

THE OPERA VOLUNTEER VOICE

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The official newsletter of
*Opera Volunteers
International*

Be Thankful

Homebound: Breaking the bonds of virtual exhaustion.

THE GOOD NEWS: Hopes are high on the positive reports about multiple Covid-19 vaccines which could be readily available early next year.

THE BAD NEWS: Infection and death numbers are rising worldwide. Continued quarantine is expected. Theatrical performances, social gatherings, and world travel are unlikely for the time being.

So how do we maintain our energy, interest, and initiative?

Let's face it. This is a difficult time to be alive. We are struggling with reality, finances, health, and sometimes with one another. Even those of us who seem untouched may be dealing with confinement, inactivity, and the malaise of an uncertain future which can be paralyzing.

If you feel isolated you are not alone.

Online content and electronic gatherings may no longer seem as stimulating and enriching as they once were.

Possible diagnosis: *VIRTUAL EXHAUSTION!* What's the remedy?

If you are a volunteer, this is where you derive your strength.

You are passionate and creative and are inspired by causes greater than yourself.

You enjoy people and feel that working together is the best way to get things done.

You are a giver. Your life source and inspiration comes from engaging with others.

You not only want, but require new knowledge, new people and new experiences.

So whilst awaiting the much discussed "new normal" here are a few suggestions:

Be forthright. If you are struggling or stalled, talk to someone. Don't be afraid or ashamed to reach out. Sometimes a sounding board is all that we need.

Be thankful, if you are doing okay. Many are not so blessed.

Be charitable. This could be the time to extend your reach and help organizations you care about or others who are less fortunate. Helping others is as much a gift for the provider as for the recipient.

Be resourceful. Try learning something new. Look for different ways of seeing and doing the familiar, and find new ways to work with others. Now is the time to reevaluate priorities and efforts to prepare for a different sort of world.

We will get through this together.

Rick Greenman
Newsletter Editor

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"Okay, I have a question. How did the movie Groundhog Day finally shift to the next day for Bill Murray? Have we tried that yet?"



He breaks the cycle when he shifts his focus from himself to helping others. And yes: that's EXACTLY how we get out of this. All of this.

From the President: *Susan Malott*

Dear OVI members and friends,



As we leave autumn behind and come into the homestretch of the holidays I am thinking about all of you and hoping you and your families are staying well. Just expressing these thoughts makes me realize how our perspectives have changed since early this year. First and foremost in our minds when we touch base with friends and business associates is to ask “How are you doing? ”, and that question is no longer an automatic social greeting. We are communally focused on everyone’s well-being.

Here in San Francisco, I continue working as Executive Director of San Francisco Opera Guild, remotely from home, with no return to our offices in sight. As with many organizations, we are reinventing ourselves to adjust to major changes in our business model and adapting staff roles to meet our new needs. These changes are challenging, yet at the same time it forces us to think creatively and find new opportunities within those challenges.

I know I’m not alone in craving the company of friends and family. This inability to gather has made me acutely aware of how important these relationships are and how greatly I value them. I regret not being able to see many of you this year but hopefully we will be able to meet again next year.

I would love to hear from you and know how you are doing and how you’re handling the adjustments in your lives and within your opera support groups. I send my wishes for you and your loved ones to stay well and safe.

With warmth and gratitude,

Susan Malott

2020-2021 Free Membership to OVI Groups !

We at OVI know that our member groups (e.g. guilds) are facing unprecedented challenges this year in holding events, raising funds and retaining members. So our board has voted the funds to waive this year’s membership dues for our existing member groups. Oct 1, 2020 to Sep 30, 2021.

Reminder: February 1, 2021 deadline is approaching for the following applications

Matching Grants

There is still an opportunity to apply for our program.

Now is the time to think about the kinds of projects that can benefit your opera volunteer group or support your Opera Company and reach out to your community. OVI can help

Details and applications are available on OVI’s website.

<https://www.operavolunteers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/GRANTS-GUIDELINES-2021.pdf>

Partner in Excellence

Is there an individual your group would like to honor or a special anniversary to celebrate.

Nominate an individual or a group for an OVI award.

