

CHANDLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

STARBURST

NEWSLETTER FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

FALL 2019



Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, our beloved Susan Patterson will have retired and we will be welcoming in her successor. Susan will take with her the title of *Front of House Coordinator*, as the title for her position is now *Patron Services Coordinator*.

The primary functions of the *Patron Services Coordinator* are to coordinate and ensure the smooth operation of the Front of House which includes food and beverage, contract parking, security services, and merchandise sales of the Chandler Center for the Arts. This person serves as a liaison between clients and the public prior to and during events to ensure that the Arts Center facility, equipment, physical setup, and personnel provided meet the requirements of the event. This person manages all aspects of the volunteer program by recruiting, training and directly and indirectly supervising a large number of volunteers.

That's a big job! As such, it will take all of us – house managers and volunteers alike – to ensure our new “boss” settles in smoothly and easily. Let's all agree to go above and beyond to welcome her and continue cultivating our culture of teamwork with the Front of House and Friends Volunteers!

On With The Show!

Sharon LaRue
House Manager

MOLLY'S MUSINGS

Usher Tips & Hints

COLD AND 'FLU SEASON WILL SOON BE HERE. INFLUENZA VACCINES ARE AVAILABLE NOW.

Stay at least 6 feet away from a sick person to avoid coming into contact with their germs. A 'cold' is contagious for up to 3 days; 'flu for 5-7 days. If you are not feeling well, look after yourself - stay home, stay warm, stay hydrated, and don't spread the bugs to us!

When scanning tickets, never lick your fingers to separate paper tickets and ask the patron to operate their phone to view the electronic ticket - not you. Viruses can live on objects for up to 2 days. Wash your hands frequently.

Be prepared so you stay healthy during the busy fall and winter seasons!



Introducing Our New Patron Services Coordinator

SAI POWERS



The Chandler Center management is pleased to welcome **Sayeeda (Sai) Powers** to the *Patron Services Coordinator* position. Sai will officially begin employment on Monday, September 9th.

Sai Powers is an Arts & Culture professional with over a decade of experience as an Event Manager & Coordinator. After graduating from Wichita State University with a B.A. in Theatre, she moved to Phoenix, Arizona with an internship offer at Phoenix Theatre. She worked as a box office associate and a stage manager for Cookie Company Theatre. She worked as an Assistant Event Manager and Event Manager for seven years at Scottsdale Arts, where her role was to supervise bar staff, house managers, and volunteers for all events. In her time at Scottsdale Arts, she acquired the following certifications: Title 4 Liquor Training (Basic & Manager), Food Handlers Certification, Trained Crowd Management, CPR/First Aid, and CFEE (Certified Festivals & Event Executive with International Festivals & Events Association).

In May 2019, she became the Event Manager at Tempe Center for the Arts. When the opportunity to join Chandler Center for the Arts as Patron Service Coordinator arose, she couldn't pass up the chance. She is very happy to have a chance to join the City of Chandler and Chandler Center for the Arts.

Please welcome Sai when you see her!

FRIENDS' FOCUS



Laura Alexander

Laura Alexander is a first-generation American with her

family being from Scotland, Czechoslovakia and Greece. She was born in Washington, DC where she lived for her first 10 years. She was a resident of Silver Spring, MD (3 miles from her DC home) for the next 23 years. In her youth, she spent entire summers in upstate New York on her grandparents' 200-acre farm, "roughing it" with no indoor plumbing, no running water, an outhouse and a wood stove. Among other things she learned on the farm was how to milk cows and gather chicken eggs, far from the city life of her school friends.

Looking back, growing up in the DC area where political news is also local news, she grew up with a

different perspective from people living far away from the capital. She feels that sometimes that is a good thing, sometimes a bad thing yet she loved being part of the national current events and in a family proud to be Americans.

Laura married an Air Force man. They moved 4 times: North Carolina, Arizona, England and then back to Arizona where Laura has made her home for the last 32 years. Most of Laura's working life she was an accountant for large computer companies. After a divorce, she worked for the Mesa Police Department as a dispatcher and then as a civilian officer. Later she transferred to the Mesa Fire Department in an administrative position. While in the police and fire departments she was selected to be a member of their critical incident debriefing teams, which she reports was an emotional, stressful but very rewarding volunteer commitment.

Laura is active in Daughters of

Scotia, a social group for women of Scottish descent. She loves to scuba dive, craft, crochet and quilt. She does volunteer quilting and crocheting for charity groups. She served on the board for Arizona Blankets for Kids for 7 years, an organization she has been with for over 20 years. Arizona Blankets for Kids accepts donations of quilts and blankets which they distribute to ill and traumatized children through hospitals, Air Evac, CPS, PD, FD and many other agencies. Two years ago they celebrated 100,000 blankets donated!

