

# VISION



MAGAZINE TUCSON  
JULY AUGUST 2018

## Meet Karina Levine

Vision Magazine's  
Lead Video Reporter

## Rising Phoenix

The Art and Heart  
of Self Defense

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## Gia Gerardo

Tucson's Rising Star  
of Film and Fitness

## Ancient Art Tattoo

Tucson's Historic Tattoo Shop

## Cat Sanctuary

Hermitage Cat Shelter  
Cat Adoption as an Art Form

## Art Groups

Metal Arts Village  
Art Works Together



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# VISION

MAGAZINE TUCSON

Magazine **July August** 2017

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Subscriptions are available at [www.VisionMagazineTucson.com](http://www.VisionMagazineTucson.com)





# Fox Theatre September Events

SEPTEMBER 1 The Greatest Love of All,  
The Whitney Houston Show  
Sat 7:30 PM •

SEPTEMBER 7 Piff the Magic Dragon:  
The Dog Who Knows  
Fri 7:30 PM •

SEPTEMBER 7 Piff the Magic Dragon  
Fri 7:30 PM •

SEPTEMBER 14 Ambrosia  
Fri 7:30 PM •

SEPTEMBER 14 Ambrosia  
Fri 7:30 PM • 1

SEPTEMBER 16 Melissa Etheridge - "Yes I  
Am" 25th Anniversary Tour  
Sun 7 PM •

SEPTEMBER 16 Melissa Etheridge: Yes I  
Am 25  
Sun 7 PM •

SEPTEMBER 20 The Australian Pink Floyd  
Show –  
Thu 7:30 PM •

SEPTEMBER 22 Live and Let Die: A Tribute  
to Paul McCartney  
Sat 7:30 PM •

SEPTEMBER 22 Live and Let Die: The Mu-  
sic of Paul McCartney  
Sat 7:30 PM • 1

SEPTEMBER 24 Macy Gray - Fox Tucson  
Mon 7:30 PM •

SEPTEMBER 27 Amos Lee "My New Moon  
Tour"  
Thu 8 PM •

SEPTEMBER 30 Popovich's Comedy Pet  
Theater  
Sun 3 PM •

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[WildWestStuntShows.com](http://WildWestStuntShows.com)

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# A Letter From the Editor

By Hawke Taylore

**W**elcome to all! This is the first monthly edition of VISION Magazine for Tucson. To those who are unsure what this is all about, VISION is designed to focus on real people who do extraordinary things in art and entertainment in the Tucson Area. This publication is designed for Tucson, about Tucson and by Tucson. One of the biggest goals of this publication is to keep everything about it in Tucson and surrounding areas and influence. This will include Pima County and the neighboring cities that make up a substantial contribution to the community. This will include Marana, Benson, Vail, Sahuarita, Green Valley, Tubac, and Nogales just to name a few of our contributing neighbors. The intent of this magazine is to introduce you to the artistic people of the community that stand out in some way. In future issues we plan to include musicians, entertainers, and artists of all kinds. I hope

you enjoy this issue and the forthcoming issues of VISION Magazine. We look forward to hearing from you.

Warmest regards,

*Hawke Taylore*

Hawke Taylore



# MEET KARINA LEVINE!

We are so pleased to have Karina Levine join us here at VISION Magazine. Karina is our lead reporter here at VISION. She brings her warmth and smile along with a fantastic humanitarian attitude, not to mention that enthusiastic personality, which makes her perfect for this venture. We hope you join us in welcoming Karina to VISION Magazine here in Tucson.

Karina was born in Tucson, AZ in August of 1979 and has lived in a variety of areas throughout her childhood and adult life, including California, New Mexico, and Nevada. Karina has both a Bachelors in Criminal Justice (BCJ) and a Masters in Criminal Justice (MCJ) from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM and worked in the field of Criminal Justice for ten years in New Mexico and Arizona, primarily as an investigator for state probation and parole agencies. At the age of 36, Karina decided to completely change her career aspirations and joined the compassionate forces of Ani-

Karina's advice to humanity is "Be kind, be compassionate, we all have different stories to tell, we all come from different walks of life, treat one another the way you'd like to be treated, always."







mal Rescue. Karina loves all animals and has been a crazy cat lady her entire life. Karina joined The Hermitage No Kill Cat Shelter and Sanctuary staff in October of 2015. She is very passionate for everything The Hermitage stands for and wants to continue to help The Hermitage grow and thrive in whatever way she can. Karina states “It was very scary to change careers and go into a field I had only once dreamed of being a part of. I am very happy I took that leap of faith, because I have never been happier! The Hermitage has become my family, the kitties are my furkids, and I will always advocate for their health and happiness! Adopt don’t shop! Save lives!”

