



JANUARY 23

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HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2023!

I HOPE EVERYONE HAD A great holiday season and is looking forward to a safe and happy 2023!

As the new year begins, there will be lots of activity, starting with the 34th Annual Home Tour in February, followed by the Willo Neighborhood Association elections in March.

This will be my last President's Column. I have lived in Willo for 24 years and have been President or a board member for 12 of those years. My term ends in March 2023.

I dedicate my final column to the memory of Bob and Alice Zajack, my neighbors on Cypress who lived across the street. They reminded me very much of my grandparents, also immigrants from Eastern Europe. Bob asked me to help with traffic as he was afraid of being hit by speeding cars racing from 7th Avenue to Central via Cypress. I told him I would 'look into it.' I hope I have made them both proud.

SOME NOSTALGIA

I remember my first term as President very well - like it was almost yesterday.

The Light Rail and its impact on Willo were being discussed. What about our streets... we are cut through haven to Central... what about the Willo Walk proposal (now called Tapestry on Central)? And most importantly... What will we do about 1st Avenue North of Holly? Can we stop the

pending completion of 1st Avenue from Holly to Thomas? What can we do about the empty lots on McDowell Road bordering Almeria? Why do we need a website? What can we do about the vacant lots on McDowell Road bordering Almeria? Why can't I build a two-story addition and add a garage to my side yard?

Those were the issues that the Board of Directors and I faced back then; I learned a great deal about strategic priorities, communicating with various stakeholders, learning patience through knowledge of the subject matter, and exercising diplomacy skills as I represented the largest historic neighborhood in the city.

NOW SPEED UP TO TODAY

My third term ends in March 2023. I have decided not to pursue a fourth term. Yet, I will continue to participate in a guidance role as President Emeritus to ensure a smooth transition and provide continuity for the new president and board.

The WNA and community participants accomplished much over the past six years. My heartfelt thanks to board members, past and present, all volunteers, and stakeholders, whose dedication and participation made these accomplishments possible. You are sincerely appreciated.

SOME OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT WILLO



ON THE COVER:
61 W. WILSHIRE
THE HOME IS
PART OF HOME
TOUR 2023
SEE PAGE 13
FOR DETAILS.
PHOTO BY ADDISON DENT
(WINDSOR)

NEIGHBORHOOD ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PAST SIX YEARS ARE:

◆ A six-year strategic collaboration with the City of Phoenix for the redevelopment of a safer, community-oriented 3rd & 5th Avenues, instrumentally advocating for the \$5 million budget to pay for the project's construction... starting in early 2023. Heartfelt thanks to everyone

(continued on page 7)



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opal.wagner@gmail.com
ldoescher@kcpagels.com
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jacksonmodrak@gmail.com
wsearles@gmail.com
jeremys@fairwaymc.com
iwilliam@cox.net

COMMITTEES

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OPAL WAGNER, CHAIR opal.wagner@gmail.com

BLOCK WATCH

ERIKA GAGNON, CHAIR BlockWatch@WilloPhx.com

BYLAWS REVIEW

ANN BOMMERSBACH, CHAIR bommer1948@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY COMMITTEE

SANDRA LEFCOVICH, CHAIR lefcovichmoreno@gmail.com
LINDA DOESCHER ldoescher@kcpagels.com
KUSH GOVANI kush.m.govani@gmail.com
JEREMY SCHACHTER jeremys@fairwaymc.com
W. AARON MONTAÑO SEARLES wsearles@gmail.com

HISTORIC REGISTRATION AND RENEWAL

GENE NANCE genenance1@yahoo.com

HOME TOUR 2023 COMMITTEE

LINDA DOESCHER, CO-CHAIR ldoescher@kcpagels.com
SANDRA LEFCOVICH, CO-CHAIR lefcovichmoreno@gmail.com

INSIDE WILLO MAGAZINE

SANDRA LEFCOVICH, EDITOR lefcovichmoreno@gmail.com
MEGAN DESMOND MARTINEZ, insidewilloadvertising@gmail.com
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR ralphgroom3@gmail.com
RALPH GROOM, ART DIRECTOR

KLEANSTREETS/YARD SALE

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LUMINARIAS

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SOCIAL MEDIA

JEREMY SCHACHTER, CHAIR jeremys@fairwaymc.com

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VALERIE LANE, CO-CHAIR valerielane@hotmail.com
SAMANTHA KEATING, CO-CHAIR samanthasinger@gmail.com

ZONING COMMITTEE

BRAD BRAUER, CHAIR brad@b3re.com

WILLO WEBSITE

WWW.WILLOPHX.COM is regularly updated with news, events, & past issues of Inside Willo. Home Tour tickets can be purchased online.

