



# HARRINGTON OPERA HOUSE SOCIETY

*Preserving Our Heritage*

PO Box 618, Harrington, WA 99134 [www.harringtonoperahouse.org](http://www.harringtonoperahouse.org)

## Annual Newsletter – March 2022

### Presidents' Letters

2021 was another productive year for the Harrington Opera House Society. Though we were unable to hold a full schedule of performances this year because of the pandemic, we had several successful rummage fundraisers.

When restrictions eased a bit in the summer & early fall, a few activities were held in the auditorium. These included a Quilt Show during Harrington's Vintage Country Fair; a return of the Grand Interlude featuring Andres Jaramillo, Rebecca Hardy, Stephen Hardy and Alicia (Mielke) Zeiler; and in September, the return of the Bridges Home duo – Dave & Tami Gunter.

Thanks to your donations, we have been able to make some major improvements this year. We have installed a staircase to the basement from in the rummage room. The Art Room bathroom remodel is in progress, and we have almost completed cushions for the pews. We are continuing to focus on the preservation of the building.

Recently we have gained several new members who have also chosen to be a part of the monthly meetings. We hope you will join them. Our meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7 PM. Everyone is welcome, members and guests alike.

Again, 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 sense of pride in what you have accomplished.

*Ellen Evans, 2021 President  
Harrington Opera House Society*

*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!**

**Vision.** It is said without one, people lose hope. Thirty years ago a small group of individuals came together to share a vision of saving the Bank Block building. Over time, more and more folks have come alongside providing resources, energy and spirit. That vision has become a reality. Now the building is a home for arts, culture and history; a place for people to gather and a cornerstone reviving the city.

**Visions.** To be part of such an endeavor is to share in the hope of things to come. Now more than ever, hope has become a precious commodity. I, like so many, was invited to come and see the grand old building. Having once touched the century-aged bricks, seeing the original stairs, the tread bearing testimony to the hundreds of footsteps over the years, and meeting those whose vision saved the building from decay, I stayed. I am excited to now serve in this role of Harrington Opera House Society President for 2022.

We are focusing on friend-raising this year. We invite you also! Come see! Come and touch history. Come to events, fundraisers, work parties, or as a first time visitor. Become a member and join in the fun of being a part of new visions yet to come.

We offer our sincere gratitude to past, current and future patrons and supporters and donors. Your involvement is what it takes to bring visions to fruition.

*Carol Giles, 2022 President  
Harrington Opera House Society*



#### HOHS MISSION STATEMENT

The Harrington Opera House Society is a non-profit 501©(3) organization dedicated to the rehabilitation and preservation of the Harrington Opera House for the purpose of providing and promoting cultural opportunities which will enhance community and economic development and which will also promote the cultural heritage of Harrington and the surrounding areas.

## Rummage Fundraising

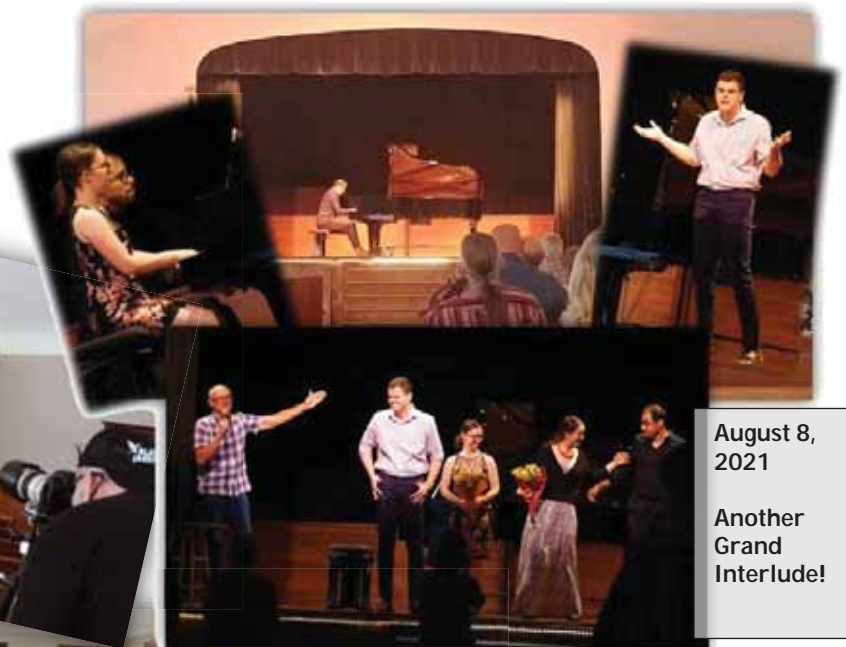
The rummage fundraisers continue to be wildly successful. The myriad of donated items, the many hours of volunteers happily sorting, and artfully displaying the items for re-homing and the generosity of "shopping" patrons provide valuable funds used by HOHS for a variety of projects, both big and small. This past year the "Vintage Shoppe" in The Art Room added another dimension to this endeavor by curating art work, special treasures, collections and unique items from times past. Several rummage events are planned for this year. *Hope to see you!* Call 509-253-4748 if you have items to donate.  
Carol Giles, HOHS Rummage Chair



