

From Our Family to Yours:

Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season...

and a Happy, Peaceful New Year!



It's a magical time at the Arts Center as lights surrounding us twinkle, following our community-wide Tree Lighting Festival. We collected unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items for Deep Well from generous islanders and visitors, and ushered in the holiday season with great food, wonderful entertainment and high spirits.

Organizations like Deep Well provide local aid in the form of food, furniture, repairs, school supplies and many more essentials, all the more significant during the holidays. The Deep Well Santa Shop, which brought joy to over 900 children last year, provides a dignified shopping experience for parents who can select gifts they know their child will cherish.

A meaningful seasonal tradition at the Arts Center is the "Tree of Life" in the Theater Lobby, begun by the Lee family, in memory of Board Chair Bob Lee's mother, Peggy Lee. Each year, the tree is dedicated in memory of organ donors and in honor of recipients, represented by each angel ornament. Please take a moment to read the article on the Trew Foundation on page 30 about this most important gift of all, the Gift of Life.

As a non-profit organization, we greatly value the support of those who come to our productions, presentations, educational programs and festivals all year long. Not to mention our treasured donors, wonderful volunteers, and staff who work tirelessly to make it all come together.

We are thrilled with what will be showcased on our stage after we ring in the New Year! Kicking off 2019 is the Jazz Vibes Showcase, a partnership between the Arts Center and the Junior Jazz Foundation. Held January 5 and 6, there will be a day of workshops and then a concert featuring the best vibraphonist players in the world.

In addition, you can look forward to the magnificent dance of Ballet Memphis, the one-of-a-kind comedy of Rita Rudner, along with our own production of Noël Coward's comedy *Blithe Spirit!* You certainly don't want to miss our free community festival, "Taste of Gullah," February 9, featuring incredible Gullah food, music, arts and crafts and more!

I feel extremely blessed to be able to do what we do here at the Arts Center – to create these enriching events to share with you, our family of patrons and our visitors.

My warmest wishes to you for a blessing-filled Holiday Season and Happy New Year!

Kathleen P. Bateson President/CEO