

ASURA President's Message

submitted by Maria Hesse, ASURA President, 2024-2025

Happy spring everyone! The ASU Retirees Association Board of Directors has been busy working on many things about which we would like to update our membership.

Last year, an attorney specializing in nonprofit organizations recommended that we purchase Directors and Officers (D+O) Insurance as a matter of good practice for a nonprofit. Keep in mind that ASURA has never been sued and we do not have “deep pockets,” so to speak, but many members of our Board of Directors and committee chairs thought the purchase of D+O insurance to be a good idea, so we pursued it. Upon purchasing the insurance, we received advice from our insurance agent that our bylaws will be used by external entities to determine who is a Director or Officer of ASURA. Thus, we decided to undertake a review of the Bylaws, which has not been done in 13 years.

Once the Board has finished making their suggestions for the Bylaws, we will send a copy to you for your review and consideration for approval. The Bylaws can be changed with a two-thirds majority of the ballots returned in a poll of the

members of ASURA. Among other things, we have tried to identify more clearly who has responsibility for certain functions within the organization, while allowing a little more time each spring for the election process for directors and subsequently the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer positions.

ASURA has had its offices in the Community Services Building, just off the ASU Tempe Campus, since December 2006. The McCain National Library will be built at this location on the northeast corner of Mill Avenue and Curry Road, so current occupants have been asked to vacate the building by May 2025. While we don't yet have a new location, the university is working hard to help us find a spot and we are beginning to cull through our rooms and box up our materials in preparation for a move later this spring.

We have been fortunate to have terrific members of the Board of Directors (<https://asura.asu.edu/board-directors>) several of whom are “terming off” this spring. I want








(Continued on page 3)

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ASURA Executive Board

				
President Maria Hesse	Past President Kay Faris	Vice President Karen Moses	Secretary Partha Dasgupta	Treasurer Jeff Bush

Board of Directors

Terms Expire April 2025 Jo Ellen Alberhasky Beverly Buddee Partha Dasgupta Terrie Ekin Kay Faris Will Stasi	Terms Expire April 2026 Jeff Bush Carl Cross Maria Hesse Paul Skiera	Terms Expire April 2027 Don Doerres Caroline Harrison Richard Knopf Rodney Rogers Jan Meyer Thompson Karen Moses
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Board Ex-Officio Members

Alumni Association Emeritus College Liaison Human Resources University Club Liaison University Liaison University Senate University Staff Council	Tim Desch Myles Lynk Jarred Elias Tara Roesler Kendra Burton Elisa Kawam Shawn Banzhaf
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Committees

<p><u>Community Outreach</u></p> <p>Adopt-A-Family: Ginny Sylvester, Chair</p> <p>Scholarship: Jan Shore, Chair</p> <p>Video History Project: Don Doerres, Chair</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Events</u></p> <p>Trudy Perez, Coordinator</p> <p>Seminars: Karen Moses, Chair</p>	<p>Luncheons/Special Events: Kay Faris, Chair</p> <p>Pre-retirement Seminars: Trudy Perez, Chair Liz Badalamenti, Co-Chair</p> <p>Travel: John Brock, Chair</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Finance/ Fundraising</u></p> <p>Finance: Barry McNeill</p> <p>Book Donations: Mary Stevens</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Membership/ Communications</u></p> <p>Membership: Paul Skiera</p> <p>E-News: Barry McNeill</p> <p>Obituaries: Tara Roesler</p> <p>Prime Times Newsletter & ASURA Trifold: Jeannette Robson</p> <p>Websites Co-Chairs: Connie & Barry McNeill</p>	<p>Database Committee: Paul Harper</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Government Liaisons</u></p> <p>Legislature: RichardKnopf</p> <p>ASRS: Dick Jacob</p> <p>ADOA: Larry Carlson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Health Insurance Liaisons</u></p> <p>ASRS: Dick Jacob</p> <p>ADOA: Larry Carlson</p>
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Office Volunteers