<https://www.operavolunteers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/PIE-nomination-form-2021.pdf>

Project of Special Merit

Did your group create a unique project either before or during the current quarantine shut-down.

Let us know about it so we can recognize you and share your great idea with our other opera volunteer groups.

<https://www.operavolunteers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Projects-of-Special-Merit-Application-2021.pdf>

GI **INGTUESDAY**

is a day that encourages people to do good.

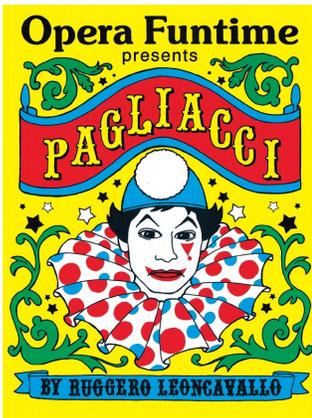
Whether it’s making someone smile, helping a neighbor or stranger out, showing up for an issue or people we care about, or giving some of what we have to those who need our help, every act of generosity counts and everyone has something to give.

- Give Time**
- Give Voice**
- Give Dollars**
- Give Goods**
- Give Kindness**
- Give Talent**
- Give Together**

**December 1
2020**

GI  **INGTUESDAY**

----- Find us on the internet at www.OperaVolunteers.org -----



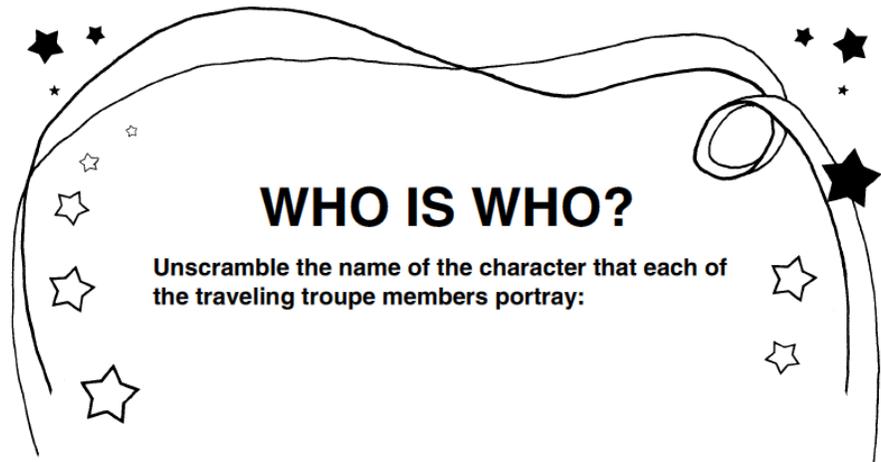
OVI group member, **Young Patronesses of the Opera (Florida Grand Opera)** has graciously allowed OVI to reprint selected activity pages from their *Opera Funtime* book series. All 25 titles are available on YPO’s website and copies may be ordered from the group based on availability.

You can see all the books on their website at www.ypo-miami.org/opera-funtime. They also offer teaching guides on their website at: <https://www.ypo-miami.org/teaching-resources>. To order books to be shipped to you contact them at : operafuntimes@ypo-miami.org.

“**Young Patronesses of the Opera, Inc. (YPO)** is a 100% woman’s volunteer organization with the mission to cultivate, promote, foster, sponsor and develop the understanding, taste and love of opera; to promote education of opera in our community, and to support the Florida Grand Opera’s educational programs. We started in 1956 and have focused our programs and fundraising efforts primarily to support opera education to the youth in our community and beyond.

About Opera Funtime Books:

YPO offers a number of education programs including our “Opera Funtimes”. The first published Opera Funtime was in 1978 and since then we have produced over 25 books. Our members create, publish and distribute these educational books primarily to elementary school children. Each book describes the plot and includes some of the music from a well-known opera. A typical Opera Funtime has short biographies of the composer and librettist, an introduction to the opera’s main characters, a plot summary (often in a poem), information about the music, a craft activity related to the opera, an act-it-out scene from the opera, and many games and puzzles to reinforce the information given.”



