

TIME LINES



A New Name, Tag Line and Logo

As **Tom Canasi**, retired Community Services Manager, liked to say, “We are losing an *ical*.” The Tempe Historical Museum is now the Tempe History Museum. Why the change? Because the museum is about history, not merely historical itself. Because the museum wants a distinct identity from the Tempe Historical Society and the Arizona Historical Society. Because the museum is following a trend that has been set by other history museums around the country.

The museum also has adopted a new tag line to more closely reflect the vision and interpretive framework. “Step into History” has served the museum well over the years, but the advisory board and staff decided it was time to develop a tag line that more directly speaks to the interactive nature of the visitor experience. From now on visitors will be invited to “Explore the Past. Discover Community.”

To complete the package the staff wanted a more contemporary looking logo that has a visual connection to the old logo and reflects Tempe’s unique identity. Gyroscope, Inc., the firm that is designing the new exhibit hall, has developed a logo package that allows for the flexibility to use the museum’s new name with or without the bridge graphic, and to adapt the logo to various formats such as posters, banners, t-shirts and other printed media. With a new name, tag line and logo, the museum’s transformation is almost complete.



Demolition was still ongoing in the museum’s exhibit hall when the photo on the left was taken on May 8. The front façade was demolished on May 20.

Construction is Underway!

The fences around the construction site at the museum went up in mid April. The construction area was sealed off from the parts of the building that will not be renovated. As a result, there is no direct access to the public side of the museum, either from the exterior or the interior, and it is now a hard hat area. Demolition began in early May. The exhibit gallery has been entirely gutted. The public restrooms, classroom and gift shop are gone. The space has really opened up! Seeing the empty hull of the exhibit gallery has been a bit of *déjà vu* for the staff members who witnessed the last renovations in 1990 and 1991.

The front façade of the museum was demolished from the front room of the office area through the classroom the week of May 18. This area will be occupied by the new community room, expanded lobby and entry court. It was fascinating to watch the large excavator peel away at the building, surgically removing columns, lintels, brick and concrete! The project is shifting gears and the building phase of the project has begun. The façade should be completed by this fall and all of the construction will be completed by the end of the year.

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Construction (Continued from page 1)

The process of mounting all of the exhibits will take place after the construction is completed. Watch for the opening of the new Tempe History Museum in the spring of 2010!

Photographs of the demolition process are posted on the museum's web site. Go to www.tempe.gov/museum. Click on the hard hat on the front page of the web site to find a link to the photos.

Museum Welcomes New Advisory Board Member

As a fourth-generation Arizonan, **Julie Symopoulos** is no stranger to Arizona. She's no stranger to Tempe either having lived here for close to 20 years. Julie was born in Phoenix and attended Trevor Brown High School, but she later moved to Tempe to be close to other family members.



When asked why she volunteered to serve on the Tempe History Museum Advisory Board, Julie noted her family history in Tempe; she raised her son Derrick here. In addition, the fact that Derrick is now grown and on his own and Julie has completed graduate school, leaves her with free time for volunteering.

Julie has worked for Maricopa County for more than 12 years, serving as public information officer for their transportation and public works departments. She recently started a new job in Emergency Management where she serves as Communications and Operations Manager. She feels her work in government will be a "plus" as a member of the advisory board. Though still getting acclimated to the board, Julie has set a goal of working to have the museum reach out to more community groups in Tempe and to have the museum celebrate diversity even more.

Tempe History Detectives Program

Congratulations to the museum's newest Tempe Junior History Detective, **Zachary Heath**.

While the museum is closed for renovation, the History Detectives program is still available online. Visit www.tempe.gov/museum and click on the link on the museum's home page.



Two Awarded Volunteer Emeritus Status at Ice Cream Social

The museum's annual Volunteer Ice Cream Social was held on April 23. Two former volunteers, **Lynn Drury** and **William H. Wallace**, were awarded *Volunteer Emeritus* status. This award recognizes them for their many years of service to the museum and for the significant contributions they made during their tenure as volunteers.

