

Footprints

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Guides Association



DECEMBER 2006

Volume XVII

Seasonal Traditions

Here are just a few customs that are particularly important to many in this part of the world.

Our Lady of Guadalupe—The official feast day, December 12 honors her but her image can be found throughout Mexico and Latin America. In fact, her following is growing beyond the Catholic community. According to legend, peasant Juan Diego Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to him on Tepeyac Hill, near Mexico City, in early December 1531. She told him to go to Bishop Juan Zumarraga and ask that a house of worship be built on the hill. Juan Diego went to the bishop but was turned away several times because he doubted Juan's story. Finally, when the bishop asked for proof Juan Diego returned to the site. Our Lady of Guadalupe instructed him to collect some flowers that were blooming on the hill and take them to the bishop. The flowers, red Castilian roses, native to the Spanish province where the bishop was from were in full bloom in the cold of December. Diego collected the roses in his cloak, and when he dropped them before the bishop as proof of the apparition, the bishop fell to his knees. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was emblazoned on the cloak. Work began immediately on the church. A cloak, said to be the one belonging to Juan Diego still hangs in Mexico City's Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Las Posadas—One of the most colorful traditions is the posada party, celebrated every evening from December 16 to 24. These celebrations commemorate Mary and Joseph's cold and difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of shelter. "Posada" in Spanish, simply means lodging or shelter. In more modern times, the posada has evolved into a religious and social celebration. Traditionally, the last posada held on December 24 ("Noche Buena" (Holy Night)) was most popular, because it was followed by midnight Mass.

Santa Claus—and his reindeer are not traditional figures in the Mexican Christmas or Navidad. A Mexican youngster's holiday wish list is directed instead to el Niño Dios (the Holy Child) for Christmas Eve and the Reyes Magos (Magi) for Three Kings Day.

El Nacimiento—In most Mexican homes the principal holiday adornment is el Nacimiento (Nativity scene). The focal point, naturally, is a stable where clay or plaster figurines of the Holy Family are sheltered. The scene may be further populated by an angel, Los Reyes Magos (the Magi), the ox and the ass, shepherds and their flocks, and assorted other people and livestock. It is not unusual to also find the forces of evil represented by a serpent and a grotesque Lucifer lurking in the shadows. The figures may be simply positioned in a bed of heno (Spanish moss), or scattered throughout an elaborate landscape. Displays range in size from occupying a small table to an entire room.

Menudo—This traditional hangover cure is served on New Year's Day in homes and Mexican restaurants throughout the Southwest and Mexico. But this ethnic dish has its roots in peasant food heritage and poverty of pre-revolution Mexico where the farmers made use of anything that might be prepared as food. Usually, the best cuts of meat would go to the hacienda owners while the offal went to the peons. Inventive peasant cooks created a soup that made good use of one of the major leftovers. Classic menudo is basically a slowly cooked stew of tripe infused with several varieties of chile peppers and spices. It is presented as a soup and typically is served with corn tortillas or white bread.

? ? DID YOU KNOW ? ?

In 1856 the first group of 75 camels arrived to be used by the army as pack animals. They did well in the desert but were not accepted by the soldiers or the horses and mules. In 1866 the last camels were sold at auction. Some were eventually turned loose and roamed the desert until 1931.

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Comments, ideas & articles for Footprints are welcome. Please submit material to address or email above.

Reprints of Articles

Any material reprinted from this newsletter **must** be accompanied by a credit line stating "Reprinted from Footprints, the newsletter of the Southern Arizona Guides Assn."

SAGA UPDATE

SAGA now has an official Historian, Claudia Bray has volunteered to handle this position. She will be the keeper of the SAGA photo album/scrapbook and also will be taking some pictures at events, meetings, etc. If anyone has some old photos from SAGA's past and would like to have them put in our album, please contact Claudia. Welcome Claudia and **Thank You !**

As you have been reading, SAGA also has a new website—www.aztours.org. Members and readers are welcome to contact our webmaster, Bob Dahms with suggestions to continually improve and "spiff-up" the site.

