



To preserve and use the Hegeler Carus Mansion and its many stories to inspire excitement and appreciate locally and globally for its heritage, architecture and design.

Hegeler Carus Foundation Newsletter May 2021

Executive's Desk

It is amazing how lucky we are with the staff we have. After our Collections Assessment Preservation (CAP) assessment in August they have been busy working on keeping the interior environment regulated so we can preserve this treasure trove at the Mansion. There is a perception that we just promote the Hegeler Carus family but honestly that is about 40% true. We are a house museum that displays the artistry from the Victorian era. We hold some of the most fascinating objects that date back to the creation of the Mansion.



Artifacts from the 1893 World Fair in Chicago, allegories preserved in wood, gadgets, books, philosophy, printing equipment, and the Mansion preserves some concepts we can no longer associate with-like the lengthy process of laundry. Modern day families dedicate an area that is about 6' by 8' to do laundry. The Mansion has a room dedicated to laundry that is about 15' by 25' with a dryer that is 8' wide by 10' long and 12' high. Each load of laundry had 8 different steps to go through. Incomprehensible now-a-days.

The staff has also been working hard on the exterior as well, getting the grounds ready for our annual Summer Concert Series. Last year there were many closures from Covid-19. We were lucky to be able to have concerts with a good turnout. This year we are hoping people are getting ready to come to our concerts again. Bring your family and friends, have fun, and make new friends this year.

Good news! We recently were awarded a Google Grant for ads. This grant helps us promote the Hegeler Carus Mansion to interested parties from around the world who are looking for something educational and exciting to do this summer.

One last item I would like to mention: in the upcoming months we will be introducing a new program at the Mansion called The Guardians. We truly want to energize the community and encourage them to get involved in preserving the history and heritage of the LaSalle area contained in the

Hegeler Carus Mansion. So, look for updates here in our newsletter or in the News Tribune and local spots. We hope you see the benefit to become involved with the Guardians.

What's Exciting and New

Live theatre returns as the IVCC Theatre Department is stepping out...literally, with **"STEPPIN' OUT! BROADWAY UNDER THE STARS!"** on the concert lawn of the Hegeler Carus Mansion.

Featuring a large cast of community members, alumni, and students, "STEPPIN' OUT" is a fast-moving, up-tempo, upbeat celebration of Broadway's best, with multi-talented singers and dancers performing signature songs from classic through contemporary show tunes.

Directed and choreographed by Don Grant Zellmer, Director & Choreographer of Musical Theatre at IVCC, the revue features performers familiar to area audiences performing hits from "Anything Goes," "My Fair Lady," "Chicago," "Brigadoon," "Gypsy," and even "Hamilton," plus many more.

Performances are Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 7:30pm, May 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, and 23. Admission is \$15.00 per ticket, a portion of which goes to the Hegeler Carus Foundation. (Rain dates TBA)

Safety protocols will be observed, as set forth by the CDC. Designated areas (circles) are marked on the lawn, and, once within the circle, masks may be removed at your discretion. Masks must be worn in common areas.

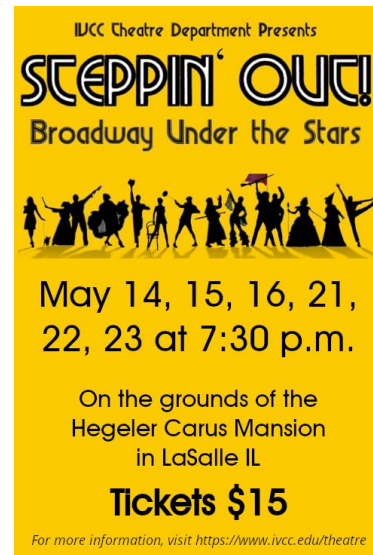
Bring a lawn chair, wine or the beverage of your choice, snacks, or even a light picnic to enjoy before the show. Open seating. Gates open at 6:30pm nightly.

[Click on this link to order tickets.](#)



Our **Summer Concert Series** will begin Friday, May 28th. First in our line-up is The **Classix's** with **Home Depot** as their special sponsor. Gates open at 6:00 pm. Admission is \$5.00 per person. Patrons can bring food and drink to the event. Visit our [Facebook](#) or [website](#) for the nights there will be food vendors. For more information on upcoming bands, please visit our [website](#) or call 815-993-4476.

Beginning Tuesday, May 11th we will begin our Tuesday Teaser Tour Video series. So please look for your email from Hegeler Carus Mansion titled **"Tuesday Teaser Tour"** and learn about the town of LaSalle, Hegeler Carus family, friends, and learn how they impacted the local, national and international communities.



