



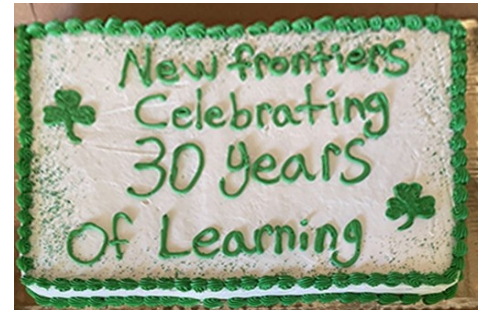
Message from the President

Oh, how I love the energy of spring and all the changes it brings!

When I bicycle the canal paths through the East Valley, I love seeing the avian world come alive again. Mallard ducklings trail behind their mothers, swallows busily build nests under bridges, and migrating Canada Geese pause to rest in the canal or nearby fields. My favorite stop is Tibshraeny Family Park, where each season brings new sightings—including a brilliant Vermilion Flycatcher and its mate.

My neighbor across the street recently had to remove a magnificent mature Palo Verde. I'll miss its burst of golden-yellow blooms glowing in the morning sun—they always made the day feel brighter.

Last month, our annual spring picnic returned for a second year at Joe's BBQ. This time, we enjoyed the bonus of an air-conditioned meeting room, where the social committee filled the space with fun activities and lively conversation. It was a great chance for everyone to relax, reconnect, and celebrate the season together. To conclude the picnic, we celebrated our 30th year as New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning.



Later this month, we'll celebrate our wonderful volunteers with a special luncheon. Their countless hours of dedication to New Frontiers and the wider community are deeply appreciated. They're the ones who keep everything running smoothly—our true engines of progress!

Allan Zisner, NFFL President

Take Note!

<p>NFFL Calendar Click here to find classes, socials, etc.</p>	<p>Report Volunteer Hours Volunteered for NFFL or MCC this month? Record hours by clicking Volunteer Hours</p>		<p>Editors for this issue: Pat King Jacki McDugle</p>
<p>Out to Lunch Thursday, April 9 11:30 a.m. Cheesecake Factory RSVP</p>	<p>NFFL Council Meeting Monday, April 13 10 -11:30 a.m., DW 131 or via Zoom (email prking@charter.net)</p>	<p>Volunteer Luncheon Thursday, April 23 11:30 a.m. EVIT (By invitation)</p>	<p>Study Hall Social Tuesday, April 28 4-6 p.m. Spinato's in Tempe RSVP</p>

2026 Picnic: Irish Spring has Sprung

by Jennifer Wong and Joanne Handlong

On Thursday, March 26, the Social Committee hosted its annual Spring Picnic event for New Frontiers' members. The luncheon was held at 11:30 a.m. at Joe's Real BBQ in downtown Gilbert, in a reserved, air conditioned area adjacent to the main building. Floor to ceiling windows afforded a view of Joe's outside picnic and recreation areas where the temperatures were in the triple digits--record-breaking temperatures for March.

When we arrived at Joe's, we first got into the food line and made our selections from their menu. After we paid the cashier, we carried our food tray and joined other NFLL members in the reserved air-conditioned room.



The theme for the picnic was "Irish Spring Has Sprung." In keeping with that theme, the tables were covered with green-themed plastic cloths, some with shamrocks, some plaid, and decorated with gold foil-wrapped chocolate coins. On the table, for use in writing down the answers to trivia questions were New Frontiers' souvenir pencils. The program started with a few Irish jokes and moved on to Irish trivia questions which had been given to each attendee when they checked in.

Did you know St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland or that legend has it he drove snakes out of Ireland? Also the most traditional dish which is served in Ireland on St. Patrick's Day is Bacon and Cabbage. The U.S. city which hosts the oldest St. Patrick's Day parade is New York City (since 1762). Most interestingly, Tokyo has held a St. Patrick's Day parade since 1992.

There were also some trivia questions related to New Frontiers' 30th Anniversary. The program included recognizing two members present who have been members of New Frontiers the longest--Carol Stanton and Diana Pearce, both members since 2004.

As in the past, the highlight of the picnic was an Irish-themed costume contest with participants strutting their stuff down the runway (i.e., center aisle). Prizes were awarded for the most imaginative, the most colorful, the most authentic and the funniest look.

The event included the traditional book exchange and White Elephant Gifts where participants brought a gift and chose a gift--all in brown paper bags to make them guess proof.





