



THE PLAYBILL

January 2026

Issue 4-5



President's Message

I hope you have all had a happy and prosperous Holiday season. The holiday party, sponsored by the Board of Directors and headed up by Nancy Dearborn and Bill Cherry, was a roaring success. We owe thanks to Debbie Kruep for her beautiful cake, to Mike and Sheryl Campbell for providing live holiday music and leading us in Christmas carols, to Reader's Theater Ensemble for presenting two Christmas stories, and finally to all those who helped with organization, decorations and clean up.

January 2026 promises to be a very busy month, especially for the 25-member cast and crew of ***Collective Dating***, as they will be in their final 2 weeks of rehearsals before opening night on Friday, January 16, 2026, at 7 pm. Simultaneously, preparations and rehearsals will be taking place for our Spring musical, ***Once Upon a Mattress***. Reader's Theater Ensemble will be in full swing with class sessions and a performance at American Lutheran Church.

Ann Davis and Lesley Watson will be joining the Board of Directors, while we will be saying goodbye to Jean Balk, who has dedicatedly served as treasurer for many years. Please refer to the list of the entire Board of Directors and their positions in the latter part of this newsletter.

I am grateful that so many of you have volunteered to work on our various committees. It seems like participation in club activities is at an all-time high. Having said that, we are particularly in need of volunteers to help with the ticket selling team. Our box office manager, Jim Beaudin, does an incredible job of managing and providing innovative ways and ideas for marketing our shows, but he cannot do it himself. More information on how you can volunteer for this important task is available in another section of the newsletter.

I am in close contact with the director of ***Collective Dating***, who would ask our members to help promote the show with their friends and family, as well

as attend any of the weekend performances themselves. In addition, please make sure to mark your calendars for January 19, 2026, Monday Night Gathering, when the Sun City Poms will entertain us. See you all there!

Greg Engstrom, President

Membership

At the January 19 Monday Night Gathering, we will have a new name badge for all those who have already paid their 2026 calendar year dues (if you joined or renewed this past September through December). If you have not yet renewed, please plan to do so at the January gathering (\$10 cash or check only). You may also renew online at suncityplayers.org using a credit card.

In February, those with the new bar code badges will be able to be scanned with a reader rather than have to sign in as before. Those who pay dues in January will receive their bar-coded badges at the February gathering.

We would like to make you aware of those individuals who have been members of Players for 15 years or more. They are designated as **Legacy** members. They all have interesting stories to tell, so be sure to take the opportunity to interact with them to hear about their experiences.

Carol and Frank Bowman	Lu Hurley	Francis Murphy
Pat Cook	Marlene Jenner	Marge Murphy
Tad Daughters	Laura Kuchler	Sharon Nichols
Sunny and Eric Emerson	Flo Lanthier	Thorine Peterson
Pris Fenner	Bill Loslo	Ginger Price
Sandy Ferrara	Patty Mason	Lil & Roger Scharenbroit
Corky Glenn	Lois Menefee	Don and Vicki Schordje
Merrell Grant	Ula Miller	Barbara Snyder
Sherman Handyside	Gordon Miller	Anna Thompson
Sheila Harmell	Linda Miller	Betty Walley

2025-26 Mainstage Shows Information

Winter Production



January 16 and 23, 2026 7:00 pm

January 17, 18, 24, 25, 2026 2:00 pm

Collective Dating is a [wacky collection](#) of 11 one-act comedy plays based on the world of adult dating. However, we will only be presenting the following five: “Creative Dating”, “Blind Dating”, “Internet Dating”, “Speed Dating” and “Dating Service”. Please get your seat now, so you, too, can come along on this wild ride of fun. Reserved seats are \$15, \$20 at the door.

Spring Production



March 20 and 27, 2026	7:00 pm
March 21, 22, 28, and 29, 2026	2:00 pm

Once Upon a Mattress is a [musical comedy](#) based on the fairy tale, ***The Princess and the Pea***, where an overbearing Queen Aggravain has placed a marriage ban on her son, Prince Dauntless, until she finds a suitable bride for him.

