Hi. It has been a while since the last newsletter. There have been quite a few changes here, and we thought it might be fun to rekindle the newsletter flame. It’s another way to keep you informed of all the goings-on here at the Mansion.

First, if I haven’t already met you, I would like to introduce myself. I am Cindy Waddick and I started at the Foundation in September of 2018. Prior to coming here, I wore a number of Executive Director hats and everywhere I have been, fundraising has been my focus along with volunteer recruitment and empowerment. I had the privilege of working disaster relief for the National Red Cross for many years all over our country and Puerto Rico. Working on-site at locations that had been hit by tornadoes (even one in this area years ago), hurricanes, floods, etc., I have seen the best in people come out of the worst situations. I have worked as an educator at various levels. Prior to moving here, I was past Executive Director of The Literacy Council in Rockford Illinois.

This past year I have focused on learning and finding new ways to share that learning. There is an amazing amount of history in these walls. We were able to form many partnerships with businesses locally, who want to work with us to preserve this history. We started different activities to draw people to the Mansion. We also implemented a data management system that will help the Foundation keep all our supporters and friends organized. Calculation of volunteer services will be right at the finger touch. Also, the software will allow us to remember the important facts about our families and friends—that means you.

So what is next? My main focus will be fundraising. We need to ensure this treasure trove is protected and sustainable. And we have a few projects in the works. We have submitted grant requests for restoring a number of our exterior windows, and bringing our parquet floors in the main hallway and dining room back to their original beauty. We also hope to update our analysis of preservation needs to continue to set priorities going forward. And then there is the wrap around porch and iconic horseshoe stairs. The price on that is more than $1 million, and it will take time to get all the needed funding together, but we are continuously working towards that goal and already have some restricted funds raised. (If you want to join our team to preserve history, please cut out the bottom of page 2 and return.)

I also want to have the Mansion’s history reconnected with the community and the community realize that this is their history too. I want to draw people from all over to experience the wonders here.

Also new to the neighborhood is April Murphy, Administrative Assistant. April recently moved to the area from Chicago. She worked at The Danish Home of Chicago, a boutique senior retirement community on the far northwest side of Chicago steeped in Danish culture and traditions, for 14 years before joining us at the Hegeler Carus Foundation.

And yes, we cannot forget Dan, Kristin, and Tricia, who are walking encyclopedias of Mansion information and who keep the Mansion in good order for all of you to visit.

So come visit. Sit a spell in a National Historic Landmark and soak in Victorian Life - Cindy

What’s New at the Mansion….from the Exec’s desk

Check out the website for details on this year's Summer Concert Series.
Volunteer Appreciation

On February 13th, we held an appreciation dinner for our volunteers. Volunteers are the heartbeat of what we do here; without them, we could not exist.

We thought it would be fun to have a taco bar and honor their service to The Hegeler Carus Foundation. Everyone enjoyed themselves and loved the tacos!

Our volunteers do much more than give great guided tours of the Mansion. They also do research, archive, promote the Mansion via social media and presentations, help out at our special events like our summer concerts, and participate in our theatrical-type productions such as our murder mysteries and Christmas shows.

We calculated the hours donated by these volunteers for the year 2019. It came to an astounding 1,785 hours, a value of $32,130 that was applied to the bottom line of the Foundation. Thank you again volunteers, for your time allows us to continue enhancing the Mansion and the grounds.

Would you like to be a part of what we do here, or do you know someone who would? Please put them in contact with our Tour Director Tricia Kelly, at 815.224.5892.

We can save a tree.
Please let us know if you would prefer to have your newsletter emailed.
Contact us at Cindy.Waddick@hegelercarus.org.

Invest in The Hegeler Carus Foundation’s Future. (please print)

Please make your check payable to Hegeler Carus Foundation. Contributors of $100 or more will be acknowledged in the Hegeler Carus Foundation Annual Report.

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{ } I prefer to list my gift as “Anonymous in the Annual Report.

{ } Please contact me about Planned Giving and Estate Planning.

Hegeler Carus Foundation is a not-for-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.

or donate online at www.hegelercarus.org
Mansion Restorations

A lot has happened! The biggest news of all is that the Parlor has been restored! The Reception Room was finished in 2006. To remind you how stunning it is, please see photo below. The Parlor was finished in November of 2018, and it looks absolutely beautiful. The ceiling was cleaned and restored by Historic Surfaces. Dan, and Kristin also helped, working on their backs on scaffolding, Michelangelo style. The floors were restored by Casey Quinn of Estate Flooring. He was able to preserve most of the original parquetry; there are very few pieces that needed to be replaced altogether. The wallpaper is very special. We did not know what the original wallpaper looked like, and were hesitant to pull away the fireplace surround and see if there was a remnant there. In one of the bedroom closet drawers was a large book. Upon closer inspection, it was discovered that the book was Mary Hegeler Carus’ personal scrapbook. A large sample of the Parlor wallpaper had been affixed to one of the pages, and was labeled as such. The Trustworth Studios wallpaper company was contacted, and they were able to make a reproduction. The National Decorating Service Company hung the wallpaper. So if you haven’t been here since 2018, you simply must come and take a tour!

Camilla’s bedroom hasn’t been restored per se. A few years ago we began giving Whole House Tours. These tours, which last about 3 hours long, cover the house from cupola to boiler room. Several of the bedrooms had become offices, but Mr. Hegeler’s/Alwin’s and Paul and Mary’s remained virtually unchanged. It was decided that Camilla’s bedroom (which was an office) should be turned back into a bedroom.

We have kept Alwin’s analemma lines and are careful not to step on them. Some of the furnishings are original to the home, bringing back the look and feel of a Victorian lady’s chamber.

If you’ve already taken the regular, one-hour tour and want to see more, please contact Tour Director, Tricia Kelly at 815.224.5892 or check out our website and Facebook page for scheduled dates and availability.

Finally, the Little Shop in the Big House, our gift shop, has had a complete overhaul. We have T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, caps, mugs, steins, totes, pens, toys, posters, and books, books, books! Southern Illinois University published a wonderful book about Mary Hegeler Carus in 2017, available only in our little shop! We have an impressive collection of the Open Court’s Pop Culture and Philosophy series. Be sure to stop in and check it out!
Hegeler Carus Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

Upcoming Events at the Mansion

For detailed information and costs for the following events, please call 815-224-5895, visit our website at www.hegelercarus.org, or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook/hegelercarus

Tour Information - Closed Monday, Tuesday, and major holidays

Hourly guided tours on

Wednesday through Sunday - 12 noon, 1 pm, 2 pm, and 3pm.

Whole House Tours - Guest/s must make a reservation prior to the 3-hour tour. The cost $100 per person. Please see the website for dates and times or call Tricia Kelly at 815-224-5892.

Special Events - Please see website for details.

Friday, April 24th at 6:00 pm

“Illinois Valley Flute Ensemble” - Sue Gillio and her students perform musical numbers ranging in style from classical to rock-n-roll.

Saturday, May 2nd at 7:00 pm

“Mayhem, Moonshine, and Murder!” - murder mystery. Cost $75.00 per person.

Wednesday, May 20th at 7:00pm

“Art and Artifact Tour” - Tricia Kelly, Tour Director guides guests through the Main Floor, highlighting the exquisite statues, paintings and prints of the mansion. Cost $25.00 per person.

Summer Sunset Concert Series

Beginning every Friday evening starting May 29th through September 4th at 7:00 pm—except July 3rd