



Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

Volume 27 Issue 3

April Adams, Editor

February 2014

AGA February Meeting, Monday February 24, 2014

The next AGA meeting will be held at the Desert Botanical Gardens on the evening of Monday, February 24, where we'll have the opportunity to view the Chihuly exhibit. Our reception begins at 5:15 p.m. at Dorrance Hall (doors will open at 5:00). Light refreshments will be served. The meeting commences at 5:45 p.m. (lasting approximately 15 minutes), and our guest speaker will follow. You'll then have about an hour and a half in the garden, which closes at 8:00 p.m. This will be a self-guided tour (DBG docents are not allowed to interpret the Chihuly exhibit, per the artist). Wear comfortable shoes, as there is quite a bit of walking in viewing the 21 installations, some of which are on dirt paths
Location: 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, AZ 85008.

Review of January Meeting, Monday January 6, 2014

Our meeting at the Franciscan Renewal Center was another success. The meeting began with a history of the Center and its current outreach. Sami Jewelry of Fountain Hills followed with an overview of the Arizona amethyst mine in the Four Peaks area.

The evening concluded with our regular business meeting. Thank you to the Program Committee, Jana Powell and Sharon Waldie, for another informative evening.

Chihuly

Chihuly was born in Tacoma, Washington. In the year 1967, he received a Master of Science in sculpture from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he studied under Harvey Littleton. In 1968, he studied glass in Venice on a Fulbright Fellowship and received a Master of Fine Arts at the Rhode Island School of Design. In 1971, with the support of John Hauberg and Anne Gould Hauberg, Chihuly cofounded the Pilchuck Glass School near Stanwood, Washington. In 1976, while Chihuly was in England, he was involved in a head-on car accident during which he flew through the windshield.^[4] His face was severely cut by glass and he was blinded in his left eye. After recovering, he continued to blow glass until he dislocated his right shoulder in a 1979 bodysurfing accident. No longer able to hold the glass blowing pipe, he hired others to do the work. Chihuly explained the change in a 2006 interview, saying "Once I stepped back, I liked the view" and pointing out that it allowed him to see the work from more perspectives and enabled him to anticipate problems faster. Chihuly describes his role as "more choreographer than dancer, more supervisor than participant, more director than actor."

City of Page Announces New Tourism Website

The City of Page, the beauty of Lake Powell, and the extraordinary land and activities surrounding the community are featured on www.visitpagelakepowell.com. The new website is a vibrant look at Page and the area- Lake Powell, the Colorado River, slot canyons on Navajo Tribal land, and the vast high desert that touches the shores of Lake Powell. Activities on Air, Land, and Water are featured on easy to navigate pages and the website is mobile compatible on hand held devices.

Finding a place to stay (Hotels/Motels, B&Bs, Vacation Home Rentals, Houseboats, Camping and RVs), things to do, and places to see, appear at the click of a mouse or a tap on your screen. Current weather, upcoming events and festivals, and links to web resources for the whole region make www.visitpagelakepowell.com a resource for all travelers.

"We've included all the land, water, and air tourism related businesses in the Page area to give tourists a complete picture of what they can do when they visit," commented Tourism Director Lee McMichael.



"Page is in the center of what is known as the Grand Circle – a region that includes the Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce, and Monument Valley...that's why we are the crossroads for people from all over the world."

Group Travel Accelerates in 2014

The meetings business has been on an upward swing for the past two years and this trend should continue in 2014. GBTA expects group travel spending to rise by 6.5% to \$124.5 billion based on a volume increase of 1.7%.

"This is the healthiest growth outlook for meetings activity since 2011," said McCormick. "Meetings are typically larger investments that require advance planning, and companies only make these decisions when they have confidence in the longer-term outlook for the economy."

Native Trails

Each year representatives of tribal nations of Arizona and the United States, such as the Hopi, Diné, Akimel-Au-Authm and San Carlos Apache, come together to present musical performances and dances as well as share stories and cultural information at Native Trails. The performers may vary from year to year and even from week to week. Flutes, drums, tribal dances, hoop dancing, colorful costumes -- the purpose of Native Trails is to introduce us to Native American traditions and principles in an entertaining outdoor performance.

Native Trails is presented by the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, is produced by the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, and is presented each year free of charge. These performances began in 2003. On average, more than 300 people attend a Native Trails performance. Native American artisans, jewelry makers and food vendors may also be on hand offering their products for sale.

