



ARMORY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

APNA Board Meeting and Annual Elections Meeting

Will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 from 7 to 8:30 PM

at St. Andrews Episcopal Church at 5th Ave and 16th St

You must be a member by October 10, 2009 in order to vote at the Elections Meeting. To become a member visit our website WWW.ARMORYPARKTUCSON.ORG and click on **"Become a Member"**. You may also contact our Membership Chair, Phyllis Factor at pefaz@aol.com or by phone at (520) 623-8722.



DESERT BLOOM IN ARMORY PARK

Part Two: Local Film-making Revisited
by George Mairs

Cookie Knapp and Chris Joehnk met on the set of Desert Bloom. The two now reside in the heart of downtown on Granada, across from what used to be the Ramada Inn, which, incidentally, provided the background for an important scene in that film. Both reminisced recently about their lives in the motion picture world, their connection to the production studio at 18th and Jacobus, and what it was like to make a film in 1984 in Armory Park.

As its title suggests, Desert Bloom is a film about youthful flowering, about coming of age in the desert. Its four young characters are the focus of much of the plot development. During the six months of filming, these young actors faced plenty of controls on their behaviors like any other young people their age. This meant that the production crew functioned in some ways in loco parentis, enforcing the Screen Actors Guild rule of no more than three hours of work a day for minors and attendance at school every week day.

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A GRACIOUS PARTY: AN ARMORY TRADITION

by George Mairs

The lovely house on Russell, the former residence of Barbara Porter, is one of those classic southwestern homes that surprises the unwary guest. Entering from Russell Avenue through an attractive antique wooden door set in an adobe wall, you are immediately in a glorious garden. Brick walkways are shaded by overhanging trees and curve with seeming purposelessness around flowering shrubs. For those of us from the East, this kind of entrance into an interior garden is stunning, but, of course, in the desert southwest, it makes perfect sense to grow one's garden in a courtyard in the Spanish tradition where it's relatively cool.

Parties at this home are a lovely Armory Park tradition. You're fortunate if you attended the latest on Saturday, the 5th of September, unfortunate if you missed out! Penny Porter says she had many reasons to host a party. She observed recently that "We haven't been having them this year and needed one." Also, she herself hadn't given one in recent years because of her recently deceased mother's ill health.

She added, "I also wanted Jason Kauffman, our tenant and new to the neighborhood, to have a chance to meet people and be introduced, He is a new doctor, doing an internship at the University Med Center." Penny also reminisced, "Because many people over the past years have enjoyed visiting Mother at her house parties and at her traditional Christmas celebrations, I thought they would enjoy seeing the changes that we've made to the interior. It is a great space. My partners and neighbors Bill Dillon, Joe Raccis, and Carolyn Lenz all helped put the party together. We had several newcomers from the neighborhood attend, and the late crowd from the shift change at the hospital kept the party going to the wee small hours, so I count it as a success."

Inside the house, neighbors enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres; outside in the garden they enjoyed the lively Latin sound of the band The Bossa Rhythm Project. Penny invited neighbor and band member Louie Levinson to bring his aggregation to add to a very pleasant evening.

COMING EVENTS

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP

Saturday, November 7, 2009 - 8:30 AM
Meet at Dolores & Paul Gohdes' house
541 South 3rd Avenue

APNA BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 10, 2009 - 7 PM
at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
5th Avenue and 16th Street

NOTE: APNA **Board Elections** will be held at the November board meeting listed above.

APNA HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday, December 13, 2009 - 5 to 8 PM
at Nancy Bissell's house
821 South 3rd Avenue

...Desert Bloom Continued from Page 1

Cookie Knapp was their teacher. Her class was made up of four actors, ages six to fourteen, including the stars Anabeth Gish and Jay Underwood; the son of Jon Voight, fourteen year-old Jamie Voight, who also stayed in Tucson and attended. Knapp recalls that Voight's daughter, Angelina Jolie, was in Tucson briefly and begged to attend class as well, but that her dad refused and sent her home to Hollywood. To house the school, the producers purchased a two-story home on Sixteenth a few doors down from Third Avenue.

