

FROM THE PRESIDENT VIC LINOFF:

Buildings Also Are Reminders Of Our History

Thanks to the efforts of visionary residents who knew Tempe's history was special, the Tempe Historical Society was born back in 1969 with the objective of collecting and preserving our city's material history. As a result the Museum, operated by the City of Tempe since 1991, has amassed an enormous collection of more than 70,000 historic artifacts, photographs and archival documents that help us better understand our history. . . (This is a good time for a self-serving plug. When rummaging about your house if you find anything that is connected to Tempe's past consider a tax-deductible donation to the Museum). The collection the museum lovingly cares for is not all that helps convey Tempe's story. More than 90 physical properties across the city and ASU stand as reminders of its early days.

They range from the Kirkland-McKinney Ditch that first brought water to a parched desert and gave rise to a thriving agricultural

economy, to commercial buildings like the Hayden Flour Mill, and more than forty homes dating all the way back to the modest 1871 adobe structure Charles Trumbull Hayden built for his bride Sallie.

Some have been carefully preserved like the Eisendrath House. Two are under the protection of the Tempe History Museum – The Petersen House and the Elias-Rodriguez House. All three of these homes will be open for tours during the Third Annual Hayden's Ferry Days on March 4, 2018. You can learn more about this event celebrating Tempe's remarkable past elsewhere in this newsletter.

Others teeter on the precipice of demolition or worse, demolition by neglect. Count the 1880 Gonzales-Martinez House, the 1871 Hayden House and the 1895 Harrington-Birchett House remodeled in 1931 amongst the most endangered. Ones we must keep a close watch on;

] - **The Gonzalez-Martinez House** is the second oldest building in Tempe. The simple adobe home tucked in just west of the railroad tracks on Second Street has endured years of neglect while awaiting the outcome of a longstanding land dispute between the State, city and what the courts have determined is a squatter.

- **The Hayden House** owned and operated as a restaurant for nearly 60 years by the Monti family was sold in 2014 to a developer with ambitious plans of erecting high-rises just feet away from the fragile historic structure. Whether or not it survives remains very much up in the air.

- **The Harrington-Birchett House**, long the home of Guess Birchett, Tempe's "Bird Lady." In 1989, a decade after Guess's passing (just five years after it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984), the University acquired the property as part of its long-term expansion plans. Recently, residents were shocked to learn that this beloved property was slated for demolition. Public outcry caused ASU to reconsider, at least for the moment. As a result the house still stands.

For many years the Tempe Historical Society was the vocal advocate for not only saving the city's material history, but also its physical structures. Since the adoption of Tempe's Historic Preservation Ordinance in 1995 and the establishment of the Historic Preservation Commission, the Society has worked closely with the Preservation Office to help identify historic resources, and promote the preservation, conservation and restoration of Tempe's relatively few remaining historic buildings and sites. It is just one of the many things the Tempe Historical Society does to keep history alive in our city.

YOU CAN HELP by following and supporting the activities of the Society, and the Preservation Office – making sure your voice is heard when properties are threatened.

Third Hayden's Ferry Days Are Just Around The Corner

It may seem to most that March is yet a long way off - but not so to Tempe Historical Society Board members and the Tempe History Museum staff. They may be drawing deep breaths and getting a bit nervous that it's coming too soon. There is much to be done before the 3rd Annual Hayden's Ferry Days celebration of Tempe's founding, set for March 2-4, 2018, is off the drawing board and ready for action. (See page 3 for what's planned)

This year's Ferry Days celebration is especially important to them because it's the mid-point of a plan leading to a really big celebration of the city's 150th birthday. The goal is to increase HFD activities one day each year until that 2021 Sesquicentennial year, according to Richard Bauer, Ferry Days

chairman and past president of the Tempe Historical Society. And the ultimate goal is to make the Sesquicentennial Hayden's Ferry Days a full month's premier celebration - a goal that already has buy-in from the City of Tempe as an official community-wide event.

The Society and Museum have several community partners who - as individuals, organizations or businesses - help support Hayden's Ferry Days celebrations. They may be event sponsors, serve on steering committees, or help through the Hayden's Ferry Days Giving Program by making monetary contributions of from \$100 to \$500 to underwrite celebration costs.

Many more partners will be needed to help make Hayden's Ferry Days a major Sesquicentennial event. Want to help? Contact the museum or Richard Bauer.



GUESTS ENJOY treats among decorated mini trees at Tempe Historical Society's 16th (annual Larry Campbell Tree of Lights event December 3 at Tempe History Museum. (See Page 4 for story.)

