



The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Chapter Website: www.saaqo.org

Volume 43, Number 9
May 2023

Future Programs (not in date order – see calendar)



***** Don't miss this event! *****
(I saw it last year, it was incredible!)

Come Celebrate!

All the Bells and Whistles

Sunday, May 21 @ 3:00 PM

Christ Church Ringers, The
Chancel Choir, Organ, Piano, other
solos, and more!

Benefitting Christ Church Food Bank:
Please bring a non-perishable food item, Food
Bank donations accepted.

Christ Church United Methodist, 655 N. Craycroft Rd
Tucson, 85711, 520.327.1116

Pamela Decker, Organ Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series

Friday, Sept 1, 2023 (time TBD)
Holsclaw Hall, University of Arizona

Dr. Decker will perform a concert entitled *A Kaleidoscope of Song and Dance* on the beautiful Schoenstein organ in Holsclaw Hall. U of A Professor of Organ, Theory and Composition, she has performed extensively throughout the United States, Canada and Europe and she has recorded multiple CDs—and, is of course, well-known as a long-time, contributing member of SAAGO. She serves as organist at Dove of Peace Lutheran Church. She has just completed a commission for the West Region Convention in Portland entitled *Passacaglia in Dance Variations*, which she will premier. She is a highly regarded and sought-after performer and her many compositions are published by several highly respected publishers.



Pamela holds a DMA from Stanford University and studied both organ and composition as a Fulbright Scholar in Germany. She will premier a just completed commission for the West Region Convention in Portland entitled "Passacaglia in Dance Variations."

YOU'RE INVITED!

**To the Southern Arizona Chapter, AGO's
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHAPTER
SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2023, 4:00 P.M. 'TIL**

**At the beautiful club house at Colonia Verde
2700 N. Camino Valle Verde,
off Sabino Canyon Road, north of Tanque Verde**

Don't miss this event!



See last 2 pages for details.

**AMERICAN GUILD
OF ORGANISTS
SOUTHERN ARIZONA
CHAPTER**

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To contact an Executive Committee member by email or phone, please use your membership directory.

Our chapter has a new generic email address:
southernarizonaago@gmail.com.

This email will be checked by an Executive Committee member at least twice daily. You may continue to contact members using their email and phone numbers printed in the membership directory, which is not a public document.



The CYPHER

Stardust (Dusty) Johnson, *Editor* (ski5@cox.net)

Submission Deadlines for are the 15th of each month.

NOTE: Chapter members are invited to submit program information for inclusion in THE CYPHER. We want to include your programs!

Please send program descriptions, along with pertinent information—title, date, location, time, brief description, cost, and photos—to Dusty Johnson, *CYPHER* editor. The information will appear in the print edition as well as in the online edition. Material may be edited as needed.

Please email information to

Dusty Johnson, editor, at ski5@cox.net by the 15th of the month. You may also send it via U.S. mail.

Advertising space available

Full page (7.50"w x 10.00"h), \$150
Half page (horizontal (7.50"w x 4.75"h), \$100
Quarter page (vertical, 3.5"w x 4.75"h), \$75
Business card size (3.5" x 2.0"), \$50

Contact Fern Hieb, Advertising Chair (barryfern68@gmail.com)

To play only what is written is the domain of science. To realize what is not written is the domain of art.
—Jean Langlais.

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message from the dean...

Dear Southern Arizona Chapter Members,

I am a long-time lover of the music of John Williams. He is now 91 years old/young. Recently I read a quote attributed to him:

"You can't retire from music. It's my life. A day without music is a mistake."

There is an old joke that goes: "Old musicians don't die. They just go from bar to bar". I doubt many of us older musicians go from bar to bar in the outside world, but I bet we do plenty of that in our musical worlds.

We were so fortunate to learn from Dr. Stephen Keyl's recent study tour in France. On April 15 at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, he discussed and presented the genres of early French organ music, and the sounds associated them, along with photos and other materials. Thank you, Steve, for taking that study trip and for sharing your experiences with us. Hospitality chair Dee Schultz served French delights after the presentation!

