



HARRINGTON OPERA HOUSE SOCIETY

Preserving Our Heritage

PO Box 618, Harrington, WA 99134 www.harringtonoperahouse.org

Annual Newsletter – March 2019

2019 President's Letter

Early in 2018 I joined the Harrington Opera House Society. I joined because I was invited. The times I spent this last year helping in the rummage room, learning about the Opera House, and making new friends have all been very rewarding experiences. I want to pay this forward by inviting each of you.

I see us as “turning a corner.” I see the first 25 years as the hard part where the opera house became a functional entity on donations and volunteer work alone. I see the present as a time when we are now self-supporting and donations can be used for exciting improvements.

I would like to see an increase in events, reach out to the community and find what types of entertainment people would really like to see. We have had some lectures lately, some mixed media presentations, and more events that appealed to children and families. What would you like to see? Please let us know!

Thanks to your donations, in 2019 we will continue restoring the infrastructure of the Opera House, adding amenities to the auditorium and working on the art and rummage rooms, including some more improvements to the heating system. This presents opportunities for volunteering in the fields of carpentry, electrical work, or working in the rummage room, just to name a few.

I want to thank everyone who has ever donated their time or money to the Opera House. Every donation, no matter how small, has made it what it is today. You should feel an overwhelming pride in what you have accomplished.

Ellen Evans,
2019 President



Historic HOH Event Ticket

2018 President's Letter

2018 was a good and productive year for the Harrington Opera House Society. Music from jazz, to country to classical, lectures about history and UFO's, performances by school children and a visit and pictures with Santa were just a few of the varied and much enjoyed events during 2018. We are looking forward to 2019!

The Harrington Opera House Society will continue to grow and thrive because of people like you! Each of us has a special reason for committing our time and physical and financial resources to a special cause. The Harrington Opera House Society is grateful for and indebted to all those who have been part of the rehabilitation and maintenance of this unique and special venue that is the Harrington Opera House.

Will you join us? In order to continue this tradition we need your help! Moving forward there is still much to be done. Our small but dedicated group of members is actively seeking new interest and participation as we continue to be stewards of all that has been accomplished for the Harrington Opera House.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Art Room of the Opera House. Please go to our website at www.harringtonoperahouse.org for more information or call 509-253-4719.

Thank you so much!
Linda Wagner,
2018 President
2019 Events & Membership Chair

New members and volunteers are needed to share in the future accomplishments of the HOHS.

YOU

Can

- Provide event suggestions and/or
- Offer your volunteer time/skills and/or
- Join the HOHS as a member and/or
- Donate to HOHS or memorialize someone to benefit the HOHS.

Just return the enclosed HOHS Support Form!
Thank You!

2018 HOHS Events



JayDean Ludiker and "Group Therapy" – Oct. 13, 2018

Last year was a busy year for the HOH!

February

Smart Phone Class – by Stacey Rasmussen
Mini-Rummage Fundraiser

March

Kevin Hekmatpanah, Cello & Tomoko Kimura, Piano
Social Media Boot Camp – Josh Wade of nectarMedia
Romeo & Juliette – by Seattle Shakespeare Co.

May

"Chief Moses" – Presentation by Kim Kershner
HOHS Annual Piano Student Recital
Cruizin' Harrington Quilt Show
w background music by HOHS volunteer pianists
and Alicia Mielke on flute

June

Nu-Blu – Bluegrass
Panhandle Polecats – Bluegrass

July

Rummage Fundraiser

September

Fall Festival Rummage Fundraiser & HOH Tours

October

JayDean Ludiker & "Group Therapy" – Fiddle
John Nilsen – Piano
Buck & Elizabeth – Variety Show for Students
"UFO Updates" – Presentation by Peter Davenport

November

Scott Kirby – Piano & Media Presentation
World War I Film Festival – Armistice Celebration
"The Pine & the Cherry" – Humanities Washington
Presentation by Mayumi Tsutakawa

December

Christmas Concert – by Harrington Grade School Students
Santa Visit



Harrington Grade School – Christmas Concert – Dec. 5, 2018

2019 HOHS Events

The HOHS Events Committee is working on confirming several events to be held in the HOH for the upcoming season.

