



Los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson
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Members attend general and social meetings and events, receive announcements of preservation and historical events in the Old Pueblo , and receive copies of El Eco del Presidio de Tucson newsletter. Please complete information below and mail this form with a check or money order to: Los **Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson P.O. Box 85337 Tucson AZ 85754**
 Mission Statement: Dedicated to the preservation of the history and culture of Tucson from its inception to the present.
We are a 501c(3) organization within IRS rules.

Membership Information

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail Address _____

I am a descendant of the Spanish Colonial Period (prior to September 1821) (Ancestor name _____)

I am a descendant of the Mexican Republic Period (September 1821 to June 1, 1853)

I am a descendant of a Pioneer family of the Arizona Territory (Gadsden Purchase Treaty era – February 13, 1912)

I am just interested in preserving Tucson's history

I am willing to help in these areas:

<input type="checkbox"/> Transcribe oral histories	<input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising
<input type="checkbox"/> Serve as officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Trace genealogies
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical site preservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter contributor	<input type="checkbox"/> Public relations
<input type="checkbox"/> Organize, host social functions	<input type="checkbox"/> Where needed
<input type="checkbox"/> Typing, copying mailing	<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to help preserve our heritage

by making a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

Member cycle coincides with Arizona Statehood Day, February 14.

Single membership _____ \$40	Pewter _____ \$100
Two at same address _____ \$55	Copper _____ \$250
Family (up to 5) _____ \$65	Silver _____ \$500
Life per person _____ \$500	Gold _____ \$750
Students _____ \$20	Platinum _____ \$1,000
	Diamond _____ \$5,000

Renewal New Amount Paid _____ Date _____



El Eco del Presidio

Newsletter of Los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson, April-July 2019

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Los Descendientes and the Sosa-Carrillo House

The Mexican-American Heritage and History Museum at the Historic Sosa-Carrillo House is now a reality. On March 8 Los Descendientes were handed the keys to the Sosa-Carrillo House by the Arizona Historical Society after several months of research, planning and negotiations by the committee, led by past president Raul Ramirez, and the board of directors.

The idea for a museum and community meeting space was presented to Los Descendientes last year when president Betty Villegas and Lydia Otero, Ph.D., University of Arizona associate professor of Mexican-American Studies, learned that Borderlands Theater (which was renting office space at the House), might have to vacate. They asked Patricia Benton, president of Borderlands Theater and a Los Descendientes member, to join in the effort to keep the House a museum. Borderlands had staged its Barrio Stories play, about the destruction of old and historic homes and businesses to make way for the Tucson Convention Center (TCC), at the Sosa-Carrillo House and TCC grounds. Otero is the author of "La Calle: Spatial Conflicts and Urban Renewal in a Southwestern City," about the destruction of the Downtown Barrio. Betty Villegas had an idea for the first exhibit and the board agreed to give running a museum a try.

The first exhibit was "Trailblazing Women of Mariachi Music" in March. It coincided with International History Month and Arizona Theater Company's "American Mariachi" play. The current exhibit features Lalo Guerrero, who was born in Tucson and is known as the father of Chicano music.

The next exhibit features the writings of Ernesto "Neto" Portillo Jr. that appeared in the Arizona Daily Star where he was a columnist and editor of La Estrella until his retirement in June. "Neto gave voice to many unsung heroes from our community, took us back in time through his storytelling of life in the Old Pueblo," said President Betty Villegas. "He helped us celebrate successes, remember our beloved, and always informed us on current actions affecting our community," she said. "The display will showcase a few of the many columns he has written over his almost 20 years of writing with the Arizona Daily Star and La Estrella, and I'm sure you will recognize many of them," Villegas added.

Plans are to open the exhibit on August 9.

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On Sept.28, the museum will present a collection from fashion designer Delores Barcelo Gonzales. Gonzales was an entrepreneur and businesswoman who developed Tucson's resort wear industry. Remember the "squaw dress"? Popular in the 1940s and '50s, it was a full, slightly gathered skirt, often three-tiered, and a top, decorated with rick-rack. It is said to be based on Navajo, Mexican and Apache wear. Her resort wear was popular throughout the U.S. Other cultural programming is planned to end the museum's first year, said Villegas, "We encourage everyone to support the museum by attending our events, volunteering at the museum, and letting us know what exhibits they would like to see featured," she said. (See photos of museum dedication and reception on Page 5.)

2019 Gran Gala is August 17

The Gran Gala celebrating Tucson's 244th birthday will be held this year at the JW Marriott Starr Pass, 3800 W. Starr Pass Blvd., in the Tucson Mountains on August 17. Festivities start with a no-host cocktail hour at 5 p.m. and include entertainment by Los Changuitos Feos mariachi. The 6:30 p.m. dinner dance will feature Los Poor Boy band. As always, there will be a fabulous silent auction. Tickets are \$90 per person and \$100 per person at the door. A table of 10 is \$900. This year's Gala theme is "Celebrating the Mexican-American Heritage and History Museum at the Historic Sosa-Carrillo House." Proceeds will help maintain the Mexican-American Heritage and History Museum at the Historic Sosa-Carrillo House, 151 S. Granada.



