



The Advance Car

The Official Newsletter of the Circus Historical Society

January 2024

Happy New Year! As we begin 2024, I am very pleased to announce that all the incumbents who ran for re-election to the CHS Board of Trustees were re-elected for another term and that Peggy Williams, Chris Lashua, and Mike Melssen were elected or appointed to fill the remaining vacancies. Additionally, all the incumbent officers were re-elected by the board to serve another term. As you will see from their [biographies](#), all of these individuals have extensive knowledge of the circus industry and its history. I am honored to serve with them.

The next issue of *Bandwagon* is in final production. This issue will include articles about the re-imagined *Greatest Show on Earth* and other circus history topics. It will also include a list of recently published circus books. *Bandwagon* will be arriving in your mailbox soon.

I can't thank you enough for your continued support during 2023. Circus history continues to be preserved due to the collective efforts of our members. If you are not already a member, [join CHS today](#). I look forward to an exciting 2024, including our Atlanta convention.

See you down the road,

Bruce Hawley, President, Circus Historical Society

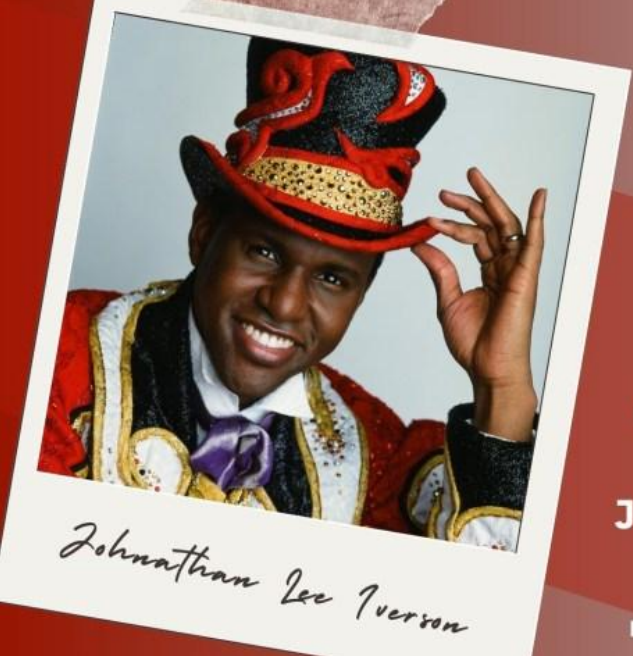


2024 CHS Convention

Be sure to mark your 2024 calendar for August 4-7 in Atlanta, Georgia! That's the site of CHS's annual convention, which promises to build on last year's success in Illinois with a big dose of Southern Hospitality.

We'll check into the beautiful Marriott Northeast/Emory University Area Hotel on Sunday, August 4. During the next three days you'll enjoy presentations focusing on fascinating aspects of circus, special displays, in-person and online auctions, great fellowship, and a special session with and performance by the spectacular Circus Vazquez – showing just a short bus ride from our hotel. Start planning your trip today!

[Click here for the Call for Papers and further details](#)



**CIRCUS
HISTORY
LIVE!**

**A CONVERSATION WITH
JOHNATHAN LEE IVERSON**

SUN, JANUARY 14, 7PM EST
FREE ZOOM EVENT (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

Register for *Circus History Live!* Johnathan Lee Iverson

Our January 14th session of *Circus History Live!* will feature legendary ringmaster Johnathan Lee Iverson! From Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus to Circus Omnium to Circus Vargas, Iverson redefined the role of ringmaster in the American circus over the last 25 years. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the fascinating career of a circus artist who continues to make circus history.

Circus History Live! is a free monthly Zoom event for CHS members and non-members. Registration is required.

Register for this event



Photos: Courtesy of Paul Gutheil and Chris Berry

Big Apple Circus-Circus Roncalli opens in NYC

The Big Apple Circus kicked off its annual holiday run in New York City on November 11 and has been earning glowing reviews ever since. This year's show is unique in that it is a collaboration with Germany's incomparable Circus-Theater Roncalli and its cast of stellar veteran performers.

The CHS was well represented on opening night by members Joe Barney, Don Kowell, Paul Gutheil, David Carlyon, former CHS President Don Covington, and current trustees Bruce Hawley, Chris Berry, and Stasia Kelly. Big Apple Circus CEO Marty LaSalle was featured on a late November edition of *Circus History Live!* which can be seen on the [Circus Historical Society YouTube Channel](#).



[CircusTalk](#) Highlights *Circus History Spotlight!* Interview with Shirley Larible

A recent CHS *Circus History Spotlight!* session with Shirley Larible was highlighted by the online circus industry publication, *CircusTalk*. An eighth generation circus performer, Shirley Larible discussed her transition from star aerialist to general manager of **Flip Circus**. The recording of this session is available on the [Circus Historical Society YouTube Channel](#).

If you're a CHS member who has recently promoted circus history through publication, presentations, media appearances, or community talks, let us know! We try to highlight as much as possible in each issue. Email CHSmktgpr@gmail.com

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