<p>Office Coordinator: Linda Van Scoy</p> <p>Business Operations Managers: Terrie Ekin & Connie McNeill (finance); Carl Cross (membership); Caroline Harrison</p> <p>Phone: 480-965-7668 (please call before you visit)</p> <p>Subs: Jeri Meeks</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ASURA Office Hours / 10:00am to 1:00pm</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Monday</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Closed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday</td> <td>Linda VanScoy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday</td> <td>Beverly Buddee/Jan Thompson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday</td> <td>Jeannette Robson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>Closed</td> </tr> </table>	Monday	Closed	Tuesday	Linda VanScoy	Wednesday	Beverly Buddee/Jan Thompson	Thursday	Jeannette Robson	Friday	Closed
Monday	Closed										
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Wednesday	Beverly Buddee/Jan Thompson										
Thursday	Jeannette Robson										
Friday	Closed										

to thank them for their service! Several of them have agreed to stay active helping with committees and projects, for which I am grateful. Please return your ballot to vote for new members of the Board of Directors as soon as you receive it. We appreciate your reply.

Meanwhile, our committees are making great progress. The Seminars Committee is offering sessions on several new topics this year. The Scholarship Committee is learning the university's new scholarship system and has many more applicants

than usual. The Luncheons Committee, on the heels of a wonderful holiday luncheon in December, is planning a March luncheon at Friendship Village. The Travel Committee has offered numerous interesting and fun local, regional and international options this year. And I could go on – but I encourage you to read the rest of this newsletter and look at the calendar of meetings and events for more information.

We are looking forward to an exciting spring! Don't hesitate to write or give me a call if you have any questions about the organization or want to become more involved.

Welcome New ASURA Members

Baldini, Cajsá	Farrell, Richard	Kirin, Anna	Seasholes, Mark
Beschloss, Steven	Frangelia, Janice	Klonowski, Stan	Sprout, Melanie
Boone, Christopher	Gonzalez, Dinora	Kurdziolek, Edward	Stevens, Paul
Bruns, Michael	Greason, Nicole	LeFlore, Tina	Tabor, Susan
Cady, Nydia	Hartnett, Hilairy	Liggins, Lorinda Kay	Van Soest, Matthijs
Ciurro, Kathleen	Hermanns, Carl	Markovich, Vesna	Weterstall, Uwe Juergen
Corman, Steven	Irschfeld, Rebecca	Mirchandani, Pitu	Wolchik, Sharlene
Creath, Richard	Janosek, Alexandra	Moore, Moses	Woods, Aaron
Davis, Linda O'Neal	Judd, Kristin	Osgood, Nancy	Wren, Paul
Deviche, Pierre	Kaplan, Robert	Posey, Bernice	Wu, Shinyll
Eccles, Thomas	Kent, Sammy	Russ, Julie	
Edson, Belle	Kidwell, Jack	Russo, Dawn	

ASURA Volunteers Needed

Office Volunteers & Substitutes:

Volunteers needed to work one, 3-hour shift per week or consider becoming a substitute to help out when needed.

Contact: Linda Van Scoy, lvs@asu.edu

Websites Committee:

Help maintain the content on our websites and the platforms that our websites operate on.

Contact: Barry McNeill, barry_mcneill@outlook.com

Video History Project:

Volunteers view collection of interviews, then update with abstracts, table of contents, etc. Lots of interesting work coming up shortly.

Contact: Don Doerres don@azlaborlaw.com or by phone at (480) 206-1278.

ASURA Office Update

submitted by Linda Van Scoy, ASURA Office Coordinator

Happy New Year to all our members!

Hard to believe that it's now one-month into 2025. We enjoyed seeing many of you at the December 2024 Potluck and are currently gearing up for more events this spring, summer and fall. Don't forget to periodically check our website to keep up-to-date on what's happening within ASURA.



As you are probably aware, our ASURA offices will be relocating by the end of the semester. As of right now, ASU representatives are looking for a nice landing place for us ... and for you. The target move out date is mid-May which is right around the corner. Staff volunteers are weeding out files and making plans for our move. Until then it's business as usual.

We will be sorry to abandon this storied old building. It has been ideal for ASURA...easy to get to, not crowded and free parking! There have been rumors that it is haunted and sometimes we wonder. We will miss the desert bunnies and the quail that scatter around the grounds to greet us as we come and go.

Just a reminder our office is open from 10am-1pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and you can reach us at (480) 965-7668. As always let us know if you need assistance or have any questions. We are happy to help you.

