

Marian Morrison: A Triple Legacy

January 2009

by Cheryl Keim

Marian has had the opportunity to travel the world, but would never call anywhere other than Crawfordsville “home”. Travel has been a central part of her life, dating back to her 21st birthday which she celebrated in Paris, France. In fact, her first job out of college was a five year stint working as a secretary for the U.S. Department of Foreign Service in Paris, France; Pretoria, Union of South Africa and in Athens, Greece. Marian is a 1946 graduate of Crawfordsville High School. After attending Bradford Junior College (which no longer exists) in Massachusetts, she entered DePauw University where she majored in History. She says that after graduation from DePauw, her father asked her what she was going to do. She replied that she didn’t know and he informed her that he had enrolled her at Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School in Chicago. Upon completion of the program, she was recruited by the Department of State Foreign Service. Upon returning to the states, her career path remained much closer to home and was primarily in the banking industry.

Her love of travel, fueled by her love of history continued and she visited Europe nearly every year throughout her working years. She loves learning about different cultures and contends that meeting people face-to-face is certainly the best way to do that. As much as she loves learning about others, she claims that no one meets her without learning about Crawfordsville’s rich history. She is amazed at how widely our city is known around the world and attributes that largely to the presence of Wabash College. While it is hard for her to choose a favorite foreign country, she really likes Switzerland because of the beautiful mountains and lakes and adds that the people are wonderful and so is the chocolate! She likes England because it is easy to get around and is so rich in history. After her father passed away in 1976, she and her mother enjoyed taking cruises, especially those to the Scandinavian Countries of Sweden and Norway.

Marian’s parents, Herbert and Genevieve Morrison, both CHS graduates, were very active in the community. Her father, a banker at Elston Bank for more than fifty years and Chairman of the Board in the later part of his career, served as president of the local Red Cross. Her moth-

er volunteered through the Red Cross to make bandages during WWII. Marian followed this model and has been very involved in the community as well. She is a former member of the Montgomery County Community Foundation’s Board of Directors and during her tenure, put the MCCF mission into action by establishing a fund to honor her parents. **The Herbert C. and Genevieve L. Morrison Fund** is an endowed fund which quite fittingly, supports the work of the local Red Cross. Each year, now and forever, the Red Cross receives a check from the interest earned by the fund.

Marian recalls frequenting the Crawfordsville District Public Library as a child, borrowing the maximum number of books allowed and making two to three trips each week. She still

visits the library regularly since she claims she has no more room to store books in her home – the shelves are packed. Most of her life she has lived within walking distance of a library and greatly values the positive impact they have had on her life. Reading remains a much loved activity and not surprisingly, historical biographies are a favorite genre. She also liked “The Clan of the Cave Bear” the first of five in the Earth’s Children series. Faye Kellerman is a

favorite author of mysteries.

This passion for books and reading inspired her to establish the Marian J. Morrison Crawfordsville District Public Library Fund to benefit the Crawfordsville District Public Library, particularly for the purpose of serving children and the visually impaired. It pleases her to see that so many parents still bring their young children to the library and that older youth still visit on their own, leaving with armloads of books.

Marian’s church also benefits from her generosity as she has established the **Marian J. Morrison Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church Fund**. Income from this fund is distributed to the church annually. Marian’s philanthropic efforts don’t end with MCCF; the local Boys and Girls Club wears her parents’ name with pride. Montgomery County will benefit forever from Marian’s caring and generous nature which leads her to always be “looking forward” and “giving back”.



Marian and Ann share stories of their travels to Africa.
Staff Photo

A QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER FOR OUR
DONORS AND FRIENDS
VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.mccf-in.org

2009

Happy New Year!

Dates to Remember

March 6

Deadline for most MCCF Scholarships

April 13

Deadline for the James G. and Patti J. Pearson and the Bob J. Tandy Scholarships

All application forms are available at www.mccf-in.org

April 20

Volunteer of the Year nominations are due. See page 2 for details.

MCCF Board of Directors

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2008 Arts & Culture Projects

by Cheryl Keim

Accessibility to recreational and cultural amenities is an important indicator of a community's quality of life, affects how desirable a place it is to live and ultimately has a tremendous impact on its economic health. Understanding this important role of arts and culture, MCCF eagerly supports local organizations in their missions to provide arts and cultural events and opportunities for residents and visitors to Montgomery County. In 2008 several grants were awarded to further such efforts, both from restricted and unrestricted funds.

The General Lew Wallace Study and Museum was awarded \$17,500 from the **Irwin Lee Detchon Fund**. The money was used for five separate projects, including an upgrade to the electrical system on the grounds of the museum in order to facilitate the electrical needs of the 2nd annual *Taste! of Montgomery County*. *The Taste!* is a wonderful late summer festival that celebrates the outstanding culinary and musical talents in our county. It has quickly become a top quality event that is eagerly anticipated by both locals and their guests.



Thousands enjoyed the 2008 *Taste! of Montgomery County* on the grounds of the General Lew Wallace Study and Museum.

