



Los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson
P.O. Box 50871
Tucson AZ 85703
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TUCSON, ARIZONA

Members attend general and social meetings and events, receive announcements of preservation and historical events in the Old Pueblo , and receive four copies of El Eco del Presidio de Tucson per year. Please complete information below and mail this form with a check or money order to: Los **Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson P.O. Box 50871 Tucson AZ 85703**
 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 _____

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 _____

Visit our website at www.Descendientes.org

EL ECO DEL PRESIDIO

Newsletter of Los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson
January-March 2017

2016 Officers

President

Raul Ramirez

1st vice president

Robert Benton

2nd vice president

Betty Villegas

Treasurer

Maria Ester Espinosa

Corresponding Secretary

Sylvia C. Finley

Recording Secretary

Gloria Jean Ramirez

Members-at-Large

Susie Arreola

Gilbert Fimbres

Evelyn Jacobs

Jesus Rico

Past President

Annie Morales Lopez

Newsletter Editor

Patricia Morán Benton

President's message

First, we want to thank Adela Gonzales for the five years she served as our treasurer and for the four years she was our Gala Chair, she did great job and we wish her continued success in all her endeavors. We also want to welcome Maria Ester Espinosa as our new treasurer. She is a CPA and served previously as the treasurer for the Mexican American Women's League.

The installation of our Board and Tribute to Arnold Smith, our founder, took place on January 22 at the Viscount Hotel and close to 90 guests attended. Many thanks to Judge/Doña Carmen Dolny for administering the oath of office and Annie Lopez and committee members Evelyn Jacobs and Jose Hernandez for organizing the event. It was heartwarming to hear the tributes to Arnold from family, friends and members; he was truly loved by all and we as an organization would not exist without his vision, energy and personal resources that he contributed to Los Descendientes.

As we start the new year, we have our work cut out for us. We are moving forward with the Reburial Project and 26 remains have been set aside for reburial at Holy Hope Cemetery. A tentative date of November 18 has been selected. Thank you, Doñas del Presidio de Tucson, for your generous contribution to this project in the memory of Doña Estela Jácome.

We also have selected a date for our annual Gala, it is August 12 at the Tucson Convention Center downtown. It is part of Tucson's birthday celebration. Betty Villegas, our second vice president, will be our Gala Chair, and Enna Cassler will again oversee the Silent Auction. Please save the date and set aside items to donate to the auction.

We would like to recruit a member to chair the Heritage Committee to organize quarterly presentation on topics of interest to membership. This could include oral histories, book author presentations, and stories about the people and history of the Old Pueblo. The chair would also join us on our Board of Directors. Please give me a call at 250-1615 if you would be interested.

Finally, my article on the 1807 Presidio/ Guadalupe Bell was published by the Southwestern Mission Research Center "Revista," volume 47-49, number 174. It is also featured in the Presidio's latest newsletter, El Presidio Real. The article entitled "Historic Bell at St. Augustine Cathedral" can also be found on our website [www. Descendientes.org](http://www.Descendientes.org).

Raul E. Ramirez, President

Installation of Officers and Tribute to Arnold Smith

Maria Ester Espinosa joined the re-elected board as treasurer at the January 22 installation at the Viscount Hotel. The event honored Arnold Smith, founder of Los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson. Arnold's great-great-grandfather was Lt. Col. José Maria Martínez, a Mexican soldier and commandante of the Tucson Presidio from 1836 to 1838. Arnold founded Los Descendientes in 1990 in honor of his ancestors' contributions to the formation of Tucson and Southern Arizona.

Many attending the installation and tribute honored Arnold's memory and accomplishments, including Doña Genevieve Whalen, a past president and longtime active member who spoke of his commitment to Los Descendientes and her joy in having worked with him. Gloria Alvillar asked attendees to live up to what he represented and honor his legacy by continuing his work. Arnold's brother Edward recalled how he and Arnold were tree-climbing and Arnold, then 5, scraped his back on the bark as he slid down. Ed, a year older, played doctor and ran into the house, returning with a bottle of alcohol to put on his brother's wounds. He thanked Patricia, Arnold's wife of 57 years, for caring for his brother during Arnold's long illness, making it possible to keep him in a positive environment at home instead of a nursing home. Arnold's cousin Joann Dornan told of how, when she came to Tucson knowing little of her family history, Arnold helped her research her family.



