



A farewell and a welcome



A fond farewell from our outgoing Executive Director - Theresa Cox

The opportunity to make magic every day is a privilege I have never taken for granted. I have found joy and witnessed magic every day I've spent with the people and ponies of the Carousel, and the dragons in Dragon Hollow. In a few cases, I even got to generate that joy and magic. How much more can one ask?

And yet all things, even the best of things, come to an end. After 30 years -three as a volunteer and 27 as the Executive Director - it is time for me to move on to other adventures.

I have not made this decision lightly. The incredible opportunities I have had to make a difference in this community, side-by-side with my fellow employees, volunteers and patrons, were more than I could ever have

Words of welcome from our new Executive Director, Tracy Ursery

Hello Friends of the Carousel,

As we approach the end of 2021 we look back on yet another year of many ups and downs. While it was discouraging to have to cancel or postpone many of the fun events that we had hoped to enjoy with our Missoula friends and neighbors, we are very grateful that we were able to reopen our doors, that our remarkable staff has remained with us through a long period of uncertainty, and that our many generous friends and supporters continue to support us in a multitude of much appreciated ways, large and small.

As I look forward to 2022, it is with a sense of optimism. I hope to see many positive changes at the Carousel in terms of our ability to reopen fully, to return to a full schedule of parties and events, and to have the opportunity to connect with all of you!

Included in this time of change will be a passing of the reins, as our executive director Theresa Cox prepares to shift her focus to other areas of her life and I am given the remarkable opportunity to come aboard and experience the magic that has been an integral part of the Carousel since its creation twenty six years ago. Fortunately, Theresa has graciously promised to stay

More changes to the Carousel staff

Two of our favorite Carousel employees are moving on at the end of the year. When you see them, please thank them for all they've done for the people and ponies of the Carousel all these years.



Julie Foley

Nearly everyone who has visited or called the Carousel has interacted with Julie Foley. She is often your first contact when browsing or buying in the gift shop, calling for directions, or setting up a birthday party.

Julie has worked at the Carousel for 22 years, beginning with weekend shifts when she was still teaching at Bonner School. Once she retired from teaching, she was able to spend more time getting our gift shop whipped into shape.

In addition to all the hours she has spent helping the public, Julie has been a remarkable behind-the-scenes worker. Julie is willing and able to do anything that benefits the Carousel from training new employees to directing volunteers, from stuffing envelopes to cutting coupons, from putting up Christmas decorations to shoveling snow - and so much more. Julie is a prime example of an employee who is willing and able to go above and beyond to make sure the ponies are cared for, and the people who come to ride them are welcomed.

Will retirement stick this time or will Julie find another career in need of her excellent organizational and public relations skills? We don't know what the future holds, but we do know Julie's numerous and diverse contributions to the Carousel for all these years have made it a friendlier, safer and more welcoming place for us all.

Gaylean Ward



Gaylean's may not be a face you recognize, but you know her work. Gaylean came to us as a weekend cleaner in 1995. When our beloved Ron Anderson died in 2000, Gaylean became the main cleaner for the Carousel, working weekdays and an occasional weekend day. Always accommodating, when we needed cleaning seven days a week this summer, she took on the challenge, and when we moved to a Wednesday through Sunday schedule earlier this year, she was willing to sacrifice her weekends to match the new schedule.

Gaylean is almost always the first person on the scene in the morning and is usually gone before our first guests arrive, but the results of her efforts mean the building is clean and inviting. She will be a hard act to follow.

In retirement. Gaylean will have more time to spend with her husband, Pete, her parents and her sister. We wish her the best and fully expect to see her at the Carousel from time to time, making sure her replacement is performing up to her standards!



And a constant



- John Thompson

Every chip of wood carved, every speck of paint applied, every bit of grease wiped on or off of a gear was necessary for the creation of our Carousel, and each person who did one (or more) of those things was essential to the project.

