

# FRIENDS IN THE HILLS

## APRIL 2026 ACTIVITY BULLETIN

Website: [friendsinthehillsaz.org](http://friendsinthehillsaz.org)

Editor: Sally Gibbs

[sallygibbs@cox.net](mailto:sallygibbs@cox.net)

### **APRIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Although the weather hasn't felt very spring-like, HAPPY SPRING!

Some of the news I would like to share:

We will be making an effort to issue the bulletin on the same day every month barring any health issues or travel plans or unforeseen circumstances. Please look for it on the 28th of every month.

The Board has determined the local Fountain Hills charities to whom we will be donating our extra money from 2025:

Extended Hands Food Bank

Fountain Hills Boys & Girls Club

Fountain Hills Theater

Fountain Hills Drug Coalition

AZ Brainfood

Fountain Hills Community Chorus

River of Time Museum

Dark Sky Discovery Center

I hope you all agree that these are truly worthy organizations that can use our help.

We have found ladies to chair our Birthday Bash for the coming year! Thank you, Margarete Rippes and Gina Waldo!

We will no longer be asking for chairs for the Long Time Friends and Tweeners as it seems by the lack of interest there is no need to maintain these groups. Circle of New Friends and Founders will continue as strong as ever.

We are still hoping to find some ladies who may be interested in leading our hiking groups, but we will put a pin in that until the fall when the cooler weather returns.

Our First Vice President, Debbie Wollenberg, has prepared a survey for you all to take so that the Board can address why our luncheon attendance has fallen off in the past few years. Please take a

**CONTINUED ON NEXT COLUMN**

### **APRIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED**

look and give us your feedback so that we can make whatever changes possible to make these luncheons what you all want.

Stephanie Harris

FITH President

### **APRIL LUNCHEON**

**2nd Wednesday, April 8**

Our April luncheon will be held at the Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 13001 N Fountain Hills Blvd, Fountain Hills, AZ. 85268. Fellowship Hall is towards the rear of the building. **Doors open at 11:00 AM. Lunch is served at noon.** Your payment of \$30 is your reservation.

### **APRIL LUNCHEON MENU**

**Catered by Phil's Filling Station**

Salad with Spring Mix

Chicken Cacciatore

Penne Pasta

Vegetable

Dessert

**For those of you who are ordering a vegetarian meal, please note that our caterer prepares a special, separate vegetarian meal for you, you are not expected to eat vegetarian from the buffet. You should let us know when you enter that you have ordered vegetarian and we will provide you with a "vegetarian" card to indicate that. You will then be provided with the vegetarian meal.**

## **LUNCHEON ENTERTAINMENT**

In April we will be having two speakers from the River of Time Museum, Jane Przeslica (Executive Director) and Mary Endorf (President of the Board). The subject will be "A trip together down the Lower Verde River".



Hello Ladies,

We have noticed a decline in the number of people attending the monthly luncheons. Please help us to determine why, by taking an anonymous survey. It will take about 3 minutes to complete the survey. The link is below. We truly value your thoughts.

Thank you,

Debbie Wollenberg

## **LUNCH SURVEY**

"[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrHwk8oBVuE2HPxVi1l1543vxppWJlQWlzR7T-iCvR\\_K4xfg/viewform?embedded=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrHwk8oBVuE2HPxVi1l1543vxppWJlQWlzR7T-iCvR_K4xfg/viewform?embedded=true)

## **LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS INFORMATION**

Sue Manning Reservations Coordinator

sgmmanning@gmail.com 480-226-2187

The April luncheon will be held at the Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$30. All luncheon reservations must be made and paid for **NO LATER THAN the WEDNESDAY BEFORE THE LUNCHEON.**

Reservations received after the **April 1** will NOT be accepted.

If you would like to bring a guest, please contact the Luncheon Reservations Chairperson, Sue Manning.

