

Thank You 2019 Volunteers

Dear Members.

Some of you, our over 1100 MDSA active members, will delete this without even reading it. Some of you take the continued existence of our swimming club for granted. But before 2002 we did not exist. You could only swim in what we called the "fish tank". Do you know what has made possible our survival thus far? **VOLUNTEERS!!!!**

I just added up the numbers: About one hundred of our members volunteer for specific tasks. Some for just a few hours in the summer, others for many hours. If you have never volunteered but are interested enough to read this, please make next swim season the time that you will do your part. If you know you are interested, let us know now.

This letter is to recognize and thank the persons who have assumed leadership positions, a few right from the beginning, some in recent years. Let's start with:

Stephanie Bludau Tor our Co-Coordinator, who has the great and varied skills wedded to a love of swimming that make her an invaluable leader. She runs our website and our internet activities. She unscrambles and solves a variety of problems. Her persistence won us the two extra days this year.

Me, Judy Mage. Even though as an Octogenarian I am happy to be able to swim a full once around (quarter of a mile) when I used to go three and sometimes four around, my love for our beach is as strong as ever. I do a bunch of things, and perhaps the most important is to find volunteers: That means you, who are reading this. (Judy is what I (Stephanie) call the "glue that holds the MDSA together")

Nancy Reeder, continues as our Treasurer. Nancy pays the bills, and there are many. Your dues which have stayed stable while so much else has skyrocketed (e.g., housing; education, to start with) is a tribute to Nancy's careful work.

Doris Chorny, Publicity Chairperson and Secretary. Since the beginning Doris has been contacting the press and sending releases so potential MDSA swimmers know how to find us. Doris is one of the surviving Founding Mothers who helped us win swimming rights in the first place back in 2000 and 2001.

Addie Haas has been in charge of our email communications since before we became MDSA in 2002. She would not be unhappy if someone else volunteered to take over this job. You don't have to live in New Paltz. Addie and Stephanie would offer free training. It is really not very complicated but you have to have a desire to be helpful to our members, and would be members!

Teresa Genovese and Mara Kearney shared the crucial task of Swim Test Coordinators this year. That is a critical job that makes certain that each of our 8 tests are fully staffed. Again **Anne Wandres** was a

multi test Leader, **Sheyda Eversley** was a frequent test "Greeter" who helped the tests go smoothly and **Rena Blumenthal** also helped as test leader. Several test volunteers came to most of the tests, including **Pamela St. John and George Airday. Jo Gangemi, Gerald Banach, Mara Kearney** (also a test coordinator) and **Ellen Stern** served at three tests each. We will return to the rest of the much needed volunteers later in this letter.

Scott Schiffer in his sixth year as Volunteer Guide Coordinator was stymied by the lack of parking spots formerly guaranteed to the Guide volunteers. The construction made it impossible to cover the weekends, but a few persons did volunteer. Providing this service is important to our relationship with the Park, and we hope and trust this construction will be over by next summer when the building of the Visitor Center should be completed. Those who braved the parking situation include **Shirley Irons, Hope Dejpour, Bonnie Hirschhorn, Hal and Doris Chorny, Julie Goldsheid, Penny Damaskos** and **Alan Sheiner**.

Kristine Logan has upped her involvement in the affairs of the MDSA so that her most accurate job description is Assistant Coordinator. She continues to pick up all the mail from our Post Office box, and deals with it, this in addition to helping with the banking and with PDQ, the printer in New Paltz that has been doing our printing now for 18 years.

Julie Rose has been our Lost Cards Replacer for most of our existence as a swim club. To lighten her work we ask that at the end of our season (which this year goes two days beyond Labor Day) please choose a place for your ID card and write on next year's calendar where that "safe place" might be. Also your password.

Kathleen Anderson continues to be responsible for taking care of phone messages left on our MDSA "hot line". She "translates" the verbal messages (that are not always easily understood) for appropriate action.

Jimmy Williams and Carole Metsger once again took home our beach chairs and stored them until next season. They eliminated the ones that were no longer safe or useful, and found a few replacements. Jimmy put his carpentry and other skills to work to make our "canoe taxi" available as an alternative to hiking up the hills, especially in the absence of the handicapped parking spots at the site of the former park office.

Bridget Barclay for the third year in a row hosted our late spring Packet Party where over eight hundred renewal letters, stickers enclosed, were mailed out in just one evening. This year's team that performed this feat included **Donna Seymour, Janet Fox, Leslie English, Renee Hack, Mara Kearney, Kate Schultz, and me**.

Swim Test Team Volunteers: In addition to those named previously, those who came to one or two tests include: **Carol Brown, Teresa Genovese** (also test coordinator), **Dawn Hein, Renee Hack, Jean McGrane, Amie Gellen, Dave Winter, Shirley Irons, Kirsty Tinto, Charlie Li, Mike Flannery, John Orcutt,**

Maureen Rogers, Tracy Clark-Cherry, Judith Gerard, Celine Barakat, Linda Still, Suzy Sureck, Laura Bryant, Linda Brotman, Carolyn Glauda, Janet Chapman, Joe Glauda, Linda Brotman, Janice Pickering, Renee Skuba, Susan Wisniewski, Susan Scher, Kate Hamilton, Naomi Schechter, Raquel Pallak, Linda Fite, Rae Slingerland, Judy Timke, Karin Andriolo, Andre Kontola, Teresa Shelley, Lauree Feldman, Katherine Betts, Leslie English.

We lost one of our most faithful volunteers this year, Sarah Holland. who many of us have admired over many summers, watching her swimming in tandem with her longtime partner Lauree Feldman.

And **we continue to miss founder Terry Laughlin** and his advanced swimmers class that he taught at our beach every summer. **We continue to honor our other founders and early activists, including Ellen James, Myriam Miedzian, Doris Chorny, Ray Greenberg, Marion and Rick Ryan and all the volunteers who kept us going over the past 18 years.**

**Swimmingly yours,
Judy Mage, MDSA Co-coordinator**

I second all of Judy's accolades and add a thank you to the Park Staff for their continued support of the MDSA, and a big thanks to all our MDSA members for maintaining a climate for peaceful and enjoyable swimming and being respectful of each other and of the Lake.

**Thank you,
Stephanie Bludau Tor, MDSA Co-coordinator**