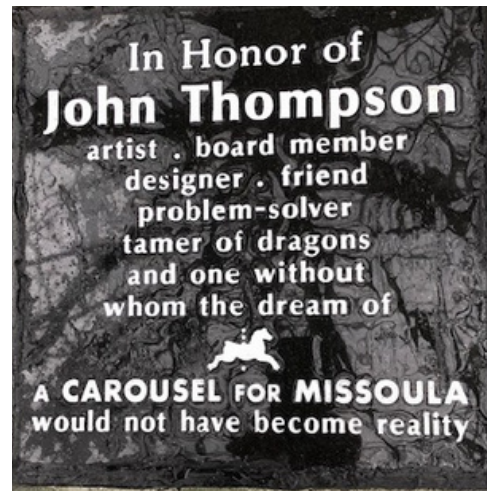
One of those volunteers, however, has a special place in the annals of Carousel history. One might consider John Thompson to be the first among equals for the work he has done on both the Carousel and Dragon Hollow.

John began volunteering for the Carousel when Chuck Kaporich asked if he could draw a horse. "Of course," John replied, not knowing that his affirmative answer would draw him into a project that would take him through many years until his grandchildren are the ages his kids were when the project started.

Working with the ponies' adopters, John did the initial sketches for almost all of our ponies. Small sketches were enlarged to life-size so the carvers, including John himself, were able to create our lovely ponies.

While he does play well with others, John works well on his own and is solely responsible for much of the art you see at the Carousel. He painted all the panels in the middle of Carousel, carved the ring machine and Scafti the Dragon, and arranged for many of the artistic touches in Dragon Hollow, such as the front gate and the climbing wall. His most remarkable project, though, might be the six limestone panels on the east end of the building.

John is also the driving force behind the carvers who continue to meet to work on new projects - our Ponykeepers. He teaches others to carve both during classes and during informal Tuesday evenings. As an ambassador for younger Carousel fans, John has conducted tours at the Carousel and has given speeches and participated in panels at local grade schools.



The Carousel recently installed a plaque honoring John in one of the circular benches on the front plaza.

John has served on the Carousel's board of directors for several terms, officially representing the Ponykeepers, but also making sure the best interests of the Carousel and the communities it serves are met.

Several Carousel employees have John on speed dial for any chores that need to be done, from fixing ponies to installing pickets. He is particularly well-known for accommodating those who stop by on Tuesday evenings not knowing the Carousel is closed. John provides tours and rides and tells the story of the Carousel as only he can.

When John isn't at the Carousel, he can be found at home with his lovely wife, Kathy Rogers, his children and grandchildren, or carving stone at his studio east of town. He has participated in several stone carving shows all over the country and is well-known in regional and national carving groups for his expertise.

Those of us who know John are aware of his many contributions and his involvement with them. Everyone who has ever been to the Carousel has benefitted from his skills and talents even without knowing who to thank.

Now that you know, when you see John at the Carousel - usually with one or more of his adorable grandchildren - don't be afraid to say thanks to him for all he has done.

A few more thank you notes



Party Mural by Courtney Christopher

Have you seen the beautiful mural on the wall of the party room? The new mural, painted by Courtney Christopher has really elevated our party place.

Courtney teaches art and history at Hellgate High School and volunteers with the Ponykeepers as a carver and a painter. In addition to the mural, Courtney painted the steampunk gear panel in 'Ponykeeper Passage,' the hallway that leads to the newer part of the Carousel building.

We are grateful to Courtney for sharing his talents and limited time to make the Carousel's party room a better place.

Thank you, Tom, for years of care

Soon after Dragon Hollow opened in 2001, Tom Blunn walked into the Carousel office to offer his services keeping Dragon Hollow safe and clean. It turned out Tom had all the skills to backup his offer. He regularly inspects the playground, and often identifies and fixes problems before anyone else knows they exist.



Over the years, Tom has shown up for every Dragon Hollow spruce up day, and has not only come to clean the Carousel building once a year, but has brought his friends with him. His dedication to keeping these community treasures is astounding.