On June 10th there will be a special **Arts and Artifact Tour** from 6-8pm. The cost will be \$20.00. See our [website for details](#).



“SAVE the DATE” of Wednesday, August 4th at 7 pm. On the lawn at Hegeler Carus Mansion. There will be a special performance from [Gerry Grossman – Human Jukebox](#)

May's Search-a-Word

Armaments
Artifact
Books
Carus
Classix
Concert Series
Cupola
Executives Desk
Exterior
Friends
Furnace
Gadgets
Hegeler
Information
Interior
LaSalle
Laundry
Mansion
Matthiessen
Newsletter

N	A	S	P	A	R	T	I	F	A	C	T	L	E	M	O	P	M	S	H
O	E	R	H	R	G	W	C	E	E	V	L	A	S	A	L	L	E	C	O
I	X	W	G	U	I	A	A	L	A	S	A	U	I	T	W	E	R	C	S
S	T	E	S	W	T	N	D	S	Z	E	I	N	T	T	Q	O	C	A	R
N	E	L	E	L	O	T	T	G	Q	I	P	D	W	H	P	Z	I	N	C
A	R	L	V	M	E	O	E	I	E	C	N	R	P	I	T	E	W	P	A
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R	C	O	T	B	O	O	K	S	A	P	M	I	U	O	I	O	O	R	I
I	F	U	R	N	A	C	E	V	M	F	E	E	N	T	L	W	X	O	O
O	P	R	E	J	Y	E	V	X	E	B	R	R	L	G	E	A	C	A	N
R	M	T	E	A	R	O	B	M	N	E	U	I	A	T	S	E	T	D	S
V	I	C	T	O	R	I	A	N	T	J	L	G	E	T	I	E	R	S	T
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W	R	M	I	Y	H	P	O	S	O	L	I	H	P	K	D	R	G	P	E
I	N	F	O	R	M	A	T	I	O	N	W	P	R	I	N	S	E	M	E
A	R	M	E	S	E	I	R	E	S	T	R	E	C	N	O	C	H	S	T

Open Court
Philosophy
Porch
Printing
Railroads
Seventh Street
Shutters
Smelting
Temperatures
Union Street
Victorian
Volunteers
Wood Carvings
Zinc

Building Block of our Future

On December 24, 1858, Matthiessen and Hegeler Zinc Co. broke ground for their factory. It has been said the reason the zinc Co. was called M&H and not H&M., has to do with a coin toss. If Matthiessen won the coin toss his name would go first, but Hegeler would be the President and Matthiessen became Secretary of the company. Matthiessen won. Their company stocks went public in 1871.

There were many difficulties at first which were documented in Edward Hegeler’s letters to his college sweetheart Camilla Weisbach. In one letter he stated the factory should be called “Perseverance” due to the many challenges Hegeler and Matthiessen endured.

In a subsequent letter dated January 20, 1860, he told Camilla that the new plant was finally running well and that he had made travel arrangements for the

long journey to Freiberg, Germany to get married and bring her to America. He tells her,

“One is on this earth to enjoy life, which matter should not be put off too long – it might get to late!”

But Mr. Hegeler was still not sure whether her parents would give their consent to that marriage and – while he included a written note for her father, asking him for the hand of his daughter – he also prevailed upon Camilla to persuade her father not to withhold his consent. As it turned out, everything went well, and the wedding took place on April 5, 1860.

In 1861 the Civil War began, demand for zinc metal ceased and the plant was temporarily shut down. Hegeler and Matthiessen seized the closure as an opportunity to experiment and make improvements with their process. It did not take long until the demand for zinc was needed again.

When the M & H Zinc Co. was in full operation again, Mr. Hegeler’s priority was to improve the smelting furnace, which, in its original version, required manual loading and unloading. Operationally this was not cost effective or efficient. Mr. Hegeler’s ingenuity allowed him to update the smelting furnace, which increased productivity. The Hegeler smelting furnace was patented in 1872. The new furnaces were put into service and revolutionized the zinc manufacturing the world over.

In 1881 Mr. Hegeler invented a new type of roasting furnace. The first roasting device in the U.S. that allowed for the collection of sulfur dioxide for the subsequent manufacturing of sulfuric acid. Its unique design provided for effective mechanical agitation. In time, the Hegeler roaster became the industries standard in the U.S. and was widely used.

To be continued...



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