FREEMAN STAGE UPDATE

Welcome back! We are getting pumped up for our 12th season! I know you are in suspense, just WAIT until you hear who is coming! Mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 12, at noon to visit our website and social media channels to learn about who will be taking the Stage this summer!

We look forward to seeing your smiling faces soon. We have been working hard since the close of last season to prepare for season 12! Lots of great planning and ideas as we work to improve our program for patrons, volunteers and the community.

Up first, we are adding a Volunteer Coordinator to our year-round team. I am not going anywhere, I still get to see you! I will continue to manage day-to-day aspects of the volunteer program with a year-long transition to the new Volunteer Coordinator. We are looking forward to welcoming this new person to The Freeman Stage family. We have a lot of exciting items to share with you in this newsletter. Happy reading and see you soon!

— Denise DiSabatino Allen, Education & Community Access Coordinator

NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION STRUCTURE

You have received via email the information about our new experienced volunteer structure. All experienced volunteers must attend both the virtual and an in-person tour and safety update. Check out the HUB now to register for the virtual orientations.

Volunteer Advisory Committee (VAC) members from top left are: Nicole McDuffie, Trudy Albrecht, and Sue Katz; second row, John Tiberi, Diane Gilner, and Linda Federman; third row, Linda Urban, Chuck Bologna, and Alyson Cunningham; fourth row, Phil Facciolo and Nancy Nimsz
CAPTAIN UPDATE

Happy New Year! The Captains are looking forward to another terrific season with The Freeman Stage.

It will be great to reconnect with all our friends and acquaintances at The Stage, as we await the reveal of the summer performances. During the off-season, the Captains will be meeting with Freeman Stage staff to plan and organize for the season.

Additionally, Denise has been talking with volunteers who are interested in becoming a Captain. Stay tuned for the April newsletter, when the new Captains are announced.

If you have suggestions for the season or are interested in working with the Captains, you are welcome to contact me at linda.thetford@outlook.com

— Linda Thetford, Volunteer Captain

VAC UPDATE

The Volunteer Advisory Committee is a group of volunteers that meet 6 times a year with a goal “to foster connections among the volunteer corps to create a cohesive culture of teamwork and flexibility.”

We are here to listen to your ideas and concerns in an effort to build teamwork and collaboration so that we can achieve a 75% volunteer retention rate. If you have any thoughts, ideas, recommendations or concerns about our upcoming season, please feel free to reach out to me at john.tiberi@me.com.

I will bring your ideas to the VAC for discussion. As the VAC Chairman, I would like to say “Thank You” to all of our volunteers for everything you do to help promote the vision of the Joshua M Freeman Foundation.

— John Tiberi, VAC Chair

VOLUNTEER SOCIAL UPDATE

The final social of 2018 was held on Dec. 9. Thirty-three volunteers met for a fun afternoon at the Movies at Midway in Rehoboth to watch Academy Award-winning movie, “Bohemian Rhapsody.” Before the movie, volunteers gathered for donuts, coffee and fellowship. Thanks to the generosity of our volunteers, many donations were received for Toys for Tots and distributed to children in our community.

The VAC social subcommittee is organizing another fun year of socials for volunteers to gather and enjoy each others’ company outside the Stage performances. Please mark your calendars for following social events for 2019, register in the HUB!

March 21: The Wheelhouse Restaurant & Bar in Lewes
April 8: Bethany Blues, Bethany Beach
June 2: Volunteer Picnic @ The Stage
Sept. 25: Annual Appreciation Dinner
Dec. 12: Stay tuned!

— Diane Gilner, VAC member

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT UPDATE

As our volunteer program has grown to a point of maximum capacity and we maintain a waiting list for new volunteers, we have worked closely with the VAC to revise the annual volunteer requirements.

• The 40-hour commitment, including two free performances or non-stage events, remains the same.
• Volunteers who meet these requirements will be considered active and in good standing for the next volunteer year.
• Volunteers who do not meet the requirements will still be considered active and in good standing, in anticipation of fulfilling the commitment of the second volunteer year.
• Volunteers who do not meet the requirements two consecutive years will be considered inactive. The volunteer may be eligible to return after a minimum of one year, determined by the Volunteer Coordinator.

VAC MEMBERS

John Tiberi, chair; Phil Facciolo, vice chair; Linda Federman, secretary; Trudy Albrecht; Chuck Bologna; Alyson Cunningham; Diane Gilner; Sue Katz; Nicole McDuffie, Student Volunteer; Nancy Nimsz; Elena Ripkin; Linda Thetford and Linda Urban