

Morrison Center Volunteers

Curtain Call

November 2021



From our Executive Director

What an incredible start to our 2021-2022 Broadway in Boise Series with the opening of CATS over Halloween weekend.

To think at the beginning of the year, we were still unsure if the curtain would open, that thinking quickly shifted from "if" to "when." It was during that "when" where we did our most growing as an organization and team.

The excitement of live performing arts making its return to the Treasure Valley came with the task of ensuring that we opened our doors safely and responsibly. You continually amaze me with your willingness to adapt and enforce the Health and Safety protocols to keep our doors open. The road has not been easy and changes daily, but we are filled with gratitude to have you navigating these challenges alongside us.

We live in a growing community. I have been talking with many people who are walking through the doors of the Morrison Center for the very first time. You play a pivotal role in helping to create special memories for people and families who are brand new to the Morrison Center and those who have been coming for years. We are grateful to be on this journey with you.

A fantastic season of MC Presents performances, an interior facelift, and our biggest Broadway in Boise shows are yet to come.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Morrison Center!

Sincerely,

Laura Kendall

Executive Director
Velma V. Morrison Center for Performing Arts

From our MC Volunteer Presidents

The holidays have arrived and with that Hamilton is around the corner! We first want to thank the volunteers for your

dedication to the Morrison Center AND your FLEXIBILITY!

Little did we know in September, just how flexible we were going to be. Unfortunately, some things have taken longer than expected, but slowly but surely things are coming together.



Working with the Morrison Center staff, we've come up with a process for Volunteers to view performances which also will not be intrusive to our Patron's experience. For the shows that are not sold out, the Performance Chair will check with the box office just before the show begins if there are any designated areas that are available for volunteer seating. These areas will be posted on the white board as you enter the Founder's room.

For sold out shows, or shows with limited seating like Hamilton, there obviously will not be any designated area for the volunteer seating. However, two volunteers can be at any one door at a time. Meaning if you are a relief, you can stand at that door with the door usher if you'd like. Our gift shop and hearing assistant volunteers are also welcomed to stand at a door to watch if there are only two people. So just like when we had the booth, be sure to share the space with your fellow volunteers. We have fire codes that must be followed, and Broadway shows have their own constraints.

So far, we've been able to assign a volunteer to every opened door and a relief for that person. Volunteers please DO NOT sit in empty seats at the end of the row if you are stationed at a door and taking a break. You can go to the designated area if you'd like although remember you have 10-15 min for your break.

It is about finding a balance between professionalism and taking care of our volunteers. As always, if you want to see the show, then best to purchase a ticket and be a patron for the night.

A suggestion box has been placed in the Founder's room. Many great suggestions have come from our volunteers as we are working through the new procedures. If you have a suggestion or concern for the Morrison Center staff or the Volunteers, please place it in the box. We will forward it to the appropriate person. Remember, working as a TEAM, Together Everyone Achieves More.

In the mist of this busy time of year, we want to take the opportunity to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Merry Christmas. If there is anything, we can help you with, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

With Joy and Gratitude,

Rick & Elaine Grossaint
Presidents, Morrison Center Volunteers
(208)866-2469 Elaine's mobile

Giving Thanks/Gratitude



Every morning for the past couple of years, I write in a gratitude journal 5 things that I am grateful for that day. Sometimes it can be a real struggle to come up with 5, especially the last two years. However, lately I have found myself writing down something I never would have thought would enter my list - MY JOB! For years my job was just a means to a paycheck that allowed me to do the things I was grateful for - connect with my family, travel, go to concerts, wine of the month club - so it was a shock to reread my entries and see that since I've started at the Morrison Center so many aspects of my job have made my lists.

Looking back over the last 2 years and looking ahead to the future, I am constantly filled

with gratitude and awe at what the Morrison Center has accomplished and what we have ahead of us. Everyone knows how hard the closure was for staff and volunteers - would the Morrison Center survive, would we hear music in the halls, would we see the spectacular costumes of Broadway performers ever again?? Gladly our doors are back open and it wouldn't have been possible without our beloved volunteers!

