

Spring  
2020

# Litchfield Legends

A publication of the Litchfield Park Historical Society and Museum

## UPDATE

### THE P.W. LITCHFIELD HERITAGE CENTER

In last spring's *Litchfield Legends*, the Litchfield Park Historical Society (LPHS) announced plans to move our museum to the Litchfield/Denny historic house on old Litchfield Hill (The 21-acre hilltop was part of the much larger *Rancho La Loma* which included surrounding property to the north, west, and south all the way to Camelback Road. It was once owned by the Litchfield family and their descendants). These plans have been worked on since 2018 and required a Business Plan along with approval from the City of Litchfield Park. Following a rigorous RFP process, **Orcutt/Winslow Architectural Firm** and **Waltz Construction** were hired to execute the project. The estimated cost to repurpose the structure into a public facility with a driveway and parking lot was **3.5 million dollars**.

In June the Capital Campaign Committee began its work of soliciting funds to complete this project. To date, we are proud to announce that we have received **2.1 million dollars** in cash and pledges with **1.4 million dollars** yet to raise. In addition, **17 Naming Opportunities have been secured** with 15 left open. Most of the 52 donors to this project have been individuals – 60% from Litchfield Park and 40% from other areas. Of that 40%, more than half have been from out of state. This response positions the future Heritage Center to become an important destination for tourists visiting the Valley of the Sun.

One of our more recent donors has been the **Litchfield Park Kiwanis Club**. Knowing the high value experiences the Heritage Center collections will have for area school children, the Kiwanis have given generously to this project in the form of one of their **Legacy Grants**. These grants are rarely given and are significant in their dollar amounts. With this gift come Naming Rights in the new Heritage Center. The club annually supports projects that benefit children in order to make their growing-up years richer. While we currently take artifacts into school classrooms to talk about the history of the area, the Kiwanis know that nothing can replace the opportunity of children and adults to experience the full breadth of the museum collections on site. Today our current small facility of



Litchfield Park Kiwanis Club President  
David Onstad and Judy Cook, Capital  
Campaign Chair

#### In This Issue:

- P.W. Litchfield Heritage Center Update
- New in the Gift Shop
- President's Letter
- Home Tour, Vintage and Handmade Market
- Upcoming Events and Programs
- Sponsors
- 2020 Membership Form

## Board of Directors

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Professor, The School of Humanities,  
Art and Cultural Studies

### Special Thanks

The City of Litchfield Park  
Tim Blake, LandCare LLC  
Palm Gate RV & Self Storage

## NEW IN THE GIFT SHOP

We have some exciting new items that have been added to our collection for you.

**Navajo Carvings:** Our newly added whimsical animal carvings are created by the members of the Navajo reservation in Arizona. The pieces were purchased through a representative from an outpost on the Navajo Reservation. Each carving is very colorful and unique and includes the name of the artist. We are excited to bring these special hand-crafted carvings to you.



**Oaxacan Wood Carvings:** The Oaxacan carvings are one of our best sellers. We have recently added some new animals to our collection. The carvings are made in Oaxaca, Mexico. The wood comes from the copal tree, the fresh cut wood is soft and workable; it has a small heart, so it does not split. It can be sanded smooth to an almost porcelain-like finish to allow the artist a perfect surface for fine details. Often, the whole family is involved in the creation process. The men carve, children and the elderly



sand and the women paint the figurines. The family name is painted on the bottom of each piece.

### Horse Hair Pottery:

The ancient Indian tribes made this pottery to honor a favorite **horse** or to celebrate the birth of a horse. It is said that this pottery was first created when a long-haired maiden was removing hot pottery from her kiln and the wind blew her hair onto the hot pot and burned the **hair** into the pottery.

The fine dark lines in this pottery are created using horsehair. This is done by throwing horse hair onto the **pottery** when it reaches about 1600 degrees during firing. The horsehair burns when it touches the hot **pottery** leaving a carbon stain cooked into it, making a beautiful and unique one of kind piece.

