

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First

March 06, 2013

Rally Point 24/7 Hot Line:
1-855-RALLY4U (1-855-725-5948)

If you need help at any time, for any kind of emergency, (life-threatening, drugs/alcohol abuse, family violence, housing crisis, medical disorders) call us, and talk to a veteran who understands where you've been and where you are now.



I wanted to open this week with a promotion for a wonderful program that exists right here in our community that is in support of veterans.

Rally Point Arizona is a program that, through La Frontera works to help returning veterans with a variety of re-entry issues that they may be facing. Those

can include PTS, transitioning back, physical injuries or drug abuse problems.

Why is this a needed program? Because nationwide, 18 veterans per day commit suicide. The causes are the multiple stresses that those of us who haven't walked in those shoes cannot fully empathize with. For that reason, Rally Point Arizona connects veterans in need with other veterans, or family members of veterans. If you know of somebody who may benefit from some confidential counseling, feel free to call the Statewide hotline at 1.855.Rally4U, or check out their web site at www.rallypointaz.org.

Thanks to the folks at La Frontera for being the local host for this very needed intervention.

Behavioral Health

While on the topic of La Frontera, last week I hosted a Ward 6 meeting to listen and learn from behavioral health providers. I invited several other lawmakers to attend. Those who could make it were State Senator Linda Lopez, and State Representatives Stefanie Mach, Ethan Orr and Victoria Steele. Linda did double duty as she works for La Frontera as a service provider in the field.

Attending from the industry was a good variety that included NAMI, CPSA, the Sonoran Health Institute, SAMAC, the UA Department of Psychiatry, the Lovell Foundation, Tucson Interfaith Council and Pima County's Behavioral Health Administration. I'll give a synopsis and a couple of take-aways – this was just the first



Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police
Department

911 or 791-4444
nonemergency

Mayor & Council
Comment Line

791-4700

Neighborhood
Resources

791-4605

Park Wise

791-5071

Water Issues

791-3242

Pima County Animal
Control

243-5900

Street Maintenance
791-3154

Planning and
Development
Services 791-5550

Southwest Gas
889-1888

Gas Emergency/
Gas Leaks

889-1888

West Nile Virus

Hotline

243-7999

Environment
Service

791-3171

Graffiti Removal

792-2489

AZ Game & Fish

628-5376

Continued: A Message From Steve

in what needs to be a wide-ranging community continual conversation.

Ethan and Victoria have sponsored a bi-partisan bill that, if signed into law will fund Mental Health First Aid with about a quarter million dollars. That's a program that trains lay people to recognize the signs and symptoms of somebody who is suffering from mental illness. Emphasis on the word "illness". The common theme throughout the meeting was the need to de-stigmatize the conditions that fall under the umbrella.

Community Partnership of Southern Arizona is doing a significant amount the First Aid training – and reported that as soon as they announce a new class, it fills up nearly immediately. If you're interested in taking such a class, you can contact them at 325.4268.

We discussed issues such as the difficulty in even defining the term 'mental illness' and the challenges of getting law enforcement to access the service providers that are available. Also covered was a review of the ability of the faith based community to become involved with the Mental Health First Aid training, and taking on the task of becoming trained to be a trainer. It's the pyramid deal of one person learning and then passing along that knowledge farther out into the community.

The most tangible take-away from the meeting is an initiative that the County has begun, and that I'll be asking the City to partner in. This May is the 50th Anniversary of the adoption of the Mental Health Act. To commemorate that, the County has started to think about putting on a Mental Health Fair and forum at which experts in the field will present information to the public, and service providers can set up shop and educate participants on what they have to offer. So this is in it's very early planning stages and I'll be following up with the County folks who came to the meeting to move the event forward. Much more on that to come.

It is this sort of collaborative work that we need if we're going to make a dent in the issue. No single group can tackle it alone. I'm appreciative of all who participated. We all left hoping that this was just the beginning of this exchange, not a one day meeting that won't see any pay off.

Lost or Stolen Guns

As things so often go, the issue of common sense gun control seems to be losing steam with the passage of time and the focus of lawmakers shifting to other less challenging issues (although I recognize that the Federal budget does not qualify as 'less challenging.')

