



# FRIENDS

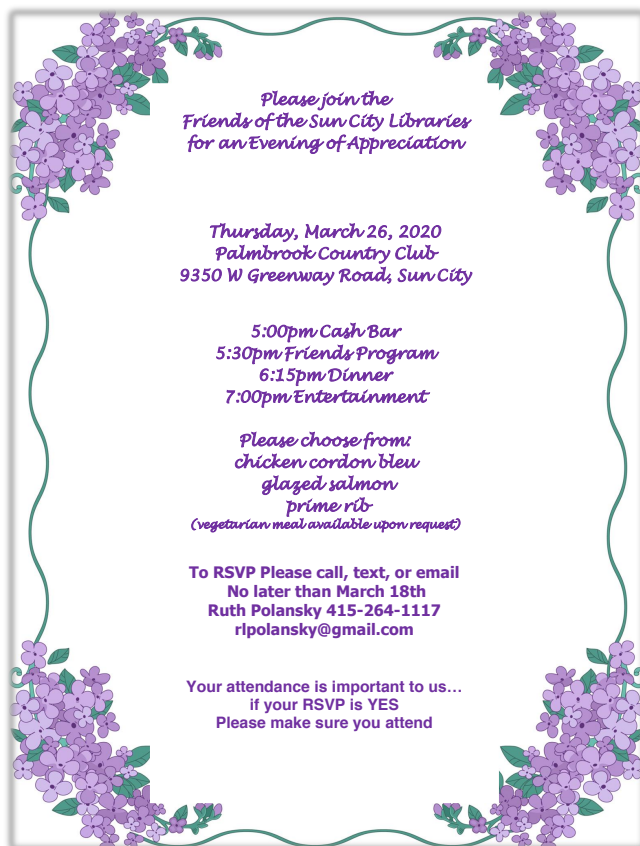
of the Sun City Libraries, Inc.

## FRIENDS VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Publication by the Friends of the Sun City Libraries, Inc.

## MARCH 2020

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER** By now, you should have received your invitation to the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on **Thursday, March 26, 2020, 5:00 p.m.**



Hopefully you will be able to attend and have already responded. This is the Friends biggest volunteer recognition event of the year. It is

hoped as many as possible of our 100 plus volunteers will be present.

**Highlights** of this years' event are:

- Happy hour (cash bar)
- Delicious meal
- Volunteers of the Year
- Lilac Crazy Quartet - female barbershop comedy
- Delivery of Friends T-shirts
- Seeing "old" and making new friends

If you have any **questions** about the event call Ruth Polansky at 415-264-1117. If you have to **cancel** after indicating you will attend, be sure to call Ruth so that the Friends do not have to pay for your meal.

**VOLUNTEER MINGLE** (submitted by Pat Bates) The volunteers who attended the get-together on February 7 were asked to divulge the name of their **favorite book** and their favorite author(s). Of the 15 responses, seven favored mysteries, six favored fiction and just one brave soul cited a non-fiction book as a favorite. Mystery lovers' choices ranged from the classic Agatha Christie to more recent authors like Stuart Woods and J.C. Robb. Among the fiction devotees, "To Kill A Mockingbird," was the oldest



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classic mentioned with “A Gentleman in Moscow” heading the list to attain classic status in the future. Randy Pausch's “The Last Lecture” was the sole non-fiction nominee.

There was only one novel to garner more than a single vote and that was the venerable “**Gone With the Wind**,” an easy enough choice for women living in an age-restricted community! Some of us are still waiting around for Rhett Butler to sweep us off our feet, said one attendee with stars in her eyes.

**Favorite authors** ranged from the acerbic Dorothy Parker to the shy Harper Lee, from the noir of Jo Nesbo to the droll dogginess of David Rosenfelt.

And what **conclusions** can be deduced from this modest survey? The Friends volunteers are as eclectic in their taste of reading material as might be expected from such a diverse group. The one common bond is a love of books and a willingness to devote many hours to the various works undertaken by the Friends of the Sun City Libraries, the Libraries, and Books Around the Corner.

### BOOKS AROUND THE CORNER

The Bookstore currently has a set of **Zane Gray** books, a large selection of **Stephen King** books, and a leather bound **Old West** book, all for sale at very reasonable prices.

