

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

Volume 43, Issue 3



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MARCH 28 7:00 PM**

**HISTORY OF  
ISACC IMES SCHOOL**

**APRIL 25 2:00PM**

**NORTHWEST HOSPITAL  
AND MARYVALE  
COMMUNITY**



## 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GLENDALE FOLK AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

**MARCH 5-6, 2022**

**9802 N. 59<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, GLENDALE, AZ**

The City of Glendale's most revered annual event celebrating folk music, history and culture will take place in the beautiful and historic Sahuaro Ranch Park over a two-day period and it is a FREE EVENT. Performers will attend from throughout the nation. Local and regional visitors will gain a better understanding of Arizona's music and culture through performances and workshops. The event will have hundreds of musicians, live cowboy poetry, storytelling and several stages with two days of music. Special workshops may be available to teach visitors how to play spoons, saws, ukuleles, harmonicas, swing guitar, pennywhistle, jugs, and skiffle music. The festival is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. March 5 and 6.



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## THE HISTORY OF ISAAC E. IMES SCHOOL MARCH 28, 2022 7:00 PM MANISTEE RANCH, 5127 W. NORTHERN AVENUE

The Glendale Elementary School District (GESD) did an excellent job in providing for adequate and advanced school facilities by obtaining \$190,000 of bond issued funds to build 34 one-room classrooms, plus other buildings from 1913 to 1920. However by 1942 there was a need for more educational space for a growing community. The Isaac E. Imes Elementary School was built and opened in 1942. The school served the community well until 2021 when enrollment dropped and the school district #40 Board voted to close both Isaac E. Imes School and the Sine Elementary school. Superintendent Cindy Segotta-Jones and Communication Director Adriana Alvarado Parsons will discuss the history of the Isaac E. Imes school and the future of the building. The school was an important part of Glendale's history and the presenters will discuss its role in the development of Glendale. Refreshments will be provided after the presentation.





## THE SMITHS AT SAHUARO RANCH

Sharon Musick Smith

The historic Sahuaro Ranch of 80 acres that the City of Glendale bought in 1977 has had a few owners. William H. Bartlett homesteaded its 640 acres in 1886 and developed one of the most successful ranches in the region. Peter E. Bradshaw bought the ranch in 1913 and sold the east half of 320 acres to Lottie Sands Smith in 1927. Her husband, Richard W. Smith, operated the ranch with his wife until his death in 1944. His son, Richard Sands Smith, who was a sailor in the merchant marines during the WWII, came back to the ranch in 1946 to help his parents. He subsequently took over the ranch with his wife Sharon M. Smith until they sold the remaining 80 acres to the City of Glendale.

Sharon M. Smith spent 25 years at Sahuaro Ranch before selling and moving to Wickenburg, AZ. She was born March 31, 1931 in Huntington, West Virginia and graduated from Maryville College with a degree in biology. Sharon taught both chemistry and biology for a year in Virginia, but her brother was asthmatic, so Sharon, her mother, brother, and sister moved to Arizona. Sharon taught school at Luke Air Force Base for two years. A relative of Richard S. "Dick" Smith kept urging Sharon to meet her uncle Dick. She met him in December, and it wasn't long before he proposed marriage. Nevertheless, she waited a while and went back east to think the proposal over. Dick came to Philadelphia, and they were married the following August, 1954, at her older sister's house.

Sahuaro Ranch did not impress Sharon; it needed maintenance. She loved horses and both she and Dick had been around horses growing up; Dick had been in the horse cavalry in the 1930s and '40s. In 1964, after ten years of marriage, they got into the thoroughbred breeding business .

