



All That Glitters is Gold for Glendale



Curt and Jodi Decker enjoy Glendale Glitters.

By Jodi Decker

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the award-winning Glendale Glitters holiday celebration, during the months of December and early January. Glendale Glitters began in 1994 as a way for the downtown area to attract visitors to a revitalized downtown area, according to the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, October 2013. Glendale citizens were asked by the Mayor and city staff to donate money to purchase the lights installed in the historic Murphy Park.

Glendale Glitters provides an economic boost to the downtown businesses each year. It also has created community pride with residents and their families. Various non-profit groups benefit from the proceeds from the city festival.

Besides the light displays, local businesses display their holiday wares, there are holiday-themed performances on stage, food trucks, horse-drawn carriages, carolers, hot-air balloons, and vendors selling holiday-themed products. Santa always makes an appearance to listen to children's gift requests.

Glendale residents were asked to chime in on some of their favorite Glendale holiday memories. Here are a few of their responses:

Kathy Gonzalez shares, "My favorite memory was singing at Glendale Glitters when I was in high school choir at GHS. Back then it felt like a small town. That was in the 90s."

Our family took many holiday themed photos at Glendale Glitters. One tradition we had was buying a Christmas ornament for each of the three kids each year to hang on the Christmas tree. Now that they are all grown, they were given the ornaments to decorate their own trees. Glendale Glitters continues to be a much celebrated tradition in our town, hopefully to be enjoyed by generations to come.

Upcoming Events

December 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Manistee Ranch. Christmas Party and Board nominations. Please bring a dessert.

Monday, January 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Manistee Ranch. Potluck. Election and installation of officers. Note earlier date.

Monday, February 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Manistee Ranch. "Accessing the History of Glendale," Library/Archive team of GAHS.

Readers Speak: I Remember Glendale When....



Santa lands near Murphy Park c. late 60s, early 70s.

By Jodi Decker

Mary Maestas remembers, I took my mother to Glendale Glitters in 2014 (first time), and she had a huge smile as we walked around seeing the lights. We sat down to eat our food we had bought there.

Then we went on to browse the vendors, I told her to pick anything she liked and I would buy it for her Christmas gift. She chose a small frog encrusted with rhinestones, which you could remove the top half and place jewelry into it. She passed in 2019 and that frog was gifted to my granddaughter, who missed her dearly. I have my memory and she has hers.

John F. LeGendre remembers, Bill Barkley, former Mayor of Glendale, used to be Santa in Murphy Park and listen to children's wishes and then give them a mesh stocking filled with nuts and candy. What's unique about this is Bill was my uncle.

When I was real little I was impressed that Santa knew my name (because as you know he knows everything) and he must have smoked the same cigars as Uncle Bill because he smelled just like him.

Charlotte White remembers, in 1986 I was a young bride, my new husband and I moved to Catlin Court and I took a job in a group home for disabled adults where I was in charge of a day program. I didn't have much of a budget for materials, so I got creative and did a lot of asking for anything that I could make

crafts out of.

Since the group home was in the heart of Glendale, the residents were excited for Glendale Glitters at Christmas time. I saw an article in the local paper about a contest for the event, it was simple and something the residents of the home could take do: make a paper chain for the Christmas tree in Murphy Park.

The residents were excited for this project.. If I remember correctly, there would be prizes for the longest chain and one for the most creative. With glue and staples that were

donated, any type of paper was not safe as it was soon cut into strips and looped through other loops to make a Christmas chain.

When it was time to give the chain to the judges of the Glendale Glitters committee, my boss and another employee took in at least 3 large garbage bags full of joined loops to decorate the tree. I don't remember how long the chain was, but it was much longer than any other chain entered into the contest. I'm older now, and my memory isn't what I would like it to be, but I believe the residents received a small trophy and were mentioned in the local paper.

This was huge for the group home, because this group of special needs adults took part and won something that was meant for the community and not just for a special needs group. It was a chance to show they could do anything they put their minds to.

Lina Gonzales remembers, As a kid in the 60's, the whole family would go to the park at Christmas time. We kids would stand in line to see Santa, and he would give out sacks of goodies to all the kids for free. The sacks would include an apple, an orange, nuts and a handful of hard candies.

Our hands would be stamped to show that we received a sack. Music would be playing and groups of people would be singing on the bandstand. Those are the times I remember with my family at the park in downtown Glendale. They were the best of times.

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend GAHS's Annual Christmas Party & Monthly Members Meeting on Monday December 18, 2023

The Nomination Committee will reveal the slate of officers and directors for 2024. Additional nominations for positions can be made that evening.

After GAHS business is taken care of, it will be time to get your holly jolly on for our annual Christmas Party! It's an evening of fun for all amid the seasonal

decorations at Manistee Ranch. Members may bring an ornament to place on our holiday tree. You are welcome to bring a dessert to share at our sweet table. It's the most wonderful time of the year and we hope you will celebrate with GAHS at Manistee Ranch. Not a member? You can join the GAHS by visiting our website to find out how. Your investment in our future helps us to preserve the past. <https://www.glendalearizonahistoricalociety.org/membership>



**Glendale Arizona
Historical Society**

Annual Members Meeting
Christmas Party
Monday December 18, 2023
7:00 p.m. at Manistee Ranch

**Please consider
Glendale Arizona Historical Society
in your holiday giving!**

Your tax deductible donation supports the mission of the society to preserve, promote, and disseminate information about historical materials, artifacts and knowledge of Glendale and its past.

GAHS is a 501c3 non profit organization.



Hours & Tours

SAHUARO RANCH GUEST HOUSE
GAHS Office ~ 10 am to 1 pm Mon-Tue-Thur-Fri
Tours by appointment only
Wedding Dates are currently available!

MANISTEE RANCH
Tours resume October 2023 1st & 3rd Saturdays
of every month until April 2023

Adults \$5
Seniors 65+ and Military \$4
Children 6-10 \$1, under 6, free
GAHS members, free

For more information call 623-435-0072

GAHS Board of Directors

Brenda Bartels	President
Gary Sherwood	V. Pres.
Marty Cole	Treasurer
Jessica Koory	Secretary
Martha Dennis	Director
Kathy Goreé	Director
Al Lenox	Director
Randi Turk	Director
Lorraine Zomok	Director

Sahuaro Ranch Guest House Office
623-435-0072

Manistee Ranch Office
623-931-8848

Glendale Arizona Historical Society is designated as a
Certified Historical Society

Glendale Arizona Historical Society
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Glendale, AZ 85312

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President's Message



This month, I would like to bring your attention to two very important issues. One is the financial reality of GAHS and the other is next year's officers. Both items are critical to the success and continuation of this society.

The first is our financial reality. I am sure many of you have felt the pinch of prices going up and income seeming to go down. This is true for GAHS. As a board, we have had to come to terms with a \$10,000 deficit this year.

This is due to lost revenues from wedding bookings as well as increased costs on several of our annual expenses. Your Board has looked into alternative

revenue sources such as working the Kiwanis booth at the Cardinal's Stadium, setting us up to participate in Arizona Gives Day this coming spring, even adding a donation line to our updated Membership/Renewal form.

This in no way diminishes the value in our many volunteers. It is thanks to you, that we are able to keep many "operational" costs at a minimum.

The second item that you need to be aware of is that we need people willing to run for the Board. When I volunteered to be President this year, it was due to the legal necessity for that position to be filled.

I have made it clear to the Board that I will not be running again for President. I am respectfully asking that you step up so that the Glendale Arizona Historical Society can continue on for another 50 years, and then some.

Glendale Arizona Historical Society
GlendaleArizonaHistoricalSociety.org

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