

Society for the Arts



Active Singles 50+

P.O. Box 807
Mesa AZ 85211



JANUARY and February 2021

Volume 34 Number 9

Check out our website: www.societyforthearts.org

President's Message

When I wrote this, we were still in 2020 but the year 2021 was on the horizon. Now 2021 is here and it brings with it the hope that we will soon see an end to this Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic. I am sure it has been a challenging year for all of you and it will still be a while until life truly gets back to normal. But the end is in sight!

SFA has stayed the course rather than dissolving our organization and we look forward to the day when we can resume in-person activities. That will be awhile, dependent mostly on widespread inoculation of Arizona citizens with one of the Covid-19 vaccines.

In the meantime, we are keeping an eye out for 2021 events. Some of the theater groups have put out tentative schedules with late Spring dates. We anticipate it will be Spring before we resume in-person activities.

Where were all of you for our December Holiday Greeting zoom meeting? Nine of us came together, mostly Board members and committee chairs, so we were especially happy that **Louise Gallo-Crouzet** joined us for the first time on Zoom. **Bernie Soricone** also joined us for the first time in a while. Bernie had often attended our Zoom discussion groups and happy hours and it was nice to see him again. However, Bernie shared some sad news—he lost his older brother (his only sibling) and his brother's wife to Covid-19 very recently. Sadly, another one of our members, **Ron Webster**, lost his son-in-law to Covid-19 earlier in this pandemic. We extend our sympathy to both Bernie and Ron on their losses and to any of you who have lost a

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Joanne Handlong justjo34@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Jerry Crow Jerry.crow@computer.org
SECRETARY	Ellen DuBiel ellndub@aol.com
TREASURER	Deborah McNeill deborahmcneill@icloudcom

Board Members / Chairs **Denotes non-Board members

Book Club Coordinator

Barbara Rosen babeandkit@aol.com

Close Encounters With the Arts

Carole Sobel cesobel@gmail.com

Culinary Lunch

Deborah McNeill deborahmcneill@icloud.com

Financials, Data Base

**Bob Hurni bhurni@aol.com

Membership

Doris Green dorisgreen@cox.net

Foreign Films/Movies & Dinner

Bill Plank bill.408@hotmail.com

Carole Sobel cesobel@gmail.com

Newsletter

**Betty Sayers bsayers@cox.net

Socials/Happy Hour Coordinator

**Julie Taylor azjutay@aol.com

Theatre, Calendar Coordinator

Joanne Handlong, justjo34@gmail.com

Special Assignments

Ron Webster (No email)

Website, SFA Express

Doris Green dorisgreen@cox.net



Happy Birthday to these members:

January Birthdays

Louise Gallo-Crouzet

Ellen DuBiel

Deb Foderaro

We have no February birthdays!

Did we miss listing your birthday? Send an email to justjo34@gmail.com and we'll get our records updated.

**SFA BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS
THRU FEBRUARY 2022**

The SFA Book Club meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 PM via Zoom. Barbara Rosen chairs the group. Members take turns facilitating the book discussions. Here are the selections chosen by book club members for the next two months.

- January 25th - "The Confession" by Jo Spain
- February 22nd - "Once We Were Brothers" by Ronald Balson

Please join us for some interesting reads and enlightening discussions. Contact Barbara Rosen, babeandkit@aol.com for more information.

Has your Address, Email or Phone Changed?

Email the new info to dorisgreen@cox.net, and to Bob Hurni, bhurni@aol.com. If you do not have email access, send the information to our P.O. Box.

President's Message - continued

family member or friend to Covid-19 or due to any reason in 2020. Zoom affords us a way to keep in touch with fellow members and extend a hand of friendship in difficult times. I wish more of you would participate.

In closing, I wish each of you a happy and healthy new year and look forward to seeing you in 2021. In the meantime, stay safe and stay well.

Joanne Handlong

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SFA Membership Dues and Guest Policy Waived for 2021

SFA will not be collecting membership dues (normally \$75.00 per annum) during the 2021 calendar year. In addition, whenever in-person events are resumed, there will be no limitation on the number of events a guest can attend. This includes former SFA members attending as guests.

Collection of membership dues will resume in January 2022. The Guest Policy will be reinstated at that time. Under the guest policy, SFA welcomes guests to attend up to three SFA events, but after the 3rd visit they must join SFA in order to attend any more events.

SFA Cancels Meet Up Membership

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had been posting some of our events on Meet Up under the name of *Active Singles 50+ Enjoying the Arts*. We have dropped our Meet Up membership since we are not holding in-person events and may take a look at rejoining in the future.

JANUARY EVENTS

BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM

Monday, January 11, 2:00 PM

RSVP BY 1/10

The SFA Board will meet via Zoom. All members with access to Zoom are invited to attend the meeting. An email with the link and password for the Zoom meeting will be sent to members who RSVP. Please RSVP to Joanne Handlong, justjo34@gmail.com. **RSVP by Sun, 1/10** if you are planning to attend.

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB MEETING (VIA ZOOM)

Monday, January 25, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m

RSVP by 1/24 to babeandkit@aol.com



"The Confession" by Jo Spain

Facilitator...Barbara Rosen

You find out who did it on the very FIRST page. On the last page, you'll find out WHY.

Late one night a man walks into the luxurious home of disgraced banker Harry McNamara and his wife Julie. The man launches an unspeakably brutal attack on Harry as a horror-struck Julie watches, frozen by fear.

Just an hour later the attacker, JP Carney, has handed himself in to the police. He confesses to beating Harry to death, but JP claims that the assault was not premeditated and that he didn't know the identity of his victim. With a man as notorious as Harry McNamara, the detectives cannot help wondering, was this really a random acts of violence or is it linked to one of Harry's many sins: corruption, greed, betrayal?

Jo Spain's first novel was one of seven finalists in the Richard and Judy Search for a Bestseller Competition 2015. It was named as an Irish Times crime fiction book of the year by Declan Burke.

FEBRUARY EVENTS



BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM

Monday, February 8, 2:00 PM

RSVP BY 2/7

The SFA Board will meet via Zoom. All members with access to Zoom are invited to attend the meeting. An email with the link and password for the Zoom meeting will be sent to members who RSVP. Please RSVP to Joanne Handlong, justjo34@gmail.com **RSVP by Sun, 2/7** if you are planning to attend.

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB MEETING (VIA ZOOM)

Monday, February 22, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

RSVP by 2/21 to babeandkit@aol.com

"Once We Were Brothers" by Ronald H. Balson Facilitator...Marcia Weinroth

Elliot Rosenzweig, a respected civic leader and wealthy philanthropist, is attending a fundraiser when he is suddenly accosted and accused of being a former Nazi SS officer named Otto Piatek, "the butcher of Zamosc." Although the charges are denounced as preposterous, his accuser, Ben Solomon, is convinced he is right. Solomon persuades attorney Catherine Lockhart to take his case, revealing that the true Piatek was abandoned as a child and raised by Solomon's family only to betray them during the Nazi occupation. But has he accused the right man?

Ronald H. Balson is a Chicago trial attorney, an educator and writer. His practice has taken him to several international venues, including villages in Poland that inspired this first novel which he self published in 2010.

THE END