

# NEW FRONTIERS NEWS

Volume 31, Issue 3 January-February 2023

## NEW FRONTIERS CALENDAR

### CLASS SCHEDULE MAILED

Friday, January 6, 2023

### OUT TO LUNCH

[11:30 AM] Thursday, January 12, 2023

Union Jack British Pub

Check website for more information.

<https://newfrontiers.mesacc.edu/social.html>

### SPRING PREVIEW (ONLINE)

[10:00 AM] Friday, January 20, 2023

Check website for online link.

### NFL OPEN HOUSE

[1:00 PM - 3:00 PM] Friday, January 20, 2023

Mesa Community College,

Red Mountain Campus

Room M200

7110 E. McKellips Rd, Mesa, AZ 85207

*Bring a Friend!*

### NFL CLASS REGISTRATION OPENS

[9:00 AM] Tuesday, January 24, 2023

### FIELD TRIP TO USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Check website for more details.

<https://newfrontiers.mesacc.edu/social.html>

### STUDY HALL

[4:00 PM] Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Flancer's in Gilbert

Check website for more information.

<https://newfrontiers.mesacc.edu/social.html>

### NFL CLASSES START

Monday, February 6, 2023

\*Some classes start earlier.

Please check the Spring Schedule for more information.

Remember, you can find a calendar of all our events, meetings and activities on our website.

<https://newfrontiers.mesacc.edu/calendar.html>



*Join Us For Our Open House!*

**Friday, January 20, 2023**

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

Mesa Community College,

Red Mountain Campus

Room M200

7110 E. McKellips Rd, Mesa, AZ 85207



Drop by and learn what's happening at New Frontiers!

If you are a current member, bring a friend along and introduce them to NFLL. If you are not a member, we welcome you to come learn more about us.

You will have a chance to meet some of our instructors, talk with friends and make new friends!

Refreshments will be served.

For more information visit the NFLL website at: <https://newfrontiers.mesacc.edu>

## SPRING SESSION IS COMING!

NFLL Spring Session 2023 is starting FEBRUARY 6 with some exciting courses for members! Organized by the Curriculum Committee, this session has offerings for all members to participate wherever they want: in person or online. The In-Person Open House from 1 – 3 pm on January 20, 2023 will be held on the Red Mountain campus. A virtual Spring Preview of courses and coming activities will be posted on the NFLL website in early January. Online registration for courses will open at 9 am on Tuesday January 24, 2023. In-person assistance for registration will be available at the Open House and phone registration will be available for those members needing assistance with the technology.

The current Spring 2023 Schedule has over 70 courses with a variety of topics from history, social sciences, discussion, literature, nature, travel, technology, arts, finance, health, and just fun. Courses are being offered in-person, online and in some cases both. Courses include single session courses and several multi-session ones. Several courses are repeats from previous terms held on a different campus to allow access to more members. Leisure World, Aster Center Downtown, and Venture Out Resort will host off-site programs. As usual, our hiking, walking, and cycling groups will be continuing throughout the months. New this term is two Tai Chi sessions to be held on the Dobson Campus.



***The Amazing Local Gardens class included tours of valley homeowners' gardens.***



***As the classroom fills, NFLL member Bob Dukelow prepares to tell us all he knows about the History of Chocolate.***



***Jay Marks' classes are always "sold out"!***

## NEW ADDITIONS TO PRINTED SCHEDULE

There are already new additions to the Spring Schedule! Our early deadline and printing schedule creeps up too fast for some speakers, so we will continue to offer new addition classes to give NFLL members an opportunity to experience all we can.

First, due to popular request of those attending in the Fall term, Richard 'Dick' Falconer will present a continuation of the class **Great Music and Its Composers** at the Red Mountain campus. Watch the website for dates and times.

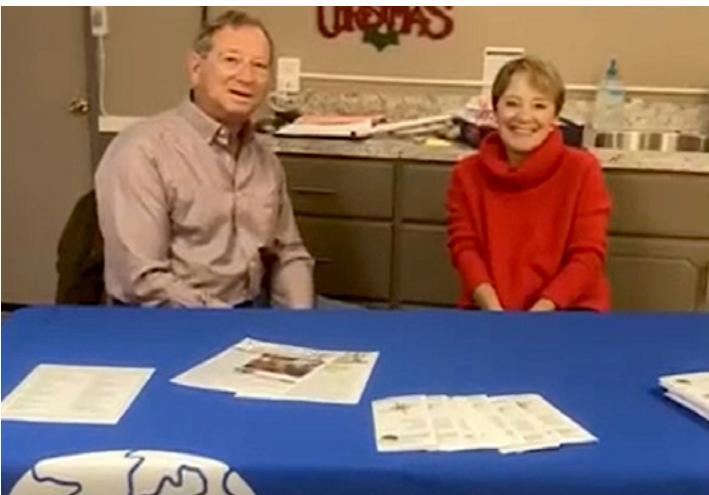
Second, in attempt to recruit new members and expand our contacts, NFLL will sponsor three talks at the Venture Out Resort, 5001 E Main, Mesa. All talks will be on Fridays from 1:30-2:30 pm in the Community Center. NFLL members are welcome to join with Venture Out residents and share your experiences. The talks are:

