

LW Foundation Lecture Series History

LWF Premier Lecture Series 2020-21 "HISTORY AND HERITAGE - ALIVE IN ARIZONA"

18 Nov 2020 "Prescott, AZ – Everybody's Hometown"

Bill Harrison

The Leisure World Foundation Lecture Series is presenting, "Prescott, Arizona: Everybody's Hometown" on Wednesday, November 18. This free program on the historic town of Prescott - pronounced by locals as "press-kit" like biscuit - is presented by the very entertaining Bill Harrison.

For more than 150 years, this vibrant community north of Phoenix in the cool Bradshaw Mountains, has been welcoming visitors as if they were family! Prescott was the first Arizona Territorial Capital in 1867. The boomtown offered 50 rowdy saloons that entertained thousands of rawhide-rough cowboys, crusty miners, notorious outlaws and famous lawmen. Today, Prescott is a charming, cultured, and artistic community with more than 40,000 residents. Each year dozens of events are enjoyed on the verdant lawn of the Yavapai County Courthouse.

In addition to the annual Frontier Days Rodeo, Prescott was honored in 1989 as the Official Christmas City of Arizona. No visit to Prescott would be complete without touring the historic Elks Opera House. The new Elks Theatre and Performing Arts Center reopened in 2012 after eight years of restoration. The colorful history, dynamic people, unique architecture, and the picturesque beauty of this Northern Arizona gem, will be enjoyed by everyone!

27 Jan 2021 "Goldfield from Boom to Bust to Boom!"

Bill Harrison

In 1893, Goldfield became a boomtown! The discovery of gold in the rugged foothills of the Superstition Mountains caused the Arizona Territory to celebrate! Local newspapers predicted Goldfield would be bigger than Phoenix in a few years. Hundreds of rowdy men enjoyed saloons, gambling house and a brothel in Goldfield. Unfortunately, in the early years of the 20th Century, the gold ran out and a fire leveled the town. This is the remarkable story of a ghost town brought back to life. For more than 30 years, Bob Schoose has carefully rebuilt Goldfield along the Apache Trail. Today, travelers from all over the world visit the ghost town to experience the excitement of Arizona's Wild West! Desert and cowboy photography will be exhibited by LW Photography Club.

27 Feb 2021 "Free Time in the Phoenix and Arizona"

Sharon Waldie

Sharon Waldie has been in love with Arizona since she moved here in 1971. She feels passionate about passing along her stately knowledge to Arizona visitors. In addition to her involvement in tourism, she became a docent at the Desert Botanical Garden in 1996. That same year, she developed her love for public speaking by joining Toastmasters International and garnered several certificates for her advanced speaking skills, which include the Advanced Competent Leader (CL) Certificate. She has won multiple Toastmaster speech contests. She also became a certified Guide with the AGA, having passed on oral and written test on Arizona. She is a past docent for the Tovrea Castle, a historic structure and landmark. You will enjoy hearing Sharon speak about the fun things to do in "Free Time"!

17 Mar 2021 "Still Getting Our Kicks on Historic Arizona Route 66"

Bill Harrison

Known as the "Main Street of America," Route 66 has become a symbol of freedom, of innocence, a reminder of the last good time America ever had. Over 158 Miles of the original highway are still drivable in Arizona, including the longest unbroken stretch in existence. If you have not traveled Historic Route 66 in Arizona, or it has been ages since you have immersed yourself in the dazzling landscape and matchless Americana along this famous stretch of meandering highway - this presentation is for you. Our journey will begin at the Petrified Forest National Park on the eastern border of Arizona, then we will drive west for a pleasant stopover in Winslow, Flagstaff, Williams, Seligman, and Kingman. Finally, we will explore the once booming gold-mining town of Oatman near the California border. Our unique road trip will be filled with breathtaking scenery, memorable people, curious facts, persistent myths, friendly ghosts, and enduring legends that have made Route 66 an Integral part of the history of Arizona.

