

## Take Note!

### NFLL calendar

Click [here](#) to find classes, socials, and more.

### Thursday, Feb 5, noon

Tour: Clydesdale Horse Preservation Foundation: maximum number reached

**NFLL Council Meeting, Monday, Feb 9**, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Red Mountain DW 131 or via Zoom (email [mcdugle@gmail.com](mailto:mcdugle@gmail.com) for link)

**Thursday, Feb 12, Out to Lunch**, The Hub Bar and Grill on Sossaman, RSVP

**Tuesday, Feb 24, Study Hall**, 4-6 p.m. Barrio Queen, Gilbert Rd., RSVP appreciated

### Report Volunteer Hours

If you volunteered for NFLL or MCC during the month, record hours at [Volunteer Hours](#).

Editors for this issue:  
Jacki McDugle  
Pat King

## Hello New Frontiers Members,



A heartfelt thank-you to all the members who stepped up to help with our January 16 Open House. A last-minute scheduling change with the Red Mountain Campus staff meant we had to move the event to the breezeway outside the Mesquite Building. Thanks to the quick response and teamwork of many New Frontiers members from across our committees—who brought chairs, tables, and popup shade—it all came together beautifully.

Our spring enrollment brought in 16 new members, giving us a total of 220 New Frontiers members! It was a pleasure meeting several of our newest members at the New Member Coffee on January 30 and hearing their enthusiasm for joining our community.

February may be the shortest month of the year with just 28 days, but it's full of meaning and charm. Often called the "month of love," it brings us Valentine's Day on February 14—a time to celebrate affection and connection. February's birthstone, the lovely amethyst, symbolizes peace and spirituality, while its flower, the violet, stands for faithfulness. Don't forget to look up at the sky—the next full Moon, known as the Snow Moon, arrives on Sunday, February 1.

We are looking for a New Frontiers member who would enjoy helping with the publication of our monthly newsletter. If you have an eye for detail and like working with words and layout, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact either Allan Zisner at [azisner@outlook.com](mailto:azisner@outlook.com) or Jacki McDugle at [McDugle@gmail.com](mailto:McDugle@gmail.com) for more information or to volunteer.

Allan Zisner, President

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## Welcome New and Returning Members

Please help us in welcoming these individuals! Introduce yourself when you see them and help them become involved.

Wayne Balmer	Michelle Dyer	Susan Fishel
Jill Greene	Stephen Hanson	Tina Kasey
Suzanne LaRosa	Michelle Kittredge	Michele Matter
Vickie Olsen	Sherri Porter	John Reid
William Still	Paula Swanson	Lisa Titmas
	Mary Willingham	

## 2026 Spring Open House

By Jennifer Wong

On Friday, January 16, the Membership and Curriculum Committees of New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning jointly hosted New Frontiers' 2026 Spring Open House at the Red Mountain campus of Mesa Community College. For the first time, the event was held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in an open-air environment in the area between the Palo Verde and Mesquite Buildings. As in the past, this event was open to the public to recruit both new members and returning members as well as give everyone an opportunity to preview the upcoming semester. Class schedules for takeaway were available at the Curriculum table.



Thanks to the Membership Committee, cookies, lemonade and water were available to energize everyone. Since New Frontiers recently changed their logo, current members received new name tags to wear when they attend New Frontiers' events. On hand to activate membership in Pro-Class was Kathee Rutherford (left). Suzanne Brown, Curriculum Chair, promoted Spring classes; a total of 78 classes are being offered this Spring semester.

Social Committee Co-Chair, Joanne Handlong, promoted activities including the monthly Out-to-Lunch and Study Hall (a/k/a Happy Hour) dining events, special events such as the Holiday Party and Spring Picnic, field trips and tours.

Mary Adamick, Volunteer Co-Chair, promoted the Volunteer Committee which recruits volunteers from within New Frontiers to help at community events such as MCC's Empty Bowls event as well as at the monthly We Care Wednesdays food distribution days at both the Red Mountain and Dobson campuses where essential food items such as meat, fresh produce, eggs and bread are distributed to those in need.



