

# News&Views

from the

**Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum**

Vol. 3, No. 1

## Please Join Us at the February 17<sup>th</sup> Masquerade Ball!

We postponed this event last October, and it is now scheduled for Saturday, February 17, the same week as Mardi Gras (“Fat Tuesday”) and Valentine’s Day. This is a great time of year to **dress up, don a fancy mask, and celebrate the elegance of the past.** And where better to celebrate than the Boal Mansion ballroom, with its parquet floors, antique paintings, and beautiful Old World ambiance?

Robin Hood Brewing Company is the main sponsor for this event, which

is limited to 50 people. The ballroom can’t hold any more dancers than that, so reserve now! Just go to [boalmuseum.com/summary-of-events.html](http://boalmuseum.com/summary-of-events.html) and click on the **Add to Cart** button.



*The First Annual*  
**Boal Mansion  
Mardi Gras  
Masquerade Ball**  
Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup>  
7pm to 11pm  
Champagne Prelude at 6:45  
Hors D'oeuvres and Desserts  
Cash Bar  
Tickets \$75 per person  
Mardi Gras Masks encouraged  
Formal Attire Optional  
For Tickets or more information  
[www.boalmuseum.com](http://www.boalmuseum.com)  
814-876-0129

*Laissez les bons  
temps rouler!*

Event Partners  
Robin Hood Brewing Company  
Home D Pizzeria  
Duffy's Boalsburg Tavern  
Hungry Run Wines & Spirits

Proceeds benefit the restoration of the  
Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion  
Tickets are limited and must be  
purchased by February 13

Poster created by  
Elizabeth Pantle,  
Director of Marketing,  
Robin Hood Brewing  
Company/Home D Pizzeria

## Museum Gardens and Trails Blossom and Grow

During the past season, Museum Director Bob Cameron and a wealth of volunteers have enlarged and labeled the trail system around the grounds, created new gardens, and cared for our beautiful trees. All this natural beauty provides an appropriate backdrop to the many buildings on the estate, which are also undergoing upgrades.

Dr. Cameron's focus is on the heyday of the Boal Estate, the early 1900s, when Colonel Theodore Davis Boal and his French wife Mathilde de Lagarde had returned from living in Paris. They took upon themselves the work of enhancing the farmhouse and surrounding land, adding an elegant ballroom, additional living quarters, the Columbus Chapel, and other outbuildings.

In addition, they planned and planted tree-lined driveways, graceful gardens with fountains, an arbor leading to a gazebo, stonework-borders, and large lawns for relaxing and enjoying the vistas they had created. Eventually, we would like to recreate as much of this as possible. Museum researchers have discovered maps of the gardens from that time with specific plantings named, as well as photographs of many areas.

Much has yet to be accomplished, but with the help of all kinds of volunteers, it may all happen!



The Amphitheatre and Cross-Garden (visible at center right) were developed between the Mansion and the Barn for several purposes: to allow large outdoor weddings (seating for about 200 people); to make use of the handsome wrought-iron arch and railings discovered in storage (and refurbished by volunteers); and to bring to life this hillside for the pleasure of our daily visitors.

Photo by Art Pentz, 2017

## In Praise of Our Volunteers

Museum volunteers are the best! They give their time and energy for the good of the community and the Museum's visitors—and also, of course, to indulge their own pleasure and hobbies! It's a great combination of values and needs.

Volunteering at the Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum means sharing your time and talents with other enthusiastic people in the local community—Boalsburg, Oak Hall, Centre Hall, State College, elsewhere in Centre County—and beyond. But getting to know your fellow volunteers is only half the fun.

Caring for the 300-plus paintings in the Museum's collections means curating, inventorying, cleaning, and displaying, as well as protecting them. Volunteers can help with much of this work.

Photo by Mary Szmolto, 2017



Learning is another aspect of being a volunteer: those who are interested can spend time doing research on the Boal and related families, on art and artifacts, even on how buggies were made! And that knowledge is put to use, too. We update our tours with new information, write booklets and brochures, create family timelines for displays, and teach art courses at the Museum, among other things.

And, of course, all the wonderful antiques in the Museum's collections must be carefully curated, periodically cleaned and inventoried, and displayed for the public to enjoy. That work, too, needs volunteers.

## What Would You Like to Do?

Here are some projects that may interest you:

- » Be a museum docent (tour guide) to share the history of this Museum with visitors, either for the standard tour or for [new exhibit tours](#).
- » Refurbish antique carriages and buggies.
- » Clean and care for delicate artifacts under the watchful eye of an experienced “antique-caregiver.”
- » Use your gardening skills: a variety of gardens need creation and care.
- » Maintain the structures: carpentry, glazing, plumbing, and other skills are often needed for these old buildings.
- » Set up exhibits of antique clothing or fans or saddles or...you name it.



Detail on the ballgown worn by Mathilde de Lagarde Boal at the turn of the century, exhibited in the Mansion ballroom

Photo by Mary Szmolko, 2018

These and more are waiting for extra hands during [all seasons](#). Call Museum Director Bob Cameron at 814-876-0129 and tell him your area of interest. Whether you want to give a half day a week, four days a month, or more, we'd love to have your help! And welcome to the growing group of Boal Museum volunteers!

## Regular and Special Events Through June 2018

The Museum has plenty of bus tours from in and out of state during the “off season” (Nov. 1–Apr. 30); you can make an appointment for an individual or small group tour, too. Here’s what’s ahead from now through June:

- Sat, Feb 17\*      Masquerade Ball: See opening article for details.
- Sat, May 5      Central PA Native Plant Festival and Sale: Learn about native plants at free seminars, peruse vendors’ booths
- Sat, May 26\*      Civil War Ball: A family affair! Dress up in your favorite Civil-War-era gown, reenactors’ uniform, or just something fun to dance in.



Attendees at the Civil War Ball in the Boal Mansion Ballroom, May 2017

Photos by Art Pentz, left, and David Staab, right

- Mon, May 28      Memorial Day: As part of Boalsburg’s annual Village-wide celebration, the Museum offers live music, Civil War re-enactors, living-history demos, great food, craft vendors, and special Museum tours.
- Sun, June 17      Father’s Day Bash: Treat Dad to a day of great food, brew, and live music.

\* Starred events require reservations. To reserve, or for more information: 814-876-0129 or [www.boalmuseum.com](http://www.boalmuseum.com).

## Memberships and Donations

We welcome new and returning members, and of course welcome large or small donations at any time, either for specific or general purposes.

Your 1-year membership (Oct. 1 through Sept. 30) comes with great benefits:

- » Free admission for the Museum and Chapel regular tour for you and your immediate family
- » Reduced admission to select Special Events (ask at the Visitor Center)
- » A 10% discount at the Museum Gift Shop in the Visitor Center
- » Opportunities for training, service, and organizational development
- » Opportunities for interpretation and preservation of our historic past
- » Your membership card

Membership levels are:

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

Send your membership or donation check to the address at the end of this newsletter, made out to Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum, with "2018 Membership" or "Donation for [purpose]" in the Memo line.

### Join us!

You can participate in the growth and development at the Museum in many ways: as a volunteer, a Museum member, a sponsor for special events, a donor, or simply by visiting with your friends and family. Use the walking trails around the Museum grounds at any time, schedule a wedding or reunion on the grounds, or just admire all the new gardens. Please keep in touch: call Director Bob Cameron at 814-876-0129 or leave a message on the office phone, 814-466-6210.

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