

GUILD ORGANIZATION

At the membership meeting on September 25, Guild members received reports on the Guild’s activities during that past year and voted in a new Board for 2016-18. See the list on page 2. We bade farewell with thanks to one member, Susan Huxtable, and welcomed a new member, Joanne Tobey.

The meeting concluded with an informative and inspiring talk by Tracy Allen, director of the Glimmerglass Youth Chorus. Tracy is an alumna of the very first Young American Artists Program back in 1988, and over the years has also been a member of the Glimmerglass chorus. She emphasized the rural background of the youth chorus members from a number of upstate New York counties and pointed out the longstanding benefits the youth receive in being exposed to many individuals and artists from all parts of the world. She shared with Guild members the first announcement of the new youth opera planned for 2017, *Robin Hood*, with score by Ben Moore and libretto by Kelley Rourke, the same artists who created the 2015 *Odyssey*.

At its organizational meeting on October 26, the Guild Board elected its officers for 2016-17: the same group who led us this past year: Janet Potter as president; Abby Kreh Gibson, vice president; Karin de Waal, secretary; and Thomas Simpson, treasurer.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Mark your calendars: Wednesday, December 7, beginning at 2:00 pm. A time for holiday cheer to greet and exchange greetings with Festival staffers. Let Chris McNaughton (607-547-2380) know what goodies you will bring and watch your email for more details.



Joan Desens, Festival Director of Institutional Advancement, Guild President Janet Potter, and Guild Treasurer Tom Simpson at September 25 membership meeting. Smile on Joan’s face: she just received the Guild’s \$28,000 check. (Photo by Susan Huxtable.)

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL 2016

The Guild began its fiscal year on October 1, 2015, with a cash balance of \$8,369. During the year, receipts from dues and voluntary contributions, membership activities (such as the New York City bus trip and the Country Club evening), picnic distribution, donations to the First Night Fund, and the record-setting Guild Gala and Silent Auction totaled \$58,046.

Total expenses for the year, prior to making our annual contribution to the Company, were \$25,291. The cost of first performance parties and other receptions, which the Guild hosts for the company, accounted for approximately 36% of our total expenditures. Our

(continued on page 3)



2017 GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL: JULY 7 – AUGUST 22, 2017

PORGY AND BESS

Gershwin/Heyward & Gershwin

OKLAHOMA!

Rodgers/Hammerstein II

XERXES

Handel/Minato & Stampiglia

THE SIEGE OF CALAIS

Donizetti/Cammarano

The Guild of Glimmerglass Festival
 P.O. Box 191, Cooperstown, NY 13326
 www.glimmerglassguild.org

Officers and Board

President.....Janet Potter
 Vice PresidentAbby Kreh Gibson
 Secretary Karin de Waal
 Treasurer Thomas Simpson

Committee Chairs

CommunicationsFrederic Johnson
 EducationAbby Kreh Gibson
 Fund-Raising..... Christine Weiss
 Grounds (ad hoc).....Jean Lyon
 Hospitality..... Christine McNaughton
 Membership Christine Bulson
 Nominating Karin de Waal
 Volunteer ServicesMartha Duke
 Website Committee (ad hoc)..... Mary Brodzinsky

Board Members (at large)

Ernest Adams, Jr.	William Goertemoeller
Walter Ashley	Richard Johnson
Dennis Banks	Mary Margaret Kuhn
Frances Bliven	Richard Redmond
Rita Emanuel	David Shove
Donald Fenner	Carol Steigelman
Cynthia Goertemoeller	Joanne Tobey

OVI Liaison

Mary Margaret Kuhn

Guild Liaison to the Board of Trustees

Thomas Simpson

Company Representative

Brittany Lesavoy

News & Notes is the bimonthly newsletter of
 The Guild of Glimmerglass Festival.

Editors: Richard and Harriett Johnson
 2 Walling Boulevard, Oneonta, NY 13820
 Phone: 607-432-0131

Member of



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Guild Members,

Our annual membership meeting held in September was an opportunity to review each committee chair's report of the year's activities. In addition to the well-deserved pride expressed in the accomplishments reported, I was struck by how much camaraderie, friendship, and commitment to The Glimmerglass Festival was evidenced in these reviews. Our volunteers have obviously found much personal enjoyment and comradeship along with the satisfaction of serving our beloved Festival. Let me express my personal thanks to the committee chairs and all the volunteers who worked so hard over the past year. Another highlight of the meeting was the presentation to the company of \$28,000 voted by the Board to add to our prior contribution of \$2,400 to maintain the piano we donated last year.