With that in mind, I've requested that the City consider yet another step in the direction of protecting the public by adopting a change in our gun related laws.

Specifically, right now if you lose your weapon, or it is stolen, you are under no obligation to report that to TPD. I will propose that we change that, follow models that already exist in other jurisdictions (not in this State) and require reporting of lost or stolen weapons.

Why? Because law enforcement wants to be able to trace the history of a weapon that they seize at a crime scene. That's pretty basic (as are background checks, but we now know that not everybody feels that they're quite so intuitive.)



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff
Flake (R)
520-575-8633

Congressman
Ron Barber (D)
(2nd District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(3rd District)
520-622-6788

Governor Janice
Brewer (R)
Governor of Arizona
602-542-4331
Toll free:
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators
Toll Free
Telephone:
1-800-352-8404
Internet:
www.azleg.gov

Mayor Jonathan
Rothschild
791-4201

City Infoguide
[http://
cms3.tucsonaz.gov/
infoguide](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

Here's some of the language I've included in my request to place this item on an upcoming study session:

The Major Cities Police Chief's Association has recently been called upon to propose pieces of legislation that will assist them in their law enforcement duties while at the same time serve to better protect the safety of the public. One such initiative is to support a legal requirement that all lost or stolen firearms be reported to local law enforcement.

Being able to follow the ownership trail is a benefit to police when tracing gun ownership back to an original owner. Under conditions in which lost or stolen guns are not required to be reported to police, owners may falsely claim their weapon had been stolen in order to hide his/her own involvement in a crime.

The reporting requirement makes it easier for law enforcement to locate a lost or stolen weapon and return it to its owner. It also makes the successful prosecution of users of lost or stolen guns more likely. According to a study prepared by the Mayor's Against Illegal Guns, lost or stolen reporting laws 'can help law enforcement more easily identify and prosecute gun traffickers.'

Similarly, The International Association of Chiefs of Police states, law enforcement's early awareness of every lost and stolen gun will enhance their ability to recover those guns and reduce gun violence. That report recommends that State and Local governments mandate reporting of lost or stolen firearms. Survey polls overwhelmingly agree; lost or stolen guns must be reported to local law enforcement.

Several local governments in California already require the reporting of lost or stolen firearms, including San Francisco, Sacramento, Oakland, Berkeley, Los Angeles, West Hollywood, Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley and Port Hueneme. Local ordinances are often the catalyst for Regional or Statewide policies.

Stay tuned – if the past is prologue, you'll be hearing more about this in the days to come.

State Legislation on Guns

But the State is still moving some legislation forward related to gun laws. Specifically, H2554 is the one that will force us to allow firearms into public buildings or public events held on our property unless we provide:

- a. Secure lockers
- b. X-Ray machines
- c. Armed security
- d. Signage

Those would need to be at every public entrance. We don't have the money to do that – nor does any jurisdiction, so the true intent of the law is to allow guns into public spaces, and it will achieve that goal if it's signed into law.

Stupid laws

We don't have a corner on the market...

From the State of Washington:

Representative Ed Orcutt (R – Kalama) does not think bicycling is environmentally friendly

because the activity causes cyclists to have “an increased heart rate and respiration.”

This is according to comments he made in an email to a constituent who questioned the wisdom of a new bike tax the legislature is considering as part of a large transportation package.

“You would be giving off more CO2 if you are riding a bike than driving in a car. You can’t just say that there’s no pollution as a result of riding a bicycle.”

And so we should tax running shoes extra heavily, and think about plants and trees, too. Our Bike Advocate, Ann Chanecka, and the Trees for Tucson folks might want to get with our finance people and look into the possibilities...

Tucson Water Rates

We pay some of the lowest water rates in the Southwest. That is a testament to the folks who run Tucson Water. On Tuesday, we discussed their 5 year financial plan and put into motion the process for public hearings during which we’ll talk about this years rates. The short message is that we’ll be looking to increase sales related revenues by just over 8%. They’re dropping because you all are doing such a great job in conserving water. Last year that rate increase amounted to about 44 cents per month for the average customer. That included aver 70% of our water users.

