



DID YOU MISS TALKING OPERA LAST SPRING?

I am pleased to recommend to you an online interview with one of Talking Opera's favorite speakers. Music Director Joseph Colaneri recently talked with Cleveland Opera's Music Director Domenico Boyagian as part of a series called *Maestro's Corner*. Their conversation included a review of Maestro Colaneri's career and the adjustments he made this summer to offer meaningful instruction to the Glimmerglass Festival's Young Artists. In addition, Maestro offers wisdom for day-to-day living as he articulates the difference between hope and optimism.

The interview is posted on YouTube and can be found [here](#)

KATHLEEN EISELE

FROM YOUR EDITOR

As we approach the end of the Guild's fiscal year (September 30), we look forward to the annual meeting and to the opportunity to elect new members to the board of directors. Part of this newsletter is dedicated to providing you with details about three individuals who serve on the board. I hope you enjoy learning about this wonderful group of people.

Thinking about people who have made a difference to our Guild brings me to sharing the sad news of the death of Harriett Johnson on September 9. Harriett and her husband Richard are known to you all as the long-serving (25 years!) editors of this newsletter. When I first agreed to follow in their footsteps,

Harriett Johnson continued on page 2

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Guild will hold its Annual Membership Meeting via Zoom on Sunday, September 20 at 2:00 pm EDT. After a short business meeting, we will hear from two terrific guest presenters.

The primary business of the meeting will be to elect the next group of members of the board of directors. Guild members who have agreed to serve new two-year terms are

Martha Duke	William Goertemoeller
Kathleen Eisele	Kate Johnson
Rita Emanuel	Jeanne Kohler
Abby Kreh Gibson	Joanne Tobey
Cynthia Goertemoeller	Christine Weiss

Following the business discussion, we are delighted to welcome as our speaker Joseph Colaneri, Glimmerglass Festival's Music Director. In addition, we will hear from Youth Chorus alumna Milleta Oldick Andela who sang the title role in *Little Matchgirl's Passion* (2013) and was in the chorus of *An American Tragedy* (2014). Milleta just graduated from the Operatic Studies program at SUNY Purchase.

Further details, including committee reports and details of the link to the Zoom meeting, will be sent by email to all members. You can join the meeting with video and audio from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, and you can join by audio from any telephone.

We truly hope you'll join us on the 20th!

MARY MARGARET KUHN

FUNDRAISING

The Guild had two major fundraising campaigns this year, the annual appeal associated with membership renewals and the Un-gala Challenge.

Renewing Guild members generously donated \$5,265 to the Tribute Fund in celebration of Francesca Zambello's tenth anniversary with the Festival, \$3,290 for general operating expenses, \$1,520 in other gifts to the Tribute Fund, and \$715 in support of the Doris Shields internship.

The Un-gala Challenge began with an anonymous donation of \$5,000 that was made available to match donations from other Guild supporters. That gift was matched and exceeded, resulting in a total of \$10,330.

As of late August, total funds raised for the year were \$21,120. We are grateful for each and every gift that brought us to this successful conclusion.

CHRISTINE WEISS

The Guild of Glimmerglass Festival
P.O. Box 491, Cooperstown, NY 13326
www.glimmerglassguild.org

Officers

President.....Mary Margaret Kuhn
Vice President.....Laura Tansey Wetzel
Secretary.....Mary Brodzinsky
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Education/Community Engagement Kathy Eisele
Fundraising.....Christine Weiss
Grounds (ad hoc).....Janet Vinyard
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Rita Emanuel

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I am thrilled that through your gifts the Guild exceeded the \$5,000 Un-gala Challenge funded by a most generous anonymous donor. The Un-gala Challenge was designed to buoy the Guild’s fundraising when it became impossible for us to gather safely for our Annual Gala and Silent Auction at the Otesaga Resort in August, and your generosity made it a great success.

I am also grateful to those who made celebratory gifts to the Tribute Fund in honor of Francesca Zambello’s tenth anniversary with Glimmerglass Festival; your contributions amounted to an astonishing \$5,265!