2025 ASURA Board Member Elections

submitted by Kay Faris, Past President and Chair of Luncheons & Special Events Committee

Hello ASURA Members! It is time to elect new members to the ASURA Board of Directors!

These volunteer Board members play a vital role in our organization by guiding and directing the incredible work of ASURA. Your vote counts, and we need to hear from you!

Ballots are distributed by regular mail as well as e-mail and we will need your ballot returned by Friday, February 28. If you lose or misplace your ballot, you can vote in several other ways:

- (1) Go to the Board of Directors Election page on the ASURA website. You can vote electronically or you can download a paper ballot at: <https://asura.asu.edu/board-directors-election>, or
- (2) Phone the ASURA Office at (480) 965-7668 and request a ballot be sent to you, or
- (3) Email asura@asu.edu with your vote. Please use the Subject Line "ASURA Board Ballot" and include the names of the candidates you are voting for ... up to five names. Please include your name when voting.



You can always hand deliver your ballot to the ASURA office: 200 E. Curry Road, Room 201B in Tempe, AZ. If no one is available to take your ballot, you may put it in the mail slot in the door for Room 201B.

Thank you for voting in this important process.



ASURA Needs Your Old Books!

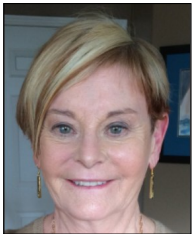
submitted by Mary Stevens, Book Donations

- Are your bookshelves too full?
- Are you downsizing your office or your home and don't have space for all of your books?

Donate your used books to us, and we will work with our partner, Friends of the Phoenix Public Library, to sell them. Proceeds from the sale of books are used to support the ASURA scholarship given to an ASU student. When you drop off your books, the office volunteer will give you a Gift in Kind form to complete and sign. The form is sent to the ASU Foundation, a separate nonprofit organization that exists to support ASU. The Foundation will provide you with a gift receipt for tax purposes.

You may drop off your books at the ASURA Office, Community Services Bldg., 200 E. Curry Road, room 201B, Tempe, AZ, 85281. Please call the office at 480-965-7668 before you come to make sure there is a staff volunteer in the office.

- For books that are on campus, Facilities Management will pick up your books at your department office for a service fee and deliver them to our office. Some departments have paid this fee in the past. ASURA does not have funds to cover the service fee. To arrange a pick-up and delivery, your department assistant can complete and submit a [FACMAN service request](#) on an on-line form. Facilities will schedule a pickup date with the office assistant. Advise the office assistant to provide your name and department to the FACMAN representative who picks up the books.
- **OR** bring your books to [our office](#). We have 2 dollies for your use. Parking is readily available by the building with 3 ramps into the building and 2 elevators to the 2nd floor.



If you are unable to deliver your books to our office, please contact Mary Stevens at (602) 758-3750 or marystevens0@gmail.com or [contact our office](#). Provide your **name**, **email address** (if you have one), **phone number** and the **approximate number of books** you would like to donate. Mary or another ASURA volunteer will work with you to get the books transferred. Thank you so much for your donation!



2025 Pre-Retirement Seminars

NOTE: Registration is not required to attend the seminars via Zoom

On the day of the seminar, around 11:55am, click on the following link:
<https://asu.zoom.us/j/86272418208> to join the Zoom meeting and follow the directions.

If you have not used Zoom before you will be directed to install the application on your device before connecting you to the seminar.

- February 24 – Social Security
- March 24 – AZ State Retirement System
- April 28 – Office of Human Resources
- May 19 – to be determined
- June 30 – Medicare
- July 28 – Social Security
- August 25 – AZ State Retirement System
- September 22 – Office of Human Resources
- October 27 – to be determined
- November 17 – to be determined
- December 8 - to be determined

ASURA Spring 2025, Calendar of Events - Save the Dates

EVENT	DATE
Seminar: AI Intelligence — What is it and How is it Transforming Lives	February 13, 2025
Seminar: Food is Medicine	March 6, 2025
Jukebox Hits of 50's/60's: Lunch Buffet and Show at Silver Star Theater	March 8, 2025
ASURA Board Meeting: Open to Members — 10:00-11:30am, CSB 203A	March 11, 2025
Spring Luncheon at Friendship Village: (with music and dance performance)	March 19, 2025
Sicily International Trip: (for information, contact Jeff.Bush@asu.edu)	March 31 - April 16, 2025
ASURA Board Meeting: Open to Members — 10:00-11:30am, CSB 203A	May 13, 2025

NOTE: (event dates are subject to change)

Please put the above dates on your calendar. When the events get closer, additional information will be available on our website, <https://asura.asu.edu> and the monthly E-News at which time you can register for the events. Also, as we get more into the Spring and Fall and new events may be added, you will be notified by email and updates noted in the monthly E-News.

