

# NEW FRONTIERS NEWS

Volume 30, Issue 5 May-June 2022

## NEW FRONTIERS CALENDAR

### Important Dates at a Glance:

#### SPRING CLASSES END

MCC & NFLL On-Campus Classes  
Friday, May 6, 2022

#### BREAKFAST AT THE BROKEN YOLK

2034 E Southern Ave, Mesa, AZ 85204  
We plan to eat inside in a private room  
Thursday, May 12, 2022; 9:30 AM

#### NEW FRONTIERS FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

#### SPRING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Community Room - M200  
Red Mountain Campus, 7110 E. McKellips  
Thursday, May 19, 2022; 1:00 – 3:00 PM

#### SUMMER CLASS REGISTRATION OPENS

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

#### SUMMER CLASSES BEGIN

9 Week Session  
Monday, June 6, 2022

#### NO CLASSES

Independence Day  
Monday, July 4, 2022

#### FALL CLASS PROPOSAL DEADLINE

Friday, July 15, 2022

The [New Frontiers' calendar](#) is continually updated with information about committee meetings, social events, and functions of interest to all.

Please check the NFLL Website for more information:

<https://newfrontiers.mesacc.edu>



*Spring Picnic at Desert Breeze Park*

## YOU'RE INVITED!

It is exciting to announce that we will have our first in-person Spring Membership Meeting in three years. We look forward to seeing as many members as possible as we will not only have a speaker from MCC Administration, but we also have an election, reports, etc. Most of all we get to see each other and catch up.

Light Refreshments will be served.

### Agenda

- Welcome – Dan Taylor, New Frontiers Past President
- Greetings – Council member David Luna, City of Mesa
- Presentation: Dr. Nora Reyes, MCC Senior Associate Vice President
- Student Scholarships – Barbara Thelander
- New Frontiers Business Meeting –
  - Report on the last two years - Roland Tanner
  - Recognition and Report from Standing Committees – Roland Tanner
  - Nomination Committee Report and Elections – Dan Taylor
  - A look to the future

### Adjourn



## Breakfast at the Broken Yolk

Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 9:30 AM  
2034 E Southern Ave, Mesa, AZ 85204

We plan to eat inside in a private room.

[Google Map Link](#)

It is recommended that everyone attending be vaccinated. It is also recommended you bring and wear your mask when not eating.

The contact person is Monica Karels at [phxsunshine@cox.net](mailto:phxsunshine@cox.net). Be sure that Monica acknowledges your email to reserve a spot for you. Please contact her by email no later than Tuesday, May 10th, by late afternoon if you want to attend.

Monica can be reached by phone at 480-835-9190 if you are unable to email her.

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning is pleased to announce that three \$2000 scholarships will be offered to MCC students for the 2022-2023 Academic year.

In the 25 plus years that New Frontiers has been a program of MCC, members have offered student scholarships and celebrated recipient's success. This past two years have been difficult for students with the advent of online learning due to the pandemic. But, three \$1000 scholarships were awarded for the school year's in 2020-2021 and in 2021-2022.

Scholarship Applications will open in early June 2022 and close in August 2022. The NF's Scholarship Committee works closely with MCC's Financial Aid Office. NF's will be involved in assessing applicant's criteria based on Financial Need, Academic Goals, and Employment, Extracurricular Activities, Leadership, Volunteer or Community Service Experience.

Please watch for the announcement in the Fall celebrating the three MCC students who will receive the New Frontiers' Scholarship.

*Barbara Thelander*

## CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

### Why Don't We Record Online Sessions?

The Curriculum Committee has received many requests to record online sessions and certain speakers but is unable to do this frequently. Why?

The recorded sessions on Zoom or WebEx produce very large files. To store these files for playback, the host must save the recording to either their own computer or their own cloud storage areas such as One Drive or Google Drive. The memory space for the free storage areas is very limited and often will hold only one 90-minute program. Additional storage space is sold only with annual memberships costing approximately \$500 per year.

Several programs this year have been recorded and made available for a limited time. Our audit of the access of these files shows, while many request the link, few, if any members watch the replay.

Future recording of sessions is at the discretion of the online host and the permission of the presenter. If a host records a program and makes the line available, please thank them. Our volunteers are the best!

### Summer Session 2022 is Coming!

The Summer 2022 Session is starting June 6, 2022 and will run 9 weeks until August 6, 2022. No classes will be held on Monday, July 4th. The Curriculum Committee has course offerings to please most members. There will be social activities, cycling, history, and just plain fun things to pass the time during our hot summer days. The Summer Schedule is available on the website.

