

JULY/AUGUST 2024

The Bridge

WELCOME VOLUNTEERS!



Arsht Awards: Adrienne Arsht

By Jake Cline

Adrienne Arsht knows what you're thinking: What a coincidence that the recipient of the first Arsht Angel Award at the Adrienne Arsht Center's inaugural Arsht Awards is ... Adrienne Arsht.

"I'm sure, 'Yes, we have to give you the first award,' " she says during a recent phone interview, clearly enjoying the irony. "My name is on the building, now it's on the award, and it's also on the garbage cans."

Well-played jokes aside, when Arsht returned to the performing arts center that bears her name for its annual gala on April 13, she said she would be applauding not just the other Arsht Awards honorees, but "the angels" who have supported the Center and its role in Miami's becoming a major city. "I'm so proud that the community has accepted and taken on my vision of what matters," she says, "and I look forward to seeing other angels doing equally valuable things."

A little more than 16 years ago, Arsht's vision for the Center and its downtown neighborhood was shared by precious few. As detailed in Les Standiford's 2018 book *Center of Dreams*, which chronicles

the decades-long effort to create a major performing-arts center in Miami, the then-named Carnival Center was in trouble just one year after its October 2006 grand opening. Ticket sales were below projections, and supporters of the project were losing patience and faith.

Then, on January 10, 2008, came an announcement, Standiford writes, "that changed everything": Adrienne Arsht, a Miami-based banker, lawyer and philanthropist, was donating \$30 million to the Performing Arts Center Trust. A member of the trust and foundation boards, Arsht was a longtime advocate for the Center whose previous gifts included \$250,000 for "Water Scores," the plaza fountains designed by British installation artist Anna Valentina Murch. Now, the venue would get a new name — the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County — and a second chance.

[Click here to read more....](#)

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GALA PHOTO RECAP



THE ARSHT CENTER'S 'VILLE LUMIÈRE - CITY OF LIGHT' GALA ON APRIL 13, 2024. PHOTOS BY WORLDREDEYE.COM.



Marshall L. Davis, Adrienne Arsht Center founding chairman Adrienne Arsht, Charles Greenfield



Tharrie Zietsman and Adrienne Arsht Center president and CEO Johann Zietsman



Holly Gaines, Adrienne Arsht and Adrienne Arsht Center Foundation chairman Eric G. Johnson

THE INVALUABLE VOLUNTEER: JUDITH TRAUM

BY SUSAN GREEN

As soon as she went a hard-hat tour prior to the opening of the then brand-new Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in 2006, Judith Traum knew that this was an adventure she wanted to be a part of. Now, 18 years later, she's still here making a difference as Volunteer Emeritus, an accolade she received just this past spring. "Because of my long time of service, I have become somewhat of a mentor," she said. "I'm happy to pass on knowledge and help new volunteers enjoy the role."

She began her volunteer role by taking the public on tours of the new facility. That gift of communication has served her well in all aspects of her volunteerism, including serving on volunteer committees, working on volunteer appreciation dinners, being an usher and giving tours.

But the one job she finds the most rewarding and challenging is that of creating audio descriptions for the blind and low-vision guests of the facility. This includes a preshow talk and live commentary that guests hear during the show explaining sets, costumes, cast members and any other information to give them the full experience of the show.
(cont'd)



VOLUNTEER FAQs

How many of these do you know?
Answers to come next issue!

- 1) How long will it take to add the title "trainee" next to my name on my badge?
- 2) When will my tickets from 2023 expire?
- 3) Can I use expiring hours to purchase uniform pieces?
- 4) How old does one have to be to volunteer?
- 5) Flashlight: Is it blue or white?

“Most people just want to be listened to.”

JUDITH FUN FACTS

- She's logged over 6,000 hours as a volunteer since she began in 2006
- She's almost a Miami native, moved here at age 6, and graduated from Coral Gables High School
- She's a Radcliffe alumna and is a member of the Harvard Club of Miami
- She did her graduate work and became a lawyer while raising three children
- She was in the drama club and did summer stock during high school
- Most remarkable show she's seen here: **War Horse**
- Favorite set: the double-decker set from the opera **The Passenger**, with a cruise ship on top and the Auschwitz concentration camp on the bottom.

- Susan Green



Judith in the audio transcribing booth

"I was one of the original group that started in 2010," she said. "It takes a lot of practice to acquire the skill." Audio describers must see a show twice before delivering the actual commentary to really know it inside and out. "You have to learn how to be succinct during the pauses," she added. She also lets them know ahead of time if there's going to be a loud sound or if something funny is going to happen. "It's a lot of work, but it's so rewarding," she said.

When asked what the most important part of her job is, she points to the guests' experience. "You might have to deal with confrontational people on occasion," she said. "But most people just want to be listened to." She describes this compassionate philosophy as "ubuntu," an African concept that CEO Johann Zietsman has made part of the company's culture, which means "I am, because we are."

VOLUNTEERS:



THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!

Thank you for being part of the Adrienne Arsht Center Corp of volunteers! Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization, bringing energy, creativity and passion to every aspect of the theater.

SAVE THE DATE!

Event: Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 2024

Date: October 7, 2024

Day: Monday

Time: 6-10 p.m.