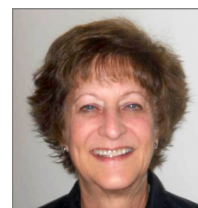
We are always open to any suggestions from our ASURA members as to what events or travel (local and international) you would like ASURA to consider. Please share your ideas with Trudy Perez, Events Coordinator at trudy.perez@asu.edu.



Save the Date: Spring 2025 Luncheon at Friendship Village

submitted by Kay Faris, Past President and Chair of Luncheons & Special Events Committee

Location: Skirm Auditorium, Friendship Village, 2645 E Southern Ave, Tempe, AZ
Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2025
Time: 11:00am



We are very excited about our Spring Luncheon for 2025! We will gather for the luncheon at 11:00am and plan to eat at 11:30. The luncheon includes an Italian buffet of Penne Alfredo, Cheese Tortellini with meat sauce, Chicken Piccata, seasonal fresh steamed vegetables, Caesar salad and garlic bread with Tiramisu for dessert! There will also be gluten free and vegan options.

There will be music and dance performers for entertainment as well as tours after the luncheon! We look forward to seeing you there!

The cost will be \$25.00 per person. Because this is an ASU Retirees Association event, attendees who are residents of Friendship Village will not be able to use/apply their Friendship Village "Dining Dollars." The payment **MUST** be made by check, payable to "**ASU Foundation/ASURA**" by Thursday, March 6, 2025. Detailed payment instructions will be provided after registration. (Sorry, credit cards or electronic payments are not supported).

(To register for the luncheon, please visit <https://asura.asu.edu/upcoming-events>)

2025-2026 ASURA Travel Report

submitted by John H. Brock, ASURA Travel Committee Chair

The travel committee continues to be active. Normally we meet monthly on the same day as the Retirees Association Board meeting ... at 1:00 pm in the Tempe Public Library.

For 2025 – 2026, our committee has several things in the action and planning modes. Two events are being advertised for the Silver Star Theater in Mesa. This theater provides music events and a buffet meal. We offered an “Elvis” Show on February 8 and a “Juke box hits of the 50s and 60s” show has been scheduled for March 8.



In late March 2025, we’ll see about fourteen ASURA members departing for a two-week international trip to Sicily. Prior to departure we will have a couple of “getting-to-know-you meals” for the travel group.

In late April 2025 we will visit the Lavender Farm and mansion that is located on the border of Chandler and south Tempe. The plants should be in bloom at that time.

During the spring and fall semesters of 2025 we will arrange visits to the ASU Film School in downtown Mesa. Previous tours of the film school have met with great reviews. Most likely these tours would be made in 2026.

Tovrea Castle tours will also be sought after again during 2025 and 2026. Tickets for the castle are often difficult to obtain.

A northern Arizona and southern Utah trip is being looked at for October 2025. This four-day trip will go through Flagstaff and include Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks with a return from Las Vegas.

For 2026 we are evaluating the possibility of an international trip to Spain and Portugal. This trip would most likely be in the spring.

I recommend that our retirees consult the ASURA website for travel opportunities, both near and far. We will often send out emails to our membership and post information in our E-News to alert our members about our ASURA travel activities.

Fall 2024 Tovrea Castle Tour

submitted by Paul Skiera, Member, ASURA Board of Directors and Legislative Government Liaison

photos by Maria Hesse

On a warm day in late October, our ASU Retirees Association group toured the historic Tovrea Castle. Built in 1928 by Italian immigrant Alessio Carraro, this “wedding cake” castle was intended as the centerpiece of a luxury resort amid desert gardens. Our visit began with a tram ride past the original Van Buren Street entrance and a stop at the Tovrea family tomb. At the castle base, we enjoyed sweeping views of Camelback Mountain, and one lucky member even got to ring the historic bell ... a delightful start to our tour!

