

News&Views

from the

Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum

Vol. 4, No. 2

Another Successful Antique Faire!

The Annual Antique Faire and Berry Festival in mid-July was a grand success for all involved: antique and food vendors, presenters, demonstrators, visitors, and the Museum itself. Our Pie Contest winners were especially happy with their experiences!

Below left, Linda Pagani, first-prize winner in the 2019 Pie Contest, shows off her prize Boal Bowl. Below right, Museum Director Bob Cameron presents second-prize winner Rosemary Gido with her prizes as she shows off her pie. The unusual and beautiful bowls are made by the Nittany Valley Woodturners from trees that fell on the estate during a 2017 tornado. You can buy them at the Museum Gift Shop.

Photos by Cindy Shaler, 2019



Boal Mansion Concert Series Continues This Fall

After a highly successful series of concerts this past spring, the Museum will hold another one this fall, on Sunday, October 13, at 5pm. This time, the performers will be members of the Allegria Ensemble, Debbie Trudeau on violin and viola and Jonathan Dexter on cello. Please join us for chamber

music as it was originally intended: performed in a private room or small auditorium. The concert is being organized by Amy Gustafson, Music Director for the Boal Museum. It will take place in the Boal Mansion ballroom.

Tickets cost \$40 per person if purchased in advance, or \$45 at the door. If you are a Museum member, you can receive 10% off your purchase: simply enter your member number online or write it on your check.

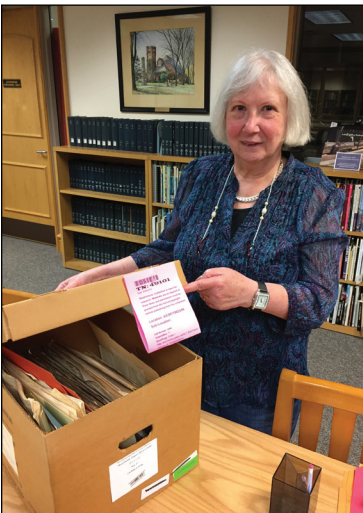
To purchase tickets, send your check to the address at the end of this newsletter, with “Concert Oct. 13” in the Memo line. The list of those who have purchased tickets will be held at the entrance to the Mansion ballroom; just give us your name when you arrive. Maximum seating in the ballroom is 40 people, so don’t wait!

Volunteer Archivist Digs Deeply!

Have you ever wondered what an archivist does? Janice Sherer started out as a docent at the Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum in 2007—and still guides tours every week—but for the past three years she has spent considerably more time reading, scanning, and captioning the Boal family documents stored in Penn State University’s Pattee Library Special Collections, as well as documents in the Boal Mansion. What she has found amazes her and may intrigue you. The Boals, it seems, never threw out anything!

The 99 archive boxes contain, among other things: family letters in English, French, and Spanish; military records from the Great War (WWI), including a 300-page file listing the names of major casualty victims of the 28th Division;

communications from the New York Metropolitan Museum regarding a contested painting that now hangs in the Boal Mansion; legal records, including one recording the purchase of the Boal Estate in 1898 by Terry Boal and his mother Malvina from his first cousin; 30 years of handwritten diaries by Malvina Boal; receipts for everything from expensive jewelry, to laundry sent out while traveling, to a few pieces of candy; and photographs and drawings.



Janice Sherer digging into the massive collection of documents left by the Boal family.

Photo by Cindy Shaler, 2019

With the help of George Lasek, who joined her efforts in 2018, Janice has worked her way through about a third of the boxes so far. They scan each document into the Museum's inventory, assign some properties (such as location, box, and folder), then return it to its place in the box. Researchers will be able to locate these items using the Museum's computerized inventory when they need to complete the details of an historical paper, for example, or to understand an event in the family's history.