WHO IS WHO?

Unscramble the name of the character that each of the traveling troupe members portray:

I AM TONIO, THE HUNCHBACK. I PLAY . JUST LIKE IN REAL LIFE I CATCH COLOMBINA FLIRTING.
D O D T E A

I AM CANIO, NEDDA'S HUSBAND. I PORTRAY . WHEN I LEARN THAT MY WIFE HAS ANOTHER BOYFRIEND I GO WILD WITH JEALOUSY.
C I O L A G I P A C

I AM NEDDA, CANIO'S WIFE. IN THE PLAY I AM . BOTH IN REAL LIFE AND IN THE PLAY I GET CAUGHT PROMISING TO RUN AWAY WITH ANOTHER MAN.
M O B O C L A N I

I AM BEPPE, A MEMBER OF THE CAST. I AM . COLOMBINA'S LOVER, IN THE PLAY.
Q U A R L H E I N



Answers: 1. Taddeo 2. Pagliaccio 3. Colombina 4. Harlequina

MARIONETTE

Using small brads join Birdpeople's body parts together. Then, with a large needle and strong thread, hang each limb from a small stick. Dress them with feathers, grass, strips of plastic bags or paper.

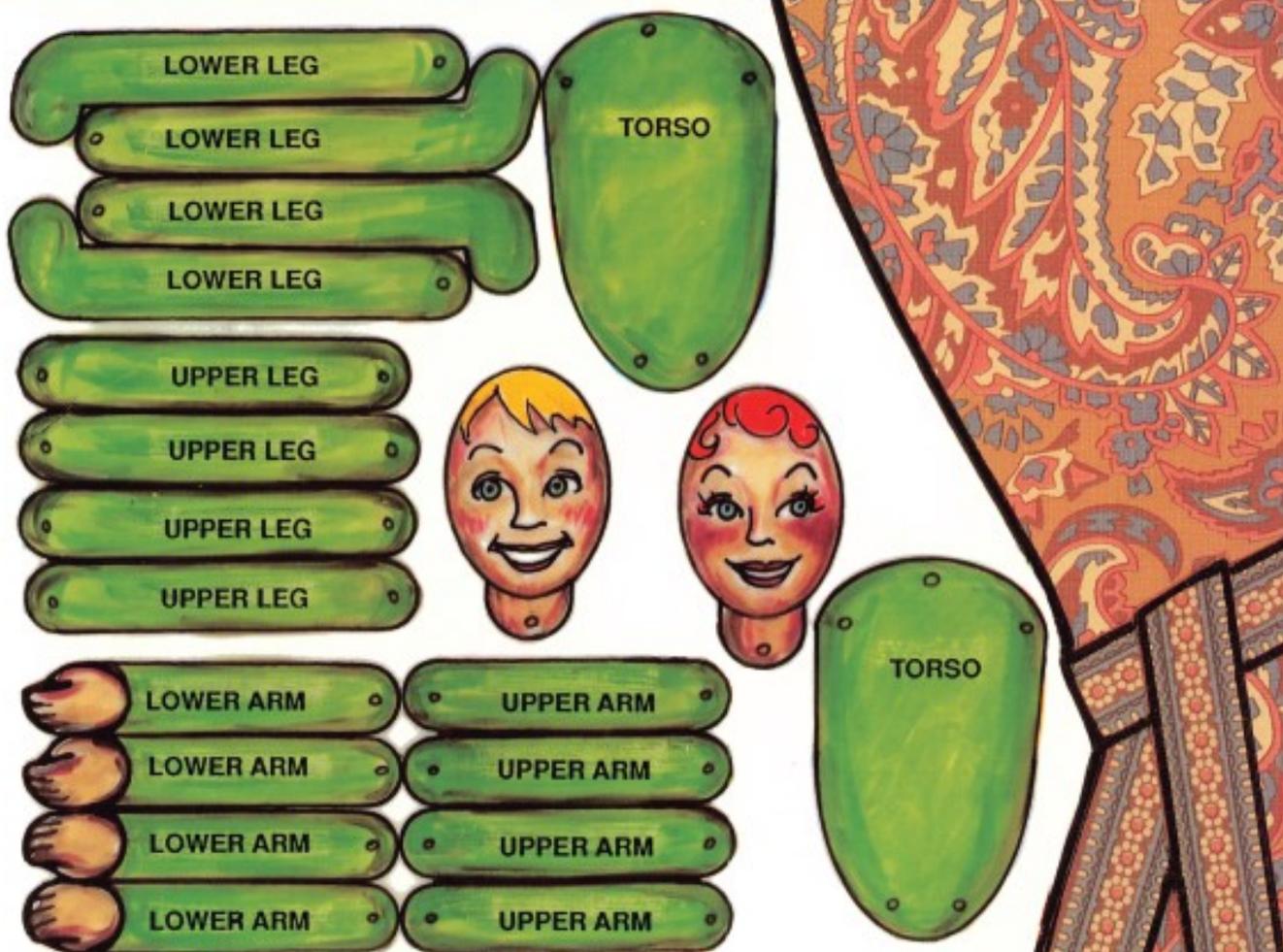


CREATE YOUR OWN DRAMA

Act II, Scene 4 - Papagena appears dressed as a little old witch. She says she is only eighteen, and has a boyfriend just like Papageno! She is about to tell him who she really is when lightning and thunder frighten her away!

Act II, Scene 6 - Papageno, granted one wish, asks for a wife. But the little old woman reappears as the answer to his wish! When he agrees to marry her, she reveals herself as

THEATER



WITH THE BIRDCATCHERS