The temporary request for no more book donations in large amounts worked. The store room floor got cleared. Previously, it was difficult to close the door because the room was so filled with reading materials.



The Bookstore is back to **accepting donated books** in any amount.

The Monday Only half-price sale on **soft back books** (not paperbacks) continues through April.

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**Cozy mysteries** will be half price for all of March.

The Bookstore will be **closed on Friday, March 6**, because the Sun City Libraries will be closed.

**OUTREACH** The Friends will have a booth for the **Fairway Fun Fair** on Saturday, March 28.

**MEET YOUR VOLUNTEER** Our featured volunteer this month is **Lorraine Arend**. Lorraine has been a Bookstore volunteer for a year. Meeting and interacting with people in the Bookstore is what she enjoys most about her job.

Lorraine is a retired registered nurse. Her career included work in hospitals, hospice, and as a director and instructor of home care.

In addition to her church activities and being the head of her homeowners association, Lorraine does crafts of all varieties. She is the community organizer of many activities including crafts and cards games. She currently is involved in making all kinds of gnomes, the latest being baseball players. She and her



neighbors involved in the project will be selling them at a show in Surprise. She recently volunteered to make the centerpieces for the Friends Volunteer Banquet this month.

**OFFICERS ELECTED** The Friends Board elected officers at the February meeting. The officers elected were: **Sue Blechl**, President; **Cathy Weyers**, Vice-President; **Pat Bates**, Secretary; and **Jessica Potter Slider**, Treasurer.





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**FRIENDS ANNUAL REPORT** The Annual Report for 2019 is **attached** at the end of this *Newsletter*, pages 6-9.

**LIBRARY REPORT** Brianna King, Library Manager, reported at the February Friends Board meeting that Sun City Library **roof leak problem** has not been resolved. The last rain dampened not only the work area, but also the spirits of the Library staff. RCSC is still working on the problem.

April 26, 2020, will be the **10 year anniversary** of the Maricopa County Library District's opening of the new Fairway Library. Library staff and the Friends are planning the celebration, including food and entertainment. The celebration will be on Monday, April 27, 8:00-4:00.

**BOARD MEETING** The Friends Board of Directors next scheduled meeting will be on **Thursday, March 12**, 2020, 9:30 a.m. in the Sun City Library North Wing room.

**ASK TOM E** The March question comes from **Y. Knott**, who asked Tom E, **"Why can't the Fairway Library have a bookstore like the Sun City Library has?"**

Y., your question can be answered in one word, space. The Fairway Library just cannot accommodate the amount of space necessary to set up even a small bookstore. Believe me, the Friends would love to do that.

To meet the need at Fairway, books and other materials are hauled from the Sun City Library to the Fairway Library for a half-price sale about three times a year. Transporting that many books is quite an endeavor; but the Friends have always felt it is worth it because of the appreciation expressed by Fairway residents.

Space is also a problem at the Sun City Library. As you probably are aware, in addition to Bookstore floor space, there is also a work room behind the bookshelves as well as a separate storage room for books. Recently the storage room got so full that the Friends had to put a moratorium on book donations of large amounts. The backlog of has been worked down now to the point that books are being accepted in any amount.

The Friends could not be more appreciative of the Sun City



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Community's support of the Bookstore through their generous donations. Almost \$50,000 was raised in 2019 through the sale of donated materials to the Bookstore. That money went to the Libraries for special programs and needs beyond their budget from the Maricopa County Library District (MCLD).

Be assured, Y., the Friends will continue to explore ways to get more space for Bookstores. We have great support from MCLD and RCSC (Recreation Centers of Sun City). We just have to be patient and persistent. Why not?

Tom E

The *Friends Volunteer Newsletter* is to improve communication between Friends volunteers. The *Newsletter* is emailed to volunteers on the first of the month, or delivered to their work places if no email address is available.

Information or letters to Tom E should be sent to Tom Everitt at [4mymate@embarqmail.com](mailto:4mymate@embarqmail.com). The Board President will approve copy before publication. News or letters for the April 2020, issue should be received by Friday, March 27, 2020.

