

# GRAND LEARNING INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

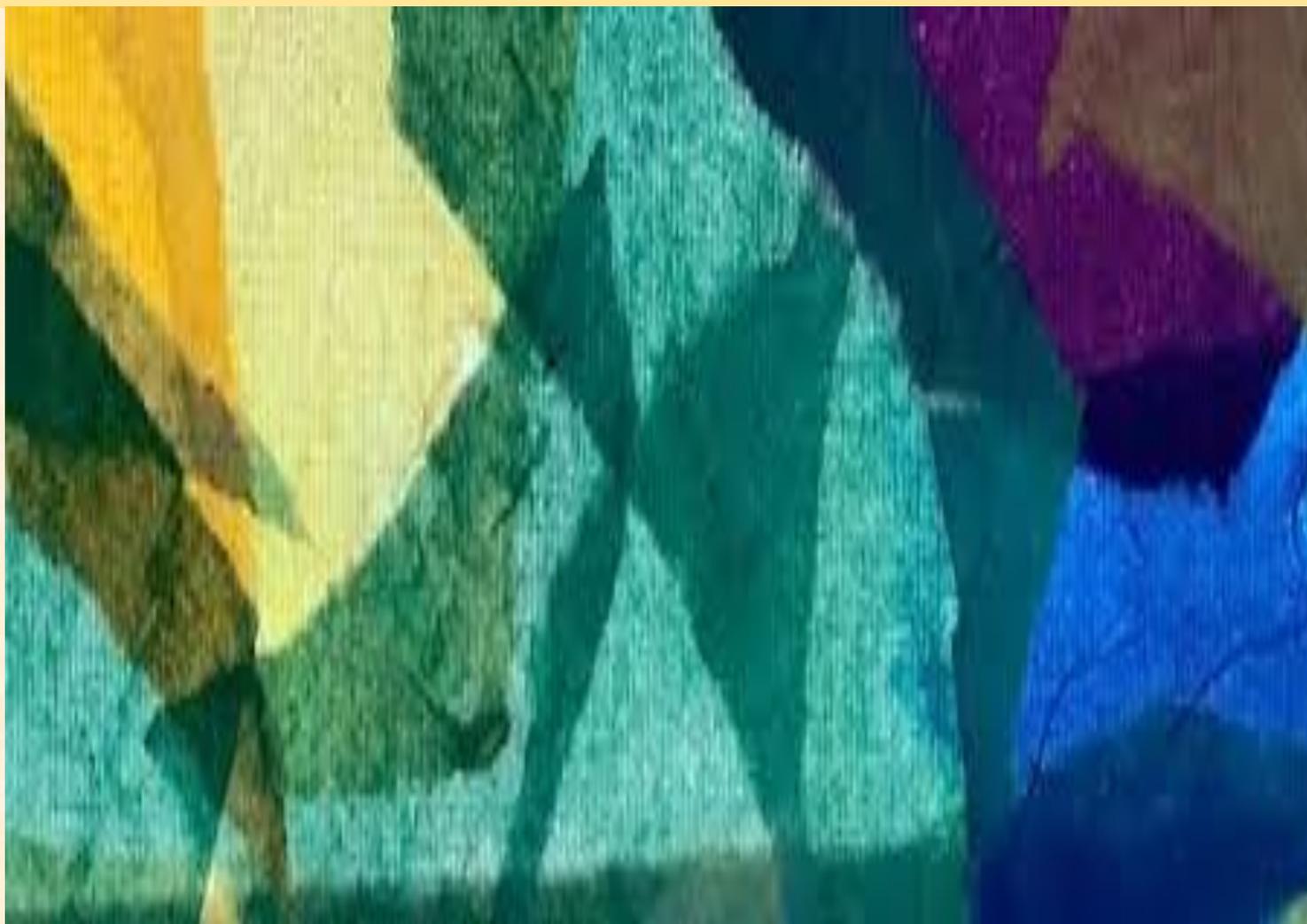


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*"The more I learn, the more I realize how much I don't know."*

*— Albert Einstein*

## SUMMER 2021



## **Axelrod      Phil**

Phil Axelrod is a retired insurance underwriter who has been living in Sun City Grand since 2002. He served in the U.S. Navy as a boiler man on the USS Skywatcher and as a nuclear power plant operator on the USS Enterprise. He is interested in politics on the local and national levels and is a past president of the Sun City Grand Republican Interest Group.

## **Bruno      Vinnie**

Vinnie Bruno is a Beatles Scholar and 60's Rock Historian retired from City University of New York. As a Beatles Scholar he looks to present an entertaining and informative session for both the casual listener as well as the hardcore fan. As a rock historian he offers programs on the many artists that influenced and captivated a generation.

## **Jamis      Dr. Edelita**

My name is Dr. Edelita Jamis. I am an Internal Medicine doctor certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American College of Lifestyle Medicine. I was a diabetic myself, and I reversed it. I am currently running the Lifestyle Medicine program to reduce and discontinue medications safely by addressing the root cause of chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes.