*Please stop by to see these one of a kind items in addition to our extensive collection of books focused on the history and culture of the Southwest. We also have some fabulous jewelry that contains Arizona mined copper. All the bracelets and earrings are designed and created in Bisbee Arizona.*





## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi everyone,

We are going to press a couple of weeks early to ensure you are informed of all the exciting events, programs and projects the Litchfield Park Historical Society has planned. Mark your calendar to sign up, be informed and get involved. We have a great year planned, as we continue to build on the success of the past year.

Please join me in congratulating one of our top Newsletter Sponsors, The WIGWAM, Arizona. They were recently awarded the 2019 Stella award for “Best Hotel/Resort in the Southwest United States” and the 2019 “Historic Hotel of Excellence” from the Historic Hotels of America.

Our major project and new home, the **P. W. Litchfield Heritage Center**, is showing great progress and is closer to becoming a reality. The article on the cover page contains updates on our Capital Campaign and information on how you can be a part of this exciting project. The support from Mayor Schoaf, the City of Litchfield Park, our local community and beyond has been overwhelming. It is an exciting project that will bring a fabulous museum with programming for all ages that will contain educational opportunities and a beautiful venue for everyone in the Southwest Valley. The opening exhibit for the Heritage Center will be dedicated to O.K. Fulton and will contain the history of professional athletes from the Southwest Valley in pictures, stories and memorabilia. There will be more to come on our grand opening and special exhibit as we get closer to the start of construction. To learn more about the project visit our web site at [www.lphsmuseum.org](http://www.lphsmuseum.org) scroll down and click on the project logo.

Coming on **March 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>** will be our **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Home Tour fundraising event!** Last year’s Home and Garden Tour was a great success. This year co-chairs Meredith Stucky and Judy Fulton have changed it up just enough to make it an even more exciting and fun event. The article in this newsletter will give you the details on the homes you will be able to tour, great food available to enjoy and an opportunity to do some fun shopping for that special something. It takes months of hard work, planning and many volunteers to showcase the homes and their history in Litchfield Park. If you missed the event last year, be sure you sign up for this year.

Lisa Hegarty, our Programs Chair, is planning a follow up event to last year’s **Water Fest**. This year it will be called **“Hands-On History Day.”** The event is for everyone, young and old, to learn and participate. Last year we had a great turnout and are looking to double the attendance this year. We encourage you to come, share and learn with your children and grandchildren. The event is free and will offer interactive exhibits and demonstrations. Lisa has provided an overview of events the LPHS will be sponsoring in this publication. Be sure to mark your calendar with the dates scheduled for our monthly guest speakers throughout the spring and summer months.

There is always something new at the museum for you to enjoy. If you are not already a member, consider joining us and becoming a part of a growing organization that is dedicated to the Southwest Valley. Many of our members have asked when our Member’s Annual Meeting is being held. With the change of our fiscal year, the board voted to hold the meeting in April or May. All members will receive an invitation to the meeting with the date, time and location by mail.

We look forward to seeing you and thank you for your continued support.

Nancy

**Nancy Schafer, President, LPHS and MUSEUM**

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL LITCHFIELD PARK HOME TOUR AND VINTAGE MARKET Saturday, March 14, 2020 10am to 4pm

Mark your calendar for the second annual Litchfield Park Home Tour and Vintage Market. This year the event will spotlight the architecture of eight beautiful homes throughout the park.

The tickets are available through the Litchfield Park Museum website at [www.LPHSMuseum.org](http://www.LPHSMuseum.org) for \$25 each and can be purchased through PayPal. You can also purchase tickets at the Museum on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, during normal business hours by cash, check or credit card. Or you can purchase tickets the day of the event from our booth located on the street just south of The Church at Litchfield Park.

The Tour will begin on the street just south of The Church at Litchfield Park. For this year's tour, you will drive from house to house and walk through the homes on a self-guided tour. The homes will be open from 10am to 4pm. There will be parking on the street and a drop off and pick up area reserved in front of the homes. There will be a map showing the exact locations of the eight homes.