Laura is an avid volunteer. She is a cancer survivor and volunteers one day a week at Ironwood Cancer Research Center. She learned to love the theater while living in DC and attending shows with her aunt. She has volunteered at the Herberger Theater for the past 15 years, the CCA and Mesa Arts Center for the past 5 years. She added the CCA and Mesa Arts Center to her volunteering schedule

as she missed the variety of one night shows, concerts, dance, etc. She loves seeing people, especially children, coming to the theater and enjoying the events.

Her motto: well... she reported she doesn't have one! Growing up, her house was where all her and her brother's friends hung out. To this day, their friends still talk about how much they loved being around Laura's parents. She and her brother have said they grew up eating everything based on their varied heritage! In retrospect, she does have a motto that she attributes to her parents: Be honest, be fair, be kind, be understanding and be helpful while enjoying life.

Her goal: Live a happy, busy, healthy life.



Colleen Grady

Colleen Grady is one of the most outgoing and vivacious personalities at the Chandler Center for the Arts (CCA). She is of Jamaican decent; her family

migrating from the West Indies to New York City. Colleen was born in Manhattan and raised in Brooklyn, NY. This is reflective of her vibrant personality that is open, friendly and talkative. After high school graduation Colleen left New York to attend college in Indiana. She graduated from St. Mary's of the Woods College in Terre Haute, Indiana. While taking some classes at Indiana State University she met Raleigh Grady, who is her husband of 46 years. She attained bachelors and master's degrees in Speech Pathology and Education. Colleen and Raleigh moved to Kokomo, Indiana where she began a long and fulfilling career with the public schools as a Speech Therapist. Together they raised two children, along with their beautiful granddaughter, in Kokomo.

Colleen retired in 2005, at which time she and her husband moved to Chandler, Arizona. One big reason for this move was the warm and easy-living weather. Colleen says this was a true stepping out on faith move! The great news is that the kids moved here too! Even more great news is that both children got married last year, so now Colleen and Raleigh have two step-grandchildren to love! Colleen is not the type of person to sit idle. Soon after she settled in Arizona, she began employment with the Chandler Unified School District as a Speech Pathologist, retiring once again in 2011. She continues to work as an outside sales travel agent and even did a 'gig' with US Airways Express as a gate agent. Colleen loves to travel and has been to many wonderful places. She also

volunteers with her husband as a Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport Navigator. This reflects her love of travel and airports. One of her most memorable trips is when they attended a friend's wedding in Salzburg, Austria. The wedding was a match to the wedding of Maria and the Captain from The Sound of the Music. It was even held in the same gazebo you see in the movie! Colleen has been volunteering at CCA for the past two years and thoroughly enjoys it!

Colleen Grady is a warm and open person who holds affection for her family, friends, travel and airports, theaters, positive people and any great atmosphere. Colleen's positive attitude is a result of always being rooted in her faith and staying grateful.



Pat Hartley

Pat Hartley was raised and grew up in Ohio. She met her husband Jerry at a bowling alley in a mall where she and her friend Pat (yes, same name)

used to go eat lunch on their work break. Her husband Jerry joined the Air Force, so Pat has had many adventures from those years! When they moved to Arizona, that was Pat's 24th move! Pat has now lived in Arizona for 19 years.

Pat has lived in nine different states (and in several states, twice)! She "had" to live in Hawaii twice during the time they traveled, because of military transfers. She also lived in Germany for two years and in Saudi Arabia for five years. During her time overseas she was able to visit 45 countries. Some countries she would go back to again and some she did not really prefer. She loved Jordan, Oman and the Far East.

Pat has been a member of Beta Sigma Fi, a service sorority, for 50 years. She was even a member of the local chapters in Germany and Saudi. Besides her volunteer work at the Center, she participates in a breakfast group that meets once a month and a Dining Out Group (Called 55+) that enjoys trying out new restaurants together. Pat is also active in couples canasta and bunco groups.

Pat began volunteering at CCA in 2006, when she and a friend saw an advertisement and decided to sign up for an orientation. Her friend decided not to attend the orientation, but Pat did and she enjoys meeting other volunteers/people. She has a bad knee, but for now she is able to manage the volunteering schedule. She would like to volunteer as long as she can.

When you see Pat, ask her about some of her fun adventures!



