



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Volume 44, Issue 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday January 23
7:00 PM
POTLUCK DINNER
AND
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Monday February 27
7:00 PM
"HISTORY OF CITY OF
GLENDALE, AZ
LIBRARY SYSTEM"
GREG KINDER
ADMINISTRATIVE
LIBRARIAN



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL POTLUCK **ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION** **JANUARY 23, 2023 – 7:00 pm**

The Glendale Arizona Historical Society will continue to celebrate 50 successful years with special events and activities at the annual potluck. A highlight is the election and installation of new directors and president. The officers nominated are: President—Brenda Bartels, Vice-President—Gary Sherwood, Secretary—Jessica Koory, Treasurer—Marty Cole. The nominees for three vacant Board of Directors positions are Kathy Goree, Al Lenox and Randi Turk. Martha Dennis and Lorraine Zomok will be serving their second years as board members. Councilmember Bart Turner will install the newly elected officers and directors. Please bring an entrée, salad, side dish or dessert to share with the group. This is a wonderful opportunity to greet the new Board of Directors, renew friendships, and make new friends.



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GLENDALE ARTS COUNCIL 59TH **ANNUAL JURIED FINE ARTS SHOW**

Join us for our annual show featuring art works from Arizona artists showcased in the Fruit Packing Shed on beautiful Sahuaro Ranch Park at 59th Avenue and Mountain View Road. This free juried show will be open to the public daily from 10 am until 5 pm every day from January 10th—29th.

A special preview party will be held Friday, January 6th from 7 pm—9 pm. For a \$25.00 donation you can enjoy a wonderful evening visiting with artists, purchasing art work, enjoying appetizers and wine, and visiting with friends and city officials. All entries will be displayed. This show is a Glendale tradition supported through the years by residents, businesses, and the City of Glendale. We hope to see you there!

Why History Matters

by Nelda Crowell

We know that history matters, but when asked, “Why?” we often hear things like, “It’s important to know our past,” or “We want to know where we came from.” But those statements just affirm that we want to know our history for more relevant reasons that are hard to articulate.

History matters because it gives us a sense of stability, a sense of memory, a sense of belonging. As entities, cities are much like people; they’re living and changing, learning and growing. A person with amnesia has no memory of their past and feels unstable, lost, alone. No one wants that feeling. So too with cities. A city without history is a city with amnesia and its people feel lost, without an identity, alone. No one wants that kind of city.

A city that values its history tells us we know where we stand because others prepared the way and stood here before. History tells a potential business that this is a good place to do business because so many have done business here before and built the city into what it is today; we cherish that past and want to be part of the future. If someone wants to move to a community, he or she wants to know the community has stability. History gives us that. Without a sense of stability – without a sense of history – they feel like they are here today and gone tomorrow. And what follows is the unspoken fear that what I do today, what we do today, will also be lost and forgotten. But with an emphasis on history and reverence for that which our forefathers accomplished, we have confidence that our work too will be revered and what we do will not have been done in vain.

History also gives us a sense of community. What happens when someone new moves in? If that community has a sense of history, a new resident becomes part of a family of residents. It’s like an orphan child and the difference between going into an orphanage where all the beds are alike and after you depart, there is no remnant of you left versus moving into a family where people have roots -- a history -- and you are welcomed as part of that family, and if you leave, part of you will always be there.

History also gives a feeling of authenticity and uniqueness. It says, “This is a real community, with real people who are proud of their varying backgrounds. It took hard work to build this place, and we are proud of that work. We are not like any other city. We are different because of our unique history.” It then follows that we want to continue to build on that past. We want to be part of the continuum of history. If we erase the history, we become nothing more than a moment in time, with nothing worth remembering. Our community is not an artificial plat of houses that’s nothing more than an extension of a larger city. This is real. This is different from everywhere else. This place has -- *history*. Like people, in which every person is different because of who and where they came from, so too cities are unique because of their -- *history*.

HISTORICAL TOURS

MANISTEE RANCH 1897 HOUSE

5127 W. NORTHERN AVENUE (enter from the parking lot on 51st Avenue)

Tours are conducted by the Glendale Arizona Historical Society docents from October through May: noon to 4 pm (last tour starts at 3 pm). Fees: Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Veterans \$4, Ages 6-16 \$1, GAHS MEMBERS FREE.

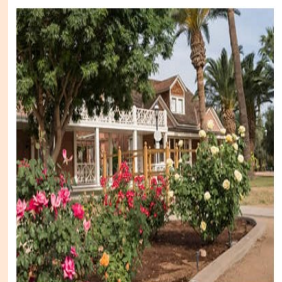
The 2023 tour dates are the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month—Jan. 7, 21; Feb. 4, 18; March 4, 18; April 1, 15; May 6, 20

SAHUARO RANCH 1898 GUEST HOUSE

9802 N 59th Ave. Glendale AZ

FREE TOURS of the Guest House by appointment only: Donations accepted

SAHUARO RANCH MAIN HOUSE No tours until further notice



HELEN OKABAYASHI TANITA: GLENDALE LEGEND



Age 94.



