



October 2023

news & notes



*Left to Right
Nancy Russell
shares stories in
the cabin. A
young visitor
shows off their
river drawing.
Carey Kelley
guides a family
through the
Maplewood
kitchen.*

Heritage Festival: Volunteers Make Community-Wide Weekend Event Possible

**Madeline Bloss, Senior Coordinator,
Operations & Outreach**

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers the 2023 Heritage Festival was a fantastic outreach event that welcomed thousands of people over two busy days. Fifty volunteers worked a collective 200 hours to make the annual festival possible.

Thank you for your hard work! Your gift of time allowed us to share our exhibits and historic structures with the community, sharing Boone County's story with a whole new set of individuals.

Maplewood, our beautiful 1877 historic home, welcomed over 400 people in 30-minute guided tours. The Village at Boone Junction saw

over 3,500 visitors to the Ryland House, the Easley Store, the McQuitty House and the Gordon-Collins Cabin. This is over 250 visitors per hour in the Village! More than 1,100 people visited the main History & Culture Center building and its exhibits over the course of the weekend as well.

This year we offered family events at Heritage Festival for the first time, and we had a lot of success! Nearly 300 children and family members enjoyed the activities offered by Sarah Poff, BCHS education coordinator, and her team of volunteers. These activities are a great way to introduce history to the next generation in fun, new ways.

First Chance for Children joined in the family fun on—**Continued on page 3**



Things That Matter

Pioneering female firefighter Sandra Schiess inspired attendees on September 14 with personal stories as well as her dedication to promoting inclusion for women and minorities in the workforce. **More on page 5.**

Summer Giving

Generous Support Falls Short of Goal

Thank you for your generosity during our Summer Give campaign as well as on Giving Day 2023. It was crucial to our operations for the remainder of the year. Thanks to you, our wonderful members and donors, Giving Day totaled in at \$24,651.04. That is so close to our \$25,000 goal! Unfortunately, we only received about 61 percent of our Summer Give campaign goal of \$40,000. So, honestly, we could really still use your help. Inflation and the

general higher cost of living has impacted members and donors. As a result our year-to-date donations are significantly lower than in recent years and our expenses continue to rise like many households. It is a challenging place to find ourselves, but your support makes all the difference.

Every dollar really does make it possible for us to open the doors and welcome the community in; even if you cannot give as much you have in the past, your gift still directly translates into outreach and preservation.

Your \$50 gift provides supplies for hands-on activities for children. They can create their own "tintype" while learning about our 516,000-piece photography collection.

A \$15 gift pays for one glass-plate negative storage box, ensuring the proper storage of 30 negatives.

Regardless of the amount, your partnership helps makes incredible things happen. If you meant to donate and did not, there is still time! Donate at BooneHistory.org/Donate or by mail to 3801 Ponderosa St, Columbia, MO 65201. Thank you!

We would also like to thank those who made Giving Day possible. Principal support for matching funds was provided by Vicki Russell as well as Anonymous; Laurel Wilson, Ph.D. and Howard Wilson. Many thanks to event chair Melissa Hecht; members of the BCHS Board of Directors: David Wilson, Elizabeth Watkins, Karen M. Miller, Nancy W. Thomas; and volunteers Ben Carter, Laurel Wilson; Chris Campbell, BCHS executive director and Madeline Bloss, BCHS senior coordinator, outreach and operations.

Summer Give & Giving Day Donors: May 30-October 1

There's still time to join them!

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Robert Gail Woods
**These donors went above and beyond by making a very generous "BCHS Advocate" contribution. Thank you!*

2023 Heritage Festival

—continued from page 1

Saturday to share water and sensory tables. If you aren't aware of all the ways this organization strengthens and supports local families, we invite you to learn more at FirstChanceForChildren.org.

If you missed out on the fun at this year's festival, be sure you mark your calendars for next year. Heritage Festival is always the third weekend in September.

Can't wait that long? You can still schedule a private tour of the Village at Boone Junction or the Maplewood Home up until our tour season ends on October 31. Call the History & Culture Center or email Info@BooneHistory.org for more information. A nominal tour fee helps support the maintenance of these historic structures: \$6 per adult and \$4 per child.