Schedule of Native Trail Performances – 2014: February 1, 13, 15, 20, 27; March 6, 8, 27, 29; April 3, 5. All performances begin at noon and end at about 1 p.m. There is no charge to attend Native Trails. It is free for everyone. For more information visit Native Trails online:

<http://www.experiencescottsdale.com/event/native-trails/>

Arizona's Move Over Law

The Arizona's Move Over law was approved by the legislature in 2005. It was implemented to minimize the number of injuries and fatalities occurring to emergency personnel stopped on the side of our highways. It was enhanced in July 2011.

Here's what the law is about. If you see that an emergency vehicle is stopped on a highway, you must, if it is safe, change lanes and move into the next adjacent lane that is away from the stopped vehicle. It doesn't matter whether it is on the right or the left. You must move into the lane away from it. As of 2011, the Move Over law also applies to tow trucks or any vehicle with hazard lights flashing.

First Pitch. Soon

In only a few weeks baseball players will report for practice sessions for Spring Training baseball, which begins on February 26th. All 15 teams that play cactus League ball have tickets on sale now. Can you name all fifteen teams? Who has the newest stadium?

Camelback Cemetery

By Analise Ortiz *The Republic* | azcentral.com Tue Dec 24, 2013 11:26 AM

As JoAnn Handley looked through her plot maps at Camelback Cemetery, she was reminded of a pervasive problem. Unoccupied burial spaces that have since been abandoned, bought by families as early as the 1920s, are held by owners who have lost all contact with Handley, the caretaker of



Camelback Cemetery in Paradise Valley. Handley believes that, if some of those plots were put up for sale, they would be easily sold to others and used. But that can't happen without permission of the legal owners or if the original buyers' descendants can't be located. "People bought spaces, and then the families moved away. Now, here they sit, we can't sell them even though people would buy them," Handley said.

Camelback Cemetery is a quaint resting place at 6800 E. McDonald Drive, just west of Scottsdale Road. It was founded nearly 100 years ago and now preserves much of Scottsdale's history in both its desert landscape and the headstones of some of the city's most prominent figures.

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area

By Philip Haldiman The Republic | azcentral.com Fri Dec 20, 2013 8:52 AM

A thorough inventory of the plant life in Cave Creek's Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area has revealed richness in flora compared with other parks in the Maricopa County park system. After five years of field work from botanist, Sarah Hunkins, and park ranger, Kevin Smith, the flora project documented and cataloged about 390 plant species in the park. RJ Cardin, director of Maricopa County Parks and Recreation, said Spur Cross has more plant diversity than any of the other nine parks in the system. Out of those other parks, a 1970 study shows Lake Pleasant regional park to be the next diverse at 313 species.

Spur Cross is part of the upper Sonoran Desert in the northern part of Cave Creek with the Tonto National Forest as its northern boundary. The elevation ranges from the bed of Cave Creek at 2,179 feet to the top of Elephant Mountain at 3,926 feet.

"The diversity is due to two main reasons — the riparian features and dramatic change in elevation," Cardin said. "To put it into perspective, Spur Cross, which is about 2,200 acres, has more species than the White Tank Park, which is about 30,000 acres and our largest park." Smith said the document was published in Arizona State University's botanical journal, "Canotia," and has been sent out to herbarium libraries around the world. He said at least one specimen was collected for each species, photos were taken, associated plants were noted, GPS coordinates noted, as well as other details. The complete collection of specimens is housed at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix with some duplicates at the University of Arizona Herbarium in Tucson, he said. "This land has been set aside, in part, for protection of its natural resources, so knowledge of species occurrences is important," Smith said.

Stacie Beute, Conservation Alliance Program coordinator, with Desert Botanical Garden, said knowing what species exist is critical in managing the preserve in a number of areas, including funding, especially because there are very few conservation dollars available. "Without baseline information, we may be able to say (Spur Cross) is different anecdotally, but we can't quantify it," she said. "We can't properly manage what we don't know exists."

Spur Cross had long been a target for developers but also a point of pride for Cave Creek residents, who have put forth efforts to preserve the land since the 1990s. In 2000, to preserve the land in perpetuity, voters overwhelmingly approved the town's first and only property tax to acquire the land from two private entities — American Family Insurance and the Dreiseszuns, a local family, owning 70 and 30 percent, respectively. The park is owned by the town, the state and Maricopa County. At the time of the acquisition, the three entities split the \$21.3 million preserve three ways.