Adding to this year's event is a Vintage and Homemade Goods Market in Scout Park. "Vintage" is antiques and "Homemade Goods" are everything Pinterest. There will also be several food trucks. There is no entrance fee to the Market, and it will be open the same hours as the Tour. Parking will be along La Loma and Fairway streets and at Scout Lodge.

### FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM HOME TOUR PARTY

**Friday, March 13, 2020 from 6pm - 9pm**

There are still a limited number of tickets available for this fabulous event which includes harp music, gourmet buffet, wine and beer. The event price also includes your Home Tour ticket for Saturday. Tickets are \$75 and available at the Museum Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday with cash, check or credit card, or on line at [www.lphsmuseum.org](http://www.lphsmuseum.org) with PayPal.

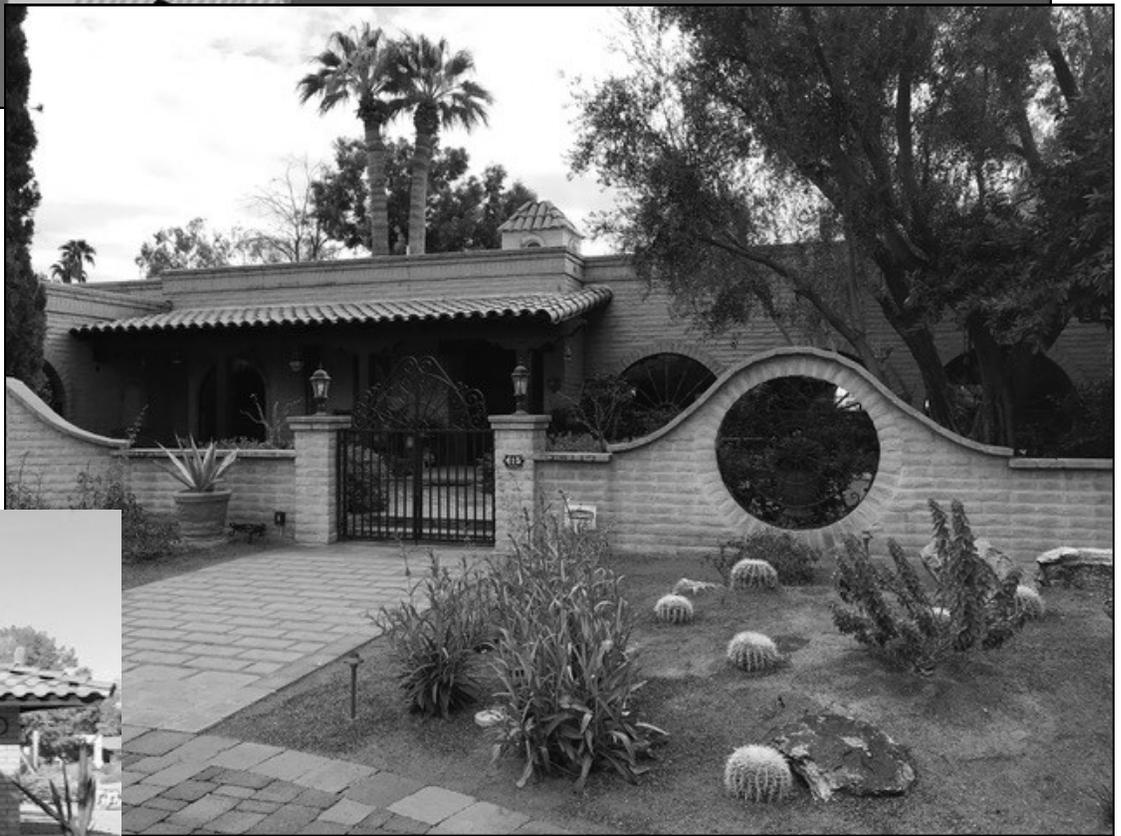
This is a great way to support the Litchfield Park Historical Society and Museum, enjoy the evening with friends and then on Saturday view the wonderful homes of Litchfield Park!