Jessica Morse
Venue Services Manager

Membership Update Felicity Arnold



Kerstin Peterson - Emeritus and Charter Member Submitted
by fellow Charter Member, Marilyn Fordham

Kerstin recently passed away at age 100. She was one of nearly 500 charter members of the Morrison Center Auxiliary, now the Morrison Center Volunteers. She, like many of the charter members lived in the Highlands, an area not that far from the Center

Kerstin was always so friendly and helpful to the patrons as well as to her fellow volunteers. She volunteered a lot and worked mostly with the refreshments committee. She was described as a "neat lady." Many recall her lovely smile. Her granddaughter, Samantha, later worked with refreshments until she moved to Nevada. Kerstin loved volunteering at the Morrison Center and set a wonderful example for all other volunteers to follow. Our sympathy goes out to her family.

Submitted by fellow Charter Member, Marilyn Fordham



Lynn Thaldorf - Emeritus Member

Lynn Thaldorf passed away on 10/23 - Lynn had been a member of the Volunteers since 2013. and was always a charming and delightful person to work with.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/idahostatesman/name/lynn-thaldorf-obituary?id=31187997>

**Please welcome the following new volunteers to the
Morrison Center Volunteers.**

- Kevin & Debbie Arnold
- Nancy Austin
- Lauren Bellamy
- Charmaine Brooks
- Lorna Burrell
- Asaysia Doms
- Andrea Farrens
- Debbie Hamilton
- Jackie Jackson
- Dawn Jennings
- Andrea Long
- Dianna Magstadt
- Sarah McMaster
- Deena Merrill-Reagle & Sam Reagle
- Karin Petersen
- Rebekah Punt
- Linda Roman
- Cathy Sorger
- Teresa Torgesen
- Mary Kay Welsh

- Tebraie Johns
- Bill & Debbie Johnson

- Barbara West

Publicity Pop

Cheryl Rawden

Laura – We appreciate you!



Did you know Laura Kendall moved to Idaho from Nebraska shortly before the pandemic hit and has worked tirelessly in getting the MC reopened!? The volunteers have noticed so many positive changes from volunteer appreciation events, the security systems, new scanners, wonderful signage (about masks and QR codes/tickets), and those planters out front! We are seeing many first time patrons coming to the MC due to a calendar full of diverse events. And the best perk of all - Allowing volunteers to sit inside (space permitting) to watch bits of shows!

Those of us working/attending Cats on Halloween weekend were fortunate to hear Laura's eloquent speech when she profusely thanked all the volunteers. In return we extend our heartfelt thanks to Laura for her optimism, creativity and continued support!

Welcome to all the recently joined members and many kind thanks to all of those who have stayed on. We continue recruiting efforts and appreciate your referrals. Keep them coming!

Ushers' Corner

Sue Payne & Marylou Ragan

Marylou and I are happy to be back working at the Morrison Center again. It was such a long drought with Covid.



Many things have changed but we are working through these and are just happy to see all your smiling faces!

We should soon have the permanent scanner machinery set up which should help with the flow of patrons into the MC. You will note as the email from Duplie indicated, that the Arrival time for Hamilton is 120 minutes before each show and not 90 minutes.

We do have one thing to mention – we are having a lot of late-comers strolling in.

Please remember that **Arrival Time means you are in the Founder's Room, in your seats and ready for the briefing** so you may need to leave home a little earlier.

The latest information is that the ushers **do not** need to clean up after a show. The only thing we will do is pick up programs if any are given to the patrons.

Our MC Volunteer Presidents message above has some exciting information to share about when volunteers can sit in empty seats in the auditorium if the show is not full. This is very nice as we no longer have the viewing booths and that was one of the perks of volunteering.

Stay tuned, as there are updates we'll let you know!

Gift Shop

Marji Petrich and Mary Christensen



Glorious Greetings to one and all! Hopefully you have seen that the Gift Shop move has been accomplished. We are still trying to get our bearings and adjust to the new layout but feel that we are making great strides albeit, one baby step at a time!

We appreciate the continued support that our Volunteers have shown us through what has been a rather challenging two and a half year hiatus. That all being said, we invite you to come browse and even shop in our (YOUR) Gift Shop! We continue to look for items that are unique, yet affordable and hope you will enjoy spending some time in our new corner. Lou's dried apples would make a terrific stocking stuffer and please remember that Volunteers receive a 10% discount on merchandise!

Our sincere thanks to all of you that helped box up the gift shop merchandise so many months ago and a special thank you to Bonnie Urresti for her help in moving from our former corner to our new location and helping with our new displays. We couldn't have done it without your help.