You can also join us at future family events. Between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. on November 11, we will celebrate veterans with hands-on activities inspired by *Heroes Among Us* exhibition. Attendees can see items from real veterans, see how art can be a way to honor the heroes we come across every day and create a flag to take home. There will also be a flag ceremony, tentatively planned for 10:30 a.m. Check BooneHistory.org for more details as we get closer to the event.

Thank you, Volunteers! You made the 2023 Heritage Festival possible by sharing your time.

Anonymous	Julie Kalaitzandonakes
Sharon Adams	Carey Kelley
Bryan Allee	Evelyn Kinkade
Renee Allee	Dolores McCray
Ann Baker	Cindy Mustard
Jerry Benedict	Christine Orey
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Charlotte Bridgeman	Dale Potter
Andrew Clarke	Karen Potter
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Jeanne Galliher	Shelley Shields
Tara Griffin	Gary Smith
Max Hagaman	Melanie Staloch
Valerie Hammons	Vickie Toalson
Susan Hart	Bill Watkins
Alice Havard	Elizabeth Watkins
Barbra Horrell	Lisa Weil
Niamh Johnston	Laurel Wilson



Left to Right Sarah Poff helps a child “fish” on the Boone County History & Culture Center’s veranda. A father helps his daughter play with the bird-themed sensory table First Chance for Children brought to the family event on September 16. Carolyn Doyle, right, helps a visitor determine what animal tracks he would like to add to his “Along the River” picture.

Remember the Center Store for Historic, Haunted Tales

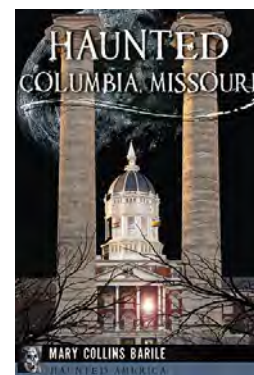
If entering the month of October finds you wishing for a spooky tale, we encourage you to explore the Center store.

We have a number of titles that stir up stories about unsettling history of the Show-Me State. *Haunted Boonslick* (\$19.99) and *Haunted Columbia, Missouri* (\$19.99) are both by Mary Collins Barile.

If you are looking for something more

surprising than scary, try Barile’s *Forgotten Tales of Missouri* (\$12.99). You may catch a glimpse of the Mississippi River running backward from an earthquake!

Keep the Center Store in mind when you need a new title. When you make a purchase—deliciously haunting or extremely illuminating—you are supporting the mission to preserve and share our local heritage.



Art Combines Contemporary Ideology with Modernist Flair

*Betsy Knabe Roe, Director
& Curator, Montminy Gallery*

Visit before November 11 to see *CONTEMPORARY MODERNISM*, the current exhibition in the Montminy Gallery, featuring the works of two artists, Daniel Eggert from Chicago, IL and Sharyn Hyatt from Columbia.

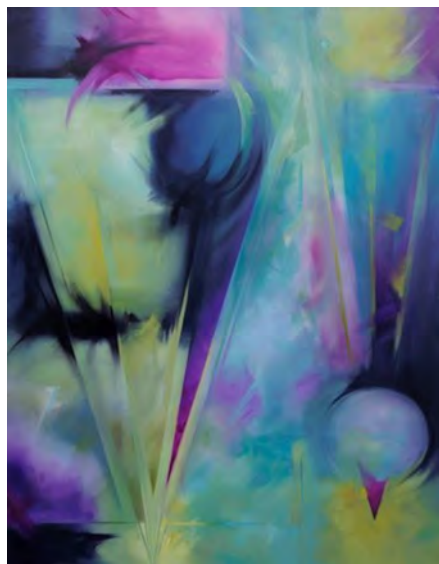
CONTEMPORARY MODERNISM is a contrast of terms that can be confusing. Contemporary refers to life and events that are happening now and the art that visually depicts it. Modernism refers to a worldwide movement in the early twentieth century influenced by the experience and values of modern industrial life.