LWF Premier Lecture Series 2019-20

20 Nov 2019 "American War Heroes"

Bill Harrison

Thousands of young men and women from Arizona have stepped forward in time of war to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. None saw themselves as special, only Americans doing their patriotic duty. However, some of these individuals discovered an inner strength when faced with impossible situations and certain death. They didn't give up or give in. They fought on with stubborn determination that would later be described as extraordinary and heroic. This is remarkable story of seven men who sacrificed for America's freedom.

18 Dec 2019 "Sidekicks! A Different Kind of Cowboy Hero"

Bill Harrison

Western movies of the Silver Screen were remarkably successful because of the outrageous antics of irascible, colorful and lovable sidekicks. Kids were in awe of cowboy heroes, but it was the bumbling, stumbling sidekick who drew audiences back to local theaters every week. A sidekick didn't have to be perfect like the hero. If he tripped and fell, stuttered, wore outlandish clothes, or made a fool of himself, it was all right - and expected! The sidekick's job was to provide comic relief for the story, help with the dialogue, support the hero's efforts and even supply musical interludes. This presentation will examine the fascinating lives of four legendary actors: Fuzzy St. John, Smiley Burnette, Andy Devine and Gabby Hayes. This is a wonderful program you don't want to miss.

22 Jan 2020 "Desert Dwellers"

Philip "Wildman Phil" Rakoci

Arizona native, Philip "Wildman Phil" Rakoci has a passion for all things creepy, crawly, strange, and exotic. His unique brand of comedy had been enjoyed by tens of thousands, and his forays into wild places are legendary. He shares interesting facts and exciting stories about some of the creatures and situations of Arizona's wild outdoors. After the lecture, the LW Photography Club will exhibit their animal photography.

19 Feb 2020 "Cowpokes, Crooks, & Cactus: Arizona in Movies"

Bill Harrison

Cowboys, Cactus, Critters, and Crooks: Arizona in the Movies starring Tyrone Power, Faye Dunaway, Andy Devine, Katy Jurado, Steve McQueen, Carrie Fisher and John Wayne. From the earliest days of film, Arizona has been a setting for hundreds of films. Some, like Junior Bonner and Red River, are considered classics, while others, such as Billy Jack and Evolution, are appreciated for their offbeat contributions to popular culture. Some may even be classics in the making, from Tombstone to Near Dark. In this entertaining talk, presenter Gregory McNamee, a frequent contributor on film to the Encyclopedia Britannica and former columnist for the Hollywood Reporter, looks at more than 100 films that have brought the Grand Canyon State to the silver screen.

18 Mar 2020 "Turquoise, Gem of Arizona"

Bill Harrison

Turquoise is one of the world's most ancient gems. Rulers of early Egypt adorned themselves, and their burial chambers, with turquoise, Chinese artisans were carving turquoise statues more than 3,000 years ago. The Aztecs used turquoise encrusted knives in human sacrifices. The Zuni, Navajo and Pueblo Indians have long incorporated turquoise in their bold and beautiful jewelry. Turquoise is also considered mystical stone that guarantees good health, increased fortune and spiritual protection from evil. In 1974, Arizona adopted turquoise as its official state gemstone. We will visit famous turquoise mines in Bisbee, Morenci, Globe and Kingman to learn how this gem is mined, processed and carefully selecting quality turquoise. All are encouraged to wear their turquoise jewelry! A fun way to display treasured heirlooms!

LWF Premier Lecture Series 2018-19

28 Nov 2018 "Buckhorn Mineral Baths and Wildlife Museum"

Ron Peters

Presented by: Ron Peters - Author

After a disastrous 1935 Christmas Eve fire destroyed their small country gas station and taxidermy business, a new, unimagined door opened for Ted and Alice Sliger. They began turning tragedy into triumph, transforming a dusty patch of scrub-covered desert eight miles east of Mesa into a legendary roadside oasis. Their chance discovery of mineral-laden hot springs led to the Valley's first therapeutic spa. With the New York Giant's initial attraction to the Buckhorn's mineral baths, a decades-long association with Major League Baseball helped pave the way to Cactus League baseball. By the time it closed in 1999, the Sligers had built the Buckhorn into an iconic, quintessential roadside business along the route of four federal highways.

