I would like to send a message of encouragement to our valued family and friends during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have been thinking of you quite a bit, as we were not able to interact with you for part of the 2020 season. We do miss you and hope for the absolute best for you and your families.

The Mansion has gone through a lot over a 140 plus years life span: the Second Industrial age, the Spanish Flu pandemic, the Great Depression, both World War’s, way too many additional wars to imagine, Presidents, Governors, and several generations of family. The one thing that stands out is no matter how bad things might look, the Mansion survives. It is a symbol of strength. We realize there is nothing we cannot endure. We become better and grow stronger.

I am reminded of a statue of a woman with the words ‘I Will’ on her breastplate displayed in the Mansion. She was a popular piece at the 1893 Chicago’s World fair. She represented the will of the Chicago people, and the phrase ‘I Will’ became a rally cry for the city after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. It was Chicago’s way of every-one coming together as one powerful woman to say, ‘I will rebuild, I will recover, I will be stronger and better’. She continued to be the symbol of Chicago and was the iconic image of the 1933 Chicago—World’s Fair poster as well. I wanted you to know that we continue to have that ‘I will’ spirit during these challenging times.

Reviewing CDC Guidelines, the State of Illinois Stay at Home Orders, the Restore Illinois timetable, and other regulations and requirements related to Covid-19, we have come up with an ‘I Will’ attitude here at the Mansion. The staff has come together to create ways of bringing you your Mansion experience. We must be innovators.

GOOD NEWS! For the first time we are selling some items from the ‘Gift Shop’ on our website: ‘An Independence of Ideas and Thought: The Life of Mary Hegeler Carus’ by Nicholas L. Guardiano, Pam Hackbart-Dean and Aaron M. Lisec, and ‘Patina of Time: The Hegeler Carus Mansion in La Salle, Illinois’ by Steve Archer. More details on back.

BETTER NEWS! We began our Summer Concert Series Friday, June 19th and plan to extend the season until mid September. Band line-up on back.

THE BEST NEWS! On July 1st we are scheduled to enter into stage-4 of reopening. Visitors wanting to come for a tour of the Mansion will need to pre-register and pre-pay on the website to ensure numbers control, 6 people per tour. If you can’t access on line, you can also make reservations with the Tour Director, Tricia Kelly at 815-993-4476. More dates and times will be posted as we move forward.

For any additional information please visit our website or Facebook page. While visiting the website pay close attention to our safety restructuring plans (masks, distancing, sanitizing), various tour options and event possibilities.

www.hegelercarus.org or www.facebook.com/hegelercarus

To help recover from Covid-19, The Hegeler Carus Foundation is receiving a $5,000 grant from Illinois Humanities. “Illinois Humanities activates the humanities through free public programs, grants, and educational opportunities that foster reflection, spark conversation, build community, and strengthen civic engagement. Illinois Humanities is a nonprofit organization and the state’s affiliate for the National Endowment for the Humanities.” We thank them for their support.
Recently I was rereading “Oh, the Places We’ll Go” by Dr. Seuss. In it, he talks about “the waiting place” where I think we can all identify with these last 3 months. He closes with “So be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray. Or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O’Shea, you’re off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So get on your way”. Our mountain is waiting and there are many cliffs and crags, but we must be able to climb it.

In these troubling times, history museums provide us a sense of connection and continuity. As everyone struggles with huge challenges, our work matters more than ever. It matters that we offer stories of past struggles, change and recovery. And it matters that our Mansion be able to re-open - for our community members as well as the tourists who come to visit us from afar. And to awaken a renewed dedication to our mission: To use the Hegeler Carus Mansion and its many stories to inspire excitement and appreciation locally and globally for its heritage, architecture, and design.

Now is a time for us to come together as we have so many times before, but with a new sense of purpose that will last well beyond the Covid-19 crisis. The Mansion that we protect and preserve holds the promise for the future we want to reclaim. Our Mansion and its history stand as an example to our present, that for over 144 years, it has met the challenge and survived. We need these old buildings in our lives as much as they need us. They help us remember who we are and where we have come from.

Our mountain awaits. If your circumstances allow, please consider donating to the Hegeler Carus Mansion Foundation. Supporting our mission and our Mansion is crucial now more than ever. We must preserve and share this amazing house and the history it holds. Our future requires it.

Thank you for considering a gift of any amount to our summer campaign.  

Cindy

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.