Photo by Doug Calisch

The Montgomery County Cultural Foundation was awarded \$42,400. The funds will be used for the rehabilitation of the steam plant building behind the Old Jail Museum for use as an art center and multipurpose event space. This grant was awarded with funds from the **James G. and Susan Smith Fund**, the **Florence Schultz Fund**, the **Max K. Tannenbaum Fund** and the **Community Fund**.



The Steam Plant at the Old Jail Museum will soon become an Art Center.

Staff Photo

The Community Chorus was awarded \$5,000 from the **Walter F. Hulet Fund** to assemble a group of musicians to form an orchestra to perform for the 2008 Christmas concert, held December 14th at the Pioneer Chapel on the Wabash College Campus. This gift was appreciated by the vocalists and greatly enhanced the listening experience for the audience.

Seven hundred dollars was awarded to the Crawfordsville District Public Library from the **Marian Morrison Crawfordsville District Public Library Fund**. Marian, our front page featured donor has requested these funds be used for the purpose of serving children or the visually impaired. Library Director, Larry Hathaway applauds Marian for her support of the library and says that they generally use the money from her MCCF fund to purchase

large print books. "We estimate that we have been able to add 30 – 40 unique titles to our collection each year with this gift. A wonderful, wonderful gift that lasts for years to come and is renewed each time a patron looks at one of the items" he says. The large print collection, which now totals 12,807 items, includes both fiction and non-fiction titles.

In addition to the fund established to benefit the library, Marian supports it in other ways too. She has been a supportive member of the *Friends of the Library* for many years. The *Friends* raise money through monthly book sales and underwrite the majority of the children and young adult programming, especially the summer reading events, Hathaway explained. He goes on to say that, "the Library Board of Trustees were happy to acknowledge her generosity, interest in Crawfordsville and Montgomery County history and recognize her ongoing community service by naming our local history and genealogy area: "Marian Morrison Local History Collection."

These are just a few examples of the many grants that were awarded for Arts and Culture projects in 2008. The complete list of grants awarded last year can be found on our website, www.mccf-in.org. Since 1991 \$1,015,502 has been directed to Arts and Culture.



CDPL employee, Adam Rice, selects large print books for delivery to homebound patrons.

Staff Photo

2009 Volunteer of the Year Nominations Sought

Nominations are being accepted for Volunteer of the Year until April 20. Local not-for-profit organizations may nominate a volunteer who, without compensation, has made a significant, long time contribution of his/her time and talent to make our community a better place to live.

Simply write a letter of nomination to MCCF explaining why you feel this individual should be honored as Volunteer of the Year, detailing the individual's volunteer activities, description of his/her history of service and role within the organization. The organization who submits the winner will receive \$1,000 in the winner's honor. Recognition will take place at MCCF's Annual Meeting on May 28th. Most recent winners are:

- 2008 - St. Clare Medical Center Auxiliary - Bob Evans
- 2007 - Christian Nursing Service and Pride - Carolyn Snyder
- 2006 - South Montgomery Dollars for Scholars - Beth Binch
- 2005 - Christian Nursing Service - M. Keith Baird, M.D
- 2004- Character Counts in Montgomery County - Dale Petrie

Family members and spouses of current board members and staff of MCCF are not eligible for nomination, nor is the organization who won in the previous year.



Our mission is to build bridges to support the future of Montgomery County.

The Inside Scoop It's a "double dip" this time!

Scoop 1 - The option to purchase the building at 119 E. Main St. expired on November 30th. The lease on our current home space at 118 East Main Street has been renewed for one year.

We are grateful to those who made gifts and pledges towards the purchase of 119. Those gifts and pledges were offered back to the donors but we're happy that the majority have allowed us to retain them to be held in a Building Fund for a future opportunity. So, for now, we're still calling the second floor of 118 home.

Scoop 2 - The hold button has been pushed on the "Reaching for the Stars" Gala. The economy was the determining factor in that decision.

Planned Giving

There are many ways to approach planned giving and a bequest is just one of them.

SAMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE

"I give, devise and bequeath [the sum of/percentage of/residue of my estate] to Montgomery County Community Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation in Crawfordsville, Indiana to be used for its general charitable purposes."

For more information about bequests or other methods of making a planned gift, visit our website at www.mccf-in.org. Under the "Resources" tab, click "Indiana Giving," then "More Planned Giving Feature." From there, there are many choices including a tool to "Create Your Own Plan." Please call us for assistance.

MCCF TRIVIA

1. Which MCCF Board Member was the first ever female, athletic coach and Asst. Athletic Director at Wabash College?
2. Who owns the most MCCF Funds?

Answers:
1. Gail Pebworth
2. Marian Morrison, three funds.

