

## Meet New HIRF Board Members

**Stuart T. Matheson** Stuart was first introduced to the HIRF pioneers during his 7th grade Utah History class at Clayton Junior High School in Salt Lake City. During his undergraduate studies in history at the University of Utah he was reacquainted with the HIRF history. Stuart earned his BA degree in history and then entered the charter class (1976) at the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University. While at BYU he met and married the light of his life, Kristi Lynn. They have three daughters and a son and 15 grandchildren. With Stuart's characteristic broad smile he said, "I love to see the headlights and the family cars, and I love to see their tail lights too!" Stuart practiced law in Salt Lake City for nearly 40 years. He has served on many non-profit corporate boards similar to the HIRF.

In 2013 Stuart and Kristi went on a HIRF bus tour sponsored by SUP where they met Grant and Graig Taylor who guided and educated them. Prior to the bus tour they read several books about the Hole in the Rock pioneers. During the tour they fell in love with the story, the people, and the places. Stuart said, "I feel a personal connection to this impressive story as the Matheson families were pioneers who helped settle Parowan and Cedar City." "Kristi is related to the Naylor family of the first pioneer group that arrived in 1880 in Bluff." Stuart considers it a privilege and an honor to serve on the board with such wonderful people and to help tell this inspiring story to the world.

Sometime after the tour, Elder Steven E. Snow, the Church Historian, called Stuart and Kristi to serve in Bluff as full-time missionaries to assist the HIRF board and specifically to develop youth conferences. They served from March, 2013 thru August 2014. The board, missionaries, and



their Bluff friends welcome the Mathesons back to Bluff.

**Donna R. Jensen** Donna grew up in Blanding and graduated from San Juan High School. While attending BYU she met and married her husband, Steve Jensen. They have two sons and two daughters and 15 grandchildren. After Donna graduated from BYU with a B.S. in education she followed her pilot husband into the Air Force for 21 years. While stationed in New Mexico at Holloman Air Force Base, Donna enrolled in nursing school at New Mexico State University and earned her Associate Nursing Degree (RN) in 1988. Donna has worked in many nursing disciplines including developing a program for autistic children in the Chatham School District in New Jersey. She was a nursing instructor at the College of Eastern Utah, and hospital administrator. She is currently working for Utah Navajo Health System's administrative team as the compliance officer.

Donna said, "Being asked to serve on the Board of Directors of the HIRF is a great honor." "Many of the HIRF pioneer's blood courses thru my veins." Donna is a direct descendant of HIRF pioneers Jen Nielson, Elsie Nielson, Katherine Nielson, Kuman and Mary Jones, Charles and Jane Walton, Hyrum and Rachael Perkins, and F.I. and Mary Jones.

Before Corrine Roring passed away she asked Donna that, if ever asked, she would serve on the HIRF Board. Donna said, "I am keeping my promise and I feel it is a way to pay back to my ancestors for their sacrifice." "I hope by serving on the board I can help keep alive their memories and the powerful lessons they taught us."