In addition to our online outlet at suncityplayers.org:

- In-person tickets for the winter and spring plays will continue to be sold at Fairway Recreation Center lobby on Monday-Thursday from 10 am-1 pm the week between each of the weekend performances.
- In-person tickets will also be available at Mountain View Theater from 6:15-7:00 pm at Monday Night Gatherings on January 19, February 16 and March 16, 2026.
- In-person tickets can also be purchased at the Sun City Farmers Market on Thursday mornings in February and March 2026 (excluding holidays and weather permitting)

Farmers Market

This season, Sun City Players has a booth at the Farmers Market at the Bell Recreation Center parking lot facing 99th Ave on Thursdays from 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Jim Beaudin, our Box office manager/ticket guru, has been manning the booth alone since the market opened on October 2, 2025. He was able to rig up his golf cart to supply the electricity to run his computer and printer in order to sell tickets. Wow, what a wonderful, creative idea!

Our booth has attracted lots of attention. We believe our visibility there greatly contributed to the wonderful attendance at our Monday Night Gathering of “Broadway Meets Sun City” show last October.

We are looking for volunteers for 2-hour shifts to represent our club and answer questions from the market attendees during the month of February 2026. When Jim is busy selling tickets through his computer, he cannot interact with people who stop or pass by the booth. Thus, we miss the chance to let people know what a great entertainment option we offer in Sun City.

To sign up for a shift in February, please contact Jan Murphy at murphjanet@gmail.com or call her at 602-799-2227.

Volunteers for Mainstage Productions

The House Staff committee needs volunteers to help at all performances of **Collective Dating** the weekends of January 16-18 and 23-25, 2026. We especially are looking for volunteers for the Saturday and Sunday showtimes. Tasks include staffing the concession booth, selling 50-50 raffle tickets, and ushering duties such as greeting attendees at the door, taking tickets, handing out programs and assuring that the audience is in a safe place. To volunteer for any of these responsibilities, please call, text or email Karon Pigg at 559-799-1842, ckpigg@gmail.com.

Monday Night Gatherings

Our Monday Night Gatherings this winter will offer some wonderful performances you won't want to miss. Doors open at 6:15 pm for socializing and purchasing of mainstage tickets. The business meeting will begin at 7 pm, followed by the entertainment portion. Refreshments will be available. Guests and visitors, especially RCSC cardholders, are welcome to attend these activities, all of which will take place at Mountain View Theater.

Monday, January 19, 2026

This night will feature the Sun City Poms, an energetic dance and cheer group, who will be represented by several Players members. Please note that table seating will not be available at this event.

Monday, February 16, 2026

Join us for an evening of a warm, witty and an unexpectedly tender Readers Theater Ensemble presentation, *How to be Happy... Though Married*, an adaptation of EJ's Hardy book of the same name. These short pieces explore love after the confetti – how couples choose, misunderstand and forgive each other, yet 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. Please note that table seating will not be available at this event.

Readers Theater Ensemble

Sun City Readers Theater Ensemble enjoyed another successful year filled with laughter, learning, and creative connection. Our class sessions and rehearsals on the first and third Saturdays of each month brought together

dedicated readers who continued to grow their skills while having fun along the way.

This year included several performances, highlighted by our Christmas presentation at Lakeview Recreation Center, where we shared *Christmas Every Day* and *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* with a warm and appreciative audience.

Looking ahead, 2026 promises new and exciting opportunities. On January 21, 2026, at 4:00 pm, we will expand beyond Sun City Recreation Centers with our first off-site presentation at American Lutheran Church, 17200 N. Del Webb Blvd, Sun City. We will once again be performing *The Pie Ladies, Ship of Shadows* and *The Marriage Enrichment Counseling Session*. All are welcome to attend this free event, as it is open seating with no reservation required. (Note: There is a church dinner afterwards that does require an advance reservation). Please come, show your support for Players, and enjoy the show.

