

November 2008 Calendar of Events

Music in the Garden Fall Concert Series; Oct. 3 – Nov. 14; Phoenix; 480-941-1225; www.dbg.org.

Every Friday during October and November, the Desert Botanical Garden hosts a two-hour concert featuring local musicians outside on the Ullman Terrace.

15th Annual Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival; Oct. 31 – Nov. 2; Carefree; 480-837-5637;

www.thunderbirdartists.com. Take a walk down Easy Street in downtown Carefree for this yearly event, which boasts more than 165 artists offering 5,000 original works of art from various mediums, including bronze, glass, wood and clay sculptures, photography and jewelry.

7th Annual Western Music Festival; Oct. 31 – Nov. 2; Tombstone; 520-457-3616;

www.tombstonewesternmusicfestival.org. You wouldn't expect less than 100 percent authenticity from a place like Tombstone when it comes to Western music, and you shouldn't. Each year, the first weekend in November brings this annual festival to town, with a range of performers such as Rena Randall, the Due West Trio and Joe Bethancourt expected this year. Don't forget your guitar (or other instrument) so you can participate in one of the jam sessions following the concerts.

Cycle World International Motorcycle Show; Oct. 31 – Nov. 2; Glendale; 800-331-5706; www.motorcycleshows.com.

The first stop on this 13-city tour by the world's largest motorcycle magazine is the University of Phoenix Stadium, where cycles ranging from all-electric scooters to custom choppers are on display, plus a Halloween costume contest and riding demos.

El Día de los Muertos Celebration; Nov. 1 – 2; Mesa; 480-644-6627; www.mesaartscenter.com.

Come celebrate the lives of those who have passed in traditional Mexican style with a festival. This is no somber event; some of the activities include traditional music and dance, arts and crafts, artist workshops and much more.

22nd Annual Tucson Celtic Festival and Scottish Highland Games; Nov. 1 – 2; Tucson; 520-807-9509;

www.tucsoncelticfestival.org. Lads and lasses, listen up! For anyone looking to learn a little more about what it is to be Celtic, or to celebrate your own Scottish heritage, the search ends here. Held in the Rillito Park, the festival is for anyone who wants to enjoy everything Celtic — bagpipe band competitions, athletic competitions, food and, of course, beer.

Roundup Open House at the Historic Empire Ranch; Nov. 1; Sonoita; 888-364-2829;

www.empireranchfoundation.org. Enjoy a taste of cowboy life with the Empire Ranch Foundation on their historic land. Activities last all day, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and include arena events like shooting, roping and riding, a kid's corral, live music and dancing, barbeque, and an auction and raffle. Parking is \$5 per car and includes raffle tickets.

28th Annual Tour of Homes; Nov. 1; Wickenburg; 928-684-2272. Take a tour of some of Wickenburg's most unique

homes and help benefit the Desert Caballeros Western Museum, "Arizona's Most Western Museum." Starting at the Wickenburg Community Center with the Holiday Festival, visitors can take part in arts and crafts or enjoy the gourmet food before going on the self-guided tour.

London Bridge Days Chillin' n' Swillin' Brew Fest; Nov. 1; Lake Havasu City; 928-453-3444;

www.golakehasu.com. Come sample some of the best hand-crafted beers from California, Nevada, Colorado and Arizona at Lake Havasu's London Bridge. Must be 21 years of age to attend, so don't forget your ID!

3rd Annual Great Cajun Cook-Off; Nov. 2; Phoenix; 602-885-0108; www.greatcajuncookoff.com. Normally, you'd have to go to Louisiana for some good Cajun food, but the 3rd annual Great Cajun Cook-Off brings the deliciousness right into the heart of downtown Phoenix at Heritage Square Park. Food, seating and unlimited beverages (except alcohol) are included in the ticket price, and all proceeds go directly to the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity and the Joel Monte West Club Scholarship Fund to help people affected by Hurricane Katrina. Good food for a good cause.

Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra; Nov. 3; Mesa; 480-644-6500; www.mesaartscenter.com. They've come from halfway around the world to play an assortment of the best classical music by Aaron Copland to Leonard Bernstein to many others. You can't beat listening to songs from some of the most famed composers played by the one of the best orchestras in the world.

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Polar Express; Nov. 6, 2008 – Jan. 10, 2009; Williams; 800-843-8724; www.thetrain.com. The train ride from Williams to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon is a spectacular sight, but imagine the same trip through a snow-covered winter wonderland. And for the kids, there's hot chocolate, cookies, a reading of the classic Christmas story and even Santa and his reindeer.

The Spaghetti Western Orchestra; Nov. 6 – 8; Wickenburg and Scottsdale; www.spaghettiwesternorchestra.com. Five men with pale makeup from Australia aren't what you'd expect from the Spaghetti Western Orchestra, but that's what they are (sorry, no spaghetti). The Western-wearing guys are stopping in Arizona for three shows during their worldwide tour.

34th Annual Fountain Festival of Arts & Crafts; Nov. 7 – 9; Fountain Hills; 480-837-1654; www.fountainhillschamber.com. If you're looking to do some unique holiday shopping this year, skip the mall and head out to Fountain Hills for their annual arts and crafts festival. With about 500 different artists and vendors, it would be difficult not to find the perfect gift, or at least a little something for yourself.

Red Rock Canvas; Nov. 7 – 9; Sedona; 928-282-7390; www.redrockcanvas.com. Take a tour of many of Sedona's unique art galleries while enjoying various activities throughout the weekend. Events include a live and silent auction, wine tasting, outdoor adventures and a tour of artist John Waddell's sculpture garden.

6th Annual Desert Shrimp Festival; Nov. 7 – 9; Gila Bend; 928-683-2002; www.gilabendaz.org. Shrimp aren't exactly one of the many critters associated with the Arizona desert, unless you're in Gila Bend for this festival. Get your fill at the shrimp-eating contest or by bobbing for them. You can also eat shrimp the old fashioned way.

Lunar Adventure at Kitt Peak; Nov. 7; Tucson; 520-318-8440; www.noao.edu/outreach/kpvc/classes.html. The moon was used by ancient people to determine harvest seasons, create calendars and for countless other purposes. Today, most people just enjoy looking at it, and Kitt Peak's National Observatory is one of the best places to get a glimpse and learn a little along the way through their Lunar Adventure Program.

Edible & Medicinal Plants Walk; Nov. 8; Superior; 520-689-2811; www.arboretum.ag.arizona.edu. In a perfect world, no one would get ill or injured while enjoying the great outdoors. But this world isn't perfect, so Boyce Thompson Arboretum offers a tour that points out important indigenous plants that can be used to cure your ills.

Tucson Salsa Challenge; Nov. 8; Tucson; 888-754-7017; www.tucson.salsachallenge.com. This Mexican fiesta serves more than just to give enthusiasts a sample of the best food around the state — all proceeds benefit the Arizona Hemophilia Association. Watch bartenders compete in the Margarita Mix-Off and chefs battle it out for the best hot and mild salsas around. And, of course, there's more than enough food to go around, so go with an empty stomach.

Canciones de Mi Padre Starring Linda Ronstadt; Nov. 8; Chandler; 480-782-2683; www.chandlercenter.org. Join Grammy-winning singer Linda Ronstadt at the Chandler Center for the Arts to perform some of her most popular songs. Performing with her will be a nine-member mariachi band and the Ballet Folklorico Paso del Norte group from Texas.

Serving with Honor: Annual VA Veterans Day Parade; Nov. 11; Phoenix; www.arizonaguide.com. Featuring more than 100 different entries, ranging from historic military vehicles to veterans service organizations to bands, this patriotic parade begins at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center and ends at the North Phoenix Baptist Church.

Veterans Day at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park; Nov. 11; Scottsdale; 480-312-2312; www.therailroadpark.com. Any day spent at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park is bound to be a great one, but the Veterans Day celebration combines the fun of the park with the deserved reverence for those who have served our country. Visitors can enjoy two event-packed hours with live performances, guest speakers and dignitaries, and then go for a ride on the train or the fully-restored antique carousel.

