

# FRIENDS IN THE HILLS

## MAY 2026 ACTIVITY BULLETIN

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

Editor: Sally Gibbs

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

### **MAY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

April Showers Bring May Flowers! We didn't see many showers in April but our desert is certainly blooming! Who says the desert has no color!

Farewell to our snowbird members for the summer! Although our outdoor events will not return until September, we still have our indoor fun like our luncheons, Sip & Swirl, Ladies Night Out, Mahjong and cards! Our luncheons will remain at the Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall this summer. A reminder that our bulletin will come out on the 28th of every month—look for it then!

Hope to see you around!

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

### **MAY LUNCHEON**

**2nd Wednesday, May 13**

Our May 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.

### **MAY LUNCHEON MENU**

**Catered by Phil's Filling Station**

**Salisbury Steak with Gravy**

**White Rice**

**Seasonal Veggies**

**Salad with Italian Dressing**

**Rolls and Butter**

**Dessert**

**Vegetarian Meal Available**

**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**

### **TIFFANY STEARNES (FLOWERGIRL)**

At Fountain FlowerGirl, we believe flowers should be more than just an arrangement. The arrangement should leave a statement and create an experience. A local small town florist in Fountain Hills since 2020, specializing in elevated one-of-a kind designs for those who want something beyond the ordinary. Whether I'm hosting a lively flower party, teaching a workshop, or delivering a flower subscription to your home or workspace, my goal is to create unique pieces that leave a lasting impression.

### **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

We are pleased to invite you to our Friends In The Hills Newcomer's Coffee. Come and share a cup of coffee and a snack with us while we introduce you to all the activities FITH has to offer.

You will also be able to join our club that morning if you wish. You can pay by cash or check, or wait until later and join on line.

DATE: **Wednesday, May 20, 2026**

TIME: **10:00 AM**

PLACE: 16350 E. Avenue of the Fountains, Unit 2. Even though the address is Avenue of the Fountains, the best way to enter is off Palisades. The entrance to Thunder Ridge is between Walgreens and CVS. You park on the street in the complex.

We look forward to meeting you and sharing with you the many reasons why we love our club.

Please RSVP to Nancy Jones by May 18.

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

### **SAGUARO BOOK CLUB**

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

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

## **LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS INFORMATION**

Sue Manning Reservations Coordinator

[sgmmanning@gmail.com](mailto:sgmmanning@gmail.com) 480-226-2187

The May 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 FRIDAY BEFORE THE LUNCHEON.**

Reservations received after the **May 8** 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.friendsinthehillssaz.org](http://www.friendsinthehillssaz.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 May 8. Cancellations must be made by 5 PM on Friday, May 8th 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 June luncheon while attending the May 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 Newcomers Coffee to learn about the club. The next Newcomers Coffee is May 20. See elsewhere in the Bulletin and register on the website.

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're 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)

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

Get ready for cake, presents, and plenty of FUN? Come celebrate your birthday with Friends in the Hills! Each year we host four special birthday celebrations, and our second Birthday Bash is right around the corner. Join us on **May 21st from 4:00-6:00 PM** as we celebrate everyone with birthdays in **April, May and June**—now at a new Happy Hour time!

Sign up and pay through the Friends website under Members Login/Events. Your \$5.50 ticket includes delicious appetizers, beverages, and of course, birthday cake! To add a little extra excitement, please bring a \$10 wrapped gift and take part in our always-fun gift exchange.

Come laugh, celebrate, and enjoy a festive Happy Hour with friends—we can't wait to celebrate YOU!

### **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, May 6th, at 11:30 AM**

#### **Hao Restaurant**

11849 N Saguaro Blvd, Fountain Hills

Please email Heidi for a reservation!

### **BITS, BAUBLES & BEADS**

(formerly Beading Buddies)

Sharron Neyer [sharron2001@msn.com](mailto:sharron2001@msn.com)  
562-833-9447

Jean Peterson [onejeanius@gmail.com](mailto:onejeanius@gmail.com)  
916-710-0898

### **SHARRON AND JEAN WILL BE ON HIATUS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY!**

### **SINGLES SUPPER CLUB**

**May 21 2026, at 5:30 PM (New time!)**

#### **Needle Rock @ Trilogy**

28509 N Verde River Way

Rio Verde, AZ 85263

Please respond by May 17th, 2026.