Hyatt and Eggert combine contemporary ideology with the style of modernist art. They are both influenced by Modernist artists such as Georgia O'Keeffe and Marcel Duchamp both of whom relied on intuition more than "reality".

One can see in Eggert's lively artworks that he studied Duchamp's methods of creating movement by using repetition and strong lines. He adds saturated colors to give a contemporary feel. The picture plane is often divided into sections much

“Daniel Eggert and Sharyn Hyatt are both influenced by Modernist artists such as Georgia O'Keeffe and Marcel Duchamp both of whom relied on intuition more than 'reality.'
—Betsy Knabe Roe

like a Mondrian painting. This speaks of the multiple ways we are living our lives today.



Artworks (clockwise from top left) Daniel Eggert Melody. Marcel Duchamp Nude Descending A Staircase. Sharyn Hyatt Elusive Heretic V. Georgia O'Keeffe Abstraction I. Visit soon to see these works and more by Eggert and Hyatt

Hyatt's artworks are subtle with lines, shapes and colors sometimes blending into each other in a manner that keeps you looking. She has a lovely sense of color with varying palettes for

different pieces. Because she works in series, her artworks often fit together in pairs or triads even

though they can be hung separately with good effect.

On viewing this exhibit, take your time to really look closely. How does the artwork make you feel? Getting in touch with your reaction can help you appreciate the artwork more. Read the artist's statements to learn about the artist's history, influences and motives. Talking to someone else who is familiar with contemporary modern art can also help you understand and appreciate their work.

Inclusion & Perseverance

Pioneering Female Firefighter Shares Inspiring Personal Stories

Micah Barnes, Courtesy of the Columbia Missourian

Sandra Schiess spoke Thursday (September 14) about moving up the ranks within the Independence Fire Department, as well as gender inclusion and perseverance during the *Things That Matter* series.

The monthly series is held at the Boone County History & Culture Center in the Montminy Gallery. Chris Campbell, executive director of the Boone County Historical Society conceived the idea alongside Victoria Hubbell, a BCHS board director. The Center has previously hosted authors but decided to extend their speaker diversity and subject matter for this series.

"It came from a lot of thinking over the last few years that our organization and our museum had a bigger responsibility to the community," Campbell said. "We decided that we wanted to do something more broad than that. We wanted to bring in important stories that we felt needed to be told, whether there was a book behind it or not."

Now retired, Schiess acted as interim chief of the Independence Fire Department in 2004 and was officially named chief in 2005. She said there were just over two dozen female fire chiefs nationwide at the time.

Schiess joined the Columbia Fire Department in 1978 as one of the early female firefighters. The first female firefighter in Columbia was Patricia Collins, who was hired in 1975. Schiess vibrantly gave an inside look at what life was like in a work culture that is primarily made up of men. She said she had trouble finding uniforms made for women and often found herself propping blocks on the accelerator and brakes of the firetruck so she could drive. She also mentioned there was a curtain that concealed her sleeping quarters at the station, which wasn't the case for her male coworkers.

"It was a privilege to be a firefighter and go up the ranks here in Columbia. Frankly, I owe the community anything they ask of me. This is just one opportunity to return that," Schiess said.

Schiess said there were many moments throughout her career when people assumed that she wasn't a firefighter. "I'm sitting there (in the national organization for training firefighters), and somebody comes up to me and asks, 'Who are you waiting for?' Let's fast forward about 20 years, and now I'm in the executive fire officer program. I walk in and sit down, and somebody comes up to me and says, 'Who are you waiting for?'" Schiess said.



Sandra Schiess, one of the first local female firefighters, shared some of the great strides many fire departments have made to include women and minorities in their ranks. Yet, even in 2023, 50 percent of fire departments have never hired a woman.