- Mary Ann Kwilosz photo

Storytellers To Tell Of Adventurous 'Spirits' And Cuban Salsa

After a recess for the Christmas season, the Tempe Historical Society's "Lunch Talks" series will be back again in the new year of 2018 with Storyteller and author **Betsy Fahlman** introducing the audience to "Adventurous Spirits: Arizona's Women Artists, 1900-1950" on January 10, and "Entrepreneur"/"edu-tainer" **Sule Greg C Wilson** telling stories of "La Reina Cubano" in his Valentine's Day appearance, February 14, to "warm up" the winter season.

Free and open to the public, Lunch Talks begin at 11:30 a.m. at Tempe History Museum, 809 East Southern Avenue (in Tempe's cultural complex at Southern and Rural). Guests may bring their own sack lunches or just enjoy goodies, coffee and water provided by the Historical Society.

Betsy Fahlman is an art history professor at Arizona State University, where she has taught since 1988. A specialist in American art, she has a strong interest in the art history of Arizona and has written extensively on the subject. Her book "Making the Cultural Desert Bloom: Arizona's Early Women Artists" was published in Arizona's Pioneering Women Artists: Impressions of the Grand Canyon State" and accompanied an exhibition at the Museum of Northern Arizona.

Sule Greg C Wilson's lifelong passion is providing people experiences for growth and change. He has over 45 years as a dancer, storyteller, musician and "energy mover". He is a photographer, writer, archivist, and educator. His musical talents grace documentary soundtracks, and the Carolina Chocolate Drops' 2010 Grammy Award-winning recording, *Genuine Negro Jig*. Wilson's book, *The Drummer's Path: Moving the Spirit with Ritual and Traditional Drumming*, is considered a standard in the field, and his play, *Keep a Song in Your Soul: The Black Roots of Vaudeville*, was nominated for Best Musical of 2011 by the Chicago Black Theatre Alliance.

Winding up this season's "Lunch Talks," spring will bring South Mountain Community College's Storytelling Institute Director **Liz Warren** back for a return visit on March 14 to ask us (and answer) "What is 'Real' Storytelling and Why Do We Need More Of It?" and Arizona State University Professor of Engineering **Dr. Shawn Jordan Anderson** educating the audience on "Storytelling Across Cultures: Inventing the Future With Navajo Culture and Engineering Design" on April 11.



Betsy Fahlman



Sule Greg C Wilson

Tempe Historical Society is grateful to Friendship Village TEMPE for its financial support of our "Lunch Talks" program

Hayden's Ferry Days To Offer Fun, Food - & History

Tempe Historical Society's Annual Hayden's Ferry Days celebration of our city's history and heritage will have its third running Friday through Sunday, March 2-4, 2018 - and it's looking to be the biggest, best and "funnest" one yet.

More than 20 organizations so far have committed to being a working part of the event in various ways and Ferry Days Chairman Richard Bauer, the Society's immediate past president, hopes more will be joining them. Working with Bauer on the Hayden's Ferry Days steering committee are Vic and Vicki Linoff, Brenda Abney, Mary Ann Kwilosz, Onnie Shekerjian, Dan Miller, Karyn Gitlis, Jane Neuheisel, Dolores Salhuana, Peggy Moroney and Woody Wilson.

Woody - for a third year — is lining up the musical entertainment for the March 3 Hayden's Ferry Day Festival at the Tempe Community Complex at Southern Avenue and Rural Road. The



IN THE PERSONA of Hayden's Ferry/Tempe founder Charles Trumbull Hayden, Tempe Historical Society President Vic Linoff introduced Arizona's Official State Historian Marshall Trimble at the Society's first annual Hayden's Ferry Days. Trimble, who grew up in the Tempe-Mesa area, entertained at a celebration-opening dinner for donors.

Tempe History Museum-sponsored festival has been the biggest crowd-draw of the Hayden's Ferry Days in its first two runnings. This year's festival activities will include local and regional entertainment groups, food trucks, displays, booths and demonstrators as it has in the past. New to the mix, though, will be an antique fair staged by the Hayden Ferry Questers.

On Sunday, March 4, Hayden's Ferry Days "Historic Tour Day" opens with a morning "Walk Through History Tour" in downtown Tempe. The Tour Day also will again open doors of some of Tempe's most fascinating historic places to the public including its most famous Valley-wide - the seldom open Petersen House and the fabulous hilltop Eisendrath House where the Rio Salado Foundation will sponsor a tour and "Afternoon Tea."

