

FRIENDS' NEWS

October 2015

Friends of the Surprise Libraries, AZ

FRIENDS GIVE \$31,633.96 IN SCHOOL GRANTS

Friends of the Surprise Libraries is awarding \$31,633.96 to Surprise area Schools, the latest donation in a literacy aid program that stretches back ten years. The new grants give sizeable amounts to 20 Schools and their Library programs as decided by the Friends School Grant Committee, chaired by Judy Spradling. The committee, however, could not fill all the requests. "The Board was generous and increased our budget, but even with this, we could not fund all the applications," said Spradling who, herself, is a former School Librarian. Recipients this year were the following schools: Ashton Ranch, Canyon Ridge, Cimarron Springs, Countryside, Desert Oasis, Dysart Elementary, Dysart High School, El Mirage, Kingswood, Marley Park, Mountain View, Parkview, Rancho Gabriela, Riverview, Sonoran Heights, Thompson Ranch, West Point, Western Peaks and Willow Canyon High School.



*Friends School Grants Chair
Judy Spradling works with some
of the grant requests.*

VOLUNTEERS TO BE HONORED AT CEREMONY

Aurora Leon, a Friends member who has been instrumental in training new Volunteers, will be named "Volunteer of the Year" at the annual ceremony on October 28. A Volunteer for almost seven years, Aurora has also been active in training Friends new high school Volunteers. In addition, twenty-seven Friends Volunteers will receive pins. A ten-year pin will go to Betty Winters. Five-year pins will go to: Peggy Brabec, Elizabeth Brunson, Alyson Cline, Gary Cline, Rhoda Krans, Laurel Sund and Arthur Tipton Jr. One-year pin recipients will be: Patricia Baxter, Barb Blahoski, Robert Bove, Judy Carilli, Bill DeBoer, Peggy DeBoer, Elizabeth A. Eriquez, Richard Florence, Debbie Gretz, Marie Malamatos, Mary Mathews, Diane Maynard, Judy McNealy, Janice L. Miller, Sue Mitchell, Nicole Nijdl, Patricia Rehn, Jerry San Miguel and Nancy Westler.

READ-ON SETS SURPRISE LITERACY GOALS

The new literacy organization Read-On Greater Surprise, of which Friends is a founding community partner, has set tentative literacy goals. These could lead to brand new volunteer venues for Surprise residents. Their new tentative mission statement reads: "Read-On Greater Surprise will provide support to local families to improve the literacy of children ages birth to eight-years-old." Their first goal is to "ensure every child entering school is ready for school success by increasing the percentage of children demonstrating school readiness by 10 percent." Other goals hope to increase the "percentage of students reading at or above grade level by the end of 3rd grade by five percent." Friends President, Alyson Cline is Co-Chair of the drive. It is hoped that Friends volunteers will "volunteer to volunteer" in the battle to increase grade school literacy.

**NINE MONTH
BOOK SALES
TOTAL \$40,790**

The Friends Place Used Bookstore reported a nine-month, 2015 total of \$40,790, which is \$1,002 less than the same period last year, a 2.4 percent decrease. Total income for the same period was \$43,243.33. Sales during September brought in \$3,888.50, \$284.75 less than the same month in 2014 which was a 6.8 percent decrease.



TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY SINCE 2003 -- \$418,031.73

TOTAL GRANTS TO SCHOOLS SINCE 2003 -- \$187,991.87