**While the HOHS was not able to present a full schedule of public performances and presentations in 2021, the Society continued with building upkeep, fundraising, and community support.**



March 7, 2021  
Album Photo Shoot  
for Bret Allen & the Northern Rebels



August 8,  
2021

Another  
Grand  
Interlude!



June 2021 Quilt Show  
Harrington Vintage  
Country Fair



September 10, 2021 – Bridges Home  
Dave & Tami Gunter



Harrington Halloween Activities

# Glimpses of our History

by Karen Robertson, HOHS Newsletter Editor

## 1992

**Thirty years** ago a newly formed Opera House Committee visited the Harrington Opera House and Bank Block building on January 11, 1992 to assess the portion of the building that Robert E. Lucht deeded to the group representing “the people of Harrington.” With a vision of rehabilitating the Opera House and ground floor space in the south portion of the Bank Block Building, the committee established non-profit status for the Harrington Opera House Society (HOHS) and began fundraising.

In May 1992, the Washington State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation placed the building on the Washington State Registry of Historic Places and nominated it for the National Registry of Historic Places. The first official HOHS slate of officers was elected in June 1992. Various fundraisers were held that first year including a dinner theater play, “*The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*,” presented by the Cast Adrift Players from Spokane and held in the multi-purpose room of the Harrington school. Official notification of acceptance on the National Registry of Historic Places was received in December of 1992.

For the last thirty years, HOHS volunteers have lovingly and diligently pursued the vision of preserving a part of Harrington’s history AND creating a venue suitable for presenting and hosting visual and performing arts, presentations, and public and private community events.



## 1922

On February 11, 2022, the local kindergarten class visited the HOH as part of their celebration of 100 days of school. They received vintage dollars from the bank portion of the current lobby to purchase tickets to a masquerade ball typical of dances held in the Opera House 100 years ago in 1922.

Once upstairs, they turned in their tickets and received eye masks for the “ball” in front of the elevator at the top of the original staircase that now occupies the space where the ticket booth was in 1922. The masked students greeted each other as attendees would have 100 years ago, and with the help of modern cell phone technology, danced to some Scott Joplin Rag Time Music, performed by Scott Kirby who has performed here in recent years on our Opera House grand piano.



Research on 100 years ago indicated that events included a live debate between two political opponents who had differing opinions on the pros & cons of public dollars i.e. taxes in supporting public schools. Sound familiar? Back then, Harrington folks could attend social events instead of scrolling social media to hear and evaluate different sides of issues. And one of the 1922 dances was reported as: "Benefit Dance - Friday evening, Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Harrington Opera House. The Woman's Club will give a benefit dance the proceeds to go to the Lincoln County Anti-Tuberculosis League as Harrington's quota to the annual Christmas seal sale. Every year this seal sale is nationwide to raise money to fight the great White Plague in county, state and nation." (Citizen: 12-15-1922)

So – as history repeats itself, the Harrington Opera House Society continues to look to the FUTURE. We continue the building repairs and upgrades and seek to provide opportunities for relevant cultural arts, education, and entertainment. We welcome all who are interested in preserving a part of our history AND providing engaging events for years to come.

Historical photo albums are available to view in the lobby of the Harrington Opera House.

***Tours are available by request.***

Visit us online at [www.harringtonoperahouse.org](http://www.harringtonoperahouse.org) and Follow us

on Facebook [www.facebook.com/HarringtonOperaHouse](http://www.facebook.com/HarringtonOperaHouse)  
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Email [info@harringtonoperahouse.org](mailto:info@harringtonoperahouse.org)  
or call Linda Wagner, HOHS Events/Membership Chair, at 509-253-4719



## Harrington Opera House Society 2022 Key Contacts

President	Carol Giles	509-253-4748
Vice President	Mark Stedman	509- 721-1829
Treasurer	Becky Moeller	509-253-4566
Investment Administrator	Ed Haugan	
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





# HARRINGTON OPERA HOUSE SOCIETY

## 2021 MEMORIALS • HONORARIUMS • DONATIONS • MEMBERSHIPS

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Darren and Carolyn Mattozzi

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Carolyn's Cupcakery  
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