All current full members are invited to provide contact information to be listed on the new website. Just email our webmaster to authorize our including you on the world wide web. We will not list anyone without their permission. If you have a website, you may also link to your site from the SAGA website.

Our SAGA Webmaster, Bob Dahms creates websites and would be happy to furnish a quote to any member who is interested in having a website to help them promote and advertise their guide expertise. Just contact Bob at 762-1692 or at: bdahms@mac.com.

To receive a copy of the Potential Employers List via email, please send your request to the SAGA email address.

As one more added benefit to our members, SAGA now has liability insurance coverage for our organization. With lawsuits becoming more prevalent and frivolous these days, many clubs, homeowners' associations, non-profits and small businesses of all types are finding it necessary to protect the organization and its members from lawsuits. Liability coverage for SAGA means that we have personal injury and medical coverage in the event of an injury during a SAGA sponsored trip or event. We also have coverage when we use a meeting space in case there is any damage to the space itself. This also means that you as members are protected against lawsuits when leading SAGA sponsored tours and participating as a speaker or leader at a SAGA sponsored event or serving on the Executive Board.

This Month in History

December 2, 1927, Arizona became the first state to regulate and control airplanes engaged in the commercial transportation of passengers and freight..

A Ghost Town Outing

by Ali Iliff

Looking for some ghost town fun? Take a drive to COCHISE and PEARCE, in Cochise County! Travel about 60 miles east of Tucson on I-10, past Benson, to Exit 331, and south on Route 191 about 6 miles to Cochise, on your right, across from the Willcox Playa.

Created in the early 1880s as a water/fuel stop along the Southern Pacific Railroad, the town of *Cochise* boasted about 3,000 people, many in a tent city set up, serving the railroad and ranching. The adobe hotel, built in 1882, still operates as a wonderful 12-guest facility, loaded with period pieces, fascinating memorabilia, family heirlooms, and even the old post office boxes (the hotel also served as the post office, starting in 1896).

It is, of course, on the National Register. Carla, the current manager, is part of the family legacy. You can have dinner there if you call ahead. Cochise has about 30 residents today, mostly retired folks who enjoy the silence of the sunset and the occasional roar of a passing freight. Birders are frequent visitors to the town.

With about 40 residents today, you can get coffee/sandwiches at the coffee shop just down from the hotel, and visit Bonnie's antique store (great photos of the 26 Arizona Rangers). The old country is closed, and the elderly owner is not interested in opening it for interested visitors).

There is also an old wooden water tower by the railroad tracks, and the roadmaster's shed as you enter the "town."

Have a look at: www.cochisehotel.com

Pearce is another 14 miles south of Cochise, in the Sulfur Springs Valley, just off Route 191 to the west (on the Ghost Town Trail that heads on down to Courtland and Gleeson). Population of the area isn't listed. Named for Jimmie Pearce, a tired-of-Tombstone miner who by accident discovered free gold that resulted in the Commonwealth Mine, the town of 1,500 grew at the base of the mine. Leftover from the heyday, you can

see the old post office, school, jail, a few adobe ruins, and the wonderful old Mercantile, built in 1894: two story adobe with elaborate false front and metal framed facade. The cemetery, about a mile west on Middlemarch Road, is huge, with over 400 unmarked graves and many marked ones. One of the Arizona Rangers is buried there among other notables. The cemetery is posted with "beware of snakes" signs.

On Thanksgiving weekend when we visited, the town holds its Old Pearce Holiday Festival. There are local musical entertainers, horse and buggy rides, arts and craft booths, food, shops, and a chance to see the inside of the old store. Free admission.

Have a look at: www.oldpearcestore.com

The roads are paved to Cochise and Pearce. You can also continue on to Courtland and Gleeson, or return through Dragoon Springs. Check before going if you will be on dirt roads, especially if it has been raining.

A good basic source book is *Arizona Ghost Towns and Mining Camps-A Travel Guide to History*, by Philip Varney (AZ Highways Books). And, you can google the towns, county, and area features for further local information.

Contact Ali Iliff, Dale, or Les Sloan if you have questions.

