

News&Views

from the

Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum

Vol. 3, No. 4



Winter Membership Drive! Get Yours Here!



By now you all should have received a letter from our Museum Director, Dr. Bob Cameron, asking you to become members of the Boal Museum for the coming year and explaining why that is so vital to our future. Do please respond with your tax-deductible membership check and any additional contribution you are able to make this year. 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 stopped by for a visit since 2014, please do!

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 (ask at the Visitor Center)
- » 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 donations at any time, for either specific or general purposes.

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.

Olde Europe Festival Fun for Young and Old

This year's Olde Europe Festival attracted record numbers of visitors to the museum, thanks to Festival Organizer Holly Foy, Museum Director Bob Cameron, a host of volunteers, and all the vendors and entertainers.



Day of Caring volunteers create the temporary stage to be used a few days later, during the Olde Europe Festival

Photo by Art Pentz

Holly lined up the entertainment well in advance:

- » Unicorn rides for children!
- » Buggy rides around the estate with two handsome Percherons leading the way
- » Jugglers and wandering wizards
- » Folk dancing
- » A singing Irish fiddler
- » Knights in shining armor (members of the Society for Creative Anachronism) displaying their skills
- » Irish music by local band Callanish
- » And much more!



Photo by Dave Mengle

Bob and our volunteers organized the food and drink vendors, who represented the five European countries with which the Boal family has been



Photo by Dave Mengle

connected: Ireland, France, Spain, Italy, and Germany. The museum's dessert tent featured pies and cakes made by museum volunteers. So one could have, say, Spanish soup, an Italian entrée, a German cake for dessert, with French wine or Irish beer—all while being entertained by peripatetic musicians, folk dancers, or battling knights! Altogether satisfying!

What Attracted This Museum Volunteer?

Why did Holly Foy decide to volunteer at the Boal Museum? As she explains it, several years ago, she and her partner in Ancient Echoes, a Renaissance musical duo, played on the Boal Museum lawn during the Boalsburg Memorial Day festivities. Director Bob Cameron asked whether she knew of other entertainers of an “Old World” bent who might add their flavors to a mix he was contemplating—and she sent him a lengthy list! Her experience as a folk musician with Ancient Echoes and with the larger group Callanish, her volunteer work running a Folk College (an annual 3-day folk-music teaching event) for about 20 years, as well as her work on the Board of Directors of the Acoustic Brew music series for the same period, all have connected her with many other entertainers in the region. This all seemed a great fit for organizing the Olde Europe Festival that Bob had in mind! He asked for her help and the rest is history.



Now retired from teaching art for 22 years for the State College Area School District, Holly finds herself connecting with even more creative people in the area. In 1999 she started participating in and helping to organize the Italian Street Painting Festival on two blocks of Heister Street in State College; she began directing it in 2001. She invites local artists to share their talents, promotes the event each year, and sets aside space for a “Little Art Alley” where amateurs can try their hands at street painting.

In addition to that expression of her artistic and musical talents and creating posters for Bellefonte’s Victorian Christmas, she also creates works of art in clay at the Art Alliance Potters Guild in Lemont.

What Can You Do?

Here are some volunteer efforts that may interest you:

- » Become a museum docent (tour guide) to share the history of this Museum with visitors, either for the standard tour or for special-exhibit tours. Most docents work from May 1 through October 31, one or two afternoons a week. It takes some time to learn the tours, working with current docents, so plan well in advance. You may also get to lead bus tours during the off-season.
- » Refurbish antique carriages and buggies. If you like old vehicles, this is for you!
- » Maintain structures: carpentry, glazing, plumbing, and other DIY skills are always needed for these aging buildings.
- » Clean and care for delicate artifacts, with training from those who know how it must be done.
- » Research the huge collection of Boal family papers located at Penn State’s Pattee Library and in the Boal Mansion. If reading, scanning, and categorizing old letters, articles, even purchase receipts (alongside an experienced researcher) appeals to you, we have them!



Surrey frame (with “before” inset)
being refurbished for display

Photo by Bob Cameron

- » Work as an office greeter at the Visitor Center during our regular season, May 1 through October 31.
- » Help out with special events! We always need volunteers before, during, and after our many annual events: selling food or antiques, selling tickets for tours, parking cars, even things as mundane as putting garbage bags in the cans and replacing them as needed. Every little bit helps.
- » Use your gardening skills: a wide variety of gardens need loving care from early spring through late fall.

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 area of interest. Whether you want to give one day a month, a day a week, more, or less, we would love to have your help! Welcome to the growing group of Boal Museum volunteers!



Photo by Bob Cameron

Tours and Special Events Through December

The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 1:30 to 5:00 pm for [Regular](#) drop-in tours through the end of October. We also take reservations for individual and group tours, both on and off season. Call 814-876-0129.

These are the [Special Events](#) planned for the remainder of this year:

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| Fri, Nov 30* | Home for the Holidays at the Mansion: Candlelight Tour-
Come enjoy a truly old-fashioned Christmas with an exciting candlelight tour! |
| Sat, Dec 1*
SOLD OUT! | Home for the Holidays at the Mansion: Christmas Tea & Candlelight Tour- Enjoy high tea, incredible food, live music, and an exciting candlelight tour of the museum! |

Serving Christmas Tea!

Photo by Mary Szmolko



Sun, Dec 2*
SOLD OUT!

Home for the Holidays at the Mansion: Dickens Dinner-Dance & Candlelight Tour: Join us for a traditional Dickens' Christmas dinner, followed by a candlelight tour and waltzing in the beautiful Mansion ballroom.

* Starred events require reservations. 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.

Spring Music Series

In early spring we will host some superb professional pianists. Organized by Dr. Amy Gustafson, pianist and director of the Gijon International Piano Festival, and Museum Director Bob Cameron, the series will take place in the Boal Mansion ballroom. Here are the basics; more details to come in January:

Tue, Feb 19, 7pm - Alexander Kobrin, winner of the 2005 Van Cliburn Piano Competition: *Brahms and Schubert*

Sun, Mar 10, 3pm - Francisco Montero: *All-Spanish Music Program*

Sun, Apr 14, 3pm - Amy F. Gustafson: *Cimarosa, Brahms, Liszt, and Chopin*

\$40 in advance; \$45 at the door; students under 21, \$30. Cash bar.

Tickets will be available on our website, www.boalmuseum.com.

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. Use the walking trails around the Museum grounds at any time, schedule a wedding or reunion, or just admire all the gardens. Please keep in touch: call Director Bob Cameron at 814-876-0129 or leave a message on the Visitor Center phone, 814-466-6210.

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