Tucson Water is behind other utilities in putting in the bank reserves that will help keep them operating in case of an emergency. Right now, we have about 90 days’ worth of cash reserves. Typically utilities such as ours have somewhere around double that. That’s one of the reasons we need to consider increases in sales revenues.

Another reason is simply the continuing need to improve the water infrastructure. You see in the media from time to time the impact of broken or worn out water mains. We’re upgrading so service to your homes and businesses isn’t prone to interruption during un-planned repairs. Another cause of the need for capital is that we’re once again buying our full allotment of CAP water. This is buying a commodity at today’s prices, banking it for some time in the future when we’ll need to tap into it, and locking in prices that will most certainly increase over time if we don’t grab the chance now.

From a capital standpoint, we’re putting about \$23M into main replacements. This is still an issue with me because much of that is for work being done by the RTA, and in the original plan the RTA was to cover those costs, not rate payers. I’ve raised that issue for three straight years, TW staff can just about quote me on it (they’re not the cause of the cost shift – they just inherited the obligation,) and so I’ll just note it again here as something that doesn’t sit well with me. But we don’t have the authority to shift the costs back to the RTA, so it’ll end up on your water bill again. I’ll keep beating that drum.

Also in the capital costs are \$32M for meter replacements, another \$43M for associated infrastructure replacement, and the fact that we’re paying for the 1, 4 Dioxane treatment plant that we’re building as a result of pollutants dumped into our water supply by the DOD. That’s still being litigated – and is yet another example of how we needed to deliver the message to our military base friends that we’re partners in the community, needing to work together for the common good. Our resolution left that vague.

There will be public hearings in May during which you can share your thoughts. Of course you’re free to send them along to us at the Ward 6 office in advance of that if

you'd like.

Budget

In order to get our budget done, with all of the required public hearings by the end of June, we're receiving updates and beginning to share some thoughts on how to fill fiscal gaps. In April, the City Manager will present us with a recommended budget for next fiscal year. Between now and then, we're kicking around suggestions.

We are being told that our financial gap this year is about \$15M. Nearly 2/3 of that is due to pensions and fringe. Some of the pension shortfall we can directly control, but not much due to constraints imposed by the courts, and the fact that all public safety pensions are subject to State law, not local province.

On Tuesday, I shared my concern that if we continue to find budget 'savings' by making ourselves less competitive in the marketplace related to employee retention, our short term gains will cost us more in the long run as we have to rehire and retrain workers who leave for better positions. That is most specifically true in the police and fire areas. The six-figure investments we make into their training is lost as soon as they leave to work for other agencies. I asked staff to consider giving step-pay increases to those who have not had them in the past 5-6 years, and to balance that out, we put a hold on hiring. Preserve what we have or we'll just keep losing ground. The Chief told us that we cannot stop hiring / we're obligated to certain actions by virtue of our having funded positions with Federal dollars. But, we should still work towards providing some pay bumps to those who may be lured away (TPD can carry their certification to anyplace in the State.)

I also suggested considering a dedicated funding source for public safety. This wouldn't begin to help us until around fy'15, but it's at that time we'll have lost nearly 200 workers (both agencies combined) and have to take on presently grant funded positions. The timing might work out, but anything like that would require voter approval. It's certainly not my first choice, but it's not too early to begin the conversation.

Ultimately we all know that the answer is expanding our tax base through the creation of more jobs. I've shared in the past the numerous incentive options we've put into place for new business development. I have also shared the need for the Legislature to get a film industry incentive bill enacted - a bill that would impact multiple sectors of the economy.

We're also investing through issuing a Request for Proposals in the economic development area, including special events. My preference would be to increase the allocation for special events, but I also understand the need to produce a trained workforce. Perhaps when we get a little further into the economic recovery we can redirect some funds for civic events.