This was Susan Huxtable's last meeting as a member of the Board, and we were sad to see her step down. As long-time chair of the Fund-Raising Committee, Susan brought so much energy and creativity to her leadership, substantially increasing our ability to support Glimmerglass financially. Although we will miss her on the Board, we are very lucky and grateful that she has promised to stay active continuing to do Guild work.

We welcomed newly elected Joanne Tobey to the Board, and we were glad to re-elect returning Board members Ernie Adams, Karin de Waal, Martha Duke, Rita Emanuel, Bill and Cynthia Goertemoeller, Fred Johnson, Jean Lyon, Chris McNaughton, Janet Potter, Tom Simpson, and Chris Weiss.

Following the general meeting, Tracy Allen, Glimmerglass Youth Chorus Master, provided an enjoyable and informative program about her experiences with children in Festival productions.

Kudos to all involved in our successful fund-raising "Evening of Music" on October 15. Special thanks to Dr. Bruce Harris, whose suggestion inspired the evening and for his stellar performance. Thanks, too, to Chris Weiss for her work organizing the event, and to the sponsors who supported it. The champagne reception following the concert was buzzing with excitement about what excellent music we had just experienced.

In the year ahead the Guild will continue to support the Festival through our many traditional activities. If you'd like to get more involved, contact me or one of the committee chairs listed on this page. Best wishes for the holiday season!

JANET

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to the Guild:

Carrie Carney and Maureen Kuhn
 Kim Jastremski and George Hovis
 Judith A. Jerome
 Kristen Oehlrich and Timothy Korytko

A SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE

One of the many highlights of the 2016 Glimmerglass Festival occurred near season's end on August 25 when the company presented a special version of its hour-long musical revue, *Perfect Pitch*. This production featured eight Young Artists, accompanied by piano, performing songs about baseball.

During the earlier weeks of the Festival, most performances occurred at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The August 25 performance, however, took place in the Pavilion on the Festival campus. What made this a special event was that the performance was sensory-friendly.

Francesca Zambello gave a concise explanation recently in her "Traveling iPad" series: "Sensory-friendly performances are designed to create a performing arts experience welcoming to people with autism or other sensory sensitive disabilities. At such a performance we keep the house lights up, people may speak or make noise, patrons are free to talk and leave their seats, and we limit the number of people in the audience."

To make this performance a reality, the Festival received a grant from the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties. The grant was used to bring in a specialist from the Kelberman Center in Utica to educate and prepare the front-of-house staff, artistic staff, and performers for the occasion.

*"the most important part ...
is creating a welcoming
and judgment-free atmosphere"*

The idea behind a sensory-friendly performance is to keep the integrity of the show while making minor adjustments to keep startling moments at a minimum.

For example, in *Perfect Pitch* there was a moment staged with the cast singing among audience members. For the performance on August 25, the cast moved to the outside of the audience instead of the middle.

The house lights were kept on, but the lighting on stage did not change. When the singers pointed during one of the musical numbers, they pointed to structural items instead of directly at people.

Additionally, the cast took a moment to introduce themselves at the beginning of the show. They were also available for a quick meet and greet following the performance.

But perhaps the most important part about offering a sensory-friendly performance is creating a welcoming and judgment-free atmosphere, where families can feel free to enjoy a performance without worry.

The company plans to host another sensory-friendly performance in 2017. It will be a newly conceived version of the baseball-inspired show, *Perfect Pitch*.

BRITTANY LESAVOY and RICHARD JOHNSON

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL 2016 (continued from page 1)

investment in the year's fund-raising activities (41% of total expenses) resulted in a return of almost 270%.

General operating obligations, including production of Guild promotional materials, membership mailings, website maintenance, association dues, and costs related to the preparation and distribution of our popular bi-monthly newsletter, accounted for the balance of our cash outlay. Reported expenses do not include unreimbursed and in-kind contributions made by Guild members for the Eat & Greet and changeover dinners.

At its September meeting the Guild Board voted to contribute \$28,000 to the company. The gift, presented to Joan Desens, the Festival's Director of Institutional Advancement, exceeded last year's annual gift by 12%.