In 1954, the first year Sharon and Dick were married, his mother, Lottie, moved back to the ranch after a ten-year absence. She had been living in an apartment in Phoenix. Lottie lived in the main house and Sharon and Dick lived in the guest house. After Lottie passed, they moved into the main house. Dick passed on April 14, 2009, and Sharon passed December 20, 2016.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is already March, and a quarter of 2022 will soon be behind us. We have had an enjoyable potluck dinner, election and installation of directors and officers for the society. The Board is pleased to welcome **Lorraine Zomok** as a new director. Lorraine has amazing energy and deep knowledge of Glendale's history. She also has many skills that are essential to helping promote and preserve Glendale's history. The Glendale of the past was a small, walkable, community with a delightful downtown core. It remains one of the more historic and beautiful downtowns in Arizona. It is critical that our downtown and Catlin Court retain their historical appearance. Yes, change will happen, but new development needs to honor the past in design elements. The historic downtown Glendale and historic Catlin Court are national historic gems.





## THE LADY WHO BUILT GLENDALE'S LIBRARY SYSTEM

The Glendale Library System started with a donation of 400 books in 1895 for the first library at 58<sup>th</sup> Drive and Glendale Avenue in a lumber company building. It has now grown to a system of four libraries. (Velma Teague, Main Library, Foothills Library and Heroes Library). Many people have been responsible for the library's success, including Rodeane Widom, who in her position as Library Director in the 1980s and '90s, took the library into modern times and helped to greatly expand the library system to match the rapidly growing community.

Rodeane was born in 1946 in Denver, Colorado. She attended the University of Colorado for three years, got married and moved to Seattle, Washington to finish her B. A. degree in history and a master's degree in library science from the University of Washington. . She worked for the King County Library system for eight years. They moved to Lincoln, Nebraska where she worked for the state library coordinating the blind and physically handicapped program. Then they moved to Mesa, Arizona in 1980. Rodeane was hired as the Glendale Library Director at Velma Teague library in October, 1980 inheriting a staff of 17 and \$400,000 budget to cover everything.

During Rodeane's first year, the City of Glendale passed a \$9.4 million bond issue to build a new main library. It would take six years of debate to decide where to locate it before the 65,000-square-foot building opened in 1987. Later it was decided the city should also have libraries in the north and west. It took several years to choose the north library location, and the Foothills Library opened in 1999.

David Schultz, the city water conservation staffer, approached Rodeane with the idea of creating a xeriscape garden at the main library. The city had agreed on 110 orange trees to reflect the agricultural heritage at Sahuaro Ranch, but they didn't survive and Rodeane was left with just a lawn. She and David started a small xeriscape garden that grew into a wonderful exhibit of what can be grown in Glendale while conserving water. The garden remains as a showpiece in the city.

As part of a "Percentage for the Arts" funding program from city capital projects, the Glendale Arts Commission, with Marie Sands as chair, hired well-known space artist Robert McCall to do a beautiful mural in the main library space, facing the entrance. It was well received, and the artist was willing to donate part of his work. The Dale Chihuly glass artwork that hangs prominently at the Foothills Library was another Glendale Arts Commission project that benefited the library.

Rodeane Widom has left an enduring mark on the community with more than books, buildings, staff, and programming; she has given the community an endearing personality that has made Glendale a better place to live.

### WANTED: YOUR YEARBOOKS

**The Society's archives still needs the following Glendale High School yearbooks:  
1925, '26, '28, '66, '71, '79, and '91.**

**Please call 623-435-0072 if you have any of these and we will be glad to pick them up.**



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Glendale Arizona Historical Society is designated as a Certified Historical Society

In  
Memory  
of

JANE TRUEBLOOD

NEW MEMBERS

Jim Santoro

P O Box 5606

Glendale, AZ 85312

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



### HISTORICAL TOURS

#### MANISTEE RANCH 1897 HOUSE

**5127 W. NORTHERN AVENUE** (enter from the parking lot on 51<sup>st</sup> 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 2022 tour dates are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month on March 5, 19, April 2, 16 and May 7, October 1, 15, November 5, 19, December 3, 17.

#### SAHUARO RANCH 1898 GUEST HOUSE

9802 n. 59TH Ave. Glendale AZ

FREE TOURS of the Guest House by appointment only