**Feb 10 - Tulip Time in Netherlands by Suzanne and Don Brown**

**Feb. 17 - Entertaining the Gluten-Free Guest by Suzanne Brown**

**March 7 - Magic #25: A Consequential Battle by JK Wight of the Commemorative Air Force Museum Docent Group.**

There will be other additions and second chances to register for courses and other activities as Spring goes on. Watch your email for our biweekly notice.



**Marie and Greg represented NFLL at Conquistador Senior Community in Mesa.**



**Ron, Suzanne, Mary and Cindy promoted NFLL at the Venture Out 55+ community Homecoming event.**

## NEW THIS SPRING

If you want more from NFLL, we will be offering classes in January to our members. To sign up, please contact the presenter directly and let them know you would like to attend.

January 17 – Jennifer Wong is presenting “Guyana: An Introduction”. This class is in conjunction with RISE (the Rio Salado community college lifelong learning program) and will be presented online through WebEx.

January 7, 10 and 17 – Nancy Spence will be presenting her “Infinite Possibilities” class at the Unity Church of Mesa.

January 20 – “A Matter of Balance”. This program emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls. You will learn to view falls as controllable, set goals for increasing your activity, make changes to reduce fall risks at home, exercise to increase strength and balance. The class meets for 8 weeks, 9:00-11:00 am at A.T. Still University, P205. To sign up, contact Neva Hansen (480-461-6330) or Sammy Trujillo (480-461-6266).

# THE HOLIDAY PARTY



NFL member Janice Overdorff made and donated the raffle items! Quilts, blown glass, and wreaths were coveted by all who won.



Greg Master watched over the food donation table. We filled the table 3 times & collected hundreds of items for MCC's Food Pantry.



Marie-France Ganansia helped pull names for the raffle. NFLL raised \$400 from the raffle and donated it to United Food Bank.



## OUR TRIP TO YELLOWSTONE



Since we were spending the summer of 2022 in Logan, Utah, we decided to visit Yellowstone National Park since it was three hours away from Logan.

After much searching for accommodations, we booked an AirBnB cabin at Island Park for the last week of July, outside the West Entrance.

It was June when we heard the news that Yellowstone and the towns around Yellowstone had experienced an unusually large amount of rainfall which caused severe flooding in the area. As a result of the flooding, rock slides and mudslides, critical infrastructure in the park was severely damaged. As a result, the park was immediately closed indefinitely to visitors.

Fortunately for us, several weeks later, Yellowstone reopened to the public. However, the North and Northeast Entrances remained closed to vehicular traffic.

We soon discovered the wisdom of going early to the park as, when we arrived at the entrance, cars were already waiting in line to get into the park. Once in the park, it was sometimes hard to find parking at the popular attractions.

It was at Midway Geyser Basin that we decided to drive on since the parking lot was full and we did not want to wait for a parking spot. We stopped at the next parking lot and followed the crowd who were walking back towards the Midway Geyser Basin. It turned out the path we were on was going to Fairy Falls and, on the way, to a scenic overlook of Midway Geyser Basin. Since we were unprepared for a long hike, we opted to go instead to the scenic overlook. We were rewarded with a good view overlooking Grand Prismatic Spring which, we have since discovered, is one of the most visited and photographed attractions in Yellowstone. We have also heard that the best time to see the Grand Prismatic Spring when its colors are most vibrant is in the middle of the day, during the hot summer months, when the colors of the Spring will be most vibrant-looking (the colors dim during the winter months).

Another attraction which was quite memorable for us was Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces which is located by the North Entrance. It required a fair amount of walking up and down stairs as the water flows down a hill in a series of terraces but was well

worth the hike. However, it appeared that there wasn't much water flowing down the terraces as there should be. Nonetheless, the vibrant colors of the rocks and the terraces made this a must-see attraction.