The picnic ended with a cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate New Frontiers' 30th birthday.

Seventy-two people registered for the picnic. In all, 62 members (plus 3 Mesa Community College employees who provide support to NFLL) actually attended the event. Considering New Frontiers' presently has 232 members, 27% of its members attended the Spring picnic.

Our thanks go out to the Social Committee, under the leadership of Joanne Handlong and Roland Tanner, for their excellent organizing of the 2026 Spring picnic. A great time was had by all.

Easter in Guyana

by Jennifer Wong

Located on the north coast of South America, Guyana celebrates Easter in a big way.

The churchgoers would attend church on Palm Sunday (the Sunday before Easter Sunday) where everyone would receive a cross which was made from palm tree leaves to commemorate Jesus riding into Jerusalem seated on a donkey as people threw palm tree branches on the ground as he rode by.

On Good Friday, those who went to church would receive a cross on their forehead which was made from ashes to signify Jesus dying on the cross to save mankind from their sins.

On Easter Monday, kite flyers would congregate at either the seawall or the beaches to fly their kites which were hand-made from light-weight colored paper which is pasted onto a narrow wooden frame. The breeze blowing in from the ocean would lift the kite high into the sky, symbolizing Jesus' resurrection.



On Easter Sunday, chocolate Easter eggs would be eaten. The Easter egg made by Cadbury, which was a large hollow chocolate egg filled with miniature Easter eggs, was my favorite.

Hot cross buns (sweet buns with a cross on the top of the bun) would be eaten throughout the Easter weekend, especially on Good Friday, to symbolize Jesus' death on the cross.

Those who do not want to indulge in kite-flying can fly into Lethem to visit the Rupununi Ranchers Rodeo. The rodeo kicks off on Good Friday and events include a Rodeo Queen pageant, bull riding, wild cow milking, horse racing, and tug-o-war.

From Lethem, you can visit Kumu Falls and Moco Moco Falls as well as local indigenous villages to observe the villagers' crafts and culture. You can also visit the Brazilian border town of Bonfim which is easily accessible by way of a bridge.

For those who want to enjoy the ranch experience, there are several dude and working ranches which are located in the Rupununi savannah. Dadanawa Ranch is considered to be one of the oldest and largest ranches in the region with a herd of about 6,000 cattle. It is also one of the most remote ranches in the world.

If you are inspired to catch the Guyanese Easter spirit, Dagrón Tours can help to arrange your adventure.

Help Wanted...

We've got exciting events coming up in the next year, and guess what? They won't run themselves (we checked). That's where *you* come in! Your talents are exactly what we need.

Volunteering isn't just about helping out—it's about being part of the behind-the-scenes magic. You'll meet awesome people, learn new skills, and have stories to tell that start with, "Remember that time we..." Plus, there's a high chance of snacks, coffee, and spontaneous laughter as well as an invitation to the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon next spring. So, dust off your superhero cape (or comfy sneakers) and join us. Give a little time, get a lot of good

There are several positions on the **NFLL Council** open for next year. Please let [Jacki McDugle](#) know if you have questions and/or might be interested in serving on the Council as a member-at-large, officer, or committee chair.

After serving for five years, the **Curriculum Chair** would like to step back and train a replacement. This may be one or more persons (Co-Chairs). If you have an interest in helping to fill our schedule for upcoming semesters, please let [Suzanne Brown](#) or [Jacki McDugle](#) know. Training will be available.

The **Communications (Publications) Committee Chair** works with MCC for publicity and publication of NFLL news (other than the newsletter). The committee is small and needs someone to coordinate efforts. Currently, Jacki McDugle and Pat King, in addition to their main Council responsibilities, are producing and distributing the newsletter. If you're comfortable with Google Docs and/or Microsoft Word, we need you! Please contact [Jacki McDugle](#) or [Pat King](#) for more information on either newsletter preparation or joining the committee.

Facilitators are needed for Summer and Fall Classes. Duties include introducing the presenter, assisting with technology setup (not as intimidating as you might think), and reporting attendance using the registration list provided. Contact [Suzanne Brown](#) for more information.

Photo Credits for this issue: Allan Zisner, Mary Kay Owen, Jennifer Wong

New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning
Mesa Community College
Office of Community Partnerships
7110 East McKellips Road
Mesa, AZ 85207

Phone: 480-461-7497
Website: [New Frontiers](#)
Debby Smith, MCC Liaison, NFLL
Email: newfrontiers@mesacc.edu

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