DON'T MISS THE SECOND ANNUAL  
LITCHFIELD PARK  
HOME TOUR  
and  
Vintage & Homemade Market

March 14, 2020  
10am to 4pm

\$25 Tickets  
At the Litchfield Park Museum  
Online [www.LPHSMuseum.org](http://www.LPHSMuseum.org)  
Or the day of the event



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

## ***\*A Short History of the Incredible Women's Suffrage Movement***

**Tuesday, March 31 at 10:00 a.m.**

The Church at Litchfield Park, Souers Hall, 300 N. Old Litchfield Rd

Change in the status of women began with new ideas about the civil and human rights of individuals. Debbie Hanson with the Questers organization will discuss the thinkers who formulated new concepts of the role of women and how those ideas influenced changes in women's roles and lives.

## ***\*Women's Suffrage: The West Led the Way***

**Wednesday, April 1 at 6:30 p.m.**

The Church at Litchfield Park, Souers Hall, 300 N. Old Litchfield Rd

Joye Kohl with the Questers organization will examine the role of all western states, the state of Kansas and the territory of Alaska in leading the nation with the passage of women's suffrage prior to 1915. This presentation further explores the role the West played in supporting the struggle of other women working for the right to vote through a constitutional amendment.

## ***Hands-On History Day***

**Saturday, April 4, from 10:00 am. – 4:00 p.m.**

Litchfield Park Historical Society Museum, 13912 W. Camelback Rd.

The Litchfield Park Historical Society Museum will host Hands-On History Day, a free, educational event highlighting local history with hands-on activities, demonstrations, and informational displays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the museum. Explore what life was like during the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The museum will also be open for visitors to view its most recent exhibits, *Stagecoaches to Spacecraft: The Story of Goodyear and Avondale* and *The Spanish Flu of 1918: A Pandemic's Local Legacy*.

## ***\*The Antiquity of Irrigation in the Southwest***

**Tuesday, April 28 at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m.**

The Church at Litchfield Park, Souers Hall, 300 N. Old Litchfield Rd

Before AD 1500, Native American cultures took advantage of southern Arizona's long growing season and tackled its challenge of limited precipitation by developing the earliest and most extensive irrigation works in all of North America. Agriculture was introduced to Arizona more than 4,000 years before present, and irrigation systems were developed in our state at least 3,500 years ago – several hundred years before irrigation was established in ancient Mexico. This Arizona Humanities "AZ Speaks" program presented by archaeologist Allen Dart will provide an overview of ancient irrigation systems in the southern Southwest and discuss irrigation's implications for understanding social complexity.

## ***\*The History of Luke Air Force Base in the Southwest Valley***

**Tuesday, May 19 at 10:00 a.m.**

The Church at Litchfield Park, Souers Hall, 300 N. Old Litchfield Rd

Considered one of the most important military bases during World War II, Luke Air Force Base is currently home to the world's largest fighter wing. Join Luke Air Force Base historian, Rick Grisot, as he discusses the history of the base in the Southwest Valley. Rick is the author of the new Images in America book *Luke Air Force Base*.

\*The Litchfield Park Historical Society's Speaker Series is a partnership with the Church at Litchfield Park.

For more information on any of our events, visit <http://lphsmuseum.org/>, email [office@LPHSmuseum.org](mailto:office@LPHSmuseum.org), or call 623 535-4414. **All events are free and open to the public.**



1100 square feet can't possibly hold groups larger than 25 comfortably. The new Heritage Center will afford us the much-needed space for all to view our interesting and historically important collections. In addition, the new facility will allow us the opportunity to offer enticing classes and programming that will enrich our offerings and fulfill our educational mission in an informal setting.

