

FRIENDS IN THE HILLS

MARCH 2026 ACTIVITY BULLETIN

Website: friendsinthehillsaz.org

Editor: Sally Gibbs

sallygibbs@cox.net

MARCH PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To my wonderful FITH Ladies,

As I enter the third month of my second year as your president, I hope that you are enjoying the changes that the board has made over the past year such as our new lunch venue and our new caterer. If you haven't gone to a luncheon (and I know some of us are just not ladies who lunch), I would recommend that you go to at least one in the coming year!

We are still looking for ladies to step up to take over the following groups:

Long Time Friends (ladies who joined from 2010—2018) - it may be time to bid this group farewell as we have been asking for someone to lead for over a year without success.

Tweeners (ladies who joined from 2018—2024).

Birthday Bash

We are also looking for ladies who may be interested in leading the long hike. Our prior leaders moved away and so the long hike is no more.

The board is currently working on a list of local charities that Friends will be donating to. For those of you who may not know, we donate every year to charities such as the food bank, the community theater, and the Boys and Girls Club. Look for news about the specific charities we will be donating to for 2026 in next month's bulletin.

Hope to see you all at an event or two this month!

Stephanie Harris

FITH President

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 fithprez@gmail.com, or Martha Craner at [480-837-2183](tel:480-837-2183) or email her at marthab911@gmail.com.

MARCH LUNCHEON

2nd Wednesday, March 11

Our March 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.

MARCH LUNCHEON MENU

Catered by Phil's Filling Station

Cabbage Rolls with Beef and Rice in a Red Sauce

Salad

Seasonal Vegetables

Boiled Potatoes

Irish Soda Bread

Irish Dessert of Cookies and Cake

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.

NEWCOMER'S COFFEE

Nancy Jones jonesnphnx@aol.com 602-770-9829

Barbara Cardinal 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 847-987-2211

We look forward to seeing you at the coffee.

LUNCHEON ENTERTAINMENT

Our speaker for March 11th, 2026 is Christy Boelter. Christy will be making a presentation on "Scam and Fraud Protection".

Christy Boelter is an exceptional Trainer with ARZCONA@WORK Maricopa County, where she has served the community for four years. She specializes in delivering engaging, easy to understand trainings, that make complex topics practical and approachable.

Known for her warm, interactive style, Christy creates welcoming learning environment where participants feel comfortable asking questions and building new skills. She is passionate about empowering individuals with the knowledge and confidence they need to succeed – whether strengthening workplace skills, or navigating today's digital world.

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS INFORMATION

Sue Manning Reservations Coordinator

sgmmanning@gmail.com 480-226-2187

The March 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 **March 4** 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 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 March 4. Cancellations must be made by 5:00 PM on Thursday, March 5th 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 April luncheon while attending the March luncheon, please have the **exact amount**

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Vicki Johnson

Phone: (316) 644-4774

Email: fithmembership@gmail.com

Membership dues for 2026 are **\$35**. Friends in the Hills membership is still a great bargain. It is time to renew for 2026 if you haven't already. If you have not renewed by the end of March, your membership profile will be deleted.

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 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

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

BIRTHDAY BASH

We are seeking new hostesses for the Birthday Bash. Vicki Johnson and Valerie O'Keefe have really enjoyed hosting for the last two years but feel like it is time for some new ideas. Held once a quarter to recognize birthdays in that quarter, Birthday Bash is a great way to meet and get to know Friends in the Hills members in a small group setting.

If you are interested in hosting, please contact FITH President Stephanie Harris at fith prez@gmail.com. Vicki and Valerie will be happy to share what we have done and provide help for the transition.

SAGUARO BOOK CLUB

The club continues to be full. If you wish to be on the waitlist, please email

hwhatmough@cox.net

CIRCLE OF LONG TIME FRIENDS

Eligibility: Members who joined 2010-2014

WE NEED NEW LEADERS FOR THE CIRCLE OF LONG TIME FRIENDS.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, CONTACT

STEPHANIE HARRIS AT
FITHPREZ@GMAIL.COM or **805-368-2940**

THE FOUNDERS- 1ST WEDNESDAY

Rosemary Bonaguidi rosemary.bonaguidi@cox.net
480-209-8601

Heidi Pearson heidipearsonaz@gmail.com
480-816-1088

Wednesday, March 4th, at 11:30 AM

Wicked Six Bar & Grill

Sunridge Canyon Golf Club

Please email Heidi for a reservation!

BITS, BAUBLES & BEADS

(formerly Beading Buddies)

Sharron Neyer sharron2001@msn.com
562-833-9447

Jean Peterson onejeanius@gmail.com
916-710-0898

DATE: **TUESDAY, MARCH 24TH**

Time: 1:00.

Cost: \$15.00. (all supplies included)

Address: 14814 E. Crested Crown

Hello Ladies!

This class we'll get those hidden creative talents of yours going. We will be doing necklaces with a personal center...Pearls, charms, crystals or if you have something you would like to include; bring it. Jean or I can help you with that. If you would like a certain color please call in advance so hopefully we can help with that. You can even bring a necklace you would like to restring with a different center piece; Anyway come join us!

SINGLES SUPPER CLUB

March 19, at 5:30 PM (New time!)

All American Sports Grill

16872 E. Avenue of Fountains

Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

Please respond by March 16th , 2026.