*Tom Everitt,  
Writer and Editor in Chief,  
Friends of the Sun City Libraries, Inc.*





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## 2019 Annual Review

The Friends of the Sun City Libraries, Inc. are passionate about making our community a better place through our support for the Sun City Libraries. Library user feedback has always confirmed our success in doing so, but never quite so much as in 2019. Simply put, 2019 was an outstanding year for both the Sun City Libraries and the Friends. We made life better for hundreds of folks in the Sun City community. Here's how:

### Sun City Library Drive-through Book Drop

On October 16, 2019, the long awaited project for a two way drive up book drop at the Sun City Library was completed. This joint effort between the Friends, Maricopa County Library District (MCLD) and the Recreation Centers of Sun City (RCSC) was managed by RCSC, overseen by Maricopa County Library District and championed and funded by the Friends who reimbursed RCSC for the cost of the project: **\$66,475**.

*"I want to thank the Friends so much for their ongoing support. The drive up book drop has been wonderful! We have so many customers who are so pleased with the book drop and tell us it is so helpful, and will be even more so during the hot summer months." Library Manager Brianna King*

### Ten Year Anniversary Celebration

The Friends organized and funded a full day of fun activities on August 12, 2019, to celebrate the ten year anniversary of MCLD managing the Sun City Library. From opening to closing we enjoyed refreshments, face painting, balloons, flowers, posters, and fantastic programs. All of this was designed and orchestrated by organized, dedicated Friends volunteers with full library staff support.

*"This is so much fun...who says face painting is just for kids!" celebration attendees Dave and Beverly Pedersen*

*"I loved this event! Sun City senior citizens had more fun and were more excited with the face painting and balloons than many of the little kids who attend my children's programs!" Professional Face Painter Andreona Garlid*

### Awesome Bookstore

For the 5th year in a row the Friends Books Around the Corner Bookstore broke their previous year sales record. Managed by long time volunteer **Mary Anne McDonald**, 2019 saw a record breaking **\$49,596** in gross sales, up almost 8% from 2018. This is thanks to the many Sun City citizens who donate and buy our books. It would not be possible without the support of the 47 Bookstore volunteers who provided over 6,000 hours of service. This wonderful little bookstore is well utilized and appreciated by the Sun City Community.



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*"The bookstore has so much good stuff at unbelievably low prices. It's a place where you can yield to temptation and still feel good about yourself." Volunteer and frequent bookstore customer Pat Bates*

### Rejuvenated Book Buddy Program

Book Buddy Director, volunteer **Monica Fallon**, put her heart and soul into the Book Buddy program in 2019, and it shows. The Book Buddy program is the busiest it has ever been. We now have 25 volunteers serving home bound library patrons. Together they donated over 656 hours to the Book Buddy program in 2019.

*"Thank you so much for bringing books to my mom. You are helping to keep her mind active. We appreciate it so much." Daughter of Book Buddy recipient, Margaret B.*

### Successful Book Friends Program

In 2017, volunteer **Charlotte Klose** started the Book Friends program which sends volunteer readers to memory care facilities. This program was so successful in 2018, that Charlotte doubled our efforts by opening the program at a second facility in 2019 with an additional manager, **Linda McKnight**. In 2019, 20 Book Friend volunteers donated over 600 hours of their time to this program. Volunteers typically provide about 5 reading sessions per week. Not only does this program enrich the lives of the grateful people we read to, but it does the same for the volunteer readers and many other appreciative members of the community.

*"To witness a quiet Alzheimer's patient unlock their mind and smile as I'm reading is one of the most fabulous experiences I've had in my life since I retired." Volunteer Joan Newton*

### Library Programs that Span a World of Varied Interests

Our two Sun City libraries hosted 390 programs in FY19, which 5,455 attendees enjoyed. The Friends paid **\$25,687.37** in support of those library programs. Area residents learned about orchids, hummingbirds, healthy cooking, cupcake decorating, organizing, gingerbread house building, gardening, national parks, iphones, Androids, golf, Windows, robots, chocolate, the Beatles, self defense, oil painting, drumming, genealogy, current events, meditation, yoga, tai chi and much more.