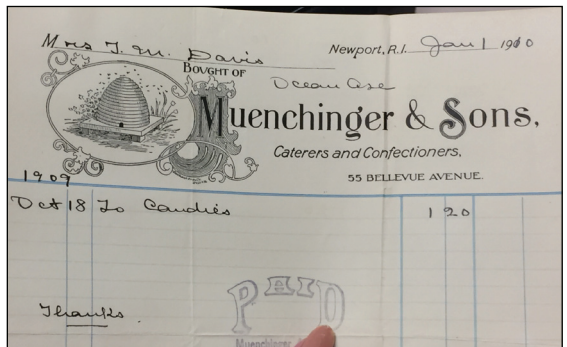
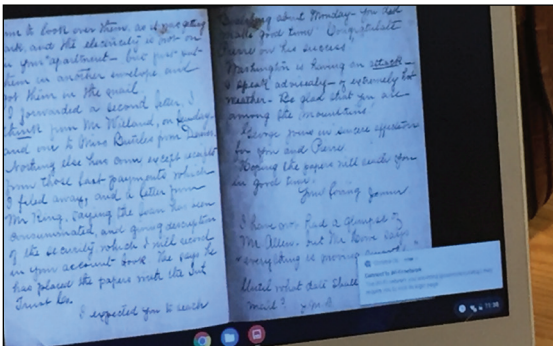
Since beginning this archiving project, Janice has created time-lines for multiple branches of the Boal family, going back many generations and including photos of each family member. These are displayed on large posters in the Boal Mansion's Parlor, Library, and Dining Room, and in the Columbus Chapel, helping visitors understand the many and varied connections over the eight generations who lived in the Mansion.

Before joining the Boal Museum, Janice worked in the Penn State Department of Aerospace Engineering, surrounded, as she puts it, "by really smart kids." She wants potential volunteers to know they're always welcome to join us!

Top: A Boal family letter, scanned into the inventory; Janice conferring with a Special Collections staff member

Bottom: Researching one document at a time; one of many receipts

Photos by Cindy Shaler, 2019



What Can You Do?

Here are some volunteer efforts that may pique your interest:

- » Become a museum docent (tour guide) to share the Museum's history with guests from all over the world. Most docents work from May 1 through October 31, one or two afternoons a week. It takes some time to learn the tours, so plan to start in spring. It's a great job for former teachers or public speakers, but anyone with a clear speaking voice and good memory will do well.
- » Be a greeter at the Visitor Center one or two afternoons a week during our regular season. Take ticket money, introduce visitors to the Museum, and sell books, postcards, locally made jewelry and pottery, and other items in the Gift Shop. Also help keep the Visitor Center in "visiting" condition and add up sales at the end of each day.
- » Maintain structures: carpentry, glazing, plumbing, and other DIY skills are always needed for these aging buildings.
- » Refurbish antique carriages and buggies. If you like working with old vehicles, this is for you!
- » Use your gardening skills: a variety of gardens need loving care from early spring through late fall. Our director's goal is to develop a "Longwood Gardens"-like atmosphere.
- » Help out with special events! We always need volunteers for our annual events: setting up the Museum's tent, selling food, books, milkshakes, or antiques, selling tickets for tours (and giving the tours if you're a docent), even putting garbage bags in the bins. Every little bit helps.

Photo by Art Pentz, 2017



See the Volunteer page of the Museum website, www.boalmuseum.com/volunteer-information.html, for more ideas. Or call Director Bob Cameron at 814-876-0129 and tell him your areas of interest. Whether you want to give a day a week, more, or less, we'd love to have your help! Welcome to the growing group of Boal Museum volunteers!

Tours and Special Events for the Remainder of 2019

Regular Tours

The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 1:30 to 5:00 pm for regular, drop-in tours, May 1 through October 31. We also take reservations for:

- » Individual and group tours, both on- and off-season
- » Art tours for small groups, given by Art Director Lori Savage

Please call Museum Director Bob Cameron at 814-876-0129 to reserve.

Special Events

Sun, Oct 13
9am–5pm

Olde Europe Festival: From Italian food to Celtic music, come enjoy the foods, music and dances of the six European countries with which the Boal family were affiliated. Special demos of archery, knights in armor, sword fighting, and more!