As the holiday season rapidly approaches, we wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. May the New Year bring joy, health and prosperity to each and every one of you!

what A Treat

While volunteering for a show, we all enjoy a few minutes during the evening to give our feet a rest, munch a cookie and sip a beverage. Who is responsible for providing those goodies?



Our **Volunteer Treats Coordinator!** **Leslie Flynn**, who has done a marvelous job in this position for many years, is stepping down. Thank you, Leslie, for your years of service! Well done! You will still see Leslie volunteering as an usher and can share a treat with her on one of your breaks.



Assuming the position of Volunteer Treats Coordinator is **Annette Dillard**. Annette is a long-time Morrison Center Volunteer in numerous capacities and was Volunteer of the Year for 2019. Thank you, Annette, for taking on this key role.

Holiday Goodies

We have been asked if volunteers can bring in goodies to share during the holidays. Absolutely! We'd LOVE it! If you are willing to



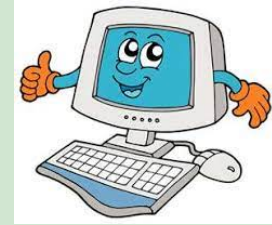
share your recipe, bring a copy of that along, too. Due to our current financial position, we will not be providing the big spreads of food during the back-to-back shows that we did before COVID. So, feel free to bring whatever you'd like when you'd like, and it doesn't have to be homemade. The recipe can be – "WinCo" or "Albertsons".

We will provide plates, forks, and napkins. For ease of clean-up, please leave your treats in the kitchen. If we get too many one night, we will adjust and move them to the Founder's Room.

Please do not feel obligated. This is for those that enjoy doing this kind of thing (and I bet there are many of us that are appreciative that they do).

Understanding Duplie

As we use the Duplie Scheduling software, we are learning more and more of its capabilities. The system does a lot of different tracking and reporting for us. In October, there were 16 events and we volunteered 1983.5 hours. Just imagine what those hours will be for December!



The difference between sign up and approved. Sign up is simply that you are available and approved is you are scheduled to work. To verify if you are pending or scheduled to work a particular show, go to "MY SIGN UP'S" It will indicate PENDING meaning you are on the waiting list or a green check in a circle which means you are APPROVED to work and we are expecting you. Please do not show up to work unless you have the green check mark and are approved.

When you log in to the landing page to sign up your availability, under each show there is a line that indicates "X amount are going". **PLEASE ignore that completely**, we'd take it off if we could. Each scheduler usually has 4 volunteers they need for each show, a volunteer may have given their scheduler several options but only want to work 2 shows. Many people are not signing up because it looks like there are already plenty of people for that show.

We had a very positive response to our basic training and believe that most people are on the system and using it. If you have a question or need clarification, please reach out to us.

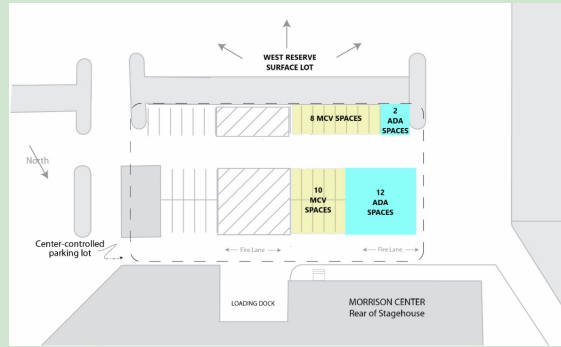
We are still needing help with Hamilton. Because of the time of the year, we are anticipating we will have some volunteer cancellations It will be very helpful to us, to have people on the waiting/pending list. Please recheck your schedule and see if you are able to add yourself to the waiting/pending list of any of the shows for Hamilton.

UPDATE ON PARKING

To accommodate the needs of our Patrons, the Morrison Center has added 12 new ADA handicap parking spaces to the MC lot behind the building, where the volunteers usually park. **There are now two blue signs indicating the handicap parking spaces. Please DO NOT park between the two signs, as they are all handicap spaces.** There are still a limited number of spaces available for volunteers in that lot.

The good news is that because of the change, the Morrison Center has gotten clearance to allow volunteers working a show to park anywhere on the surface lot, if it is not in a handicap space. You don't have to park in the Brady garage anymore, but if you want to, please use the 3rd or 4th floor.

If you have a handicap parking tag or license plate, you can park in one of the designated spaces, including metered spaces.



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