

**HARRINGTON OPERA HOUSE SOCIETY
2012 ANNUAL REPORT
JANUARY 7, 2013**

2012 was once again a very rewarding and productive year for the Harrington Opera House Society. We realized additional accomplishments in moving the building forward and ever closer to completion and greater utilization of the facility.

Events at the Opera House

During 2012 the Harrington Opera House held or sponsored numerous events that supported the arts and provided a venue for a variety of community activities.

On March 17, Grammy Award winners, Tingstad and Rumbel returned for an encore performance and once again thrilled a filled auditorium with the beautiful music of acoustic guitar, oboe and other woodwinds. The following day, March 18, Larry and Susan Weil brought their experience in the mission field to an appreciative audience.

April was a busy month as the Ritzville Community Theater presented their original audience participation play "Three In A Row—A Game Show" on April 21. The Stitchin' Chicks held their annual quilt show on Saturday, April 28 with dozens of beautiful hand made quilts and other handiwork on display in the auditorium. Raffle tickets were sold for one of the quilts with all proceeds to benefit the park restroom project. In addition, the Chicks donated fabric and made new curtains for our restrooms. A cantata by the Coulee Community Choir was held the next day, April 29. Their beautiful voices filled the room with the music of the Easter season.

On May 2, we once again served up a great meal of barbequed hamburgers and all the fixings for the Lions Club dinner. On May 6, Billie Herron held a piano recital in the auditorium and showcased the talents of her young music students.

On July 13, Spokane author and Spokesman Review columnist, Jim Kershner, presented and enlightening talk about the life and times of Spokane attorney, Carl Maxey and legendary Indian chief, Joseph. The following Saturday, July 21, Jamie Larmer and Terry Kissler were united in marriage in the auditorium. It was a beautiful event.

On August 18, a very hot day, a group of dedicated volunteers held another successful "Dog Days of Summer Dog and Car Wash".

September and October were busy months. On September 9 "A Grande Interlude" piano and vocal concert was a highlight for the year. A 9-foot Steinway grand piano donated by the Steinway Gallery of Spokane, graced the auditorium stage. Rebecca Hardy, Stephen Hardy, and Dr. Randal Wagner and Dr. Jody Graves from Eastern Washington University thrilled a capacity crowd with their musical gifts of piano and voice. This was the first event in our efforts to one day have our own Steinway in the Opera House.

On Friday, September 21, The Needhams, a Christian gospel group, made a return visit and entertained us with their beautiful blend of harmonies. Saturday, September 22, the Opera House and museum were open for those attending the Fall Festival.

On Saturday, October 6, Peter Davenport, enlightened and entertained a wonderful turnout of interested folks with a presentation about UFO's and his experiences as director of the National UFO Reporting Center. Friday, October 12, brought a bit of nostalgia to the Opera House as Pam Stark, former KHQ television anchor, performed her one-woman show entitled "Never Little

Miss Nuthin” about her experiences growing up in the projects of Detroit. On October 17, Nancy Rumbel made a return trip to Harrington to educate and lighten students in the Harrington and Christian Heritage School Districts about music. That evening she presented a class to about 10 gals who learned a lot about and how to play the ocarina.

The year was wrapped up on December 1 as Santa Clause (our very own Stephen Hardy) visited and got wish lists from numerous children. Karen Robertson once again lent her expertise as photographer to record the special moments. Crafts were held in the Art Room.

Snacks were served at many of these events, which netted us a nice income of approximately \$900 and was a huge help in covering many expenses associated with them.

As 2012 closes, we are looking forward to another exciting year of events and entertainment in the Opera House for 2013.

Event Promotion

All events were promoted by multimedia means. Posters were created by Karen Robertson for most public events and distributed in Harrington and surrounding towns. Paid advertising was submitted to various regional newspapers, ad papers, and several events were listed on KPBX Public Radio Community Announcements. Donations helped defray some of our costs.

The Opera House website promoted all public events in advance and posted photos or mention of activities afterwards. A Facebook presence continues to be well received. Social media and internet access have become extremely important in our efforts to promote events and encourage attendance by reaching a much larger audience than just Harrington and even Lincoln County.