Again this year, we will be sending out a weekly email with the coming week's courses and activities and links to online courses. Members may join online courses as they wish. In-person classes request that you contact the facilitator and tell him or her that you are coming, so space arrangements are sufficient for all. COVID restrictions will be that of the facility hosting the event or otherwise will depend on the comfort level of the member.

This summer we invite you to share the links and classes with friends that might be interested in joining New Frontiers for a full year in the Fall. You can also send email addresses of interested parties to Suzanne Brown, the Curriculum Chair at [suzannebrownpt@gmail.com](mailto:suzannebrownpt@gmail.com), and she will add your friends to the email list for the summer classes. Let's all try to invite at least one person and raise our membership to over 300 in the Fall!

### Facilitators And Online Hosts Needed for Fall!

Facilitators and Online Hosts are needed for the Fall Session. Training will be provided.

Facilitators are the contact with the presenter prior to a session and then serve as the class moderator by introducing the speaker, monitoring questions, and generally handling the details of the course.

Online hosts set up the Zoom or WebEx link, open the class 15 minutes before the session and handle technology issues for the online course. Zoom hosts must have a personal account, WebEx hosts use the MCC Webex system which is free to NFLL members.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Suzanne Brown, Curriculum Chair at [suzannebrownpt@gmail.com](mailto:suzannebrownpt@gmail.com) or 480-688-1497 and she will arrange one-on-one or group training. Facilitating and hosting is a great way to make sure you have a place in the class and to volunteer for NFLL.

*Suzanne Brown*

## HELP WANTED: Publicity Team

The Support Services/Communications Committee is looking for a few good men – and women – to assist with the Publicity and Marketing branch of the committee. High on the list of duties is Brainstorming! Who doesn't like to do that? We need fresh ideas of how to promote New Frontiers in the valley. In addition, we need help with our tried and true practices that have worked in the past:

1. Distribute flyers to retirement communities in the East Valley. No cold calling; our retiring team members can provide a list of the communities who welcome us.
2. Write local newspaper articles about New Frontiers – Open House in particular. Do you like to write? Come join us.
3. Volunteer for the Speakers Bureau; give informal presentations to local community organizations about the benefits of being an NFLL member.
4. If this sounds like something you would like to learn more about, please send an email to [peggy.randolph@asu.edu](mailto:peggy.randolph@asu.edu) or call Kathee Rutherford at (480) 854-1019.

*Peggy Randolph*

## DR. TAMMY ROBINSON

### Named as New President of Mesa Community College

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) and Mesa Community College (MCC) are pleased to announce Dr. Tammy Robinson as the new President of MCC. Dr. Robinson will replace Interim President Dr. Lori M. Berquam, who has served in the role since Feb. 1, 2020. This concludes a nationwide search that involved extensive community and stakeholder engagement.

"I am honored and humbled to be selected as the next president of Mesa Community College," said Dr. Robinson. "I look forward to collaborating with the staff and faculty of MCC in advancing the institution and helping students achieve academic success. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work alongside so many committed individuals in continuing to deliver outstanding learning opportunities in Mesa."

Dr. Robinson's professional experience spans 25 years as a community college administrator and faculty member. Since 2018, Dr. Robinson has served as the Vice President of Instruction at Cañada College in Redwood City, California. In addition to her current role, Dr. Robinson serves as the Vice President of the California Community College Chief Instructional Officers Executive Board. She also serves on several national boards including the Workforce Development Commission for the American Association of Community Colleges.

"With her impressive track record and experience in education, I have every confidence that Dr. Robinson will be a passionate advocate and leader at Mesa Community College," said MCCCD Interim Chancellor, Dr. Steven R. Gonzales. "Dr. Robinson thoroughly impressed us with her leadership experience, her passion for education and equity, and her all-around positive energy. I am excited to work closely with her as we continue our System's commitment to transforming individuals and our community through learning."

Dr. Robinson holds a Doctorate in Education with an emphasis in Community College Administration from the University of Southern California, a Master of Arts degree in English with an emphasis in Rhetoric and Composition from California State University, Dominguez Hills, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an Associate of Arts degree in Social Science from Cerritos College.

