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2012 ARIZONA CULTUREKEEPERS ANNOUNCED

Program Recognizes 10 Arizona Residents Dedicated to Preserving the Culture and Heritage of the State

PHOENIX/SCOTTSDALE – In conjunction with the Sharlot Hall Museum, Arizona Historical Society, and Historian Marshall Trimble, The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa is honoring the final ten Arizona residents for making a positive impact on the state's history, culture, environment and/or economy.

Selected from more than 100 nominees, the 2012 Arizona Culturekeeper honorees will be recognized at a luncheon ceremony on Sunday, May 6th, at The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa in Scottsdale. The public is invited to participate in the uniquely Arizonan event. Tickets are \$55 per person or \$550 per table of ten. To purchase tickets, the public is encouraged to contact The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa by email to culturekeepers@kierlandresort.com or by calling 480-624-1356. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Arizona Culturekeepers program, Sharlot Hall Museum and Arizona Historical Society.

The 2012 Arizona Culturekeepers:

- **Scott Baxter – Phoenix – Photographer**
- **Jim Bruner – Scottsdale – Public Service, Historic Preservation**
- **Frances Cohen – Phoenix/Tucson – Dance Director**
- **Diane Enos – Salt River Community – Native American Leader, Cultural Preservation**
- **JoAnn Handly – Scottsdale – Scottsdale Historical Museum and Society**
- **Cressworth Lander – Tucson – African American Community Preservation**
- **Katie Lee – Jerome – Author, Performer, Environmentalist**
- **Bill Thompson – Phoenix – Children's Television**
- **Dr. Anne Woosley – Tucson – Arizona Historical Society Director, Writer**
- **Yuma Crossing Heritage Area**

Each Culturekeeper will be presented with an award that describes the individual's or group's contributions to the state. Plaques with photos of each honoree will be displayed along the walls of the Resort's meeting space, including Culturekeepers Hall, a special area of the hotel adjacent to the Kierland Grand Ballroom.

The Arizona Culturekeepers were selected based on the following criteria:

- A Culturekeeper must have worked to preserve the image of Arizona.
- This individual must maintain the traditions, rituals and/or cultures that have made Arizona a

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home and a preferred travel destination for decades. These could be artistic, ethnic or historic traditions or activities. These could be actions taken to preserve Arizona's natural environment or animal habitat.

- A Culturekeeper must have a long-time commitment to services as a keeper or influencer of Arizona culture and have served the state through paid or volunteer efforts.
- The recognition will honor the individual who has demonstrated a passionate dedication to the issue, hobby or endeavor that keeps Arizona's culture alive.
- This individual must have lived within Arizona's borders during the time for which they are being recognized, and they must be living.

About The Arizona Culturekeepers Program:

Working in conjunction with the Official State Historian, Marshall Trimble, The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa designed the Culturekeepers program to recognize state residents who are committed to upholding the traditions, rituals and culture of Arizona. Established in 2002, the Culturekeepers program has announced and recognized 10 individuals during an annual event at The Westin Kierland. By the state's centennial in 2012, 100 Culturekeepers will have been honored by the Arizona Culturekeepers program. The selection committee is led by Marshall Trimble, Official State Historian and was originated by Katherine "Kax" Herberger, longtime Valley philanthropist, who passed away in 2003.

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