

# FRIENDS' NEWS

Friends of the Surprise Libraries, Arizona

## SCIENCE OF MAGIC SELLS OUT

Mark Carter's "Science of Magic" show, sponsored by Friends as part of the Surprise library's Summer Reading Program, attracted sell-out crowds for two sessions on June 18. Nearly 500 children and teens attended. The two shows kicked off a series of special events that will continue through July. At the presentation, librarians thanked Friends for "vastly bolstering the Northwest Regional Library's Summer Reading Program." "We are gratified to sponsor these events and were able to double the number of participants this year," said Alyson Cline, President of Friends of the Surprise Libraries. "We were able to accommodate more young readers than ever before." Upcoming Friends programs include: two performances of "Reptile Adventures" on July 9; the Arizona Puppet Theater on July 23 and an extensive Super Hero Adventure Party on July 30. Children packed both magic shows to the very back of the library's public room for both of Carter's enthusiastic implementation of magic tricks and scientific experiments.

## FRIENDS TO PARTNER IN READ-ON

Friends is set to become a community partner in the upcoming "Read On Greater Surprise," a literacy advocacy organization that is part of the fast-growing state entity, "Read ON Arizona." The cities of Surprise and El Mirage have signed on to the formational thrust and Youngstown and Nadaburg School District are expected to join this summer. When the statewide organization certifies the fledgling Surprise coalition, a literacy evaluation of youngsters in the greater Surprise area will be implemented as the first step in a unique effort to improve reading. Area educator Ellen McConbill is Chairman of the coalition with Friends President, Alyson Cline as Co-Chair.

## SURPRISE TAKES FISCAL CONTROL OF THE LIBRARY

The City of Surprise will take over 100 percent of the cost of the Surprise Libraries on July 1 as part of its agreement with the Maricopa County Library District. However, Library patrons and Friends' Volunteers will experience no changes in service or hours of operation. It was also announced that longtime library manager Mary Melby has retired but no replacement has been selected. Several staff positions are also open on the library staff.

June 2015



## MAY SALES SOAR

The Friends' Place bookstore in the lobby of the Surprise Library saw sales soar to an all-time high for the 30 sales days in May, 2015, a 13.94 percent increase over the same period last year. It was the fourth straight monthly sales record since January. It also represented the highest May in the history of the organization.

## FOUNDER JEAN DUNCAN RETIRES FROM FRIENDS' BOARD

Former Friends' president Jean Duncan, who was a key founder of the philanthropic organization, announced that she is retiring from the board after serving more than a decade. Duncan, a former teacher and school librarian, was instrumental in the formation of the organization and served as the early Membership Chairman headed up recruiting the volunteer staff that is the heart of the organization.

FRIENDS HAS GIVEN \$140,506 TO LOCAL SCHOOLS SINCE JUNE 2006