

TIME LINES



Capitol Funds to Transform Museum

The museum will undergo a significant transformation in the next two years, thanks to the foresight of City Council and Tempe voters who overwhelmingly approved the sale of municipal bonds. The Community Services Department submitted a request for \$3.5 million in capitol improvement (construction) funds to completely overhaul the museum exhibit gallery, expand classroom space and make other much-needed improvements to the museum facility. These funds will become available with the new fiscal year in July 2006. Several months will be dedicated to conducting a needs assessment and planning the changes.

The main exhibit gallery has remained relatively unchanged since its opening in 1991. During the past 15 years, much additional research has brought new information to light concerning Tempe's diverse history and its development into an urban area. Since 1991, the staff and advisory board have adopted a community history approach, an interpretive framework, and a new mission statement, none of which are reflected in the current exhibits. The new gallery will include more flexible space that will facilitate changes and updates. This flexibility will allow us to keep the information current and give visitors more reasons to return. Technology unavailable 15 years ago also will be incorporated into the exhibits, bringing the gallery up to date and engaging our visitors. More classroom space will be added to accommodate programs such as Wild Wednesdays and school group activities.

We will keep you informed of upcoming changes through this newsletter and on our website at www.tempe.gov/museum. This project will involve a great deal of planning and construction of the new gallery will necessitate a disruption in the museum's normal operations. However, the final product, a museum that better reflects Tempe's history and serves the needs of our visitors, will be well worth it. Stay tuned for more exciting news!



During a recent visit to the museum with his wife and twin daughters, **Jason Williams** identified himself as the boy who has been seen on the cover of the Tempe Historical Museum's informational brochure for the last 15 years.

Continuing Exhibits

A Proud Journey Home: Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese Communities in Arizona

This exhibit explores Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese refugee experiences in Tempe 30 years after the Vietnam War. Featured are oral histories, photographs and objects from these communities. The exhibit was funded in part through an Arizona Humanities Council "We the People" grant. Since it opened, it has received several awards: Diversity Award, City of Tempe; Best Adaptation to Stated Theme Award, Museum Association of Arizona; Award of Merit, American Association of State and Local History. Due to the popularity of this exhibit, it has been extended.

Tempe in the 1930s

This exhibit looks at life in Tempe during the Great Depression. It was researched and written by Corona del Sol High School students with the guidance of **Eric Ladue**, Social Studies Chair. Funded by an Arizona Heritage Project grant from Salt River Project, the exhibit is open through January 25, 2007.

A Day in the Life of Mill Avenue: a different show every hour

Mill Avenue District, the heart of Tempe, is alive with memorable people and inviting activities every hour of the day and night. Come along for a photographic stroll through the Mill Avenue District during the past year. Photographer **Larry Mishler** created this photo-essay. It is open through January 25, 2007.

Foundation Fundraiser Exceeds Expectations

On Saturday, May 6, the **Tempe Historic Preservation Foundation (THPF)** hosted a fundraising dinner in Plencner Plaza in front of the museum to generate funds for the restoration of the Eisendrath House and other historic Tempe landmarks. The dinner, entitled "A Night to Preserve," was dedicated to the memory of **Evelyn Hallman**, community activist and mother of **Mayor Hugh Hallman**. Mrs. Hallman was co-founder of THPF. The foundation advocates preserving Tempe's at-risk historic properties and supporting worthy preservation projects through education, community participation and fundraising. The Tempe Historical Museum and **Tempe Leadership Class XXI** partnered with THPF to produce this first-time event.

Over 300 guests attended the gala that featured a silent auction, museum scavenger hunt, exhibits on the Eisendrath House and family, dinner under the stars, music by **A Corporate Affair** and a live auction. In his remarks, **Mayor Hallman** spoke about Papago Park as an historic, recreational and cultural district made possible through a partnership among Tempe, Phoenix and Scottsdale. He noted that the Eisendrath House will be a significant landmark in this district.