Arnold Smith

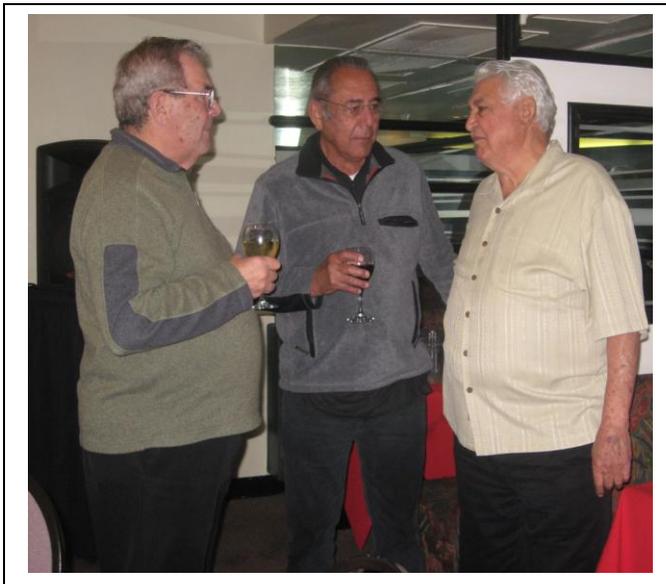
Born on January 25, 1930, Arnold died on October 31, 2016. He was a graduate of Tucson High School and the University of Arizona where he majored in business administration and earned a master's in education. He worked for the Southern Arizona Bank, Bank of America, the Pima County treasurer, and Sunnyside School District, where, after retiring he volunteered to teach English as a Second Language. His survivors include his daughter Julie Day and son Arnold, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The Reburial Project includes Lt. Col. Martinez's remains, are believed to be one of the many found at the National Cemetery, in use from 1862 to 1881, and excavated to build the new Pima County Service Center downtown. As the remains bore similarities to arrowhead wounds suffered by Lt. Col. Martínez, Los Descendientes claimed the remains and began a process to see whether they were those of Martínez. DNA testing, which had to be done from the paternal side of the family, were inconclusive.

Photos of Smith Tribute and Installation



Above, Mickie Soza and Patricia Smith. Top right, Margot Friedman and Doña Genevieve Whalen. At right, Berta Nava and Adela Gonzales. Photos by Patricia Benton



Above, Dr. Johnny Rodgers, Michael Jacobs and Carlos Nava. At right, Gwen and Ed Smith. More photos on Page 7.



Merienda 2016

Las Doñas del Presidio de Tucson will hold this year's Merienda on April 2, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the home of David and Sarah Smallhouse in Tucson Country Club Estates. The Merienda honors three new Doñas, Lynne Wood Dusenberry, Daisy Jenkins and Mercy Valencia. Cost is \$50 per person. Invitations have been mailed; if you didn't receive one and would like to attend, please call Kris Thompson at 529-5825.

Silver Spike Festival

The Southern Arizona Transportation Festival will celebrate the 137th anniversary of the railroad arriving in Tucson at the Silver Spike Festival on March 18 at the Historic Depot, 414 N. Toole Avenue. Festivities start with music by the Fourth U.S. Cavalry Regiment Band at 9:30 a.m. followed by a 10 a.m. program featuring a mayoral proclamation, display of the original silver spike, a re-enactment skit based on the Southern Pacific's arrival March 20, 1880. Doña Tina Lyons' son Dan will play the role of Albert Steinfeld in the re-enactment. Honorees of the Silver Spike Hall of Fame will be presented. The free festival also celebrates the 12th anniversary of the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum. It includes a craft fair and cake.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Los Descendientes' members and Doñas again will march and ride in the parade on March 17 downtown in honor of Lt. Col. Hugo O'Connor, founder of the presidio. On August 20, 1775, O'Connor, an Irishman in the service of Spain, rode into what is now Tucson to relocate the Presidio de Tubac, which was to be moved north. He was accompanied by Fray Francisco Garces and Lt. Juan de Carmona. A 11-acre site bounded by what is now Church and Main avenues, Pennington and Washington streets, became the Presidio San Agustín del Tucson.

Borderlands Theater

Borderlands Theater has moved into the historic Sosa-Carrillo-Fremont House, located on the westside of the Tucson Convention Center complex at 151 S. Granada Ave. Borderlands previously occupied the historic Charles O. Brown House on West Broadway.

