

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Guild holds its annual membership meeting on Sunday, September 23, beginning at 3:00 pm at Malton Place, the Glimmerglass Festival residence on Route 80, a short distance north of the Festival grounds. (The Guild Board will meet at 2:00 pm.)

At the meeting we shall have the opportunity to review events and Guild activities of the past year and elect new members to the Guild Board. In addition, Abby Kreh Gibson will lead a conversation with two or three of the unseen, unsung heroes of the Festival, full-time staff members whose faces we rarely see, but who are so crucial to the success of the Festival. This meeting is a good opportunity for new and prospective members to become familiar with the Guild. Please bring interested friends with you.

VOLUNTEER RECEPTION

The Glimmerglass Festival hosted its volunteers at a reception on Friday afternoon, August 24, in the Pavilion. Attractively displayed on each table were framed candid photos of Guild members and volunteers. Although Francesca Zambello could not be present, she left her greetings and thanks to the volunteers in a video. Following her comments on the film, members of the Festival staff also expressed their thanks. Included in the group was Julian Otis, our Guild-sponsored intern.

House Manager Ernie Adams presented the Usher of the Year award to Walt Ashley.

Brittany Lesavoy, Director of Public Relations, presented the Volunteer of the Year award to Ed and Mary Brodzinsky, citing their constant and stalwart service throughout the year.

HEIGH HO, COME TO THE FAIR!

On a pleasant day in August, four intrepid members of the Guild's Education Committee, along with the unofficial Guild photographer, went to the Otsego County Fair to represent the Festival and the Guild at the "Kiddy Tent."

Ann Aviles had prepared an exhibit of an "Opera Soup." Each person stopping by the exhibit was asked to write on a sticky note something opera-related and post it on the soup pot. Arias to saxophones were added to the "soup" and each contributor was rewarded with a star.

Ann Aviles, Ed Brodzinsky, Bob Van Wormer, and I enjoyed our morning at the fair and were pleased with the positive response of the public. Abby Gibson, although unable to attend, contributed to the planning of the first Festival event at the Otsego County Fair.

MARY BRODZINSKY



Photo by Tom Simpson

Bob, Ann, Ed, and Mary

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to the Guild:

Giles and Jane-Anne Russell
 Florence and Lauri Selin
 Sandra Starr

GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL 2013, JULY 6 – AUGUST 24

RICHARD WAGNER
The Flying Dutchman

ALAN JAY LERNER and FREDERICK LOEWE
Camelot

GIUSEPPE VERDI
King for a Day

PASSIONS

DAVID LANG
The Little Match Girl Passion

GIOVANNI BATTISTA PERGOLESI
Stabat Mater

GLIMMERGLASS OPERA GUILD

P.O. Box 191, Cooperstown, NY 13326

www.glimmerglass.org

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News & Notes is the bimonthly newsletter of the Glimmerglass Opera Guild.

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**E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

To receive e-mail notices of current happenings in the Guild, please send your e-mail address to Mary Margaret Kuhn at: glimmerglassoperaguild@gmail.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Guild Members:

This summer, Glimmerglass audiences experienced an extraordinary journey. From the embattled, war-torn middle-east to the relative tranquility of small-town mid-America; from a shanty town in apartheid-era Johannesburg to the splendors of 17th century Versailles, we have been on a remarkable artistic adventure, one made possible, in large part, by you, the Glimmerglass Opera Guild members.

Beginning with our Talking Opera series in the spring to the final changeover supper on the last day of the season, members of the Guild have been actively involved in a wide range of Festival activities.

There are a great many of you to thank for your hours of service and your extraordinary dedication to the Guild's programs—too many to mention in this message, and my words would be an inadequate expression of the depth of gratitude owed to you.

So, I turn to another source. The spirit of our Guild and the importance of its service to the company were the subjects of a letter from Tazewell Thompson, director of *Lost in the Stars*. The letter, printed on page 3 of this newsletter, was sent to me, but the thoughts expressed are clearly intended for all of you who have given so unselfishly of your valuable time and who have been so generous in support of all the Guild has to offer. I hope you read his words and take great pride in all you have accomplished.

With warmest regards,
 TOM

BY THE NUMBERS —

Here is a brief look at some Guild and volunteer activities during the 2012 Festival:

- Ushering at 42 performances, 2 dress rehearsals, and 4 special concerts on the main stage and 17 events in the Pavilion.
- Hosting and serving welcoming reception (“eat and greet”) plus 4 opening performance receptions, total attendance 1,500.
- Preparing and serving 5 Saturday “changeover” suppers, total attendance 750.
- Distributing 1,350 picnic meals to opera patrons.
- Achieving \$13,405 from the silent auction at the Guild Gala on August 7.

Attend the annual membership meeting, September 23, for more details.

A LETTER FROM TAZEWELL THOMPSON

Although addressed to Tom Simpson, this letter is meant for members of the Guild, and Mr. Thompson, director, *Lost in the Stars*, has permitted us to share it.

Dear Mr. Tom Simpson~

The playwright Molière and his theatre had the King; Shakespeare, the Queen; the medieval theatre had the backing of the Church; the Greek city-state institutionalized the play festivals; even the Lascaux caves reveal that storytellers painted and enacted their hunts for the glory of an organized prize.

From the beginning, all throughout history, human beings have had a strong need to record and tell their stories through art, dance, theatre, music, and song. Powerful entities have given their support. Sometimes at a price, not worth the price.