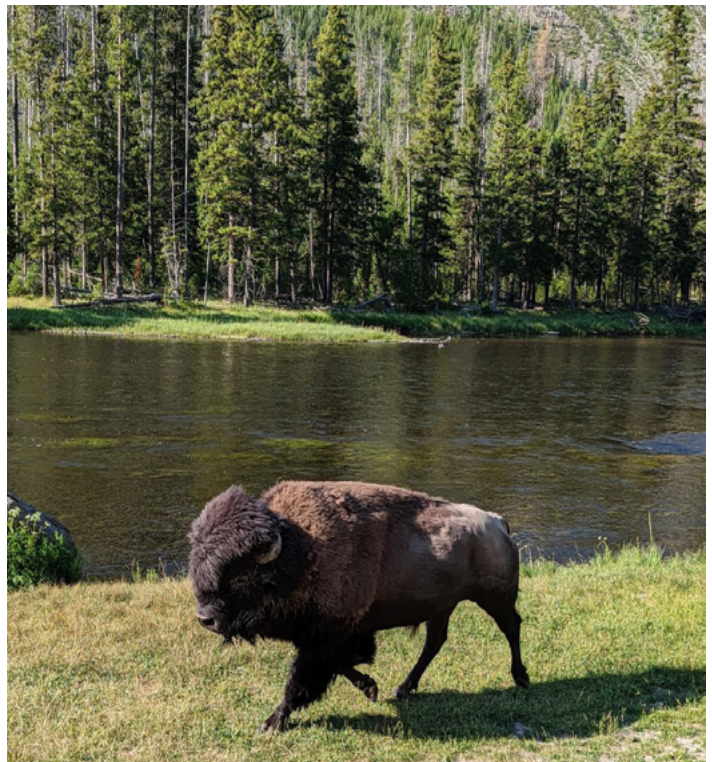
Since we were still in the midst of the Covid pandemic, we soon discovered that the restaurant at the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel was closed so we bought a cold sandwich and a drink from the gift shop.

Contrary to what we thought, once we got into the park, we were able to drive around the park without a problem. The only signs of recent devastation in the area was fallen trees on the side of the mountain and in the water of the Madison River. Except for a short stretch in the south-east section of the road which was bumpy due to construction on the road, the road around the park appeared to be unaffected by the recent flooding. To our untrained eyes, the rivers which we saw did not look as if their course was changed due to the recent flooding.

Although we did not leave early in the morning to view wildlife, we managed to photograph a lone bison who was trotting along the side of the Madison River, causing everyone in its vicinity to flee for the safety of their vehicle until it was safe to emerge. As we drove through Hayden Valley in the late afternoon, we saw a herd of bison grazing in the valley which was creating a traffic jam as cars slowed down to look at the bison, some of which were quite close to the road.

Although this was the third time we were at Yellowstone, we were able to visit a few places which we had never seen before and refresh our memory of the places we had seen before. We definitely enjoyed our stay at Yellowstone!

*Jennifer Wong*



## NFL IN ACTION



Great "out to lunch" group at the Seafood Market in Mesa.



NFL members headed to Eloy to see the skydivers.



Skydivers in action.



Hiking Blevins Trail at Usery Park.



The Walking Group tackled Desert Breeze Park in Chandler.

Check out pictures of many of our activities at: <https://newfrontiers.mesacc.edu/photos-2022.html>

## WHAT'S THAT IN THE SKY?



Living near to Falcon Field Airport, seeing planes and helicopters in the sky is an everyday occurrence.

However, when we stepped out at approximately 6:00 p.m. on October 28, 2022 for our after-dinner walk, we immediately noticed there was some unusual activity in the sky.

An object in the sky, which was climbing at an angle, heading south, was emitting three thick plumes of smoke. Since the scene in the sky looked so unusual, we decided to take a few photos.

At the intersection which we usually turn to back to go home, we looked again at the sky and noticed there was a thick plume of smoke which was located horizontally across the eastern sky and looked like it originated from somewhere north of Phoenix.

Much to our surprise, upon arriving home, we heard the news that SpaceX had just launched a Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in Santa Barbara, California, which was carrying a payload of 53 Starlink satellites.

Since the SpaceX Falcon 9 launch, there have been several videos posted on YouTube by several YouTubers, from Los Angeles to San Diego, and as far away as Phoenix and Yuma in Arizona, either showing the complete launch from the launchpad and separation of the rocket's boosters, or several minutes of coverage of the rocket's ascent into the sky.