Karina is also an internationally published tattoo model, actress, and radio personality. She is a down to earth girl who loves to have fun; what you see is what you get with her, she wears her heart on her sleeve and believes in peace and love. Her goals are to live happily and be successful in her life; both career and personal, and every day she pursues these goals 100%. She loves to dance, act, paint, draw, write, read, and model; it lets her express herself in ways she only once dreamed of. Karina is an animal activist, an earth activist, and believes we as humans need to remember we aren’t the only species inhabiting our planet; reduce, reuse, recycle is her motto.



Photo Right: At the time of this issue release, We were saddened to hear about Adrienne, Karina’s fantastic feline who will be remembered by all of us and her memory will be cherished forever.







# A GYM WITH HEART

## TUCSON'S RISING PHOENIX FITNESS AND DEFENSE



Jesse James Tucker originally started in fitness and self-defense by teaching classes for other gyms and at Himmel Park in Tucson. Creating and maintaining Tucson's Rising Phoenix Fitness and Defense has been a major undertaking, however Jesse feels building a business on his own is completely worth the challenges he faced. "They say that when you're doing what you love, you never truly work a day in your life... but, that's not true, when you do what you love you work very, very hard to continue to do what you love." In the Tucson market, where the concept of bringing another gym into an already saturated market seems like a bad investment, Jesse made a significant impression on the people of Tucson.

Krav Maga is a form of self-defense that is primarily taught by the Israeli military. While its basic philosophy emphasizes aggression and fighting efficiency, Jesse has worked with such a variety of people that he has made teaching it an art. He personally meets with everyone that signs up for classes and determines what each person needs. "I have to address all comfort levels. People might have a past that they are not ready to do the harder training. So, you have to be able to balance out people who need a slower start verses people who hit the ground running and want to get punched in the face". Jesse impresses with his way of artistically handling individuals at their level. His care and concern for each person in the gym is magnified by everyone being able to participate in the exercises. Rising Phoenix has classes ranging from simple workouts to advanced self-defense.



## Rising Phoenix Continued



“Everyone here trains hard, but they are very warm and welcoming”. Members might be there to improve their own skills, however they are also interested in helping others be the best they can be. After personally witnessing a training session at Tucson’s Rising Phoenix, the people were kind and considerate not only to me, but to every other participant in the gym. The gym was filled with people, young and old, physically fit to just starting out, even children that were demonstrating respect for one another.

In some gym environments there is a sense of arrogance and selfish motivation that fills the air when you walk in. This does not seem to be true in Tucson’s Rising Phoenix. Jesse strives to keep that outside his gym. “When you are training, whether it be mixed martial arts, boxing, or grappling, it does feel very powerful learning these skills. A lot of places out there, their ego gets a little too involved. They become too self-centered and don’t really care about anyone else. In my opinion that is a kind of weakness to give into that (power). It’s much harder to resist that corruption and maintain to be a good person.”





# HERMITAGE CAT SHELTER







## TURNING PET ADOPTIONS INTO AN ART FORM

**H**ermitage Cat Shelter was originally founded 1965 by Sister Seraphim a Russian Orthodox nun from England who believed in the call of compassion. Sister Seraphim moved to Tucson in 1969 and lived at this location until she passed away in 1990.

**D**uring her tenure at The Hermitage, Sister Seraphim rescued not only cats, but chickens and guinea hens, peacocks, a handful of dogs and a donkey. Whatever the type, she was a firm believer in saving all animals.

Today, on the original site of her home, a 9,000 square foot building is now the shelter for the no-kill cat sanctuary. All cats that are housed at Hermitage have the opportunity to be adopted or remain at the sanctuary for the remainder of their lives. Karen Baden, the Executive Director at Hermitage Cat Shelter, spoke with us about the facility and the blessings that they bestow upon the cats and kittens they take care of, “All of our cats are sanctuary cats, they can stay as long as they need to here. For those cats who get to find a home they are very lucky”.

The process of adopting a cat or kitten at HCS is taken very seriously. The shelter takes every step possible to re-home every cat properly. Karen stated, “We have a very extraneous background check for all of our adopters as well as reference checks. We want to make sure that every cat goes home with the right individual.”