A Great Little Vintage Store

Diamond Lil's, Vintage and Gifts, 2201, #2, East River Road, Tucson 85718; phone 405-9196. Call ahead for open days/times.

This vintage shop is located on the grounds of El Corral Restaurant, on the east side of the parking lot, it is a Joesler adobe from the 1930s. Mrs. Murphy, wife of the property owner, may have hand painted the tiles that line the inside walls near the floor. It is worth stopping in to see the building/restoration, as well as looking at the vintage clothing and gifts, which are very reasonably priced; lots of things from the 1920s/30s; some good second hand western shirts, too.

(Above info also courtesy of SAGA member, Ali Iliff)



Spotlight on History

Presidio San Agustín del Tucón

Following is an excerpt from the first-person account of an actual Presidio resident, Hilario Gallego as he remembered it when interviewed in 1926 at the age of 76:

I was born inside the walled city of Tucson, January 14, 1850. Our house was a little one. My father had some land straight to the west of here. He was a farmer and had a few cows. There was a kind of peaceful tribe of Apaches that had a camp right out here a little way. Then there were the others, the wild Apaches, who were always on the warpath. There was always a sentinel on the pointed hill looking for the dust of Indians.

The adobe wall about the city was about six feet high and two feet thick. There was an entrance facing west, and there was always a guard of soldiers stationed there. On the eastside, was a small gate for people. At each of the entrances there was a cannon which was used when the Indians got too near the city. In the northeast corner of the wall, there was a round tower with portholes. Inside the east entrance was an old ruined church. In the very early times, there was a cemetery inside the wall near this church.

There was a connected chain of little one-room houses all around the inside of the wall that had been built for the soldiers and their families and a few other people. There were no Americans here then. The houses had openings and some of them had doors. A few had window openings. But most of them didn't even have holes for light; they were built just like a storehouse. None of those windows had glass. Some of the doors were made of brush and sahuaro sticks tied together with twigs or with rawhide. Some the people lived outside the wall, and there were a few stores on the outside. Inside the wall there was a well and folks had plenty of water to use.

(This story along with an excellent timeline can be found in a pamphlet entitled "Presidio San Agustín del Tucón 1775-1856" which was prepared by the Pima County Historic Preservation Office.)

Hopi Court will be Saved

Tucson Medical Center is planning major renovations which would include demolition of some buildings. The history of TMC dates to 1926 when it opened as a tuberculosis sanitarium. Three of the original buildings are to be spared including Hopi Court which is still being used.

Old Main Renovations Underway

For those interested in history and/or architecture, the UofA's oldest building is frustrating. While the outside has changed little over the years, numerous renovations and "improvements" inside have not been in keeping with its Designation on the National Register of Historical Places. Now the structure is being repaired and improved again, this time by an engineering firm that has won awards for historic preservation and by the same construction company that restored the Fox Theatre. Your Footprints editor recently spoke with Old Main Project Manager, Colleen Morgan. She stated that the renovation will be an "adaptive reuse in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines for historic places" meaning not a complete historic restoration since it will become a center for admissions, orientation and presentations for new students. Some former renovations that were done will be removed, such as the elaborate tin ceiling that is not original. The lower level will have a large open area that will be much like the original design of the building. We are pleased to know that Old Main will be repaired and preserved and look forward to seeing the finished project about a year from now.

The Future of Tucson's Historic Areas

It's the Rio Nuevo plan that many have awaited for nearly seven years. The city has just completed a site plan for the west side of Rio Nuevo — a nearly \$500 million "cultural campus" that will feature the UA Science Center, new centers for the Arizona Historical Society and the Arizona State Museum, and a re-creation of the convento, chapel and other features of the San Agustín Mission. *(Information taken from AZ Daily Star of October 8).*

See next page for a picture of the Convento

What's New at Tucson Airport

In addition to much needed daily flights to the east coast, TIA will soon have a new look as more choices in dining are added. A Baskin Robbins is now open on the second level.

Coffee bars that include full service sit down bars selling cocktails, beer and wine have opened on the concourses in the passenger departure lounges, past the security checkpoints. Two new lounges offer additional seating for people to wait for incoming passengers in the baggage claim areas. Nearby, on either end is an Ike's Coffee bar with tables and more seating.