In all, Open House was attended by over 27 visitors, 39 members and 2 returning members. Of the 27 visitors who attended Open House, 16 visitors became new members. The event provided time for catching up with old friends and making new ones.

Pro-Class registration was opened on January 12. If you have not already registered for classes, please log into your account at the New Frontiers website to do so.

## New Member Coffee

By Jennifer Wong

On Friday, January 30, New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning, under the leadership of Allan Zisner, hosted its New Members Coffee from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Eight new members and one potential member participated in this event.



The event began in the Atrium of the Saguaro Building at the Red Mountain Campus with new members meeting committee members over coffee and refreshments. In the upper right photo, Kathee Rutherford visits with Bill Still and Mary Willingham. Later on, everyone moved to a lecture room where Allan introduced New Frontiers to the new members indicating that NFLL is presently in its 30th year of serving the active adult communities of Mesa and its neighboring communities through its association with Mesa Community College. New members shared how they found New

Frontiers. Some read an article about New Frontiers in the newspapers. Others found New Frontiers through word of mouth or from a posting on MCC's Facebook page about the Open House.

The committee chairs or co-chairs, Suzanne Brown, Shirley Epp, Joanne Handlong and Mary Adamick, introduced their respective committees: Curriculum (recruit and administer classes), Membership (recruit new and returning members; register new members into the Pro-Class class system so they can sign up online for classes), Social (facilitate monthly lunch and Study Hall [Happy Hour] events as well as hosting the annual Spring Picnic and Holiday Lunch), Volunteer (recruits volunteers to assist MCC with their community events), and Jacki McDugle introduced Communication (solicits and edits articles for the monthly newsletter), which is presently seeking a chair.

New Frontiers' liaison with MCC, Debby Smith (pictured at right), introduced herself and shared that she enrolls new members into New Frontiers after they have first become non-credit MCC students. The NFLL office is located in the Desert Willow building, and the phone number is 480-461-7497. The hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; leave a message if necessary. She will be happy to assist you with your questions.



Allan (who also serves as our webmaster) then introduced everyone to the New Frontiers website and demonstrated how to register for classes and how to view your individual profile.

A hearty welcome is extended to all new members! We are looking forward to seeing you at classes and/or at social events!

## Mesa Arts Center Tour

By Pat King

About 20 NFLL members participated in an indoor/outdoor tour at the Mesa Arts Center on January 14. The tour, arranged by the Social Committee, included the Contemporary Arts Museum, the theater building, and some outdoor public art at One East Main Street.

The Contemporary Arts Museum includes five galleries dedicated to the presentation, interpretation, collection and preservation of contemporary art, with a special focus on traditional media. In the lobby, we marveled at the community work project of Korina Oswald, a glass artist and educator originally from Gilbert. Over 500 artists created individual panes that were then designed and joined by Korina to represent the Diamondback Rattlesnake. The individual glass panels will be auctioned in 2026 to benefit the American Glass Guild's Scholarship Fund.



We visited several exhibits, leaving us wanting more. Free public tours are available.

[mesaartscenter.com](http://mesaartscenter.com)



There are also 14 world-class studio classrooms on campus. Check the website for class information.



Sensors embedded in geometric tiles respond to shadows, or by stepping on them triggering sounds from hidden speakers. Each sensor will respond to changes in light or pressure, which will trigger different melodic or percussive sounds, emitted through speakers embedded in the ground. The sounds change throughout the day, so a morning visit offers a completely different experience than evening. If multiple sensors are activated by a group of people playing together, a complex composition can be created.

Ruth Brooks and Joanne Handlong took a turn demonstrating their musical feet on the Mesa Musical Shadows installed by Daily Tous les jours of Montreal.