Program attendees didn't just learn things in 2019. They were also entertained with flute music, Native American dances, puppets, flamenco guitar, holiday music, hand pan performances, and more.





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The Friends were also happy to pay **\$11,475.55** for items that the Library needed in 2019 including baby changing tables, a new in-wall book drop, seeds to stock our free seed library, electronic equipment, summer reading prizes, charging stations, book pods, prizes and more.

"A BIG THANK YOU for the recent 'Music After Hours' Classic Soul with Kenny Gilmore at Fairway. It was truly delightful!! I enjoyed it tremendously, and I think everyone else attending did too. We did a lot of singing along with the oldies."  
10/27/2019 program attendee Rose Van Sickle – Friends web site comment

## Library Utilization that Defies National Norms

While the rest of the country reports that library utilization, especially walk in traffic, is down, the Sun City Libraries are enjoying INCREASED utilization. In FY19 our two libraries served 148,579 customers and circulated 443,580 items.

These terrific utilization numbers are due to several factors; excellent library management by Brianna King and staff, great programs, 3,538 hours donated this year by dedicated library volunteers, increased resources, and the organized outreach efforts managed by the Friends Outreach Committee, headed by Board volunteer **Sue Blechl**.

Those outreach efforts included two Discover Sun City events, farmer's market booth, church presentations, Sun City Home Owners Association (SCHOA) open house, Condo Association open house, and the SCHOA new Resident Orientation. These presentations are appreciated by our community organizations.

*Frequent outreach presentation attendee comments; "We didn't know Sun City had two libraries!" "I did not know there was a bookstore in the Sun City Library."  
"I didn't know you could read so many magazines on-line, for free!"*

## Best and Happiest Volunteers

As always, none of this would be possible without a super group of volunteers. The Friends are supported by a total of 110 volunteers who support every aspect of the Friends, including the bookstore, the Library, the Book Buddy Program, the Book Friends program, the finance committee and the Board of Directors. Board Director, **Cathy Weyers** and Volunteer Coordinator **Ruth Polanski** make sure our volunteers know how much they are valued and appreciated. Volunteer recognition events in 2019 included a volunteer recognition spring banquet at Palmbrook Country Club on March 21<sup>st</sup>, a volunteer get-together on July 11th, and a Christmas Tea on December 10th.

We handed out our second bi-annual volunteer satisfaction survey at the March event and results were stellar. Volunteers unanimously told us they love working with the Friends. And once we get a volunteer, they stay with us. Retention is remarkable, with many volunteers serving more than 10 years so far. According to MCLD management, the Sun City Libraries have 20% of all the volunteers in all the MCLD libraries in the county. Now you know why.





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*"It's (volunteering) a way to give back to others and I'm really giving to myself as well. It's just such a joyful experience to give happiness and love to others."*  
Volunteer Irene Nathanson

### Strong Board of Directors

The Friends Board of Directors oversees all of the Friends projects and programs. We keep the Board fresh and exciting by maintaining a six year Board term limit. In November, 2019, Board President **Marcia Davis** reached her six year term limit and turned the reins over to very capable **Sue Blechl**.

In addition, 2019 saw the addition of three new Board members, **Monica Fallon**, **Irene Nathanson** and **Linda McKnight**. Lest anyone think that we lose the valuable experience of our Board members who reach their term limit, fear not. Most past board members continue to serve the Friends in other volunteer capacities. **Tom Everritt**, past President continues to serve as Board advisor and writes the monthly Volunteer newsletter and the Sun Views column. Past President **Mary Ann McDonald** serves as Board advisor and Bookstore manager. Past Board members **Carol Hager**, **Camilla Kuberka**, **Kathy Shawl** and **Sue Painter** all volunteer at the Bookstore. **Marcia Davis** will continue to serve as Board advisor and Webmaster.

We are happy to do our part, along with our dedicated volunteers, the fantastic library staff, and a supportive customer base, to enhance the Sun City community through support for our libraries. We did just that in 2019.

*"The work you (the Friends) do and the time and effort you spend in your respective roles are not only appreciated but also invaluable to our libraries. We are able to do so much because of your support! Many librarians go their whole career without working with such a strong and supportive Friends group. Thank you."* Library Manager Jackson Hadley