

News&Views

from the

Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum

Vol. 5, No. 1

A Message from Our Director

Greetings from the Museum. In compliance with the Governor's Stay-at-Home order, the Museum is currently closed. We wish all of you well during these uncertain times and look forward to opening soon to showcase this amazing Museum. In the interim, parents who want to provide educational input for their children's home schooling on history are encouraged to contact the Museum. Also, this is an especially prudent time for us to recognize our shared humanity and check on neighbors to ensure they are faring well. We will get through this!

Stay healthy! - *Bob C.*



Dr. Bob Cameron,
Museum Director
Photo by Cindy Shaler

Who's on the Museum Executive Board?

Even if you're not involved (at least, when COVID-19 isn't commanding our attention) in the day-to-day operations of the Boal Museum, you may want to know who's on the executive board. Bob Cameron is, of course, because he's most intimately involved in all aspects, from policy to day-to-day operations. The other four board members are: Cindy Shaler, president; John Wainright, vice president and secretary; John Thompson (JT), treasurer; and Art Curtze. John (Jack) Rupp currently serves as a special advisor to the board. Bob, Cindy, and John W. live in Boalsburg, while JT lives in Bellefonte, Art in State College, and Jack in Pittsburgh. (Jack grew up in Boalsburg, and his daughter and her family live here.) We meet about once a month.

And no, you don't have to be named John to join the executive board!

What's Happening at the Boal Barn?

As you've walked the Museum trails near the Boal Barn, you may have noticed a lot of activity before the quarantine, seen piles of used wood and other refuse, and gotten the overall impression of construction. You'd be

correct! Our director and many diverse volunteers, including large numbers of PSU and Michigan State students, spent much effort this winter revitalizing the Barn. The goal is to create a year-round venue for not only theater but other artistic ventures as well, to be called the Boal Barn Performing Arts Center. That will take some time to accomplish, of course, and some additional funding from grants.

But eventually we want to have heating and air conditioning, and a stage

and backstage areas available for rent to local and regional theater groups, musical groups (think concerts, battles of the bands, traveling troupes), summer workshops on the performing arts for students, lectures, reunion parties, wedding parties, and more—in addition to special events such as last year's Kristkindle Market during the Home for the Holidays Festival.

Along with the indoor venue, we can also offer the outdoor stage and seating area next to the Barn, where we expect to offer Shakespeare in the Park and perhaps vintage film nights during the summer months.



Volunteers from the Museums program at Michigan State University worked as a great team in January to clean out the Barn and put up a good deal of insulation. Bob Cameron, along with Lew Logan and other volunteers, continue to put in their own labors of love.

Photo by Bill Muzzy

2019 Holiday Events a Sell-Out

This year's holiday events at the Boal Museum were big sellers. The traditional Christmas Candlelight tours on Friday evening, December 6, and Christmas Tea and Candlelight tour on Saturday evening, December 7, were extremely well attended, as you can see from the crowded photo of the Mansion Ballroom on the following page. And our new **Kristkindl Market** in the Boal Barn that Saturday afternoon was a blow-out for us and all the vendors.

Thanks to all vendors and volunteers for their preparation, cheerful attendance, and plans to return next December—and, of course, to all those who visited and bought handmade holiday gifts.



Photos by Janice Sherer (top L), Cindy Shaler, and Bob Cameron (center)



Tours and Special Events for 2020

Although the Museum is *closed to the public for the time being*, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we are normally open Tuesday through Sunday, 1:30 to 5:00 pm, May 1 through October 31, for regular drop-in tours led by a docent. Please check our website, www.boalmuseum.com, to see whether and when we are open.

We also normally take reservations for:

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

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

What Can You Do for the Museum?

The Museum is always grateful for the help of our generous volunteers. Like so many nonprofit organizations, we operate on a limited budget and could not do so without your donations of time, materials, and energy. Here are some volunteer efforts that may pique your interest:

- » 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.
- » 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 from our Gift Shop. Also help keep the Visitor Center in "visiting" condition and add up sales at the end of each day.
- » Become a **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, but you may be called upon "off season" as well, for scheduled tours. It's a great job for former teachers or public speakers, but anyone with a clear speaking voice will do well.



- » Maintain structures and refurbish items: carpentry, glazing, plumbing, and other **DIY skills** are always needed for these aging buildings; and we have many carriages that want TLC.
- » 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!



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 always-growing cadre of Boal Museum volunteers!

Memberships and Donations

We greatly appreciate everyone's support over the past five 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 brand new exhibits, additions to the old ones, and lots of new historical discoveries.

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

Museum Membership

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 (Music Series concerts, for example)
- » 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+)

Financial Donations

We welcome new and returning members, and of course welcome [financial donations](#) at any time, for either specific or general purposes. For example, you might want to support preservation of the Columbus Chapel, refurbishing efforts in the Boal Barn (see article, pages 1-2), maintenance of the art collection, or extension and upkeep of the gardens.

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

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
- » Yard equipment: large-scale mower, wheel barrows, rakes, shovels, etc.
- » Carpentry and painting tools
- » Plants, shrubs, trees
- » China sets for our formal teas

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 on the grounds or in the Boal Barn, 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.

Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum

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