19 Dec 2018 "Navajo Code Talkers"

Laura Tohe

Presented by: Laura Tohe Arizona Historian

"Armed with our language, we went to war." During WWII a select group of young Navajo men enlisted in the Marines with a unique weapon. Using the Navajo language, they devised a secret code that the enemy never deciphered. For over 40 years a cloak of secrecy hangs over the Code Talker's Service until the code was declassified and they were finally honored for their military contributions in the South Pacific by Presidents Reagan, Bush and the Navajo Nation. The Code Talkers' cultural background, how the code was devised and used, photos and how Navajo spiritual beliefs were used to treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) form this presentation.

30 Jan 2019 "Canada, Neighbors to the North"

Learn about our friends and neighbors from Canada. You will discover the beauty of the country. Information about their government, industry, landscape, cities, recreation, language and much more. Learn where your Canadian friends and neighbors live, what provinces and territories there are in Canada and where they are in relationship to the United States. If you have never visited Canada, you will want to go there!

20 Feb 2019 "Arizona Dude Ranches & Mystery of the Triangle T Ranch"

Bill Harrison

For more than 100 years, Arizona dude ranches have offered guests a chance to learn about the old West and enjoy a unique respite from urban bustle. Early dude ranches required "a tenderfoot or a greenhorn" to work alongside the ranch hands herding cows, mending fences and mucking- out horse stalls. Dude ranches gradually improved, offering guests all the amenities of a fine resort including gourmet dining, championship golf courses, day spas and lessons in "the art of relaxing." Imagine a respected and popular Arizona dude ranch serving as a top-secret prison for one of the most notorious spies of World War II. It happened in 1942 at the Triangle T Guest Ranch near Patagonia in southern Arizona. This is the remarkable story of a historic guest ranch turned on its head by the realities of war!

20 Mar 2019 "Belly Up to the Bar! Saloons of the Arizona Territory"

Bill Harrison

For 75 years, saloons were the very heart of the Old West! They were the gathering places of rawhide-rough cowboys, ragged miners, itinerate railroad men, shady gamblers, edgy gunfighters, shifty politicians and the very cream of the local community. The saloon not only offered thirsty men potent liquor to wash away trail dust, there was also food to fill a growling belly, spirited music to sooth and excite plus the joy of willing women! Live entertainment was common at Arizona saloons; some establishments offered opera singers, acrobats, banjo players, cancan dancers and even plays by William Shakespeare! All saloons in Arizona had gambling games to separate men from their money. In addition to exploring the unique architecture of saloons and magnificent Brunswick back bars, we will also visit four of the most famous saloons in Arizona.

LWF Premier Lecture Series 2017-18

15 Nov 2017 "Arizona Stepping Stone to the Moon"

Bill Harrison

American astronauts would go to the moon - but first they would go to Flagstaff, Arizona. On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong was the first man to set foot on the moon. This is the remarkable story about the Apollo Astronauts who came to Arizona to study geology at Meteor Crater near Winslow, the Grand Canyon and at the San Francisco Volcanic Field. It's also the story of Eugene Shoemaker who established the Astrogeology Science Center in Flagstaff. Dr. Shoemaker wanted to replicate the surface of the moon to train astronauts and test equipment, so he created a lunar surface with high explosives at Cinder Lake, Seven Miles from Flagstaff. This presentation will not only revisit an incredibly exciting time in America, it will also make you proud of Arizona and its involvement in the "Space Race."

20 Dec 2017 "Railroads – All Aboard Arizona!"

Roger Clark & Rob Bohannon

Roger Clark and Rob Bohannon, Arizona Historians, will present this informative lecture. There's something about these big trains rolling down the tracks. It's a magnet that pulls you and you can't release. While onboard the Sunset Limited, settle back and watch the Bayou Country, Mexican border, southwestern deserts and California mountains pass by your window. Learn the history and future plans including making Amtrak's Sunset Limited train daily instead of tri-weekly and returning service to Phoenix along with having frequent high-speed passenger between Phoenix and Tucson.