And many thanks to all those who called me or responded to the Guild’s Facebook post to purchase facemasks handmade with care by board member Janet Vinyard. We have now sold out and contributed \$635 to the Guild’s general fund. It was great fun hearing from so many of you from all over the country and your support of the Guild and the Festival is deeply appreciated.

Your largess allows the Guild to contribute \$25,000 to the Festival for the fiscal year ending on September 30.

As we end this fiscal year, I am humbled by the years of service that Ernie Adams and Janet Potter have given to the Guild and will miss them both on the Board. For the Festival’s 40th anniversary celebration, Ernie put an enormous amount of effort into organizing the Guild’s membership list by the date everyone began their membership, an effort that continues to benefit the Guild today. Janet has served on the Education/Community Engagement Committee and the Website Committee, as well as Vice President and President, and has contributed greatly to the Guild’s mission. Please join me in thanking Ernie and Janet for all they have done for the Guild and the Festival.

Enjoy the fall weather,

MARY MARGARET KUHN

Harriett Johnson continued from page 1

Richard made sure I knew that Harriett was the agent of all things digital in their editing partnership. I learned later that Harriett had been a pioneer in the use of digital layout techniques for many newsletters like ours.

And, of course, there was much more to Harriett than I ever got to know. Her contributions to the Guild are too numerous to list, and we are just one of many organizations she supported wholeheartedly. Our sincere condolences to Richard and the Johnson family.

KATE JOHNSON

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PART 2

Months ago (January 2020) we started an occasional feature introducing current Guild board members by profiling our president, Mary Margaret Kuhn. In this issue we have three board officer profiles to share.

Name and board job: **Laura Wetzel, Vice President**

Year you joined the board: 2019

Where do you live? Richfield Springs

Board mentor(s): Mary Margaret Kuhn, Kathy Eisele

Favorite opera of the 2019 season: *La Traviata*

Most anticipated production of 2020: *Don Giovanni*

Why do you serve on the board? I love Glimmerglass and am happy to help drive the success of the Festival and its impact on and contribution to the community.

Birthplace: Chicago, Illinois

Other places you've lived: Wilmington, Delaware

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Nursing; Healthcare Leadership

Life's work: Practicing the social science of nursing. Best work: being a mother to two adult daughters who live on the West Coast.

Hobbies and other volunteer activities: Enjoy art, music and the love of my whippet (Monty); docent at Fenimore Art Museum; participant in the docent program at Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute, Utica; volunteer at the Cooperstown Food Pantry

Anything else you'd like to share? I'm new to this part of the country and love the area and the community.

Name and board job: **Mary Brodzinsky, Secretary**

Year you joined the board: 2008??

Board mentor(s): previous board secretary, Karin de Waal, who served as secretary for many years. Also, Richard Johnson, Abby Kreh Gibson, Tom Simpson, Don and Mary Ellen Fenner

Favorite operas of the 2019 season: *Blue* and *Ghosts of Versailles*

Why do you serve on the board? I serve on the board to support the Festival: it's the very least I can do.

Birthplace: Native of the Midwest

Other places you've lived: Greater Boston area; New York City; Hudson Valley; Buffalo; England; and Gloucester, Massachusetts (in more or less chronological order)

Education: AB, MAT

Anything else you'd like to share? I grew up in an area with many people of Welsh ancestry, so music, piano, and choral singing were part of my life from early childhood through high school. I continued my participation in choral music as a member of the college choir, and I even took piano lessons during a year studying in Poitiers, France!

Name and board job: **Joanne Tobey, Treasurer**

Where do you live? Westford

Board mentor: Abby Kreh Gibson

Favorite opera of the 2019 season: *Ghosts of Versailles*

Most anticipated production of 2020: *Don Giovanni*. This was the first opera I attended at Glimmerglass, many years ago, and I was looking forward to seeing it again here.

Why do you serve on the board? The opera is one of the best things about living in Otsego County. I like to help in whatever way I can, and volunteering is very gratifying to me. I enjoy the company of my fellow Guild members and participating in the Guild events throughout the summer.