Confirmed so far: (Admission by donation)

- April 27** 7 pm – Carolyn Cruso – Hammered Dulcimer
3 pm – Jam for Mountain Dulcimer Players
Details: Karen robertsonkaren54@gmail.com
- May 17** 10 am – 3 pm – HOHS Rummage Fundraiser
- May 18** 9 am – 4 pm – HOHS Rummage Fundraiser
- May 18** 9 – 3 pm – Cruizin' Harrington Quilt Show
- June 1** 7 pm – Folkin', Rockin', Country
with "Buck" & Elizabeth Stierle
Patsy Cline & Bob Dylan tributes
- October 5** 7 pm – JayDean Ludiker, National Adult Fiddle
Champion and "Group Therapy"

Visit our website or Facebook page for event updates!

Visit us online at www.harringtonoperahouse.org and on
Facebook www.facebook.com/HarringtonOperaHouse
Email: info@harringtonoperahouse.org or call Linda Wagner,
HOHS Events/Membership Chair, at 509-253-4719

2019 HOHS Rummage Fundraiser & A-bit More Project

The HOHS Rummage Fundraiser, now in its 7th year, has been a successful, fun venture. It is based on a simple concept; people donate a vast array of unwanted items to the Opera House, then on Rummage Days, crowds offer generous money to take their new-found treasures away. From single bags of items to houses needing to be emptied, the volume of items donated by the community has been stunning. As we sort through incoming items, special care is taken to set aside & archive items and photos of local historic interest. Donated books are shared with the city library.

This year we plan to have 2 day Rummages at both Cruizin' Harrington and Fall Fest, and a Christmas Rummage to go with Santa pictures. In addition, we may be open to the community to coincide with Food Bank and God's closet, offering basic household items.

With a finite space, leftovers from previous sales are our biggest challenge. In the past, we have shared with other non-profits, and have assisted families in need. This year we strive to do a bit more. We envision a kind of clearinghouse for stuff. We invite you to contact us if you are a non-profit looking for bulk quantity of items for your next fundraiser, or items that might be useful in your organization's mission. So, if you have stuff to donate, need stuff, or would like to volunteer to help please give us a call. Thanks for your amazing support!

Carol 253-4748



Harrington Opera House Society 2019 Key Contacts

President	Ellen Evans	509-253-4122
Vice President	Carol	509-253-4748
Co-Treasurers	Becky Moeller Sheryl Stedman	509-253-4566 509-320-3517
Secretary	Bunny Haugan	
Event Chair	Linda Wagner	509-253-4719
Historian	Edwin Haugan	
Rummage Chair	Carol	509-253-4748
Webmaster, Marketing	Karen Robertson	509-253-4683

Is there a Phantom in the House?

By Karen Robertson

Over the years, several visitors have asked about the possibility of a ghost or a Phantom of the Opera House in this Bank Block building built in 1904.

Well, there is no proof of anything – and whatever we would report, either way, someone would exclaim “Fake News”! Still – there have been some events which very well could have scientific, verifiable explanations, but . . . they HAVE been interesting!

It was most likely just a trick of the light, but several times working late at night by myself, either in the storage area in the basement or on the stage, for a fleeting moment, I thought I saw a large moving shadow out of the corner of my eye. My beverage was most likely Mountain Dew, no alcohol involved. Honest! And then there are the footsteps. Once, when working late at night on the stage I thought I heard foot falls in the auditorium. But, it was really blustery that night, so most likely it was just a trick of the wind.

Another time, I was working on adjusting the stage lights in the auditorium. This time, my husband, Leonard, was there to help. We were both near the stage and heard footsteps from the back of the auditorium. Thinking we had a drop-in visitor or another HOHS volunteer was joining us, I yelled out, “Hello! Who’s there?” No answer, so I quickly walked over and looked down the old staircase. No one. Then I walked over to the main staircase glanced out the window to the street and went down a few steps to peer into the lobby. No one ever fessed up for having stopped in and left for some reason without saying “Hello.”

The stage lights have a control board at the back of the auditorium. Several times, at the end of a show or rehearsal, I shut all the lights off using the lighting console. Everything was dark when I left. Then when I returned later, one or two stage lights aiming towards down stage left were on when I returned. No one else had been there in the meantime. The only way I can guarantee that the lights don’t spontaneously turn back on is to completely unplug the light board from the wall. And yes, there’s probably a technical explanation about some sort of memory setting or shut down glitch in the board. Still, it makes one wonder!

One HOHS volunteer shared this story: “I was working in the back storage room when we were getting ready to start the elevator project and heard someone walk the full length of the auditorium above. When I went to see who was up there I was unable to find anyone. All the front and Art Room doors were locked. The only way for someone to have left the building would have been by passing me. Strange huh?”

Another volunteer reported this incident: “I remember a couple of years back when I was cleaning up in the Suite (rummage room) after a Spring Fest, when the entire building seemed to take a deep, deep breath and then a terrible loud crash shook overhead. Upstairs I found all the under stage doors wide open. There was an uncanny light coming from the stage left stairs.