Early next year more flight information screens will be added along with closed-circuit TVs so friends and relatives can see incoming passengers as they make their way to the escalators. Wireless internet access will also be available.

The meter/greeter facilities have been relocated downstairs near the waiting lounges.

New dining choices will include, on the east concourse: Taco Bron; Arizona Sports Grill; Boar's Head Deli; Cheeburger Cheeburger; and Cibo Gourmet Market. On the west concourse, restaurants will include: Sky Asian Bistro; Carmella's Kitchen; Boar's Head Deli; and Cibo Gourmet Market.

Live entertainment and music will also be scheduled daily in the area of the waiting lounges.

A new third floor restaurant is scheduled to open at the end of January as the Jet Rock Café, a music-themed bar and grill. The restaurant will feature seasonal live entertainment and 24 beers on tap, including local micro brews. Several new public-meeting rooms will also be available.

TUCSON'S HISTORY IS REBORN DOWNTOWN

The walls of the "Presidio San Agustin del Tucson" are almost complete and the interior is taking shape. The grand opening is

scheduled for May 2007. If you haven't been down to see the progress, take the time to at least drive by. During the week Eric Means and his staff are working and they will let you take a peek inside. One of the best things about the "new" Presidio is that it is also the "old" Presidio since a portion of the earth used to construct the adobe walls was taken from the original site where the historic fort once stood. That means the original adobe bricks melted away over the past century are now part of the reconstructed walls. Volunteers working at the site making adobe bricks found pieces of bottles, china and other artifacts in the mixture.

Additional projects will continue across the Santa Cruz and we will see the reconstructed Convento rise again. Below is the only known photo taken in 1891 of the historic building. As other cities have saved and rebuilt historic areas, so Tucson is now poised to showcase our history which will bring opportunities for visitors around the world to see what Tucson was and has become and the variety of sights and adventures available in our area.



SAGA offers programs for all members of the

tourism community to come and expand their knowledge. As the number of visitors continues to increase so should our ability to provide accurate and more extensive information along with educational/entertaining stories from the past.

A number of cities both in this country and abroad require tour guides to be registered and licensed in order to conduct tours to ensure professionalism, proper ethics and accurate information. Even if Tucson does not require licensing, we should still hold to these high standards to be regarded as professionals worthy of respect and proper compensation.

Tours by SAGA Members

New member Tom Whetten was our program speaker for the November 21 meeting all about Arizona wildlife. Tom also conducts tours and here is one he is currently offering:



Central Texas Coast Photo Tour
Wildlife Photo Tour is leaving Tucson Sunday morning, January 14, 2007, for the Aransas Texas Wildlife Area. We will return Sunday evening, January 21, 2007. This is

an eight day, seven night photography tour that includes ground transportation, lodging, meals, and a half day boat tour to photograph Whooping Cranes. Visit www.wildlifephototour.com for complete details. Tom also has other tours & photography classes available. Contact him at: twhetten@wildlifephototour.com

Joyce Sierra, "BackRoads Joy" offers lovely & relaxing women's retreats, many at lovely resorts in Colonial Mexico. Contact Joyce in Amado, AZ at 520 404-2254 or email: Backroadsjoy@netzero.com for .

Char White, "Tour of the Month" is offering "*Rembrandt and the Golden Age of Dutch Art: Treasures from the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam*" & *Japanese Friendship Garden in Phoenix*. Tour dates are **Wednesday, January 31 or Tuesday, March 13.**

Phoenix Art Museum is one of only three museums in the United States to offer this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see works by the Dutch masters. For reservations call Char at 648-1482.

Alan Kruse of Kruse Arizona Tours offers historic walking tours & a variety of motorcoach tours.

Van Tours:

Feb 10-Florence Historic Home Tour
Feb 16-Historic Fort Bowie
Feb 17-Globe Historic Home Tour
Feb 22-Historic Bisbee Tour
April 12-15, **Mata Ortiz, Mexico** including Paquime, Museum of Northern Cultures, Hacienda San Diego, the Mormon community as well as the Village.

