

Opera Volunteers INTERNATIONAL

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

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Introducing the new Opera Volunteers International Board members

This is the first of a two part series to introduce the eight new Opera Volunteers International Board Members to the membership. They have taken on a big responsibility and bring new energy to the board.

HEATHER F. CLARKE - Heather says, "I have been volunteering in a variety of roles from an early age. During my nursing career, I volunteered for many local, provincial, national and international nursing and health committees, boards and task forces as both member and leader. I continue to be an active volunteer in the nursing and health areas - primarily with respect to Aboriginal nursing and health. I am an associate member of the provincial and national Aboriginal Nursing Associations, acting as mentor to students and practicing nurses, assisting with research and evaluation and advising on policy."

In 2005, while president of the Vancouver Opera Guild; she founded the Volunteerism in the Arts Conference, a partnership of 8 arts organizations (visual, theater, music and opera). Also while president of the Guild (2003 -2007) Heather initiated all-member strategic planning, with Board follow-up for action planning; engaged the Guild Executive and Vancouver Opera Senior Staff in regular sharing meetings, for collaboration and support, and successfully gained four annual grants to support the Guild's "Young Professional Talent in Opera" program.

Currently she is serving a three year term on the Vancouver Opera Board as a member of the Individual Giving Committee bringing new members into the giving circles and encouraging those who already contribute to maintain or increase their donations.

Heather, your wealth of volunteer expertise is just what Opera Volunteers International celebrates and we welcome you as the Regional Coordinator of Canada.

I have enjoyed working with volunteers who covered a wide range of responsibilities, including the opera shop, fundraising, ushering, and mailings. And during that time I forged friendships which I cherish to this day.

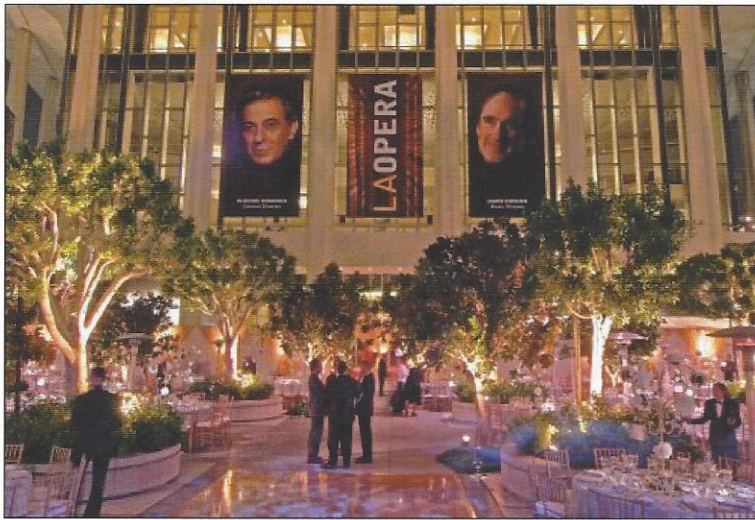
MARY AND HAROLD SCOTT - A couple, new to the Opera Volunteers International Board is the Scotts who are now the Regional Coordinators for the Pacific Rim. They were the Founders and from 2007 -2009 the Co-Presidents of the Skagit Opera Guild and were involved in that Guild's outreach and fundraising activities. Their goal as Regional Coordinators is to make contact with and visit all the Guilds in their region which extends from Alaska to Australia. Avid travelers that they are they just may accomplish this goal.

Mary, who has a degree in chemistry/biology, has worked in Washington's Northshore School District for twenty-five years. Her interests extend well beyond education, however, from her love of piano to many non-competitive sports which includes roller blading. She wore a wrist bandage to Nashville, a souvenir from a recent outing.

Harold holds a degree in Civil Engineering and from 1966 to 1973 he was employed at the U. S. Department of Defense in their Oceanographic Survey Program. For the next 30 years he worked for the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency where he coordinated a number of programs related to drinking water, ground water protection and other environmental issues.



