



New Frontiers News

February 2025 Volume 33 Issue 7

Important Dates

Website calendar [HERE](#).

Out-to-Lunches are the second Thursday of the month.

Feb. 10, 9:30 - 11:00
NFLL Council Meeting
MCC Downtown and via
Zoom (email
mcdugle@gmail.com for
the link)

Feb. 5
**Links for Summer Class
proposals open**

Feb. 13 Out to Lunch
Social Committee
(Garcia's)

Feb. 17 Presidents' Day
No classes on campus

Feb. 25 Study Hall

Report Volunteer Hours
If you volunteered for NFLL or
MCC, please record your
hours. You can access the
form [HERE](#)

Just for fun on your own



Remembering Cindy Schrantz

by Jennifer Wong

It was with sadness that, just before Open House, I learnt that Cindy Schrantz had recently passed away.

I first met Cindy when she was New Frontiers' Curriculum Co-Chair. Shortly afterwards, Cindy answered the call for an incoming president of New Frontiers.

As president, Cindy helped to connect New Frontiers to neighboring lifelong learning groups, NAIL (New Adventures in Learning), located in Chandler, and RISE (RISE Learning for Life), located in Surprise. Today New Frontiers continues to share classes with both NAIL and RISE.

Even though she was the president, Cindy continued to support Curriculum by presenting and facilitating several classes each semester and promoting her classes during Open House.

In addition, Cindy also took on the job of community outreach, recruiting volunteers to promote New Frontiers at Mesa's retirement community events, and still found time to edit our monthly newsletter.

Nancy Spence remembers Cindy as such a blessing to New Frontiers. Cindy's enthusiasm and ability to spread good words about lifelong learning will be dearly missed. She made a meaningful difference that will continue to be felt.

Jacki McDugle especially remembers Cindy for her ability to organize and pull facts from her memory which were to be envied. She knew her strengths and weaknesses and knew when she needed to recruit others in to help her. She could delegate, making others feel important and necessary. Cindy always kept others in the loop. A more tactful person Jacki has yet to meet.

For Suzanne Brown, Cindy was a great friend and a promoter of New Frontiers. She and Cindy worked four years together, first on Curriculum and then on the NFLL Council. Cindy will be remembered for her wealth of ideas and enthusiasm for new topics and new experiences. For Suzanne personally, Cindy could put her on focus with her advice to "Enjoy life, and don't let others stop your enjoyment."

What we will all remember most about Cindy is her ready smile and contagious laugh which infected the room, her friendly demeanor and her ability to make people feel welcome, included, valued, and good about themselves as well as a willingness to help out wherever needed. Cindy will be dearly missed.

Spring Semester Starts with a Field Trip

The Spring Session began with members in awe of the technology and research at the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) Field Trip organized by the NFLL Social Committee on January 24th. And then members enjoyed the music of Zuill Bailey's cello on January 29 at the Mesa Arts Center. Zuill Bailey demonstrated the wide range of notes and versatility of the instrument while playing Bach. These January classes were held this year to give our members a wider range of activities.

Starting February 3, our Spring classes really get going with an average of 18 classes or events available each week! A bit overwhelming to some of us, however, no fear, you can register for classes anytime before the start of the class if not full. All of us have busy schedules and things do change so we are trying to stay flexible and give each of our members the opportunity to attend all the classes that may interest them.

The Curriculum Committee will try to keep you informed of opportunities through email, so watch your inbox and make sure NFLL emails are not going to your Spam File.

City of Mesa Updates!

Mesa voters elected a new Mayor and passed several important measures in the November election, however, with the decline of local news coverage, residents often don't get the information until later. This year, the Curriculum Committee is working with the Council members representing the Red Mountain area, Councilwoman Alicia Goforth, and the Dobson area, Vice-Mayor Francisco Heredia to bridge this information gap.