17 Jan 2018 "Annie Oakley, a Lady, a Sharpshooter, a Legend!"

Bill Harrison

Millions of people around the globe thrilled to the exotic sights and sounds of Buffalo Bills Wild West Story! Even with hundreds of cowboys and Indians, stagecoach robberies and Rodeo events, the huge crowds waited anxiously for one person - Annie Oakley, the most famous sharpshooter in the world. Annie was barely five-foot-tall and weighed only 100 pounds, but when she entered an arena, the applause was thunderous! From humble beginnings of poverty, abuse and hunger, Annie tenaciously developed her remarkable skills that would eventually dazzle presidents, kings and queens. Annie proved her astonishing abilities thousands of times as a performer and by winning dozens of shooting contests across American and Europe.

21 Feb 2018 "Soil Soldiers, The Civilian Conservation Corps"

Bill Harrison

America suffered during the Great Depression. The stock market collapsed, banks closed, families lost their farms, unemployment was at a staggeringly high level and people were hungry. The Depression hurt young men especially. They had the fewest skills and the lowest earnings and savings, and many found themselves without any prospects for employment. President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1933 for two reasons: "Young men need jobs. Public lands need conservation. Let's put young men to work conserving and improving our public lands." The CCC had a profoundly positive effect on millions of underfed and scrawny boys who were smart, mature, savvy, tested and tough. In Arizona, state parks and national monuments, as well as dozens of recreation areas and tourist attractions, benefitted from the sweat and resolve of an army of soil soldiers.

21 Mar 2018 "Before Bonnie and Clyde, the Forgotten Story of Irene and Glenn"

Christine Reid

Presented by: Christine Reid – Arizona Historian

The 1930's story of Bonnie and Clyde captured the nation's attention but a story that preceded it was just as intriguing. In 1929, a Sunday school teacher and former Boy Scout Leader and a young waitress became an unlikely pair committing murder and mayhem beginning in Pennsylvania and spreading across the United States. The tale takes a turn into Arizona with kidnapping of a local deputy on Florence's Main Street, a shoot-out in Chandler and capture in the Estrella Mountains.

LWF Premier Lecture Series 2016-17
“HISTORY AND HERITAGE – ALIVE IN ARIZONA”

16 Nov 2016 “Gene Autry, The Singing Cowboy”

Bill Harrison

Bill Harrison, Arizona historian, will delight you with stories about “Gene Autry, The Singing Cowboy.” What made Gene Autry so special? Find out in the dynamic presentation featuring Gene’s famous songs, information about his movies, rare photos and stories. To moviegoers in the 1930s and 1940s, Autry was a red-blooded American hero whose films featured a dashing horse, Champion, a flood of happy endings and simple Western songs.

21 Dec 2016 “Yes Virginia, there was a Santa Claus Arizona”

Bill Harrison

Bill Harrison, Arizona Historian, will present “Yes Virginia, there was a Santa Claus Arizona.” This is his response to the famous news article in the New York The Sun answering the age-old question, “Is there a Santa Claus?” Santa Claus (also known as Santa Claus Acres) is an uninhabited desert town in Mohave County, Ariz. Originating in 1937, Santa Claus lies approximately 14 miles (23 km) northwest of Kingman, Ariz. along U.S. Route 93 between mile markers 57 and 58, immediately north of Hermit Drive and just south of both Grasshopper Junction, Ariz. and the Junk Art of Chloride, a group of metal statues in Chloride, Ariz. that include a flamingo made from a motorcycle gas tank. Characterized in 1988 as “a little roadside place on the west shoulder of U.S. Route 93,” Santa Claus receives traffic from motorists driving between Phoenix, Ariz. and Las Vegas, Nev. or Hoover Dam.

