seaman turned successful Tempe farmer, businessman and sterling citizen, the ornate, gabled two-story house is the oldest and most beautiful Queen Anne style red brick house in the Valley. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has received the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation.

The house was completed in 1892 - just in time to welcome Petersen's new and second wife, Pennsylvanian Susanna Decker. His first wife Isabelle Dumphy died in childbirth in 1885 - a year after the two married. Their infant son died soon after.

Susanna was a cousin of Tempean Lucille Hanna (then the future wife of a young Tempe man who would one day become Arizona governor - Howard Pyle).

In 1902 at their home, the Petersens hosted the gathering of Tempe area pioneers which resulted in the founding of the Tempe Old Settlers Reunion Association. For many years, the still-going-strong-today Association held its annual reunion picnic on the Petersen House front lawn.

May's special open houses will be free to all visitors, but donations to help support continued preservation of the magnificent old house will be welcome.



PRIDE OF TEMPE is the stately old Petersen House at Southern Avenue and Priest Drive which will welcome another "pride of Tempe" - those graduating from Arizona State University in May - and their parents (as well as the general public) to open houses on May 6 and May 13.

Tours Of Petersen House Can Be Arranged Especially For Groups

Did you know that Tempe's famed Petersen House, closed from the last weekend of May to the end of September, does offer special private tours for groups of 10 or more?

The historic home, often referred to as "the gingerbread house," is a great place to visit (and who knows, you may even spot one of the ghosts said to roam its hall and rooms!) The house was last occupied by a number of years by the family of art teachers Tom and Helen Harter - the latter a member of a couple of Tempe pioneer families.

A \$5 per person donation is asked for the tours and arrangements must be made at least two weeks in advance.

Save The Wagon Fund Still Has A Way To Go

The fund to help "Save The Wagon" from the old Minder Binder restaurant has a way to go yet before it reaches the \$7,000 needed to restore it and give it a permanent home at the Tempe History Museum. However, Museum Manager Brenda Abney says "We could start in phases once we have \$2,500."

More than \$500 was raised for the fund via a special project at the "new" Minder Binder just north of University Drive and McClintock last February. In addition, the Historic Preservation Committee has pledged a match of up to \$1,000 via a "Go Fund Me" page (you can donate online at www.GoFundMe.com (search for Minder Binder).

Donations also can be made by check to the Tempe History Museum or to Tempe Historical Society (note Minder Binder on the "For" line).



Thank You Friendship Village!!

Tempe Historical Society Board members are extremely grateful that Friendship Village - Tempe's life care retirement community - has decided to again this year sponsor the Society's Lunch Talk Series. Not only that, it has doubled its donation from last year's \$500 to \$1,000 to do so.

Their donation makes it possible for the Society to provide honorariums for speakers, some of whom come from out of the area to appear on the series.

Honorariums also are making it possible to attract some outstanding professional speakers that we might otherwise not be able to entice to participate.

The Board also is pleased to see more Friendship Village residents among guests for the Lunch Talks as the Village also provides transportation to come for its residents who need it.