Although she taught young actors behind the scenes for twenty to thirty other films, Knapp remembers the bonding that developed within this particular class. Anabeth Gish, who went on to have critical success in films like Mystic Pizza, was in town a couple of years ago for the premier of a Steven King movie that was filmed in the Old Pueblo; she dropped in to visit her teacher at her house on Granada, where the class also met from time to time. Gish said she just had to make the time to reminisce, recalls Knapp.

Still a student at the U. of A. when he was hired first as a production assistant and then later in craft service, Chris Joehnk, went on to work on "sixty or seventy" movies, including the made-in-Tucson TV series, The Young Riders. Much local filming came out of the production workshop at Eighteenth and Jacobus, which Joehnk says closed shortly after the fire at Old Tucson. The job of a craft

service person turned out to be pretty unromantic; among other things it included going out for food for the entire company. Robert Redford, who was a financial backer of Desert Bloom, was on the set one day and complained about the absence of strawberry cream cheese to go with the bagels that Joehnk had just brought in for the crew.

Other craft service duties include cleaning up sets at the end of the day. That included the "hero house," the jury-rigged house at the corner of Sixteenth and Third that served as a set for much of the action of Desert Bloom. Joehnk recalls that after three months, neighbors "had had enough" of this terribly run-down addition to the neighborhood. They didn't seem to understand that it would shortly be torn down and disappear without a trace.

Other sets that he recalls included the very realistic trailer park that was erected in the then vacant area north and east of the corner of Sixteenth and Third, the area that had been a dumping ground for the railroad for many years. Over on Toole, where Ropes and Rocks now stands, a faux fifties gas station owned by the Voight character was built. In this station, in one scene, we see a general and his driver gassing up on their way to the nuclear test that was planned to occur in the Las Vegas desert in a few days. Joehnk remembers that the general was played by one of his professors at the U of A.

Part of the business of marketing a film is the steady stream of still photos that make their way into the media. The old store on the north-west corner of Sixteenth and Third became the photo studio where Ellen Barkin spent a great deal of time in front of the still camera. And if you haven't seen Desert Bloom – or you haven't seen it in some time – here are some other local details to look for: Anabeth Gish's character tries to no avail to impress her dad by winning a spelling bee. Two days of filming turned the auditorium at Safford into the scene of the spelling bee. And, more than five hundred thousand dollars was spent on neon lights to make Congress into the Las Vegas Strip, with literally hundreds of extras.

If you do see Desert Bloom - and it is worth seeing – it's great fun to look for familiar sights, but at the same time, you should enjoy a very effective piece of film-making that has held up well right up to today, its twenty-fifth anniversary year.

This is the second in a series of articles on film-making in and around Armory Park. We're also interested in the TV series The Young Riders, written and produced in Armory Park and filmed in the Tucson area. There are made-for-t.v. ads as well ... and we're nor sure what else. What can you tell us? Have you been part of the local film scene? Do you have additional knowledge of the making of Desert Bloom? Contact George Mairs at gmairs@msn.com.

HISTORIC REVIEW REMINDER

ALL changes to the exterior of a property, including walls and fences, **MUST** go through the Historic Review Process of the City of Tucson. Simple repair and replacement of existing parts need not be reviewed. Contact Frank Podgorski, COT, 837-4962 or Nadine Rund, 622-5676. * ASK if you're not sure! *

Children's Play Group Forming

Calling all downtown and university area babies, toddlers and parents. New play group forming. Meet at Tucson Children's Museum. Call or email Megan at 520-591-6940 mmn01@q.com



Save the Date

Saturday, February 13, 2010
at Armory Park Center
Carnaval 2010

JOINING THE APNA BOARD of DIRECTORS is EASY! by Chuck Bressi

With APNA Board elections quickly approaching, I thought I would take a moment to encourage you to join the board. You don't need any special skills. You just need to be committed to helping to keep Armory Park one of the best places to live in the country! Our board of directors is a volunteer board. We meet regularly on the second Tuesday of each month from 7 to 8:30 PM. We discuss important topics that impact the quality of life in the neighborhood and make decisions and provide feedback to developers, city officials and others as necessary. That sounds kind of boring, so we make sure we have some fun too by arranging some nice community events such as the APNA Holiday Party, The APNA Ice Cream Social, Neighborhood Clean-up days and

CARNAVAL. We also have representatives on the Downtown Neighborhoods and Residents Council, The 22nd Street Corridor Project and the Downtown LINKS Project. The board has a direct voice in these important groups via our representatives.