18 Jan 2017 “The American Southwest Trail of Tears”

Jamie Ford

This is the moving story of the forced relocation and movement of Native American nations from southeastern parts of the present-day United States. Presented by Jamie Ford (author of “Hotel on the Corner of Bitter & Sweet”).

15 Feb 2017 “Salt River Wild Horses”

Cindy Shanks

Lecture by Cindy Shanks, author of “Whisper & Photography Exhibit” Whisper is a wild horse who lives in the desert along the Salt River in Arizona. Soon after she was born, she became entangled in wire fencing. The author lifted her out and sent her on her way with her family. This book allows you to follow their friendship for the next three years as Whisper grows into a beautiful mare and introduces her new foal to her friend. Come learn about Whisper and the other Salt River horses, one of Arizona’s treasures, a favorite subject of photographers and the icon of the wild, free spirit of the American West. Photo display by LW Photography Club featuring many of the Salt River horses will be in Pima Room.

15 Mar 2017 “Candies, Muckers & TNT: Early Mining in Arizona”

Bill Harrison

Presented by Arizona historian, Bill Harrison, you’ll find that early mining in Arizona was a dangerous occupation. With only a candle to guide their way, these determined men entered a black, creaking, stinking, hot, humid and treacherous world filled with cave-ins, poisonous gas, explosions and fires. These men toiled in unbelievably harsh conditions, risking their lives daily to extract valuable metals from the earth. This presentation is filled with the dynamic stories of early miners; their challenges, superstitions and courage.

LWF Premier Lecture Series 2015-16
“ARIZONA’S CHARACTERS AND HISTORY NOT FORGOTTEN”

18 Nov 2015 “Tom Mix: King of the Cowboys”

Christine Reid

Christine Reid, Arizona humanities historian, will highlight some of the true stories about internationally famous legend Tom Mix. Find out about his early years in show business, the multiple marriages and divorces, and the final hours of his life south of Florence where he met his death.

16 Dec 2015 “USS Arizona: Mightiest Ship at Sea”

Bill Harrison

Bill Harrison presents a riveting account of the people who were instrumental in the development of the USS Arizona, those who sailed on her and those who gave their lives. Visit the USS Arizona Memorial, a serene monument supported by many donations including a major gift from Elvis Presley.

20 Jan 2016” “History of the Quarter Circle U Ranch”

Dr Charles “Chuck” Backus

Dr. Charles “Chuck” Backus, owner of the Quarter Circle U Ranch and vice president of the Research and Education Foundation for the Arizona Cattle Growers Association, will present the story of ranching history in Arizona. Chuck and wife, Judy, have owned ranches in Arizona for the past 39 years, one in the Superstitions and one near Show Low, both horseback operations.

17 Feb 2016 “Hohokam Canals: Ancient Irrigation Systems of Arizona”

Dr Jerry Howard

Dr. Jerry Howard, curator of anthropology at the Arizona Natural History Museum and recipient of a National Geographic grant, will discuss the Hohokam Indians and their ability to engineer and construct canals throughout Arizona, some of which are still being uncovered today.

16 Mar 2016 “Roy Rogers: the Western Hero Who Never Let Us Down”

Bill Harrison

Bill Harrison, through rare photos and personal stories, will introduce you to a man who represents the highest American ideals of honesty, courage, faith and fair play. Meet his beloved wife Dale, Queen of the West, and the smartest horse in the movies, Trigger.

LWF Premier Lecture Series 2014-15

19 Nov 2014 The Eagle and the Archaeologists: The Lindberghs' 1929 Southwest Aerial Survey Erik Berg

Charles Lindbergh is best known for his 1927 solo flight across the Atlantic. But few realize that Lindbergh teamed up with his wife Anne and noted archaeologist Alfred Kidder to conduct an unprecedented aerial photographic survey of prehistoric sites such as Chaco Canyon, Grand Canyon and Canyon de Chelly. You will get the story and see rare photographs of this adventurous pioneering collaboration of aviation and archaeology.

Speaker Erik Berg, who was raised in Flagstaff, is an award-winning historian with a special interest in the early twentieth century southwest. He has authored several books and many articles and is a past president of the Grand Canyon Historical Society.