Just recently, Hermitage was rebuilt and now has a full working medical suite that sets them apart from most if not all of the other shelters. Karen discloses a portion of what HCS is now able to provide and accomplish, “We can do spay, neuters, and dentals right here in the shelter reducing the stress of traveling. We also provide excellent medical care. We have







a Shelter vet on hand who can help us when a cat is sick and needs assistance immediately.”

Another unique aspect of HCS is that they are a “Free Roaming Shelter” there are no little individual cages for every cat. Just a very large zone that has an indoor play area and protected outdoor patio that the cats are able to roam anywhere at anytime. There are obviously areas for quarantine cats who are recovering from any form of communicable illness. The staff considers the entire building the home of the cats. “This is their home. We want to make sure that if they are here for two days or 15 years, we want to make sure that they feel like they are at home.”

In 2017, HCS had over 14,000 hours of volunteer work within the shelter. This is an equivalent of 8 full-time staff. Karen states that without them, it would be impossible to do the work necessary at the shelter. The volunteers have many different jobs from feeding to talking to potential adopters before a new family pet is chosen. The HCS is run entirely on donations. There is no government funding to support this endeavor.

If you would like to know more about Hermitage Cat Shelter you can visit them at [hermitagecatshelter.org](http://hermitagecatshelter.org).

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# Gia Gerardo

## Tucson's Own Rising Star

Gia Discusses Acting,  
Fitness and Health







**G**ia Gerardo began her path to stardom at an early age. From performing in front of family and friends to unexpected performances in high school, she realized that an acting career was definitely her path in life. What she didn't foresee was a long health battle that would change how she approached her career.

Gia began performing when she was barely walking by dancing in front of her family and friends. "It could be because a lot of my family are singers so, I kind of grew up in that (environment)... I remember one day in kindergarten, I was cast in this musical and thinking, WOW! This is so much fun!" In high school Gia was reluctantly cast as the lead role in Romeo and Juliet. "I didn't want to do it (laughing). They voted me into it and I fell in love with it... I didn't speak any English at the time so; I had no idea what I was saying." Gia developed her character performance by watching the movie and reading the play in her native Spanish language. "After completing three shows... I thought wow! This is what I want to do. So, ever since then I started auditioning for more."

Gia isn't only an actor; she also has a long-time understanding of



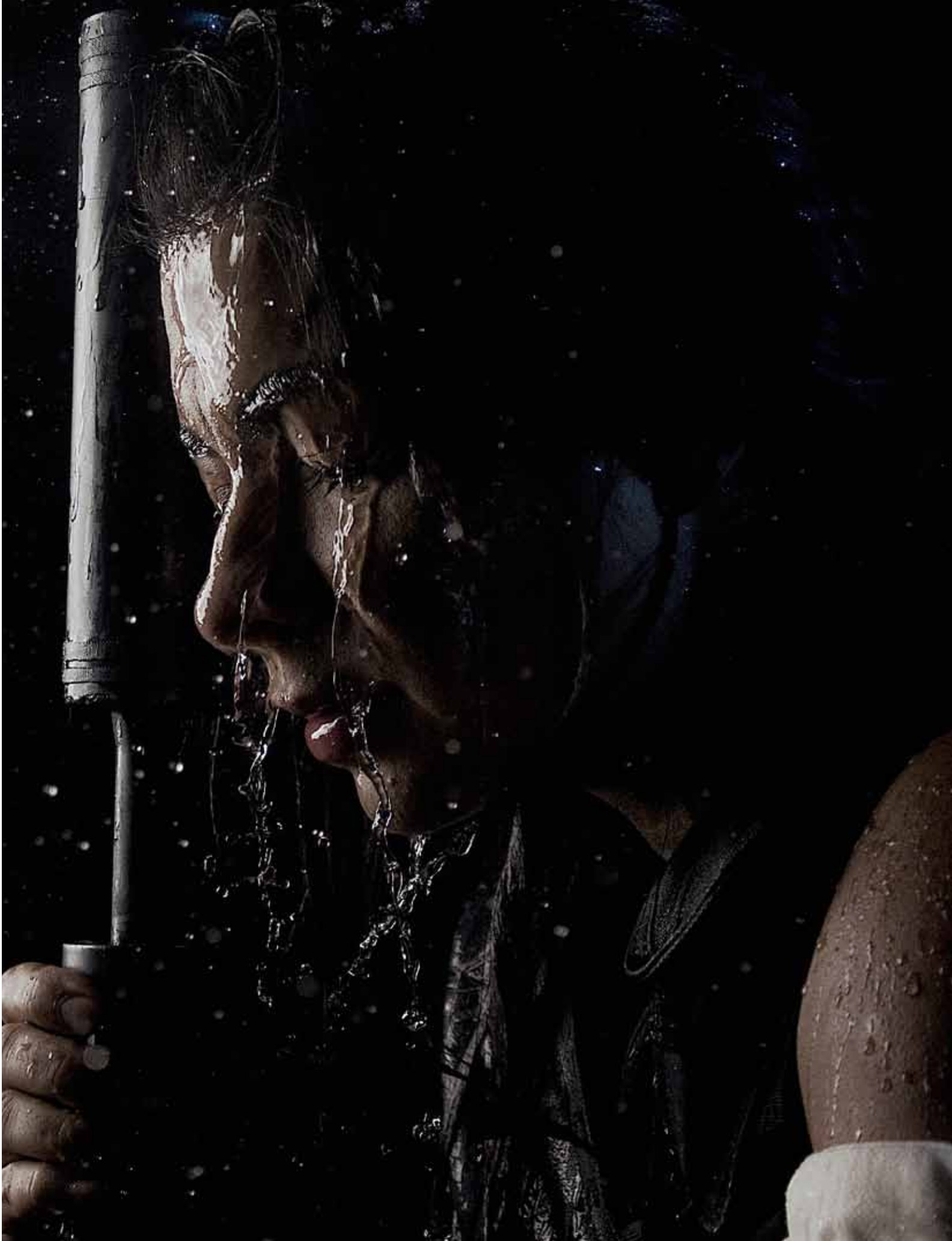
physical activity and fitness. “I’ve always been intrigued with sports. I always wanted to try for different teams”. Gia’s health battle had already begun by high school “I would do the same as everyone else, try something, and it didn’t work.” She gained a lot of weight during her teen years and on into her early 20’s. By the time she gave birth to her first child, her weight had become unmanageable. “I was close to 200 pounds and I’m only 5 foot 3 inches,” At this point she had already been diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis (a chronic inflammatory disorder that affects many joints in the body).