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Mark your calendars for a fantastic opera conference in Los Angeles September 24 - 27, 2010 when OVI and The Opera League of Los Angeles host a dynamic conference at the historic Four Star Millennium Biltmore Hotel. We have a special room rate of \$139 (double or single, plus tax) extended for three days pre and post conference, with \$189 for "Club Level" rooms (additional special amenities, breakfasts, happy hour beverages and appetizers). The conference features speakers, panels and interactive sessions for volunteers with "how to" and sharing experiences for providing services to visiting opera artist, young artist programs, innovative rewards, systems for tracking volunteer hours, and codes of conduct.

Conference registration includes a hosted welcome and pre-performance reception Thursday evening, breakfasts Friday and Saturday, Awards Luncheon Friday and all conference sessions. Entertainment options include the following:

- Two stunning operas on Thursday and Saturday evening
- Tour of the renowned Getty Museum
- High tea and tour of Millennium Biltmore (prior home of the Oscar Awards)
- Tour of Frank Gehry's world famous Disney Hall
- Tour and performance at the Colburn School
- Pre-performance dinner and opera talk on Saturday attended by a major cast member
- Opening concert of LA Master Chorale on Sunday evening at Disney Hall

OVI Grantors' Circle donors will be treated to light supper and a tour of the magnificent Arroyo estate of LA Opera President Carol and Warner Henry, co-hosted by Alice Coulombe, first President and co-founder of Opera League of LA. Architectural plans for this home were featured in the Grantors' Circle luncheon at the last volunteer conference held in LA in 1994. Rebecca Bowne, Conference Chair, promises an exciting, rewarding, and entertaining time for all attendees and guests!



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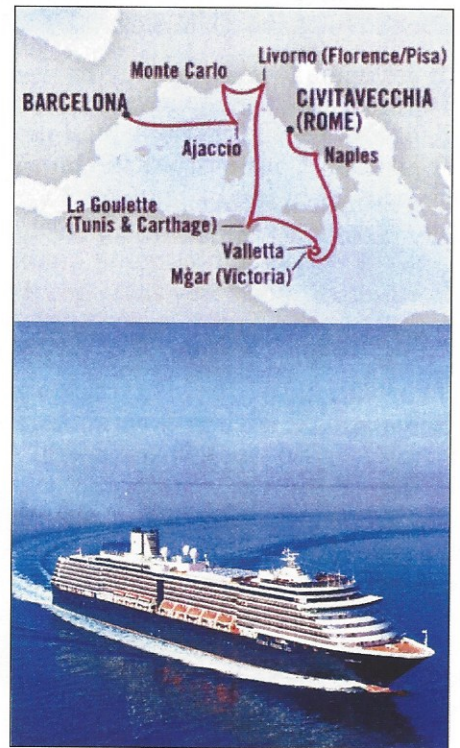
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FROM THE PRESEIDENT

Dear Members of Opera Volunteers International:

The Ogden Opera Guild supports operas performed in Salt Lake City by Utah Opera. The Guild was recently honored by OVI with "Projects of Special Merit" recognition for their work at exposing students to opera. In addition, a major fundraising event is hosted by Ogden Opera Guild every February where delicious chocolate is featured and the approximately \$25,000 realized from the event is donated by OOG, earmarked specifically to assist with the costs associated with the last matinee of the season's 28 performances. The donation is particularly important because ticket sales only cover about 25% of the operating budget.

Recently, at a performance of Verdi's "Macbeth", OOG president and newest OVI board member, Judy Vander Heide, introduced me to other Guild volunteers as well as to Christopher McBeth, Utah Opera's Artistic Director. The Capitol Theater (where all Utah Opera performances take place) is over 100 years old and was formally a two shows a day vaudeville theater. Now, completely refurbished, it is part of the Salt Lake County Center for the Arts.

At the opera's intermission Judy invited me to join the other OOG volunteers in the "VIP Room" for refreshments and conversation. It was here that I learned about the fantastic work of Utah's dedicated opera volunteers. On behalf of OVI, many thanks to Judy Vander Heide and the Ogden Opera Guild for all you do and for all you have done to support opera.

Best wishes to you all, members of OVI and to your families, for a very happy holiday.

Best regards, Julie



Julie Benson, Christopher MacBeth & Judy Vender Heide