17 Dec 2014 "A Necessary Evil" - The Life and Times of Soiled Doves in the Great Southwest Bill Harrison

Bill Harrison, Arizona historian, will be back to present this remarkable presentation that throws open the door to the unseen world of Painted Ladies or Daughters of Sin in the Old West. Discover how the Victorian Era played such an important role in prostitution and why boomtowns rolled out the red carpet for these Soiled Doves. Learn about the numerous occupational hazards and dangers faced on a daily basis.

21 Jan 2015 "Fascinating Florence, AZ: Not just a Prison Town" Christine Reid
Presented by Christine Reid of Arizona Humanities Council.

In 1875, a silver strike took Florence from a small, rural town of shoot-outs and stage robberies to the designated county seat of Pinal County. Hear about the highlights of some of the colorful characters who settled in Florence and see photographs of how the historic district reflects the wisdom of architectural response to the desert environment.

18 Feb 2015 "Native American Tribal Land Recovery in the Great Southwest" Jamie Ford

Jamie Ford, who incidentally is the daughter of Leisure World residents John and Carolyn Ford, will present an interesting and important topic not only in the Southwest, but in much of America as well. Jamie who is a land tenure attorney will speak on "Native American Tribal Land Recovery in the Great Southwest," stressing the positive economic and community future being created through land recovery. Learn how community and economic development are progressing through legal reform of national land issues.

18 Mar 2015 "Got Moonshine? Prohibition in Arizona." Bill Harrison

In 1914, powerful forces convinced Arizona voters that prohibition would improve the health of citizens, promote morality and reduce crime. See how those ideas worked out for Arizonans. Learn how Flagstaff, Phoenix, Williams and Prescott, known for their rowdy lifestyles and numerous saloons, dealt with Prohibition.

LWF Premier Lecture Series 2013-14

“EXPLORING THE GREAT SOUTHWEST WITH BILL HARRISON”

Its Natural Wonders, Native Americans, Cowboys and the Impact of the Santa Fe Railroad and Route 66!

Our speaker this winter season will be Bill J. Harrison, a resident of Mesa who has more than 25 years of presentation experience. He is well known for his sense of humor, high-energy, unbridled enthusiasm, and for providing a valuable experience for all who attend his lectures, classes and workshops. We are very fortunate to have Bill as our speaker in Leisure World.

20 Nov 2013 Wonderfully Odd Arizona

Bill Harrison

Arizona is an eclectic conglomeration of unique sights, odd sounds, and pleasant smells found nowhere else on the planet. This humorous and colorful presentation will provide a brief tour of some of the more unusual and offbeat landmarks that make Arizona special. Learn about the teepees and dinosaurs in Holbrook, standing rocks in the Chiricahua National Monument, a roadside memorial to a famous cowboy, hot springs that catered to the rich and famous, and the spectacular landscape that made John Wayne famous.

Bill Harrison

18 Dec 2013 From Ptomaine to Toques – The Story of Fred Harvey and the Harvey Hotels of the Great Southwest

In the early part of the 20th Century, rail travel was primitive at best: wooden bench seats, smoke-filled air, no food, no water and no bathrooms. When the train stopped in tiny villages for fuel and water, the unfortunate passengers were forced to frequent railroad eating houses that served unsavory food of highly suspicious quality. There was a reason the food was called “grub” and the hotels along the way were referred to as “flea-bags.” Hear the exciting stories and amazing tales of Fred Harvey, the Harvey Girls and the spectacular Harvey Hotels that still grandly serve travelers across the Great Southwest.

15 Jan 2014 The Southwest Indian Detours – Roughing it First Class!

Bill Harrison

The Great Southwest is like no other place on the planet. It’s a land where the sunsets flame and the afterglow softens the harsh outlines of the wilderness into a picture of unspeakable beauty; where the silence listens and the night stars glow like headlights. At the end of the 19th Century, tourists were itching to see this unique world filled with natural wonders and mysterious Native Americans. With the help of the Santa Fe Railroad and Fred Harvey, inquisitive and well-heeled tourists were afforded the opportunity to see native culture and natural wonders, up close and very personal.