For information on any of Alan's tours call 881-1638 or email to: info@KruseArizona.com.

A New Footprints Feature:

Each issue we will include an article written by one of our members to help us all get to know each other better. It seems appropriate to begin this series with one of SAGA's founding members ~

A Voice from the Past

I am Gary Price, a founding charter member of SAGA. I first started as a

step-on-guide and airport meet/ greet with Arizona Territorial Guides, like many others, owned at the time by Will and the late Marcy Stanton in 1984. In 1987-88 I was approached by Bev Jontz (Kasbeer) and Lee Thompson and several others fellow guides about the formation of a guide association with no company representation-just pure guides as a form continuing education about our favorite area-Arizona. At the same time the Arizona Guides Association was forming in Phoenix. Thus SAGA was born and the rest is history!

1990-91, I did some free-lance work in Operations / Sales for Sandei Jackson and her start-up DMC -Creative Conference Services and then left to assume a similar post with Southwest Arrangers while at the same time working as Field Staff with Jackie Ludwig who opened the first Destination Services Department at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort.

In August 1996 I was hired by Gray Line Tours Tucson. I am the Senior Sales Executive, specializing in the group market along with being our Tour Director on multi-day tours in addition to driving our Sprinter Van for local sightseeing.

I welcome to hear from all of our fellow guides from the past. You can always reach me at tucsonsales@graylinearizona.com or at 622-8811 ext 3115 *Pictured above left to right are: Nan Wenner; Lee Thompson; Gary Price; Patti Biegler; Will Stanton.*





The Guide Ed News & Tips Page

Featuring News, Updates, Reference Information & Opportunities for Tour Guides, Planners & Tour Operators



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Learn from the comfort of your home—every Sunday at 4:30 p.m. watch “Arizona Highways” on KGUN-9, then at 6:00 p.m. KUAT-6 presents “Arizona Wildlife Views.”

Get some fresh air & exercise and learn to identify local birds at Agua Caliente Park. “Wake Up with the Birds” morning walks are every Tuesday. Times change with the season so call 877-6111 or check their website to confirm start time: www.pima.gov/nrpr or call 877-6111. Remember, bird watching is the fastest growing hobby in the U.S. and there will probably be at least one bird enthusiast in your next tour group.

Tours of Mission San Cayetano de Calabazas will be offered the second Wednesday of each month through March 2007. The tours depart from Tumacacori led by a park ranger as a carpool caravan. A living history “resident” of the mission will provide information about Calabazas, Tumacacori and Guevavi missions. The tours are by reservation only and cost \$10. You will need to bring your own water and picnic lunch. Call 520-398-2341 for reservations.

Still time to sign up for the “Branding Arizona Workshop” on December 20 at the JW Marriott Starr Pass. The workshop is sponsored by the Arizona Office of Tourism and is free. To register or for more information contact Sarah Martins at 1-602-364-3687 or by email at: smartins@azot.gov.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A list of some potential employers in the area was available at the September 29 meeting. Additional copies will be available at future meetings.

Get listed on SAGA’s new website at: www.aztours.org. Send an email to: sagamailbox@comcast.net to request the form so you can be added to the “SAGA Guides” list on-line and on the printed list now being prepared for distribution to potential employers.

GUIDE TIPS

Be prepared on tours and at events—Have your clipboard to hold manifests and itineraries, etc. A pen and highlighter is also standard equipment. It is also wise to keep an updated name & phone contact list of the transportation companies, resorts, taxi services and emergency numbers on your clipboard.

When working as a Step-on Guide for motorcoach tours many guides also carry a copy of the Tucson Visitors Guide to assist guests with phone numbers, addresses, and other details for restaurants and local attractions. You may also want to have a “people counter.” The little clicker/counters are available at sporting goods stores and are handy to have for an accurate count on the motorcoach. With people asking questions as they board, it is so much easier to simply click as each guest steps on the motorcoach.



What's News

Tucson Makes News

The September 15-17 issue of USA Weekend featured four spas around the U.S. in their "Travel Smart" section. **Miraval, Life In Balance** was one of them and noted that it is "Oprah's favorite spa."