Location: Biscayne Bay Marriott, 1633 North Bayshore Drive, Miami FL 33132





Arsht Installations: Miami Women

Featuring the
Photography of
Femke Tewari



“Miami Women” is an ode to Miami’s beauty and cultural diversity. The photographs were taken at many stunning locations around Miami to accentuate the beauty of our city and the strong feminine spirit that helped build Miami’s character. The 50 portraits offer stories about strong and often groundbreaking women, including refugees, surfers, creatives, businesswomen, breast cancer survivors, activists, doctors, mayors and others.

Femke Tewari is a Miami-based photographer, videographer and creative director who works with a range of local and global swimwear, fashion, beauty, lifestyle and hospitality brands.

“Miami Women” will be on display through August 5.

JULY EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL HISPANIC THEATRE FESTIVAL OF MIAMI

ALAN **JULY 12-14**

Alan is a musical that tells the story of Alan Montoliu, a youngster from Rubí (Barcelona) who, in 2015, took his own life at the age of 17 due to the harassment he suffered during his gender transition.



HOMENAJE A A LOS **ALVAREZ QUINTERO** **JULY 19-21**

This tribute to the 150th anniversary of the births of playwrights Serafín (1871-1938) and Joaquín (1873-1944) Álvarez Quintero presents some of the brothers' most appealing works.



LA CELESTINA, **TRAGICOMEDIA DE LITA** **JULY 26-28**

In this classic work by Fernando de Rojas, Lita must hold up a stage set that has fallen onto her. She has no strength left, yet she will laugh, cry and enjoy herself until the end.



Note: The above plays are in Spanish with English supertitles, with the exception of La Celestina which will be performed in Spanish, but will not have English supertitles.

JULY EVENTS

AILEYCAMP MIAMI!

If you happen to stumble into the Knight Concert Hall in July at about noon, you will see at least 100 local middle school dancers lining up at lunch to get recharged for the next round of classes at AileyCamp Miami, a six-week program that is the brainchild of the famed Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, which is now in 10 cities across the U.S. In addition to a full day of classes in jazz, ballet, West African and contemporary dance, they also take classes that help them navigate life, including conflict management, communication and other skills, according to camp director Denzel Williams.

And who is dishing out the Taco Tuesday lunch on this day? Our amazing Arsht Center Volunteers! They have such belief in this event that they do it every year, putting in six hours a day serving the dancers breakfast and lunch. Their dedication helps keep the dancers going through their arduous day.



Camp Director Denzel Williams and Guidance Counselor Dallas Rivers

AileyCamp students in ballet class. The final performance will be July 27 at 7 p.m. featuring excerpts from the original choreography of the famous *Revelations*, the work for which the Alvin Ailey company is internationally known.



Volunteers from left to right: Brenda Romeo, Yasmine Jean-Baptiste and Sherry Martin. "We do this every summer!"

By Susan Green

AUGUST EVENTS

DISONANCIA **AUGUST 1-4**

Disonancia takes place between two eras and spaces, with the central theme being the mark that dictatorships, often rising under the guise of democratic revolutions, leave on societies and human beings.



SIEMPRE FLAMENCO'S **FESTIVAL DE CANTE MIAMI** **AUGUST 22-25**

The 18th edition of *Siempre Flamenco's Festival de Cante Flamenco* is thrilled to bring Miami audiences a spine-tingling experience! This mesmerizing and passionate production focuses on the art of flamenco singing.



COMING IN SEPTEMBER! **MUSICCLUBKIDS!™**

Hailing from Florida, *MusicClubKids* are a family-friendly kid band who sing and act out rewritten, kid-safe versions of hit songs, inspiring kids aged 4 to 12 to laugh, play and sing!



Mission Statement

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The Arsht Center Newsletter aims to inform the volunteers, staff and public about the events of the Arsht Center.

Commitment to Diversity

The Arsht Center is committed to using our platform to embrace all cultures and advocate for change. Through our work, we aim to make this world a more inclusive compassionate place where no one suffers from discrimination, hate or bias. We wholeheartedly condemn all forms of violence, hate and prejudice against any individual or community. We believe that connecting people through artistic excellence and inspiring educational experiences leads to deeper understanding, more empathy and healing for all.



**Highlights in
Accessibility**



We aim to be respectful of all persons and the language we use is critical in the experience of our guests. If you're ever unsure of the proper way to address a person you can look to your tier leader for guidance before a guest encounter or respectfully ask a guest how they prefer to be addressed. Remember, people are not their mobility aids, listening devices or assisted devices.



Volunteer Jean Plummer leading a tour.

TOURS HAPPEN TWICE A WEEK. PLEASE VISIT OUR [CALENDAR](#) FOR THE NEXT AVAILABLE TOUR.

SPANISH-LANGUAGE TOURS ARE OFFERED ONCE A MONTH ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

JULY 20, 2024
AUGUST 17, 2024
SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

Volunteer Reminders

If you know someone interested in volunteering at the Arsht, they can email volunteers@arshtcenter.org.



Susan Green/Editor
sgreen@arshtcenter.org

Call for Submissions

**WE WOULD LOVE TO FEATURE YOUR
VOICE IN OUR NEWSLETTER!**

If you have a passion for the Adrienne Arsht Center and would like to contribute to our newsletter, please contact sgreen@arshtcenter.org. Everyone is welcome to inquire and we value contributors of all backgrounds!