WILLO HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Established in 1986, the WNA Board consists of 13 volunteer positions elected biennially by the membership. WNA is not a Homeowners' Association (HOA); It does not collect dues; Its mission is to preserve Willo's historic designation and community quality. WNA meetings are open, all Willo residents may attend. Bylaws, registration, and agendas are available on WILLOPHX.COM.

INSIDE WILLO MAGAZINE

Inside Willo is published monthly, free of charge, by WNA volunteers. Neighbors are encouraged to submit articles (125-250 words) by the 10th of each month. We reserve the right to edit as needed, attribute the author, and determine when to print the content or use on social media, WILLOPHX.COM, and promotional materials. WNA retains the right to use all photos, media, and printed articles in perpetuity. Inside Willo does not accept political content or ads. Inside Willo is posted on WILLOPHX.COM. No copies may be reprinted electronically or otherwise.

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(continued from page 3)

who attended and stood up at budget and City Council meetings with me for the last three years. We did our best to collaborate with all stakeholders in this long process.

- ◆ Finalized the FAA Flight Routes Agreement between Willo, FQ Story, Roosevelt, Encanto-Palmcroft and the City of Phoenix. Cost to WNA \$25,000 in legal fees, funded from Home Tour profits. Thank you to the homeowners who have graciously participated by sharing their homes to raise funds over the years.

- ◆ Secured Block Watch Grant funding for the past two years to help pay for WILLOPHX.COM, Kids Club, and Luminarias. We had not received such funding previously.

- ◆ Led the opposition against Raising Cane's at 7th Ave/Thomas (Old Duke Photography Building).

- ◆ Negotiated the Cambridge & Virginia Avenue Project for single-family residences, finally eliminating the option of an APS substation on the site.

- ◆ Challenged multiple zoning cases to uphold the Willo Conservation Plan protecting the neighborhood's historic tax incentives, directly impacting all of us. This was never easy, but I was elected to uphold the Willo Conservation Plan.

- ◆ Met with City of Phoenix officials and suggested changes to the Historic Preservation Office, improving communication and consistency on cases affecting the historic character of Willo.

- ◆ Initiated and established the Four Corners Leadership

Group, comprised of 4 historic neighborhood presidents (Willo, FQ Story, Encanto-Palmcroft, and Roosevelt) to collaborate and share information.

- ◆ Collaborated with stakeholders on the Central/NW Corner Thomas project to support the construction of a medium-high-rise office complex.

- ◆ Facilitated the installation of 5G Towers in Willo, the first Historic Neighborhood in Phoenix to install 5G, one of the more difficult challenges of my terms.

- ◆ Initiated communication with the City to work towards securing Bond Funds to address flooding and drainage issues.

- ◆ Orchestration of five successful Home Tours.

- ◆ Established a Communications Committee to oversee Willo's media presence, including both Willo's Facebook pages and Willo Sells pages.

- ◆ Redesigned WILLOPHX.COM for ease of use, including a ZOOM link to all board meetings.

- ◆ Revised *Inside Willo* Magazine to continue a free full-color neighborhood communication resource printed 10 times a year.

- ◆ Provided the strategic foundation for the successful Willo Architecture & Photo Book, which was entirely produced and printed using WNA Home Tour funds exclusively.

- ◆ Provided ongoing support for Annual Willo Luminarias.

- ◆ Launched Willo Food Truck Wednesdays in response to Covid lockdowns.

- ◆ Increased support for Willo Kids Club and G.A.I.N. events.