Inside, we admired the restored wood flooring and intricate ceiling in the living room, both carefully preserved to maintain the castle’s historic charm. Although we couldn’t explore the upstairs, a model in the living room showed us the full layout. The mock granite fireplace, complete with thumbprints from the

(Continued on page 8)

same workers who helped build the Orpheum Theater, added character to the room, while a portrait of a dancer above it connected Tovrea Castle to Phoenix’s artistic past.

In the kitchen, we noted cabinets crafted from discarded bank lumber and a bullet hole in the ceiling ... a dramatic reminder of Della Tovrea’s courage during a robbery. The basement offered more intrigue, with its “puff” plaster ceiling, hidden “egg nest” patterns, and a vault once used to store valuables and wine. Steep stairs and ventilation portals added a practical design for Arizona’s climate.

After a group photo at the front entrance, we took a final tram ride around the grounds, passing gardens, a bocce ball court, a reflection pool, and the Dovecote, originally built to feed workers. Thanks to the Tovrea Carraro Society and the City of Phoenix, Tovrea Castle remains a beautifully preserved piece of Arizona history. Our day was filled with history, charm, and shared laughs ... a memorable outing for all.

(More photos of the Tovrea Castle tour are on our website at <https://asura.zenfolio.com/p144314992>)



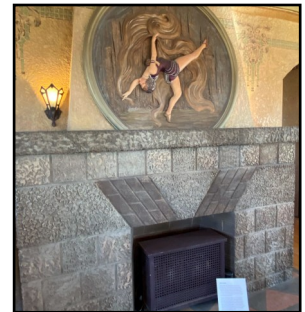
ASURA group at Tovrea Castle front entrance



Original entrance off Van Buren



Living Room



Fireplace

December 2024 Holiday Potluck

submitted by Kay Faris, Past President and Chair of Luncheons & Special Events Committee



Thank you to all who attended our Holiday Potluck Luncheon in December. We had a wonderful turnout and great food!

This year we also had entertainment. A special thanks to Jan Thompson on keyboard, Terrie Ekin and Brianna McGill on flute, and Carl Cross on vocals. They were wonderful! We also had a very successful bake sale raising \$209 to support ASURA. Thank you to one and all who came, participated and purchased.



Teresita Brewer and Joy White



Partha Dasgupta and Shelly Marsh



Chris Tyler and Mark Henderson



Don Doerres and Kathleen Puckett

photos continued on page 9



Carl Cross serenades the members (LOVE your sweater Don Doerres!)



Three Presidents:
Maria Hesse, Kay Faris
and Connie McNeill



Cecelia Hook and
Paul Farace



Shirley Rose and
Denise Blommel



Marigold Linton and
Bob Barnhill



Terrie Ekin, Jan Thompson,
and Brianna McGill



Elmer Gooding and
Barry McNeill



Sharon and Rich
Hamilton

More photos of the 2024 Holiday Potluck are on our website at <https://asura.zenfolio.com/p821757318>

Obituary Notifications: September 22, 2024 through January 7, 2025



submitted by Tara E. Roesler

Please note that all obituary notices and photos, when available, are on our website at <https://asura.asu.edu/asu-obituaries>.

Name	Date of Death	ASU Affiliation
Berky, Roger Diehl	September 15, 2024	Systems Analyst/Unknown-2006
Campbell, Dr. Albert B.	December 15, 2024	College of Education/Years Unknown
Coleman, James (Jim) Walter	December 9, 2024	Music Department Piano Technician/Years Unknown
Collins, Tanya	October 19, 2024	ASU News Bureau/1973-1975
Conroy, Dason Eugene	October 16, 2024	ASU Athletic Department/Years Unknown