Also seldom open to the public, the adobe Elias-Rodriguez house on old Eighth Street will be part of Sunday's historic houses tours. Except for a small patch, the canal that once fronted that property (and watered its date palms) has long been covered over. Only one of the cottonwood trees that lined the canal along Eighth Street survives and it's struggling.

In addition to being a part of Tour Day, Tempe Sister Cities will join Tempe Historical Society in sponsoring a celebration-opening Founder's Dinner for HFD sponsors, donors, partners and volunteers at its Hackett House headquarters on the evening of March 2. Early-day German immigrant William Hilge opened Tempe's first bakery in that 1888-built house and lived "upstairs." Another famous Tempean, Estelle Craig Hackett and her husband Roy made it their home later - and Estelle initially operated the town's very first telephone switchboard on the bottom floor "bakery store."

The Society's community partners this year include - in addition to Tempe History Museum and Tempe Sister Cities - the Rio Salado Foundation, Hayden Ferry Questers, Downtown Tempe Council, Veterans Oral History Project and Tempe Historic Preservation Foundation.

Go Back In Time For Christmas At Famed Petersen House

Tempe's most-treasured historic house, the 125-year-old Queen Anne Victorian-style Petersen House at 1414 West Southern Avenue, isn't often open to anyone except its Tempe History Museum caretakers.

But again this holiday season, the public will have an opportunity to go back in time for a Victorian era Christmas at the onetime home of Danish seaman, turned prosperous Tempe pioneer-farmer-rancher-businessman AND popular community leader and supporter Niels Petersen. His showcase home was designed by famed Arizona architect James Creighton and built in 1892 - just in time for Petersen to bring his new wife Susanna Decker from Pennsylvania to a, literally, new home in Tempe. His first wife, teacher Isabel Dumphey, died in childbirth a year after their marriage, their baby boy not long after

Susanna already had a friend when she came to town. She was related to Tempean Lucile Hanna (later Mrs. Howard Pyle, even later Arizona's "First Lady" when her husband became Arizona Governor). The Petersens hosted the picnic at which the Tempe Old Settlers Annual Reunion, still going strong today, was founded.

Susanna died in October 1927, four years after Niels died. Her nephew Rev. Edward Decker inherited the house, He built the porch along its south and east side.



In holiday dress, the Petersen house was scheduled to be open to the public Sundays and Mondays, December 3-4, 10-11 and 17-18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The house has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1977 - but it became a very special place to Tempeans long before that.

AT TEMPE HISTORY MUSEUM:

You'll Want To Take In...

Some Holiday Musical Cheer

Having a hard time getting into the holiday spirit? You'll get there in style at a pair of December "Performances at the Museum." On the 15th, those merry musicians, the SunPunchers, will help bring on a holiday mood with a 7 p.m. performance; and an Azure Family Concert with Tetra String Quartet will lift holiday spirits for children and young adults with autism (or similar challenges), their family members and caregivers at a 3 p.m. family concert on the 16th. Free tickets are available for the latter at www.tetraquartet.org.

An Evening With FABRIC

Tempe History Museum's January "Third Thursday at the Museum" event will bring Arizona fashion designers to the museum, 809 East Southern Avenue, on January 18, 2018 for a "Behind the Seams" look at fashion in our state. The 7 p.m. presentation, open free to the public, is being presented by (and on the topic of) FABRIC - Fashion and Business Resource Innovation Center - a kind of headquarters for Arizona fashion professionals who can do everything from designing and manufacturing to celebrating fashions.

More TDN Photos Exhibit

While 1970s' *Tempe Daily News* Photographer Jan Young's photos in Tempe History Museum's Changing Gallery are the "big show" at the museum, there are other TDN photos on show in the Community Room Gallery. Those are from the final period of the *Tempe Daily News* (which marked its 100th birthday in 1987 before it was swallowed up to become part of the *East Valley Tribune*).



CUTTING THE RIBBON for recent well-attended opening of Tempe History Museum's exhibit of lots of 1970s' Tempe Daily News photographer Jan Young's TDN photos of local people and events was Jan's great granddaughter Janella, aided by her three children. Among those joining in were (2nd row from left) Jan's son Mark Kirschner. Museum staffer Josh Roffler who coordinated the exhibit (2nd row left) and Mark's son (far right) and (at right of Janella) former Tempe Mayor Harry Mitchell. That's Lawn Griffiths, a former TDN editor, in the red shirt in the background. (See story, page 4)

- Dan Miller Museum Photo

TEMPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018

Victor Linoff President	Ray Devine Treasurer	Mary Ann Kwilosz Board Member	Woody Wilson Board Member	Anne Chandler Board Member
Richard Bauer Past President	Carter Rogers Secretary	Eduarda Yates Board Member	Marcie Gorman Board Member	Onnie Shekerjian Board Member
(Larry Mishler, Vice-President & Peggy Bryant, Board Member serve also as newsletter co-chairmen)				
				Michael Monti Board Member

Continuing A Tradition . . . The Tree Of Lights

Tempeans had an opportunity again this December to remember loved ones who have passed away or to honor people in their lives or in the community they feel are deserving of special recognition - and do it in a very special and public way.

