



Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

Volume 27 Issue 2

April Adams, Editor

December 2013

AGA January Meeting, Monday January 6, 2014

5:00pm to 6:00pm - Suggested happy hour at El Chorro Lodge, 5500 E. Lincoln. Complimentary hors d'oeuvre buffet (this is not an AGA function). El Chorro will not have separate seating for us and will not be aware of any group function. This is on your own.

6:15pm -Meeting check in at the Friar Owen Room at the Franciscan Renewal Center/Casa de Paz y Bien - 5802 E. Lincoln. Register for a door prize with a business card or index card cut to business card size. Guests are certainly welcome and encouraged but will not participate in the prize drawing. Please note that food will not be provided at this meeting.

6:30pm – 7:30pm- Meeting begins with a representative from the Casa providing a history of the site and overview of the Center's outreach.

Representatives of Sami Jewelry of Fountain Hills will follow with a presentation focusing on Arizona amethyst.

The evening will conclude with our regular business meeting.

We appreciate representatives from the Casa and Sami's offering their time to us, and we hope you are able to join us in honoring their efforts. Program Committee: Jana Powell and Sharon Waldie

Peridot

Jewelry expert **Scott Bohall** on the Arizona gem. BESIDES BEING AN underappreciated gem, the August birthstone peridot is often mispronounced. The last syllable ends in a long sound, as in *depot*, but even many in the jewelry world pronounce it *dot*! What's more, it's rarely referred to as an Arizona gem. Most peridot seen in jewelry stores is a pale lime green that originates in China. Some of the finest peridot comes from a couple of locations in Arizona, often on Indian reservation land. We carry about 90 percent Arizona peridot and only use local material in the pieces we manufacture. Like most gems, the small and low-quality materials are quite common and cheap. The finer gems and larger gems are becoming rare, as the world is buying them faster than they can be mined or cut. Most peridot is used in jewelry, but it also helps geologists determine how old a meteorite or a rock in the earth is. The oldest rocks on the planet have either been identified by natural peridot crystals or natural zircon crystals. We know that peridot has existed for over four billion years, and yet in 2013 many consumers and jewelry sales people have little information about how it forms, where it comes from, or how to take care of it. Prices can range from below \$1 per carat for low-grade material or beads to several hundred dollars per carat for the finest.



November AGA Meeting at Sky Harbor International Airport

Thank you to the City Archaeologist Laurene Montero who told us about the excavation that has been going on by the Sky Train. And to Sam ____ of Operations _____, along with Jody in Landside, informed us about the future changes that are planned for the airport. We went on a walking tour of the new Sky Train terminal.

What is AGA

Many of you have been having some questions about the goals of the ARIZONA GUIDES ASSOCIATION. We would like to clarify our position as to the objectives of this organization with regard to continuing education and certification. We feel by virtue of the fact you have chosen to be or are considering being a tour guide in this state, you are interested in this area, its culture, history and on-going events. As a group, we feel that one of the things we share in common is a desire to be knowledgeable about this area. By uniting we can share a tremendous amount of knowledge by using our intra-group network. We can also as a group, avail ourselves of a wealth of information from outside sources which might not be available to us as individuals. In this way we serve the group and ourselves in the area of continuing education.

We prepare ourselves for certification when we decide we are ready for that step. An outline will be provided, upon request, to each certification applicant that will familiarize him or her in the areas to be covered. Certification is a benefit which is strictly voluntary, a step to be taken when each individual feels he or she is ready. It is not a qualification for being a member of this organization, and a member or prospective member should not feel intimidated about certification. Rather it should be a normal step to be undertaken when a member has gained by both experience and research, a level of expertise where the certification examination becomes a goal instead of a challenge. One must be a member for one year before they are qualified to take this certification test. Jan Hertzberg, Lois Godward, Jane Eden. 1988



Familiarization (FAM) Trip to Southern Arizona!

Monday, November 18th—8th Annual Tucson Ambassador Fam sponsored by the southern Arizona Attraction Alliance. It was an amazing day. (Plus: on Nov. 16-17, we received a complimentary pass for admission to over 20 attractions in the Tucson area.) We had the option of touring many different pre-arranged areas of attractions; which was followed by a tradeshow and luncheon hosted at Old Tucson. This was organized by Susan Deem, SAAA Vice-President and staff and all those that participated...