Papagena, his birdgirl! Before he can react, she is snatched away, and Papageno is alone again.

Act II, Scene 9 - So sad that he can't find his sweetheart anywhere, Papageno throws a rope over a tree branch to hang himself. The Temple Boys save him, and remind him to play his magic bells. The enchanting music brings the birdgirl back, and they stutter with joy. Together forever, they plan to raise a huge family!

MAKE A MASK

You can cut a mask out of cardboard, decorating it with feathers, sequins, jewels, ribbons, or fancy wrapping paper.

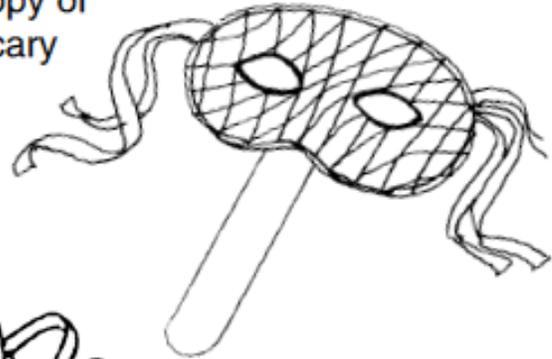
At the masked ball in this opera the guests held their masks on sticks, so that they were easily removed.

You may want to staple or glue your mask to a craft stick.

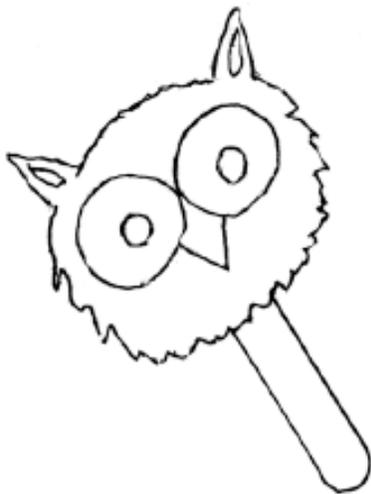


They can be animals or people,

Masks can be happy or sad, sweet or scary



Simple or fancy, male or female.



Have fun and...

be creative!



Regional News Grant Reports

Remembering Sarah Duvall

by Rick Greenman

On August 15 OVI lost an important and valued member of our board, VP of Communications, Sarah Duvall who died of a stroke at age 70 in Vancouver, Washington.

I only saw Sarah face-to-face two or three times and phone conversations were limited to travel, opera, and OVI business at hand. So I didn't think I knew her that well. But reflecting back made me reconsider.

