

# MERIDIAN MINUTE

Encouraging Seniors To Live Younger!



Center At The Park  
Meridian Senior Center

May-June 2024



May-June 2024

# MERIDIAN MINUTE UPCOMING EVENTS

May 18th

Black & White  
BASH!

June 12th

Luau BBQ  
Dance & Social

\*Calendar subject to change. See Front Desk for details & more events in May and June.



The Radio Days performance at Meridian Senior Center was simply fantastic! "Life of Riley" and "The Giant Easter Bunny" had the audience in stitches, showcasing the incredible talent of the acting team, led by the wonderfully talented Jodi M W Falcone.

It was a truly delightful performance, leaving us eagerly anticipating the summer show, which will be none other than "Gunsmoke"!

## 2024 CRAFT AND VENDOR BAZAAR



OCTOBER 12-13 | NOVEMBER 16-17  
DECEMBER 7-8 | STAY TUNED FOR MORE UPDATES

RECREATION

ROYALE



SENIORS

VS

STAFF

2nd & 4th

Thursday

of the

month at

1:00 pm

POOL

DARTS

PING PONG

SHUFFLE BOARD



2nd Annual Award Winning

# Black & White BASH

May 18th, 2024

5:00pm-9:00pm



Center At The Park  
Meridian Senior Center

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!



Tickets: \$30

Live Music by Bobby Dee Keys ROCK HOUSE BAND

Purchase tickets at the Front Desk

May-June 2024

## Get Ready to Party!

Join us for an evening of elegance and excitement as we indulge in gourmet dining, featuring mouthwatering Lasagna and Chicken Alfredo Pasta, Salad, Bread Sticks, and Dessert.

But that's not all! Get ready to dance the night away to the live music of  
**Bobby Dee Keys  
ROCK HOUSE BAND!**

Presented by the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council and Meridian Senior Center, this event is not just about fun—it's about supporting our community. Proceeds will go toward vital programs for our seniors.

Tickets are only \$30 each and must be purchased by May 10th.

Let's make memories together at the Black & White BASH!



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Dirt and Dust!



# History of our Center

## Part II - "Movin' On!"

It's 1987 and the Senior Center is humming with activity. With the successes of the past 14 months, the seniors have settled into their new digs. Activities are happening every day on a weekly schedule. Fundraising is in full swing; not letting up a bit just because they were able to finally burn the mortgage of \$200k after 4 years of dedicated efforts. They are now raising money for a new parking lot and waiting for the grant money to repair the floor and to put in new windows and door.

The seniors added activities to include a walking group, the Meridian Line Walkers, 3 days a week; Grief Recovery Group meeting every Wednesday; Growing Wiser class on Thursdays and speakers every week. Holding special activities is always high on the list for fun. A favorite was the Easter Bonnet Competition. The last one of the decade included dozens of seniors "strutting their stuff" for the audience and judges. Una Rose, Blanche Johnson and Madeline Hunter were the category winners. Lunch was served, fourth graders from Spalding Elementary sang, a banjo band, "The Entertainers", played and a pool tournament was held: Kuna vs Meridian. Great fun for everyone!

City highlights that year included the Seniors Association's former President auctioning her late husband's 1912 Buick for \$22.5k and breaking ground for the "new" city hall on Idaho Street to be built in 6 months for \$520k - with no Federal monies! The City Council had been setting aside dollars for 10 years in anticipation of having need for a new building.

The Ada County Commission provided the county area senior centers with 4 new vans and in 1988, Meridian seniors had some new wheels! The van was kept busy. In addition to the lunch transport, for many years forward, there were trips to Karcher Mall and later to Boise Town Square; groups went to Shoshone Ice Caves, Oregon Trails Interpretive Center, Craters of the Moon, Idaho City Arts Festival, Shoshone Falls/Hagerman Valley, Idaho Penitentiary, McCall Ice Festival and the Idaho Fair, just to mention a few.

\*Photo:

Toni and her husband  
Richard at the Centennial ball



by Toni Allison, President of the Board  
Parts 1-10 available upon request.