Obituaries continued on page 10

Name	Date of Death	ASU Affiliation
Cummings, Dr. Diane Yvonne	December 15, 2024	Music Department/Years Unknown
Eschbach, Barbara Bradford	November 8, 2024	Admin Asst. College of Architecture – 1977-1981; Various Computing Services – 1981-2006; Program Coordinator for Economic Affairs – 2006-2008
Eschbach, Jr., Darel Dale	January 2, 2025	Computer Services/1976-2002
Godfrey, Donald George	October 25, 2024	Walter Cronkite School of Journalism/20 Years
Gourley, David Ray	November 22, 2024	College of Business Professor/30 Years
Hardt, Dr. Annanelle (Ann)	November 18, 2024	Affiliation Unknown/1968-1990
Hegland, Kurt Paul	September 21, 2024	Affiliation Unknown/Years Unknown
Lomonte, Ranay	September 16, 2024	Director of Fiscal and Business Operations, Office of the VP of Public Affairs/Years Unknown
Matheson, Sr., Dr. Alan Adams	December 4, 2024	Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law/47 Years
Morgan, Lawrence A. “Larry”	October 10, 2024	Chemistry Department/Years Unknown
Odle, Kathryn L. (Kelly)	October 22, 2024	Affiliation Unknown/Years Unknown
Pando, Carrol	August 13, 2024	Supervisor ASU West/Years Unknown
Schlarbaum, Carolyn Lee (Tully)	November 13, 2024	College of Education Academic Advisor/Years Unknown
Sharp, William P.	November 29, 2024	Botany Department/1977-2005
Short, Gerald Dean	September 8, 2024	Janitorial Services/Over 25 Years
Simmons, Robert Augustus	October 14, 2024	Student Advisor/Years Unknown
Stevenson, James Gregory	December 4, 2024	Freshman Track Coach/Years Unknown
Thackerlf, Ronald	September 15, 2024	Clinical Assistant Professor Theatre/Years Unknown
Valentine, Kristin Bervig	August 26, 2024	Professor of Communication and Women’s Studies/ Years Unknown
Wells, Barrie Ellsworth	June 30, 2024	Music/18 Years
Wheeler-Corral, Maria Carmen	December 17, 2024	ASU West/Years Unknown
Whipple, Irva Lucille	October 3, 2024	ASU President’s Office/Years Unknown



Remembering Barbara Eschbach

Submitted by Connie McNeill



Barbara Bradford Eschbach passed away on November 8, 2024, at the age of (almost) 74.

Barbara was active in the ASU Retirees Association for many years. She was a Board member from 2011 to 2014, and she was chair of the Luncheons & Special Events committee from 2010-2015. After that, she often assisted in event planning, with her “final hurrah” (as she called it) the Spring Luncheon in 2023, which was held in Friendship Village and was a resounding success. She had many friends in the ASURA and was especially close with Joy Shearman.

The Fall Meet and Greet luncheon was her brainchild. She put it on pretty much single-handedly for a few years. She even brought in her keyboard and played while people were enjoying their pizza. The Meet and Greet was so successful that it became one of the standard annual ASURA events.

Another original idea she had was to hold fashion shows at Dillard’s using members of ASURA as models. These were held in 2010, 2011, and 2013, and were greatly enjoyed by those who attended and participated. Barbara herself was a great model.

From a personal standpoint – Barbara and I became friends in about 1977 when she joined what was then called Computing Services. We had lunch together almost every day for about 15 years, until I left for the West campus. After that we saw each other less often but remained good friends. We shared a lot of laughs and supported each other from the days of being young mothers through the middle years when our own parents were aging, and eventually when we retired and became grandmothers. I cheered for her when she got involved with treatment programs at Mayo Clinic after a diagnosis of multiple myeloma. Those programs extended her life and enjoyment of life for over 15 years. I miss her huge smile, her somewhat raucous laugh, her warm hugs and her warm heart. I will also miss her husband Darel, who died recently (January 2, 2025). Losing loved ones is the worst part of getting old! The photo at bottom right was taken at Barbara and Darel’s wedding in 1993.



Prime Times is issued three times annually by the Arizona State University Retirees Association and offers special editions, as needed. It is compiled and published by Jeannette Robson, printed by AlphaGraphics, and mailed through ASU Mail Services. Articles are always welcome, subject to Board approval.

Mailing Address: Prime Times, ASU Retirees Association, PO Box 873308, Tempe, AZ 85287-3308

Arizona State University Retirees Association: ASURA has a volunteer-staffed office in the Community Services Building, 200 E. Curry Rd., Room 201B, Tempe, Arizona. Office hours are 10:00am-1:00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (closed Monday and Friday).

Phone: (480) 965-7668

Website: <https://asura.asu.edu>