Business Week Magazine, September 25 issue had an article on "**The Tucson Trail**" in their "Cities" section. Accompanying the article was a color photo of Teatro Carmen. Following is a reprint of that article: "You've heard of Boston's Freedom Trail. But did you

know Tucson has a similar self-guided walking tour of historic sites? The Presidio Trail wends its way for 2 1/2 miles through downtown. Just follow the turquoise stripe. The trail starts at the site of Presidio San Agustín de Tucson, where the city was founded in 1775. The Spanish garrison is long gone, but a portion of it is being reconstructed for a cultural heritage park set to open next year. The tour takes in some striking architecture. Two high spots: the Pima County Courthouse (1929), a majestic Spanish Colonial Revival building with a blue-tile dome and an impressive interior courtyard, and the newly restored Fox Theatre (1929), a rare Southwestern Art Deco structure. Other notable sites include the Teatro Carmen, built in 1915 as a home for Spanish-language theater, and the well-preserved, and still thriving, Hotel Congress (1919), where local authorities nabbed bank robber John Dillinger and his gang in 1934. Get a map at the Convention & Visitors Bureau, 100 S. Church Ave., or at tucsonpresidiotrust.org. Leave your spurs at home."

CBS Sunday Morning Features Maricopa, AZ

Population growth seems to be a hot topic right now. We see predictions that Tucson and Phoenix will merge by the year 2036 and the U.S. population will reach 300 million by this coming

week. So the 3 year-old town of Maricopa was featured on national TV Sunday, October 8 as a town that mushroomed from 1,500 to 25,000, at one point issuing 800 building permits per month.

Airline & Airport Updates

As of October 1st, Long-Term Parking fee rose to \$9/day.

Jet Blue has began daily, non-stop flights from Tucson to JFK New York. Flight depart TIA 11:30pm to arrive early morning in NYC. Jet Blue's planes feature comfy, leather seats and lots of amenities.

United Airlines began nonstop service to Washington DC through Dulles airport on October 31. They will fly a 120-seat Airbus A-319. The daily flight will depart Tucson at 9:35 a.m. and arrive in Washington at 3:40 p.m. The flight departs Dulles at 5:05 p.m. arriving in Tucson at 8:07 p.m.

For information on what you can bring along on your flight visit the Transportation Security Administration website at: www.tsa.gov and "click" on the "Our Travelers" section at the top. This will take you to links with information and helpful hints.

See Page 5 for more info on what's new at the airport.

In-N-Out Burger(s) Coming Soon

Tucson will finally get the much anticipated In-N-Out Burger—one now under construction at the El Con Mall and one planned at Arizona Pavilions on Cortaro Farms Rd by summer 2007.

Another Movie Marquee on Congress St

The Screening Room at 127 East Congress Street is planning to join the Fox and Rialto with a lighted marquee. The annual International Film Festival is held in April at The Screening Room and other independent films are shown throughout the year. The marquee will sit above a new façade and overhang the sidewalk with a backlit cityscape and sparkling lights.

What's Happening

SEASONAL EVENTS

DEC 19: TUCSON "Barrio Viejo"

LAS POSADAS

Traditional Mexican pageant by the children of Carrillo Magnet School; music & food 6-7pm; procession begins at 7pm; 225-1200

THRU DEC 23: REID PARK ZOO

ZOO LIGHTS (Thurs-Sundays, 6-8 pm)

Light displays, jingle bells, falling snow, refreshments; bring unwrapped Toys for Tots & receive free admission; 881-4753

THRU DEC 23: LA ENCANTADA SHOPPING CTR ENCHANTED SNOWFALL

Fridays & Saturdays 6-7pm "snowfall" & music at the shopping center located at 2905 E Skyline Dr; 299-3556 ext 4

THRU DEC 26: WINTERHAVEN FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

57th annual neighborhood display; hay wagon tours, walk-thru historic midtown neighborhood; drive-thru allowed on Dec 19 & 26; www.winterhavenfestival.org