On April 30 Drs. Jeffrey Campbell and Steve Keyl shared the bench of the Fritts organ at St. Alban's Episcopal Church to perform works by

Buxtehude and Bach, the perfect instrument for the music of those composers. St. Philip's soprano Abby Alexander sang some of the chorale verses on the chorale-based works.

There is no shortage of stellar performers and wonderful organs in Tucson. We are so fortunate, and there is no reason not to keep listening and learning and growing and appreciating.

I hope you will come to the annual meeting and shared meal on May 28, and put on your calendars the two exciting In from the Heat summer concerts scheduled at Catalina United Methodist Church.

"A day without music is a mistake." Our lives would be so much less without music in one of its many styles, wouldn't it?

Dean Janet Tolman

Programs *Continued*

Ēriks Ešenvalds' St. Philip's Missa Brevis

May 7, 3 p.m., Pre-concert Talk, 2:30 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
4440 N. Campbell Ave.
Free

The internationally renowned Latvian composer Ēriks Ešenvalds will visit Saint Philip's In the Hills for the world premiere of his newly commissioned *Saint Philip's Missa Brevis* in a free concert on Sunday, May 7. The mass will be sung again at the 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. services on May 14..

Organ Prelude and Choral Evensong

Sunday, May 21, 4:15 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
4440 N. Campbell Ave.
Donation

SAAGO—Year-end Social and Membership Meeting

Sunday, May 28, 4 p.m.—*Note the change of date!*
Colonia Verde Club House
2700 N. Camino Valle Verde

Looking Ahead to Summer

IN FROM THE HEAT!

Catalina Organ Festival Summer Siesta Concerts

Lunch at noon in Fellowship Hall

Organ Recital in the Sanctuary following lunch

The cost is \$20 for both the lunch and the recital and \$30 if tickets are purchased for the series at the same time. Information will be available on Eventbrite.com.

Paul Oftedahl, Organ

Saturday, June 17, 2023

Paul is a First Place Winner in the 2021 AGO Regional Quimby Competition, is a graduate of ASU where he studied with Kimberly Marshall and earned degrees in organ performance and chemistry. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in Chemistry at Iowa State University.

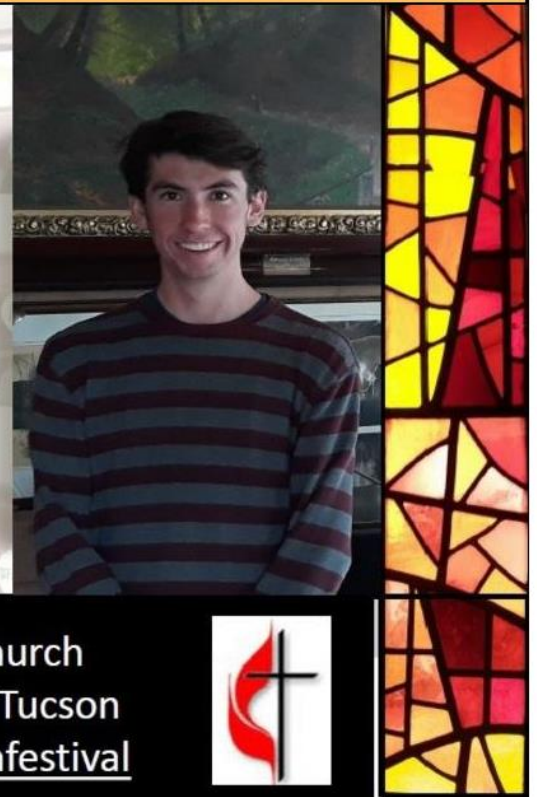
Dr. Stephen Keyl, Organ

Saturday, July 15, 2023

Steve is Director of Music and Organist at St. Alban's Episcopal Church and was formerly on the faculty of the University of Arizona School of Music.