The Celtic music group
Callanish entertains
visitors at the 2018 Olde
Europe Festival.
Photo by Mary Szmolko



Sun, Oct 13
5pm

Concert in the Ballroom: For details, see article on pages 1 and 2.

Mon, Oct 14*
10am

Columbus Chapel Mass: Reserve your seats now for the annual Mass in the Columbus Chapel arranged by the local council of the Knights of Columbus. Here you'll see artifacts from the Columbus family's original Chapel, inherited in 1908 by Mathilde deLagarde Boal.

Sun, Dec 1
10am–4pm

Hanging of the Greens: Help decorate the Mansion and grounds for the Christmas season.

The Mansion decked
out for the holidays

Photo by Mary Szmolko,
2017



Home for the Holidays at the Mansion:

Fri, Dec 6, 5–8pm*

Candlelight Tours (last tour begins at 6:30pm)

Sat, Dec 7, 5–8pm*

Formal Christmas Tea and Candlelight Tour

Sat, Dec 7

Kristkindl Market inside the Boal Barn! *Times TBD.*

Sat, Dec 7, 3 & 7pm*

“A Charlie Brown Christmas,” State College Community Theatre at the Boal Barn Playhouse. Tickets will be available from www.scctonline.org.

Sun, Dec 8, 6–10pm*

Dickens Dinner & Dance and Candlelight Tour

* Starred events require reservations. Unless otherwise noted, to reserve or for more information, please call 814-876-0129 or go directly to www.boalmuseum.com, where you can reserve and pay online.

Memberships and Donations

We greatly appreciate everyone's support over the past four years as we have refurbished, repaired, and extended the exhibits and offerings at this extraordinary Museum. If you haven't come in for a tour recently, please do! You'll find several brand new exhibits, additions to the old ones, and lots of new historical discoveries.

Meanwhile, you can support the Museum through your memberships and financial donations:

Your 1-year membership (Jan. 1 through Dec. 31) comes with these benefits:

- » FREE admission to all tours and exhibits at the Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum, for you and your immediate family
- » 10% off all purchases at the Museum Gift Shop
- » Reduced fees to select Special Events
- » Opportunities for training, service, and organizational development
- » The chance to take part in the preservation and interpretation of our historic past for future generations
- » Your membership card

Membership levels are:

- » Individual (\$30)
- » Student (\$15)
- » Family (\$50)
- » Patron (\$100)
- » Sponsor (\$250+)
- » Benefactor (\$500+)
- » Explorer's Circle (\$1,000+)

We welcome new and returning members, and of course welcome **large or small financial donations** at any time, for either specific or general purposes. For example, you might want to support the Columbus Chapel's preservation, or extension and upkeep of the gardens, or maintenance of the art collection.

Send your membership or donation check to the address at the end of this newsletter, made out to Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum, with "2019 Membership" or "Donation for *purpose*" in the Memo line. Or fill out the Membership Form you'll find on our website, www.boalmuseum.com.

Special Items Needed by the Museum

Here are some items needed at the Museum. You may have these in your attic, garage, or storage space, unused and unwanted; the museum wants and can use them if they're in good condition—and you can take a charitable tax deduction!

- » Wrought-iron lawn tables with chairs
- » Lawn equipment and carpentry tools
- » Antique china, especially tea cups with saucers

If you have items to donate, please call Director Bob Cameron at 814-876-0129 to arrange a drop-off time. Many thanks!

Join us!

You can participate in the growth and development at the Museum as a volunteer, a member, a donor, a sponsor for a special event, or simply by visiting with your friends and family. Walk, run, or jog the trails around the Museum grounds during daylight any day, schedule a wedding or reunion, or just admire all the gardens. Please keep in touch: call Museum Director Bob Cameron at 814-876-0129 or leave a message on the Visitor Center phone, 814-466-6210.

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