

## 2018 Annual Review

2018 saw the tangible results of our 2017 outreach efforts with record Bookstore sales, a record number of presentations, fantastic library utilization, and more innovative programs that intrigued, entertained and educated Sun City residents. What is the common denominator to this success? Every single accomplishment would not be possible without our Friends volunteers.

### Volunteer Numbers

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Friends, and each of our 100 volunteers give whatever time they can to support our mission. In 2018, that totaled 9,700 hours, ranging from 10 to 807 hours per volunteer. The recruitment and recognition of many of our volunteers is handled by volunteers **Cathy Weyers** and **Camilla Kuberka**. In 2018 we were in the enviable position of having more volunteers than volunteer positions. In response, we created a new Volunteer Coordinator position, held by volunteer **Ruth Polansky**. One of the goals of this new position is to find even more Friends volunteer opportunities in the future, so we never have to turn down a potential volunteer.

### Volunteer Outreach

The Friends Outreach Committee, now in its second year and headed by volunteer **Sue Blechl**, spearheaded five church and club presentations, organized booths in three Farmer's Markets, manned our table at three recreation center fun fairs, and participated in six additional outreach venues.

### Volunteer Social Media

Outreach opportunities were not limited to fairs and presentations. Our Facebook page, launched in 2017 is in full swing, thanks to newly retired Librarian and newly recruited volunteer, **Jennie O'Leary**. Our [suncitylibraryfriends.org](http://suncitylibraryfriends.org) website, managed by volunteer **Marcia Davis**, saw a record number of visitors for the fourth year in a row. Numbers were up more than twelve percent since 2017 with 7,887 unique visitors in 2018. In addition, volunteer **Tom Everitt** reached out to the community and volunteers alike in 2018 by writing 12 *SunViews* columns and 12 *Volunteer Newsletters*.

### Volunteer Book Friends

In 2017, we reported on the start of an exciting new program, Book Friends, created by volunteer **Charlotte Klose**. Success does not adequately describe what happened to Book Friends in 2018. Volunteer numbers doubled, and we still have 19 potential volunteers on the waiting list. Memory care residents and staff alike sing the praises of this program, and have requested that we expand to more facilities and more frequent readings. Volunteers report that reading to the residents, and seeing the impact it has on each listener, is one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives.

### Volunteer Book Buddies

In 2017, the Friends of the Sun City Libraries celebrated the ninth year of continuous service with our Book Buddy program. We also had the great pleasure of appointing a



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new Book Buddy Director, volunteer **Monica Fallon**. Monica, a previous winner of the Friends Volunteer of the year award, brings new excitement and ideas to this long standing program.

### Volunteer Bookstore

It seems like every year we report a new record in sales at our Bookstore, managed by long time volunteer **Mary Anne McDonald**. 2018 was no exception, with a record breaking \$46,068 in gross sales. This came about thanks to the support of 47 Bookstore volunteers who provided 5,727 hours of service.

### Why We Volunteer

This Annual Review showcases our volunteers, but would not be complete without a summary of why we volunteer for the Friends. It's not just because it's fun, challenging and rewarding. It's also because our fundraising and volunteer service makes a difference to our Sun City Libraries through financial support we provide to the libraries. We are fortunate to have outstanding finance volunteers, **Jessica Potter-Slider** and **Sue Painter**, keeping track of the Friends income and financial support.

In 2018, our combined Sun City libraries served more customers (204,456), circulated more items (426,025) and hosted more programs (358) than ever before.

We volunteer to provide financial support for library programs and materials. In 2018 we donated \$40,990. A sampling follows:

- Technology Classes (computer, iPhone, Android, social media)
- Art Performances (Taiko drums, didgeridoo, Celtic music, hand bells, flutes)
- How To Classes (cupcakes, writing, genealogy, photography, gardening, birds)
- History Presentations (the Rolling Stones, Hohokum, women of the old west)
- Healthcare Programs ( Medicare, aromatherapy, nutrition, self defense, Tai Chi)
- Children's programs ( Mrs. Claus, robots, cowboy balloons, juggling)

We also funded many items for the libraries, including seeds for the seed program, puzzles, refreshments, summer reading iPad prizes, program supplies, and more. One of the biggest donations the Friends made to the entire Maricopa County Library District in 2018 was \$6,000 for an annual online subscription to Morningstar and Value Line.

### Community Donations

We also fund community efforts that support our mission. In 2018 we donated \$3,900 to community efforts, including \$2,400 to the Maricopa County Library District Summer Reading Program, \$1,000 to the octogenarian Golf Tournament, and \$500 to the Sun City Fire Department 2018 Drive.

### Summary

In summary, 2018 was another great year for the Friends, made possible by a community that supports and believes in the importance of our libraries, a fantastic library staff, and a wonderful group of hard working volunteers. Thank you all!