

NEWS RELEASE

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Release Date: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
15 May 2008

Opera New Jersey Announces Four New Board Members

PRINCETON, NJ – **Opera New Jersey** (OperaNJ) is thrilled to announce that four new members were elected to its Board of Trustees as a recent meeting: Judith K. Brodsky, Michael Curtis, Michael Morandi and Lesley Wishnick. All four members are residents of Princeton, NJ.

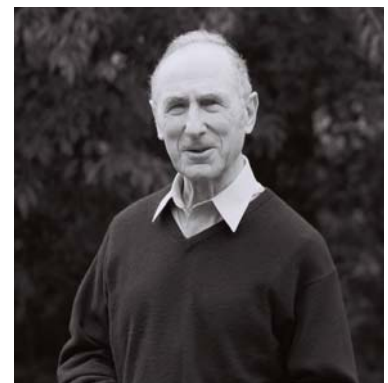
Judith K. Brodsky (Princeton, NJ) is Distinguished Professor Emerita in the Department of Visual Arts at Rutgers University. She is the Founding Director of the Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper, renamed the Brodsky Center for Innovative Editions in her honor in September 2006. She is a past national president of ArtTable, the College Art Association, and the Women's Caucus for Art. She is a former dean and former associate provost as well as former chair of the art department at the Rutgers campus at Newark. As well as the board of Opera New Jersey, Brodsky presently serves on the boards of ArtPride/New Jersey, Jersey City Museum, New York Foundation for the Arts and the International Print Center New York.



A printmaker and artist in her own right, Professor Brodsky's work is in the permanent collections of over 100 museums and corporations such as The Library of Congress, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, The Stadtmuseum in Berlin, the Armand Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, the New Jersey State Museum and the Fogg Museum. She has a Master of Fine Arts from Tyler School of Art, Temple University and a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard University where she majored in art history.

Professor Brodsky will chair the Marketing Committee of the Opera New Jersey Board of Trustees.

Michael Curtis (Princeton, NJ) is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of political science at Rutgers University and is highly regarded as an expert in several fields: political theory, comparative government, European politics and the Middle East. Professor Curtis has authored approximately 30 books in addition to textbooks that cover political theory, comparative government, and European government structure.



For many years, he was the president of American Professors for Peace in the Middle East and editor of the Middle East Review. In addition to the board of Opera New Jersey, he is on the boards of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy and the America Israel Friendship League.

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Opera New Jersey Announces Four New Board Members – continued

Professor Curtis was born in London and educated at the London School of Economics. He came to the United States on a visit and stayed to do a doctorate at Cornell University. In addition to his years at Rutgers, he has taught at Yale University, Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, and the University of Bologna.

Professor Curtis will sit on the Programming Committee of the Opera New Jersey Board of Trustees.

Michael Morandi (Princeton, NJ) earned his MPA from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School and his career has revolved around the financial services industry. Mr. Morandi co-founded the Interest Rate Products Group for Drexel Burnham Lambert and was the head of sales and marketing. He has also held senior sales positions at Lehman Brothers and Citicorp. In 1997, Mr. Morandi started his own financial services consulting and new business development company, which is principally engaged in identifying promising opportunities and associated personnel for leading financial firms in New York and Europe. Prior to his studies at the Woodrow Wilson School, Mr. Morandi was involved in developing environmental and energy policies for the states of New York and California.

Mr. Morandi will sit on the Programming Committee of the Opera New Jersey Board of Trustees.

Lesley A. Wishnick (Princeton, NJ) is a real estate executive with a background as an attorney, consultant and financial analyst with entrepreneurial and Fortune 500 management experience. For most of her career as a builder and developer, she started and managed several partnerships for the construction of single and multi-family home communities. She was involved in the startup of two local community banks, First Washington State Bank and The Bank of Princeton, and served on the board of directors of Union Valley Corporation. Earlier in her career she worked for Coopers & Lybrand, Clapp & Eisenberg and Xerox Corporation. Most recently, following hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Ms. Wishnick volunteered her professional expertise to Habitat for Humanity's Operation Home Delivery division, providing land acquisition assistance to the Louisiana and Mississippi Habitat affiliate offices which cumulatively built 1,000 affordable homes on the Gulf Coast in the 18 month period following the storms. In addition, for the past ten years, she has been an alumni interviewer for Tufts University Admissions and has served on the National Junior Tennis League of Trenton gala committee for the past five years. She holds a JD from Rutgers School of Law, an MBA from The George Washington University and a BA from Tufts University.

For Opera New Jersey's Board of Trustees, Ms. Wishnick will Co-Chair the Development Committee, focusing on Corporations.

Photos: Judith K. Brodsky (above) and Michael Curtis (below).

About Opera New Jersey

Opera New Jersey (OperaNJ, formerly New Jersey Opera Theater) is earning national recognition as a leader among regional opera companies, providing high quality opera performances, exceptional educational offerings and related activities. OperaNJ seeks to stimulate, promote and satisfy interest in opera, build a strong and diverse audience base for the art form and foster the development of emerging artists. **Opera New Jersey** recently received its second straight prestigious Citation of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA). The Citation is NJSCA's highest honor and recognizes arts organizations that "exhibit the highest standards of excellence in artistry, operations, governance, public benefit and fulfillment of areas of Council priority." OperaNJ received its first citation in 2006, during their first year of eligibility.

Next up for Opera New Jersey is their Summer Season at McCarter Theatre in Princeton this July, where they will perform **Verdi's *La traviata***, **Rossini's *La Cenerentola*** (Cinderella) and **Lehár's *The Merry Widow***. Further information on the Summer Season may be obtained at www.Opera-NJ.org or by calling (609) 799-7700. Tickets may be purchased through McCarter Theatre at (609) 258-2787.

This season is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

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