



THE PLAYBILL

February 2026

Issue 4-6



President's Message

Thank you to the Sun City Poms for their spectacular performance at our January 19th Monday Night Gathering. The Poms consisted of several of our own members including Diana Lamb, who provided the narration and a song, as well as Debbie Kruep, who prepared the choreography.

Kudos to the cast and crew of **Collective Dating** for an enjoyable and fun production that was seen by nearly 1200 patrons over its six-day run. We now turn our attention to our Spring show, **Once Upon a Mattress**, which will be our last musical in our present building. We should all do our best to promote this extravaganza by contacting friends, family and friends on social media. If all goes as planned, the remodeling of Mountain View Recreation Center should begin by the first of next year.

My attention, as well as that of the executive board and transition committee chairman, Tom Swenson, will be focused on the many decisions which need to be made in the upcoming 6-9 months about the logistical future of our club. There will be a period of between two to two and a half years before the new Performing Arts Center {PAC} is ready for our occupancy. I invite members to share their comments, suggestions or questions regarding our temporary future move by emailing me at gregengstrom0@gmail.com.

As part of our preparation for the future, the board, spearheaded by VP Bill Cherry, is finalizing a member survey to help us to guide our planning. This survey will be presented at both the March and April Monday Night Gatherings. Please take a few minutes, when given the opportunity, to complete the survey, as your input is critical to subsequent decisions and planning.

Watch your emails for a chart which lays out how the board has organized the club into various committees to serve the many functions required for management of our organization. This chart will include a description of each committee, its chairperson and board liaison, as well as how you can volunteer to help. This organizational chart is a fluid document that will change as people and circumstances dictate and will also provide a base upon which to manage club operations.

I look forward to seeing you all at our February 16th Monday Night Gathering. Until then, be well and happy!

Greg Engstrom, President

Membership

Be sure to wear your name badge to all our meetings, especially the Monday Night Gatherings, as we will be screening your badge, instead of having you sign in. New badges for everyone who renewed at the January Gathering will be available to pick up at the February 16th Gathering.

If you have not renewed yet for 2026, please do so at the February 16th Gathering or online, since you will be considered a visitor at the March Gathering if you do not have the newest badge.

Membership is looking for a new chairperson. A great working team is in place, but we need someone to oversee and coordinate them. If you have questions about what this position entails, please talk to BJ Martindale at 602-329-0893 or any board member (phone #s and emails located at end of this newsletter).

2026 Winter Mainstage Information

March 20 and 27, 2026

7:00 pm

March 21, 22, 28, and 29, 2026

2:00 pm

“We Have An Opening for A Princess”



On opening night, there will be candy, soda pop and chips. Enjoy complimentary wine and a show ready photo booth for your memories. Whether you crave musical comedy acting, singing, dancing, a live orchestra...WE HAVE IT ALL!

The story is narrated for us by a Minstrel (James Borgmann). Watch the royal court as they test princess candidate #12 {Sharon Nichols}; see Prince Dauntless (Rickie Toland) pine for a bride while his mother, Queen Aggravain (Mish Serries), keeps rejecting princess candidates. Since no one in the kingdom can get married until Prince Dauntless does, the stakes are high when a new, swampy-looking princess, Winnifred (Debbie Kruep), comes to court to apply for the bride ship. One couple, Sir Harry (Eric Emerson) and Lady Larken (Cathy Corbin Mannino), are especially eager for the swampy princess to succeed, since their own baby is on its way. Comedic relief is provided by the mute King (Steven Krueger), the Jester (Mike Shepherd), and the Wizard (Jim Balk). Memorable music, creative dancing, an unforgettable environment, costumes and props complete the show.

Online tickets are available for \$15 at suncityplayers.org for the two evening and four matinee performances. In person sales will take place Monday-Thursday, 10 am-1 pm, March 16-19 and March 23-26, 2026, at Fairway Recreation Center lobby. Tickets will also be sold from 6:15-7:00 pm at February 16 and March 16, 2026, Monday Night Gatherings at Mountain View Recreation Center.

In addition, we will be operating a booth at Farmers Market in the Bell Recreation Center east parking lot area from 9 am-1 pm during Thursdays in February and March. Look for our blue tablecloths and the happy faces of our member volunteers.



Monday Night Gatherings

Our Monday Night Gatherings this winter will offer some wonderful performances that you won't want to miss. Doors open at 6:15 pm at Mountain View Theater. Business proceedings will begin at 7 pm, after which the show will be presented. Refreshments will be available. Guests and visitors, especially RCSC cardholders, are welcome to attend.