Heritage sponsors were **Michael A. Pollack**, president and founder of Michael A. Pollack Investments, and **Frank Eisendrath**, the grandson of **Rose Eisendrath** who built the two-story adobe home in Papago Park. **Edie Arrowsmith** also made a sizable donation for the restoration of the Eisendrath House. Among the corporate sponsors were **Hardison/Downey Construction, Inc.**; **Miravista Holdings**; **Phoenix Greyhound Racing Foundation**; **Salt River Project**; **Flower Frenzy**; **Hensley**; **Keeling-Schaefer Vineyards**; **M&I Bank**; **Sara Lee Foundation** and **Tempe Schools Credit Union**. In total, the event raised \$160,000.

Museum Volunteers are Groovy!

Museum staff and volunteers took a trip down memory lane when they revisited the 1960s on May 19 at the museum's annual ice cream social. Volunteer docent **Ira King** won the prize for best 1960s outfit (see photo). Volunteer docents **Ruth Wineberg** and **Herb Fibel** were the first to correctly translate a list of lingo from the era. While decked out in fringed leather vests, love beads, head bands and more, staff also remembered the accomplishments of the museum volunteers during the past year. During that time, 256 volunteers gave slightly less than 10,000 hours to the museum.

Amidst the glow of lava lamps, long-time archive volunteer and past Advisory Board member **Richard Nearing** received special recognition and moved to the honored status of *Volunteer Emeritus*. Community Services Department Manager **Tom Canasi** praised Richard for his 10 years of service to the museum and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Tempe Mayor **Hugh Hallman**. As an Emeritus, Richard is considered a valued member of the museum's volunteer team even though he has "retired" his post. We look forward to seeing Richard at future museum activities.

In addition, 15 museum volunteers received length-of-service pins: receiving 10-year pins were **Joyce Huft**, **Penny** and **Robert McKinley** and **Joan Wall**; 5-year pins, **Lillian Carr**, **Juanita Harelson** and **Lindsay Samuel**; and 3-year pins, **Paula Angert**, **Kathy Bache**, **Thomas Doll**, **Herb Fibel**, **Sarah Hall**, **Ira King**, **Lisa Roach**, **Bettina Rosenberg** and **Marlene Yragui**. These accomplishments are documented in the museum exhibit hall on the Volunteer Wall of Fame.

Also recognized were 11 volunteers who received Presidential Service Awards from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. Dark room volunteer **Jim Wright** reached the amazing lifetime achievement goal of 4,000 hours. **Claire Young** was honored with a Gold award for serving more than 500 hours in 2005. **Ellen Cornwell**, **Tom Doll**, **Russell Harris**, **Ira King**, **Judy Knoth**, **Mary Ann Kwilosz**, **Barbara Peters**, **Daniel Thompson** and **Marlene Yragui** accomplished the Silver Award serving more than 250 hours during this same time period.

The museum staff extends a heartfelt "thank you" to all who volunteered at the museum in the past 12 months.



Some of the photos taken at the annual ice cream social: Top photo (L to R): **Amy Douglass**, **Richard** and **Barbara Nearing**, **Tom Canasi**. Middle photo (L to R): **Jerri Copenhaver**, **Amy Douglass**. Bottom photo: **Ira King, Jr.**

JULY**WILD WEDNESDAYS**

Wednesdays, through July 26

10 am – 4 pm

Museum / Free admission

The museum's "wildly" popular program continues. Families looking for a cool way to spend their summer days are invited to walk-in anytime during the event and enjoy games, crafts, scavenger hunts, story times and/or music. Each Wednesday focuses on a unique theme relating to one of our exhibits or a historical time period/decade.



Summer camp groups are welcome and need to reserve a space in advance by calling 480-350-5100.

July 5: World Travel: Laos

July 12: Mexican-American Heritage

July 19: Time Travel: The 1980s

July 26: World Travel: Cambodia

AUGUST

Museum staff are busy planning the upcoming fall and winter calendar during this month and do not conduct special programs or activities.