Thank you, Tom, for the hours and hours you have dedicated over the years. You are a Magic Maker of the highest degree!



*Jeff Overturf,
the friendliest face
at the Carousel*

No doubt you've seen him if you've visited the Carousel in the past several years, and there is a high probability you've listened to him wax poetic about the history and importance of the Carousel.

Jeff Overturf became an instant Carousel ambassador when he joined our crew. He is another of those employees without whom the Carousel would not be the warm and welcoming place it is.

Under Jeff's positive attitude and outgoing personality you'll find a man dedicated to keeping all Carousel riders safe. After a long career in the corporate world, Jeff enjoys a different sort of job where he can make people happy and keep them safe.

You may also be familiar with Jeff's performances on 105.5 KFGM in Unca Jeffy's "Wake Up, Kids," weekday mornings at 7am.

*Colt Davidson
keeps us
going in circles*



Colt came to us just out of high school in Oregon as a student at the University of Montana, and started his Carousel employment as a platform/gift shop worker. As life took him away from and back to Missoula, he came and went from the Carousel, but we were always happy to welcome him back when he returned.

Colt is now the one who takes care of the mechanical works to keep the Carousel going in circles. His work makes the Carousel fun.

Colt is pictured with his wife Gretchen, a former Carousel worker, and their children, Cara, River and June.



We are Going Green(er)

In the spring of 2022, **Big Sky Solar and Wind** will install 32 solar panels on the southern roof of the Carousel building. We are excited to be taking the step toward energy independence.

As an educational piece to accompany the solar project and provide sustainability in other ways, we will also install a "Garbage Dragon." The dragon's limestone head, carved by **John Thompson**, will be emerging from a cave located between the Carousel and Dragon Hollow. Holes in the cave walls will allow park guests to deposit compost, garbage and recycling in appropriate receptacles.

The dragon will reward depositors with flashing lights and a thank you roar.

The dragon's cave will be built by **Dirik Dubay from Western Montana Patio, Mike Sudik of Big Sky Solar and Wind, and John Thompson.**



We have received funding toward this project from the

Bill and Rosemary Gallagher Foundation & Boone Karlberg, PC.

We are waiting to learn if we will receive additional funding from Northwestern Energy.

If you would like to contribute toward the solar panels and/or the garbage dragon, or for additional information, please contact Theresa at 406-370-3922 or ponykeep@gmail.com.

Donations of \$1000 or more will receive permanent recognition.

Cont from page 1 - Farewell

dreamed thirty years ago. Each year, each week, each day has brought its own challenges, but also its own rewards. I am truly blessed to have found such fulfillment and satisfaction in this career.

I want to thank each one of you, and so many more who are no longer with us, for the passion you have shown for the ponies, the dragons, and the people who care for them.

For me, the stories of the Carousel and Dragon Hollow have always been about the people - the people who created these community treasures, the people who maintain them, and the people who delight in using them. All of the staff and volunteers of the Carousel do what they do for you, and count ourselves lucky to be able to do so.

The Carousel was the gift Chuck Kaparich gave to Missoula when he shared his dream. but I consider Dragon Hollow to be my gift to the community, having reintroduced the concept to the deciding board until they could no longer deny me. Like everything else I've done in this job, I got far more than I gave to the endeavor.

From the bottom of my never-want-to-grow-up heart to my old-enough-to-know-what-I'm-leaving-behind mind, thank you for your part in affording me this opportunity and for the joy and magic you have brought to my life.

Blessings and best wishes,
Theresa



Cont from page 1 - Welcome

involved and to mentor us through a smooth transition so I am excited and optimistic for a bright post pandemic future for Missoula's Carousel!

I sincerely hope that you will be a part of our future. I invite you to join us as we begin to host events, to lend a hand where you can, to schedule a birthday or other special celebration with us, or to gather your friends and family, when you feel safe doing so, and come enjoy a ride on your favorite pony!