Monday, February 16, 2026

Join us for an evening of Readers Theater Ensemble's warm, witty, and unexpectedly tender production of ***How to Be Happy...Though Married***, an adaptation of EJ Hardy's book of the same name. These short pieces explore love after the confetti - how couples choose each other, misunderstand each other, forgive each other, and somehow keep building a life in the same house with the same dishwasher. Expect laughter, recognition, and a few quiet moments that land right in the heart. **Table seating tonight.**

Monday, March 16, 2026

On this night, we will hear **Monologues** from classic and contemporary plays, as well as **Original Stories** from our own lives. If you are interested in sharing your own monologue or story, please refer to the information below as to upcoming workshops and rehearsals. **Table seating will not be tonight.**

Monday, April 20, 2026

A Lady with a Song: Lorraine Taylor will entertain us with her one-woman musical show. **Table seating is available tonight.**

Information on Monologue/ Story Workshops/Rehearsals

(Led by Ann Davis – email her at anndavis90@gmail.com with any questions)

Session 1 Workshop – Thursday, March 5, 2026, 4-6 pm, at Fairway Recreation Center AZ 4

This session will include choosing a monologue, studying the context and backstory, and identifying the story arc. Be advised that Ann will have plenty of monologues from which to choose or you can bring your own. They will not need to be **memorized** and should be no more than 5 minutes long.

Session 2 Workshop – Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 4-6 pm, at Lakeview Rec Center SH 2

This session will include staging, blocking, and leveling (variation in volume, pace and intensity).

If you choose to share a monologue or story from these workshops at the March 16th Monday Night Gathering, you need to attend the following two rehearsals:

Rehearsal: March 12, 2026, Thursday, 4-6 pm at Fairway Rec Center AZ 4

Rehearsal: March 16, 2026, Monday, 5:45-6:15 pm at Mountain View Rec Center before the actual performance

Readers Theater Ensemble

Class sessions continue the first and third Saturday of each month from 10 am-noon at Fairway Recreation Center. Next session will take place on Saturday, February 7, 2026. We will be rehearsing ***How to Be Happy...Though Married***, which we will present at the February 16 Monday Night Gathering at Mountain View Recreation Center. This production explores marriage, not as a fairy tale, but as a lived experience. This is not a how-to manual or a cautionary tale. It is an honest, wry, and deeply human recognition piece. Whether married, once married, happily partnered or thoughtfully single, audiences will recognize some of these experiences in themselves.

Come for the laughs. Stay for the truth. Leave feeling a little less alone.... and maybe a little more hopeful!



Clubhouse

Helene Benigno will host the first two sessions of Clubhouse on February 11 and February 18, 2026, from 9:30-11:30 am at Mountain View Recreation Center.

February 11, 2026 – Let's Improv

Improv isn't about being funny. It's about showing up and saying "Yes". In this workshop, you will sharpen your creativity, communication, and connection through playful, low-pressure games.

February 18, 2026 – Discover Character

Great characters don't happen by accident. In this workshop, you'll develop distinct characters through backstory, physicality, and psychology. Walk away with tools you can use onstage in your next role.



Helene Benigno, originally from New York, but who has made Arizona home since 2000, has worked as a professional playwright, actor, director, and acting teacher for over 25 years. Helene has dozens of plays to her credit and has received many AriZoni nominations. In addition to theater, she has worked in radio and television in both New York and Boston. Helene is represented by Dani's Agency.

February 25, 2026 – Breath and Voice

Shelley Logan will be the guest speaker at this workshop in which she will present breath and voice exercises to improve enunciation and projection. When we drop our voice, we lose clarity and understanding of words, etc. This session will be held from 9:30-11:30 am at Mountain View Recreation Center.

Volunteer Opportunities

1.SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Sun City Players CARES! Chaired by Sandi Mischo, this outreach program will send cards and make home or hospital visits, if requested, to those members who are ill or have lost a loved one. Contact Board Member Nancy Dearborn if you would like to receive services or if you would like to join this committee by texting her at 319-573-5877 or by email at nancydearbornmusic@gmail.com

2. BUDDY PROGRAM

If you are new to Sun City Players and want to be connected to someone who can “show you the ropes”, this program is for you! Buddies can sit with new members at Players events, exchange phone numbers and answer questions about the club. If you would like to be assigned a buddy, be a buddy or even chair this committee, please contact Board Member Nancy Dearborn at 319-573-5877 by leaving a text or voice message.

