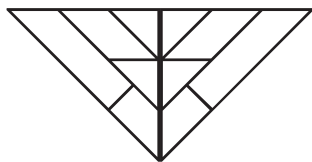




# THE FIRELINE

The Phoenix Rising Daily News — Central Arizona Chapter AGO

Tuesday  
23 June 2009  
Priceless



**Weather:** Today's Weather – Partly Cloudy with an expected high of 106F with winds out of the southwest at 5 mph. Humidity to be less than 12%. Sunrise at 5:19 AM, Sunset at 7:42 PM with an overnight low of 83F. UV-index of 10+ with 0% chance of precipitation. 108F with winds out of the southwest at 10 mph. Humidity to be less than 15%. Sunrise at 5:20 AM, Sunset at 7:42 PM with an overnight low of 87F. UV-index of 10+ with a 20% chance of precipitation.

**Exhibits:** Did you know that door prizes will be awarded on Thursday evening following the John Scott concert at Gammage Auditorium? Stop by the exhibits hall and inquire about a signature sheet. By collecting a signature from five exhibitors or more, you will then be able to submit your signature sheet for door prize drawings. One must be present to win the prize. Drawings will be held on Thursday evening in the exhibit hall at 10:30 PM. There are prizes and surprises galore!

**Workshop Cancellation:** Our AGO Executive Director, James Thomashower, was to have participated in our Festival, presenting the workshop *Augmenting Your Chapter by Design*. Due to the failing health of his mother, he was unable to attend. Those who were registered for his workshop may get a copy of his handout at the Hospitality Table next to the Festival Registration Table.

**Breakfast:** Biltmore Guests are invited to a light continental breakfast on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the Aztec Room, between the hours of 6 and 8 AM.

**Gillian Weir Tickets:** All Phoenix Rising registrants are admitted to Tuesday night's Gillian Weir *International Year of the Organ* concert at Trinity Cathedral as part of their registration package. Please be sure to wear your name badge for admission. Tickets are available this evening at the door for \$10 for guests and the public. Tickets may also be purchased today at the registration table.

**Carillon:** Those attending the Elizabeth Lenti concert at St. Barnabas on the Desert are in for a special treat this morning. Central Arizona Chapter member Mildred Merring will be playing Arizona's only bell carillon, located on the campus of St. Barnabas. The 25-bell carillon was dedicated October 7, 2006 with a concert by one of America's foremost carillonneurs, James Welch. The 4,074 pounds of bells, forged by a Dutch foundry, now play electronically on the hour from 9 AM to 6 PM, and manually by staff carillonneurs. Inscriptions on the bells note they were given in appreciation for the ministry of The Right Reverend John and Jan Thornton. John Thornton is a retired Episcopal bishop for the Diocese of Idaho who served as Interim Rector of St. Barnabas from December 2002 through March 2004. The Thorntons were on hand for the dedication and services that featured two concerts by Welch. St. Barnabas' set features a dozen bells distributed on four levels facing the northwest and thirteen bells on four levels facing the southwest. "There were bells in the air, but I never heard them ringing. No, I never heard them at all, 'till there was you." Thanks Mildred!

**A Festive Treat:** We are having an *Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social* today at Chaparral Christian Church, immediately following the performance by Seth Bott, and just prior to Frederick Swann's Hymnsing. Bring your sweet tooth!

**Please join us in the exhibit hall every night at 9:00 PM** for receptions, cash bar, and a great time! There will be several door prizes awarded throughout the week, and you will have an opportunity to visit with our exhibitors and see what they have to offer.

**Driving to the events yourself?** If you have internet access via a computer, or even a cellphone – you can access a Google Map showing the locations of all our venues. At [www.AGOinPhoenix.com](http://www.AGOinPhoenix.com) go to *Instruments*, then *Full list with Venues*. Follow the Google Map link. For assistance with the Google Maps cellphone application, please see Dr. Mark Ramsey or contact him at [choirs@cox.net](mailto:choirs@cox.net)



**Love Divine:** Were you moved by the closing hymn last night at the opening service of worship? If so, perhaps think about purchasing copies for your choir to perform this fine anthem. An overstock of anthems was purchased and are available at cost on a first come, first served basis. Price per copy is \$.50. Speak with Don Morse or contact him at donmorse@cox.net.