## **HOW TO PAY**

- Go to the website, [www.friendsinthehillsaz.org](http://www.friendsinthehillsaz.org) luncheon.
- Mail a check (made out to "Friends in the Hills Welcome Club" or "FITH" and mail to Friends in the Hills, ATTN: Luncheon, P.O. Box 17358, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269. The deadline to reserve and pay is April 1. Cancellations must be made by 5:00 PM on Thursday, April 2nd or your money cannot be refunded. We will NOT be doing any carry over to the next luncheon. On-line payments will be credited to your card and checks will be returned. **NOTE:** If you want to pay forward (with cash) for the May luncheon while attending the April luncheon, please have the **exact amount**

## **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Vicki Johnson

Phone: (316) 644-4774

Email: [fithmembership@gmail.com](mailto:fithmembership@gmail.com)

Membership dues for 2026 are **\$35**. Friends in the Hills membership is still a great bargain.

Ladies who are interested in joining our club will be emailed a link to make payment and join. Please email me at: [fithmembership@gmail.com](mailto:fithmembership@gmail.com) for the link. We do recommend that all new members attend the New Members Coffee to learn about the club.

The on-line Membership Directory is always up-to-date and the best source to find members.

## **FITH WEBSITE**

Vicki Johnson

Phone: 316-644-4774

Email: [fithwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:fithwebmaster@gmail.com)

Friends in the Hills website is <https://www.friendsinthehillsaz.org>. You can register online for some of our events and get the current and previous Bulletins on the website.

We have a YouTube Channel with videos providing how to do things on the website. The link is: <https://www.youtube.com@FriendsintheHillsAZ>

The current videos include the following:

1. Request Help from Webmaster
2. Change Password on Friends in the Hills Website
3. Renewing Dues
4. Getting the Bulletin

If you are having trouble opening the Bulletin, you can download Adobe Acrobat Reader for free at: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

If you have any questions or need help getting something done on the website, please send me an email or give me a call.

## **BIRTHDAY BASH**

**Margarete Ripps** [msripps@yahoo.com](mailto:msripps@yahoo.com)

[713-962-8494](tel:713-962-8494)

**Gina Waldo** [ginawaldo@gmail.com](mailto:ginawaldo@gmail.com)

[480-710-3625](tel:480-710-3625)

Are you ready for cake, presents, and lots of FUN? Then come celebrate your birthday with your friends at Friends in the Hills! Each year we host four birthday celebrations for our wonderful members. And don't worry –we haven't forgotten those of you who celebrated a birthday earlier this year! Our first Birthday Bash will be on **April 7th** from 12:00-2:00 pm, for ladies whose birthdays were in **January, February, or March**.

Sign up and pay on the Friends website under Members Login/Events. Your \$5.50 ticket includes lunch, beverages, and birthday cake! For some extra birthday cheer, please bring a \$10 wrapped gift to join in our fun gift exchange.

Come laugh, celebrate, and enjoy the afternoon with friends,

## **SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT**

If you know of any ill member or death in the immediate family of a member of Friends, please inform President Stephanie Harris at [805-368-2940](tel:805-368-2940) or email her at [fith-prez@gmail.com](mailto:fith-prez@gmail.com), or Martha Craner at [480-837-2183](tel:480-837-2183) or email her at [mar-thab911@gmail.com](mailto:mar-thab911@gmail.com).

## **THE FOUNDERS– 1ST WEDNESDAY**

Rosemary Bonaguidi [rosemary.bonaguidi@cox.net](mailto:rosemary.bonaguidi@cox.net)  
480-209-8601

Heidi Pearson [heidipearsonaz@gmail.com](mailto:heidipearsonaz@gmail.com)

480-816-1088

## **Wednesday, April 1st, at 11:30 AM**

### **Arrivederci Cucina Italiana**

Fountainside Plaza

Please email Heidi for a reservation!

## **NEWCOMER'S COFFEE**

Nancy Jones [jonesnphnx@aol.com](mailto:jonesnphnx@aol.com) 602-770-9829

Barbara Cardinal [brc39@aol.com](mailto:brc39@aol.com) 847-987-2211

Hello Ladies, we are pleased to invite you to our Friends in the Hills Newcomer's Coffee. You will also be able to join our club that morning if you wish. Also, if you have a friend or neighbor who might be interested, bring her along.