Birthplace: New Jersey

Other places you've lived: Milwaukee; Minneapolis; Southampton, UK

Education: BA, Douglass College, Rutgers University; MBA, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota

Life's work: Restoring the hamlet of Westford. Or, rather, helping my spouse, Steve Zerby, restore Westford by offering encouragement, enthusiasm, and occasional financial contributions.

Hobbies and other volunteer activities: Gardening in the summer; shoveling snow in the winter. As for volunteer activities, I am treasurer of the Westford Historical Society. I previously served on the boards of Otsego Land Trust and Otsego 2000.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The following new members have joined since the July newsletter:

Caryn and Jamie Reeves

We're delighted to have you as members of the Guild.

WINIFRED OLSEN

MORE GLIMMERGLASS MEMORIES

REPAYING A GIFT

Since 1987 Glimmerglass has given me many memories. However at the top of the list is introducing my mother to Glimmerglass and her first live opera. My mother grew up in a musical Welsh family and graduated from Potsdam's Crane Music Department. Her opera experiences were via radio. Although now I can't remember which opera we saw, I still see the joy on her face and the sparkle in her eyes which lasted through the performance and well beyond that summer. For me, it was so good to share the Glimmerglass experience and give back to the person who gave me the love of music. Now, as I enjoy my matinee opera series, I sit in a seat that has a plaque dedicated to my mother. How fortunate for me that she gave me a gift that I could repay.

JANE GRASTORF

COMING FULL CIRCLE

My first opera EVER was the Met's *Flying Dutchman* as an impressionable 13 year old. I went on to have a full and varied life without opera, though I knew many overtures: Peace Corps volunteer, three years in Botswana, registered nurse, dairy farmer, mother, gardener. I saw *Dutchman* at Glimmerglass and wanted to see it more than once, so looked into ushering. I didn't contact the right folks soon enough for that season but got involved the following year and have enjoyed participating in various guild activities ever since, occasionally cycling the 70 miles round trip. My involvement with the board stemmed from an email seeking help weeding the hosta bed at the side of the theater. Through that activity I met wonderful, committed Guild and board members doing so much behind the scenes. When asked the second time to consider joining the board in 2019, I felt I could be of service in a small way.

JANET VINYARD

TALKING OPERA ILLUMINATES

In September 2017 I was elected to the Guild board and at my first meeting was asked to co-chair the Education/Community Engagement Committee with Janet Potter. Is it any surprise that my favorite Glimmerglass memories are connected to Talking Opera presentations?

When I'm waiting for a new season to open or missing live performances, I like to recall a very brief moment in the 2010 production of *Tosca*. I am sitting on one of the high usher chairs in the right rear orchestra, and the final act has opened with its orchestral prelude and the shepherd's song. That is followed by the sound of bells

THE GUILD OF Glimmerglass FESTIVAL

News & Notes

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of various timbre coming from different locations in the theater. At his Talking Opera program that June, Music Director David Angus had told the story of his hunt for the *exact* bell sounds he wanted. His vision of that small detail seems to be the way every production I have seen at Glimmerglass is crafted. I love revisiting the sound of those bells in my memory. Lovely musical moments follow: the clarinet solo and Cavaradossi's lament over his lost life.

In May 2017 Festival Dramaturg Kelley Rourke presented a Talking Opera program in which she discussed the creative process of collaborating with composer Ben Moore to write the libretto for the youth opera *Robin Hood*. That summer I was able to introduce one of my grandchildren to live opera! Four-year-old Ingrid sat on my lap in the Cooperstown Theatre, completely attentive and engaged with the performance of *Robin Hood*.

Although I have an instrumental musical background, my own interest in opera was prompted by my daughter's vocal teacher who sent her home from music theory class in 1997 with a VHS tape of *La bohème*. Is it any surprise that my volunteer work for the Guild is connected to introducing young audiences to the art form?

KATHLEEN EISELE