



**HARRINGTON OPERA HOUSE SOCIETY
2013 ANNUAL REPORT
JANUARY 13, 2014**

It is with a great deal of satisfaction that the Harrington Opera House Society can once again report a very rewarding and productive year. Additional accomplishments were realized in moving the building forward and ever closer to completion and greater utilization of the facility.

Events at the Opera House

During 2013 the Harrington Opera House held or sponsored numerous events that supported the arts and provided a venue for a variety of community activities.

April was a very busy month. On April 17 the **Harrington Historic Preservation Committee** held a special meeting featuring out of town speakers. On April 20, the **Pages Of Harmony** had a return engagement and entertained an appreciative crowd and on April 23 the **Harrington High School music students** held their spring concert in the auditorium. **The Stitchin Chicks** displayed beautiful quilts and stitchery in the auditorium and proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets for a quilt were donated to the elevator fund. Local artist, **Les LePere** displayed his art in the Art Room.

May began with the Society once again **servicing the Lions Club** members a delicious dinner of barbequed hamburgers, potato salad, baked beans and all the fixings. Up and coming country western singer, **Chase Hubbard**, performed to a large crowd on May 11. Harrington's Ellie Hedreen opened the concert with a few well received numbers. **Six piano students** of Billie Herron performed on the auditorium stage on May 15.

On June 15, "**An Afternoon With Nona**" was enjoyed as artist and author Nona Hengen reviewed her book Shoe Box Letters. On June 22 the Harrington Ministerial Association hosted **Sara Weaver and her husband, Marc Balter** as she reviewed her book From Ruby Ridge To Freedom, and shared her experiences during the Ruby Ridge standoff near Bonners Ferry, Idaho.

As always, September was a busy month. On September 22, Stephen and Becky Hardy, Dr. Randal Wagner and other EWU music students brought their wonderful gifts of music to the Opera House with a **Grande Interlude**. On Fall Festival Saturday, September 28, the Opera House was open for tours and despite a very rainy day, a good crowd took advantage the opportunity to see the artwork of **Tina Turner Fisher**. That evening **Peter Davenport, Director of the National UFO Reporting Center** introduced featured presenter **James E. Clarkson, State Director of the Mutual UFO Network in Washington State** to an enthusiastic audience. During the weekend, a successful rummage sale was held in the old apartment. On September 30 the Nazarene Church sponsored **The Needhams**, a gospel music group.

On October 20 the **El Katif Shrine Band** performed to an appreciative crowd.

The year was wrapped up on Saturday, December 7 as **Santa Claus** visited and got wish lists from numerous children. Karen Robertson lent her expertise as photographer to record the special moments and on Sunday, December 8 the **Coulee Community Choir** performed the sounds of the holiday season. The piano used for the day was then donated by choir member, Sue Shear, to be used in the Opera House.

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

We are looking forward to another exciting year of events and entertainment in the Opera House for 2014.

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 and ad papers. 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 toured the Opera House. 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 and hope to reach that goal this year.

One of the highlights of the year was that the Opera House, some of our members as well as the community of Harrington were featured during a segment of **Northwest Profiles on KPBX public television.**

Building Progress

2013 was a productive year for improvements to the building.

The major accomplishment was the completion of stage lighting. We now have a professional light system that is fully controllable from multiple locations. This system will make it possible to meet the needs of most performances that are presented.

The wainscoting and millwork in the auditorium was stripped, cleaned and sealed restoring it to its original beauty.

We obtained emergency lighting fixtures to complete the entire building, and they will be installed soon.

The Art Room sheetrock was completed and painted. All new lighting was installed making it a very pleasant room for music and craft classes.

The apartment area was stripped and cleaned and insulation has been started.

We have obtained preliminary design drawings from our architect so we can go to bid for the DA ramps and doors to provide complete access to the main floor and elevator lobby.

The Art Room

2013 saw the completion of a major remodel of this room. It was insulated, sheet rocked and painted. The electrical was completely re-wired and new lamps were hung. The room was finished with picture molding around the walls. The broken window was replaced. Most all the work was done by our amazing group of volunteers. The window molding, refurbishing the door and surrounding trim and floor covering is scheduled to be completed in 2014.

As it was designed, many different uses continue to be found for this room. Two different classes of piano instruction and art began in fall of 2013. The room continues to be used for video viewing by folks that are unable to climb stairs at attend performance. Local artists held showings during the year. Also the room was used for a new pilot program featuring artisans in the community. Other groups have used it for meetings, lunches etc.

Elevator Project

The year of 2013 saw the completion of Phase One of the elevator project, the development of the complete architectural drawing package. The package will be presented by our architect Sue Lani Madsen at the February meeting. This phase came in well under budget.

This package will now be the means for the Opera House to start Phase Two, construction of the housing for the elevator.

2013 saw the kickoff of another fundraiser for the elevator. Monthly rummage sales of items donated to the Opera House were offered for sale. First started in Sept with Fall Festival, five sales were held in 2013, with over \$1,300 raised. Another \$2,000 was raised by donations.

Grants and Funding

While grant funding is becoming more and more challenging the Opera House was fortunate to receive grant monies from several areas. The following grants were received:

Macy's Foundation Matching Grant	\$200.00
Building for the Arts Reimbursement Grant	\$10,147.97
US Bank for the Art Room	\$2,000.00
Lincoln Co. Rural Development Grant <i>(to be used for handicap and elevator access ramps and will be disbursed as the project is finished)</i>	\$15,000.00

We have \$23,000 remaining on the Building for the Arts grant that we can request as of the end of 2013. This grant will expire on December 31, 2015.

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 2013 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 2014 with excitement and conviction that this wonderful project will continue to bring arts and entertainment to our community to enrich the lives of many. We are hopeful that others will actively join us in our continued efforts.