

Larry Lapidus

Larry Lapidus. *"I have been a true resident of Miller Beach for just over three years now. When I retired, I never expected to live out here so much of the time. Once I finished remodeling, enlarging and gardening around my home, I realized I was just too comfortable here. I decided to go to Chicago only for my cultural activities and shared responsibilities with my friends there. Miller Beach is happily now my first home. I have joined the Miller Beach Garden Club; I am now a member of the board for the Miller Beach Creative Arts District. I also do volunteer work for "hospice" visiting homes of terminally ill patients in the surrounding towns."*

For 35 years, Mr. Lapidus enjoyed a career as a theatrical portrait photographer in New York and then Chicago. His specialty was "headshots" for actors, dancers, and opera singers; performers who needed a fine photographic representation of themselves when seeking work in their chosen performing art field.

Since his retirement from commercial photography in 2005, Larry devotes much of his time to the Lyric Opera of Chicago, where he delivers many community lectures on 2 operas each season, while also working in the lobby gift shop. His most important responsibility with Lyric has been 12 years of board service for the Near North Chapter of the Lyric Opera of Chicago. NNC is Lyric's largest chapter of opera devotees. He also serves as NNC's 'Special Events & Talent' coordinator, a position created for him 7 years ago, wherein he arranges and hosts programming for all NNC events. "I choose singers and speakers from across the broad spectrum at Lyric for the 10 programs and events we present each season". In 2010 Larry was chosen to serve as program director for the Wagner Society of America. There he does similar programming and also hosts each program.

Since working with the MBCAD, Larry has done two programs at the newly minted Gardner Center, two of which were movie nights with introductions. He has also organized one operatic recital with a singer from Lyric Opera of Chicago held at Temple Israel here in Miller. The two-night movie event included an intro for the 1938 film "Showboat" that was played in operatic performances at the Lyric that season. Most recently, Larry introduced a documentary he had made on the life and times of the great operatic diva Maria Callas. The film was named, "La Divina."

In January of 2013 for MBCAD Larry is planning another movie night, this time on the "voice" of the beloved opera singer Leontyne Price. Other programs he is planning for 2013 include intros and documentaries, including such renowned artists as Arturo Toscanini, conductor and Alfred Steiglitz, the father of modern photography. Larry will also be organizing a series of art exhibitions featuring painters and photographers from the metropolitan Chicago area and Northwest Indiana.

This winter and spring of "13" Larry is picking up the camera again to photograph a cross section of Miller Beach residents. His goal is to exhibit in black & white the extensive diversity of folks living here in town. His interest is to capture the individual essence of each subject without the distraction of retouching, photoshop and all the methods being used today to physically beautify each subject. Larry will attempt to capture each subject's "inner beauty."