

Society for the Arts



Active Singles 50+

Celebrating 34 years of Supporting the Arts



March and April 2021

Volume 35 Number 2

Check out our website: www.societyforthearts.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear SFA Members,

We're inching along towards warmer temperatures and an influx of visitors for baseball's Spring training season, although it will be a smaller crowd this year. We're also inching along towards an end to this Covid-19 pandemic's isolation. I hope that all of you have been able to get at least one of the vaccine doses by now. I got my second dose of the Pfizer Biotech vaccine on February 16 and it was almost a celebratory occasion! However, the reality is a bit of a letdown—being asked to continue to wear a mask and follow the other mitigation strategies that have been in place—but I am not in this alone so I will follow those recommendations. I hope all of you have either gotten the vaccine, are trying to get it, or intend to get it. It will be important that we are all vaccinated for future in-person gatherings.

The Board has been meeting every other month; thus, there will not be a meeting in March. The next meeting will be on April 12 via Zoom. At that time, we will discuss the feasibility of returning to some in-person activities. There is a lot of interest in having a "real", in-person happy hour in an outdoor setting. We are also looking into an outdoor excursion to the Desert Botanical Garden including lunch or dinner at Gertrude's. We haven't pinned down the date yet; we will do that when we know more about when the wildflowers will be blooming. That's always a beautiful time at the garden. Ballet Arizona is planning an outdoor production at Desert Botanical Garden in May; however, they have not yet published ticket and performance information. Once we have that, we will consider putting this event on our calendar. Watch for an SFA Express announcing the dates and the reservation processes for these events.

I have a few updates on members to report. Doris Green has resigned from the Board. She landed in the hospital after a bad fall but is now back home recuperating. Doris has been a key member of the Board since she was elected in December 2015. She edited and published our newsletter for the first few years and has kept our website calendar up to date; then took over our membership functions, sending out renewal notices and tracking membership. She handled invitations and RSVP's to our annual meeting/dinner in 2018 and 2019, and drafted and emailed the SFA Expresses you were receiving regularly before Covid-19 shut our activities down. She's going to be hard to replace. We thank you, Doris, for all you've done for SFA and wish you a smooth and complete recovery.

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 | TBD |
| 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 | TBD |

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Presidents message continued

Another member, Marge Metz, is now living in Colorado. Her “other half”, SFA member Rick Lintner, is now living in Minnesota near family due to health issues. Life brings changes. We wish both of them well and will miss seeing them at our happy hours. One of our “snow bird” members, Nadeen Berger, is still in Illinois and is recovering from Covid-19. She hopes to spend one month here between April and May, before our summer heat sends her back to Illinois. I know Nadeen is in good hands with her family nearby and we wish her a smooth return to good health.

That’s all for this time but stay tuned, stay safe, stay well.

Warm regards,
Joanne Handlong



Happy Birthday to these members:

March Birthdays

Doug Crandall

Dorothy Sydnor

Jerry Crow

Dena Cameron

Doris Green

Michael R Jennings

Albert A. Scozzari

April Birthdays

Bernie Soricone

Tammy Stover

Marjorie Metz

Bill Plank

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

Ode to Covid-19

by Jim Kroenig

One of our talented SFA members

The house is cleaned

The car is gassed

Another boring day has passed

My glasses are foggy

From my mask exhaust

I should be happy it isn't frost

On my morning walk

No humans I see

Does that mean the world belongs to me?

With no people around

No need for a gun

I could shoot out street lights just for fun

Restaurants and bars are lonely places

Lakes and parks are empty spaces

People say, “Where is Jim?

We've seen not hide nor hair of him”

But I'm staying safe you can be certain

Hiding here behind the curtain

Six feet we are to stay apart

But I need a hug close to my heart

Some poetry I think I'll scan--

“Poems are made by fools like me

But only God can make a tree”--

Poems written by Kilroy as a very young man

For something to do

I'm in a quandary

Ich habe keine arbeit

Oh wait—LAUNDRY!



MARCH EVENTS

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB MEETING (ON ZOOM)

Monday, March 22, 6:30 p.m.

RSVP by 3/21 to babeandkit@aol.com

“The Forgotten Garden” by Kate Morton

Joanne Handlong will be the facilitator.