More recently, she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (which is a disease that eats away the protective covering of nerves). “At the time I didn’t know what I had, I just knew that my joints were extremely painful and I wanted to lose weight. So, I joined a boot camp in Phoenix, Arizona. My day one I died (from the pain).” Gia didn’t allow that pain to keep her from her goal to lose weight and pursue a healthier lifestyle. She sought out a trainer that would take Gia on to become better physically fit. “I reached out to her and [became] part of [her] team. I know I’m overweight but, I’d like to learn.” Over the next three years, Gia worked out and became a fitness instructor to Boot Camps out in the parks. “There were times that I was training up to 30 people that I was training at the park. It was chaotic but, it was amazing!”

Gia has used her life challenges to develop a new way of thinking. “I think one of the things that helped me a lot is that I’m not focused on the results anymore. A long time ago I let go of that and I started focusing on the process.” This ideology removes the pressure and turn her ambitions into commitment. “It becomes a bit easier... A lot of the problems that we go through and the stresses are self-created. So, if you let go of that and focus on the process, it takes all that (stress) away.”

Photo Right: Gia Gerardo as Maria in “The Battle Within” Photo Hawke Taylore









# Metal Arts Village

The place to go  
on a full moon

**PART ONE**

It's a place where  
it takes a village to  
make an artist.



# METAL ARTS VILLAGE PART ONE

The Metal Arts Village is a dozen studios for different artists in Tucson. Stephen Kimble is the creator of Metal Arts Village. He created MAV originally because he didn't have any more space at his home studio. "I outgrew my studio; I was looking for a bigger studio. I couldn't find what I was looking for. So, I said I can't be the only one looking for a studio and can't find it so... I'm going to build it." And then, Stephen did exactly that. He built a dozen studios on a large plot of land on the corner of Dodge and Ft. Lowell. "I would rather work around other people. So, I thought if I could have a studio where there is other creative people around, it would make me a better artist." Stephen got together with other artists who work in similar and other mediums like steel, bronzes and glass. Together they make even better works of art than if they were just working alone. "It's the collaboration (of artists) that really makes this a good project", says Steven.







