



# HARRINGTON OPERA HOUSE SOCIETY

*Preserving Our Heritage*

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

## Annual Newsletter

### 2022 Accomplishments and 2023 Plans

Hopefully 2022 marked a return to normalcy, so missed these last few years. Two of our favorite performers returned; JayDean Ludiker and her Fiddle Orchestra and Scott Kirby with his Scott Joplin piano tunes and multi-media show including some of his original artwork. Local vocalist, Debbie Mielke joined Scott on stage for one Americana medley. While the house wasn't packed with attendees, those that came were not at all disappointed.



We are very hopeful that more performers will grace our historic stage in 2023. Let us know what types of events you think would be a good fit for the Harrington Opera House (HOH.) Pass on our information to performers, presenters or artists that might be interested in coming to Harrington. We would like to offer a variety of events and our Event Committee will review, select, and schedule as many as possible according to the availability of volunteers. Potential performers, those who would like to join the "Event Committee" or assist with one or more of the tasks required to produce an event should contact Committee Chair, Linda Wagner at 509-253-4719 or Karen Robertson, stage management, at 509-590-9287 or [info@harringtonoperahouse.org](mailto:info@harringtonoperahouse.org).

HOHS participated in the *100 Days of School* event for Harrington School's kindergarten class. The young students "attended" a masquerade ball – a typical event held in the HOH 100 years ago, toured the 118-year-old building, and counted a hundred bricks on the outside wall. HOHS also hosted a treat table that was much visited on the day of the Harrington's Halloween event.

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Harrington Car Show in May, put on by Jill Barth of the Studebaker Garage, was a huge draw with over a hundred cars on display. HOHS hosted a beautiful quilt show put on by the Quilting Bee from Spokane. The Chamber of Commerce's Vintage Country Fair was held the following month and offered a quilt show featuring local quilters.



In September the Harrington Fall Festival, sponsored by the Lions Club, was held. Many Harrington school alumni toured the HOH, regaling members and visitors alike with long time memories as to how the Harrington Opera House was part of their younger years. Hometown Christmas rounded out the year, with the return of *Photos with Santa* in the HOH lobby. This has been a traditional event for several generations of families, this year being one of the largest turnouts.

The Bank Block building, home of the Harrington Opera House, will be 119 years old in 2023. Needed projects abound! To maintain and continue the restoration and rehabilitation of the buildings can be a daunting task, especially as we are facing a shortage of available contractors! Where possible, HOHS seeks to hire locally for each task. In 2023, we estimate \$40,000.00 will be spent on the building.

The big projects planned for this year include wrapping the upper floor window mill work with aluminum (Diamond Construction), stabilizing the southern cracked brick wall, repair the top of the western wall, and revitalizing the Willis St entrances to the Art and Rummage rooms.

*Use the enclosed Support Form for suggestions or to volunteer!*

#### HOHS MISSION STATEMENT

The Harrington Opera House Society is a non-profit 501(c)(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.



We have an electrician who has volunteered to rewire and add lights and wall plugs in the rummage area. Another worker is busy in the Art Room restroom, moving walls and revising the space. A modern fireproof

vault door, styled similarly to the original, is on order and a brick mason has been found to work on the surround and some re-plastering will be involved. This vault is in the lobby which was once the Bank of Harrington and later the Harrington State Bank. The vault will return to use for storing articles of value; donated quilts, hand crafts, and files in a fireproof space.

Doors to the new basement stairs need to be sanded, stained, and hung. These and several other tasks, including sheetrock projects, await completion. If you know of available construction workers, or you yourself, would like to help with small projects, please let us know.

A total of 7 rummage fundraisers were held this year. Generous donations of household items enabled extra events. The vintage room continued to draw many donated treasures and very interested shoppers. The monies raised are slated to go toward building projects in 2023.

The rummage fundraisers included a new feature this year, stand-alone books-for-donation events. A new member offered to become the "book lady." Patrons were treated to books grouped by author, genre and age groups, a step up from rummaging through boxes of books.

We are always accepting donations of items and are so blessed by the generosity of all our donors. Please give us a call (Carol at 509-253-4748) if you have items to donate.