Some significant things happened at the Center in the 1990s, included a dining hall enlargement. The "CB's" worked one weekend per month and were provided one meal per day by Center volunteers. The addition was completed in 5 months at a cost of nearly \$15k for the building materials, carpet and paint. An additional amount of \$7k was spent on tables & chairs, double doors and a ramp, and a gas furnace. (Needs never end!) The van shed was completed in August 1991 for \$2937 after Center volunteers removed the dirt, set the forms and poured a slab for the building foundation. It measured 20' x 28' and was built on the back southwest corner of the parking lot. (It's still there today.) The old house south of the Center was purchased and torn down, the lot leveled then paved for an excellent parking lot. Food storage was expanded with a new cooler furnished by Health and Welfare.

Meridian's Centennial was celebrated in 1993 with a week of activities: the Miss Meridian Pageant, a community breakfast, an old-fashioned barbeque, an auction, a parade, fireworks, a golf tournament, a salmon feed, a symphony in the park, and culminating in a Ball. Celebrants wore period dress, danced to Gib Hochstrasser's Big Band, and witnessed the winners of the final judging of the Mustache and Beard contest.

In the fall of 1993, Bingo! was started. An electric numbers display board was purchased from the Boise Center and installed in the dining hall. It was still in use when the seniors moved out in 2012 to the new building in Kleiner Park. Friday night Bingo was operated by volunteers until Mary Wheeler was hired to manage the games in 2006. And she is still doing it today! Bingo generates operating funds for the Center and is a consistent means of fundraising. In 1994, the quilting room was expanded, and the telephones were replaced throughout the building.

We need to recognize the dedicated efforts of the Quilting Group who never failed to be working daily. They donated their time, talents and materials to create beautiful pieces of artistry for sale at raffles, auctions and in the Boutique to provide funds contributing to the operational expenses of the Center. For example, the group was instrumental in significant contributions of \$3125 in one 1996 event, which helped pay for a large portion of the Center's expenses that year.

Many people volunteered their time and expertise to operating the Center throughout the 90's. Officers and directors served on the Board giving guidance and ideas for the future. So many should be recognized and remembered for their dedication, but space here doesn't provide being able to list them all. (If you are interested, the lists are available in our Admin offices.) Those serving as presidents through to 2000, and not previously mentioned, are Melvin Lanes, Kenneth Sellars, Harold Hall, Eugene Shanks, Dale Ryan, John Ott and Jerry Knox.

Fundraising for a non-profit never ends - doesn't even slow down. 1999 ended the year, the decade, the century with the Cherry Plaza Merchants once again stepping up along with the Chamber's Festival of Wreaths Committee giving \$3000 to the Senior Center. The monies were raised when more than 80 wreaths were created by Meridian citizens and then were purchased by other citizens. Everyone joining together for a worthwhile cause!

*What the new century brings to the Meridian Seniors will be shared in our next edition of the Meridian Minute!*

Stay tuned for part 12  
coming in July!



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to our May & June Babies! We hope all your birthday wishes and dreams come true.

Lunch Served Daily  
Monday - Friday: 12:00-12:30 p.m.

Monthly menu can be found on our website or you can pick one up at our front desk.

\$5.00 suggested donation for 60+  
\$8.00 for anyone under 60  
Take-out-meals \$8 \*24 hour notice required.

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- Meridian Senior Center
  - There will be a lunch break
  - Please arrive by 8:45AM

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On behalf of all of us here at the Meridian Senior Center, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Treasure Valley Coffee's support as our monthly coffee sponsor. Thank you for being a vital part of our community!



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# Volunteer Appreciation Dinner!



The Volunteer Appreciation dinner at the Meridian Senior Center was an absolute hit! It was a night filled with laughter, good food, and heartfelt appreciation for all the wonderful volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to our center. A special thank you goes out to Rod Hansen and Andrew Perkins for their incredible effort in preparing not one, not two, but five delicious briskets that left everyone's taste buds singing with delight. The aroma of their cooking filled the air, setting the stage for a memorable evening. We are so grateful for their generosity and culinary talents.



Additionally, we want to express our deepest gratitude to each and every volunteer who contributes their time and skills to make our center thrive. Your commitment and passion do not go unnoticed, and this dinner was just a small token of our appreciation for all that you do. And let's not forget the generous donors who supported this event—your contributions made it all possible. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Meridian Senior Center. We couldn't do it without you. Here's to many more wonderful moments together!