IN FROM THE HEAT!
Summer Siesta Concerts
Saturday June 17, 2023
Paul Oftedahl
1st Place in Regional Quimby AGO 2021
Pursuing Ph. D. Chemistry at Iowa State
Lunch will be served at NOON
In Fellowship Hall
the organ recital will conclude in the Sanctuary



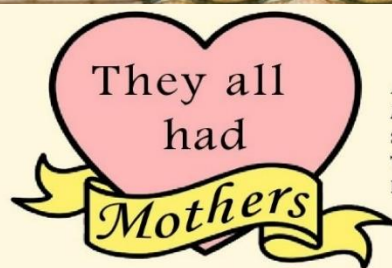
Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 E. Speedway Boulevard, Tucson
www.catalinamethodist/organfestival



More program related information

Dom Bédos organ Saint-Croix Abbey, Bordeaux

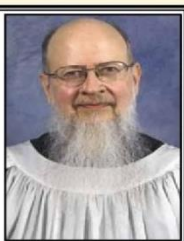
Steve Keyl gave a fantastic and engaging presentation featuring this stunning organ built in the middle of the 18th century by the Benedictine monk, Dom Dedos, master organ builder and author of the famous treatise published in 1766: "The Art of Organ Builder." Thank you for your hard work!



A concert on the occasion of Mother's Day, with music by Sweelinck, Clérambault, Telemann, Widor, Debussy, Barber, and others



Sandy Schwoebel
flute



Jeffri Sanders
organ

Sunday, May 14, 2023
3:00 pm

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
545 S. 5th Ave.

Suggested minimum donation \$20 per person

www.standrewstucson.org

SAAGO DONORS

July 1, 2022-February 28, 2023

Many thanks to the following chapter members and friends for support our programs and recitals.

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Listings include member events and are included at editor's discretion and may be edited for space and style. Information is subject to change. Please check with the sponsoring organization.

Roy Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Established by the Southern Arizona Chapter of the AGO in memory of Professor Roy Andrew Johnson, the scholarship is available to assist in funding organ study as follows:

- lessons at any level through collegiate;
- introductory organ lessons for pianists;
- Registration fees for an educational event, including a Pipe Organ Encounter (POE);
- for collegiate level students, registration fees for regional and national conventions of the AGO.
- for collegiate level students, full membership in the American Guild of Organists, Southern Arizona Chapter.



Scholarship awards for organ study will range from \$350 to \$1500. For educational events, the scholarship will cover the cost of registration.

An application form may be found online at www.saago.org. **Completed forms may be submitted to the Scholarship Committee Chair at any time.**

Pastor Beth Rambikur, Chaplain

Pastor Beth Rambikur, our SAAGO Chaplain, has been ill and will appreciate your prayers for her recovery from several ailments. She is home from the hospital now, but once again has COVID and debilitating dizziness.

Thanks to Janet Tolman for this update.



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WEST REGION – Portland, Ore.
July 10–13, Crowne Plaza Downtown

Featured performers include

Cappella Romana
Pamela Decker
Kimberly Marshall
Jonas Nordwall
Seung Min Oh
Susanna Valleau

Katherine Webb and Trinity Choir

Our own Pamela Decker will premier a new Decker organ composition commissioned especially for this convention.

Arizona is very well represented in the West Region!

*Don't forget:
JUST A LITTLE
REMINDER*

Membership Renewal Change

The AGO national headquarters has dropped its 90-day grace period for expired memberships. Members who fail to renew on or before their due dates

will be automatically cancelled although there may be a two-week grace period. **Importantly, be sure to renew in advance of your cancellation date** to continue to receive the benefits of membership, such as camaraderie with your colleagues, workshops, concerts and the nurture of young organists. *The Southern Arizona Chapter needs you.*

MISSION

American Guild of Organists

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.



Program Recaps



A wonderful time was had by all who stayed for the French Organ Music Connection part of Dr. Stephen Keyl's presentation on French organ designs, and Dee Schultz's French Delights (different from Turkish Delights). If you missed this, you didn't get into this picture and become famous, or have as much fun as we had. You should have seen the size of those ancient pipe organ build-plan books that Dr. Keyl brought!