Name:_____________________________________
Company/Organization:_______________________
Address:___________________________________
City/State/Zip:______________________________
Phone:____________________________________
Email Address:______________________________
Please charge my: ________________________________
   VISA    American Express
   Mastercard Discover
   [] Distinguished Donor: $5,000 plus
   [] Boyington Circle: $1,000 - $4,999
   [] Open Court Assoc: $500 - $999
   [] Fielder’s Friends: $100 - $499
   [] Family Level: $50 - $99
   [] Individual Level: $30 - $49

Account# __________ Exp.Date __________ CVV#
Signature______________________________________

Hegeler Carus Foundation
1307 Seventh St * La Salle, IL 61301

Volunteers

Volunteers are a particularly important part of the life at Hegeler Carus Mansion “Foundation”. We posed three questions to 3 of our volunteers to explore the impact the Foundation has made in their lives. Ken Ficek, who has been with the Foundation from the very beginning; Cheryl Benkse, who has been with us 13 years; and Lydia Skerston, a newer recruit.  (continued page 3)
In 1995 an announcement came that The Hegeler Carus Mansion was forming a Foundation to preserve the Mansion and preserve the history the families built with the community of La Salle. The Foundation invited the community to learn more about her history but also invited the community to add and include their history as well.

During the original orientation taught by John Thorpe an architect and preservationist, 30 volunteers signed up to take a 6-month course on various aspects of the Mansion; from the people, to the businesses (Matthiessen & Hegeler Zinc, Carus Chemical, LS & BC Railroad, and Open Court Publishing), architecture, and related topics.

Ken Ficek and his wife Barbara were among the very first volunteers who became docents. The Mansion was opened to the public on the 1st and 3rd Sunday’s from 1 to 3 pm over 25 years ago. Today the dates and times have changed. For more information please go to the website at www.hegelercarus.org.

Ken has been associated with and known the Carus Family for more than 75 years. His father started working at Carus Chemical in 1944 and he followed in his father’s footsteps. Later in life he served on the Hegeler Carus Foundation board.

Ken said, “The Mansion programs allowed for Barbara and me to expand our knowledge of the people and businesses that made it all possible as well as learning to appreciate the building itself”. He also stated, “I also had the chance to take on the persona of various characters who were associated with the Mansion,” in Christmas and other fundraising presentations.

For the future, Ken hopes, “The Mansion...will continue to be the center of interest in La Salle and the Illinois Valley.”

Cheryl Benkse was introduced to the Foundation about 13 years ago. Her husband is a docent/tour guide. She would help at the Mansion here and there as needed, but about two years ago she felt the Gift Shop needed some added attention on a regular basis. That is how she became an active volunteer at the Mansion.

When asked what she enjoyed about being a volunteer her response was, “I enjoy the visitors I meet from all over the world that come for tours.” She states, “I also find satisfaction in arranging shelves in the Gift Shop, as it gives me a chance to get a bit creative.”

As for looking to the future, she said, “I would hope that...we forge on with educating our visitors about the family that had such an impact on La Salle’s history. In this way, we can preserve this beautiful building for future generations.”

Lydia Skerston became a volunteer through her stepmom Jennifer. One summer Jennifer was looking for something that would engage Lydia, help her come out of her shell and encourage her career interests. She found an article on Facebook and signed Lydia up to volunteer at the Mansion and the rest became “history”. Lydia is currently an Architecture student and volunteers part-time during her school breaks.

What she enjoys about being a volunteer are the connections she has created with the staff and visitors. She said her goal, “is to make guests enjoy the Mansion even just a fraction of how much I do.” While for the future she states, “What really matters are the people that will remember it and all of the good times that they had there.”

There are many benefits for being a volunteer. It gives you purpose, builds community and connections, stimulates endorphins that promote positive mood, inspires creativity that can expose hidden talents along with expanding knowledge. So, when we are finally able to step outside from the solace of the Covid-19 and reenter the world. Consider contacting The Hegeler Carus Foundation and inquire about the ways you can help further the mission of the Foundation.
Visit our website to see what is new at the Mansion
Visit our website at www.hegelercarus.org, or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook/hegelercarus

**Mary Hegeler Carus**
$12 + shipping and handling
Mary Hegeler Carus was a risk-taker, a rule-breaker, an innovator, and a successful businesswoman. She never let her age, gender, or Victorian social mores stand in her way. Find out why Mary Hegeler Carus is someone worth getting to know.

**Patina in Time**
$15 + shipping and handling
Photographer Steve Archer found the Hegeler Carus Mansion so full of remarkable details that he set out to photograph them all and compile them into a book that everyone could enjoy.

**Tee Shirts**
$15+ shipping and handling
Sizes S, M, L, XL, $17+ 2XL

**Tote Bag**
$15 + shipping and handling

---

**Summer Concert Series**—Grounds open at 6pm—band begins 6:30 to 8:00 pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Band</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 19th</td>
<td>Steve N Steve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 26th</td>
<td>Al &amp; Jeannie Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 10th</td>
<td>Last Call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 17th</td>
<td>Henry Torpedo Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 24th</td>
<td>Double Dave Trio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 31st</td>
<td>Moementum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 7th</td>
<td>Silverstrings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 14th</td>
<td>Three Day Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 21st</td>
<td>Written Warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28th</td>
<td>Crossroads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 4th</td>
<td>Long Ladder Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 11th</td>
<td>Steve Sharp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 18th</td>
<td>Big Uproar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Check website for Concert Sponsors

---

The Hegeler Carus Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.