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Jan. 20, 2014



**Please note that our office is closed today, Jan. 20,
in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.**

Share your news with us!

Did your company appear in the news? Do you have new employees you would like to introduce? Have you won an award? To be featured in our member spotlights section, please send your 50-word submission to sachiyo@tempechamber.org. All submissions are subject to editing to meet guidelines and formatting requirements. Submit your news by 10 a.m. on the Thursday of the week prior to the week in which you want your announcement to appear.

**Check out our new [advertising opportunities](#),
and learn how your ad can appear here!**

2014 Business Excellence Awards Finalists Announced

The Tempe Chamber is pleased to announce the finalists for the 2014 Business Excellence Awards. These awards promote the advancement of responsible business leadership in the community and publicly recognize local businesses demonstrating a passion for excellence.

Through the awards, the business community honors companies whose practices in business growth, employee development, community involvement and customer service exemplify excellence. The six finalists admirably



**[Read more news from the Chamber
on our blog!](#)**

embody those characteristics and are being recognized for that distinction.

The 2014 finalists are **Caliente Construction; The Dhaba; Landings Credit Union** (formerly Tempe Schools Credit Union); **Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine; Sun Sounds of Arizona;** and **Tempe Mission Palms Hotel.**

Last year's recipients of the Business Excellence Awards were AlphaGraphics at Kyrene and Elliot and Statera.

The recipients will be announced and honored at the Breakfast for Chamber Champions on Feb. 28 at the Embassy Suites Tempe, 4400 S. Rural Rd. For details and to register, [click here.](#)

7 Common Tax Mistakes That You Can Avoid

There are some common tax mistakes that many people make when filing their returns. If you watch out for these, you can help to speed up the process and get your refund quicker. Tempe Chamber member Acceler8 shows how [here.](#)

1,000 Likes!



Thank you to everyone who helped us reach our 1,000th Like on Facebook! We're so happy to be an active part of your social media network. On our Facebook page, we share the latest news, special opportunities, member spotlights and much, much more. If you're not connected, check us out and see what you've been missing. Like us at www.facebook.com/TempeCC and we'll do the rest.

'Arizona Sonora Business Resource Guide'

The Tucson Hispanic Chamber has partnered with the Arizona Daily Star to produce a comprehensive "Arizona Sonora Business Resource Guide". The guide will include data and statistics, feature stories and a business directory of businesses and agencies in Arizona and Sonora who participate in international trade. The guide was designed as a resource to grow cross-border business opportunities. Businesses that participate in international trade can be listed for free in the directory by visiting <http://www.arizona-sonora.com>.

2014 Tempe Neighborhood Awards Nominations

Without a doubt, you know at least one resident, organization or business that helps to strengthen and creatively build the Tempe community. The annual Neighborhood Awards present the perfect opportunity to

Message from the Chairman of the Board



Jeff Mirasola, CenturyLink

Do you know what "hegemony" means? Up until last week I didn't know. I had to look it up. My daughter was writing a paper regarding the media's influence on a certain event and how various groups can frame and advance a particular public opinion. One of the prompts was to choose a recent media representation

of an event and critically examine how the concept of hegemony has influenced how you view this event. The definition of hegemony is, "the social, cultural, ideological or economic influence exerted by a dominant group."

Around the same time I was learning the meaning of hegemony, that same daughter sent me a link to a [video](#) about someone referred to as "the world's ugliest woman" in a YouTube post. Lizzie Velasquez is a 25-year-old woman with a very rare disorder that only two other people in the world have. She can't gain weight no matter how much or how often she eats. It has left her blind in one eye, distorted her facial features and prevented her from ever weighing more than 64 pounds or putting on even one percent body fat. She eats a meal on the average of every 15 minutes just to stay alive.

[Read the rest of the article on our blog.](#)



Ribbon cuttings



honor and recognize residents who put the neighbor in our neighborhoods, strengthening outreach and involvement; properties that provide an outstanding contribution to the neighborhood through improvement projects, impeccable maintenance or holiday décor; and residents who recognize the alley is their responsibility too and keep it neat and tidy.

The Neighborhood Awards will be presented by Mayor and Council at the start of the 2014 Neighborhood Workshops, a free morning event to be held April 5 at the Escalante Multigenerational Center, 2150 E. Orange St., 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. The nominations deadline has been extended to Friday, Feb. 14. To obtain a nomination form, visit www.tempe.gov/neighborhoods or contact the Neighborhood Services Division at neighborhoods@tempe.gov or (480) 350-8234.