DATE: **Wednesday, April 1, 2026**

TIME: **10:00 AM**

PLACE: 13044 N. Northstar Dr., Fountain Hills.

Please RSVP to Barbara Cardinal,

[brc39@aol.com](mailto:brc39@aol.com) 847-987-2211

We look forward to seeing you at the coffee.

## **SINGLES SUPPER CLUB**

**April 23, 2026 at 5:30 PM (New time!)**

### **JADE PALACE**

9160 E. Shea Boulevard  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Please respond by April 17th, 2026.

Elaine Jellock [elainejellock@hotmail.com](mailto:elainejellock@hotmail.com) or  
570-430-1472

## **WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON TEA**

**April 15, 2026**

It is easy as 1,2,3

Choose 1:00, 2:00 and/or 3:00 pm

### **1:00 pm**

Explore the Farmer's/Craft Market

Meet on the Saguaro end of  
Avenue of the Fountains.

### **2:00 pm**

Walk around the Park

Meet in the courtyard by

Euro Café

### **3:00 pm**

Join us for "Afternoon Tea!" Coffee and more!

Bring home a dinner item or two as well.

PLACE: **Euro Café**

12625 N Saguaro Blvd

RSVP to Sally Elam if you can come to 1, 2, and/or  
3.

[sallyinarizona@gmail.com](mailto:sallyinarizona@gmail.com)

## **EVENING SIGNATURE SOCIALS**

It's time to Run for Roses!!!

Please see the invitation below for our Kentucky  
Derby Watch Party...

May 2nd from 3:00—5:30

Tickets are \$50 per person and include the following:

- Catered BBQ Feast by Naked Q including Beef Brisket with Buns, Pork Ribs, BBQ Sauces, Macaroni and Cheese, Roasted Broccoli, Garden Salad, and Corn Bread & Butter.
  - Beer and Wine
- Run for the Roses Signature Cocktail
  - Photo opportunities
  - Gifts for the Ladies

The secret location will be sent out the week of the event.

*Registration on the FITH website will be open the afternoon of April 15th so be on the lookout! Space is limited to 50 attendees.*

As always, each member may bring 1 guest.

Marilyn ten Hope 480-457-9277

[mtenhope@msn.com](mailto:mtenhope@msn.com)

Patricia Robinson 202-489-3615

[patriciacarrollrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:patriciacarrollrobinson@gmail.com)

## **KENTUCKY DERBY WATCH PARTY**

## **RUN FOR THE ROSES**

**SATURDAY**

**MAY 2, 2026  
3:00—5:30**

## **BUNCO**

**APRIL 29TH AT 12:30 PM**

Sue Manning [sgmmanning@gmail.com](mailto:sgmmanning@gmail.com)

480-226-2187

## **AMERICAN LEGION**

16837 E. Parkview Avenue

You should bring \$5 for Bunco, \$5 for the American Legion, and \$3 in one dollar bills for LRC.

## **BITS, BAUBLES & BEADS**

Sharron Neyer [sharron2001@msn.com](mailto:sharron2001@msn.com)

562-833-9447

Jean Peterson [onejeanius@gmail.com](mailto:onejeanius@gmail.com)

916-710-0898

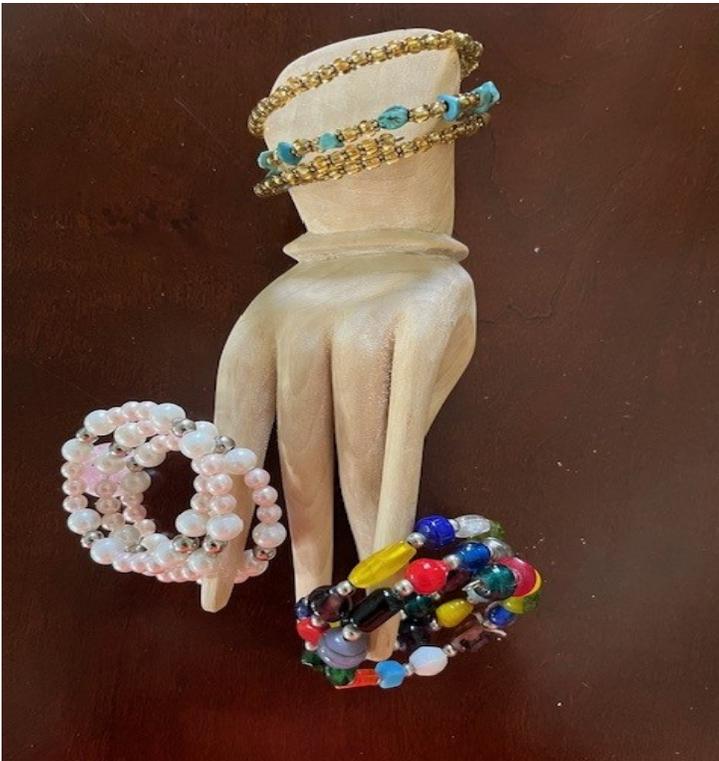
**DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 28TH**