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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## NEW FRONTIERS FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT



### RICHARD SHIFLER

#### And the Birth of New Frontiers

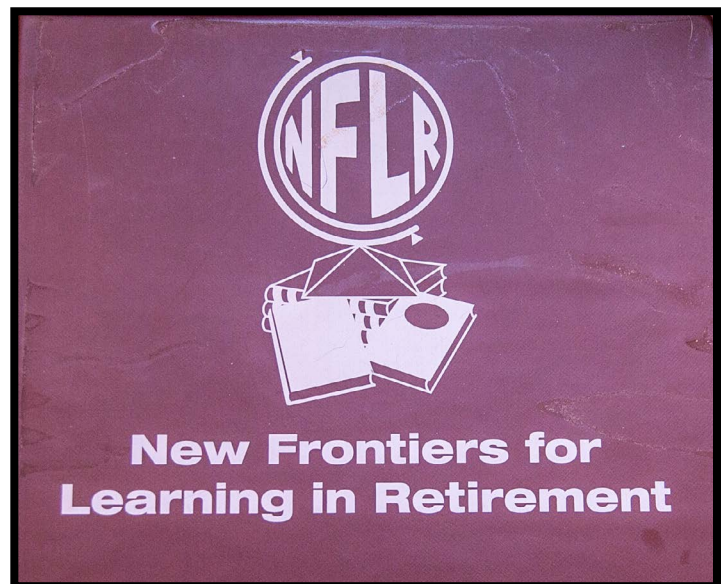
Peggy Randolph, chair of the Support Services/Communications committee, suggested that I meet with Richard Shifler, one of the founding members of New Frontiers for Learning in Retirement. Yes, in 1994, there was no such a thing as *New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning!*

One morning, Greg Master and I had breakfast with Dick and his son John. What a pleasure to listen to Dick sharing his experience as one of the founding members of our organization. We are very grateful to him for describing what the organization was at its beginning. We are even more grateful for loaning us his precious memories to read, two binders full of information about the organization and about the *Southwest Historical Adventures Group*, the "Desert Rats" which he facilitated from 1994 to 2002.

New Frontiers for Learning in Retirement, NFFLIR, was created in the Fall of 1994 by 23 retirees who were attending classes at Mesa Community College.

The founding Memorandum of Understanding with MCC stated that NFFLIR was a membership learning organization sponsored by MCC and affiliated with The Elderhostel Institute Network (Road Scholar) and ALIROW, the Association of Learning in Retirement Organizations of the West.

The first Open House was held in September 1995 and the organization grew from a core of 29 dedicated people to 71 charter members. In October, the Fall semester began with the first study groups and the first edition of the newsletter, the *New Frontiers News*.



### New Frontiers for Learning in Retirement

The first annual meeting for the membership of NFFLIR was held in November 1995. Three committees were created, Curriculum, Membership/Promotion, and Administration/Finance.

Six years later, in 2000, membership had grown to 350.

Dan Taylor, MCC administrator, Barbara Thelander, MCC head of Community Ed and Nancy Olson, the Community Ed staff person who had the idea of starting the organization, were very helpful during the startup phase of the organization.

Dick Shifler, a native of Maryland and a retired mechanical engineer, was first the vice-chair of the Administration/ Finance committee. He soon became the facilitator of the *Southwest Historical Adventures Group*, the "Desert Rats".

Dick had always been an avid traveler. During his professional life, he had traveled to many countries, China (in 1970 before President Nixon) and South Africa to name a few.

When retired, his thirst for travel didn't stop and he started to organize tours, first in Arizona, then in neighboring states (one week in Santa Fe and Taos, NM).

From 1995 to 2002 he organized 150 trips ranging from half a day to a weeklong. It was the only activity that was going on all year around.

When browsing the mine of information his binder on "Rat Tales":-) provides, I can't help but think how little I know about Arizona and its History. Most of the trips included a visit to a historical place like the Champlin Fighter Museum, in Falcon Field, nowadays in Seattle, the Besh Ba Gowah in Globe, the Deer Valley Rock Art Center.....

Most of the trips contained a solid historical narrative coupled with the pleasure of eating. For example, even a day trip to Usery Park, would start with a copious breakfast under a ramada, followed by a hike to the wind cave.

*"In the beginning....presumptuously borrowing a tried and true intro...the Southwest Historical Adventures class requested a volunteer to keep notes for a class history. Like the proverbial rice pot...they have boiled over. Meeting notes blossomed into trip tales. Correct them, change them, add to them but mostly enjoy them. They are fallible. They are just memories."*

The scribe, Dorothy Zebrowski, wrote most of the notes in grand style and with a lot of humor.

For example, this one describing the Colorado River rafting trip at Grand Canyon and titled *Thirty "near drowned rats"*.