What makes the Carousel so very special is not its magnificent hand carved ponies nor its grand old band organ or even its amazing 8mph speed, although those are all pretty incredible! It is its origination in the spirit of community teamwork, and as we eventually emerge into a post pandemic future, I invite you to consider our multitude of opportunities to become a part of the Carousel community! If you have an interest in becoming a volunteer, an operator, a custodian, in assisting in gift shop sales, learning or sharing the art of woodcarving or that of carousel maintenance/engineering, I encourage you to be in touch. We will also be seeking an assistant executive director, would certainly welcome the assistance of an experienced grant writer and we are always eternally grateful for all sponsors and donors who donate time, services or monetary gifts, large and small. It is because of you that we are able to keep our ponies up and running! I am so very excited for 2022 at the Carousel!

Stay safe, be well and I look forward to meeting you at the Carousel!

Tracy



Free Rides
on A Carousel for Missoula
Christmas Day
11am-3pm

Thanks to our volunteer operators
and our Free Ride sponsor:



**Morrison
Maierle**
engineers • surveyors • planners • scientists

Please remember your
mask. Masks are required
in the building for
everyone aged 5 and above.

The Carousel will be



Mon., Jan. 3, through Fri., Jan. 28, 2022
for
Cleaning, Maintenance
Platform Refinishing
and
Pony Painting
Sorry for the inconvenience.
If you can help clean
Jan. 17, 27 or 28,
please call
406-549-8382
for details

IMPORTANT...!



The Carousel is looking for employees to work in a great environment

- Custodian/Stable Hand to work ~ 3 hours a day, Wed. - Sun. Starting in January
 - Platform/gift shop workers - flexible schedule and hours, but must be available at least one day each weekend. Starting late January/early February.
 - Relief greaser. ~2.5 hours a day on an on-call schedule. Starting asap
- Visit the Carousel or email mmlacarousel@gmail.com for an application



Schedule a private party for your pod

Pod Parties are a great way for you and your pod to enjoy the Carousel safely.
Pod Parties can be scheduled any day of the week at 10am or 5:45pm, or Mondays and Tuesdays anytime between 10am and 5:45pm.
Call 406-549-8382 to check availability on your date of choice

1.5 hours of Carousel fun • Up to 30 guests • \$200
Everyone age 5 and up must wear masks except in the party room

thank
you

\$10,000

Penelope Oncken

\$1000+

Nora & Chris Hohenlohe

Mike DeNeve

Gary & Lynne Willstein -

in honor of Theresa Cox's retirement

U-Swirl Frozen Yogurt

Stephen & Margaret Grinnell Family

Fund in honor of Nora, Lyla & Sophie

Chris & Jeannie Siegler

\$500+

Garden City Funeral Home

and

Noble Metal Solutions

Clark Fork River Market

Qin Yu and Wayne Davis

Andy & Molly Nelson

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Tom & Ann Boone

Cats on Broadway

Curtis & Barb Cuffel -

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Montana Security & Communications

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Maureen & Alexander Howard -

in memory of Lawrence J Coan

Kenzo & Irene Kawanabe -

in honor of Randy Cox

Kitte Robins

to our 2021 Community Powered Donors

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Ranches

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Kiwanis Club of Missoula

Land Lindbergh -

in memory of Alex McDonald

Ron & Sheila Lund

Madison Marie McIntosh

Meng Dentistry PLLL

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MISMO Gymnastics

Missoula Red Hatters

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Sally Rosenkranz

Kay Salmonson

Rob & Jane Selvig

Don & Marguerite Shattuck

JoAnne Stewart

John & Sue Talbot

Up to \$100

Charles & Colleen McHugh

Fred Liberatori

Emma Lorusso

Gwen & John Bartels

Mackenzie Blake

Linda Blakney

Holly & Rich Borghello

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Shelley Ciallella -

in memory of Sue Stevens

Dottie Collins

Jeri Fisher

cont on page 9

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Up to \$100

Julie & Jim Foley -
in memory of Don Finley
Linda McCarthy & Tom Gallagher
Ruby & Doug Kikkert
and Charlie & Robin
Mr. Grubstake & CadanceO
Barbara Theroux
Elizabeth & James Cleveland
Charlene Frojen
Carma Gilligan
Douglas Grimm
Ira & Kay Robison

