

Opera Volunteers INTERNATIONAL

Expanding the future of Opera through development, mentoring and advancement of volunteer service through the Art of Opera.

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Opera Volunteers International Matching Grants *(a success story)*

In the fall of 2006, the board of directors of the **Guild of Tulsa Opera** raised concerns about the shrinking membership and lack of young members in The Guild. The board of directors moved to organize a task force to explore a new membership group that would target a diverse group of young professionals between the ages of twenty-five and fifty. The primary goals were to provide social and business networking opportunities for young professionals through the art of opera and to provide performance benefits and educational opportunities. The Guild applied for and was awarded a one thousand dollar (\$1000) grant from Opera Volunteers International with which to launch this experiment. It was decided to name the new group "Amici di Opera", friends of the opera.

Approximately twenty-five individuals attended the first event, a dress rehearsal of *Carmen*, followed by a gathering at Vintage 1740. After this first successful event, interest in the group grew, and by the second event there were one hundred and ten individuals interested in becoming involved. For the second event the Tulsa Opera Company provided orchestra seating at a group rate of thirty dollars (\$30) per ticket. Monies from the Opera Volunteers International grant were used to make these tickets available to "Amici" members for fifteen dollars (\$15).

Since this past summer, The Guild has been making plans for the upcoming season. For the first opera of the season, *Tosca*, Tulsa Opera will provide artists for a salon performance and sit down dinner in an historic private home for current members of "Amici". It is proposed that there will be a forty dollar (\$40) membership fee to become a member of this new group.

If you have an interesting idea and need assistance getting it off the ground please contact the Opera Volunteers International Matching Grants Chairperson, Mary Earl, at maryopera1@aol.com or ask your Regional Director for more information.

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OPERA VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL INTRODUCES INDIVIDUALS NEW TO THE BOARD

NANCIE DOMINIC

Nancie brings a wealth of experience and expertise in education to Opera Volunteers International. Having taught in 4 states for twenty years, she is currently working as a part-time teacher and volunteer in music and drama. Like so many members of our active board, Nancie, not only worked full time while raising a family of 5, but over the years was able to steal time from her busy days to become active in the volunteer world of education and the arts: President of the Rosswell Guild of Santa Fe Opera, Rosswell Symphony, Rosswell Arts Council and the Special Education Advisory Council.

Currently living in Santa Fe, Nancie, continues her involvement in the community, and fortunately, for us, the arts. Within the Guilds of Santa Fe Opera, Inc. she has chaired Opera Day at the Ranch and is now completing a two year term as President. The community benefits from her board involvement in the Villa Theresa Clinic (where she was involved in fundraising and the nominations) and membership in the Santa Fe Garden Club. Last but not least, Nancie, has begun a new business which you can quiz her about when you meet her.

ORPHA HARNISH

Orpha has been an active volunteer most of her life with opera holding her interest since childhood. Like many of us she grew up listening to the Met broadcasts. Recently her focus has been with The Guild of Tulsa Opera, serving as President and many years as a board member. She has served as President or on the board of many organizations, including President of the Auxiliary to the American Osteopathic Assn., from which she received the Millennium Award in 1999. She is a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians, Tulsa Garden Club, Questers and PEO. She has been instrumental in the creation of endowment funds for several organizations, and actively involved in fundraising for the Tulsa Guild and Tulsa Opera. She has one daughter, Jill Lawrence, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska.

VERNIE JONES

Vernie comes to Opera Volunteers International with a rich history of community volunteering. She has held executive board positions with the Omaha Opera Guild including that of President. She has also chaired their numerous fundraising events. Other community groups which have benefited from her time and expertise are Joslyn Castle, On Track (Western Heritage Museum), Joslyn Art Museum and Act II (Omaha Community Playhouse) where she currently serves as President Elect.

OUTREACH

Fall is a busy time for Opera Volunteers everywhere, and sometimes renewing your Opera Volunteers International membership gets delayed. Please, if you haven't already, renew now - and while you are at it-spread the good news to your opera friends, Opera Volunteers international is an exciting and highly valuable asset to support groups and individuals working to make a difference in the world of opera volunteerism.

Vice-President Outreach, Gerald Elijah

NOMINATIONS FOR OPERA VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL BOARD

A nominating committee has been formed to select candidates for the Opera Volunteers International Board of Directors. Members of the committee are: Evelyn Troughton-Chair, Sandi Bruns, Mary Earl, Gerald Elijah and Melody Schubert.

If you or someone you know, would be interested in being nominated to our board please contact Evelyn Troughton, via e-mail at et1000@msn.com, or by phone at 206/282-6191.