Drury served in the Tempe Historical Society Gift Shop from 1990 until its closing in April 2008 and was a valued member of its management team. In this capacity, she served on the buying committee, clerked and helped maintain the shop. Wallace served as a museum docent taking visitors through the museum's exhibit hall and leading education programs for Tempe's high school students. He also was very involved with the Tempe Historical Society where he served as President, as well as organizing fund raising events to benefit the museum.

Four volunteers were recognized at the ice cream social for reaching significant service anniversaries. **Gail Fisher**, **Judy Knoth** and **Lisa Roach** have volunteered at the museum for more than five years; and **James Evans** has served for 15 years.

The event was held at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center due to the museum's closure for renovation. That didn't stop staff from decorating and dressing up as has become a tradition. This year's theme was *construction*, an obvious choice. Decked out in jeans, hard hats, and tool belts, staff served up ice cream and led activities. These included a "construction" competition with tinker toys. "Team Snell" won by creating the tallest freestanding structure at 126 inches!

Congratulations to the honorees and thank you to *all* the museum volunteers for their continued service and hard work at the museum.

Upcoming Closures

PETERSEN HOUSE MUSEUM

Closed for cleaning and conservation from June 28 through September 7.

JULY 3

Museum offices closed for Independence Day.

SEPTEMBER 7

Museum offices closed for Labor Day.

Would you like to receive **Time Lines** electronically, rather than in print? It will save the Tempe History Museum Money and you will reduce waste!

Here's how:

Go to www.tempe.gov/museum and click on the link that says, "Subscribe to Time Lines." You will receive a notification by email when the new edition is available.

If you want to make certain that your address is removed from the mailing list for the print version, send a short email with your mailing address to museum@tempe.gov to let us know that you've subscribed to the electronic edition.

Retirements Lead to Reorganization

The City of Tempe offered a voluntary separation package for employees who wished to retire or voluntarily resign their positions in order to avoid laying off employees whose jobs were slated for elimination. There has been an overwhelming response to the offer. As a result, several employees in the Community Services Department (of which the museum is a part) retired in June. Additional employees will be leaving the city's employ in June of 2010.

Among those who retired this June are **Tom Canasi**, Community Services Department Manager and **Teri Metros**, Deputy Community Services Manager who is in charge of the Library Division. Rather than filling Teri's position, it is being eliminated. The dollar savings will go to fund one or more librarian positions that otherwise would have been eliminated.

Adrienne Richwine, Deputy Community Services Manager currently in charge of the Cultural Services Division, will now assume responsibility for the library as well. This reorganization will result in a reduction from three to two deputy managers. **Kathy Berzins**, Deputy Community Services Manager in charge of the Social Services Division, will be assuming the role of interim Department Manager until the Manager's position is filled.

In addition to improving the cost effectiveness of the department, combining the Cultural Services and Library Divisions will foster more partnerships and cooperative programming among the museum, library and public arts. These partnerships eventually will create a "Campus of Culture" where families can enjoy day-long programs, experiencing history, literature and the fine arts.

Tom Canasi Retires

After 34 years, the manager of the Community Services Department, **Tom Canasi**, decided it was time for other adventures. He retired on June 18. Canasi started in October 1975 as a Community Youth Assistant. Over the years, he worked his way up to Social Services specialist, supervisor, division head, Deputy Community Services Manager, and in 2001, Community Services Department Manager. Tom spearheaded the capitol improvement project to renovate the museum building. Other capitol projects in which Tom was instrumental include the Tempe Center for the Arts, as well as the Westside Community Center and the North Tempe Multi-Generational Center.



Remember that you can visit our exhibit on Mill Avenue.

Thanks to **DMB Associates**, the museum has a storefront exhibit space at 680 South Mill Avenue that features the museum's renovation. Also at this site are some historic photos of downtown buildings. Try being a *Photo Detective* and determine which businesses now occupy these downtown Tempe buildings.



Bring your camera so that you can get a photo of yourself viewing the exhibit. Send it to museum@tempe.gov. You will be entered into a drawing to receive a personal invitation to the preview reception for the renovated museum. Get a jump on seeing the amazing changes before the museum reopens to the public!