“ART ALL-AROUND; Public Art, Sculpture, and some Architecture”December 5, 2013

A big thank you to **Howard Christensen** for planning this delightful Day! Here are the highlights of the places we visited:

1. Scottsdale Civic Plaza Mall Public Art Walk: Brenda Curry with guest presenter Carolyn Robbins, SCPA Ann Swetish, presenter Loren Phippen. Short Old Town/Fifth Ave route.
2. Shemer Art Center presentation: Janette Bell with guest presenter Jocelyn Hansen, Executive Director hosting a coffee service.
3. Kevin Caron Sculpture Studio: Howard Christensen with presenters Mary Westheimer and Kevin
- 4 Phoenix Art Museum Café / Dorrance Sculpture Garden: Cheryl Schulz, PAM docent presenting. Luncheon, Janette Bell with guest presenter Kristen Pierce, Organizational Services Coordinator, Arizona Commission on the Arts.
5. Downtown Phoenix sculpture drive to Phoenix City Hall.
6. City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture Public Art Program presentation; April Adams with presenter Edward Lebow, Public Art Program Director.
7. Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza: Mary Alice Daenzer with presenter Luke Bate, Assistant Manager Arizona State Capitol Museum.

Thank you to all who helped with the presentations.

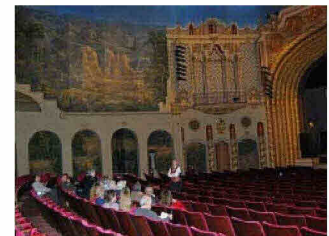
The Orpheum Theatre



The Orpheum Theatre was built in 1929, just prior to the Great Depression, and is the last remaining example of theatre palace architecture in Phoenix. The Orpheum Theatre was built by Joe E. Rickards and Harry Nace, at a cost of \$750,000. It was the last and largest major construction project in Phoenix just before the depression. When it opened on January 5, 1929, it was the pride of Phoenix.

A **movie palace** is a term used to refer to the large, elaborately decorated movie theaters built between the 1910s and the 1940s. The late 1920s saw the peak of the

movie palace, with hundreds opened every year between 1925 and 1930.



There are three building types in particular which can be included under the label movie palace. First, the classical style movie palace, with its eclectic and luxurious period-revival architecture; second, the atmospheric theatre which has an auditorium ceiling that resembles an open sky as its defining feature and finally, the Art Deco theaters that became popular in the 1930s. It is an eclectic style that combines traditional craft motifs with Machine Age imagery and materials. The style is often characterized by rich colors, bold geometric shapes, and lavish ornamentation.

As their name implies, movie palaces, like other products of the age, were advertised to "make the average citizen feel like royalty." The movie palace's signature look was one of extravagant ornamentation. The theaters were often designed with an eclectic exoticism where a variety of referenced visual styles collided wildly with one another. French Baroque, High Gothic, Moroccan, Mediterranean, Spanish Gothic, Hindu, Babylonian, Aztec, Mayan, Orientalist, Italian Renaissance, and (after the discovery of King Tut's tomb in 1922) Egyptian Revival, were all variously mixed and matched. This wealth of ornament was not merely for aesthetic effect. It was meant to create a fantasy

environment to attract moviegoers and involved a type of social engineering, distraction, and traffic management, meant to work on human bodies and minds in a specific way.

Detailed arches, niches and columns were complimented by zodiac designs in the lobby door panels, a peacock design on the circular staircase, and an auditorium ceiling that changed from a golden sunset into a starry sky with moving clouds. Over the years the impressive wall murals were painted black, four of the seven proscenium “ropes” were removed to widen the stage, and much of the fabulous lobby and interior detail were painted neutral.

Our Orpheum Theater is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the only theatre in the greater Phoenix area on the National Register of Historic Places. It was built as a venue for vaudeville acts. In the early years the Theatre showed a new movie every Saturday and Tuesday. On Thursdays a five-act vaudeville show played two performances.

The original theatre included a Meisel and Sullivan 3/11 pipe organ. Using primarily Gottfried pipework, the instrument was billed as a “Symphony of Pipes”. When vaudeville faded, the Orpheum became the best place in town to see a movie, earning the reputation as the “Grand Dame of Movie Theaters.

In 1949 the Orpheum was sold to a national movie theater chain and was renamed the Paramount, but it was still the people’s choice for seeing a movie. Over the next 20 years there was a gradual decline in patronage as new theaters in the suburbs with better sound systems and bigger, wider screens began taking their toll on the theatre.

Impresario James Nederlander bought the Orpheum in 1968 to add to his string of playhouses for touring Broadway dramas and musical productions. The organ was ordered removed so the space could be used for other purposes. He renamed the Theatre Palace West but soon realized that forty years of service and periodic neglect meant extensive, expensive improvements would be necessary to continue presenting first class productions. He removed the venue from his national touring circuit and leased the building to the Corona family in 1977, who showed Spanish language films for several years.

In the early 1980’s Nederlander put the building up for sale. Developer Jim Kaufman purchased the Orpheum and turned it over to the City of Phoenix at no cost with the understanding that it would be completely rebuilt and refurbished. Shortly thereafter, the Junior League of Phoenix began planning how to accomplish that mission and in 1987 work began to return the “Grand Dame” to its full beauty and grandeur.