3. PROVIDE A RIDE PROGRAM

Effective immediately, any member who needs a ride to a Players event should contact one of our member volunteer drivers listed below. Please give them at least 24 hours’ notice and advise them if you have any mobility issues. Please provide your name, address, and phone number.

If you are interested in becoming a driver, you should contact Board Member Nancy Dearborn at 319-573-5877 by leaving a text or voice message.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER DRIVERS:

Jim Balk	602-616-2284
Jean Balk	602-451-2748
Ray Schiel	323-336-5437

4. FOOD DRIVE PROGRAM

Sun City Players started collecting food, cleaning, and personal hygiene items for the West Valley Good Charlie Bank at our Holiday party on December 7, 2025. We collected three bins of items which were delivered by Tom Swenson and Beth Miller (photo below). Players will continue helping our Sun City neighbors by collecting items at all mainstage productions and Monday Night Gatherings. A labeled bin will be available, usually in the lobby of Mountain View Rec Center. Food donated will be given to the Valley View

Community Food Bank, which is facing unprecedented demand. Be sure to bring your items to our next event!



“To the world you might be one person, but to one person you might be the world”

5. USHERING

Ushers are needed for all six performances of ***Once Upon a Mattress*** on March 20-22 and March 27-29, 2026, at Mountain View Recreation Center. Please contact Karon Pigg by text or phone at 559-799-1842 or by email at ckpigg@gmail.com. Thank you to all who are willing to help. If you want a particular position the day or evening you are available, let Karon know and she will make it a point to accommodate you.

Update on Performing Arts Center

NEW PAC PROGRESS

First, thanks to the many Players members who heeded the call and attended the update meeting Tuesday night, Jan 13, 2026, at Sundial regarding the plans for the Mountain View campus. Our “showing up” made a very strong impression on the RCSC Board members and on all who attended.

There were two purposes for this meeting. First, the architects, Tri-arc, wanted to propose three alternative plans for the Mountain View overall renovations (SS photo).

Option 3 includes most of what has been requested by the community. Option 3A is the “barebones” alternative, and revises or eliminates several items. Option 3B represents a compromise of sorts, a middle ground between 3 and 3A, and the bottom-line cost is closest to the actual PIF budget for Mountain View. 3B and 3A represent reductions in size for the PAC

Players leadership wants Option 3 but recognizes we might have to settle for Option 3B. Option 3A is by far the least favorable option.

The second purpose of the meeting was to move towards a decision on fixed vs movable seating for the PAC. From the discussion it was very clear that the best alternative is fixed seating, in terms of cost, flexibility, and usefulness by your senior population. And the RCSC board seemed to agree

When asked about the timeline, the board seemed comfortable with and is still hoping that groundbreaking would be by the end of 2026.

I encourage all our members to find opportunities to communicate with the board members and express your wishes for the best possible PAC money can buy.

Please feel to contact me if you have questions or suggestions.

Tom Swenson 623-999-8714, tlswenson1950@gmail.com.

Update:

At the RCSC Board Meeting on Thursday, Jan 29, 2026, a motion was made and approved by the Board to go ahead with Option 3B.

Did You Know?

Two of our members, Kevin Dowd and Norman Krinsky, will be appearing in ***Guys and Dolls Sr*** at TheaterWorks on February 17 and 18, 2026 at 6:00 pm. Tickets are still available, but are very limited. Break a leg, Kevin and Norman!

Calendar

Feb 7: 10:00-noon – Readers Theater – Fairway Rec Center, AZ rooms 1&2

Feb 11: 9:30-11:30 am – Clubhouse- Helene Benigno – “Let’s Improv” – Mountain View Recreation Center

Feb 14: 9:00-11:00 am – Executive Board Meeting – Fairway Recreation Center –Room 133

Feb 16: 7:00 pm – Monday Night Gathering – Readers Theater Ensemble: ***How To Be Happy....Though Married*** – Mountain View Recreation Center

Feb 18: 9:30-11:30 am – Clubhouse- Helene Benigno – “Discover Character” – Mountain View Recreation Center

Feb 21: 10:00-noon – Readers Theater – Fairway Rec Center, AZ rooms 1&2

Feb 25: 9:30-11:30 am – Clubhouse- Shelley Logan – “Breath and Voice Exercises” – Mountain View Recreation Center

Executive Board

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Club Information

Theater Location:

Mountain View Recreation Center
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