The WNA Board works very hard to find a balance between the demands of the growth of Phoenix and the protection of the historic character and quality of life of the Willo neighborhood as outlined in the Willo Conservation Plan. We work diligently to reinforce that the Willo Neighborhood Association is not an HOA and that the Willo Conservation Plan is why the WNA was formulated in 1986. No one pays dues.

The community spirit and dedication to our neighborhood by elected (not appointed) board members and teams of volunteers made these accomplishments possible. The hard work of residents devoting their time and effort to make Willo events, publications, activities, and our media presence successful is responsible for making Willo one of the best and most prominent Historic Neighborhoods in Phoenix.

In closing, it has been an honor to be President of the Willo Neighborhood Association for the past six years. This column is my last as President. However, I will remain active in the neighborhood and look forward to working alongside the new generation of Willo leadership.

I thank you all.

*Sincerely,
Dr. Robert L. Cannon
WNA President*

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." The author is unknown. ■



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Twilight Tour & An Evening in Willo

BY LINDA DOESCHER (CAMBRIDGE) & SANDRA LEFCOVICH (CORONADO)

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**TWILIGHT TOUR
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY
18TH, 2023
4:00 PM TO 9:00 PM**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE ON
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**SCAN TO
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TOUR
TICKETS**

THE TWILIGHT TOUR IS A UNIQUE

AND exclusive event held the Saturday before Home Tour. Tickets are sold to Willo residents only, giving all residents a chance to tour the homes in the afternoon before the big crowds arrive on Sunday. If you buy Twilight Tour tickets, you will have access to all the homes in a more intimate setting, with fewer people going through the homes and the neighborhood. Ollie the Trolley will be available to shuttle you from home to home and then back to Walton Park, where an after-party, An Evening in Willo, will be in full swing. Look for a Little O's wine & beer garden, food, and music until 10:30 pm. ♦ Twilight Tour tickets sell out very quickly, go to WILLOPHX.COM

and buy yours today! ♦ A special attraction this year will be a comprehensive Silent Auction which will feature items of interest to everyone (see page 26) ■



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Unpredictable Reality at the Phoenix Art Museum



STORY AND PHOTO
BY KYLE ARMSTRONG
(EDGEMONT)

NOVEMBER SAW THE opening of the Phoenix Art Museum's latest exhibition *Mr.: You Can Hear the Song of This Town* by Japanese artist Mr.

Located in the Steele Gallery, Mr.'s work puts the art form of anime through a hyper-futuristic lens. Sprawled across the gallery walls is an electric landscape of scenes and characters that seem

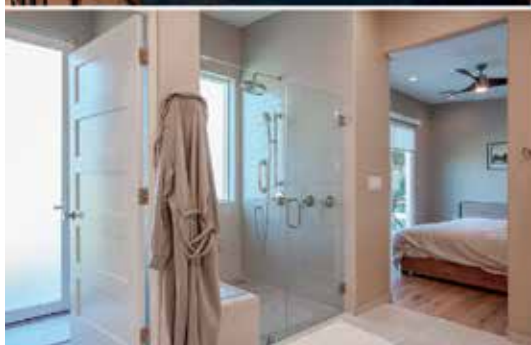
straight out of a manga book. At first glance, the work may appear to be a chaotically oversaturated jumble of symbols and figures. However, further inspection reveals clever references which lend their hand to the artist's astounding technical ability and a broad showcase of colorful imagery. His calculated composition and intricate

details correspond to his work's commentary on high-speed futurism and urbanism, putting a bright spin on the unpredictable reality of our high-speed culture.

Mr.: You Can Hear the Song of This Town will be on display through next March and offers great entertainment as well as plenty of photo opportunities for art lovers of all ages. ■



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Willo Kids Club Update

BY VALERIE LANE (LEWIS)

WKC IS PLANNING SEVERAL events for the winter months, but how much we plan depends on how much help we can get. We will have a presence at the Home Tour on February 19th, 2023. We will have a balloon artist present for the kids. We would like to ask parents to dedicate a small part of their time to volunteering on this date.

We also plan a large gathering for our Easter/Spring event on April 2nd. More details to come closer to the date.