19 Feb 2014 John Wayne – The Legend of Monument Valley

Bill Harrison

An undisputed American icon, John Wayne is recognized the world over for his signature drawl and confident swagger; the ultimate personification of American courage and honor. But it wasn’t always that way. Early in his career, John Wayne starred in dozens of poorly written and amateurishly directed B-movies that were quickly relegating him to the scrap heap. Then three things changed his life: John Ford, the famous movie director, Harry Goulding, an Indian trader and sheep farmer, and Monument Valley. Hear this unique chapter in the legend of John Wayne.

19 Mar 2014 Still Getting Our Kicks on Route 66

Bill Harrison

Known as the “Main Street of America,” Route 66 has become a symbol of freedom, of innocence, a reminder of the last good time America ever had. Over 200 miles of the original highway are still drivable in Arizona, including the longest unbroken stretch in existence. Our journey will begin at the Petrified Forest National Park on the eastern border of Arizona, and end at the once booming gold-mining town of Oatman near the California border. Our unique road trip will be filled with breathtaking scenery, memorable people, curious facts, persistent myths, friendly ghosts and enduring legends that have made Route 66 an integral part of the history of Arizona.

LWF Premier Lecture Series 2012-13
“THE SUPERSTITION MOUNTAINS ARE TALKING...ARE YOU LISTENING?”
Hear About the Mysteries, Tales and People of the Superstitions

14 Nov 2012 Story of the Original Dutchman and His Mine

Clay Worst

Clay Worst, one of the last of the old time “Mountain Men,” shares his rendition of the story of Jacob Waltz and the Lost Dutchman Treasure. Waltz “The Dutchman” died in Phoenix in 1891. Found under his bed was a fortune in incredibly rich gold ore which he said he took from a mine in the Superstition Mountains. His “Lost Dutchman Mine,” still not found, is arguably the world's best-known and most sought-for lost treasure. Clay Worst has spent more than 60 years searching for answers to the mysteries that have arisen during the 120 years since the Dutchman died and left tantalizing clues to the source of his gold.

12 Dec 2012 Sensational Stagecoach Robberies of the Wild West

Jake San Felice

Stagecoach robberies were among the most sensational and well written about stories of the Old West and Arizona Territory. They seemed to follow the mining camps and “Boom Towns” that sprang up quickly following strikes of gold and silver. Jack San Felice has traced many of the old stage routes and found many of the approximate (or exact) sites of these memorable events of yesteryear. Join us for the exciting tales of stagecoach robberies and manhunts which took place on the old stage trail from Silver King to Pinal City to Florence and Riverside (on the Gila River) and then onto Globe City.

09 Jan 2013 Harvest of the Desert – Plants for Food, Shelter, and Medicine

Dave Morris

Explore the harvest of the desert with Native American naturalist David Morris. Learn about the many uses of our desert plants and the biology that makes them useful and see how plants were used for food, building, medicine, and magic. Some plants have provided for the people of the Sonoran desert since prehistoric times. Dave is Visitor Services Coordinator at the Pueblo Grande Museum, part-time instructor for Grand Canyon College, and leads hikes, during which he discusses the ecology of our deserts, native plant uses, and conservation issues.

13 Feb 2013 Pioneer Life in the Superstitions

Rosemary Shearer

At the end of World War II, Phoenix was a small town with wide open desert to the east as far as you could see. An adventurous Navy Lieutenant Commander Julian King and his spirited wife, Lucy, dreamed of building a dude ranch in the West. They found that dream in the Superstition Mountains where they built what would become Kings’ Ranch Resort. Julian King left a lively journal that describes how they as “greenhorns” learned the ways of the land from the pioneers, ranchers, cowboys, and prospectors who lived there, much as they had for the past century.

Rosemary Shearer is editor and publisher of Sand In Our Shoes, the journal kept by Julian King about the challenges and characters they encountered.