Photo: Mark Stockwell



IN FROM THE HEAT!
Summer Siesta Concerts
Saturday July 15, 2023
Dr. Stephen Keyl
Organist, Music Director
St. Alban's Episcopal, Tucson
Lunch will be served at NOON
In Fellowship Hall
the organ recital will conclude in the Sanctuary







Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 E. Speedway Boulevard, Tucson
www.catalinamethodist/organfestival





Wieskirche, Steingaden-Wies, Bavaria, 3 manuals, 42 ranks, originally built in 1757, contains 2,892 pipes with 475 original pipes, the organ bridges Heaven to Earth, Wieskirche is a popular pilgrimage site, and UNESCO World Heritage List

May 2023 SAAGO Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 National Day of Prayer May the Forth be with you!	5	6
7 Eriks Ešēvalds' St. Philip's Missa Brevis, Pre-concert Talk, 2:30 PM, Concert 3:00 PM St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church	8	9 Dieterich Buxtehude Died, 1707 in Lübeck at about age 70.	10	11	12	13 Pima Community College Orchestra concert in Proscenium Theatre, 3:00PM, with Member Raymond Ryder performing Schumann Piano Concerto, Op. 54
14 They All Had Mothers: Sandy Schwoebel, flute, and Jeffri Sanders, organ, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 545 South 5th Ave, 3:00 PM	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 All the Bells & Whistles, Christ Church United Methodist, 3:00 Organ Prelude & Choral Evensong, 4:15 & 4:30 PM, Philip's in the Hills	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 SAAGO Year-end Social & Membership Meeting Episcopal, 4:00 PM at Colonia Verde Club House, 2700 N. Camino Valle Verde	29 Memorial Day	30	31			



Pamela Decker

RECITAL Sunday, April 23, 3:00 p.m.



ISABELLE B. HARRIS ORGAN, HOLSCRAW HALL

2023 ROY A. JOHNSON MEMORIAL ORGAN SERIES

The Roy A. Johnson Memorial Organ Series, established in memory of Professor Johnson following his tragic death in 1995, showcases outstanding contemporary organists. Professor Johnson made enormous contributions to the organ studies program, the keyboard area, and to graduate studies during his 29 years at the University of Arizona.

The installation of the beautiful Schoenstein organ given by Isabelle Harris, in a hall designed for the organ, was the fulfillment of his vision for a flourishing organ program.

Co-sponsored by the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists



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Positions Available

Valley Presbyterian Church

Green Valley, AZ

Organist/Accompanist for Worship. Includes Sunday mornings, Wednesday choir rehearsals, memorial services, other special worship services, and accompanying soloists. The church has a new 2023 Rodgers Infinity Organ, a Steinway Grand Piano, and a 30-60 Voice Chancel Choir Competitive Salary. Contact Pastorcraig@Valleypres.net.

St. Mark's United Methodist

1431 W. Magee Rd. Tucson, AZ 85704

Two positions are available and the information is available at the websites as noted.

Church Organist/Keyboardist https://saago.org/wp5863/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023_Accompanist.pdf

Celebration Singers Choir Director https://saago.org/wp5863/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023_Celebration-Singers-Director.pdf

Please reply to person listed in the job descriptions.

Saint Michael and All Angels Church

602 N. Wilmot Road, Tucson AZ 85711

Director of Music to provides instrumental music and lead choral music. Plays for the 7:45 am Low Mass and 10:30 am Solemn Mass on Sundays, non-Sunday Feast Day Masses, weddings and funerals, selects hymns and service music in consultation with the Rector, and conducts the St. Michael's Choir. Contact: Br. David Benedict Hedges, BSG, (520) 886-7292

The Episcopal Church of the Apostles

12111 N. La Cholla Blvd., Oro Valley

Part time choir director and pianist organist for 120 member church. One Sunday service plus special services, weddings and funerals. Eighteen member adult choir. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience and accomplishments. Contact: Julia Dear at adovapostles.org (520 544-9660) or Paulette Toburen paulettetoburen@yahoo.com

Complete descriptions are available on our website: <https://saago.org/postions-available/>



Support our chapter with a financial gift. Consider underwriting a concert, making a contribution to the general fund or to the Johnson Scholarship Fund.