Here's the text of a solicitation that is now out on the street for economic development dollars:

The City of Tucson is soliciting competitive proposals for the delivery of eligible economic development projects and special events offered by non-profit organizations located in the City of Tucson. Contracts will be awarded for a one year period, beginning on July 1, 2013. Approximately five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) will be available for Fiscal Year 2014. We encourage all eligible organizations to apply. Proposals are due March 22, 2013. The application can be found at www.tucsonaz.gov/edrfp

[\\$500,000 to be allocated in 2014:](#)

Special Events Tourism funding - \$50,000
 Business Development - \$150,000
 Workforce Development - \$300,000

Other brief thoughts on the direction of the budget. We need utilities to cover the full cost of abatement of graffiti. Private businesses already to suffer those costs / large utilities should, too. We need to consider putting in place a long term transit fare policy that is tied to a measurable economic metric. We've been talking about it – we should get it done. It won't help this year, but it represents some forward thinking. And we should not make any more reductions hastily – the economic data is still coming in from the State. Let's just take our time, begin to look at possible directions, but not commit until we have a more solid idea of what the target really is.

Transit

A big chunk of the budget is the amount of money we invest in our public transportation system. In going through the information staff provided us, it struck me that in some areas they have been overly conservative in projections, and in others they're finally coming clean with some real numbers.

Examples:

We are told that it'll cost us \$1.7M in our PM budget because our new busses won't be here for 4 months later than originally predicted. That seems quite high for maintaining busses for a few months when we know new ones are on the way.

The service area is expanding, and we're being told that will cost us an additional \$2.2M. But the RTA needs to be a part of funding those added expansion costs, and our vendor should be paying for utilities in the buildings they occupy. Our general fund is not the go-to choice for other stakeholders in operating the system.

The Streetcar won't be operating until the middle of next year. We were told that \$1.7M is needed for "activation and pre-revenue costs". ?? We need a better description of where those dollars are really going. We were also told that our new ops/mgmt. vendor has requested an additional 16 employees since having been awarded the contract. Not so fast – staff needs to work with the realization that these dollars are competing with other core services.

There are Federal dollars that can be used for capital purchases. Even in this time of challenging Federal funding, staff needs to beat the bushes to find assistance in funding O&M for each element of our transit system.

...for example – for over 2 years I have been saying that staff projections of \$2M for Streetcar O&M is unrealistically low. Now we're being told that O&M will likely be in the \$5M to \$6M range. Right – and we need to seek Federal funding, or RTA dollars (which would require a change in the enabling legislation) to help offset those costs. Otherwise, it comes right out of the general fund.

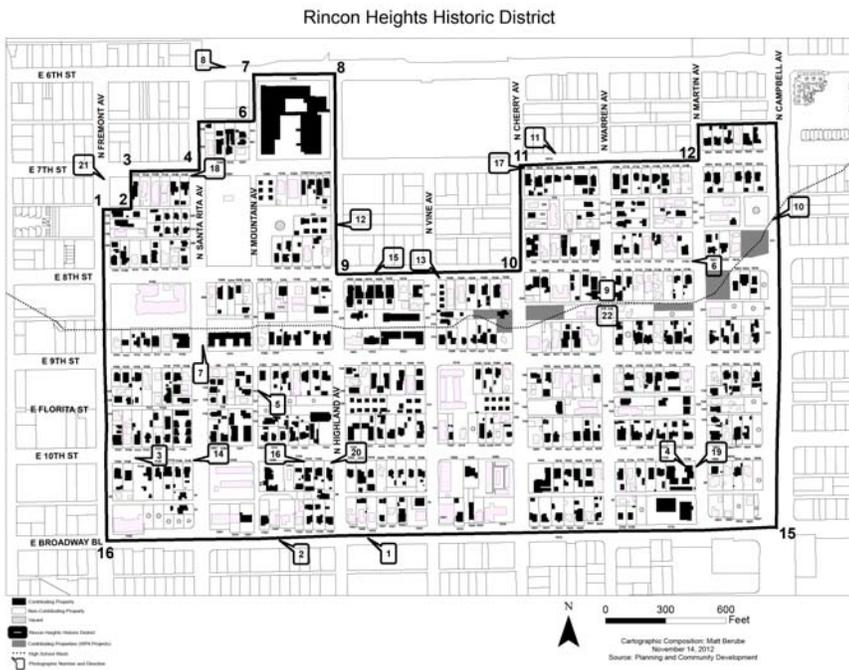
Every public transportation system is costly to operate. And every successful City has a good one. But staff cost projections need to be realistic because where we build budget capacity will necessarily have an impact on other parts of the budget that will have to give some in order to accommodate overly conservative projections in another area.