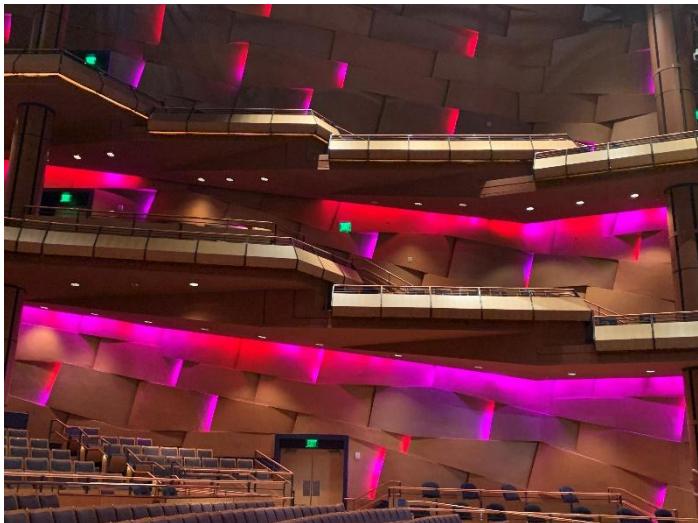


Two shade screens adorn the west-facing wall of the theater building, each consisting of thousands of small aluminum panels that are activated by wind. The larger



panel is made up of thousands of small blue aluminum panels that move with the wind, creating constantly shifting patterns that resemble ripples on water. The panels of the smaller screen are perforated with different sized holes that, when viewed from a distance, create a photographic image of sand dunes. Together these permanent installations comprise Fragmented Landscape by Ned Kahn.

In addition to visiting the arts museum and enjoying outdoor art, we also toured the four performing arts theaters. Of particular interest to NFLL members were the Virginia G. Piper Repertory Theatre where the Southwest Shakespeare Company performances are held and the Tom and Janet Ikeda Theatre where the Salt River Brass perform this spring.



The design of the Ikeda Theater was inspired by Arizona's stunning canyon landscapes. The articulated concrete walls resemble sandstone canyon walls, and LED lights are installed at the junction of each wall segment. The technical crew can create about 980 different lighting combinations. The current program features a slow, seamless fade of colors, giving the feeling of being deep inside an Arizona canyon. This theatre is the largest, seating 1570 guests.

Although the Mesa Arts Center existed in the 1980s, it was a city operated community arts center, on Center Street, in what is now called the Historic Irvine Building. In 1998 the citizens of Mesa voted to implement a "quality-of-life tax" for a period of several years to build this campus. And as a result, the Mesa Arts Center opened in 2005 with \$0 debt.

Special thanks are extended to Michelle Branch, Lead Usher, and Kara Chesser, Front of House Coordinator, for guiding our tour and answering a million questions. Mesa Arts Center is truly a treasure!

## Want to Print Your Class Schedule?

Go to [NFL website](#) and click on the far right drop-down item, [Member's Acct.](#)

Sign into your account, then click your account name on the upper right. From the drop-down menu, click "My Account."

Scroll down the page to find a tab line including **Contact/Schedule** and click on it. On the far right there will be a **Download Schedule** link. Click on that to download a pdf (portable document format) to your computer, open/preview the file, and then print the appropriate pages.

If you have difficulty doing this, please leave a message on the NFL phone line (480-461-7497), and one of the Curriculum Committee volunteers will send you the pdf in your email. If you do not have email or a printer, let us know that in the message and we will mail it to you.

## Did you know?

- The NFL website ([newfrontiers.mesacc.edu](#)) contains many photos of activities throughout the year. Click the drop-down item **Photos** to explore.
- NFL has a Facebook page. If you have a Facebook account, search for the group **New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning**.
- Invitations to participate in monthly tours, Out to Lunch, and Study Hall dates are sent by email. *Weekly Happenings* includes information on what is scheduled for the week and new events and activities for our members. RSVP information is included as some spaces are limited. Check your email often so you don't miss out!



About a dozen members enjoyed Study Hall at The Perch in Gilbert. Several members had flown the coop when these photos were taken. 😊



Photo credits: Jill Greene, Joanne Handlong, Pat King, Allan Zisner

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