If you ever thought that you would like to get involved, have your voice heard and make a difference in your community, this is your chance. Contact Chuck Bressi at 670-9022 or by email at chuck@chuckbressi.com for more information or to let us know that you are interested in running for a board seat.

GET INVOLVED and MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE SEPTEMBER APNA BOARD MEETING


by Chuck Bressi

In case you were unable to attend the APNA Board Meeting on September 8, 2009, here is some information about what was covered in that meeting. The Board took time at this meeting to allow for some very important topics to be presented and discussed with the community.

The first topic up was a proposed traffic light at Park Avenue and either 18th or 19th Street. Edie Griffith-Metey, a consultant with AECOM, the firm handling the planning, and Alejandro Angel, Tucson City Engineer presented information on the traffic light. Some nearby neighborhoods have indicated that it is difficult to enter and exit neighborhoods along Park Avenue and installing a traffic light at 18th or 19th Street would help improve access. The concern from APNA is that 18th tends to be used fairly regularly by truck traffic and putting a light in at Park and 18th may make 18th even more attractive to truck traffic. After much discussion on the topic, it was decided that APNA may support a light at Park Avenue and 18th Street only after we were satisfied that sufficient traffic mitigation features would be included to discourage truck traffic on 18th Street through Armory Park. The APNA Transportation Committee will continue to work with the City of Tucson on this issue.

The next topic was an update on the 22nd Street Corridor Project presented by Jay Van Echo, a consultant from AECOM. This project is in the very early stages. Chris Stebe, APNA's board representative on the 22nd Street Project Citizens Oversight Committee, is doing a great job keeping the board informed and asking for input as necessary. To learn more about the current status of this project and to see some preliminary design drawings, go to www.22ndstreet.info. You can also find out about public meetings for this project at that website.

Our final topic of the night was a discussion about commercial development in the Armory Park Residential Historic District. Jonathan Mabry and Jim Mazzocco from the City of Tucson presented information about the historic district and zoning in APNA and what that means for development. We learned that, based on current zoning, the only area of APNA where commercial development could occur is along Stone and 6th Avenue. The rest of the neighborhood is residential and changing zoning is typically cost prohibitive for developers. Nadine Rund, the chair of the Armory Park Historic Preservation Advisory Board, strongly urged all residents to support establishments that are already here as the best way to support commercial activity within and near our neighborhood.




Pima County Public Library

VISIT THE PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY!

The Joel D. Valdez Main Library is your neighborhood library! Come see the newly remodeled 1st and 3rd floors; the changes include a comfortable seating area where you can enjoy food and drink while surfing the net on free WiFi, and an expanded computer lab on the 3rd floor with 32 public PCs. Whether you want to check out the latest hot read, borrow DVDs, bring your children to the wildly popular children's library, or attend one of our popular free programs like Urban Yarns or Food for Thought, there's something for you at the Main Library.

The library is located at 101 N. Stone Ave. Library garage parking is free in the evenings and on weekends, and the 1st hour is always free on weekdays between 9 and 5. Visit the website for more information: www.library.pima.gov/locations/main/ or call the free information service, Infoline #791-4010.



APNA BOARD ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AT 7 PM AT ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND. ALL BOARD MEETINGS ARE OPEN MEETINGS.

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COMING EVENTS

Armory Park Neighborhood Clean-up - Saturday, November 7
Beginning at 8:30 AM Dolores & Paul Gohdes' House 541 South 3rd Avenue

APNA Board Meeting and Annual Elections Meeting - Tuesday, November 10
7 PM to 8:30 PM at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

APNA Holiday Party - Sunday, December 13
5 PM to 8 PM at Nancy Bissell's House 821 South 3rd Avenue

CARNAVAL 2010 - Saturday, February 13
at Armory Park Center

Visit our Website at www.ArmoryParkTucson.org

APNA Board of Directors

Officers:

Chuck Bressi - President
Deb Dale - Vice President
Paul Gohdes - Secretary
Phyllis Factor - Treasurer

Board Members:

Liz Burden
John Burr
Elizabeth Garber
George Mairs
Karen Olson
Chris Stebe
Jerry Swatez
Tim Vanderpool

Alternates:

Nadine Rund
Tod Santee