The Manila Galleon and the Opening of the Trans-Pacific West

A free presentation by Father Greg Adolf

for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s “Third Thursday Food for Thought” Dinner Program

Thursday September 19, 2019, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

This month’s program will be at Karichimaka Mexican Restaurant, 5252 S. Mission Rd., Tucson

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH OLD PUEBLO ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER:
520-798-1201 or info@oldpueblo.org

RESERVATIONS MUST BE REQUESTED AND CONFIRMED before 5 p.m. on the Wednesday before the program.

The first of the galleons crossed the Pacific in 1565. The last one put into port in 1815. Yearly, for the two and a half centuries that lay between, the galleons made the long and lonely voyage between Manila in the Philippines and Acapulco in Mexico. No other commercial enterprise has ever endured so long. No other regular navigation has been so challenging and dangerous as this, for in its two hundred and fifty years, the ocean claimed dozens of ships and thousands of lives, and many millions in treasure.

To the peoples of Spanish America, they were the “China Ships” or “Manila Galleons” that brought them cargoes of silks and spices and other precious merchandise of the Orient, forever changing the material culture of the Spanish Americas.

To those in the Orient, they were the “Silver Ships” laden with Mexican and Peruvian pesos that were to become the standard form of currency throughout the Orient.

To the Californias and the Spanish settlements of the Pimería Alta in what is now Arizona and Sonora, they furnished the motive and drive to explore and populate the long California coastline.

To Spain, they were the link that bound the Philippines to her and gave some substance to the Spanish dream of a trans-Pacific empire.

From the Mexican chino poblano style to the Chinese porcelains that found their way to the farthest edges of Spanish settlement, the Manila Galleon trade impacted every level of Spanish American culture. In this presentation, local historian Father Greg Adolf will introduce you to this first, and perhaps most enduring, cultural bridge of the trans-Pacific region. The impact and enduring effects of this great commercial venture on our own high desert home may astonish you!

Illustrations provided by Father Greg
See more information on next page.
This month’s guest presenter, Fr. Greg Adolf, is the Pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Sierra Vista, Arizona. A priest of the Diocese of Tucson and a Board Member of the Kino Heritage Society, Southwestern Mission Research Center, and Patronato de San Xavier, Fr. Greg is actively involved in preserving and sharing the Spanish cultural and historical heritage of our Borderlands. Through the Southwestern Mission Research Center Fr. Greg has been leading tours of the Kino Missions in northern Sonora for over 20 years and is active in promoting the Cause of Padre Kino’s canonization!

Guests may select and purchase their own dinners from the restaurant’s menu. There is no entry fee but donations will be requested to benefit Old Pueblo’s educational efforts.

Reservations must be requested, AND CONFIRMED BY OLD PUEBLO ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER, by 5 p.m. on the Wednesday before the program because the Fire Code limits the meeting room capacity and because the restaurant needs advance notice to schedule sufficient staff for our event.

For reservations contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at info@oldpueblo.org or 520-798-1201.

Please DO NOT call the restaurant for reservations.