Elaine Jellock elainejellock@hotmail.com or
570-430-1472

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON TEA

March 18, 2026

New this Month

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

(Oe people watch on a bench)

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

EVENING SIGNATURE SOCIALS

***The Valentine's Day Party was a huge success!
Thank you to Mikki and Vernon Monger for
opening up their home for the event and all
the hardworking committee members that
make it happen behind the scenes.***

Kentucky Derby will be our last social of the season.
Save the date and be on the lookout for the April
bulletin for more information.

May 2nd, 2026

3:00—5:30 PM

As always, each member may bring 1 guest.

Marilyn ten Hope 480-457-9277
mtenhope@msn.com

Patricia Robinson 202-489-3615
patriciacarrollrobinson@gmail.com



It's Derby Day!

***Join us to watch the Race of the
Year!***

Save the date...

May 2, 2026

3:00-5:30 pm

BUNCO

MARCH 25TH AT 12:30 PM

Sue Manning 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.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Martha Craner marthab911@gmail.com

480-837-2183

MARCH 9, 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 480-734-3482

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 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, MARCH 27, 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 480-881-6198

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

CIRCLE OF NEW FRIENDS

ELIGIBILITY: Members who joined 2022-2025



In honor of the Chinese Year of the Horse, let's celebrate GOOD FORTUNE with GOOD FRIENDS and GOOD FOOD!

RSVP to Ann by March 20 at annvan@gmx.com

TWEENERS—1ST WEDNESDAY

Eligibility: Members who joined in 2015– 2020

We are looking for new chairs for the Tweeners Group. If you are interested, contact Stephanie Harris at:

FITHPREZ@GMAIL.COM or 805-368-2940

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Monday, March 23, 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: March 23, 2026 4:00-6:00 pm

(Deadline is March 16th, Noon)

Limit 40-No refunds-NO CASH

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

Menu: Pasta, Caesar Salad and Cookies

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

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, March 16th, 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

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OUT TO LUNCH

Come join us for lunch at **Village Tavern** on **Tuesday, March 24th.**

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

Address is 8787 N. Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale 85253

See you there!

Myra Smith

Myra3mia@gmail.com

OFF TO THE SHOW

"SHE LOVES ME"

Thursday, April 16 at 7:30 PM

Hale Centre Theatre| 50 West Page Ave| Gilbert

ABOUT THE SHOW

This sweet, romantic musical, set in a charming 1930's Budapest parfumerie, tells the story of two feuding colleagues who are unaware they're secret pen pals. A classic show, with delightful songs and heartwarming moments, *She Loves Me* is a perfect blend of humor and love, and the inspiration for the film "You've Got Mail", which featured Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan!

If interested, email Laura Moccia at lbmoccia@gmail.com

Payment will be required prior to March 31, (cash, mail a check, or Venmo)

Cell 913-370-2237

12 tickets have been reserved

Group rate ticket price is **\$45.00** (with at least a group of 10)

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Join us for our March ride on **Tuesday, March 24.**

We will meet at our 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 or text to 612-328-7652.

FOUNTAIN READERS

Great discussion at our February meeting on *Atmosphere!* Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 26 at 3:00 pm, **Sally's house**. We'll discuss *Culpability*, by Bruce Holsinger.

Any questions, please contact Sally Kelly at satkelly7@gmail.com. See you then!

BOOKS IN THE HILLS

Our book club is in full swing, and in January, we met and discussed the novel, "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks. The group rated the book a 4.5 out of 5 stars, so it appeared to be a favorite amongst the group! This month we will be discussing, "Happy People Don't Live Here," by Amber Sparks.

BITH reads all genres and meets monthly (September—May) on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm. At this time, we are currently full, but if you'd like to be put on a waiting list, please contact Kelly Echard: kjechard@att.net

Kelly Echard 314-307-2529

MAH JONGG PLAY—EVERY THURSDAY

(Beginner / Intermediate)

Gloria Hachikian hshglo@gmail.com 847-420-0876

Sheila Hagan snhagan55@gmail.com
312-206-8730

American Legion Post

We ask players to arrive by 12:15 PM so we can begin play at 12:30 PM.

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 480-836-1293

THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH 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
480-628-0680

March 31, 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.

March 30, 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

SHORT HIKE

Co-Chairs for the Short Hike

Missy Putnam missy.putnam@icloud.com
414-379-7700

Kathy Helms khelms833@gmail.com
602-509-5879

Wednesday, March 18—Marcus Landslide Trail

We will drive to the Tom's Thumb trailhead in north Scottsdale and start with a scenic jaunt on the Mesquite Canyon and Feldspar trails. We'll then connect to the Marcus Landslide trail (about three miles total). The trails are mostly smooth with very little elevation change, and have gorgeous views of the lower Verde Valley and many interesting rock formations. The lunch on the way back to town will be at Needle Rock Kitchen at Trilogy in Rio Verde.

We will meet at 8:15 am at the NW corner of the Safeway parking lot and carpool to the trailhead. Please email Kathy Helms at khelms833@gmail.com to sign up for the hike and lunch.



SIP & SWIRL WINE—2ND TUESDAY

Linda Tornabene

Judy Crosby judy.crosby@gmail.com

March 10th, 2026, 4:00—6:00 PM

Grapeables Fine Wines

12645 Saguaro Boulevard

(Fountainside Plaza)

18 HOLES OR SCRAMBLE GOLF

EVERY MONDAY

Cass Ritchey 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 to be placed on our email list, or if you have any questions. Additional information can be found on our website.

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.