Time: 1:00.

Cost: \$15.00. (all supplies included)

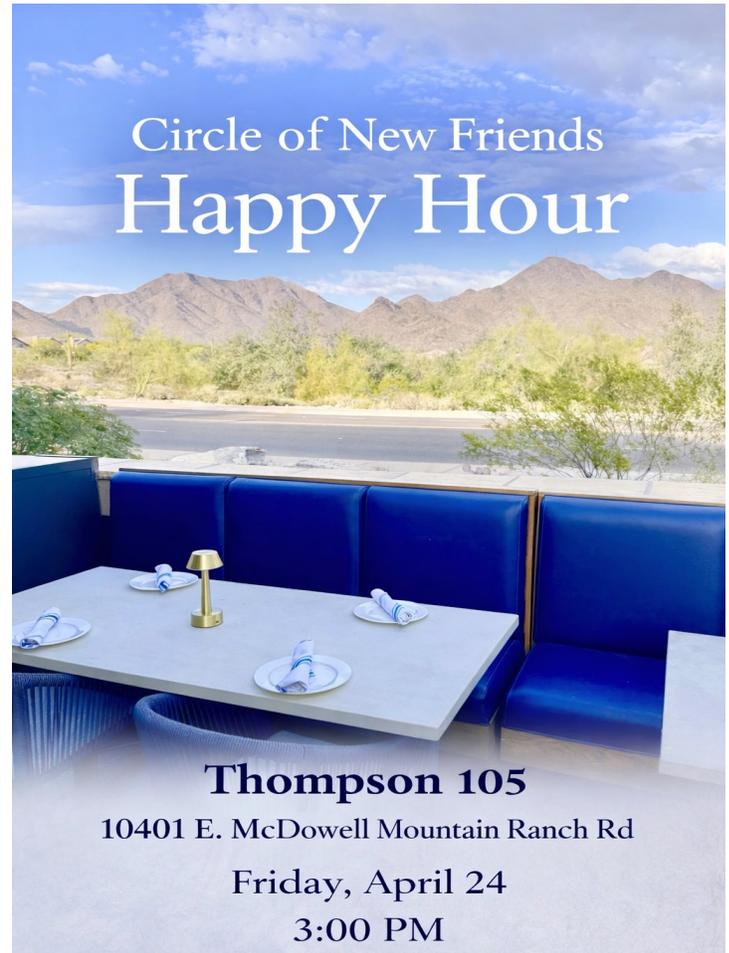
Address: 14814 E. Crested Crown

Our bead class on Tuesday, April 28th will be Memory Wire Bracelet. If you are new to crafts or jewelry making this will be a great basic class. Beginners are encouraged to join us as it is a very simple wire wrap bracelet to do. As you will see in the photo there are several different designs for this bracelet. The class is \$15 which includes all supplies needed to make this fun bracelet. See you at 1:00!



## **CIRCLE OF NEW FRIENDS HAPPY HOUR**

ELIGIBILITY: Members who joined 2022-2026



Beautiful views + great company = good times!!  
Please RSVP to [annvan@gmx.com](mailto:annvan@gmx.com) by March 17th.