We want to remind you that WKC will have a planning meeting on January 8th, 2023, at Little O's on McDowell Road at 4:00 pm. Please come help support this organization, as this

meeting will help determine the event possibilities for the winter and spring. Unfortunately, no one attended the last planning meeting, so we hope to have more people at this one! Our neighborhood is only getting bigger, and we need all the help we can get. Please come help support WKC! ■

Willo Board Elections

OPT-IN FOR WNA BOARD ELECTIONS

BY ANN BOMMERSBACH (WINDSOR)

MARCH 2023 WILLO BOARD ELECTION: The Willo Neighborhood Association Board Member Election will be held electronically March 7, 2023. All members must have a current opt in form in order to vote, and the deadline to submit an opt in form is 2/15/2023. The opt in form may be submitted electronically through the Willo website at WILLOPHX.COM. ♦ Names of candidates, self-nominated or nominated by other members of the Association must be submitted to the Election Chair at bommer1948@gmail.com by January 10, 2023. ♦ On 2/26/2023, notification to vote with a link to the ballot will be sent via email and text to all members who have opted in. Voting closes at midnight, 3/7/2023, so please cast your vote by 3/7/2023. ♦ If you have questions or need assistance with voting, email the Election Chair, Ann Bommersbach bommer1948@gmail.com, or call 623-330-3203. ■

HOME ON TOUR

61 WEST WILSHIRE

BY REGINA HARRIS (PALM) /// PHOTOS BY ADDISON DENT (WINDSOR)

THE T.A. MANLEY HOUSE BLENDS

Spanish Colonial and Monterey Revival styles and was built by Chadwick & Rogers in 1930. It presents with a clay tile roof, stucco sheathing, and an impressive porch with piers topped with a Southwest style beam. Trent Hancock, the current owner, completely renovated the inside in 2020 with the “mullet hairstyle in mind: traditional

in the front and contemporary in the back. The living room retains its classic elements, including the hammer beam ceiling, arched tile surround fireplace, built-in nook, and casement windows. Farther in, one finds clean functional lines in the modern kitchen, bathrooms, and back yard, which includes a rectangular pool, conversation pit, and guest house. ■







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An Architectural About Face

BY TRICIA AMATO (LEWIS)

IF YOUR HOME RETAINS

its original floorplan, you may have only one access point to the backyard — through the kitchen. This is especially true for homes built prior to the 1930s, but even later homes sometimes have underwhelming access to the backyard via an uncovered stoop off the kitchen or laundry room. This is because the backyard was not a gathering place for the family during the early part of the 20th Century. Instead it contained practical amenities such as a kitchen garden, chickens, a clothes line and often an outhouse or refuse pile.

By stark contrast, the fronts of these homes featured broad, deep porches — a uniquely American phenomena that began in the mid-1800s when small, covered front stoops expanded to create an outdoor spot where the whole family could gather. Porches offered families a way to escape the stuffiness of their homes and catch evening breezes, talk, play games, sing, and visit with neighbors strolling by.

So what changed to make the popularity of the porch disappear in an apparent about face in favor of the backyard? First, the development of air conditioning



made interiors much more livable so people no longer needed to escape to the porch. Second, as the middle class expanded after WWII, families could afford radios and (later) TVs, and began to spend more time indoors watching their favorite shows.

The popularity of the automobile also changed the way we lived — the added noise and pollution of cars on the streets drove people off their porches, and cars made families more mobile — increasing their entertainment options. As a result, porches became passe and people began to spend more time in their backyards, which no longer contained outhouses and farm animals. Families that could afford to install pools and BBQ grills and our backyard culture began in earnest. One source from the 50s stated that the best



improvement you could make to your older home was to remove the old porch and install a “sleek, modern stoop” in its place. Crazy, huh?

Everything comes back into style at some point though, and we historic home owners love our front porches, even though our backyards are decked out with all kinds of amenities. The desire for connection and the simple joy of sitting on the porch in the evening is one of the things we cherish about our historic homes, and this time of year is the perfect time to make the most of them. ■

Tricia is a City of Phoenix Historic Preservation Commissioner. Visit www.phoenix.gov/pdd/historic-preservation for information regarding historic guidelines and approvals. Tricia can be reached at amatotricia@gmail.com



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Happy New Year!