Earlier in the year, the Guild donated \$2,400 to the company for the purpose of underwriting the cost of ongoing maintenance of the piano which it gave to honor the company's 40th year celebration last season. This \$2,400 contribution represented total donations received during last year's targeted fund-raising campaign less the actual cost of the piano.

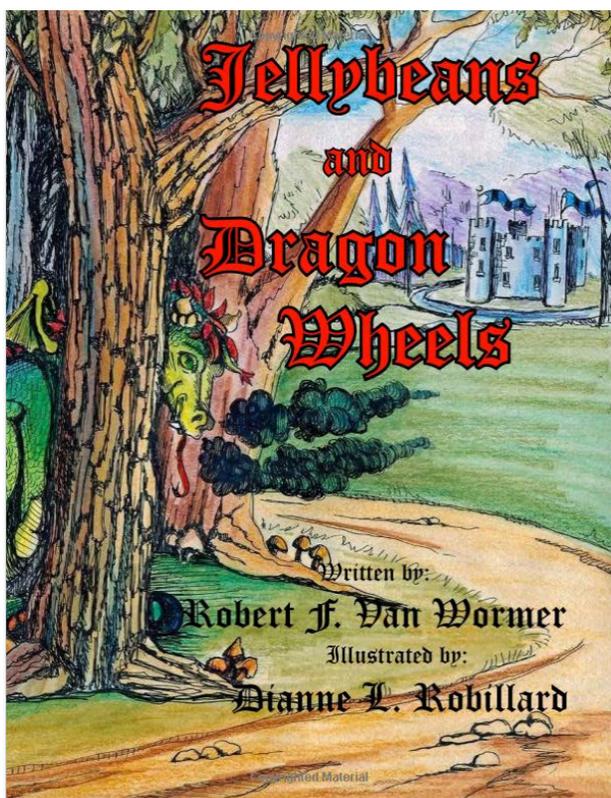
In total, the Guild made cash gifts to the company of \$30,400 in 2016. We ended the year with a balance of \$13,123.

Our thanks to every Guild member for making 2016 a very successful year.

THOMAS SIMPSON, Treasurer

JELLYBEANS AND DRAGON WHEELS

Congratulations to Guild member Robert Van Wormer on the recent publication of *Jellybeans and Dragon Wheels* (Pigtail Alley Books). This story for children, told in verse, recounts the dilemma in the kingdom of Brindel's Nook of a dragon who has wheels instead of feet. Hoping to gain feet, he devours the residents with the thought he'd get theirs. A young knight, Archibald J. Macfeezeiwicker, presents himself as one to fight the dragon; and with the proper magical combination of jellybeans, Archie restores feet to the dragon. In the process Archie also gains the hand of Princess Lisa Lu in marriage. The book is accompanied by lively color illustrations, by Dianne Robillard, on each page.



OPERA THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Opera goers in upstate New York have access to many opera attractions throughout the year. Here are several:

Metropolitan Opera in HD (at Foothills Performing Arts & Civic Center, Oneonta, 607-431-2080). Please contact the Center for performance times and any changes in the schedule.

L'Amour de Loin, December 10, 2016

Nabucco, January 7, 2017

Roméo et Juliette, January 21, 2017

Rusalka, February 25, 2017

La Traviata, March 11, 2017

THE GUILD OF Glimmerglass FESTIVAL

News & Notes

P. O. Box 191
Cooperstown, NY 13326

www.glimmerglassguild.org
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 422
Oneonta, NY

Idomeneo, March 25, 2017

Eugene Onegin, April 22, 2017

Der Rosenkavalier, May 13, 2017

Tri-Cities Opera, Binghamton (607-729-3444)

Hansel & Gretel, November 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 2016

L'heure espagnole (Ravel) & *Brettli-Lieder* (Schönberg)
February 17, 19, 24, 26, 2017

Hydrogen Jukebox (Glass/Ginsberg), April 21, 23, 28,
29, 2017

Syracuse Opera (315-475-5915; for tickets call 315-
476-7372)

Rigoletto, February 10, 12, 2017

Eugene Onegin, April 7, 9, 2017

A HIP-HOPERA

We'll welcome in 2017 something new to Glimmerglass, a hip-hopera, *Stomping Grounds*, the world premiere of a new work by Paige Hernandez and Victor Simonson on August 1, 3, and 7.

Composer Simonson states: "*Stomping Grounds* seeks to bridge the gap between hip-hop and opera by creating a new art form that will speak profoundly to both the opera and hop-hop communities."