**Facebook Fans** – Are you a member of Facebook? If so, you can keep up with the events of the Festival by becoming a fan of **Phoenix Rising: Region IX Festival 2009**. Daily posts will remind you of upcoming concerts and events as well as other fun or interesting information! Fans can post photos and or comments! We encourage you to share your photos with us and create a Phoenix Rising online community. If you have friends, family members, etc. who could not be with us, invite them to become a fan of *Phoenix Rising: Region IX Festival 2009* on Facebook. They can get a glimpse at the fun they are missing.



**Bus Emergency:**

Charles (Chuck) Sedgwick 602 541-4079

**All Other Emergencies:**

Homer A. Ferguson III 480 205-1857 or

Michael Heap 602 320-8340

**Friday Organ Crawl:** There is still plenty of space available for Friday's organ crawl. If you are still interested please see the registration desk. Cost for the crawl is \$25.00. Crawl participants must take the bus to the destinations on Friday as there is no parking available at these homes. Cost of the crawl includes transportation and admission to both executive homes. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to see two world-class instruments in luxury estates. The crawl is also available for non-festival participants such as spouses, partners, friends, etc. for the same \$25.00 price. Reservations must be made by Thursday afternoon to ensure proper count for seating, etc. Featured will be a 2-manual mechanical action Bigelow organ built in a stunning Italianate case set in a Tuscan Villa-inspired home and played by Ty Woodward. Following, will be a performance by Jelani Eddington on the Midmer-Losh organ in the home of Adrian Phillips. The Midmer-Losh organ which was originally installed in the Atlantic City High School Auditorium is the sister instrument to the Atlantic City Convention Hall Organ.

## THE WRIGHT STUFF

Like the organ works of Messiaen, Albright, or Hakim, architecture often evokes emotions that are not all that simple. Whether you love it or hate it, the collective work of Frank Lloyd Wright is a world apart from most anything else you are likely to encounter. While many would see the idioms of his 1950's oeuvre as dated, they are still vibrant examples of his genius and creativity which have enjoyed a renewed respect. Phoenix is rich with the architecture of FLLW, most of it from the latest and most prolific period of his life. While all the residential structures remain in private ownership, there are three stunning public structures that may be toured.

Taliesen West in Scottsdale was the summer home of the Wrights and the Taliesen Fellowship. It is constructed of what Wright calls desert masonry; basically large desert stones wired into wooden forms into which concrete was poured. The forms were removed and the exposed faces of the stone are revealed in a vein-like network of concrete. Wright's trademark low ceilings create a sense of cave-like shelter and demonstrate a harmony with the land. At one time, the roof for a good portion of the structure was simple canvas sails allowing maximum, perhaps too much, light to fill the rooms. Visitors often find Taliesen West to be rustic by modern standards, yet timeless and comfortable.

First Christian Church, 6750 North 7th Ave in Phoenix, was originally designed as a seminary chapel. After Wright's death, the pastor of the church approached Taliesen Architects about revamping the plans for use as a sanctuary. Several modifications were made, but the entrance sequence is still that of compression and release. Another structure of desert masonry, one first enters through a very low-ceilinged foyer, then proceeds through a dimly-light, narrow corridor before emerging into a glass-walled sanctuary, saturated with brilliant Arizona light reflected off the soaring gold ceiling that splits open into a jeweled stained-glass tower.

The Arizona Biltmore Resort, site of Phoenix Rising Festival 2009, is the oldest *Wrightian* structure in Arizona. The actual architect of record, Albert Chase McArthur, had worked as a draftsman in Wright's Chicago practice, so there remains a bit of controversy over the true creative origins of the structure. Wright was brought on the project as a consultant because he was thought to own a patent on the use of *Textile* blocks. Uniquely designed concrete blocks were cast from several dozen custom molds. The cured blocks were formed into walls and *knitted* together with a series of steel rods and concrete grout. It is ironic that the Arizona Biltmore is one of the most intact examples of Wright's *textile block* technique yet not actually designed by Wright himself.

Sadly, the one structure you will not be able to see is the beautiful Wright-designed San Marcos in the Desert Resort. Designed in 1928 for developer Alexander J. Chandler and sited for the southern slopes of South Mountain, the San Marcos was another example of textile block construction. It is likely you would have enjoyed this resort because the main source of music throughout the hotel was to be provided from a massive central tower containing a magnificent pipe organ. The 1929 stock market crash doomed the project and it was never built.

— Gary Rutherford, Phoenix Rising Publicity Chair