



## 2016 Annual Report

2016 was another banner year for the Friends of the Sun City Libraries, Inc. Our mission to ***enhance the community through support for the Sun City libraries*** was at the forefront of each accomplishment. What better way to report on those accomplishments than telling you about just a few of them, through the eyes of each committee.

The **Board Development Committee**, led by **Judy Wannamaker** was extremely busy in 2016, with the recruitment of six new Board Members, including **Charlotte Klose, Joyce Kirkham, Sue Blechl, Tim Geiger, Jessica Potter Slider, and Cathy Weyers**. This put the Friends Board of Directors in the enviable position of being able to immediately replace members who were coming to the end of their six year term limit, including President (in February of 2016) and soon to be Treasurer (in February 2017).

**Camilla Kuberka**, Chair of our **Activities Committee**, took excellent care of our nearly 100 volunteers in 2016, who donated approximately 10,000 hours to our community through Friends programs. Events included a summer Ice Cream Social, a fabulous Christmas party, and another beautiful annual recognition dinner at the Palm Brook Country club. Each event was filled with good food, lots of prizes, gifts and recognition, and great entertainment.

An added bonus this year was a volunteer survey that was handed out at the annual recognition dinner. The Board was thrilled with an 85% response rate and crystal clear indications that our volunteers absolutely love what they do. Working with people, books, other volunteers and library staff, and feeling useful topped the list of what they enjoyed most. Some constructive suggestions were also welcome, and made their way into the board goals throughout the year.

The Friends **Book Buddy Program** continued its great work, under the guidance of **Judy Wannamaker**, delivering library materials to the home bound. Book Buddies gave over 500 hours of their time to the community in 2016. An exciting development for this program was the addition of a new committee member, **Charlotte Klose**, who began the initial steps towards implementation of a “Book Friend” program that will have volunteers reading to local memory care patients.



Our **Publicity Committee**, under the direction of **Roberta Hawksworth**, was extremely busy in 2016. Just a few of the many projects included:

- Development of a one page flyer featuring The Friends & Sun City Library history timeline that will be used as Fairs, etc., full size volunteer recruitment posters, and magnet give-aways.
- Implementation of our first bookmark contest that awarded gift certificates to the winning adult and child entries.
- The Friends were featured in several Independent Newspaper stories again this year, including features and photos of our Volunteer of the year ceremony, the Fairway Saturday opening reception, and our Volunteer Christmas party.
- **Tom Everitt**, former Board President, took on a Committee/Advisor role of **Writer and Editor in Chief**, and produces informative and amusing Sun View columns every month.
- **Sue Blechl** took on the committee role of **Community Outreach Manager** and as such is in charge of all Friends community events, which expanded to several new venues this year.

Our **Books Around the Corner Bookstore** had a banner year, with total sales of \$38,783, another record breaker! **Mary Anne McDonald**, our Bookstore Manager was busy in 2016, not only with those record sales, but also a project that upgraded labels on every shelf using locally made metal labels. Mary Anne also enjoyed a good volume of eBay sales to take advantage of a wider market for our more valuable books.

Our web site, [suncitylibraryfriends.org](http://suncitylibraryfriends.org), celebrated its second full year in operation at the end of 2016. Our total number of Unique Visitors to the site increased from 3,366 in 2015 to 7,247 in 2016, a welcome jump of 74%.

The **Finance Committee**, under the direction of Treasurer **Sue Painter**, continued to manage the Friends investments wisely. They implemented a standard three meeting per year schedule (or more if needed) with our two investment institutions to keep an even closer eye on our investments during potentially volatile times.

Thanks to this wise money management process, the Friends were in a position to fulfill some great community needs in 2016, with close to \$30,000 in donations,



including \$5000 to the Del Webb History Museum, \$1,000 to the Sun City Men's Octogenarian Golf Tournament, and thousands of dollars for programs featured at our two Sun City libraries.

And last but not least, no list of Friends accomplishments would be complete without mentioning our partners in this whole endeavor, the **Maricopa County Library District (MCLD)** and the **Recreation Centers of Sun City (RCSC)**. In 2016 MCLD not only served nearly 200,000 customers at our two Sun City libraries with close to 400,000 circulation items, but also started much needed Saturday hours at our Fairway Branch, and arranged nearly 500 community programs, many of which the Friends were able to financially support. Over 7,000 attendees enjoyed these wonderful programs in 2016.

Overall in 2016, the Friends certainly ***enhanced the community through support for the Sun City libraries.*** These enhancements, courtesy of our wonderful volunteers and partners, help set the stage for an even more exciting 2017.