Ann Poulos Retires



Ann Poulos, Curator of Collections, retired on June 25. Ann began working at the Tempe Historical Museum in 1991, during the time that the former Tempe Public Library was being renovated to become the new home for the museum. Ann recalls seeing the 12,000 square feet of empty space that was to become the storage area for the museum's three-dimensional collection and

being excited by the challenge. It was her job to oversee the purchase and installation of all the shelving and cabinetry, then to unpack the collections that had been stored during the construction.

Over the years, Ann has used her skills of determination, leadership and creativity to benefit the museum and its programs in many ways. In 1993 she became a charter member in the Hayden's Ferry Questers. This organization later selected the Petersen House Museum for its historic preservation project. To date, the organization's annual fundraising antique seminars, supplemented by International and State Questers' grants, have raised close to \$50,000. This money has been used to enhance the Petersen House by paying for household accessories, restoration and renovations. Ann was also the liaison to the Tempe Garden Club after they received a grant to provide flowers, plants, pots and informational signage about the landscaping at the Petersen House.

Among her many accomplishments, Ann has served as president for both the Central Arizona Museum Association and the Museum Association of Arizona. In 1995, she curated *Stepping Out: Social Attire in Territorial Tempe*, a very popular exhibit at the museum. Ann also co-authored a grant application that provided \$82,000 in funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to purchase software that has allowed many of the museum's collections to be placed online. In 2005, Ann received a City of Tempe Site Supervisor award for her work with volunteer Arizona State University interior design students who researched details for period furnishings at the Petersen House.

In speaking about her career with the museum, Ann said, "I see my work as merely a contribution to the institution's foundation, laying out the work and programs for the next curator to build upon and enhance. The renovation is providing the museum with a new perspective as it moves into the 21st century. Thank you, Tempe, for providing a great place for me to work!"

Martha Grimm, Textile/Costume Conservator, who has worked with Ann several times throughout the years, stated, "Ann is a person who is always on the go, whether it is helping with volunteers, finding artifacts for an exhibit, building storage mounts for hats or helping others with their projects. I know she isn't going to stop in retirement; she will just go in a different direction."

We will all miss Ann's enthusiasm and expertise, but we wish her well as she journeys into the next phase of her life!



Explore the Past, Discover Community

Time Lines is a quarterly newsletter for museum supporters and volunteers.

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Comments, suggestions?
Call 480-350-5100.

TEMPE HISTORY MUSEUM
HOURS
Closed until Spring 2010

PETERSEN HOUSE HOURS
Tuesday - Thursday and Saturday
10 am - 2 pm
Closed June 28 through Sept. 7

Visit the museum's website at
www.tempe.gov/museum



Passings

The museum lost three long-time friends and loyal supporters during the month of May. They will be sorely missed.

Catherine "Biddy" Hayden passed away on May 10. She was a member of one of Tempe's founding families and one of the first members of the Tempe Historical Society. Biddy served as president of the Society from 1988 to 1990 and was a lifetime member. She volunteered for the museum, assisting in the collections area. Biddy also was a member of the Historical Museum Advisory Board from 1984 to 1990 and served as Vice Chair in 1986 and 1987.

Ralph Coleman Blanton, a Tempe Historical Society member, passed away on May 11 at the age of 79. In 2002, he and his wife **Shirley** volunteered to assist the museum with the research and planning for the exhibit, *Fighting Fires*, a history of the Tempe Fire Department. Ralph was a member of the Tempe Volunteer Fire Department and became a paid firefighter when the Tempe Fire Department was formed in 1961.

Marie P. Rice, lifetime member and past president of the Tempe Historical Society, passed away on May 21 at the age of 93. She served as the Society's president from 1990 to 1992. While Marie was President, she was responsible for signing the agreement that transferred the Tempe Historical Society's collections to the city of Tempe. She volunteered in the collections area of the museum and in the Tempe Historical Society's gift shop, here at the museum.

The Tempe History Museum is a center where the community comes together to celebrate Tempe's past and ponder the future.