More information about upcoming productions will be available in future newsletters. We are always happy to welcome new readers - both experienced and first-time participants. The Ensemble meets the first and third Saturdays of every month at Fairway Recreation Center from 10:00 am-noon. Our next sessions are January 3 and 17, 2026. Please contact Ray Schiel at 323-336-5437 to learn more.



Holiday Party 2025 Recap

If you were unable to attend Players Holiday Party on December 7th, you missed a "spectacular, successful party", said one party goer. This event had it all! A performance by Readers Theater Ensemble, an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus, entertainment by Mike and Sheryl Campbell, a catered dinner, door prizes, and a photo booth! Comments from attendees included: "You do it really well", "The performances were quite wonderful", "The musicians made a huge difference", "People seemed to have a great time", "Readers Theater Ensemble was outstanding with exceptionally high quality", and "The background music was wonderful and extremely good". Much appreciation to the organizers, Bill Cherry and Nancy Dearborn, to all others who volunteered to help, the Executive Board for gifting the party to the members, and to all the wonderful members who volunteered to help.





Volunteer Opportunities

1. SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Sun City Players would like to provide comforting greetings or visits to members who may be ill or have lost a loved one. If you know of a member who could benefit from this service, please contact Sunshine Committee Chair, Sandi Mischo, at 262-598-6033. If you are interested in joining this much needed committee, please contact Board Member Nancy Dearborn at 319-573-5877 by leaving a text or voice message.

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. 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”



RESIDENT EXPO

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

**Sundial Auditorium
14801 N 103rd Ave (at Boswell Blvd)**

Two Sessions: 9-11am & 6-8pm

Once a year opportunity to learn about the **CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS** that make our community special!

For more information, please visit our website
www.suncityaz.org/generic/sun-city-welcome-center/

Once again, the new year provides Sun City residents with an opportunity to discover what our club can offer them in the way of fun, education, and entertainment. We will have a booth at both sessions of this event. Please stop by to show your support and enthusiasm.

Calendar

Jan 2: 1:00-3:00 pm – Executive Board Meeting – Fairway Recreation Center – 1st Floor Room 103

Jan 3: 10:00-noon – Readers Theater – Fairway Rec Center, AZ rooms 1&2

Jan 7: 9:00-11:00 am & 6:00-8:00 pm – Discover Sun City event – Sundial Auditorium

Jan 12-15: 10:00-1:00 pm - In Person Ticket Sales – Fairway Recreation Center Lobby

Jan 16: 7:00 pm – ***Collective Dating*** opening night – Mountain View Theater

Jan 17: 10:00-noon – Readers Theater – Fairway Rec Center, AZ rooms 1&2

Jan 17: 2:00 pm - ***Collective Dating*** matinee – Mountain View Theater

Jan 18: 2:00 pm - ***Collective Dating*** matinee – Mountain View Theater

Jan 19-22: 10:00-1:00 pm - In Person Ticket Sales – Fairway Recreation Center Lobby

Jan 19: 7:00 pm – **Monday Night Gathering** – Sun City Poms entertainment – Mountain View Theater

Jan 21: 4:00 pm – **Readers Theater Ensemble** presentation – American Lutheran Church

Jan 23: 7:00 pm – ***Collective Dating*** evening show – Mountain View Theater

Jan 24: 2:00 pm - ***Collective Dating*** matinee – Mountain View Theater

Jan 25: 2:00 pm - ***Collective Dating*** closing show – Mountain View Theater

Executive Board

January 2026

President:	Greg Engstrom	(920) 988-7339
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At Large:	Nancy Dearborn	(319) 573-5877
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Club Information

Theater Location:

Mountain View Recreation Center

9749 N. 107th Ave Sun City, AZ 85351

Box Office:

Jim Beaudin: 623-233-4611

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