Gala Honorary co-chairs Hector and Mickie Soza at Tucson's 2017 Presidio birthday celebration

Michael Lopez and **Enna Cassler** are Gala co-chairs. Honorary co-chairs are **Hector and Mickie Soza**. Hector Soza, a past president of Los Descendientes, is a descendant of Jose Maria Sosa, a Spanish soldier at the Tucson Presidio. Family lore says that Soza's great-grandfather Jose Maria Sosa III built the house (now known as the Sosa-Carrillo House) in the late 1800s. This year's honorees are **Fred**

McAninch, retired curator of the Sosa-Carrillo House, and **Michael Weber**, Ph.D, former director and executive director of the Arizona Historical Society from 1982 to 1996, who is being honored posthumously. **Ernesto "Neto" Portillo Jr.** will receive a special tribute for his journalistic service chronicling Tucson's history and the city's Mexican-American community in the pages of the Arizona Daily Star where, until his retirement, he was a columnist and editor of La Estrella.

Fred McAninch is a retired curator of the Arizona Historical Society and the Sosa-Carrillo House, joining the museum staff in 1988 and serving as curator of the Sosa-Carrillo House until he retired in 2000. The September 2005 issue of The Smoke Signal publication was devoted to McAninch's research on the Sosa-Carrillo House. Titled "Of Pioneers and Property The Sosa-Carrillo-Fremont House and Urban Renewal," it chronicled the history of the house from its earliest days to its transition as a museum to the 1986 reunion of former occupants of the Fuentes apartments – the Sosa-Carrillo house had been converted into units. It was organized by then museum curator Cynthia Harnish.

Michael Weber, during his tenure at the Arizona Historical Society, was instrumental in founding the Fiesta de San Agustin, held on Second Avenue in front of the Arizona Historical Society. Weber also helped restore and chronicle the history of the Guadalupe Bell, now known as the Presidio Bell, which hung in the entrance to the chapel of the Presidio Real de San Agustin del Tucson. The 150-pound bell, which dates to 1807, is now displayed at St. Augustine Cathedral downtown.

Invitations have been mailed. If you didn't receive one and would like to, call Michael Lopez, 520-981-8852 or Frank Davila, 520-307-3093.

Get Ready to Celebrate Tucson's Official Birthday

Tucson's 244th birthday will be celebrated on the day of its founding, August 20, at the Tucson Presidio, 196 N. Court Ave. August 20 is the day in 1775 that Spanish Army Lt. Col. Hugo O'Connor picked the site for a settlement and fort and named it San Agustin de Tucson. Betty Villegas, who is on the organizing committee, says this year's celebration will be more fiesta than program with mariachis, dancers, singers and Gertie & the TO Boys waila band. Fun starts at 4:30 p.m. and runs to 7:30 p.m.

Los Descendientes Docents

More than a dozen members of Los Descendientes were part of the 12-session Summer Training for Docents class at the Arizona History Museum (AHM), 949 E. Second St. Starting in August they will be docents at the Mexican-American Heritage and History Museum and are qualified to be docents at the Arizona History Museum and any of the Arizona Historical Society's (AHS) eight state museums, four of which are in Tucson. They are also automatic members of Los Amigos volunteer group at AHM. They are: Santos Alvarez, Patricia Benton, Susan Chambers Casteloes, Yvonne Clay, Gilbert Fimbres, Sylvia Finley, Evelyn Jacobs, Josefina Lizarraga, Annie Lopez, Diego Navarette, Tom and Rachel Pollack, Raul Ramirez, Kris Thompson, and Betty Villegas. Yvonne also volunteers at the Arizona History Museum. Rachel and Yvonne also volunteer at the Tucson Presidio Museum. Four members in the AHM class attended the Tucson Presidio Museum volunteer training session August 4 – Josefina Lizarraga, Patricia Benton, Rachel Pollack and Yvonne Clay.

The AHM training was organized and led by Jaynie Adams, museum education coordinator. It included a reading list and talks by representatives of the Tohono O'odham Nation and Pasqua Yaqui Tribe, the Tucson Chinese community, a tour at the Historical Society's Downtown museum located in the Wells Fargo Bank, 140 N. Stone Ave, and talks and a tour of the Sosa-Carrillo House. Four of the Historical Society's museums are located in Tucson. Curious as to which is the fourth AHS museum in Tucson? In addition to the Arizona History Museum, the Sosa-Carrillo House, and the Downtown museum, the fourth is the Fort Lowell Museum, 2900 N. Craycroft Rd.

Fiesta de San Juan and the Santa Cruz River

The June 24 Fiesta de San Juan, a Tucson cultural tradition, is an event to hope and pray for the summer rains to begin. It is held near the west bank of the Santa Cruz River, which once flowed pretty much year-round and whose water is responsible for people settling in this area. The river provided water to irrigate fields dating to more than 4,000 years ago. Mesquite bosques grew along its bank, providing firewood and attracting wildlife. In short, it was the area's and early Tucson's lifeblood. It's why the land below Sentinel Peak ("A" Mountain) is called Tucson's birthplace.