The story follows three women through different time periods: Eliza from 1900-1913, Nell from 1913-1975, and Cassandra in 2005. The plot concerns the search for Nell's past; she was found sitting alone on a wharf in Australia in 1913, with only a child's suitcase. Inside the case was a book of fairy tales written by Eliza Makepeace. In 1975, Nell travels to England to track down what clues she can about who she was before she ended up in Australia. In the end, it is up to her granddaughter, Cassandra, to solve the mystery.

You must **RSVP** to Barbara Rosen, babeandkit@aol.com, **by March 21** if you plan to attend. You will receive an email with the link to the Zoom meeting the afternoon of March 22.



BOARD MEETING (ON ZOOM)

Monday, April 12, 2:00 PM **RSVP BY 4/11**

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, **by Sun, April 11** if you are planning to attend.

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB MEETING (ON ZOOM)

Monday, April 26, 6:30 p.m.

RSVP by 4/25 to babeandkit@aol.com

“Deacon King Kong” by James McBride



Victoria Heil will be the facilitator.

In September, 1969, a fumbling cranky old church deacon known as Sportcoat shuffles into the courtyard of the Cause Houses housing project in south Brooklyn, pulls a .38 from his pocket, and in front of everybody shoots the project's drug dealer at point-blank range. The author brings to vivid life the people affected by the shooting; the victim, the African-American and Latino residents who witnessed it, the white neighbors, the local cops assigned to investigate, the members of the Five Ends Baptist Church where Sportcoat was deacon, the neighborhood's Italian mobsters, and Sportcoat himself.

You must **RSVP** to Barbara Rosen, babeandkit@aol.com, **by April 25** if you plan to attend. You will receive an email with the link to the Zoom meeting the afternoon of April 26.

Event and Activity Opportunities for You to Enjoy on Your Own

Most of the valley theaters have not yet returned to in-person productions; Phoenix Theatre Company is the exception. Following are two upcoming productions being offered in their outdoor venue at nearby Central Methodist Church. These events are for your information; SFA will not be hosting a group. Go to: <https://www.phoenixtheatre.com/> for information and ticket purchase.

March 10 – April 4, 2021: **Ring of Fire (Musical)** - Johnny Cash captured the spirit of America like few other musicians. This spirited production presents 38 songs from The Man in Black's catalogue to tell stories of change and growth, as we follow a winning cast through important moments in their lives.

April 14 – May 23, 2021: **My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra** - Frank Sinatra's story is told through the combined range of four virtuoso vocalists, performing the best of his songs in an intimate nightclub setting. With music including "Fly Me to the Moon," "I Get A Kick Out Of You," "The Way You Look Tonight," and—of course—"My Way," you'll be swinging in the aisles at this fresh new Broadway revue.

Phoenix Theatre Company complies with all protocols for Covid-19 safety. They provide a safe environment, including socially-distanced seating, hand sanitizer, and mask requirements. See their website for details.

Carole Sobel has offered to take names of members who are looking to join up with another member for a Phoenix Theatre Company event. Email her at cesobel@gmail.com if you are seeking someone to go with. She will put you in contact with one another.

ASU School of Music and Theatre offers free or low-cost virtual events featuring their students. If you have never seen one of their performances, you will be delightfully surprised by the talent of these students at all levels--undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral. Follow this link for more information: <https://musicdancetheatre.asu.edu/events>

Several on-line services list events that may be of interest to you:

<https://www.goldstar.com/phoenix> - This site offers discounted tickets for virtual events and classes.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/> - This site offers access to a variety of events, including performing arts, classes of all sorts, etc. Want to take a Salsa lesson, learn about investing in real estate? There is a lot to choose from and you can easily set a filter to see only free events, select categories of events, choose only events in your area, and more.

Vino and Canvas Wine Down Wednesdays: <https://vinoandcanvas.com/> - Vino and Canvas is a personal favorite of Joanne's. They offer virtual classes each Wednesday. The instructor is excellent, the price very reasonable and the atmosphere friendly and relaxed. If you aren't satisfied with your painting, you can download the Zoom class recording and try it again, at your own pace.

The mission of the Society for the Arts is to raise money through social events and fundraising to benefit the arts in the greater Phoenix area. Founded in 1986, Society for the Arts is a 501(3)(c) organization.

Mailing Address: Society for the Arts, P. O. Box 807, Mesa, AZ 85211