



Friends of the Opera House Newsletter

January 2025



Relaunching Our Newsletter

Please enjoy the first edition of the 2025 Friends of the Opera House Newsletter. This newsletter will be published quarterly by the Board of Directors and distributed to members via email. Suggestions for articles are welcome.

Annual Membership Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Opera House cordially invites you to our annual membership meeting on Sunday, January 26, at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Stage Left and will include light refreshments (pizza) and a cash bar. In addition to the business meeting, there will be ample time to socialize and reconnect with fellow members.

The business portion of the meeting will include the 2024 financial summary, a membership report, plans for 2025, and an election to fill board vacancies. If you are interested in running for a position on the Board of Directors or have questions about the position, please contact Peggy Hart via email at friendswoodstockoperahouse@gmail.com.

This annual meeting is a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships, connect with other supporters of the Opera House, and stay informed about the latest developments with both the Opera House and the Friends organization. The Box Office will be open for those who need to renew their membership, and we welcome anyone who wishes to join for the first time.

Our members are the heart of our organization, and the entire board looks forward to seeing you on January 26. (Please email an RSVP with the number in your group attending this meeting)

Treasure Island Celebrates its 13th Year at the Opera House

Back by popular demand!

Friends of the Woodstock Opera House is once again sponsoring a production of *Treasure Island* for children on the main stage. This interactive play for children ages 5 to 11, is Saturday, January 18, and Sunday, January 19, at 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm. Directed by Kathie Comella, the magic of this play comes from the way the entire audience creates the storm at sea, a jungle full of lions and tigers, and a treasure cave filled with eerie ghosts! Children from the audience become members of Long



John Silver's treacherous pirate gang, while others join Captain Smollet's crew. Volunteers will also help with sound effect machines for the play! This annual production of **Treasure Island** is just one way the Friends of the Opera House support theater experiences for children.

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Treasure Island Continued

This play started in 2011 in the Stage Left Café with six actors as a way for FOTOH to sponsor children's programming. It was well received so it was sponsored again by FOTOH in 2013, and then from 2014-2024---and now 2025. The performances in the Stage Left Café consistently sold out and were limited to 75 people in the audience. Opera House Director Daniel Campbell moved the production to the main stage in 2018.

Because of the support of the Friends of the Opera House, general admission is \$9.00. Call the Woodstock Opera House box office for reservations at 815-338-5300. **Children are encouraged to dress as pirates.**

Cocktails with Willie

Please join the Friends of the Opera House (a 501 (c)(3) organization) and Woodstock Willie for a special Groundhog Day fundraiser on January 31st from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm at Stage Left, 125 W. Van Buren, Woodstock!

This is our third year hosting this event, and we would be delighted to have you join us in supporting the Woodstock Opera House. All proceeds will go towards programming and equipment needs for this beloved venue.

The evening will include complimentary samples of specialty cocktails created just for this event, a complimentary cocktail, light refreshments, a cash bar, and a 50/50 raffle where you can purchase an arm's length of tickets. Plus, don't miss the opportunity to get your photo taken with Woodstock Willie!

Tickets are \$42 per person and are available at the Box Office or by phone at 815-338-5300. We hope to see you there!

Exciting news!

In 2025, the Friends will launch a campaign to establish an endowment fund for the Opera House. Endowments provide permanent financial stability, and in our case, will ensure a strong, stable, and ever-growing financial foundation for the Opera House.

100 Things to do in Illinois Before You Die

The Opera House appears in Melanie Holmes' book, "100 Things to Do in Illinois Before You Die." The book includes a color photograph of the Opera House, and Melanie often mentions this great venue during her author presentations. As a supporter of local historic preservation efforts, Melanie's book is a wonderful way to highlight our Opera House. You can purchase a copy at Read Between the Lines in Woodstock.



Arlene Lynes, Melanie Holmes

Membership in the Friends of the Opera House

Membership in the Friends of the Opera House is the primary way we raise money to support the Opera House. The Membership year begins on January 1 and goes to December 31. There are two levels of membership: Chorus (\$50) and Star (\$100). You can find more information about these levels on our website: friendsofthewoodstockoperahouse.com. (click on membership in the drop-down). If you are a lifetime member you are automatically renewed each year at the Chorus level at no charge. If you should choose to upgrade to the Star level, the cost is \$50. We offer our members opportunities throughout the year to get involved in the work we do. If you have not yet renewed for 2025, you can do that at the Opera House box office or by phone at 815-338-5300.

Donor Plan for the Friends of the Opera House

Donors provide enhanced financial support that expands the ability of the Friends to meet the needs of the Opera House. Information about becoming a donor can be found on our website: friendsofthewoodstockoperahouse.com (click on membership on the drop-down). Some people may choose to be both a member and a donor.