Commuter rail, running from Wickenburg to Phoenix would be the rebirth of Grand Avenue

By Lesley Wright The Republic | azcentral.com Wed Dec 25, 2013 10:41 PM

Hurried drivers approaching Glendale and 59th avenues sometimes find themselves in a little circle of hell. Drivers on Grand Avenue at this intersection swoop unimpeded under a wide overpass, but not the drivers on 59th or Glendale. Up to 12 times a day, both streets are blocked by slow-moving freight trains running parallel to Grand. The delays can last 20 minutes or more.

"It can be a hassle," said Jack Kenyon, 23, who waits two or three times a week as he heads to service calls for his grandfather's plumbing business at 60th and Glendale avenues. "I take a different route through the neighborhoods if I'm squeezed for time. It's irritating."

The trains can seem to be an annoying relic of the past — they've been running alongside Grand Avenue since 1895 — but they may hold promise for the future. Some West Valley leaders imagine those tracks bringing in employers, workers and new residents. The rails could be the foundation of the Valley's next major mass-transportation project. "You're going to need an economic driver here," said Peoria Mayor Bob Barrett. He is the steward for one of Grand Avenue's most blighted neighborhoods, a stubborn eyesore for a city that is transforming into one of the most upscale west of Interstate 17. "That driver would be commuter rail, running from Wickenburg to Phoenix," Barrett said. "That would be the rebirth of Grand Avenue." Heavy-rail trains have not moved people around metro Phoenix since the early 20th century. But the unexpected success of light rail in Phoenix and the East Valley has encouraged advocates who want more public transportation along Grand Avenue.

The only diagonal road in a region of traffic grids, Grand Avenue cuts through six municipalities — Phoenix, Glendale, Peoria, El Mirage, Youngtown and Surprise — and passes the retirement communities of Sun City, Sun City West and Sun City Grand before heading to Wickenburg. A group of elected city officials, engineers and state and county representatives are developing a comprehensive plan for Grand's future and are studying how the road functions for traffic, economic redevelopment and mass transit. Some of the mayors in the group want commuter rail to be part of that plan.

Unlike light rail, commuter rail runs on fixed tracks that also carry heavy freight and passenger trains. In large cities, commuter lines run all day. In the Valley, those lines would likely run south in the morning to bring commuters to Phoenix and north toward the suburbs in the evening. West Valley leaders have talked about commuter rail for years, hoping it would bring an economic boost around future stations. But no agency or city has the money for the initial expense. And issues concerning coordination with the BNSF Railway and competing demands from the Valley's light-rail system have kept the idea on hold, despite the railroad's history along Grand.

Grand aligns in many areas with an old stagecoach route that helped territorial Arizonans get around their embryonic state. Glendale founder William J. Murphy laid out the first 18 miles of Grand Avenue in 1887, but from Glendale north to Wickenburg, the railroad was moving people and goods long before the road took shape. Surprise Mayor Sharon Wolcott looks at the BNSF (Burlington, Northern and Santa Fe) rail lines and envisions a thriving Grand Avenue corridor.

Navajo Story Telling

By Betty Reid The Arizona Republic | azcentral.com Thu Dec 26, 2013 10:08 PM

Winter is traditionally the season for storytelling among the Navajo Nation. Members of Arizona's largest tribe have shared Ma'ii Jooldoshi stories for generations. They are short narratives about the adventures



of the coyote and his interaction with other animals. Most end with a moral. The classic tales were told by elders during cold, biting winter nights in mud-packed Navajo homes called hogans. The extended family huddled in the hogan next to a wood-burning stove made from a worn out half barrel. Fire crackled and played dark shadows on the hogan walls. Stories were told to pass the time in the evening when it was too cold to venture outside.

Suzette Johnson, 42, who moved to Phoenix in 2003, grew up listening to the stories when she lived in Tolani Lake, just off Indian Route 24, northeast of Flagstaff. Johnson, a Chandler resident and member of the Kyrene Elementary School District's Native American Parent Advisory Committee, said parents in the Tempe district wanted to find ways to help their children understand their Native American culture and roots. The group represents 700 Native American Indian students in the district, 200 of whom are Navajos.

The group contacted the Phoenix Indian Center, an urban Indian center that offers programs to tribes. During those meetings, parents met Freddie Johnson, a cultural specialist for the center. (He is unrelated to Suzette.) Earlier this month, before a roomful of families in the Kyrene district governing-board room, Freddie Johnson shared how Coyote flung a bag of bright stars into the black sky. No matter how many versions you hear, the stories tug at the heart of a Navajo, Suzette Johnson said. "Navajo storytelling brings the families closer to their roots," she said. "The stories create a strong bond." Freddie Johnson, 48, moved from Rock Point to the Valley in 2001 with his wife, who was attending Arizona State University. "We had a lot of Navajos who had no idea who they were, other than just their clans, but beyond that, as far as language and culture went, the Dine community was hungry for such events," Johnson said. He vowed to tell stories, and he hasn't stopped. "I wanted my relatives and my people to understand who they are as Dine people, to understand their foundations and to learn their language," Johnson said.