I found the roof hatch (which is only accessible with a ladder) completely removed and off to the side. Gordon Herron thought it was a micro burst of wind.”.... but the volunteer always wondered.

Then there’s the chandelier incident. Last fall, in preparation for a tour group visit, Billie Herron was practicing on our beautiful Boston designed by Steinway grand piano on the stage. She had just begun to play “*I Saw the Harbor Lights*” when suddenly one of the chandeliers at the back of the auditorium crashed to the floor. It turns out there was a manufacturer’s defect in the attachment piece to the ceiling that gave out. The part was replaced, all other chandeliers were subsequently checked and safety cables added as a precaution, so no worries for the future. Still – the timing was interesting – it happened when only one person was there – playing on the piano, not when the place was empty and not when it was full of people.

Some of us have wondered what stories could be told “if the walls could talk.” Think of all the early day romantic dates, conversations, maybe even “behind the scenes” activities that have happened over the years since the building was built in 1904.

And what if . . . just what if . . . there really is a Phantom helping to keep watch over the grand old building?



On July 9, 2018 Billie Herron receives \$1000 grant check from Summer Shockley of the US Bank to further music and art education for all ages in the Harrington Opera House and to help with overhead expenses such as piano care, heat, and lights.



Wanted: Piano Teacher for youth and adults, one or two days a week at the Harrington Opera House. Must be good with children and different learning styles. For details contact Billie Herron at 509-348-0174 or Linda Wagner at 509-253-4719.

HARRINGTON OPERA HOUSE SOCIETY

MEMORIALS • HONORARIUMS • DONATIONS • MEMBERSHIPS

2018

IN MEMORY OF:

BILL ARMSTRONG

Norm Brock
Jim and Sue Els
Harrington Truck and Auto
Highline Grain Growers, Inc.
Marjorie Kruger
Leffel, Otis & Warwick, P.S.
Mikatec
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PEARL FLOYD

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Ed and Bunny Haugan
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Jim and Sue Els
Gordon and Billie Herron
Mikatec/Harrington Truck & Auto
Gwin and Richard Sullivan
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John and Linda Wagner

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Alan and Bonnie Stone

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Jamie and Tammy Floyd
Nick and Debbie Marriott

IN MEMORY OF CONTINUED:

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Harrington Truck & Auto
Gordon and Billie Herron
John and Linda Wagner

LES AND DONNA WILCOX

Kathy Oestreich

IN HONOR OF:

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Scott and Debbie Hutsell

MYRNE, MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE

Arley Bischoff

CAMDEN NK LAMP

From Your Parents,
Raymond and Melinda

CHRIS LAMP

Elin Bishop

CHRISTIAN KH LAMP

From Your Parents,
Raymond and Melinda

SARAH EK LAMP-HOLLAND

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Raymond and Melinda

LUTES FAMILY

Tony, Loi and Steven Lutes

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Frances Zundel Elam
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Grange Supply Co. of Odessa
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Harrington Truck & Auto
Hedreen Family/Circle H Ranch
Gordon and Billie Herron
Mike and Joyce Herron
Dan and Cindy Hino
Jim and Stacy Hirst
Sarah EK Lamp-Holland
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Carolina Mason
Darren and Carolyn Mattozzi & Girls
Ray and Barbara McDowell
Dave Michaelson
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Scotty and Lorraine Watson
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Marjorie Womach
Pam and Jay Yarwood



Thank You!

The Harrington Opera House Society is a 501(C)(3) organization. Your contributions may be tax deductible.

The Historic
**HARRINGTON
OPERA HOUSE**



**Built in 1904
and on the
National Historic Register**

***Supporting the Arts
for Surrounding Communities***

**Providing Cultural Activities
& Venue for Public & Private Events**

**Information: 509-253-4719 or
www.harringtonoperahouse.org
facebook.com/HarringtonOperaHouse**

Since 1992

The HARRINGTON OPERA HOUSE SOCIETY

Volunteers have not only brought the historic 1904 Bank Block and Harrington Opera House back from the brink of destruction, but have transformed the grand old building into a functional and beautiful venue.

Retaining many of the original historic elements, the rehabilitation has involved refurbishing the 2nd floor Harrington Opera House auditorium including adding a 2nd staircase, modern lighting & sound, a Boston by Steinway Grand Piano, ADA restroom and elevator; converting the original 1st floor bank area into an elegant lobby with adjacent modern restrooms; providing a space for display of some of Harrington's historic memorabilia; and transforming the Willis St. entrance into "The Art Room" – a handicapped accessible space for music & art lessons, gallery showings and meetings complete with hi-speed internet and audio-visual connection to the 2nd floor auditorium.