11th Annual Round Valley Veterans Day Parade; Nov. 11; Eagar/Springerville; 928-333-2123; www.springerville-eagarchamber.com. Celebrate Veterans Day in the mountains the old-fashioned way – with a parade. Bring your flags and lawn chairs out early, and don't forget to work up an appetite as a luncheon immediately follows the festivities.

Veterans Day Gourd Dance & Community Potluck; Nov. 11; Phoenix; 602-495-0901; www.phoenix.gov/PARKS/pueblo.html. We're not sure what exactly it is that gourds have to do with Veterans Day, but

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there's no arguing that it makes for an interesting event. From 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. (with the Gourd Dancing beginning at 11:30 a.m.), the Pueblo Grande Museum is hosting guests and their potluck dishes in honor of the men and women who have served in the military.

Rim Country Quilt Roundup; Nov. 13 – 16; Payson; 800-672-9766; www.rimcountryquiltroundup.com. Whether you're an expert quilter or merely an admirer of pretty patchwork, the Rim Country Quilt Roundup offers a variety of activities and classes for everyone. The four-day event has workshops and lectures as well as awards for the best quilts, which are presented during a banquet ceremony.

29th Annual Bluegrass Festival & Fiddle Championship; Nov. 14 – 16; Wickenburg; 928-684-5479; www.wickenburgchamber.com. Beyond the obvious activities at this three-day festival, there are some other interesting things going on there. In addition to fiddles and guitars, there are competitions for people who play banjos, mandolins and even a contest for "specialty instruments." There are also various events for children and a pancake breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Heard Museum West's Appraisal Day; Nov. 15; Surprise; 602-251-0261; www.heard.org. It's Antiques Roadshow – Indian-style. Bring your American Indian artifacts to the Heard Museum and, for a price, they'll tell you all about it. Experts will appraise the value and provide any background information they can, such as dates and traditions associated with the item.

St. David River Hike; Nov. 15; St. David; 520-459-2555; www.sanpedroriver.org. This hike is not for the faint of heart. It consists of 8 strenuous miles — including trekking through the swamp and grassland areas of the San Pedro River — with a break for lunch (bring your own!).

20th Annual Red Rock Fantasy of Lights; Nov. 15, 2008 – Jan. 5, 2009; Sedona; 800-521-3131; www.redrockfantasy.com. Just about everyone looks forward to the time of year when holiday lights start showing up, and for people who are always trying to find the best places to go to see them, look no further. With more than one million lights and dozens of displays set against the backdrop of Sedona's beautiful red rocks, there aren't many ways this festival could get better.

2008 Gilbert Days; Nov. 19 – 23; Gilbert; 480-380-8399; www.gilbertdays.com. Thirty years ago, people in Gilbert worried about the town losing touch with its Western heritage. To keep the tradition alive, each year, Gilbert Days offers a week-long celebration of everything Western, with events ranging from a rodeo to a chili cook-off and a parade.

18th Annual Colorado River Crossing Balloon Festival; Nov. 21 – 23; Yuma; 928-343-1715; www.caballeros.org. It's not every day that you see a plethora of brightly-colored hot air balloons in the sky. Unless, of course, you're in Yuma during their Colorado River Crossing Balloon Festival. For three days, countless balloons float in massive numbers and, on the second night of the festival, dozens of them gather at the Desert Sun Baseball Stadium, where they are tethered and illuminated.

Childsplay's The Velveteen Rabbit; Nov. 22 – Dec. 21; Tempe; 480-921-5700; www.childsplayaz.org. Check out this adaptation of the classic children's book at the Tempe Center for the Arts. Recommended for children ages 3 years and older.

2nd Annual Night Under the Stars; Nov. 22; Wenden; 928-669-2088; www.azstateparks.com. Forty miles from the nearest city lights, the Alamo Lake State Park provides crisp, clear skies for star gazing, making it a spectacular place to host a night under the stars. During the day, there are educational classes, activities and a star fair to get people ready for the evening's main event — a star party. The park is waiving the day use fee, and camping is available for anyone interested in spending the night.