On January 29, 1997, the \$14,500,000 completely renovated landmark opened its doors again under the ownership and operation of the City of Phoenix, Civic Plaza Department with a production of *Hello Dolly* starring Carol Channing

The Orpheum Theatre is now an internationally recognized showcase for arts and entertainment. It is a home to music, dance, drama, comedy and everything in between, as the Orpheum’s first-rate acoustics, equipment, and accommodations for both the performers and patrons are without peer. The fully-staffed, state-of-the-art theater provides a unique theater-going experience like no other venue in the Southwest.

The Orpheum Theatre has 1,062 seats at the orchestra level and 302 seats in the balcony.

The Orpheum offers free docent-led tours from time to time. On this docent-led tour of the Orpheum, you'll learn not only about its history, but also about the renovations that were made after the City of Phoenix took over the ownership and operation of the theatre.

They are usually the first and third Tuesday of the month, or more often during the winter holiday season. Check the calendar of events for the next tour date. The tour is offered for free. You'll probably have to pay for parking, and the nearest parking garage is at the Wells Fargo Building, on 1st Avenue, south of Adams. Reservations required: call 602-495-7139. Groups of 10 or more may schedule a private tour. April Adams

GARDENS OF WONDER HISTORICAL LANDSCAPES OF ARIZONA

BY TRACY HOUSE

Since the Ancient Hanging Gardens of Babylon, we've been awed by the beauty and wonder of gardens. Arizona's diverse scenery inspires that same wonder with its lush landscapes that have been preserved and revered for decades. Throughout the state, arboretums provide a historical, picturesque legacy of the desert blooms and unique flora that paint the Arizona landscape. Celebrate this distinctiveness on Earth Day and throughout April in the gardens of Arizona. Learn the edible and medicinal uses of prickly pear cactus fruit during summertime classes at Boyce Thompson Arboretum; they're typically offered when the fruits ripen in August.

DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN - For 70 years, the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix has been educating and fostering an appreciation for the desert landscape. Located on 145 acres across Papago Park, the Garden is home to more than 50,000 plant displays, including rare and endangered plant species, as well as indigenous flora from the Sonoran Desert. Considered a "Phoenix Point of Pride," the Garden is committed to the core values of stewardship, interdependence authenticity, and accountability, and welcomes more than 600,000 visitors each year. It is one of only 20 botanical gardens accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. *Green living | April 2013*

HAPPENINGS



February 1, 2015. Glendale in danger of losing events surrounding 2015 Super Bowl FYI for you or anyone interested in the Super Bowl 2015 news.

<http://azsuperbowl.com/>

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2013/10/02/glendale-in-danger-of-losing-events-surrounding-2015-super-bowl/>,

<http://www.downtownphoenixjournal.com/tag/arizona-super-bowl-host-committee/>.

Submitted by Elizabeth Stahl Parkinson

Southwest Indian Art Fair 2014 in Tucson

February 22 & 23 on the Museum's Front Lawn Mark your calendars now! Arizona State Museum's signature event is February 22 and 23, 2014. Join us for a wonderful weekend of culture, art, performance, and food on the museum's front lawn, **rain or shine!** . Meet 200+ Native artists, many of them award winners. Talk with them about their work and learn about the cultural significance that informs, inspires, and imbues their work. Top-quality, handmade art includes pottery, Hopi katsina dolls, paintings, jewelry, baskets, rugs, blankets, and much more. Artist demonstrations, Native food, music, and dance performances round out the two-day

celebration at the University of Arizona, Park Ave. and University Blvd. (1013 E. University Blvd.) in Tucson.

Hours :**Saturday:** 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ;**Sunday:** 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. **Admission- Adults:** \$10.00

Clarksdale

In December, Clarksdale has an Art Walk and Open House. The Chamber of Commerce puts this on with a reenactment of the famous Clarksdale Bank robbery. They have six properties to go thru with persons there to tell us the history of each... This year they served hot chocolate and cookies at the end of the tour. They had a great turn out this year, which may be to the new book out called EMPTY MANSIONS. This book is about William Clark, who built Clarksdale for his workers and miners. It is also the story of Huguette Clark, his daughter, who just died leaving 44 million dollars for the Clark heirs to fight over. An interesting piece of history in our back yard. Joan Day.

Chihuly in the Garden

November 10, 2013 to May 18, 2014 Discovery and surprise await you on the Garden trails. [Artist Dale Chihuly](#) returns to the Desert Botanical Garden this fall with a stunning exhibition of his extraordinary and vibrant works of art. Chihuly is credited with revolutionizing the Studio Glass movement and elevating the perception of the glass medium from craft to fine art. He is renowned for his ambitious architectural installations around the world, in historic cities, museums and gardens.
<http://www.dbg.org/events-exhibitions/chihuly>

The Arizona Coach Talker

AGA Newsletter

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