## **MOUNTAIN BIKING**

Join us for our ride next ride on **Tuesday, April 14**. We will meet at a TBD location at 9 am. We've been riding in the Scottsdale Sonoran Preserve, which so far has worked well for us. Hope you can join us!

If interested, please contact Sally Kelly at [satkelly7@gmail.com](mailto:satkelly7@gmail.com) or text to 612-328-7652.

## **LADIES NIGHT OUT**

**Monday, April 27, 2026**

### **Vicinos Local Italian**

10999 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd  
Scottsdale, AZ 85259

### **Martini Mondays, \$8**

Please join us for an evening of social time. Enjoy meeting new women, having great conversation, beverages, and food. Make your reservation soon. Guests invited.

**When and Where: April 27, 2026 4:00-6:00 pm**

(Deadline is April 20th, Noon)

### **Limit 40-No refunds-NO CASH**

Cost **\$12**/person for food, drinks on your own.

Menu: Pasta and Cookies

The Best Way to sign up and pay with credit card and check below:

[www.friendsinthehillsaz.org](http://www.friendsinthehillsaz.org)

**Login** (go to 3 bars on top)

go to **Events** page (scroll down)

Problems with sign-up?

Contact Vicki Johnson (webmaster)

fithwebmaster@gmail.com 316-644-4774

**OR**

**All checks to be received by Monday, April 20th, NO CASH** to: Friends in the Hills, P.O. Box 17358, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 (include your email address)

Susan Slapke and Sheri McCurdy, Chairs

## **OUT TO LUNCH**

Come join us for lunch at **Sophias Kitchen** on **Tuesday, April 21st.**

We'll meet at noon. Limit 10 so please RSVP to me as soon as possible.

Address is 17050 N. Thompson Peak Pkwy,  
Scottsdale 85265

See you there!

Myra Smith

[Myra3mia@gmail.com](mailto:Myra3mia@gmail.com)

## **DUPLICATE BRIDGE**

Martha Craner [marthab911@gmail.com](mailto:marthab911@gmail.com)  
480-837-2183

**APRIL 13, AT 11:00 AM**

### **PHIL'S FILLING STATION**

16852 E. Parkview Avenue

We meet at 11:00 AM for lunch and play at noon. Cost is \$1 per person. This is a friendly game where you can compare your score against the people who played the same hands. Please contact Martha to make a reservation or to cancel.

## **PARTY BRIDGE—3RD MONDAY**

Sally Gibbs [sallygibbs@cox.net](mailto:sallygibbs@cox.net) 480-734-3482

**MONDAY, APRIL 20, AT 11:30 AM**

### **QUE BUENO**

13207 N. La Montana Drive

We have room for 3 tables. We play bridge for 1/2 hour and then order lunch. The owner would like us to pay cash. Everyone is welcome, but you do need to sign up in advance. Contact Sally Gibbs if you are interested in playing.

## **EUCHRE**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 24, AT 11:30 AM**

### **PHIL'S**

**16852 E. Parkview Ave.**

Come for a snack/lunch at 11:30. Play noon til 2 PM-ish.

Please RSVP so I get a count of who will play.

Myra Smith [myra3mia@gmail.com](mailto:myra3mia@gmail.com) 480-881-6198

If you don't play and want to learn, contact Myra.

### **FOUNTAIN READERS**

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, April 23 at 3 pm, Sally's house.** We'll discuss *Broken Country*, by Claire Leslie Hall.

Any questions, please contact Sally Kelly at [satkelly7@gmail.com](mailto:satkelly7@gmail.com). See you then!

### **BOOKS IN THE HILLS**

At our , please contact Kelly Echard:  
[kjechard@att.net](mailto:kjechard@att.net)

Kelly Echard 314-307-2529 February meeting, we discussed the book, "Happy People Don't Live Here" by Amber Sparks. It was an overall consensus that it was not a favorite amongst the group with a rating of 3.5. Many felt the book was quirky, and geared more towards the younger generation.

We are wrapping up our book club meetings with our last meeting on Wednesday, April 22nd, before we break for the summer and resume in the fall, so if you are interested in joining our club, for more details, please email Kelly Echard:  
[kjechard@att.net](mailto:kjechard@att.net)

### **SAGUARO BOOK CLUB**

The Saguaro Book Club will meet in April before going on hiatus until fall. The club is full at present.