First Presbyterian Church

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

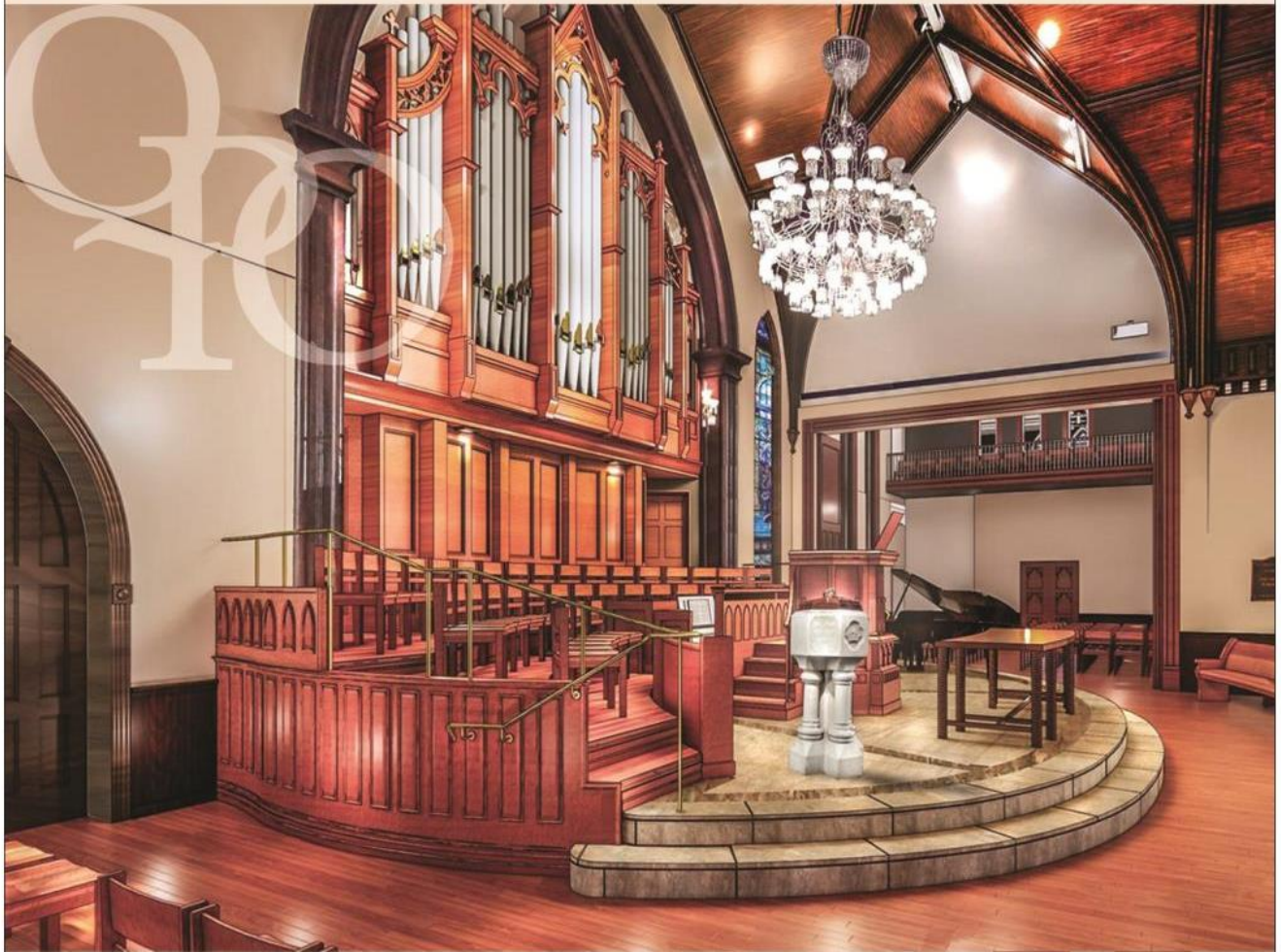


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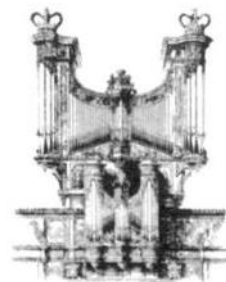
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Publication Information: **The Cypher** is a monthly newsletter published by the **Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists**. It is distributed to chapter members, organists of churches in Tucson and surrounding communities, and deans of all chapters in the West Region (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington as well as Korea, Shanghai, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Sydney, Australia.).