Ryan Blackmer of Blackmer Studios is a woodworking artist who has only been at MAV for the past year. He appreciates the entire concept of the art village and it has helped his creativity and workflow. “To me, this was a perfect opportunity because before this I was doing POP-UP Markets. I’d have to load up the truck, go to an event, set up, I’d inadvertently break something. And then I had to reverse that entire process in order to leave for the day... With the Open Studio Under The Full Moon, I can set up in here, I roll a couple things around.. and I just roll up the door, and I have everybody just come up to me”. The convenience of the multiple artists in one area attracts a myriad of visitors every month. This is the interesting fact of this group. While many of the artists are open throughout the month, not all of them are in their respective studios except one night a month. The night of the full moon. This is the only day that every artist is in their studio so the public can visit each and every one of them.

Genia Parker, of Ochoa Stained Glass, is amazed at the way the artists all work together. “It’s been phenomenal from the standpoint of the collaboration and the opportunity to help one another”. Genia, along with other artists at MAV, loans their tools out to each other in order to help other artist’s projects go smoothly.



Al Glann of Glann Studios creates sculptures of various animals like birds and horses. “I’ve been part of this community for about seven years. It’s been a really good place to be. Were very supportive of one another. We have a good space to work here and a good group people to work with. If you need any help, there’s someone usually around to give you a hand”.



One of the attractions that you wouldn’t expect to find at an artist village is a beer and wine bar. David Zugerman Co-Owner of Tucson Hops Shop has brought a different form of art to the MAV. “We’re a craft beer and wine bar. We serve locally made beers, nationally made beers, and internationally made beers and wines”. David goes on to remark about the

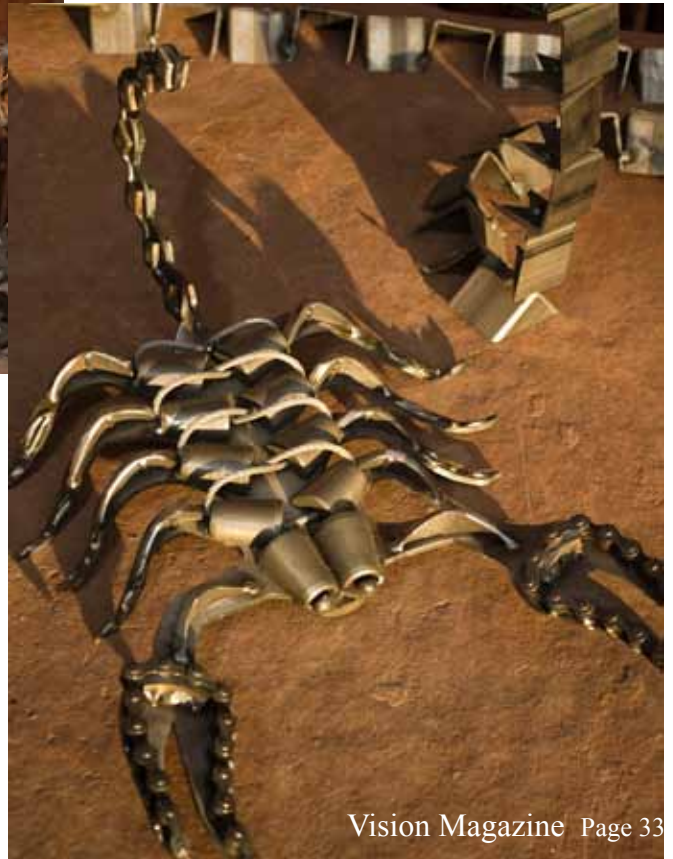




full moon nights, “Some of the biggest nights we’ve had have been the full moon nights. Usually is been a big party for the community”.

Under The Full Moon is very much a party. There are bands that entertain and food served outside for everyone to enjoy. Hundreds of people come out to enjoy the festivities once a month. The full moon nights are the best way to meet all of the artists and talk to them about their work with the public. David adds that what Tucson Hop Shop does for the full moon nights. “What we are able to do is add beer to that”..

Everett Grondin from Dog Lix Design has been at MAV from the beginning. “We moved in on the day that we could move in. and it’s been a really neat experience. Every artist that’s ever been through here has been real fun to work with. We collaborate a lot together. For me it’s been a life saver because I was involved with mainly construction. When the recession hit, I had no public notoriety. So being



here threw me out into the public”.

Metal Arts Village is a great collaboration of artists with various mediums. This motley group of people get together to form a fantastic crew of people who share themselves with the rest of Tucson. On the next full moon, perhaps a visit to Metal Arts Village is a great way to spend an evening, by yourself or bring all your friends.

Part two is continued in the next issue.