[hwhatmough@cox.net](mailto:hwhatmough@cox.net)

### **MAH JONGG PLAY—EVERY THURSDAY**

(Beginner / Intermediate)

Gloria Hachikian [hshglo@gmail.com](mailto:hshglo@gmail.com) 847-420-0876

Sheila Hagan [snhagan55@gmail.com](mailto:snhagan55@gmail.com)  
312-206-8730

This group is oversubscribed at this time and shall remain closed until further notice.

We would love to encourage anyone interested in forming a second group of beginners/intermediates to please do so.

### **POKER CLUB—1ST THURSDAY**

Kathleen Sauser [kschireb@cox.net](mailto:kschireb@cox.net) 480-836-1293

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND 2:00 TO 4:00**

This group meets monthly at the home of Kathleen Sauser, 17345 E. Baca Drive. Please call Kathleen if you are interested in attending.

### **PAPER CRAFTING—LAST TUESDAY**

[Honi Hershey honi\\_h2000@yahoo.com](mailto:honi_h2000@yahoo.com)  
480-628-0680

[Martha Craner Martha911@gmail.com](mailto:Martha911@gmail.com)  
480-837-2183

**April 28, 2026 at 2:00 PM**

We are a small group with varying levels of experience from beginners to advanced who enjoy getting together each month to make greeting cards. We use stamps, ink, and paper to complete at least three projects each time. NOTE NEW PRICE is \$15 per session. The fee that covers the project and supplies. Each session usually meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 2:00 PM. Space is sometimes limited. You may call or email Honi if you are interested in participating, to get more information, or to be placed on their email list.

### **MONDAY MORNING COFFEE**

New "retro" ambiance to enjoy.

**April 20, 2026**

Join us for a morning out with "friends" at **10:30 AM.**

Have some coffee, tea or a whole good breakfast.

He only thing to bring is a "smile or two."

PLACE: **Phil's Filling Station**

16852 E Parkview Ave

RSVP to Sally Elam if you can come.

[sallyinarizona@gmail.com](mailto:sallyinarizona@gmail.com)

**SHORT HIKE**

We are seeking new leaders for the short hikes. Kathy Helms and Missy Putnam are retiring after many years of fun wandering about the desert. If you are interested in leading this rewarding activity, please contact the club president, Stephanie Harris at [fithprez@gmail.com](mailto:fithprez@gmail.com). The hikes have usually been on the third Wednesday of the month from October through March. Feel free to contact Kathy at [khelms833@gmail.com](mailto:khelms833@gmail.com) for a list and description of the hikes she has been co-leading for the past seven years. They are generally three miles long with little elevation gain.

**18 HOLES OR SCRAMBLE GOLF**

**EVERY MONDAY**

Cass Ritchey [fithgolf@gmail.com](mailto:fithgolf@gmail.com) 480-580-7992

Starfire Golf Club, Scottsdale

Every Monday, 7:50 AM

We will golf every Monday at 7:50 AM at Starfire Golf Club. The 18-hole was designed by Arnold Palmer and offers golfers a fun round! All levels are welcome, but you must be able to keep up with the pace of play.

Please use our golf email: [fithgolf@gmail.com](mailto:fithgolf@gmail.com) to be placed on our email list, or if you have any questions. Additional information can be found on our website.

**SIP & SWIRL WINE—2ND TUESDAY**

Linda Tornabene

Judy Crosby [judy.crosby@gmail.com](mailto:judy.crosby@gmail.com)



**April 14th, 2026, 4:00—6:00 PM**

**Grapeables Fine Wines**

12645 Saguaro Boulevard

(Fountainside Plaza)

NOTE: Sign-up begins with the receipt of the newsletter. Attendance is still being limited to 30, so book ASAP to be on the list. If you do not contact **JUDY** and receive confirmation—you should not attend.

We know that plans change, but please let us know if you are not going to be able to make it once you've been signed up and/or confirmed. No-shows wanting to attend the next month will be put on the waitlist.