13 Mar 2013 Apacheland Movie Ranch – A Stuntman’s Story

Hank Sheffer

The LW Foundation Premier Lecture Series concludes its five-lecture series as Hank Sheffer describes his experiences in “Apacheland Movie Ranch - A Stuntman’s Story.”

Hank is an Apacheland aficionado. He is also a published author having penned numerous titles including The Queen and Her Court: A True Story of Apacheland Movie Ranch and The Building of Apacheland. His work includes commercials, television, and feature films. He will talk about the history of Apacheland and relate some of his first-hand experiences as a stuntman, expert gun handler, and storyteller during his tenure at the movie ranch.

Heard Museum Lecture Series 2011-12

This year the state is celebrating its centennial of statehood and to honor that the series this winter will be on the original Arizona natives; The Native Americans. Each presentation will focus on a different Native American community. There will be one seminar each month, through March on the third Wednesday of the month except for December which will be the second week. Barbara Jones, a docent at the museum and a member of the museum speaker's bureau, will be the presenter.

16 Nov 2011 ARIZONA'S NATIVE AMERICANS

Barbara Jones

There are 22 federally recognized reservations in Arizona. The largest is the Navajo reservation, roughly the size of West Virginia. Many people live on reservations and in the same areas as generations before them. We show the history, locations and some of the traditions, housing, clothing, food, and arts as well as present day occupations of Arizona's Native peoples.

14 Dec 2011 THE HOHOKAM AND THE O'ODHAM

Barbara Jones

The prehistoric Hohokam people inhabited the Salt River Valley from about 1 to 1450 AD. The desert tribes who today inhabit the Sonoran Desert are known as the O'odham. This presentation shows some of the history of these two cultures, including the periods, traditions, housing, farming, clothing, food, arts and crafts, and present day occupations of the O'odham.

18 Jan 2012 DINE' -THE NAVAJO

Barbara Jones

The Navajo, who prefer to call themselves the "DINE" which means the "People," live on the largest reservation in the United States (more than 15 million acres - about the size of W. Virginia) located in northeast Arizona and parts of Utah and New Mexico. We show their history, location and some of their traditions, housing, clothing, food, arts and crafts.

15 Feb 2012 HOPI

Barbara Jones

The Colorado Plateau in northeastern Arizona is a land of high open mesas, rocky canyons and a few small streams. Ancestors of the Hopi people have been living here for hundreds of years. Many Hopi still reside in villages atop three mesas in northeastern Arizona on the Hopi reservation. The presentation includes the Pueblo Revolt, Hopi history and location as well as some of their traditions, housing, clothing, food, arts and crafts and present day occupations. The updated version includes fine art photos from the 2008 exhibit at Heard North, "We Are About Beauty".

21 Mar 2012 INDE' - THE APACHE

Barbara Jones

The Apache are Athapascan speaking people who arrived in the Southwest sometime between 1000 and 1500 A.D., migrating from western Canada where there are still Athapascan speaking people. They separated, moved to different locals, adapted to each environment and to contact with other Indian peoples. They still retained core traditions and values. The Apache continued to be Hunters and Gatherers with a nomadic lifestyle. We show their history, location and some of their traditions, housing, clothing, food, arts and crafts and present day occupations.

Herd Museum Lecture Series 2010-11

- 10 Nov 2010 HOME: Native Peoples of the Southwest
- 08 Dec 2010 Southwest Arts
- 12 Jan 2011 Southwest Indian Jewelry: Inspiration to Creation
- 09 Feb 2011 Southwest Textiles
- 09 Mar 2011 Fred Harvey Company Collection

The presenter, Barbara B. Jones, a former music school teacher, is a docent at the Heard Museum and has been a tour guide at the Heard since 2000. In 2005 she became chair of technology for Speaker's Bureau which involves writing and updating programs as well as purchasing and maintaining the equipment. She personally created several of the programs. As a member of the Heard Museum Guild, she serves on the Education Council and volunteers for Indian Fair and Market.