Three Town Halls will be held this Spring Session to keep us informed. On **February 11, at Southern and Dobson campus at 2 pm in room BP 4** Vice Mayor Heredia and Councilwoman Goforth will engage in a dynamic Town Hall session. Discover how the City of Mesa's government operates and gain insights into how decisions are made to shape your community. This is an opportunity to ask questions, share your thoughts, and learn about ongoing initiatives in Mesa.

On March 18 at 2 pm at Red Mountain Campus, Room DW 131, Councilwoman Goforth will help us explore the variety of programs and services the City of Mesa offers for seniors. Representatives from Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities; Community Services; and Arts and Culture will provide an overview of their resources and activities. Whether you're interested in staying active, accessing support services, or enjoying Mesa's vibrant arts scene, this session will connect you to valuable opportunities tailored for seniors.

On April 15 at 2 pm at Red Mountain Campus, Room DW 131, join with Councilwoman Goforth on Tax Day, no less, to gain a comprehensive understanding of the City of Mesa's budget process with the Office of Management and Budget. This session will cover the fiscal year cycle, and how budget decisions are made. Learn where Mesa prioritizes its spending across key areas like public safety, infrastructure, and recreation. This informative presentation will help you better understand how the city manages its resources to serve the community.

We hope all NFLL members will register for these events, if you have neighbors or friends who would enjoy these Town Halls, please invite them to come along!

Registration System Updates

Did you notice the new look of the class registration pages? We have heard both good and bad comments on the look and the process of registering for classes. The changes were due to an automatic update by ProClass, the software vender. The changes were many behind the scenes and a big shout out to Ann Bloxam, the class registrar, who worked a full weekend to get confirmation letters and reminder notices into the system. Our Gatekeepers also worked hard to adapt to a new system. Thank You, Ruth Brooks, Jane Severin, Rea Dias, Diane Batchlor and Ann Bloxam. Gatekeepers are a vital link between presenters, facilitators, and students.

If you want to enroll in a class and are having trouble finding it, feel free to call or email the NFLL office at newfrontiers@mesacc.edu or call and leave a message at 480 461-7497. The office is only staffed Monday-Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm, so it may take some time if you email or call outside of these hours.

More changes may be coming as functions in the system are automated and NFLL takes advantage of them. We will try to keep you updated, but sometimes we have little notice ourselves. If you would like to investigate becoming a Gatekeeper and helping keep all of us organized, contact Ann Bloxam at AnnBloxam@hotmail.com.

It's Always Time for Love

by Dawn Fleming

In this month of February, Valentine's Day causes us to pause and think about love. Either the love we are missing in our lives or the love that we have for that someone special in our lives. I propose that this month be the start of thinking and feeling about love in a new way. How about we connect into a greater love, love for humanity.

We are all human. If we could love each other the way we love our pets, our lives would be so much richer on so many levels. Why get stuck on feeling alone or depressed because that *special* person is not in our lives? There are so many people needing to be loved.

Our ability to love is amazing. Start looking around you. Who in your community, town, or world needs love? Maybe the elderly person that cannot get out and about would appreciate a visit with a kind conversation. The school systems have all kinds of volunteer programs for the kids at risk. Their hardships in life would indeed be lifted a bit from some extra attention based in love. There are Big Brothers and Big Sisters programs. A perfect way to show love to those who need a role model.

Love helps us to heal. Love creates joy. Love lets us find peace within. Both the giver and the receiver benefit from the circle of love and trust that is created. This is what I want to spread in the world. How about you? Harness your capacity to love every day of the year and find ways to extend that love to others. Let love be in your smile, your words, and your touch. Sharing your love and appreciate for all can be a way of life every day and not reserved for one person one day of the year.

Open House and New Member Coffee

New and returning members who joined NFLL since January 1, 2025



Edward Alexander	Diane Hough
Joyce Bickes	Jeffrey Hough
Sandra Christenson	Tracy Kloock
Cheryl Crame	Jeanne Kornegay
Andrea De Anda	John Mercer
Christine Durgin	Kathleen Simmons



Photos courtesy of: Marie-France Ganansia, Jacki McDugle

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