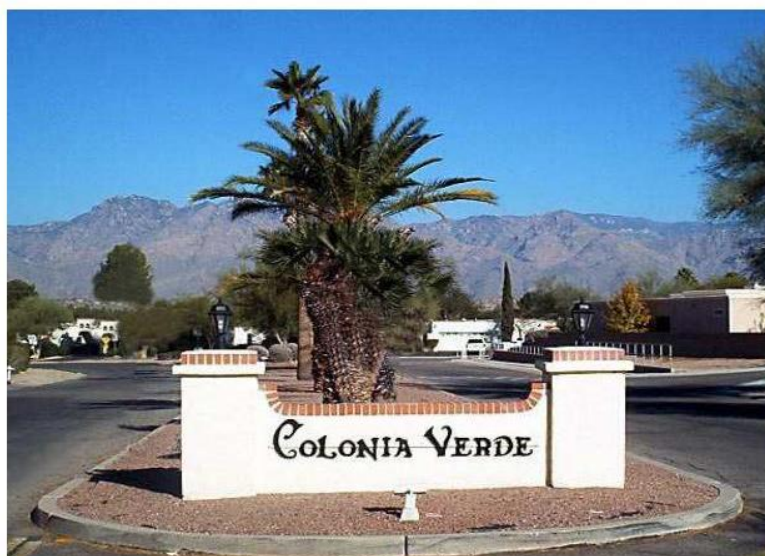
Southern Arizona Chapter members who do not request a printed version will receive *The Cypher* via email. Send information for publication to Stardust (Dusty) Johnson at email skj5@cox.net, or to 2215 E 2nd St., Tucson, AZ 85719-4930. Please type "Cypher" in the subject line. Views expressed in any of the pieces herein are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, its officers or members.

YOU'RE INVITED!

To the Southern Arizona Chapter, AGO's

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHAPTER

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2023, 4:00 P.M. 'TIL



**At the beautiful club house
at Colonia Verde**

*(David Wachter's and
David Horr's community),*

**2700 N. Camino Valle Verde,
off Sabino Canyon Road,
north of Tanque Verde**
*(driving directions are on
the following page).*

- *Come and enjoy visiting with your friends in the Chapter for a fun get-together to conclude the 2022-2023 season.*
- *Annual meeting of the Chapter Members is at 4 p.m., followed by a potluck supper at 5:00.*
- *Bring your favorite dish for the potluck supper. If you can't bring a dish or beverage, come anyway! There will be enough for everyone.*
- *Bring any organ music you no longer wish to keep.*
- *Get to know your colleagues better.*
- *If you need a ride, don't be shy to ask.*

Contact Dee Schultz, 520-795-4620, or E-mail her at:
adschul@yahoo.com, **by Thursday, May 25**, to let her know what dish you'll be bringing. Utensils and soft drinks will be provided.



Colonia Verde Club House with Catalina Mountains in the background



Annual Meeting Directions: There are several ways to get to the Colonia Verde club house:

1. From the Foothills, drive south on Sabino Canyon Road, through the light at Cloud Road. After crossing Tanque Verde Wash, you will pass three HOA's and then Sabino Baptist Church on the left. Immediately beyond the church, take the next left turn (E. Portal Airosa) into Colonia Verde. Drive one block, cross Camino Valle Verde into the clubhouse parking lot, straight ahead.

2. Tanque Verde to Sabino Canyon Road. Turn north onto Sabino Canyon Road. Turn RIGHT at the second street on the right (E. Portal Airosa) into Colonia Verde. Drive one block, cross Camino Valle Verde into the clubhouse parking lot, straight ahead.

3. North on Kolb Road (north of Speedway Blvd.), turn right onto new Sabino Canyon Road, cross Pantano Wash, proceed through Tanque Verde, then turn right at the second street on the right (E. Portal Airosa) into Colonia Verde. Drive one block, cross Camino Valle Verde into the clubhouse parking lot, straight ahead.

*Please join your colleagues and friends on Sunday, May 28,
at 4:00 p.m. for this delightful end-of-season event.*