Steve Selover

Steve Selover is one of the easiest volunteers to get along with at Chandler Center for the Arts (CCA). We are fortunate to have him as a volunteer.

Steve has always lived in Arizona, but sometimes dreams about one day moving to a place that is a bit cooler. We hope this will not happen anytime soon! Steve's career began with aspirations of wanting to go into restaurant management. But then he discovered a passion to help those who are unable to help themselves. Steve earned a master's degree in social work. He works for the State of Arizona overseeing programs that address public safety and help victims of abuse. When he isn't working or volunteering, he enjoys reading about American history and world religions. He is a sports fan and loves to kayak, play fantasy football and go on road trips. His favorite places to visit include Bisbee, Flagstaff and Prescott.

Steve is a man of good character who considers his role as a parent the most fulfilling and most impactful experience in his life. For Steve, being a parent has granted him joy, pain, pride, and inspiration, and a hundred other life lessons that have shaped him into the person he is today.

Steve became interested as a volunteer when a colleague once told him how enjoyable volunteering at a performing arts center can be. So, with Steve living in the Chandler area, he decided to attend a volunteer orientation. After his first event, he was hooked! Since then has accumulated over 200 volunteer hours in his first 10 months. Steve enjoys the positive energy at the Center and recognizes volunteering is a great way to stay physically and mentally active. He considers the patrons, staff, and especially the other volunteers to be positive and fun to be around, and these are the reasons he continues to volunteer at the CCA.

Steve is an ambitious and self-aware person. His ultimate life goal is to worry less and appreciate all that he has. Steve is a kind and patient volunteer, and he is greatly appreciated. You will find Steve working many weekend events and he will always be very courteous and helpful to anyone he encounters.



**CHANDLER
CENTER**
FOR THE ARTS

ChandlerCenter.org | 480.782.2680



Happy Birthday!

OCTOBER

- Michael Carter **10/1**
- Diane Parkins **10/3**
- Jeanne Anderson **10/11**
- Edmund Gorny **10/12**
- Robyn Davis **10/12**
- Nancy Wilson **10/13**
- Brenda Johnson **10/16**
- Barbara Mentjes **10/16**
- Christopher Boyd **10/17**

OCTOBER

- Irene Meyers **10/19**
 - Ryan Wong **10/27**
 - Dennis Neri **10/28**
 - Joy Martin **10/28**
- ## NOVEMBER
- Ashley Johnston **11/3**
 - Jeanne Pickering **11/10**
 - Vida Johnson **11/25**

DECEMBER

- Janet Wallace **12/2**
- Vicki Buckman **12/2**
- Janice Rubocki **12/4**
- Kathleen Voves **12/10**
- Rick McHone **12/11**
- Rick Rasmussen **12/13**
- Emma Alaestante **12/16**
- Jeanette Bassett **12/22**
- Patti Serrano **12/22**
- Reese Susan Campos **12/27**

IMPORTANT FRIENDS' DATES

Fall & Winter 2019

Quarterly Meeting & Potluck

Tuesday, September 10th
5:00-7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 10th
5:00-7:00pm

Orientation Training

Saturday, October 12th
9:00-11:30 a.m.

Fire Evacuation Training

Tuesday, October 15th
4:00-6:00 p.m.

Janet Tobias

An Arts Champion Who Will Be Missed

On September 2, Chandler Cultural Foundation Board member Janet Tobias passed away. She had joined the Board of Directors on April 14, 2016. She served as the Chair of the Board Development Committee for the Foundation, focusing on the professional development of the Board.

"The sudden loss of Janet is significant to both the community and to the board of the Chandler Cultural Foundation. She brought so much to the group, including her leadership skills, her sense of humor and her infectious smile. She will be missed." says Jeanne Forbis, board chair, Chandler Cultural Foundation.

She was a passionate arts advocate who used her experience as a principal at an arts integrated school in the Kyrene School District to present an expert voice to lawmakers. She was a loyal attendee at Arts Congress each year; her dedication to arts advocacy was inspiring.

In addition to serving the community through the Chandler Cultural Foundation, she was also an enthusiastic volunteer for the Chandler Chamber of Commerce, lending her time to support the Ambassador program, Ostrich Festival and the Chamber's leadership programs.

"Janet was a bright light in this world. She had fun in everything she did and was deeply passionate about her students and the arts. She was a dedicated arts advocate and never missed an opportunity to speak to legislators about arts education and funding," says Michelle Mac Lennan, general manager, Chandler Center for the Arts.



Janet with Senator Sean Bowie and her long-time boyfriend Dave