While the rummage events have become a vital source of revenue, funds are also generated by good will donations, membership dues, memorials/ plaques, and tours. HOHS could not survive if it were not for our many supporters. HOHS sincerely thanks each and every one of our benefactors for their most gracious donations. We pledge to be good stewards of your gifts and use them to preserve and maintain the historic jewel in our midst, The Harrington Opera House.

Come, see, touch history, be part of something special in this crazy world and times. Send us a note, e-mail or call with questions, comments or if you need more information. Be it either as a visitor, guest to a performance, a volunteer, or a member, we sure do hope to see you in 2023.



Carol Giles,  
Harrington Opera House Society President  
509-253-4748  
Info@harringtonoperahouse.org

Karen Robertson,  
HOHS Newsletter Editor



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](https://www.facebook.com/HarringtonOperaHouse)

Instagram

[www.instagram.com/harringtonohsociety](https://www.instagram.com/harringtonohsociety)

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 MEMORIALS • HONORARIUMS • DONATIONS • MEMBERSHIPS

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### **WHEATLAND PLAYERS THEATRICAL ORGANIZED BY LYNEE' CARPENTER**

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John and Linda Wagner

Senator Judy Warnick

Rusty and Susie Wick

Ken and JoAnn Wittenberg

Steven Whiteside

Marjorie Womach

Debbie Zundel

*Thank You!*

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

# Dare we dream?

*Dear valued Harrington Opera House Society Members,*

*A door has opened to HOHS that could lead to a wonderful thing. This is way too important for just the few folks that attend the monthly meetings to make a decision on. We need wise, thoughtful input and support of all our members to help decide if HOHS should embark on this adventure.*

*The Harrington Opera House has a beautiful performing arts venue, a music room for classes and historic tours, a place to hold fundraising events and is the home of the Opera House Museum. There is much more we could do in light of our mission statement, however we are outgrowing the physical space of the Bank Block Building.*



## **Harrington Opera House Society Facilities Expansion Proposal February 8, 2023**

Dear Members and Supporters,

The Harrington Opera House has a beautiful performing arts venue, a music room for classes, historic tours, a place to hold fundraising events and the home of the Opera House Museum. There is much more we could do, however we are outgrowing the physical space of the Bank Block Building.

The Harrington Opera House Society has been offered the opportunity to purchase the two historic buildings directly east of the Harrington Opera House on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. The vision for these buildings is a Museum and Art Center, furthering the goals of our mission statement to promote, provide, and preserve the heritage and culture of Harrington and surrounding areas.

The Museum would be a home for all things pertaining to the history, life and times of Harrington. Vintage farming machinery could be displayed on the lot on Willis St. The Art Center would be a place to hold wide varieties of art and home economic classes, workshops and space for individual and community art projects.

The addition of two more buildings to the national historic register will strengthen Harrington's Historic District, while two more open doors on 3<sup>rd</sup> street will enhance both community and economic development.

Thirty years ago a vision to save the Bank Block Building resulted in what the Harrington Opera House has grown to be today. Now, all these years later is another such opportunity. Do we dare still dream?

We very much wish to hear comments, questions, ideas and thoughts both pro and con from you; a valued member and/or supporter of the HOHS.

Please contact us.  
info@harringtonoperahouse.org  
Harrington Opera House Society  
PO Box 618 Harrington WA 99134

Sincerely,  
Your Harrington Opera House Executive Board

| <b>Harrington Opera House Society 2023 Key Contacts,<br/>info@harringtonoperahouse.org</b> |                 |               |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>President</b>   | Carol Giles     | 509-253-4748  |
| <b>Vice President</b>  | Mark Stedman    | 509- 721-1829 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>   | Becky Moeller   | 509-253-4566  |
| <b>Investment Administrator</b>  | Edwin Haugan    |               |
| <b>Secretary</b>   | Bunny Haugan    |               |
| <b>Event Chair</b>   | Linda Wagner    | 509-253-4719  |
| <b>Historian</b>   | Edwin Haugan    |               |
| <b>Rummage Chair</b>   | Carol Giles     | 509-253-4748  |
| <b>Webmaster, Marketing, Stage</b>   | Karen Robertson | 509-590-9287  |