In Memory of Chuck Kaparich

John Thompson & Kathy Rogers
Randy & Theresa Cox
Janet Fowler Dargitz
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Gloria & John Langstaff
Rea Peggy & Ed Lester & families
Mike & Melanie Peck
Richard & Adele Wolff
John & Lauren Knudsen
Sharon & Edward Linjala
Joy Barry

Sponsorships

Birthday Club

U-Swirl Frozen Yogurt

Kids' Day

John Thompson -
Hobby Horse Arts

Garden Party

First Security Bank
Cherry Creek Radio
Mountain Broadcasting
Five Valleys
Restoration & Cleaning
Good Food Store
Pintler Wealth
Management Group
Black Knight Security
3-Rivers Pediatric Dentistry

Halloweek

Missoula Textile Services
Mountain Broadcasting
Cherry Creek Radio
Good Food Store
Stockman Bank

**Free Rides on
Thanksgiving & Christmas**

Morrison Maierle, Inc

Missoula Gives Donors

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Victor Machart
Steve and Cheri Thompson
Mary Archibald
Christine Brummer
Lorraine Carlson
Patricia DaSilva
Sue DeMers
June Ellestad & Lloyd Holland
Jason Granvold
Amy J. Hetzler
Alice R Holt
Jeri Price
John & Karen Rincker
Maria Whisenhunt
Katie Ludwick

Grants

Treacy Foundation - \$9000 grant for new furnaces

Bill and Rosemary Gallagher Foundation - \$5000 for the garbage dragon

William H Wallace and M Wallace Foundation - \$5000 grant for operations

Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation - \$3750 for free rides for the disadvantaged

Sentinel Kiwanis of Missoula - \$500 grant for operations

Selma & Alvin Silverman Foundation - \$500 grant for operations

Garden Party Gratitude

Sponsors



Betsy Grimley



Item Donors

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1889 Steakhouse | Fish Window Cleaning | Kindred Skin + Sole | Red's Bar |
| A Moveable Feast | Jeri Fisher | Linda Vista Golf Course | Kathy Rogers |
| Athleta | | Magic Touch Car Wash | Runner's Edge |
| Big Sky Breakout | Five Valley's Restoration & Cleaning | MB Painting | Shine Auto Detailing |
| Cabela's | Betsy Grimley & Wayne Chamberlain | Missoula Downtown Association | Spiker Communications |
| Colt Colson | Bob Hermes | Missoula Wine Merchants | The M Store |
| Laurie Clouse | Home Resource | Montana Natural History Center | The Sapphire Gallery |
| Clouse Custom Carpentry & Handyman Services | Hot House Yoga | Montana River Guides | The Sweet Palace |
| Randy & Theresa Cox | HuHot Mongolian Grill | Mustard Seed Restaurant | John Thompson |
| Daily's Premium Meats | Inner Light Bags | Molly & Andy Nelson | Toiffer Pet Outfitters |
| Doo-O-Gee | Jeffrey Barilla Massage | Pink Grizzly | Total Outfitters |
| Doc's Sandwich Shop | | Plonk | Worden's Market |
| Drum Coffee | | Kathy & Paul Polzin | Zootown Arts |
| First Security Bank | | RDO Equipment | Community Center |

Pony Race Donors

- | | | | |
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Sponsors

OF THE MONTH

Each month, the Carousel enjoys the support of that month's sponsor. Sponsors of the Month make a financial or in-kind investment in the Carousel and Dragon Hollow to help us keep the ponies fed and the dragon happy. We are grateful everyday for their generous support.