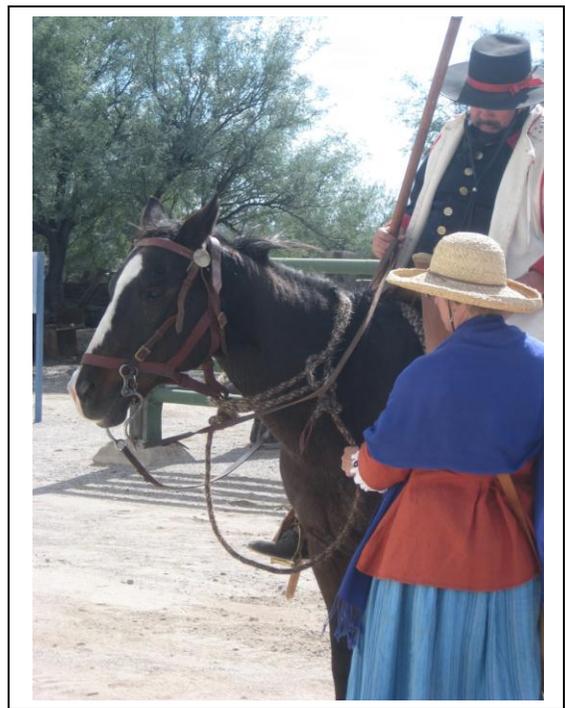
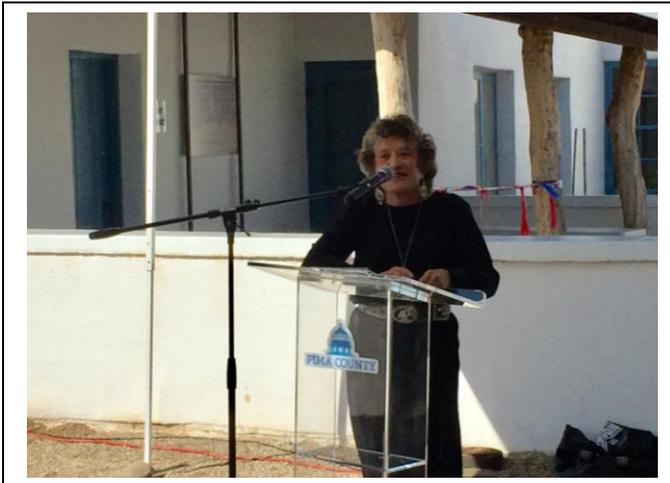
The new location offers more office space for the theater while preserving the museum phase of the Arizona Historical Society, the building owner. It is a significant move for Borderlands because it is one of a few buildings saved when razing historic homes and businesses were razed to make way for the convention center complex and office buildings. Borderlands Theater told the story of the destruction and the displacement of many Tucson families in "Barrio Stories," which took place on the convention center grounds. Borderlands is working on a production on another historic area, Barrio Anita, in the fall. Plans are to stage it in Barrio Anita.

Arizona Daily Star columnist Ernerto Portillo tells of the move and Borderlands Theater's history in his Sunday, March 5, column. Borderlands, as is the plight of nonprofit theaters large and small everywhere, is currently in a fund-raising campaign to keep the doors open. He writes in his column of the crowdsourcing effort <https://www.gofundme.com/keep-borderlands-theater-open> which will run through March 27. Full disclosure: Newsletter editor Patricia Benton is the theater's board president.

Historic Canoa Ranch

The fourth annual Anza Day was celebrated at the historic Canoa Ranch on the afternoon of October 22. Festivities included the Anza Coalition color guard, a procession, historic presentations, booths and food vendors and a new Mexican vaquero/family exhibit put together by Descendientes member and author Patricia Preciado Martin and retired Tucson librarian Amanda Castillo.

Preciado Martin and Castillo wanted to restore the ranch's vaquero history which dates to the Spanish Colonial period, when it was the San Ignacio de la Canoa. According to an interview with The Arizona Daily Star's Ernesto Portillo, it was especially important to Castillo who as a child lived on the ranch with her family. Her father, Jesus Salcido, and her uncles Juan and Francis Salcido were ranch vaqueros. As Castillo and Preciado Martin affirm, it was a ranch owned by the Levi Manning family, but built by the Mexican-American cowboys – families such as the Ahumadas, Gallardos, Grijalvas, Murriettas, Lopezes and Ortizes. Canoa Ranch, now owned by Pima County, has been renamed the Historic Hacienda de la Canoa, Raul M. Grijalva Canoa Ranch Conservation Park. Grijalva's family also were ranch workers. The ranch is located at 5375 S. 1-19 Frontage Road, about 35 miles south of Tucson. It is east of I-19 in the Green Valley vicinity.



Above left, Patricia Preciado Martin in front of the restored Grijalva home. Above, Barbara Collins adjusts the authentic horsehair mecate on Rebel, her husband Rick Collins' horse. Rick was one of the Anza riders. Left, Rachel Pollack and Mary Graf staff the Presidio San Agustin exhibit. Photos by Patricia Benton.