On the GHS Tennis Team

Helen Okabayashi Tanita was born on February 20, 1918, in Phoenix and died March 31, 2012, in Glendale. She married Satoshi Tanita and had three children Richard, Carolyn and Thomas. Helen's father, Tsunenori Okabayashi, came to America with his brother and worked on the railroad and did farm work for five years. Then he went back to Japan to marry Katsuho who was 16 and brought her to America in 1916. The Okabayashi brothers started farming in the Scottsdale area, also Phoenix and then in Glendale next to the McAllisters' farm. Each time they moved, the land they farmed was surrendered because the Okabayashi brothers were not citizens. The 180-acre Glendale farm, which they leased and eventually owned, became an active truck farm, growing strawberries, peanuts (less successful), and other produce, such as lettuce. The family became very close to the neighboring McAllister family, buying their milk and trading produce.

Helen attended the Pendergast School District grammar school, then Glendale High School, from which she graduated. Helen found the students at Glendale High to be warm, friendly and accepting. Helen and her sister, Mary Asaka, became active on the school tennis team. Unfortunately, some area farmers tried to drive Japanese farmers out of the valley. They would tear down the Tanitas' mailbox and throw it in the canal and throw bombs on the farm causing the family to hire security guards.

After graduation in 1936, Helen's father wanted her to go to the University of Arizona, but she was unable to do so because of the depression. Instead, Helen went to Phoenix Junior College for one year. She got a secretarial job with Mr. Lane, a produce broker, and helped with record keeping but left to help her parents with the expanding family farm.

Helen met her husband, Satoshi Tanita in grammar school, but he went to Phoenix Union High School while she attended Glendale High School. Helen's folks had 10 children; Satoshi's folks had 13 children: twelve boys and one girl. Satoshi graduated from high school, went to the University of Arizona and then to UCLA. He wanted to be a doctor, but WWII had started and Satoshi and two brothers stayed to operate the farm while the other boys went to war. Helen and Satoshi were married at the Glendale Free Methodist Church. During the war, the Japanese families in the Valley were severely restricted in their movements. Grand Avenue and Van Buren Street were declared boundaries, which precluded families from visiting. Due to the restrictions, only the parents were allowed to attend the wedding -- no other relatives and friends. Produce sales in downtown Phoenix had to be conducted by Caucasians and Mexicans because the Japanese could not cross the line. Helen was very active for 35 years in the Starlight Woman's Club, Japanese-American Citizens League, Japanese Free Methodist Church and the Glendale Woman's Club. She adapted to many different conditions and succeeded in living a very fruitful and happy life in Glendale, Arizona.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I have had the honor to serve on the Glendale Arizona Historical Society Board of Directors as President for 10 years. I am retiring as President. I served on the Citizens Utilities Advisory Commission as Chairman and Commission member for ten years and asked not to be reappointed. I have been President of the Manistee Ranch Community Association (HOA) for 20 years and will not run for re-election. I have served on the Glendale Police Advisory Committee. On each of these roles I strove to serve the City of Glendale as best as I could. Glendale, AZ is a community that I love, cherish its history and embrace its future.

The Nomination slate being presented for membership vote and installation at the January 23, 2023 Annual Pot Luck at 7:00 pm at Manistee Ranch are outstanding individuals with a commitment to promoting and preserving Glendale's history.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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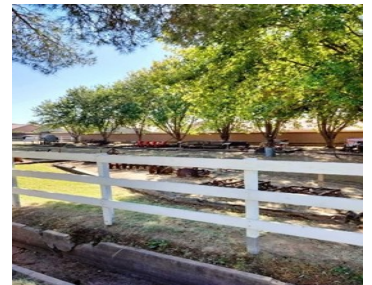
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Your Governing Board of Directors

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Nelda Crowell	Director
Martha Dennis	Director
Bill Greb	Director
Lorraine Zomok	Director

**Glendale Arizona Historical
Society is designated as a Cer-
tified Historical Society**



THOUGHTFUL PEOPLE, WONDERFUL DEEDS, HISTORIC MANISTEE RANCH

The Manistee Ranch historic site in Glendale, Arizona is owned by the Glendale Arizona Historical Society which has been fortunate for years to have many volunteers helping care for its historic buildings and grounds. Volunteers have trimmed the bushes, improved the turf, trimmed trees and removed dead trees as well as planted new trees and fixed the house, garage, office and granary for this old and beautiful friend. Even at 6:00 a. m., many society members and others came to the aide of the granary to remove homeless debris. Others cleaned the house to make it ready for tours. Various volunteers who stand out for a special thank you are **John and Paulette Geurs** who built the Never Forget Garden and **Norm and Jean Hailey** who have been taking care of this unique garden that honors our veterans. Also, again, to **John and Paulette Geurs and Bill and Donna Greb** for many years of volunteer service and recently for cleaning up the tree trimming that was done by **William Wilt** and staff of **Accent Tree Service** as a donation to the society. Thanks to all of the society members and friends of Manistee Ranch that have and are lovingly taking care of one of Glendale's outstanding historic landmarks.

In Memory

Of...

HARLO THORLEY

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

**Grace and Carlos
Vargas**