A tradition begun by then-Historical Society President Larry Campbell in 2002 (and now named for him) - the Tempe Historical Society's *Tree of Lights* project debuted for a 16th annual running with a reception for special people on Sunday afternoon, December 3, at Tempe History Museum, 809 East Southern Avenue. But the "project" - in which the Veterans History Project, Friends of the Tempe Public Library and Tempe Friendship Village are partners - will make a festive and very special addition to the Museum's holiday-decorated lobby for other visitors to enjoy for the the rest of the season.

The reception was for invited family members or friends of those who were being remembered or honored with special ornaments on the pair of Christmas trees (see picture at right) bearing their names on beribboned tags. Also invited guests were those who donated the \$10 per ornament to have deceased loved ones remembered or special people honored by ornaments on the trees. At holiday season's end, the tagged ornaments will be given to honorees or a family member of those who are deceased.

Funds from the donations for the special ornaments have special purposes, too. Those on the Society's tree for "civilians" help the Historical Society and the Museum keep on recording the stories of Tempe's pioneer families and prominent citizens for a permanent Museum collection. (And in case you didn't know, a group of folks who started interviewing and writing stories of Tempe pioneer families on their own in the late 1960s in advance of Tempe's 1971 Centennial Year became the founding members of Tempe Historical Society and began the campaign for a Tempe museum.)

Those on the second tree especially honor Tempe veterans and funds from its ornaments donations go to the Veterans History Project - part of a nation-wide project to record our wartimes veterans stories. Locally it's a volunteer program of Tempe Connections at Tempe Public Library. Nationally, the Veterans History Project (which also honors civilians actively involved in supporting war efforts) was established by Congress in 2000 and is sponsored by the Library of Congress

In addition to enjoying the decorated trees and searching for their honorees' ornaments, guests at the Tree of Lights reception were treated to holiday music by the excellent **Marcos de Niza High School Chamber Singers**, directed by Darin Shryock.



Two Special Trees Hold Memories For Some

Historical Society Board President **Victor Linoff** welcomed guests who also heard from Veterans History Project Coordinator **Dave Engelhardt**, **Larry Conway** of Friends of the Tempe Library and Tempe Community Action Agency officer **Julietta Soto**. Three decorated mini-Christmas trees that bedecked the refreshment table were to go to TCAA for its new offices.. Refreshments were provided by the Historical Society and Honeymoon Sweets, P. Croissant, Squarz Bakery & Cafe and Starbucks.

Mary Ann Kwilosz, the Historical Society Board member who makes all of THS's special events special with her flair for "putting on a party," especially wants to thank the History Museum staffers who helped out with the Tree of Lights event.

TDN Past Photographers View Jan's Photo Exhibit Too

One of the largest crowds yet for an exhibit opening at Tempe History Museum turned out on November 3 for the debut of its "**Jan Young: Photographing Tempe in the 1970s**" exhibit in the Changing Gallery - among them some other former TDN photographers.

Visitors enjoyed meandering through the rows of many hundreds of Jan's pictures posted on huge tubes - some of the visitors finding themselves in the photos chronicling life in its many forms in a decade of changes in Tempe - and listening to an accompanying video about her. The evening also included stories about Jan, one of the first fulltime female news photographers in the Valley, and the *Tempe Daily News* - some of those stories from the Museum's coordinator for the exhibit Josh Roffler. Continuous music by guitarist Robby Roberson and refreshments provided by the Tempe Historical Society kept visitors busy too.

Among the attendees, in addition to many members of Jan's family (see photo page 3), were past TDN photographers **Bob Connolly** (center back row in the photo at left), son of TDN publishers Frank and Irma Connolly and the newspaper's high tech guru; **Chuck Hawley** and **Larry Mishler** (l & r in the photo's front row). Others in that photo who weren't at the exhibit opening are (top left and right) **Larry McGrath** and **Leigh Bradbury** and (far right) **Gary Karcz**. Also attending the opening exhibit were former TDN editors **Peggy Bryant** and **Lawn Griffiths**. The photo was taken by another TDN photographer, **Tony Lesce**.