Rincon Heights Historic Area

Congratulations to the residents of Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association. After nearly a seven year process, they have been notified that they're now recognized as our most recent Historic Neighborhood.

The City participated in the process of getting this status. Through a \$10K grant, as well as volunteer/intern help that came from Brooks Jefferys' Historic Preservation class through the UA, and the financial help of Pie Allen neighborhood, RHNA is now on the Historic Map.

Specifically, here are the boundaries:



In order to qualify, an Historic District needs over 1/2 of its properties to be considered as 'contributing' to the designation. In the case of RHNA, that figure was over 2/3. Congratulations, and a job well done to all who participated.



And on Saturday of last week, a group of us celebrated the unveiling of a new mural that identifies the Broadway corridor, beginning at Country Club, and running about two miles to the west as The Sunshine Mile. I've shared the story in previous newsletters about how a '53 naming contest resulted in an airman from DM winning \$1,000 for this name. Through the work of Demion Clinco, the Broadway Coalition partners, and multiple businesses along that stretch of roadway, the celebration kicked off the new branding.

There's a month long scavenger hunt taking place – you can find details at their website / or any of these participating merchants:

Hirsh's Shoes, Laverna's Coffee Shop, Rocco's Little Chicago Pizza, Deco, Casa Colonia, Betty Blue's Junk Shop, Yikes Toy Store, Western lifestyle Furniture, Country Home Fur-

niture, Kismet (two for one kitten adoption,) Picante, Zocalo, Room of Rugs, Little Bird Nesting Company, Totally Kids and Futon, Caps and More, and Art Hair Studio.

Great job by all who made this happen. Jude, thanks from all of us.

Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance

As a follow up to our public hearing on the NPO, staff is now ready to host a public meeting during which they'll share the concerns raised, and hear more input from you.

The areas about which we heard that need more discussion include yard sales, parking large commercial vehicles on residential property, clarification of what constitutes a junked motor vehicle, and maintenance issues related to homes. The further input staff receives will become a part of the record they bring back to us when we revisit the changes to the Ordinance.

On Monday, March 18, at 6pm, our Code Enforcement folks will host the meeting on the first floor of the Sentinel building (320 N. Commerce Park Loop.) If you didn't get a chance to share your thoughts during our public hearing, this is an opportunity for you to be a part of the process.

Teresa Williams is our Code Enforcement Administrator. She and her staff do a wonderful job bird-dogging issues throughout the City. If you have questions about the upcoming forum, you can reach her and the Housing and Community Development group at 837.5005.

Book Fair

...and don't forget the annual Book Fair on the UA campus this weekend. The booths will be open from 9 – 5:30 on both Saturday and Sunday. It's a free, and very much family friendly event.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
Ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Arts and Entertainment Events Calendar

This week and next week at the arts and entertainment venues in the Downtown, 4th Avenue, and Main Gate areas . . .

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

Friday, March 8, 8:30pm. “Sambada and Batuaxe Carnival Extravaganza” all ages.

Saturday, March 9, 7:30pm. “YG” all ages.

Sunday, March 10, 8:00pm. “WXSJ Featuring Why? / Baths” all ages.

www.RialtoTheatre.com

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.

Thursday, March 7, 7:30pm. “Aaron Lewis”

Friday, March 8, 7:30pm. “Rhythm of the Dance”

Saturday, March 9, 7:00pm. “Downtown Second Saturdays Presents: Dennis Jones”

Sunday, March 10, 7:30pm. “Classic Albums Live – Abbey Road”

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave.

Arizona Theatre Company presents “The Sunshine Boys” by Neil Simon

Saturday, March 2 – March 23, 2013.

www.arizonatheatre.org

Tucson Convention Center <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/tcc/eventcalendar>

TCC Arena

Friday, March 8 through Sunday, March 10. “Monster Jam 2013”

Music Hall

Saturday, March 9 and Sunday, March 10. “Il Traovatore”

Ongoing

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Ave.