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

## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON TEA

**LAST CALL—REGISTRATION CLOSSES APRIL 30  
AT 11:00 AM**

It's time to Run for the Roses!!!

Join us at Deborah Murray's beautiful home in Fountain Hills for our final Signature Social of the Season

Wear your best Derby style—fancy hats and dresses encouraged!

Saturday, May 2 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
- Contests for the best dressed lady, gentleman and couple
- Derby Winner Raffle

*Registration on the FITH website is open now—click below! Space is limited to 50 attendees. If you are having trouble registering, please contact Marilyn at the contact information below...*

**<https://www.friendsinthehillsaz.org/events-list#!event/2026/5/2/run-for-the-roses-evening-signature-social>**

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)

**May 20, 2026**

**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.

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



**BUNCO**

**MAY 27TH 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.

**DUPLICATE BRIDGE**

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

**MAY 11, 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, MAY 18, 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, MAY 22, 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.

**CIRCLE OF NEW FRIENDS**

ELIGIBILITY: Members who joined 2022-2025



Calling all Ladies who think May is chips and salsa kind of month!

If you agree, please join us and RSVP to [Annvan@gmx.com](mailto:Annvan@gmx.com) by May 15.

**LADIES NIGHT OUT**

**Monday, May 25, 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: May 25, 2026 4:00-6:00 pm**

(Deadline to register is May 18th, 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.friendsinthehillssaz.org/](http://www.friendsinthehillssaz.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 18th, NO CASH to: Friends in the Hills, P.O. Box 17358, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269 (include your email address)

**THE PARKVIEW TAP HOUSE WILL BE THE LOCATION STARTING ON JUNE 22 UNTIL OCTOBER 26 WITH MUSIC!**

Susan Slapke and Sheri McCurdy, Chairs

**OFF TO THE SHOW!**

**OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS**

A Romantic Comedy

WHERE: Don Bluth Front Row Theater

8989 E. Via Linda/Scottsdale

WHEN: Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 pm

\$36

Ten tickets have been reserved at this time. A group of 6 or more will qualify us for group rates.

If interested, email Laura Moccia at [lbmoccia@gmail.com](mailto:lbmoccia@gmail.com)

Payment will be required prior to May 5!

**Tickets will be purchased after payment is received (cash, check or Venmo). ALL sales final.**

Hope you can join us!

About the show: Tengo Famiglia! Every Sunday, Nick crosses the river to New Jersey and has dinner with both sets of his Italian American grandparents since his parents retired and moved to Florida. Nick's grandparents inundate him with family traditions and lots of food! But Nick has dreams, and when he receives the perfect job offer from the west coast, he is determined to take it. His grandparents — Frank, Aida, Nunzio and Emma — are just as determined that he stay put. How could he betray his family's love to move to Seattle, for a job, they wonder? Thus, they concoct a series of shameless schemes and hilarious shenanigans to keep Nick from leaving — including introducing him to the woman of his dreams.

**OUT TO LUNCH**

Come join us for lunch at:

**Needle Rock Kitchen at Trilogy**

**Wednesday, May 20th at noon.**

**NOTE this month we're on a Wednesday!**

28509 NW Verde River Way, Rio Verde 85263

Will limit to 10 so please RSVP as soon as you can.

See you there!

Myra Smith

[Myra3mia@gmail.com](mailto:Myra3mia@gmail.com) 480-881-6198

## **FOUNTAIN READERS**

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

## **BOOKS IN THE HILLS**

At our 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.

For our March meeting we read, "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt. The overall consensus was it was a great story with a 4.9 rating.

We are wrapping up our book club meetings before we break for the summer and resume in September. As of now, the book club is full with 13 member, but if you'd like to be on the wait list, please email Kelly Echard: [kjechard@att.net](mailto:kjechard@att.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

### **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](mailto:kschireb@cox.net) 480-836-1293

## **THURSDAY, MAY 7TH 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 [marthab911@gmail.com](mailto:marthab911@gmail.com)  
[480-837-2183](tel:480-837-2183)

### **May 26, 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**

**NO "COFFEE!" THIS MONTH BECAUSE OF MEMORIAL DAY. BACK TO NORMAL IN JUNE!**

## **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 course 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



**May 12th, 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.