Since viewing the SpaceX rocket's ascent in October, each time we step out in the evening, we have been scanning the sky for signs of unusual activity. We were not disappointed.

On December 18, 2022, at about 6:00 p.m., we noticed more unusual activity in the sky. There were several white lines as well as a patch of dark cloud in the sky which would indicate that over the past several days, SpaceX had launched several rockets into space. Since one line extended from east to west, it would appear that at least one SpaceX rocket launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida.

As we continued to look at the sky, we noticed a vertical line in the sky which appeared to be moving upwards in the sky. It would appear we were looking at another SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket which had just launched, carrying more Starlink satellites into space.

Looking at a rocket launch from the launchpad is always exciting to see. Judging from the recent sights in the sky, nowadays you

don't have to be at Cape Canaveral to see a rocket launch. You can now be in Mesa, Arizona, looking at the sky at about 6:00 p.m. to see the rocket moving skyward. Just to view the sight of the rocket in the sky just yards away from home is just as exciting as being at Cape Canaveral.

When there is no SpaceX rocket to view in the sky, you can scan the sky at nightfall for a glimpse of the international space station which is visible in the western sky. It is the brightest and biggest dot in the sky just after sunset since it reflects the sunlight. It is awesome to think you can see the international space station from your backyard in Mesa, Arizona.

If a view of the SpaceX rockets and the international space station has whetted your appetite to see the stars and planets in the night sky, you can visit MCC's planetarium at the Dobson campus to have a look through its telescope at the night sky.

*Jennifer Wong*

## BOB BECKER

Many of you knew long-time member Bob Becker. He died suddenly Thursday, November 3. His daughter, Katrina, wrote Suzanne Brown, Curriculum Chair, an email detailing Bob's love of New Frontiers and what it meant to him. She has given us permission to share her email.

*Our dad, Bob Becker, was happy and comfortable and in good spirits walking back from supper when he felt tired. By the time his caregiver returned with his wheelchair he had fallen (due to a cardiac event) and was unresponsive; staff, paramedics and the hospital were unable to revive him and he never woke up, so it all happened very quickly.*

*Thank you so much for all you do for NFLL, and especially for all you did for Dad -- he enjoyed your presentations very much, and we had a good time with the most recent series, "Liberty on Trial." Your facilitation & discussion along with the series' pacing and delivery were well-suited to Dad, and kept him interested and engaged. We chatted about what we watched together, and looked forward to each lecture.*

*Thanks also for your patience and extra effort in helping us participate in NFLL even after it became challenging for Dad to attend classes in person. Dad, my sister Teresa and I all valued the fun opportunities for online learning and learned quite a bit for ourselves. NFLL is very lucky to have you as a member and a tireless volunteer.*

*We also want to express our appreciation to all the members of NFLL who gave Dad the gifts of friendship, laughter and companionship over the years -- he enjoyed all of it. He loved coming up with creative ways to attract attention with signs for the NFLL Open House events, and often described the social fun of volunteering for those open house and mailing events...seeing familiar friends, helping with set-up and tear-down, and enthusiastically meeting new members. NFLL enriched Dad's life.*

*With gratitude,  
Katrina Becker*

# NEW FRONTIERS FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

New Frontiers is an organization dedicated to adults wishing to continue their discovery of knowledge and advance their learning. Founded in 1995, New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning was created through the sponsorship of Mesa Community College.

The community college is located in Mesa, Arizona and serves the communities of the East Valley of metropolitan Phoenix. We are a peer-led, self-governed organization with interests in volunteer opportunities, travel, hiking, and healthy lifestyles.

Discovering new, lifelong friendships is an added bonus.



## Curiosity Never Retires

- President – Cindy Schrantz
- Vice President – Bob Dukelow
- Secretary – Diane Grogan
- Treasurer – Fred Searing
- Members at Large – Allan Zisner, Ron Schueman, Margo Heaps
- Past Presidents – Roland Tanner, Marlin Fried, Dan Taylor
- Curriculum – Suzanne Brown
- Social – Arlys Medicott
- Membership – Mary Boehlen, Bob Dukelow
- Support Services/Communications – Peggy Randolph, Kathee Rutherford
- Volunteer Committee – Mary Adamick
- Community Outreach – Office of Associate Dean Student Services – Monica Margaillan
- Program Coordinators – Neva Hansen, Sammy Rudi Trujillo
- Scholarship – Barbara Thelander

*Education is not something you can finish.  
Isaac Asimov, American writer and professor  
of biochemistry at Boston University*

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LEARN MORE

NEW FRONTIERS NEWS  
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