Presidio San Agustín

The Presidio San Agustín del Tucón will hold its annual member meeting April 23 at 4 p.m. at the Presidio, 196 N. Court Ave. The afternoon celebrates the Presidio's new liquor license and will feature cocktails, appetizers and desserts. On the agenda is approval of the slate of officers and presentations on new interpretive kits, activities and programs. Cost is \$10 at the door for members and includes one cocktail. There will be a cash bar for additional drinks. The Presidio is accepting membership renewals.

In Memorium

Oscar Tellez, a descendant of Presidio soldier Gausinio Tellez, passed away December 1, at the age of 85. Born November 11, 1931, Tellez enjoyed telling stories of growing up in Barrio Anita and was known for his jokes and sense of humor. Tellez worked as a nursing assistant. He was an avid UA Wildcat fan, enjoyed going to the casinos and celebrating his birthdays at the Wooden Nickel.

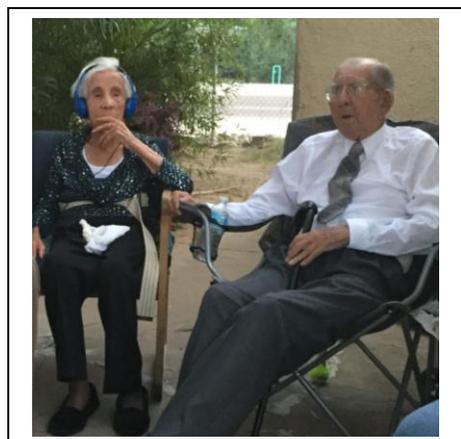
The life of **Sidney Brinckerhoff**, supporter and friend of the Presidio San Agustín, was celebrated at the presidio March 4. Born on September 27, 1933, he died January 5 in Bellevue, Washington. While in Tucson, Brinckerhoff volunteered at presidio Living History events and helped provide supplies and funds for educational programs. He earned a degree in American history from Princeton University, eventually making his way to Tucson where he became executive director of the Arizona Historical Society.

Brinckerhoff also was executive director of the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona and a co-founder of The Parent Connection. Known for his love of history, animals and his generosity, he also was a supporter of Therapeutic Riding of Tucson.

Joan Diamond, a Descendientes member with husband Donald Diamond, died December 28. She was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on February 11, 1929. She attended the University of Arizona, where she and Donald met. After their marriage she and Donald lived in New York state before returning to Tucson. She was active in many Tucson organizations including the Brewster Center, Tucson Symphony Orchestra, Angel Charities for Children. Joan Diamond is credited with establishing the Steele Children's Research Center and she and Donald helped start Diamond Children's Hospital.

Doña Lolly Almquist is being honored

The Haven is honoring Doña Lolly Almquist at its 11th annual Chrysalis Award Luncheon on March 23 at the Arizona Inn, 2200 E. Elm St. Doña Lolly is well-known for her community service including for the United Way and Casa de los Niños. She is the recipient of numerous awards including 1980 Tucson Woman of the Year. In 2012 The Arizona Daily Star Generations of Commitment Award from the Pima Council on Aging was presented to Doña Lolly, husband, John, and their children. The Haven is a nonprofit offering prevention and substance-abuse treatment services for homeless women and their children. Cost is \$70 per person. Luncheon starts with registration at 11:30 a.m. RSVP to Suzi Armenta at 623-4590 or [reserve online at www.thehaventucson.org](http://www.thehaventucson.org).



Oscar Tellez and his aunt, Amelia Tellez Benton, at her 105th birthday in October. Photo by Patricia Benton

More photos of Installation/Tribute



Above, left, Marlene Dunbar, Monica Smith, Mickie Soza, Rachel Pollack, and Becky Valenzuela. Below left, Santos Alvarez and Manuel Garcia. Below right, Enna Cassler, Olivia Hernandez, Jose Luis Hernandez, and Sylvia Finley. Photos by Patricia Benton



Los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson

We are a nonprofit, charitable, cultural and educational organization founded to preserve the unique cultural influences derived from the Spanish and Mexican periods. The Pimería Alta region was defined by Jesuit priest Padre Eusebio Francisco Kino to include what today is known as most of Pima, Cochise and Santa Cruz counties in Arizona, and the state of Sonora, Mexico. We sponsor historic commemorations, documents, collect oral histories, encourage and support local historic preservation efforts, and seek to enhance local knowledge of the richness and diversity of Tucson's history. Membership is open to all interested persons who wish to participate in furthering our goals. Dues are: individuals - \$40, couples -- \$55, and family -- \$65. Membership cycle coincides with Arizona Statehood Day, February 14. Our website is www.Descendientes.org, email address is LosDescendientes@aol.com. A membership form is included on the mailing page of this newsletter.