



FRIENDS

of the Sun City Libraries, Inc.

FRIENDS VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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

JULY 2018

WELCOME The *Friends Volunteer Newsletter's* purpose 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.

Newsletter content will include Board or committee meeting notices, social event meeting announcements, between meeting communication, special announcements to specific volunteers, proposals for review, Bookstore updates (sales, material needs, special volunteer needs), volunteer news of general interest, meeting minutes when appropriate, or any item of general concern to Friends volunteers.

Any Friend volunteer may submit information to Tom Everitt at tjever40@gmail.com. The Board President will approve copy before publication.

News for the August 2018, issue should be submitted by Saturday, July 28, 2018.

MEET YOUR VOLUNTEERS This month our featured Friends volunteer is **Sharon McKinney**, Fairway Library



Volunteer of the Year. She is noted for her positive attitude, teamwork mentality, and responsibility. She is described as always getting things done with a smile, probably because she says she works around “really nice people.”

Sharon has worked at the Fairway Library for three years, following her career in nursing. A California native, she worked at a county hospital there before becoming a Dialysis Tech in Arizona.



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Volunteering seems to run in her blood. In addition to working with the “Hold” books at Fairway, she also works at the Lutheran Thrift Store, as a Posse Dispatch, and for Meals on Wheels. In her spare time, she enjoys yard work, going to the gym, church, and reading biographies.

Sharon has four daughters (three in California and one in Surprise), nine grandchildren, and two great grandsons, one of whom she babysits.

BOOKS FRIENDS In its short life, Book Friends has already made a big impact. In January, 2017, **Charlotte Klose** (pictured), with the assistance of Judy Wannamaker, initiated the program to read to residents at The Woodmark at Sun City.

Woodmark’s Monarch Memory Assistance program is designed to enrich the lives of those in the beginning stages of **memory loss**. Their Memory Care Specialized Personal Attention program is designed to meet the needs of those who suffer from moderate to severe cognitive impairments, such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and other related dementia. Book Friends



provide volunteer readers to each group two to four times per month. Currently there are seven readers with groups 10 residents or more.

Charlotte states, “More and more memory care residents are coming enthusiastically to our readings. **It’s a joy** to watch them as they listen and to hear them as they laugh at what we offer them, despite the limitations of their lives.”



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Charlotte adds, “I’d like to attract **additional volunteers** to join our memory care readers as well as a few substitutes for the fall. My plan is to train new volunteers so that they are ready to join us in 2018-2019. Anyone interested in volunteering in Book Friends is invited to contact Charlotte Klose, Book Friends Program Director (623-337-5337), to learn more about this opportunity.”

The following poem, “**Song,**” by **Thomas Moore** speaks to the need for Book Friends: “When Time, who steals our years away, Shall steal our pleasure, too, The memory of the past will stay, And half our joys renew.”

MEET YOUR LIBRARY STAFF This month’s featured staff member is **Library Assistant Carol Vega**. Carol started with for the Maricopa County Library District 12 years ago as a page at the Northwest Library. She has spent the last seven years at Fairway. She works at the desk where, among other things, she enjoys checking in the new books as they arrive.

Carol retired from Fry’s where she was a grocery cashier for 32 years.

Her love of working with people directed her to library work.

Born in Arizona to a father who was a miner, she has lived both the rural and city life. She loves reading (as seen below) almost anything, but she leans toward mysteries.



When she is not at Fairway, Carol is kept very busy raising her three grandchildren.



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BOOKSTORE NEWS The July author of the month is **Joseph Wambaugh**. His books are half price. Currently, many **science books** and **DVDs** are available. Books on **gems** and how to cut them are also awaiting buyers.

LIBRARY NEWS Brianna King, Library Manager, reported in the May Board meeting that:

1. the Sun City Libraries will be getting a Library Supervisor, one of only two in the MCLD system;
2. the Friends will be assisting in the support of the Summer Reading Program, which will begin soon;
3. a shelving unit for the Express Collection has been bought with funds from the Friends;
4. and, a rearrangement of library shelving is planned for the summer months.

RETIRING **Jennie O'Leary's last day** of work for the Library District will be August 10. She requested the following statement be included in this *Newsletter*: "Let the volunteers know that I've enjoyed working with them over the years and appreciate all the help that they've provided to me personally as well as the work they do

for the library. They've sure made my job easier over the years! I'll still be coming to the library as a customer and hope to see them when I do."



Jennie has worked in the library for 11 years, nine for the Library District and two with the private system. She has often filled in for the Library Director when the Director has not been able to attend Friends Board meetings. Her expertise, support, and friendliness will be sorely missed. The



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Friends Board wishes her well in retirement!

BOARD MEETING The next meeting of the Friends Board of Directors will not be until Thursday, **September 13, 2018**, 9:30 AM, North Wing Room, Bell Library.

ASK TOM E The July question comes from Howland Bellows who asked Tom E, **“Is the library still supposed to be a quiet place? It sure is noisier than when I was a kid.**

Dear Howland, Your question is one asked by a number of our residents. There are quite a few reasons our Libraries may be noisier than others, although all libraries appear to be less quiet than we recall from our former years.

Tom E’s answer is not based on scientific facts; but here is what many have postulated. All of the following have some effect; you are left to determine which of these factors are most likely true in our Libraries.

1. Hearing loss. As we age and our hearing ability lessens, we tend to talk louder. Those with severe

hearing loss talk very loud, without even being aware of it.

2. Computer usage. Some have to use cell phones when on the computer. In addition, some do not take their cell phone calls outside.

3. Socialization. The library becomes a meeting place for friends who do not want to step outside to catch up on their news. Many seniors live alone. Their only conversation is outside their homes. When in the library and meeting friends, they socialize verbally.

4. Social expectation changes. Some would argue that society is more “me oriented” and, therefore, less concerned about others. Put another way, we are more social today; so, noiseless libraries are a sign of unfriendly people. Library conversations, therefore, are a sign of a friendly place.

Library staff is aware of your concern. When “obnoxious” noise occurs, a staff person will make the patron aware of the disturbance to other patrons. Staff members and library volunteers can be a part excess noise



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when answering patron questions. They are told to be aware of this, and talk is subdued tones.

Bottom line, Howland, is that the “good old days” of a librarian shushing patron conversations are probably gone. If you have a specific concern at Bell or Fairway, however, quietly tell one of the Library staff members. They want your library experience to be positive, and will do all possible to make that happen. Okay?

Tom E

Email me with your **question**, **concern**, **idea** for improvement, **pet peeve** at work, or any **general inquiry** you have. Maybe your matter can be featured and answered in the August *Newsletter!*

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

shelf-right-eous
(shelf’ ri’ chas)
adj: a feeling of
superiority about
one’s bookshelf