



# EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

## President's Message

Dear Friends of the Empire Ranch,  
It's been an incredible year because of you! Your support has brought improvements to the Empire Ranch that will last for generations to come. The stabilization of the 1870s Empire Ranch House is complete and a major accomplishment.

Join us to celebrate on March 23, 2019. We are partnering with the BLM for a Milestone Celebration, a grand re-opening of the house with new exhibits, tours, and more, plus special remarks by former Representative Jim Kolbe, Pima County Supervisor Steve Christy, and BLM leadership. Humanities Scholar Robin Pinto will give a presentation on the history of the Empire Ranch. The event is free and all are invited! Please provide your RSVP on our web site.

Our traditional Spring Trail Ride is April 6, 2019 and benefits the ERF (see article p. 2, and enclosed registration form). Why not join us for a Volunteer Work Day? We'd love your help on the first Saturday of most months. The working calendar on page 4 lists upcoming dates. Volunteers are treated to a delicious lunch after lending a hand with various projects for all abilities and ages.

Thank you for your year end gifts and membership renewals. ERF's ability to help the Empire Ranch depends on you – our donors, volunteers and advocates – and we are truly grateful. If you are not yet a member, please join the Foundation today to help preserve and protect the Empire Ranch.

Sincerely,  
Faith Boice  
ERF President



*Loads of Christmas cheer and crafts greeted all, plus a gift ornament from Santa to take home (photos: F. Boice, C.Rogos)*

## Christmas at the Ranch

On December 9, 2018 ERF celebrated Christmas at the Ranch with over 240 excited and enthusiastic guests. Everyone admired the Ranch House holiday decorations while enjoying Christmas cookies and warm drinks of coffee, tea or hot cocoa. Santa was a big hit with children of all ages stopping by to tell him their Christmas wishes and get their picture taken. His gift to all was a beautiful Empire Ranch Foundation ornament.

The "make and take" Christmas ornament room was busy all afternoon, and from the sounds of laughter it was clearly a fun project. In the Adobe Haybarn Jana Segal told Sharlot Hall's Christmas story, and Jon Ritchins provided musical entertainment and an opportunity to sing-along.

Many got a head start on their Christmas shopping at the 14 vendor tables offering a wide variety of wares, and at the silent auction and raffle tables. Our thanks to all of the volunteers who helped decorate the Ranch house and grounds, bake cookies, and help on the day. We can't do it without you! Planning for the 2019 Christmas at the Ranch is underway—we hope you'll join us!



*Published by the Empire Ranch Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management. The purpose of the Foundation is to protect, restore, and sustain the Empire Ranch historical buildings and landscape as an outstanding western heritage and education center. Donations to the Foundation may be sent to: P.O. Box 842, Sonoita, AZ 85637-0842.*