Ongoing exhibition, Opening Saturday, January 26 and ending June 16:

“Desert Grasslands,” “Feminina: Images of the Feminine from Latin America,” and “Elements in Western Art: Water, Fire, Air, and Earth”

www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org

Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), 265 S. Church Ave.

Current exhibition: “Peter Young: Capitalist Masterpieces”

Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 12:00 to 5:00pm.

www.Moca-Tucson.org

Children's Museum Tucson, 200 S. 6th Ave.

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturdays & Sundays: 10:00am - 5:00pm

www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

The Drawing Studio, 33 S. 6th Ave.

Ongoing Exhibit, Opens March 2 and runs March 30

“The Journey Continues: Pat Frederick, Mikaela Quinn, Roberta Miller”

<http://www.thedrawingstudio.org/>

Jewish History Museum, 564 S. Stone Ave.

Open Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1:00-5:00 and Friday, Noon to 3:00pm

Special hours for school and group tours, for more information call 670-9073

www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Meet Me at Maynards

A social walk/run through the Downtown area

Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

Maynards Market and Kitchen, 400 N. Toole Avenue, the historic train depot

Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

Tucson Farmers’ Market at Maynards

Saturdays 9:00am – 1:00pm

On the plaza at Maynards Market & Kitchen. 400 N Toole in the Historic Train Depot

Santa Cruz Farmers’ Market Mercado San Agustin, 100 S. Avenida del Convento

Thursdays, 4:00 – 7:00pm.

For other events in the Downtown/4th Avenue/Main Gate area, visit these sites:

www.MainGateSquare.com

www.FourthAvenue.org

www.DowntownTucson.org

Other Community Events

Loft Cinema www.loftcinema.com/

Wednesday, March 6, 7:00pm. **“Therese Desqueyroux”**

Thursday, March 7, 7:00pm. **“The Waiting Room”**

Saturday, March 9, 12:00pm. **“You, Me and Us”**

Arizona State Museum – Woven Wonders (beginning April 28)

The Arizona State Museum is debuting a sample of 500 pieces from the world’s largest collection of South-west American Indian basketry (over 25,000 pieces). Visit www.statemuseum.arizona.edu for more information.

UA Mineral Museum – Ongoing

“100 Years of Arizona’s Best: The Minerals that Made the State”

Community Food Bank Citrus Gleaning for 2013

The Community Food Bank is offering to pick surplus citrus from homes and businesses in some areas of town. They term this service “Gleaning” or harvesting food that would otherwise go unused. They are currently accepting and picking up already picked fruit now, but will begin the actual gleaning program on January 22 and end on April 30. For more information on how to turn your excess fruit into food for those who need it, contact Lou Medran at 449-8340 or imedran@communityfoodbank.org

Sam Hughes Historic Neighborhood and Home Tour – Sunday, April 7

Sam Hughes Historic District encompasses one square mile bordered by Speedway/Broadway and Country Club/Campbell. This popular self-guided tour features homes, gardens, businesses and sample-serving restaurants. Unique this year are four alternative living arrangements that display the diversity of this mid-town neighborhood as well as a presentation about the historic preservation of Broadway Blvd. The tour is Sunday, April 7 (12-5). Tickets are \$20, available beginning March 28 at Arte de la Vida (37 N. Tucson Blvd., just north of Broadway)---398-6720 or day-of-tour at Rincon Market (2516 E. 6th St.).

Tucson Winter Chamber Music Festival – March 17 – March 24

From Sunday March 17 to Sunday March 24, Arizona Friends of Chamber Music will bring to town the **Twentieth Tucson Winter Chamber Music Festival!!** One of the finest such festivals in the US, called by classical radio station WMFT in Chicago “A jewel of a festival”, and by American Record Guide, “one of the best and most adventurous in America”.

It will bring to Ward 6 fifteen outstanding musicians from all over the world, including two great composers from Australia and the Czech Republic Five concerts, a great gala dinner at the Arizona Inn. For more information, please visit <http://www.arizonachambermusic.org/>