## **Keep      Brian**

Brian Keep has been in the insurance industry since 1986. He started his career at Allstate on Long Island, New York, and held many positions ranging from Operations Management to Territorial Manager. Brian moved to Baltimore, Maryland to work with Zurich North America developing call center sales centers for Auto, Home, Life, and Small Business and was recruited by a Morgan Stanley startup group to develop the first online homeowners company. Brian has held several positions since with Agencies and Companies over the past years involved in Life, Medicare, and other insurance products.

## **Leach      Gale**

My career with writing and publication began in 1982, when I took a job as a technical writer. In 1990, I quit and began my own desktop publishing and graphic design company. In 2014 I retired (ha ha), and my husband and I moved to Arizona, where we fell in love with pickleball.

I looked for a book about how to play better, but there weren't any. After much research and play, I wrote and self-published *The Art of Pickleball*. That book won the Arizona Book Award (Sports Category) and spurred me to write fiction, one of my lifelong dreams. Since then, I've self-published five fantasy novels for children and the first volume of a young adult series (two more in the works). I've also published the novels of nine, talented, local authors under through my publishing company, and I've edited many more.

When I'm not writing, I love singing and playing music, crafts, sewing, and genealogy. I live with my husband, two dogs, one cat, and a bearded dragon named Fang.

## **Lynn**                      **Dr. Karon**

Dr. Karon Lynn has over 35 years experience providing patient centered hearing healthcare. Trinity Hearing Center provides a full range of diagnostic evaluations for speech delay, sudden hearing loss, tinnitus, dizziness and balance difficulty, and hearing aid sales & fittings.

## **Montijo**                      **Nydia**

Since January 2017, Nydia Montijo has been the Community Outreach Coordinator at the Foundation for Senior Living (FSL). She has a Masters of Public Health in Community Health Practice and 40+ years of non-profit health & human services experience, with more than half of those working on older adult issues. She has had hands-on experience as a family caregiver for both her parents, while also being the Administrator of an older-adults long-term care facility. Her presentations are in large part based on those experiences, as much as her professional development.

## **Sorensen**                      **Ken**

Not quite an Arizona native, Ken Sorensen moved here with his family as a young child. He grew up in Glendale and attended high school and junior college there. As Ken married and started a family, he worked in construction equipment related jobs until an economic downturn hit the Valley of the Sun. Being unemployed, Ken and his young family made the sacrifices necessary for him to return to school. He completed both his bachelor's and master's degrees and began teaching high school; a life-long dream. Ken is certified to teach both history and English and, during a 30-year career in education, has taught high school in two states. He also taught junior college at both Mesa and Chandler-Gilbert Community Colleges for 12 of those years. Ken has always taught with a humanities approach believing that if we understand who people are and what their motives are, we will more likely understand what they have written.

In the summer of 2005, Ken won a scholarship to attend Exeter College in Oxford, England for a summer term of graduate studies. That experience changed his life. Ken was able to experience things he had read about and taught all his life. In 2013, Ken was honored to be elected Teacher of the Year by the Mesa Arizona Chamber of Commerce following a student's recommendation.

Ken is an avid reader and has an extensive collection of books. He also enjoys woodworking and has made children's furniture, inlaid clocks, and finely crafted pens and pencils. Ken lives in Gilbert with his wife Susan. They have seven children and many grandchildren.

## **Spata**                              **Tony**

A registered Professional Engineer in multiple states (including Arizona), Tony has participated on building code and standards committees, is a frequent speaker at industry events and has authored numerous articles for trade publications. He has addressed issues including: advanced ventilation strategies for improved indoor air quality, application of electronic & wireless lighting controls, LED lighting, benefits of adaptive energy efficiency strategies, and remote monitoring & control of building systems.

## **Swartz            Ginger**

Ginger Swartz worked for 20 years as a public communications consultant and nuclear waste policy analyst for a Federal advisory committee, two governors, a U.S. Senator and the Nye County, Nevada Yucca Mountain Project office. She holds a BA in English with a dual minor in Literature and Journalism. She earned an MA in Literature, Language and Human Communications, from Regis University in Denver, CO.

Her experience in public communications and community involvement related to nuclear waste management, provides the basis for her program series "OUR WORLD: The Story of Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Waste Management in the U.S."

Her experience as a writer, poet, journalist and writing instructor provided her with the incentive to share her love of literature in the "LITERATURE AS FINE ART: Eras and Authors" series.

## **Taylor            Chris**

Chris Taylor is an attorney who practiced in both Oklahoma and Tennessee. She later changed her career to teaching at the college and university levels at Volunteer State College and Southern Utah University. After retiring as SUU's Legal Studies Director and Prelaw Advisor, Taylor continues her work as an online, adjunct instructor. She is the author of published works including a Legal Studies e-textbook, a book on writing classroom grants, as well as poetry and short stories. Taylor's current passion involves writing middle reader fiction and blogging through her website [portialilytaylor.com](http://portialilytaylor.com).