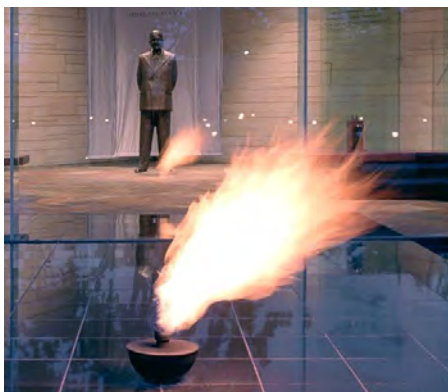
“ Young girls need to hear the word ‘firefighter.’ They need to see women. They need to see people of color, or they can’t even imagine it. We like to believe that you can dream impossible things, but you have to have a ray of light that allows you to see possibilities. —Sandra Schiess, retired fire chief

Schiess said much of her career experiences are characterized by nonacceptance. However, she said she experienced a supportive attitude shift within her team after being unable to save a family from a house fire, an experience that she said saved her from quitting her job. Schiess' team rallied around one another at the hospital after leaving the scene.

"For the first time ever, my crew was standing there waiting for me," Schiess said. "Those men that harassed me, those men that wouldn't let me eat with them, they came up and we put our arms around each other. It was what we now term 'inclusion.'"

Now, Schiess has largely dedicated her time to sharing her story and promoting inclusion for women in the workforce. One small step is to abandon the word "fireman."

"Young girls need to hear the word 'firefighter.' They need to see women. They need to see people of color, or they can't even imagine it," Schiess said. "We like to believe that you can dream impossible things, but you have to have a ray of light that allows you to see possibilities."



History Excursions, Gifts Available in Hall of Fame Online Auction

Support your Boone County History & Culture Center while getting a great deal on a gift or passes for your next history inspired vacation. There are a host of traditional items you will love in the 2023 Hall of Fame Gala online auction, and new ones we couldn't wait until gala week to tell you about!

Our friends on both sides of the state cannot wait to welcome you for these fun experiences:

-Kansas City: Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum in Independence, tour for up to 20 individuals; National WWI Museum, admission for two visitors.

-St. Charles: First State Capitol of Missouri Historic Site in St. Charles, eight VIP passes which will include a visit to a room not on the standard tour; The Lewis and Clark Boat House and Museum, a VIP tour, \$25 gift certificate, *Chasing Lewis & Clark Across America* book and a Discovery Expedition hat.

Not to mention great gifts from these wonderful local establishments: Battlefield Lavender, Bur Oak Brewing, Columbia Culinary Tours, CoMo Rocks, Cultivate Co., DogMaster Distillery, McAdams' Ltd., The Mother Farm, Truman's Bar & Grill, Relash and Tan Rio.

You do not have to attend the gala to participate. Anyone can register to take part in the online auction. Keep an eye on BooneHistory.org/Hall-Of-Fame-2023 and your emails for when it opens on gala week.

If you would rather not make a contribution online, we encourage you to make a donation in honor of one of our enshrinees—Colonel John Clark, The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri and the late Charles Morgenthau—by sending a check payable to the Boone County Historical Society to 3801 Ponderosa, Columbia, MO 65201.

We'll let the enshrinee or a loved one know of your generous gift. Thank you for your support of this important event! Gala proceeds support BCHS and its Endowment Trust.

Support BCHS through the online Hall of Fame auction, which is open to anyone not just attendees. You can win tickets for your next trip, including tours at these featured locations (top to bottom) The Lewis and Clark Boat House and Museum in St. Charles, the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum in Independence and the First State Capitol of Missouri Historic Site in St. Charles.



See You at the History & Culture Center

Saturday, October 14

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Family Event: Oktoberfest

Wednesday, October 25

4 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, October 27

History Makers Hall of Fame Gala
Kimball Ballroom, Stephens College campus

Thursday, November 9

1-2 p.m. *Things That Matter*: John Wilke
5 p.m. Endowment Trust Board Meeting

Saturday, November 11

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Family Event: Celebrating Veterans

Friday, November 17

7 p.m. Concert: Songs We Like to Sing

Saturday, December 9

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Family Event:
Christmas Cards

Thursday, December 14

1-2 p.m. *Things That Matter*: Gary Kremer

Current Exhibitions

Contemporary Modernism

Montminy Gallery thru November 11

The Great Flood

West Walters Gallery thru early 2024

Heroes Among Us & On My Honor

East Walters Gallery thru early 2024

October 1993: Flood Waters Recede

Thirty years ago, Boone County was still fighting flood waters. After the record-breaking July crest, the river dropped again, but would rise once more in September, to over 30 feet. By mid-October the flood appeared to be finally over, at least in Mid-Missouri, but there was no defined ending to the flood of 1993, just the beginning of a long clean up. The threat would remain well into 1995, when the river would flood yet again.