## HELP US MAKE THIS DREAM A REALITY!

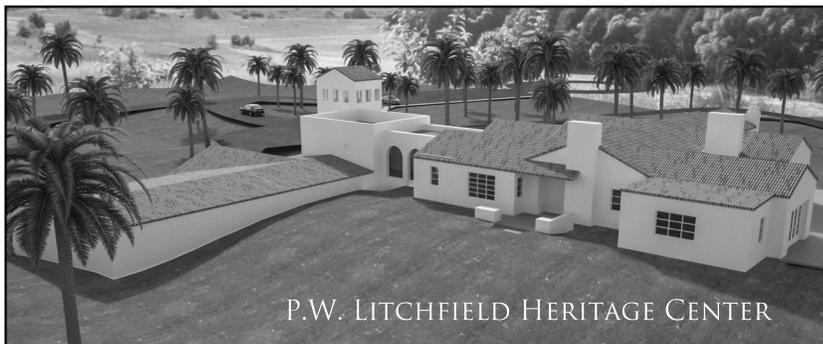
Donor Levels are as follows:

Platinum	\$20,000 and above
Gold	\$15,000 – 19,999
Silver	\$10,000 – 14,999
Copper	\$5,000 – 9,999
Citrus	\$1,000 – 4,999
Cotton	\$500 – 999

Donations can be made in a variety of forms: cash, securities, IRA Charitable rollovers, paid-up life insurance, or in the form of a pledge to be paid by the end of 2020. Contact the museum at **623-535-4414** for assistance. Donor packets are also available at the museum for those individuals who wish to see the full scope of the project. Checks can be made out to the **LPHS** (with 'LHC Building Fund' indicated in the Memo portion of the check) and sent to the:

**LPHS (ATTN: Capital Campaign Chair)**  
**P.O. Box 1936**  
**Litchfield Park, AZ 85340**

Charged donations can also be made through PayPal on our website link to the **P.W. Litchfield Heritage Center** project at [www.lphsmuseum.org](http://www.lphsmuseum.org)



**Become one of the Founding Donors to this extraordinary project today and have your name listed on our Founders' Wall!**

**Donate today!**

# Sponsors

## \$500 Level



**La Loma Village**  
Sun Health

14154 Denny Boulevard  
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340



**S&S Tire & Auto Service Center**  
800 N. Dysart, Goodyear, AZ 85338



**WIGWAM**  
ARIZONA

300 E. Wigwam Blvd., Litchfield Park, AZ  
[www.wigwamresort.com](http://www.wigwamresort.com)

## \$250 Level

**Mary Cavanaugh-Marsh,**  
Financial Adviser, EDWARD JONES

**Estrella Rotary Club**

**Mickey Ollson, Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium**

**Sue and Charlie Salem**  
Oceano Rentals, Rocky Point, MX

## \$100 Level

**Paul J. Faith, Esq., Faith, Ledyard & Faith, P.L.C.**

**Victor Fierros, Jewelry by Victor**

**Peter Mahoney, Park Café, Old Pueblo Café, and Papa Paul's**

**John Manobianco, State Farm Insurance**

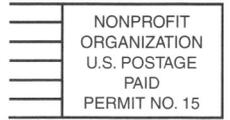
**Margie Martinez, La Loma Mexican Grille**



PO Box 1936  
Litchfield Park, Arizona 85340

Location Address: 13912 W Camelback Rd.

Email: [office@LPHSMuseum.org](mailto:office@LPHSMuseum.org)  
[www.LPHSMuseum.org](http://www.LPHSMuseum.org)



### Do you have empty aluminum cans?

The LPHS will recycle them for you. Leave them at the garage door of 610 N. Old Litchfield Road, Litchfield Park. The money will help the LPHS pay its utility bills.

**\*Aluminum only. No tin cans please.**



**Join Us.** It is through your dues and donations that we are able to continue our efforts to preserve the history of Litchfield Park. *Become a member today.*

### LPHS 2020 Membership/Special Donation Form

January 1 – December 31, 2020 membership year

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Membership Dues**    Single Adult \$25    Family \$35    Business/Professional \$60  
 Contributor \$125    Lifetime \$600

**I would like to make an additional Special Donation of:**    \$25    \$50    \$100    Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you! Please make your check payable to: Litchfield Park Historical Society**  
PO Box 1936, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340

Would you be interested in volunteering for our organization?    Yes

The Litchfield Park Historical Society is an official IRS 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation, and membership dues and other donations are tax deductible for persons who itemize.