



**Lucille Ball
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C E N T E R

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Dear Museum Members and Friends,

Welcome! My name is Mike Latone. Several months ago, a new board of directors was formed for The Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Center. At that time, I was appointed as board president. Our board has been working diligently over the past few months to bring The LBDAC through an important transformation period.

In the past year, The Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Center has undergone many important changes. We have worked extensively to fine-tune our mission, our leadership, and our plan for outreach and development. As president of The LBDAC board, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on some of these exciting developments!

Last fall, Lucie Arnaz came to Jamestown to launch an important new outreach program that will become an integral part of The Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Center's mission and outreach. This program will serve as a platform by which to integrate "the healing powers of love and laughter" with the healthcare system. The announcement of this program was the first step of many to provide an even greater shift of emphasis toward our mission.

You will also notice some key changes in leadership at the Center. The current board of directors has been crucial in infusing a fresh outlook into our existing mission. We are currently in the interim between executive directors, but we are excited about even more new faces that will be joining us shortly! In the meantime, the board of directors has been working around the clock to ensure that this transition phase is as seamless as possible.

One of the more challenging obstacles this past year has been working against the financial tide. Fans who attended the Lucy-Desi Days festival last month may have noticed that one of our gift shops is for sale. This is just one of many new changes that will generate much-needed revenue for the Center. Fans will be happy to know that all merchandise will still be available at the museum and playhouse gift shops, as well as on line. We are also looking into some exciting new collectibles that will soon be available!

I wish to thank each and every person who made Jamestown their destination over Memorial Day weekend, including all of our special guests. Fans were thrilled to meet Lucie Arnaz at a gathering after her spectacular show. Keith Thibodeaux (the original "Little Ricky") was also a crowd pleaser! Lucy Ricardo impressionist, Diane Vincent, was also on hand throughout the weekend keeping fans entertained with Lucy Ricardo's crazy antics. A special thank you is also in order for other special guests including Dann Cahn (editor of "*I Love Lucy*"), Tom Watson (Lucy's publicist), Michael Stern (whom Lucy referred to as her number one fan), Wanda Clark (Lucy's longtime secretary), and Zo Ball (Lucy's sister-in-law), and all of the others who made the weekend phenomenal!

The Lucy-Desi Days festival last month was a wonderful opportunity for newcomers to peek into the exciting world of Lucy-Desi. It was, however, only a glimpse of the fun-filled weekend that is planned for August. Lucy's Birthday Celebration, August 7th, 8th and 9th, promises to be even more exciting! Plans are under way for two brand-new events that will bring fans to a whole new level of excitement. Hint: One event is an old favorite from the past with an exciting new twist. The other is something that has never been done before! I encourage you to stay tuned for upcoming details posted to our web site.

Sincerely,

Mike Latone

Mike Latone
Board President, Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Center