BY JONATHAN ROBERTS (GRANADA)

WELCOME TO 2023!

Thank you for your wonderful support and to our hosts in 2022: Sandra & Venancio (Sept), Nic & Lawrence (Oct), Lauren & Wylie (Nov), and John & Heather (Dec)!

We are looking forward to several more months of Willo Happy Hours in the prime time of the Arizona year. As you consider your plans and goals for the upcoming year, we hope you will consider taking the opportunity to join us for Happy Hour once a

month (*add a reminder in your calendar). Here are some fun evenings to look forward to:

UPCOMING HAPPY HOURS

◆ JANUARY 13TH

“Midcentury Modern/Mad Men”

HOSTS: Carey and Ben Fredlake

LOCATION: 305 W. Windsor Ave.

◆ FEBRUARY 10TH

“I Love Willo”

HOSTS: Patrice Wappel & Decker Williams

LOCATION: 103 W. Windsor Ave.

◆ MARCH 10TH

“Friday Night Pizza”

HOSTS: Jon Roberts & Keith Aldridge

LOCATION: 127 W. Granada Rd.

◆ APRIL 14TH

“Spanish Tapas”

HOSTS: Bob Cannon & Don Vallejo

LOCATION: 533 W. Cypress St. ■



Music

MUSIC AT TRINITY'S HELEN PEEL MEMORIAL ORGAN CONCERT

BY BITSY SUSICH (GRANADA) /// PHOTO PROVIDED BY TRINITY CATHEDRAL

MUSIC AT TRINITY'S 2022-2023 Concert Series continues with the Helen Peel Memorial Organ Concert Sunday, January 22, at 4 p.m. at Trinity Cathedral. This year's recitalist is Alcee Chriss III, winner of the Canadian Organ competition in 2017 and Silver Medalist in the Longwood Gardens International Competition in 2016. Dr. Chriss brings an exuberance to his organ playing that has electrified audiences worldwide; this will be one concert not to be missed and it is free of charge! ■

Visit trinitymusicaz.org for more concert details. Trinity Cathedral is located on the corner of Central Avenue and Roosevelt in downtown Phoenix. Parking is available in the garage just north of the Cathedral and on surrounding streets.



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**SUNDAY,
JANUARY 1ST**
Happy New Year!

**THURSDAY,
JANUARY 5TH**
Willo Home Tour
Planning Meeting
Home of Sandra
Lefcovich & Venancio
Berrocoso, 6:00pm
social, 6:30 meeting,
506 W. Coronado Rd.

**WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 11TH**
Willo Food Truck
Wednesdays, 5:00 -
8:00 pm, Sunny's
Gyro's, Walton Park*

**THURSDAY,
JANUARY 12TH**
Willo Neighborhood
Association Board
Meeting - 6:30pm
- 8:00pm **New
location** BMO
Building - 1850 N
Central Avenue -
Sedona Room -
Level C

**FRIDAY,
JANUARY 13TH**
Willo Happy Hour -
5:30pm - 7:30pm
THEME: "Mid-Century
Modern Mad Men,"
Hosts: Carey and
Ben Fredlake. You
are invited to bring
drinks and snacks to

JAN

share. Location: 305 W
Windsor

**WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 18TH**
Willo Food Truck
Wednesdays, 5:00 - 8:00
pm, 2FG Grilled Cheese,
Walton Park*

**SUNDAY,
JANUARY 22ND**
Helen Peel Memorial
Organ Concert Sunday
- 4:00pm Trinity
Cathedral, corner of
Central Avenue and
Roosevelt

**WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 25TH**
Willo Food Truck
Wednesdays, 5:00 - 8:00
pm, Que Chevere AZ,
Walton Park*
*Walton Park is at

Monte Vista & 3rd
Avenue for more info:
[streetfoodfinder.com/
WilloWednesdays](http://streetfoodfinder.com/WilloWednesdays)