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# BREWS & BROS

## MEN'S PUB DAY



Center At The Park  
Meridian Senior Center



### JUNE 8TH

### 11AM-1PM

TICKETS

# \$15

### SEE FLYER FOR DETAILS

SIGN UP AT  
THE FRONT DESK

## This Time In History May & June



May 7, 1992 - The 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, prohibiting Congress from giving itself pay raises.

June 14, 1922 - Warren G. Harding became the first U.S. President to broadcast a message over the radio. The event was the dedication of the Francis Scott Key Memorial in Baltimore.

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Page 8



# What can you give Idaho?

APRIL 29 -  
MAY 2, 2024



Join us in celebrating the spirit of giving during Idaho Gives! Your support will enable us to continue providing essential services and programs that enhance the well-being and vitality of our senior population.

Even after Idaho Gives comes to a close, Meridian Senior Center continues to welcome donations all year round! Every contribution, big or small, holds the power to make a real difference in the lives of seniors in our community. Set-up a recurring donation on our website or with the Front Desk.



# LUAU

## BBQ & DANCE PARTY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12TH FROM 4:00PM-7:00PM

**STAY TUNED FOR TICKET SALES!**



# LET'S BRUNCH WAS A HIT!

Our Ladies' Mimosa Brunch was truly a day to remember! From the moment the doors opened, the room was filled with an electric atmosphere of excitement and joy. The ladies arrived dressed to the nines, each outfit a reflection of their unique style and personality. It was a beautiful sight to see everyone shining with confidence and radiating positivity.

As we settled into the event, the air was filled with the clinking of glasses and the sound of laughter. The

mimosas flowed freely, adding an extra sparkle to the already vibrant ambiance. The energy on the dance floor was contagious, with ladies of all ages and backgrounds coming together to groove to the music and celebrate the sisterhood that bound us all, with music by Kristin Page, and comedy entertainment by Shelly Houston.

Throughout the event, there were countless moments of connection and camaraderie. Whether it was swapping stories over a delicious brunch spread or sharing a laugh on the dance floor, each interaction strengthened the bonds of friendship among us. It was heartwarming to see new connections being formed and old friendships being reignited, all against the backdrop of a day filled with love and laughter.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers. From planning and organizing to ensuring that every detail was perfect on the day of the event, their commitment and enthusiasm were truly remarkable. We are immensely grateful for their efforts in making the LET'S BRUNCH event such a resounding success.

As the day came to a close, we couldn't help but feel a sense of gratitude and fulfillment. The LET'S BRUNCH: Ladies' Mimosa Brunch had been more than just a gathering—it was a celebration of womanhood, friendship, and the power of coming together to create lasting memories. Thank you to all our volunteers for helping to make this day so special for all the ladies who attended!



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May  
**29**  
2024

# HEALTH & RESOURCE FAIR



**10:00AM to 11:30AM**

Join us for a day dedicated to your well-being, featuring over 35 vendors ready to answer your questions and provide invaluable education. From health screenings to wellness tips, this event is tailor-made for our seniors. Don't miss out on this opportunity to empower yourself with knowledge and connect with resources designed to support your health journey. See you there!



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We pride ourselves on helping to navigate this transition with compassion and expertise, all the while preserving the dignity and respect that each individual deserves. This service is free to you and your family.

I REMEMBER BEING  
ABLE TO GET UP  
WITHOUT MAKING  
SOUND EFFECTS...  
GOOD TIMES.



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May-June 2024

**WE LOVE**  
OUR VOLUNTEERS

*To our Volunteers*

Volunteers like you embody the spirit of generosity, selflessness, and community. You have not only shared your time and skills, but have also contributed to creating a supportive and uplifting environment for everyone involved. It's your commitment that has helped us reach new heights and achieve milestones we once only dreamed of.

Please know that your hard work does not go unnoticed. We appreciate the sacrifices you make and the enthusiasm you bring to every endeavor. The success of our Center is a direct reflection of your dedication, and we are grateful to have such an outstanding group of volunteers.

**THANK YOU TO  
OUR TOP SPONSORS**



We also want to thank our Community Partners! Without all of you, we could not do what we do for our amazing community!

- Advanced Neuropathy Center
- Blue Cross of Idaho
- Idaho Senior Living Council
- Humana
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- United Healthcare
- Keystone Hospice

**EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT**



Center At The Park  
Meridian Senior Center

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



**DOORS OPEN AT 4:00PM - GAME PLAY STARTS AT 6:00PM**

**\* MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER TO PLAY \***