"Seasonal storytelling is a way to motivate the Dine community to take it upon themselves to go further than just the storytelling sessions, to actually start to ask their elders about these stories, to engage them in using the best resources, our grandparents."

Old Phoenix Hotel Leaves Historic Mark

By Dustin Gardiner The Republic | azcentral.com Wed Jan 22, 2014 8:39 AM

The Barrister Place building in downtown Phoenix has a storied past, opening in 1915 as the tallest building in the state and, later, playing a cameo as a backdrop to the 1960 horror movie "Psycho." But despite the building's unique status, Phoenix has struggled to find a feasible use for the structure, a six-story brick-and-concrete building on Central Avenue and Jefferson Street. It has sat vacant for more than three years after the city, which owns the building, shuttered it. Now, Phoenix leaders are looking for a new owner to breathe life back into Barrister Place without compromising its rare exterior — one on a dwindling list of historic downtown building fronts that remain intact.

The city expects to put the building on the market in the next few months, accepting bids from prospective buyers on the condition that they agree to preserve its facade. Potential uses could include a hotel, offices, a restaurant or retail shops, officials say. The City Council voted last fall to conduct a formal bid process to sell or lease the building with an easement to maintain the historic exterior. The city has yet to release its request for bids, but the building was valued at about \$1.5 million.

Former Councilman Tom Simplot, who pushed for the protection, said the easement will be identical to what the city put in place to protect the historic Luhrs building, across the street from Barrister Place. He also called for a timeline that would require the developer to use the building within a certain window or



give it back to the city. That plan was met with skepticism from city Councilman Jim Waring, who questioned whether the city could get more money for the lot, in the heart of downtown Phoenix, if a buyer could demolish the building and start from scratch.

The city has not released an appraisal of the land's value in that situation. "I like historic buildings, but there is a cost to it," Waring said. "It shouldn't be infinite. At some point, I'd like to know how much this is costing us."

While preservationists say the building is historically significant because of its construction and age, the integrity of its interior has been compromised during several renovations. The building was gutted in the 1980s and retains none of its original interior. Phoenix acquired the building in 1990 and used it to house offices and the Phoenix Police Museum. But former City Manager David Cavazos moved those operations and closed the building in 2010, citing high maintenance and energy costs.

Barrister Place was known as the Jefferson Hotel when it opened to public fanfare on July 15, 1915. At the time, a local newspaper deemed it "the finest hotel in Arizona and one of the best in the entire southwest," and its grand opening was a Valley-wide social occasion, complete with an orchestra and dancing. The hotel, which featured 150 rooms, was decked out in mahogany, marble and expensive colonial furniture. It featured a coffee shop, a cigar stand, private suites and a rooftop garden with palm trees and a fountain. But the early glory of the Jefferson Hotel had faded by 1960, when the building was portrayed as a cheap hotel in the opening scene of "Psycho," Alfred Hitchcock's classic horror film. Its exterior was used as an establishing shot for a scene where the film's primary female character meets her lover for an afternoon liaison, though the interior portion was shot in a studio.

Today, the empty building has a plain, white-walled interior and smells of stale air. City officials said it's structurally sound and could again play a unique role in the future of downtown. "I believe that historic preservation does have a price," Councilman Michael Nowakowski said of the decision to preserve the building's exterior. "And I think it's really important to keep our history alive and a point of pride for the city of Phoenix."

SAVE THE DATE---AGA SPRING TOUR April 15 & 16, 2014

Rock Art Ranch and Canyon de Chelly

Cost: \$300 for AGA members, \$335 Guests and spouses welcome **Single Supplement:** \$50

Registration Deadline: April 7. All monies have to be paid by April 7th.

Old Town Scottsdale walking tour.

Janice Dunnahoo went on it and enjoyed it tremendously.

The City of Scottsdale invites you to join them for a guided 60 minute tour of Old Town. The tour starts at the Scottsdale Historical Museum located at 7333 Scottsdale Mall. Tours are given Tuesdays at 10 am by Alice Corpstein, through the month of March.

Alice Corpstein is one of the founders of the AGA and she is a wealth of knowledge!

Thank you to CS McFadden for her submissions to the newsletter. And Anna Kysill for editing this newsletter.