*"The first rapid the raft hit head on and full speed, caused a wall of water the size of Rhode Island to engulf the raft and anyone in, on or near. 48 degree water is either a real wake up or knock out. No hearts stopped soooo we did it again! Near drowned horrified rats in various positions clinging to ropes for dear life are not a pretty sight!...We all survived when our facilitator Dick Shifler, realized just as we were ready to board the buses, that we were missing 3 people. Good facilitator! Dependable facilitator!...(a raft had motor trouble).....Would we do it again? In a minute!"*

The trips were not sanctioned by MCC. A liability release was developed and signed by participants protecting carpool drivers from liability.

"No catastrophe ever happened" said Dick, "although a lady broke her wrist, and another one fell on her face....."

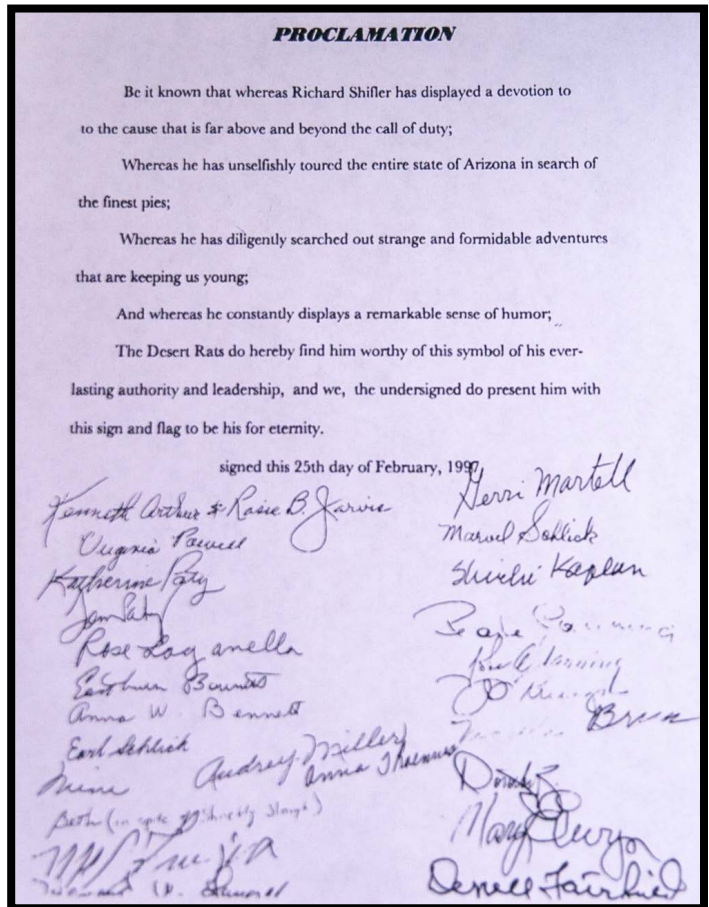
What strikes one when reading the memories are the joy and enthusiasm that transpire these *Rat Tales*.

The Rats were so happy with their facilitator that they presented him with a PROCLAMATION on February 25, 1997.

We look back with envy at the activities our predecessors enjoyed.

Thanks to founders like Dick, NFFL has a rich heritage of exploration, education and adventure that we can all hope to continue and expand.

Marie Ganansia



Dick pictured on the Left



**CURIOSITY NEVER RETIRES**



Marooned on Aotearoa by Donald Larry



Art Walk MCC Dobson Campus



Larry and Marilyn Klingler



Spring Picnic at Desert Breeze Park



# NEW FRONTIERS FOR LIFELONG LEARNING



Gun Shooting Class



A Torrey Pine



Hiking Twisted Sisters Trail



Hiking Black's Beach



# 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 – Roland Tanner
- Vice President – Bob Dukelow
- Secretary – Mary Boehlen
- Treasurer – Fred Searing
- Members at Large – Allan Zisner, Ron Schueman, Margo Heaps
- Past Presidents – Marlin Fried, Dan Taylor
- Curriculum – Suzanne Brown, Cindy Schrantz
- Social – Arlys Medicott
- Membership – Mary Boehlen, Bob Dukelow
- Support Services/Communications – Peggy Randolph, Arlys Medicott
- Volunteer Committee – Barbara Thelander, Mary Adamick, Cathy & Mary McGonigle
- Interim Associate Dean – Kris Bliss, MCC – Red Mountain
- Program Coordinator – Community Partnerships – Neva Hansen & Michelle Chambers
- 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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