# Ancient Art Tattoo

## Tucson's Historic Tattoo Shop

**D**ennis Dwyer started tattoo art after he got out of the military just after the Viet-nam war. It was the early 1970's when Dennis found his calling to be a tattoo artist. "I felt that art is what I wanted to be in my life". Dennis was introduced to tattoo art by a motorcycle "club" member by the name of Brooklyn Blacky. Dennis was still an angry person after the war and being part of the motorcycle "club" introduced him to the world of tattoo. "This would be great. I could do my artwork and still inflict pain on people". Dennis is a gentle man these days helping people decide if tattoo art is right for them. Dennis actually turns people away if he feels they are not ready for the life-long commitment of tattoo art.

“People are not just hanging my art on a wall but they are carrying it around with them.. that was an even better fulfillment of an artist. Artists want to be recognized for what we do”. Dennis has been instrumental to other tattoo artists to this day. He has helped aspiring artists to achieve their own style while still keeping to the “Historic Art” of tattooing. Dennis told us about his view on what tattoo art really is, “I think there is a responsibility as a tattoo artist, especially a tattoo artist. My job is to serve you and not to be served. I think it’s flipped today (with some tattoo artists)”. “Tattooing for me is more of a servitude. I have the privilege to sit with people for an hour to an hour and a half, and I enjoy people”. When Dennis is with a client, he and the person getting a tattoo are talking to each other, they swap stories with each other. “I impart some of my experiences and hopefully by that, they grow, I grow.. That’s probably why I’ve made such an impact on so many people”.

Ancient Art Tattoo is located on 2108 S Alvernon Way in Tucson and is the oldest tattoo shop in town .







# Adult Event Pages

## **Places to See and Things to do in Tucson.**

No more excuses, now you have a way to find out what is happening in Tucson. There is something happening almost everyday in Tucson. We've compiled a list of websites that have events going on all the time. We will eventually set these up as hot links so you will only be one click away.

## **Family Places:**

[www.traildusttown.com](http://www.traildusttown.com) Always something for everyone.

<http://foxtucson.com/events/show-all> All kinds of things for all ages.

<http://oldtucson.com/events> Old West fun!

<https://reidparkzoo.org/events> Let's face it, Animals are cool to see.

[www.desertmuseum.org](http://www.desertmuseum.org) In the desert without feeling deserted.

[www.thewildlifemuseum.org](http://www.thewildlifemuseum.org) All ages!

<http://speedway.tucson.com/calendar> New events posted daily.

[www.sabinocanyon.com](http://www.sabinocanyon.com) Healthy hikes and great views.

<http://mtlemmon.com/summerhaven> Great getaway trips!

[www.tucsonbotanical.org](http://www.tucsonbotanical.org) A garden in the middle of town.

## **Places for Couples and Friends:**

[www.rialtotheatre.com](http://www.rialtotheatre.com) Music and concerts.

<http://hotelcongress.com/events> Music and More.

[www.tsrdowntown.com](http://www.tsrdowntown.com) Movies and Music.

<https://loftcinema.org/showtimes> All kinds of Movies.

[www.fourthavenue.org/events](http://www.fourthavenue.org/events) Whole area of fun and excitement.

[www.union.arizona.edu/involvement/gallagher](http://www.union.arizona.edu/involvement/gallagher) Movies for \$3!

<http://rocktucson.com/calendar>



# Adult Event Pages

## The Mixed Bag!

These places have events for everyone! Links are constantly updating.

<http://tucsonconventioncenter.com/event-calendar>

<http://southernarizonaguide.com/find-event-tucson-southern-arizona>

[www.kvoa.com/category/295118/events-calendar#/85701-tucson/all/today](http://www.kvoa.com/category/295118/events-calendar#/85701-tucson/all/today)

[www.visittucson.org/events/categories/events](http://www.visittucson.org/events/categories/events)

[www.theroguetheatre.org/main.htm](http://www.theroguetheatre.org/main.htm)

<http://tucson.eventful.com/events>

[www.wikido.com/us/az/tucson](http://www.wikido.com/us/az/tucson)

<http://tucsonhappenings.com/today.asp>

[www.statemuseum.arizona.edu](http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu)

[www.tucsonmuseumofart.org](http://www.tucsonmuseumofart.org)

[www.moca-tucson.org/calendar](http://www.moca-tucson.org/calendar)

[www.arizonahistorical society.org/tucson](http://www.arizonahistorical society.org/tucson)

[www.eventbrite.com/d/az--tucson/events](http://www.eventbrite.com/d/az--tucson/events)

Don't forget about Valentine's Day, Rodeo Days and The Tucson Gem Show!

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