



Friends of the Opera House Newsletter

September 2025



Welcome David Victor

David Victor, the new Opera House Director, brings energy and expertise to staff, volunteers, and the community. Previously, he served as executive director and sometimes artistic director at Metropolis Performing Arts Center in Arlington Heights.

Raised in Wheaton, David holds a bachelor's in music from Roosevelt University and a master's from the New England Conservatory. He has a strong background in arts education and as a musician.

Dave collaborates actively with FOTOH, providing thoughtful feedback for our projects and events. Soon, we will announce our fundraiser for the Groundhog Day Festivities, developed with the support of Dave and his staff.

Dave is also excited to grow programs and events that complement what is already offered at the Opera House and will appeal to families, youth, and seniors. He is quickly becoming the face of the Opera House in Woodstock.



Pridefest

FOTOH supported Pridefest earlier this summer with an entry in the Pridefest parade. If you happened to see a bright yellow Volkswagen with two people in it and two walkers--that was part of the FOTOH board.



Mexican Independence Day

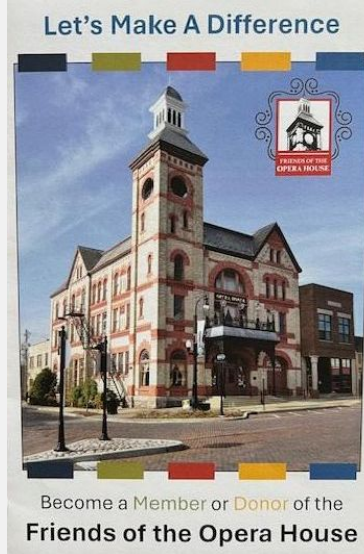
For the first time the Friends of the Opera House sponsored a booth at the Mexican Independence Day festivities. We promoted membership in the Friends and highlighted the upcoming schedule of events at the Opera House. We also welcomed a special worker, Emily Jaimes, a senior at Marian Central. Emily is a fluent Spanish speaker and was on hand to help us welcome guests and answer questions.

It was a picture-perfect day and we all had a great time talking about what we love more than anything---the Opera House!



Concerts in the Park

For the second consecutive year, FOTOH maintained a membership table at each Concert in the Park events held in June and July. This year, an additional feature was introduced: sponsorship of a 50/50 raffle. Through the generosity of concert attendees and contributions during the ice cream social, \$2,000 was raised for the Opera House. All proceeds will be allocated directly to the Opera House.



Membership Campaign

We are pleased to announce the launch of our 2026 membership campaign this month. You will soon receive an email containing all the necessary details for enrollment. FOTOH memberships operate on a calendar-year basis; current memberships will expire on December 31, 2025. Renewal opens on October 1 with memberships extending from January 1 to December 31, 2026. NEW members may also enroll beginning October 1 and will enjoy benefits immediately upon joining through December 31, 2026.

Membership fees constitute our primary source of revenue and are essential to supporting our initiatives at the Opera House. We invite you to support the Friends by enrolling or renewing your membership with Friends of the Opera House. Call the box office to renew your membership NOW!



Living History: Croswell Opera House

Maura Simms, board member

The second in the Living History series is the Croswell Opera House in Adrian, MI, located 30 miles southwest of Ann Arbor. The building was constructed in 1866 and named after Charles Croswell, Michigan's 17th governor and an Adrian native.

Many actors performed on the

Lectures were also given by Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, and John Philip Sousa performed with his band. For about 50 years, movies became the primary attraction, and in the 1960s, the theater's continued operation was uncertain. In 1967, local residents raised funds to purchase and restore the Croswell, allowing it to resume live theater performances.

Currently, the Croswell seats 640 people for full-scale musicals presented from spring through December. In winter, concerts and plays are scheduled. Funding comes from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, and private donations.

Croswell stage, such as Edwin Booth and Maud Adams, who inspired the 1975 novel *Bid Time Return*, later adapted into the film "Somewhere in Time".



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