On June 24 water once again flowed in the Santa Cruz near downtown. Tucson Water released reclaimed water into the dry riverbed just north of the Silverlake Road bridge. According to a story in the June 21 Arizona Daily Star, about 2.8 million gallons of reclaimed wastewater can be discharged into the Santa Cruz. The amount may be less depending on the demand for reclaimed water from other users -- golf courses and parks for instance. It amounts to a small stream, but in July could be seen wending its way north past the Speedway Road bridge. Water flow is temporarily suspended to upgrade equipment.

Hopes are high that the water release, part of the Santa Cruz Heritage Project, will develop a riparian area along its banks with trees and wildlife. The Santa Cruz already has two such areas, one is northwest of Tucson near Ina and Cortaro Roads, fed by the Agua Nueva Water Reclamation Facility and the Tres Rios Wastewater Reclamation plant. The other is in Rio Rico, south of Tucson, at the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment plant.

In Memorium

Susie Arreola died on April 14. She was born July 5, 1925. Ms. Arreola was a longtime member of Los Descendientes, the Presidio San Agustin del Tucson and Tucson-Mexico Sister Cities, and belonged to many other social and service clubs. Ms. Arreola was a graduate of Tucson High School and was an active alumna. She worked for Raytheon (formerly Hughes Aircraft) until her retirement at age 52, which enabled her to travel around the world. She was known for her love of music, culture, travel and the arts. She was a great dancer and loved to go to dances and tardeadas, dancing almost to the day she died. Big Band music was a passion, as were mariachis and Spanish-language songs, and she loved to sing along, never missing a beat or lyric.



Susie Arreola

Robert Lee Benton Jr. died on March 24. He was born April 10, 1938, at the Stork's Nest downtown. A longtime member of Los Descendientes, he was on the Board of Directors serving as first vice president and member-at-large. Bobby, as he was known, was a descendant of San Agustin del Presidio soldier Jose Gausinio Telles. He grew up in Historic Barrio Anita, attended Davis School (which was conveniently located across the street from his home), John Springs Junior High, and graduated from Tucson High School. Bobby was a talented musician who loved to play the guitar and sing, whether at parties or at Mass where he played with friends at St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Church, Santa Cruz, San Cosme Chapel and Holy Family. His automobile and truck sales career started at O'Rielly Chevrolet where he filled orders on roller skates. In addition to Los Descendientes, Bobby was a member of Tucson Mexico Sister Cities, Fundacion Mexico, Knights of Columbus, Tucson Presidio Trust, American Legion Post 7 and the Marine Corps League, a favorite spot to celebrate his birthday, playing and singing with friends. Bobby will be honored by a scholarship to a Tucson Magnet High School music student by Tucson-Mexico Sister Cities, and Mission Garden will name a pomegranate tree in the Mexican Garden in his memory. He loved pomegranates, especially in red Jello.



Bobby Benton

Patricia O'Rielly Pettis died on May 31. She was born on January 31, 1930. She and her husband Charles were Descendientes members and supporters of groups that fostered historic preservation. She was a sixth-generation Tucsonan, and according to her obituary in the Arizona Daily Star, she considered herself "fortunate to have been born into a Tucson pioneer family, the Lees on her mother's mother's side and the descendants of Peter Rainsford Brady on her mother's father's side." In addition to Los Descendientes, Pat, as she was known, was a member of the Tucson High School Badger Foundation Hall of Fame, and Beta Delta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority. The Tucson groups and charities she supported included Mission San Xavier del Bac and its Patronato San Xavier, the Southern Arizona Aids Foundation, Arizona Land and Water Trust and the Tucson Zoological Society.

'I Am Tubac'

Rick Collins, national park ranger at Tumacacori and volunteer at Tubac Presidio State Park, is collecting stories from people who lived in Tubac for an exhibit titled "I Am Tubac." He is interested in talking with folks who lived in Tubac before 1918. If you would like to participate or know someone who qualifies, email Collins at rcollins@biocom.arizona.edu. Deadline for submissions is Sept.1

Presidio Museum Fundraiser

Fandango!, the Presidio San Agustin Museum's annual fundraiser, is scheduled for September 29, 5 p.m., at The Coronet, 198 W. Cushing St. Price for museum members is \$75; non-members \$85. Contact the Presidio to purchase tickets. 520-837-8119.

Mexican-American Heritage & History Museum Dedication and Reception



Betty Villegas, second from right, president of Los Descendientes, gives opening remarks at the official dedication of the Mexican-American Heritage & History Museum at the Historic Sosa-Carrillo House on March 8. Pictured with Villegas are Eric Gonzales, right, Arizona Historical Society's statewide facilities manager, Raul Ramirez, and Leonor Xochitl Perez, curator/researcher for the "Trailblazing Women of Mariachi Music" exhibit. Below left: Regina Romero, left, Betty Villegas, Lydia Otero, Alva Torres and Enna Cassler. Below, Esther Tellez, left, and Susan Chambers Castelo. Bottom photo: Loma Griffith and Isabel Garcia, right.