7th Annual Lighting of Arizona's Largest Holiday Tree; Nov. 22; Anthem; 623-465-9500; www.outletsanthem.com. Usually, outlet malls are just for shopping. But people stop by the Outlets at Anthem one day a year for something completely unrelated to bargain buys. They come for the lighting of Arizona's largest tree, just in time to kick off the holiday season. And you can even get the gift hunt started early while you're there.

Thanksgiving Star Fest; Nov. 26 – 29; Flagstaff; 928-233-3211; www.lowell.edu. Celebrating Thanksgiving weekend doesn't have to just be all about turkey, mashed potatoes and stuffing. The Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff is setting up

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telescopes on the grounds and will also conduct indoor programs for visitors' stargazing pleasure for its Thanksgiving Star Fest.

Arizona International Auto Show; Nov. 27 – 30; Phoenix; 602-262-6225; www.autoshowphoenix.com. Get a glimpse of the newest cars for model year 2010 at the Phoenix Convention Center. The Arizona International Auto Show features hybrids, concept and exotic cars, alternative fuel vehicles and more.

17th Annual ZooLights; Nov. 27, 2008 – Jan. 11, 2009; Phoenix; 602-273-1341; www.phoenixzoo.org. It's a right of passage for every child in town to go to ZooLights, whether to see Jengo, the talking giraffe, to ride one of the camels or to see the more than 400 different light displays. This year, the Phoenix Zoo is using more energy-efficient light bulbs in an effort to be environmentally friendly.

Thanksgiving Day Parade; Nov. 27; Fountain Hills; 480-837-1654; www.fountainhillschamber.com. Throw the turkey in the oven early this year and head out to Fountain Hills for their annual Thanksgiving Day Parade. Beginning at 9 a.m., the themed parade features local groups.

Festival of Lights; Nov. 28, 2008 – Jan. 1, 2009; Ahwatukee Foothills; 480-460-6169; www.folaz.org. Ahwatukee's most popular event begins November 29 with a kick-off party to celebrate the beginning of the more than 1 million light display. Participants include hundreds of vendors, including arts and crafts booths and Crafters Row, where visitors can purchase works created by dozens of master crafters. Hayrides are offered on two Saturdays in December.

7th Annual Patagonia Holiday Walking Tour; Nov. 28 – 29; Patagonia; 888-794-0030; www.patagoniaaz.com. Dozens of unique artists open their galleries on the weekend following Thanksgiving for a walking tour and moveable feast. Some artists to check out include toy makers, gourd crafters, potters, quilters and weavers. Various local restaurants will also participate and refreshments will be available.

Glendale Glitters Spectacular; Nov. 28 – 29; Glendale; 623-930-2299; www.visitglendale.com. The Glendale Glitters Spectacular was rated as the best festival in the state by azcentral.com. It's got lots of lights, of course, but it also boasts a children's winter wonderland, horse-drawn carriage rides, live music, food and more.

87th Annual Festival of Lights; Nov. 28; Bisbee; 520-432-5421; www.discoverbisbee.com. Kick off the holiday season in Bisbee with a lighting in front of the Copper Queen Library. Santa rides in on top of a fire truck loaded with all kinds of treats for the children.

A Southwest Nutcracker; Nov. 29 – 30; Tucson; 520-885-0862; www.tucsonregionalballet.org. The holiday season climate in most of Central and Southern Arizona is the opposite of the rest of the country — especially the climate. So it's appropriate that we have our own version of the classic Nutcracker ballet, complete with desert critters.

APS Fantasy of Lights Opening Night; Nov. 29; Tempe; 480-894-8158; www.downtowntempe.com. Mill Avenue always has something going on, but the annual Fantasy of Lights opening festivities make for a busy night, starting with a parade at 6 p.m., the lighting of the 60-foot holiday tree, street entertainers, and the requisite visit from Santa Claus, all culminating with a fireworks display.