Many of the main structural and furnishing goals are accomplished! But there is still much more to be done.
YOU can join in this successful venture to help sustain and polish this jewel of Harrington's downtown and Lincoln County treasure. Return a HOHS Support form or contact us to see how!

Please complete form and return to: **Harrington Opera House Society, PO Box 618, Harrington, WA 99134**



**HARRINGTON OPERA HOUSE SOCIETY
SUPPORT FORM**

Please Complete FRONT & BACK of this form!

Membership dollars help with bringing and hosting entertaining and educational events, operating expenses & fundraising for the Opera House.
Membership year is January 1st to December 31st. Memberships accepted at any time. Must be received by March 31st for voting privileges.

Please Print:

YOUR Name

Mailing Address

City/State/Zip

Email

OPTIONAL - Please send acknowledgement for Memorials/Honorariums to:

Name

Mailing Address

City/State/Zip

The HOHS will send an appropriate notification of your contribution. The amount will not be disclosed. Thank you for your generosity!

Events or activities I would like to see at the HOH for myself, my community, or the region:

The Generosity of Community

by Carol

The successful rehabilitation of the Harrington Opera House, and all that means to our community would not be possible if not for generosity. A few examples: Consider the generous vision and hearts of those individuals who 27 years ago saw what was once grand and leaned forward to make it grand again. Hundreds of recorded hours generously donated by everyday people, who spent years investing the sweat equity, the hands on working it took to pull the building back from the brink of loss, refreshing, restoring, and reclaiming it once again. Many professionals were generous with their time and services to help assure soundness, structure and stability. Along the way, many well-wishers, tourists, and neighbors took time to stop, take note, and offer help, advice and financial support. The staggering amount of dollars that have been invested, from big government checks down to a check for membership dues and two dollars from the rummage fundraiser would be for not if it weren't for the generous spirit behind each penny. Not enough room to continue this list. I offer another perspective.

Generosity is part and parcel of the entertainment trade and our performers do not disappoint. They stay with members to save us hotel costs, eating in so that they can spend extra time in the building. They visit the schools and nursing home while they are in town. They play to the house as though it is packed to standing room only, even if there are 34 folks in the audience. Their generosity of spirit echoes long, long after they have left the building.

Generosity is a synergy thing. It is action with purpose, in its presence good things thrive, grow, and blossom. Generosity has by definition a willingness factor, it infuses hope. We as an organization, a venue and a community have been truly blessed in enumerable ways.

One small way to reflect back that spirit of generosity is at the lobby door. Most events this year in 2019, will have no set ticket price; admission will be by donation alone. We truly hope this encourages everyone, especially families to come out to all events. Come out, see, be a part of the generous spirit that sustains The Harrington Opera House of today.



Please Complete BOTH sides!

Checks should be made payable to: **Harrington Opera House Society. Send to HOHS, PO Box 618, Harrington, WA 99134.**

HARRINGTON OPERA HOUSE SOCIETY SUPPORT FORM

Add me to the HOHS Mailing List ☐ Snail Mail ☐ Email:

Membership: * ☐ \$25 Individual ☐ \$35 Family ☐ \$35 Business Total this section: \$_____

* Memberships accepted at any time, but must be received by March 31st of the current year for voting privileges.
Members in good standing may request 10% off of ticketed events.

Donation:

☐ Arts/music education \$_____ ☐ Building rehabilitation \$_____
☐ Use as needed, determined by HOHS \$_____ ☐ Support event expenses \$_____ Total this section: \$_____

☐ In Memory of - Name: _____ \$ _____
☐ In Honor of - Name: _____ \$ _____ Total this section: \$_____

Purchase a plaque for \$100

☐ In Memory of - Name: _____ Donated by Name: _____
☐ In Honor of - Name: _____ Donated by Name: _____
☐ Donated by Name: _____ Total this section: \$_____

Total Amount Enclosed \$_____

Other Support An HOHS Representative will contact you about checked options.

☐ **Endowment Fund** - Gifts may include cash, securities, deed of trust, insurance bequest, or other assets. ☐ **Event Sponsorship/Underwriting**

☐ **I would be willing to volunteer:** _____
Examples: event hosting, event planning/recruiting, refreshments, sound and/or lighting technology, marketing/promotion, building upkeep, building maintenance, building project construction, etc.