

THE OPERA VOLUNTEER VOICE

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The official newsletter of
*Opera Volunteers
International*

Next issue:
October

Opera Volunteers International Newsletter

What I did at the Opera Conference

by Rick Greenman

San Francisco is like an ice cream sundae and the Opera Conference was the cherry on top. I arrived two days early to an unprecedented 100 degree heat wave and walked my way across Chinatown, rode the hop-on-hop-off bus everywhere, and visited Muir woods. On the substantially cooler Thursday evening OVI members were piloted across the Golden Gate Bridge by **Jim Malott** to a grantor's dinner and concert at the beautiful home of **Bill and Mary Poland** in Marin County. Friday was all business with our OVI board meeting, general **OPERA America** sessions, and an invaluable workshop led by professional photographer, **Tanya Malott**. That night we were treated by **San Francisco Opera** to a host reception followed by a performance of *Carmen*. Saturday we attended group sessions and hosted a presentation by **Caroline Alter** of the **San Francisco Opera Guild** outlining their education initiatives. Handel's opera *Orlando* was that night. Sunday brunch was a classy affair in the wood paneled St. Francis Suite East Room of the historic Westin St. Francis hotel on Union Square. Following the matinee of *Rusalka* I made a hasty retreat to the airport for the flight home.



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Podcasts from the June 2019 Opera Conference in San Francisco are Available on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=opera+conference+2019

From the President: *Susan Malott*



One of the greatest pleasures of OVI membership is the opportunity for fellowship with colleagues at conference. At our recent Opera America/OVI conference in San Francisco we enjoyed seeing friends, meeting new people, sharing knowledge, and enjoying great opera. I loved welcoming everyone to my City

by the Bay. We had stimulating learning sessions and an opportunity to hear about great work our members are doing in their communities. I want to express my appreciation to **Julie Todaro** for managing our conference details, to Rhonda Sweeney for her steadfast support and for being my “cover” at the opening session, to **Sarah Duval** and **Barb Eckel** for helping at our OVI table, and to all who participated for making it such a wonderful experience. If you weren’t able to attend, it’s not too early to begin planning for **Opera Conference 2020 in Seattle, on May 13-17**. It promises to be a particularly exciting conference because it will celebrate Opera America’s 50th anniversary. I hope you will make every effort to join us.

Learning from and supporting each other is what OVI is all about and conference and focus meetings are just one way we accomplish that. What are your volunteers doing in your communities to support opera that you’d like to share with others? Tell us something your group is doing that excites you and makes you proud and let us highlight your accomplishments in a future newsletter.

We are coming up on the end of our fiscal year, September 30, and renewal letters will be in the mail before you know it. Be sure to look for your letter and return it right away so we can include you in our Directory that will be finalized in December. You are important to us!

Thank you to each of you for all you do to sustain this wonderful art form we all love. Please let me hear from you if there is something more that OVI can do to support your efforts.

Susan Malott

OVI Reminders

October 1

Begins our OVI membership year

Renew by mail or online at our OVI website. Watch for your renewal form and make certain that your Opera Guild renews their membership in time to be listed in our OVI Membership Book.

February 1, 2020

Deadline for our three OVI Awards Programs:

Free Money?

OVI Matching Grants

One of the most valuable benefits of OVI membership is access to our matching grants program available to assist volunteer based projects of member groups in good standing. Visit our webpage for application and details:

<https://www.operavolunteers.org/guidelines-for-ovi-grant-applications/>

Partners in Excellence Award

A perfect way to honor and recognize the dedication and leadership efforts of your most valued volunteers. Can also celebrate significant achievements and anniversaries of member groups. Certificate and pin can be sent or presented at our OVI Awards Event at the spring opera conference. Nominating guidelines and application:

<https://www.operavolunteers.org/partners-in-excellence/>

Projects of Special Merit Award

Share your outstanding projects, events, or activities and receive recognition for your creative excellence.

<https://www.operavolunteers.org/projects-special-merit/>

October 25 - November 3

National Opera Week

Find us on the internet at www.OperaVolunteers.org

Summer in Seattle

By Ann Milam

Magnolia/Queen Anne's fundraiser, "Summer in Seattle," was held on Saturday, July 13, a beautiful, sunny day. Guests enjoyed *al fresco* dining in the garden court yard at Queen Anne Retirement Community, followed by a delightful musical program presented by Shelly Traverse (soprano), Erich Parce (baritone) and Lisa Bergman (pianist). The highly successful event was organized by Florence Thompson, Nick Elder, Ellen Beardsley, Frank Gregory and Patricia Hitchens. Congratulations to all for this most enjoyable party!



*Guests enjoy dining al fresco.
Photo credit: Marnie Walker*

*L to R: Shelly Traverse, Erich Parce and Lisa Bergman.
Photo credit: Marnie Walker*

Opera Conference 2019 in San Francisco



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Important Tips for effective photos



Consider the setting, background, and light. Tables look better before the dinner.



Action speaks louder



Ask them to remove their name tags.



Talk to your subjects to help them feel comfortable



Thoughtful expressions communicate



You don't have to include the legs.



A good natural light source is very important



Focus!



Find the subjects warmth and character

Grantor's Reception



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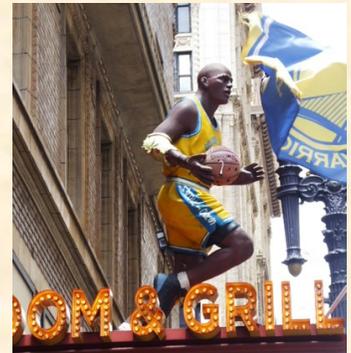


Awards Brunch



Find us on the internet at www.OperaVolunteers.org

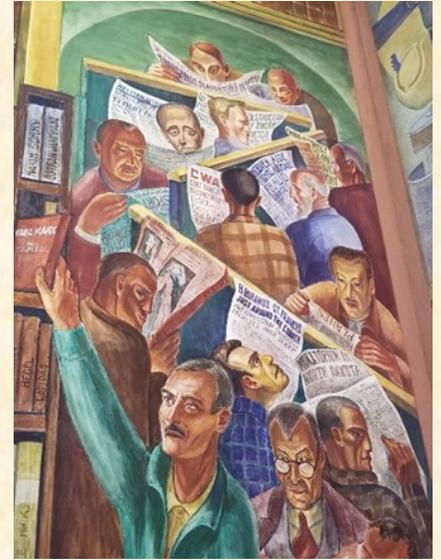
Around Town



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SAVE THE DATES

**50TH Annual
Opera Conference
Seattle, WA
May 13 - 17, 2020**

**Mark your Calendars
for the 2020 Opera Conference in Seattle Washington
May 13 - 17, 2020**

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Send your guild news and photos to
 Newsletter Editor and Publisher:
Rick Greenman
 newsletter@operavolunteers.org

OVI celebrates the hard work of volunteers and offers ways to help make more volunteer involvement possible by recognizing achievement and creativity, supporting volunteer projects, and advocating for continuing involvement of volunteers in opera. Volunteering enriches the lives of volunteers, builds bridges to the community and makes it possible for opera companies to do more.

OPERA VOLUNTEERS

INTERNATIONAL



FUN



ACTIVE



PROFESSIONAL

NEW LOOK SAME MISSION

SUPPORTING, RECOGNIZING & ADVOCATING FOR OPERA VOLUNTEERISM

JOIN US! OPERAVOLUNTEERS.ORG