At every turn, however, through the ages, there have been guilds, made up of ordinary, everyday citizens. The people. The volunteers. Those who took the vagabond artists into their homes, fed

them, repaired their costumes, babysat their children, and provided places for them that reminded them of home. Usually, a home cooked meal did the trick to sustain them and give them the familial, personal touch.

Like the extraordinary Glimmerglass Guild!

You are all following in the light of a very ancient and loving custom. All you wonderful women and men giving of your time and personal resources to bring us—every one—to the table to break bread and allowing us a deep, good feeling of caring and “home-cooked” goodness.

I know I speak for all the new and returning guest artists, interns, YAPS, and crews—when I tip my hat to you, raise a glass in your honor, and salute you all for your unending thoughtfulness, hard work, and generosity.

Many thanks!
TAZEWELL THOMPSON

LIMERICK CONTEST

The winning limericks from this year’s contest are:

1st Prize to Rise Press:

Aida was lost in the stars,
Harold Hill warned the folks about bars,
Armide lost her chance
With a cool knight from France,
And it’s happening here, not on Mars.

Runner-Up was Mary Brodzinsky:

Eric Owens plays the part of a preacher,
And for the YAPs he’ll be guide and teacher,
He has a great voice,
So he’s a fine choice,
To be Glimmerglass Festival’s feature.

Eric Owens was presented a framed print of Mary’s limerick at the opening performance party of *Lost in the Stars*.

SUPER COWBOY

Robert Bauman, long time Guild member, passed away in Arizona in mid- August. Bob will be remembered as one who contributed many hours preparing food, serving, weeding, and much more, always willing and in good spirit.

He is especially remembered as a super cowboy in the 1997 *Of Mice and Men*. Director Rhoda Levine was looking for a bedraggled old dog who was to be shot (off stage). Right in the opera courtyard she discovered Bob weeding the flowers with old dog Heidi by his side. Bob and Heidi were immediately given their super roles and spent the rest of the season looking forward to each performance.

He is survived by his wife, Susan Bauman, and daughter Alicia, who reside at 408 East Wahalla Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85050.

MARY DUNKLE

LYN EDINGER

Corinne Plummer’s husband, Lyn Edinger, passed away on July 21. Along with Corinne, Lyn was a most active participant in Guild activities, and we all shall miss the big guy.

Glimmerglass

OPERA GUILD 

News & Notes
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ON TO OMAN!

We Guild members are proud that Glimmerglass artists and productions are recognized throughout our nation and, indeed, with the 2012 Festival all the way to opera lovers in Oman. (Where? As succinctly described by Wikipedia, Oman is an Arab state in southwest Asia on the southeast coast of the Arabian Peninsula.)

Early in October the company will present its 2012 Festival production of Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* at the Royal Opera House in Muscat, Oman. Can you imagine what is involved? Company Manager Richard Blanton shared some of the detailed planning.

One hundred and five Glimmerglass artists, musicians, and production staff will fly to the Persian Gulf in October. The musical expedition to Oman will go in three waves: a first flight of performers to start rehearsals; a second flight of production staff to set up the opera house stage; and a third of musicians for final rehearsals. And don't forget the set. Packed in large containers, "River City, Iowa," will travel by sea for about a month. To allow a sufficiently early departure, a duplicate set for the production was built at Glimmerglass and in Boston and shipped to Oman.

The schedule calls for four performances of *The Music Man* early in October. Consequently, the children in the cast will be missing almost two weeks at their usual schools. Fortunately, Tracy Allen, the children's chorus coordinator, is not only a member of the musical's cast but a New York State school teacher as well. She will attend to their educational needs. Imagine those class reports on their return! A novel feature for the Omani production will be projected titles in Arabic, and Glimmerglass dramaturg Kelley Rourke is supervising that operation.

The entire company is involved in this endeavor. In view of contractual obligations for performers, some must forgo the trip. But this also means an opportunity

for that special strength of The Glimmerglass Festival – the cover artists. Because Dwayne Croft is not able to make the engagement, John David Boehr, his able cover from the Young Artists Program, will play that lovable scoundrel, Professor Harold Hill.

Opera goes in Oman will encounter bits of Americana such as the "Iowa Stubborn" attitude, the wonders of "Gary, Indiana," and that special quality called "Shipooopi." Such elements may be as foreign to them as the scenes of *Armide* were to some of us.

OPERA IN HD IN ONEONTA

The Foothills Performing Arts and Civic Center, Oneonta, will show twelve productions from the 2012-13 season of the Metropolitan Opera on Saturday afternoons. Live in High Definition by world-wide simulcast, performances will begin October 13 and conclude on April 27, 2013.

With support of the Tianderrah Foundation of Unadilla, Foothills was awarded a grant for the equipment to meet the Metropolitan Opera's specifications. The performances begin on October 13 with the Met's new production of *L'Elisir d'Amore* and end on April 27, 2013, with a new production of Handel's *Giulio Cesare*, featuring David Daniels. The performances also include Francesca Zambello's production of Berlioz's *Les Troyens* on January 5, 2013. For details go to www.metoperafamily.org/metopera/liveinhd/liveinhd1213.aspx. To order tickets, contact the Foothills Performing Arts Center, 24 Market St., Oneonta, NY 13820. Phone: 607-431-2080, e-mail: info@foothillspac.org.

We also have the opportunity to see in HD productions from other opera houses, through Opera in Cinema. (Check their Web site, www.operaincinema.com.) One opera included this year is Francesca's spectacular production of *La Traviata* on Sydney Harbour. This opera will be shown at Proctor's in Schenectady on October 2 at 2:00 and 7:00 pm.