PETERSEN HOUSE

Closed for cleaning and conservation.

Sunday, July 30 through Monday, September 4

SEPTEMBER**SEPTEMBER 4**

Labor Day.

Museum closed.

PETERSEN HOUSE REOPENS

Tuesday, September 5

3RD THIRSTDAY NIGHT CAFÉ

Thursday, September 21

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Museum / Free

Update on Hayden Flour Mill Archaeology

Principal investigators from Archaeological Consulting Services will discuss the findings of the Hayden Flour Mill Archaeology Testing Project conducted at the site in June and July, 2006.



Project conducted at the site in June and July, 2006.

Looking ahead. . .

OCTOBER**TEMPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BARBECUE**

Saturday, October 21, evening

Tempe Community Center Courtyard

Enjoy a delicious dinner during this special evening and help support the museum. For further details call 480-350-5100.

Exhibit Wins National and State Awards

"Proud Journey Home", an exploration of the Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese refugee experience in Tempe, continues to accumulate kudos. The exhibit was presented with an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). AASLH is the primary national organization for history museums, and competition for this award is intense. The AASLH will be hosting their annual conference in Phoenix in September and the award will be presented at that time. Conference attendees will be invited to a special event at the museum on September 15, allowing the exhibit to be showcased to a national audience of museum professionals.

"Proud Journey Home" also was recognized at the Museum Association of Arizona (MAA) conference held on May 18. The award was for "Best Adaptation of the Stated Theme," and was received as a direct result of the museum pursuing its mission to explore Tempe's identity and build connections between residents and their community. The award also demonstrates the museum's increasing success in working with Tempe's diverse residents to tell their unique stories.

These honors can be shared by many as the exhibit was truly a collaborative effort between the Program for Southeast Asian Studies from Arizona State University, the Southeast Asian Advisory Committee, and the museum volunteers and staff.

Society Makes Generous Donation

The **Tempe Historical Society** has pledged \$16,500 in financial support to the museum during the coming fiscal year. The funds will benefit a variety of museum programs such as Wild Wednesdays, student internships, the Petersen House Endowment Fund, a volunteer recognition display and general staff support. The staff would like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to the society for their continuing and very generous support. We also remind all our readers to shop often in the museum gift shop. Your dollars will be put to work supporting the museum's mission!

Time Lines is now available online!

We have started making the newsletter available on the museum's website at www.tempe.gov/museum

Navigate to, "About the Museum" then "Newsletters" to view PDF files of Time Lines from April 2005 to the present. If you would like to discontinue receiving a paper copy, call (480) 350-5100 and let us know.



Step Into History

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

Editors:

Mary Anna Bastin
Jeri Copenhagen
Amy Douglass

Comments, suggestions?
Call 480-350-5100.

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday - Thursday and Saturday
10 am - 5 pm
Sunday 1 - 5 pm

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP HOURS

Monday - Thursday and Saturday
10 am - 4 pm; Sunday 1 - 4 pm

PETERSEN HOUSE HOURS

Tuesday - Thursday and Saturday
10 am - 2 pm

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

Passings

Mary Alice Pigg, former docent at the Petersen House Museum and the Tempe Historical Museum, passed away on October 21, 2005 at the age of 95. Mary Alice began volunteering at the museums in 1972 after retiring from a 35-year teaching career in the valley. She was a long-time member of the Tempe Historical Society and also involved in the Tempe Old Settler's Association.

Grace B. Wagers, passed away on March 1 at the age of 87. Grace had been a member of the Tempe Historical Society for many years and served on the Tempe Historical Museum Advisory Board from 1984 through 1989. She also volunteered in the museum's exhibit and collection areas. In 1993, Grace was selected as the museum's Volunteer of the Year.



*Celebrate the "Year of the Museum" by visiting the
Tempe Historical Museum
and the Petersen House Museum*

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