Executive's Desk

It is wonderful to see that the restrictions for the Covid-19 virus are being lifted and businesses are opening up again. Hegeler Carus Mansion has lifted our restrictions for visitors too. We have increased the number of visitors per tour from 6 to 8 persons. We encourage any visitor to please register online for a tour. If you need help registering, you can call Tricia, our Tour Director, Wednesday through Sundays at 815-224-5892. Currently we offer four different types of tours that are scheduled Wednesday thru Sunday between the hours of 9am to 4pm. We are currently offering General tours, Lower House tours, Upper House tours, and Whole House tours. Please click on this link to our website for more details on our tours. Our Tours (hegelercarus.org)

The Summer Concert Series is doing well this year. People are feeling their freedom and I am happy to say we are getting a lot of patrons to the Concerts. New this year are three new food vendors, La Katrina Autentica, Champs Smokin’ BBQ and Di’Dough’s Twisted Pretzels. Look for your weekly Concert update email sent every Wednesday. Included will be the Bands information, the Food Vendor for that week, plus special specific information for that concert date and a special thanks to all of our wonderful sponsors. If you have not been able to attend, we hope to see you soon.

On June 21st we had several very important visitors come to The Mansion. The German Consul General, Wolfgang Mössinger of Chicago, Mark Tomkins from the German American Chamber of Commerce in Chicago, plus several elected officials, Mr. Luke Phalen, Representative of U.S. District #16 a representative from Congressman Adam Kinzinger office, Senator, District #38 IL State Senator, Representative Lance Yednock, District #76 IL State Representative, Mr. Jeff Grove, Mayor of the City of LaSalle and Mr. Ken Kolowski, Mayor of the City of Peru. The purpose of the visit was to create a dialogue with these officials to increase awareness of this Historical Treasure that is here in the Starved Rock area. Hopefully, this visit will open up more traffic to the City of LaSalle.
On Wednesday, August 4th, at 7:00 pm there will be a special performance on our lawn by The Human Jukebox, Gerry Grossman. The admission will be $15.00 a person. Click on this link to register online. There will be open seating. And if you decide at the last minute you would like to attend you can purchase a ticket that night of the event.

This is something you can’t miss. Gerry Grossman is a Human Jukebox, well versed musically and he is a comedian that will keep you laughing from beginning to end. He knows all the top-10 hits from the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s. He urges the audience to call out popular songs from that time period and we dare you to stump him. The audience joins in singing the songs with him. If you are looking to bring back memories, create new memories or you just enjoy the era of music, this is a must-see show. Bank of America will be our Premier Sponsor for the event. Remember to mark Wednesday, August 4th on your calendars.
What's Exciting and New

Recently we purchased air conditioners and dehumidifiers for the summer and humidifiers for the winter to regulate the climate inside the Mansion. Purchasing these items was at the recommendation of Collections Assessment Preservation (CAP) that was done in 2020. These items will help us better preserve the interior décor, furnishings, letters, books and magazines enabling us to keep the interior as close to its original state as possible. The added benefit gives our visitors a better visiting experience. Please remember your financial support enables us to preserve this historical treasure trove.

Something very important is happening, our volunteers are returning. Since the restrictions have been lifted, we are seeing our old friends come back to The Mansion to help us with various projects. Volunteers help in our Gift Shop, on social media, give guided tours. They help with the Summer Concert series; some even have parts in our Murder Mysteries. Others help with preserving letters, photos and catalogue our books. Believe me, there are a lot of books! With the volunteers help and support, they preserve a important part of this historical treasure trove.

Amazon Smile

I think almost everyone has bought something from Amazon. Amazon has a program called “AmazonSmile”. AmazonSmile will give a portion of your purchasing power to your favorite charitable organization. I realize there are many charitable organizations to choose from. But let your purchase power with Amazon work to help benefit your favorite not-for-profit 501 (3) (C). Click on the following link AmazonSmile to register Hegeler Carus Foundation as your charitable organization.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.
Building Block of our Future

August Fiedler was a very talented German-American interior designer, architect, and furniture maker working in the Chicago area in the late 19th century. While he designed several entire buildings, he is most noted for the exquisite interiors he created for buildings done by other architects. He became one of Chicago’s most sought-after interior designers following his work at the Mansion.

The Hegeler Carus Mansion is perhaps the most intact example remaining of his interior work—and a rare example of high-style Victorian interiors in general. The Mansion interior is virtually unchanged since the 19th century. It is faded, but still original. Restoration of the original décor is on-going. The result is an extraordinary glimpse into the unity of architecture and interior decorations.

Fiedler designed each public room in the Mansion with a parquet floor and an intricate hand-painted ceiling that would be unique to that room.

The dining room table that Fiedler designed for the Mansion has intricate, detailed inlay carving that match the inlay on the dining room’s wainscoting and an accompanying suite of furniture.

Woman carved in wood

Reception room ceiling