In its wake the Great Flood of 1993 left a landscape permanently changed, not just locally, but across the Midwest. The disaster would go on record as the worst flood in United States history when measured by financial losses, which when adjusted for 2023 rates equates to \$37 billion.

Because of its location on both the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, the flood did more damage in Missouri than to any other state. Over 12,000 homes and 3.1 million acres of cropland were damaged across the Show-Me State.

The clean up began with removing large amounts of water, mud, sand, silt, logs and whatever else the river washed into homes, businesses, churches, barns and sheds. The long recovery process tested the grit of floodplain communities as they navigated murky paths forward and none would be exactly the same ever again. To learn more, visit to see our retrospective exhibition marking the 30th anniversary of the Great Flood of 1993.



A family enjoys photos in the flood exhibition during Heritage Festival.




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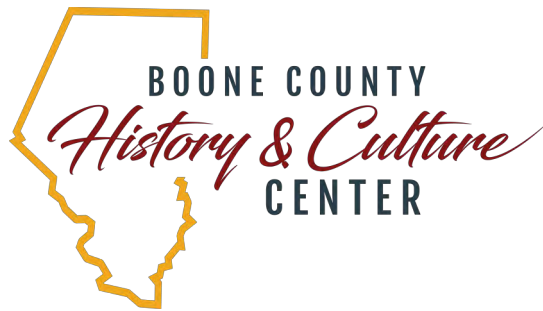
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Boone County History & Culture Center

3801 Ponderosa St, Columbia, MO 65201
 (573) 443-8936 | BooneHistory.org
Info@BooneHistory.org

Center Hours
 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday
 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Check BooneHistory.org
 for the latest announcements

Find us on social media @BooneHistory



Boone County Historical Society
at the Boone County History & Culture Center
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Columbia, MO 65201

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Broadway Actors Featured in *Songs We Like to Sing* Concert

Chris Campbell, Executive Director

Last year we brought you a year-end concert from talented Stephen College students in the Conservatory for Performing Arts. On Friday, November 17 we are bringing you a concert featuring their faculty!

Join Broadway actors Jennifer Hemphill, John Hemphill and Lisa Brescia as they sing some of their favorite songs from Broadway to Pop with special guest vocalists Nollie Moore and Jamey Grisham. The incredible Travis McFarlane will accompany the concert on the History & Culture Center's one-of-a-kind Blind Boone piano.

This will be an outstanding, ground-breaking show as the History & Culture Center has never before hosted three former Broadway vocalists in one concert. Tickets will be on sale beginning on October 15 and are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and the music will begin at 7 p.m. Be sure you are here for this memorable evening!

The Boone County History & Culture Center
and the Conservatory for the Performing
Arts at Stephens College Presents

Songs We Like to Sing
featuring Broadway actors
Jennifer & John Hemphill and Lisa Brescia

11.17.23
Doors 6:15 p.m. Music 7 p.m.

at the Boone County History & Culture Center
3801 Ponderosa St, Columbia

special guests
Nollie Moore
Jamey Grisham

accompaniment
Travis McFarlane

Join us November 17 for a star-studded concert featuring three Broadway talents: Jennifer and John Hemphill and Lisa Brescia. Adult tickets are \$25 and students \$15.

These three talented individuals are at the helm of the Conservatory of Performing Arts, whose faculty are accomplished performers and creatives that continue to work on national stages and Broadway tours.

One exceptional element of the program is the professional summer theatre in Iowa, which for the past 65 years has provided students an immersive opportunity to perform and work alongside professionals.

Help Make History. Volunteer. Donate.