Member spotlights

For nearly 15 years, Republic Media's Million Dollar Club has recognized the significant role women business owners play in driving the economy here in the Valley and across Arizona. This year, Republic Media is introducing a name change of the Million Dollar Club to Successful Women Owners Network (SWON). All members of SWON are 50-percent owners of Arizona-based businesses that have generated more than \$1 million in gross revenue. The Tempe Chamber would like to congratulate the following members for being a part of this impressive group: Lorraine Bergman, Caliente Construction; Judy Aguilar-Woertz, State Farm Insurance; Mary Contreras, Contreras State Farm Agency; Julie Jakubek, Allstate Office of Julie Jakubek; Patricia Christofolo, Santa Barbara Catering; and Eileen Spitalny, Fairytale Brownies.

A world-class Concours d'Elegance has long been envisioned as a focal point for Arizona auction week every January, when all eyes in the collector-car world turn to the Scottsdale/Phoenix area for its famous array of automobile auctions. On Jan. 12, the vision came to life when the inaugural Arizona Concours d'Elegance kicked off collector car auction week. Proceeds from the Concours will go to benefit Make-A-Wish Arizona.

Sonoran Studios is no longer offering live audiovisual (AV) event services, but is instead returning to its roots, simplifying and offering only video and media production services. With that change, Sonoran will sharply focus on one vision: to tell stories about people, organizations and companies through interactive video and media. Learn more at www.sonoranstudios.com.

Wash Wizard Auto Spa, America's greenest car wash, 1845 E. University Dr., has launched a new current technology website. Experience quality and convenience and the following Wash Wizard guarantees: to gently hand-wash and finish cars in five minutes; to only use natural cleansers - no soap; to reclaim, naturally clean and reuse all wash water; and to provide great customer service. We appreciate and value your business. Learn more at www.mywashwizard.com or by calling (480) 966-1210.

Red Lion Inn & Suites

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Renewals and new members

Check out our newest members and see what members have renewed their membership with the Tempe Chamber.

CEO of The Centers for Habilitation (TCH). Ellis, a Tempe native, is expected to take the helm in January after the retirement of TCH's current president and CEO, Vicki Kringen. Ellis brings a strong history of nonprofit management through two decades at the Tempe Community Council, as well as private sector experience and government relations through her role as a Tempe City Councilmember and leader on a variety of regional boards and associations.

The Watershed, Tempe's newest kitchen, bar and lakeside patio, brings a little Newport Beach, San Francisco and New Mexico to the table. Phase one renovations of one of the most unique locations in the East Valley are complete and include a 200-person patio and an indoor "Captain's Lounge." The menu can best be described as modern American with twists on familiar classics. For more information, go to watershedaz.com.

James Tevault recently joined the staff at the Tempe Tourism Office as the director of sales. Originally from Texas, Tevault has lived in the Phoenix area for 26 years. He has over 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry, including 10 years of hotel operations and sales in Tempe, Mesa, Scottsdale and Phoenix. The Tempe Tourism Office also recently launched a new branding campaign, including an updated logo, new advertising creative and tagline. The logo reflects the new tagline, "Refreshingly Arizona." The Tempe Tourism Office team wanted to visually connect the city of Tempe with the state of Arizona in the ad creative and logo. For examples of the new logo and advertisements, visit <http://www.tempetourism.com/membership/>.

Zion & Zion was announced as the #1 Best Place to Work at the Phoenix Business Journal's "Best Places to Work" awards luncheon recently. This is the third time Zion & Zion has made the list in the 50 employees and under category and the second award this year Zion & Zion has received for its workplace culture. The award recognizes Valley companies based on an employee satisfaction survey from Quantum Workplace, ranking work environment, leadership, company culture and management practices. Learn more at www.zionandzion.com.

[Read more](#)

MAC update

Members and guests of the Tempe Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee (MAC) attended the annual Christmas party on Dec. 9 at the Four Points by Sheraton Tempe. The group enjoyed a traditional holiday meal and Christmas carol-themed games. Five members of the United States Marine Corps joined MAC in collaboration for the annual Toys for Tots fundraising drive. Members and guests generously donated over 20 toys and over \$300 in cash to the drive to help less fortunate children and families in need.

The Military Affairs Committee was formed to offer recognition and honor to Valley military personnel for their sacrifice and service. Following the festivities, Chairman Ed Scannell reminded members of the Jan. 13 luncheon at which MAC will be honoring the Arizona Army National Guard.

MAC is seeking new members. Members are not required to have served in the military. We are looking for anyone who would like to be part of an extraordinary group that gives back to the men and women that protect our country. Contact Courtney at courtneymcintyre@tempechamber.org or (480) 736-4281 for information and/or an application.

Tempe Chamber of Commerce

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