Museum and Public Exposure

During the year several groups, including the Spokane Corbin Senior Center, toured the Opera House. A sing-along was held in the Art Room and enjoyed by all attending. In September during the Harrington Fall Festival the museum and Opera House were open to the public for touring.

The Opera House Museum remains popular. Many positive comments continue to be received including the amazement at the volume, quality and variety of the exhibits contained in such a small venue. We are continually accepting gifts and loans of historical interest for display but it is becoming more apparent that we need additional space.

We are making every effort to pay back the purchase of the historic original barbershop equipment but are actively seeking donations to help defray the expense.

Building Progress

Slow but steady progress continues on the building rehabilitation.

The year of 2012 saw the first real step forward in the reality of bringing an elevator to the Bank Block building. Although we have been quietly gathering start up funds, the infusion of \$25,000 from the Lincoln County Rural Development Grant enabled us to start Phase One, which is to develop the drawings necessary for permits, codes and structural engineers to complete. Phase Two will be construction of the housing for the elevator. Phase Three is the purchase,

installation and finishing work of the elevator itself. We are extremely fortunate to have Sue Lani Madsen as our architect handling this project for us. The grant monies already in hand will cover Phase one. She has submitted a first ready drawing package for us to see which is well on schedule. Fundraising efforts will increase in 2013.

With the assistance of a youth group sponsored by the Harrington Nazarene Church, the stage storage areas and backdrop carriage areas were cleaned. The original backdrops were reorganized and covered. At another time, a group of Opera House volunteers cleaned the basement.

The north wall of the auditorium was stripped of lath and plaster in the area above the wainscoting. It was then insulated, sheet rocked, and painted.

Acoustical and thermal insulation were installed in the ceiling of the Art Room. The north wall and restroom of the Art Room were insulated. The ceiling was sheet rocked with fire-rated gypsum board and then painted. New electrical circuits were added for new lights and additional outlets. Electrical work was also done to make it possible to have a video feed from the auditorium into the Art Room. The Art Room will continue to be a place for piano lessons, art classes with many other opportunities for its use.

The south exterior woodwork was repaired and refinished. Entryway windows and door trim were repaired and painted. In addition, the walls on the stage were cleaned and painted.

The Art Room

The Art Room serves a multitude of needs for the Opera House including meetings, staging area, green room and the arts.

Piano lessons and a time for arts and crafts continued through the spring of 2012 with 6 students completing their classes and holding their recital in the spring.

Due to the generosity and hard work of the H-CATS of Harrington, the Art Room now has a large screen television. This gift of technology has opened up this space to now include ability for remote real/time viewing for those that can not access the 2nd floor during any of our events held upstairs. Also, DVD instructional classes, video conferencing, talking history programs for our seniors, movie nights, yoga classes etc, still all to be explored and planned.

Although still under construction, the Art Room hosted crafts for children during Santa's visit. It was a reduced crowd this year, which gave us the thought of pre-packaging our "crafts" and selling them to take home and do as a family.

Grants and Funding

While grant funding is becoming more and more challenging the Opera House was fortunate to receive grant monies from several areas. Funds are starting to be distributed to us as a result of being selected for a \$66,000 Building for the Arts Grant. We also received a grant from US Bank \$2,500 which will be used for improving the Art Room. We also received \$4,000 from the Wasmer Grant which will be used stage lighting. The Lincoln County Rural Development grant totaling \$25,000 was distributed. Current work is being done on a grant from Avista for additional stage lighting. Also waiting for budget for sidewalk for Christopher Reeves grant.

Other

A gift from Roger Thompson, nephew of former Harrington residents, Roger and Alameda Muisner and the Davenport Study Club, enabled the Society to purchase an antique display cabinet for the lobby. It now holds numerous Opera House and Harrington memorabilia including a shawl worn at the wedding of Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln.

Society Appreciation

The Opera House Society would like to thank the many individuals, organizations and businesses that have so generously donated their time, their talent and their money. Without them none of the success during this past year would have been possible.

Summary

As we end 2012 we look back with pride and are enthused about our progress and accomplishments. It was an eventful year that showcased the commitment and teamwork of our dedicated group. We are looking forward to 2013 with excitement and conviction that this wonderful project will continue to bring arts and entertainment to our community to enrich the lives of many.