In our OVI Communications group Mary Sveta, Barbara Eckel and I were the creatives. But it was Sarah who organized the meetings, took copious notes, and asked the basic "dumb" questions that are so important and necessary. She helped guide our conversations and lead them to a logical conclusion. She would remember and follow through on items that may have only been a half-baked idea thrown out in the heat of discussion. She would intercede with the board officers to get the information we required. She'd solicit our input for meetings, agendas and monthly reports to the board which she diligently submitted on time. She eagerly offered to take on tasks, and didn't mind doing the jobs that we didn't want to do. One of Sarah's responsibilities was to see that we (meaning I) got the newsletter out. Being the procrastinator that I am, I really counted on Sarah's prodding and gentle reminders.

Sarah's Zoom memorial service introduced me to the Sarah I never knew as friends and relatives joined from all over the world. Her life and her impact on people were painted lovingly in beautiful tributes and memories.

Since Sarah's passing, I find myself thinking more and more about her and appreciating her character and her many wonderful traits as well as our own mortality, legacy, and the effect we have on others. I did not consciously appreciate Sarah enough to see how she was my friend. But I realize now that she was, and I think she knew it. Because that was the kind of person Sarah was. A self starter, an adventurer, a team player, a person who cared about people and about the world. And I will miss her. She strove to make the world a better place, one person at a time.

At OVI we will go on, and we will grow and flourish, but we will not be able to find someone else who can do the things that Sarah did in just the way that Sarah did them. Though we will have many friends, and acquaintances, co-workers and partners, there will not be another Sarah Duvall.

Be sure to appreciate the people around you and let them know that you do, while you can.



SARAH DUVALL
1949 ~ 2020

Sarah is remembered in *The Columbian*

Read about her colorful life, her character and the causes and organizations she was dedicated to at:

<https://obits.columbian.com/obituaries/columbian/obituary.aspx?n=sarah-victoria-duvall&pid=196711031>

Opera Volunteers, What are You doing? by Rick Greenman

In this downtime, most opera companies are dark, but that shouldn't stop you from making plans and staying in touch with members.

My home company, Lyric Opera of Chicago is planning a series of virtual events and concerts. Our Volunteer Chapters have reached out to our members with such innovative activities as Opera Bingo, a virtual 5K, an opera book club discussion, Zoom chats, and lectures.

We would love to know what your opera group is doing to keep volunteers engaged.

Contact us at newsletter@operavolunteers.org

Coming Soon: Virtual Focus Meeting

OVI's 2020 Fall Focus Meeting in Chicago, originally planned for this year, has been postponed to 2021. So we are planning to bring you a special webinar.

Stay tuned for details.

----- Like us on Facebook to join the conversation! -----

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Address Correction Requested

Send your guild news and photos to
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**Find us on the internet at
www.OperaVolunteers.org**

OVI Welcomes New Board Leaders

As OVI begins its new fiscal year we welcome and introduce the newest board members:

Rhonda M. Catanzaro, Signal Mtn, TN. Matching Grants



A lifelong professional educator, Rhonda started her career as an elementary school teacher then went on to serve Tennessee teachers state-wide for more than 25 years as lobbyist, personnel dispute mediator and presenter for the National Education Association. Rhonda is currently the Associate Director of the Higher Education Research and Development Institute, and an accomplished vocalist, community theater actor, and sought-after public speaker. With her husband Jim, a community college president for nearly 40 years, Rhonda resides on Signal Mountain in Tennessee.

Valerie Grace Ricordi, Miami, FL. Social Media



Valerie Ricordi is a Life Member of the Young Patronesses of the Opera, a support organization for the Florida Grand Opera in Miami. Valerie's career has been in communications for arts organizations and has been on the staff of major museums in St. Louis, Pittsburgh and Miami. She is currently the Board President for Artists in Residence in Everglades and is the Executive Director of a private family foundation.

Karen Ritz, Denver, CO Southwest Regional Director



Karen Ritz is the President of Central City Opera Guild and was active in Denver Chamber Orchestra. Karen devoted her career to elementary music education and is an experienced public speaker particularly on the value of arts in society. She holds a Bachelors in Music, a Masters in Nonprofit Management, and served as church organist for twenty-two years.