THRU JAN 7: FLANDRAU PLANATARIUM "TIS THE SEASON" HOLIDAY SHOW

Popular holiday planetarium show traces the development of many of the world's endearing holiday customs, and how they involve lighting up the winter season - from the burning Yule log and sparkling Christmas tree lights to the lighting of the Menorah and luminarias. Plus, we explore the possible explanations for a "Star over Bethlehem" from the history of 2000 years ago; shows Wed-Sat 6:30pm; Sat & Sun 2:30pm; 621-7827 or visit: www.flandrau.org



DEC 29-31 TUCSON

Indian America Pow Wow & Indian Craft Market

Rillito Raceway Park - Competition pow wow, traditional arts/crafts & food, kids activities, Fri 4-10pm; Sat noon-10pm; Sun noon-5pm; \$7/adult; free/6 & under; 520-622-4900

JAN 5-7: CASA GRANDE

FIDDLER & BLUEGRASS JAMBOREE

Pinal County Fair Grounds (512 S 11 Mile Corner Rd); hear famous musicians, browse over 100 arts & crafts booths; lots of food; car show & early days Arizona tractor pull; 9am-5pm; \$4/adm; 520-723-5242

JAN 11-14: WILLCOX

WINGS OVER WILLCOX

14 Annual Birding & Nature Festival
800-200-2272; email for info to: questions@wingsoverwillcox.com

On-Going

THRU FEB 28 TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS BUTTERFLY MAJIC

Special seasonal exhibit features over a 100 different species. October/November will showcase Asia and Australia; December will display African varieties; January will focus on butterflies from Central and South America. Don't miss the emergence room with a viewing window so you can watch the butterflies emerge from their chrysalides. Open daily 10am-3pm; 326-9686 or go to : www.tucsonbotanical.org

THRU APRIL 1: TUCSON MUSEUM OF ART EL NACIMIENTO

Traditional Mexican Nativity scene at the Casa de Cordova Showcases more than 300 figurines in expansive display; website: www.tucsonarts.com or 624-2333

DAILY: ASDM

RAPTOR FREE FLIGHT DEMONSTRATIONS

Daily at Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum 10:30am & 1:30pm free owls, roadrunners & hawks flying free; learn about their behavior & habits; visit: www.desertmuseum.org or call 883-2702; free flight demonstrations included w/admission price.

MONTHLY/3RD THURS: BOTANICAL GARDEN HISTORICAL GARDEN TOURS: 10 a.m.

learn more about the original gardeners of the Tucson Botanical Gardens. Take a trip back in time to focus on the family life of Bernice and Rutger Porter. Discover the historical significance of the property; learn about some of Mrs. Porter's favorite plants, and see some special nooks and secret places. Free with admission; 326-9686

Note to Footprints readers—We will be sending a weekly email update of events & happenings of interest. If you would like to receive the update, please be sure we have your correct email address.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS—SAGA MEETINGS EVENTS

**Four Points Sheraton at Speedway & Campbell
Socializing/Networking starts 6:15p.m.—Program at 7:00 p.m.
Appetizers, Beverages, Full Bar available**

*December 19: Oro Valley-Preserving History
Including Saving the old Steam Pump Ranch
Full Color Presentation by local historian
Jim Kreigh*

*January 16: Chief Meteorologist Chuck George from KOLD-TV 13
Talks about the unique weather of our desert region*
**Come meet Chief Chuck and find out about the unique weather & climate of our
Region; an opportunity to ask your weather questions in person**

December 27, Wednesday: Special “Guide-Ed Program”

Come learn about what happened at Sabino during last summer's rains, & why, what might happen in the future, what has been done, and what will be done. See the before and after photos. See the changed landscape. Learn what your visitors will ask about the geology and other features of the canyon. Claudia Bray, SAGA Historian and Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalist/Head of Public Relations, has generously offered to enlighten us. Bring your own brown bag lunch and beverage for an outdoor picnic following the program (there are sodas and water for purchase). **RSVP to Ali (SAGA Program Coordinator) before December 24—544-0357.** Ali will provide details & car pooling info; \$5/parking fee at Sabino.

Southern Arizona Guides Association
P.O. Box 41692
Tucson AZ 85717