New Form 990 Seminar was a Success

MCCF hosted a free seminar for local non-profit agencies on the new Form 990 on Wed, December 3. Fourteen agencies were represented with about 20 people in attendance. Kimberley Morisette and Mindee Maple from Huth Thompson presented. The seminar addressed questions such as, "Is your organization transparent and accountable? The IRS wants to know!" And, will your Form 990 convey to the reader your mission, governance structure and activities? It provided an opportunity to learn about changes in reporting requirements and how to combat common pitfalls. Morisette's and Maple's presentations highlighted the different forms and schedules on the 990 and pointed out changes and how the agencies could keep up and also what they should be looking for throughout the year as they prepare for tax time. They also discussed how to maximize Board oversight and one area of particular interest to the agencies was gifts-in-kind.

After the Form 990 presentation, Joe Clark, from Financial Enhancement Group, spoke on investing for your non-profit in an uncertain market which was certainly appropriate in this uncertain economic timeframe.

Evaluations were solicited from the agencies for feedback and the response was 100% positive! Everyone that responded said they would be interested in similar workshops. Some of the comments were: "clear, concise and appropriate information," "better than expected," "very helpful, not only did it explain what was changing, but why it was changing." If there are agencies that were not able to attend but would like the information, we do have additional hand-outs from the seminar that we're happy to share. MCCF understands that it has a role in assisting local non-profits in ways beyond simple granting and looks forward to meeting more needs such as this in the future.

The Board Spotlight Shines on:



Gail Pebworth

MCCF is fortunate to have men and women in our community who are willing to share their time and talents serving on our Board of Directors. Our Board members are loyal to our mission and supportive of our goals and objectives and we are so grateful for their diligence. Because of their vital role at the Foundation, we'd like to give you a closer look at our Board by profiling one member in each of our newsletters. In this edition our Board spotlight shines on **Gail Pebworth**.

Gail moved to Crawfordsville from Cologne, Germany when her husband, Robin, was hired to teach Economics at Wabash College. Having been acclimated to large cities, their intention was to stay in our small town for two years at the most. However, Gail says that they were captured by the "magic" of Wabash College and the surrounding area and decided to stay - that was 42 years ago!

Service is a concept that Gail knows very well. She was the varsity swimming coach at Wabash College for 18 years, head coach of Sugar Creek Swim Club for 13 years, Assistant Director of Athletics for 11 years, and also taught elementary school. Whew! It is no surprise then that Gail would continue to find ways to serve upon retirement. She was honored to be involved with MCCF because she was impressed by the founders and their vision, as well as the success of the endowment and the many benefits it provides to our community.

Gail's desire is to "help people raise individual and collective vision, to encourage the pursuit of excellence in all areas, and to provide services to and opportunities for those who have special needs." Gail believes that Montgomery County has a rich heritage of courageous and innovative leaders and she would like to see our community continue to build on that heritage by moving forward and embracing change as needed to stay competitive in the 21st century.

Gail and her husband have two children and five grandchildren. She enjoys spending time with her family, swimming, gardening, and restoring their home. In addition, she finds time to be active in the Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church and the League of Women Voters.



by Paula Reed

Moving?



Even if just seasonally, we'd like to know so that your copy of *BRIDGES* continues without interruption. Please notify us at 765-362-1267 or cheryl@mccf-in.org

Thank you!

L. Ann Malott
Executive Director



Director's Notes

Comfort is defined as giving hope and courage in the midst of despair. Comfort foods are those that not only feed the physical body but nourish the soul as well. Comfortable shoes enable you to step forward without pain while providing support for the long haul. Comforting words lift the spirit and are a soothing balm for a wounded heart.

In the barrenness of winter, or in turbulent times, we all seek comfort. A pendulum of hope swings before us, at times close enough to embrace, at other times seemingly distant and out of reach. Yet it is to hope that we must cling as winds of change and uncertainty sweep over and around us. As I write this, our 44th President of the United

States has been sworn in and regardless of political beliefs, his words, balanced with promises and challenges, brought hope to many.

But how do we resolve to remain calm and not allow the calamity around us to become a personal crisis of doubt and fear? How do we continue to find purpose and maintain solid footing in the whirlwind? I certainly don't have all the answers but let me suggest that we not isolate ourselves but rather continue to do what this community does so well – reach out with helping hands. Bake a casserole for your unemployed neighbor, offer a listening ear to the parent struggling with a rebellious child, or spend some time with an elderly relative. Gifts of time, labor, and love help us find purpose and stay focused in difficult times.

I might also suggest that we learn to draw comfort once again from the simple things in life like good food, good friends, and good books. I hope I never take for granted the simple pleasure of curling up by the fire

during the winter with a good book in hand. I am so grateful that Marian Morrison turned her passion for reading into a lasting legacy that will forever benefit our local library. I admire Marian and others like her who understand the rich heritage found in our arts and culture is a priceless treasure in our community.

Samuel Johnson said, "Hope is necessary in every condition. The miseries of poverty, sickness and captivity would, without this comfort, be insupportable." I do have hope that our present economic troubles are temporary, and that our community, as well as our nation, will meet our challenges with the strength and resolve that is inherent in America. I am comforted by knowing that the Foundation continues to be a bridge of support built by our faithful partners who believe in our mission. Thank you.



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