The 2020 Summer Concert Series has come to an end. We had a tough beginning because of the pandemic. But we had a wonderful line-up and a great crowd. Many Hegeler Carus regulars returned to perform along with a couple of new bands. A 50/50 raffle was introduced. The winners were called at the end of each concert. On two nights, we had a special picnic contest. The prize was a Gift Basket from “Tangled Roots” in Ottawa.

I would like to take this time to thank all of the volunteers, bands, vendors, and most importantly the fans and sponsors that came to participate in this years Concert Series.

Look to the Spring 2021 newsletter for information about our next Summer Concert Series or visit www.hegelercarus.org for upcoming events.

Like our concerts, Mansion tours are taking place with social safety protocols in place. Visitors wanting to come for a tour of the Mansion must pre-register on our website at www.hegelercarus.org. To ensure numbers control, max. 6 people per tour. If you have questions please contact Tour Director, Tricia Kelly at 815-224-5892 (Wed-Sun).

Now that the weather is getting cooler, we are going to be able to re-introduce Half-House and Whole-House Tours. Please check our website for details and to reserve your spot. Cindy

During the month of November

Each time a customer purchases a $2.50 red “My Heart” Reusable Bag at your selected Hy-Vee location Hegeler Carus Foundation a non-profit will receive a $1 donation, unless otherwise directed by the Giving Tag.
We learned in March that the Hegeler Carus Mansion was approved for the Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) program on behalf of the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC). The program is in cooperation with the Institute of Museum and Library Services in Washington, DC.

The 9-Step process included various questionnaires, phone calls and gathering of information preparing for the assessment. In late August, our assessors came on site for two days to review all our collections, artifacts and how items are stored and preserved.

The CAP assessment is a broad study of our collections, policies, practices, building/s conditions that affect the care and preservation of our museum’s collection. The program provides a set of priorities and goals to enable our historical house museum to develop overall collections and building care short and long – term planning goals. Our Board of Directors can then use these goals to help them prioritize on conservation and preservation projects and funding goals.

The assessment is comprised in two parts: first of the collection, and second of the building housing the collection. The assessment of the collection was completed by Mr. Barry Bauman, while the building assessment was completed by Ms. Danielle Euer.

Being accepted into the CAP program is a critical part of the process. It opens up conduits to other types of assessments and possible grant funding that we would not be able to access without it.

One of the amazing realizations that came about as we filled out the preliminary questionnaires was the number of items we have to safeguard. By the time we looked at documents, family correspondence, books, artwork, furnishings, etc... we tallied up over 100,000 items. Truly, it is a “Treasure Trove”.

Check our website at www.hegelercarus.org for our semi-monthly blogs about our vast “Treasure Trove”.

Can you imagine a day where there was no music available at the touch of a finger or simply calling out to Alexa to play your favorite song? Well, back in 1893 Mr. Edward Hegeler and Dr. Paul Carus attended the World’s Parliament of Religions in Chicago that was part of the World’s Columbian Exposition, also known as the 1893 Chicago World Fair. When they returned home, they had brought many goodies for the family to enjoy. One of the items was a Regina Music Box. This brought a little entertainment to their home.

This was an extremely popular item from 1892 to 1920. About 100,000 were made, with the cost ranging from $12 to $300. Just to give you a little life comparison, in 1900 the average weekly pay was about $12, and the more expensive music box model was the amount of an entrance fee for a nursing home. For the time period this was a lavish purchase.

Most people think of a music box where a little ballerina dances on top. This music box was much different. It had the ability to play interchangeable punched metal discs kind of like a record. It is powered by a hand crank; the disc is placed on an axis and the arm lowered. There are larger holes on the edge of the disc that allow it to rotate with the teeth of a gear. The smaller holes on the disc connect with a comb on the bottom of the box, which then plucks the tune. These music boxes were of high quality and the tine of the musical comb was tuned to a specific pitch. The Regina company offered a wide variety of musical discs for enjoyment.

Sadly, there are not many of these boxes available. Because metal was in such high demand during the World Wars, and Americans giving up their discs for the cause, most people ended up discarding the box because they no longer had the discs to play.

The Regina Musical Box at the Hegeler Carus Mansion is in pristine condition. If you are ever in the neighborhood, please pre-register online for a tour of the Mansion to see this beautiful piece.
The Hegeler Carus Mansion is excited to introduce a new program that will begin in 2021. “Guardians of the Mansion” aims to involve as many individuals, students, community groups, local and greater area businesses as possible to preserve this historic house museum.

The Hegeler Carus Mansion is a National Historic Landmark. Virtually unaltered since its completion more than a century ago, it is an excellent example of artistic achievement in architecture and in interior design. It is also the site of historic accomplishments in industry, philosophy and publishing. The families’ history is interwoven with that of the Illinois Valley, the United States, and internationally.

Visitors experience the grandeur of a bygone era and the heritage of the forward thinking families. For more historical information about the Mansion, please visit our website at www.hegelercarus.org.

The initial campaign of Guardians of the Mansion is to restore the Ground and Main Floor Hallways. With more visitors to the Mansion, our inlaid parquet floors have become increasingly damaged. As a Guardian you would help protect and restore the beautiful craftsmanship for future generations to see.

By becoming part of the Guardians of the Mansion Campaign, each Guardian is commissioned to raise $1,000 in support of the Foundation. The Campaign will run about 6 weeks total: while each Guardian plans a strategy, initiates a goal, fundraises, and attends a celebration for a job well done.

Your support not only promotes the Mansion, but it promotes a part of the history of the City of LaSalle.

Your creativity in raising $1,000 toward your goal is only limited by your imagination. For example:

- Key clubs or sports teams can challenge their counterparts from other schools.
- If you are in retail, banking, or the restaurant business, ask customers to donate or to buy “Guardian Squares” which are displayed in the business.
- If you manage a business, ask your vendors to support your efforts.
- Civic club members can ask other members to contribute.

We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and donations are tax deductable. We depend on contributions like yours to enable us to continue to promote our many stories to inspire excitement and appreciation locally and globally for its heritage, architecture, and design.

If you are interested in becoming a Guardians of the Mansion, please contact Cindy Waddick at Cindy.Waddick@hegelercarus.org.
A Special Thank You to the Sponsors of our 2020 Summer Concert Series.

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 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.

Tote Bag
$15 + shipping and handling

If you would like to contribute to the preservation of the Mansion. Please visit our website at www.hegelercarus.org

The Mansion “Craft Fair” on Saturday, October 10, 2020 has been CANCELED