**LOOKING
AHEAD**
**THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 2nd**
Home Tour Planning
Meeting - 6:00 social,
6:30, meeting, Willo
Historic Firehouse
Encanto Blvd at 7th
Avenue

**THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 9th**
Willo Neighborhood
Association Board
Meeting - 6:30pm -
8:00pm BMO

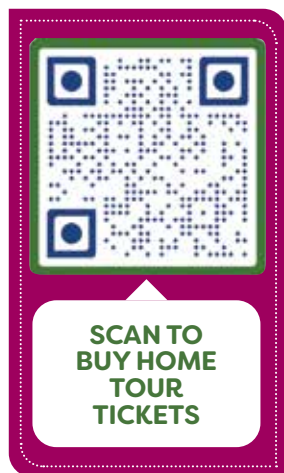
Building - 1850 N
Central Avenue - Sedona
Room - Level C

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 18th** Willo
Home Tour -Twilight
Tour, 4:00-7:00 pm

**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 19th** Willo
Home Tour & Street
Fair, 10:00 am-5:00 pm

As always, please check
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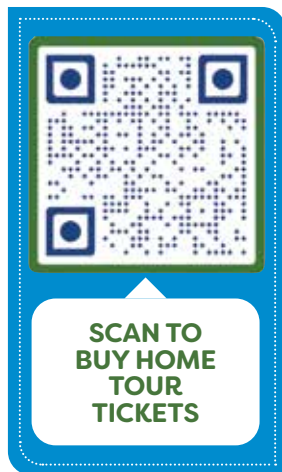




TIME TO PUT A GLOSS ON WILLO

BY THE EDITORIAL STAFF

HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2023! The new year brings the start of the Willo busy schedule of events. To kick off the season, the Annual Willo Neighborhood Home Tour is coming up next month on February 18th & 19th. ♦ Even if your home is not part of the Home Tour, remember that on Sunday, February 19th, 3000+ visitors will be walking around our neighborhood, taking photos and sharing them! ♦ Look around your home, cut dead branches from trees, pick up trash and clean up the alleys, trim bushes in front of your house, mow your winter lawn, and maybe plant some flowers? ♦ Let's polish up Willo for the Home Tour next month and make the neighborhood shine brighter than ever! ■



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57 W Vernon	PENDING	\$644,999
314 W Windsor	PENDING	\$750,000
514 W Wilshire	PENDING	\$849,996
302 W Granada	SOLD	\$399,999
108 W Almeria	SOLD	\$615,000
524 W Lewis	SOLD	\$800,000
126 W Palm	SOLD	\$935,000
530 W Cypress	SOLD	\$1,075,000

Real estate information provided by **Bradley B. Brauer**, Broker's Hub Realty. All figures as of 12/15/2022. Information provided by Arizona Regional Multiple Listing Service and is listed by individual brokers. For more information, please contact the listing agent, one of our advertising realtors or your real estate professional.



Twilight Tour Silent Auction



Twilight Tour Silent Auction Prizes

BY SANDRA LEFCOVICH (CORONADO) /// PHOTO PROVIDED BY JEAN BOONLORN

WE HAVE BEEN ADDING MANY WONDERFUL ITEMS TO BE SOLD during the Willo Home Tour Silent Auction on Saturday, February 18th from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM. You will be able to bid on a variety of items from local designers, artists, restaurants, and entrepreneurs. We are gathering framed art, leather handbags, jewelry, golf club covers, baskets full of skincare, plants, and restaurant gift cards for this fun auction. Get ready to shop because there will be something fun for everyone! ♦ One unique item will be a beautiful handbag by Soul Carrier, a luxury travel accessories brand based in Scottsdale, Arizona. Soul carrier was founded by Willo resident Jennifer Paige Boonlorn, who will donate one of her black and white cowhide bags for the Silent Auction. ■



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Jennifer Paige Boonlorn, a graduate of Parsons School of Design, is the founder and lead designer behind Soul Carrier brand. Her products are featured at prestigious resort boutiques, including Four Seasons, Waldorf Astoria, Fairmont, and the Beverly Hills Hotel. <https://soulcarrier.com/>

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