

# The Advance Car

The Official Newsletter of the Circus Historical Society

**March 2024**

"Into the sunshine of spring, the circus rises from it's winter hibernation. Spic and span and ready for eight months of excitement and adventure." Cecil B. DeMille's narration in *The Greatest Show on Earth* movie.

As we begin a new season, the Circus Historical Society is busy planning the next four issues of our beautiful *Bandwagon* journal, lining up guests for our popular online *Circus History Live!* and *Circus History Spotlight* programs, and putting the final touches on what's shaping up to be another spectacular convention! All of these activities are the result of the tremendous efforts of dedicated trustees and members who regularly volunteer their time, talents, and treasure to help us preserve circus history.

If you would like to become more involved in CHS activities, please send me an email at [president@circushistory.org](mailto:president@circushistory.org). As the old saying goes, "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless!"

If you are not already a CHS member, [join CHS today](#) to receive *Bandwagon* quarterly and to enjoy other member benefits throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing you at the convention in Atlanta this summer!

Bruce Hawley  
President  
Circus Historical Society



## 2024 CHS Convention

The countdown to our annual convention is ON! We're in full planning mode for our gathering in Atlanta . . . August 4-7. We're scheduling speakers and transportation, organizing our Circus Vazquez adventure, gathering auction items, and getting ready to welcome YOU.

Here are some things you need to remember . . .

**The Call for Papers deadline is nearing.** Submit your presentation proposal by March 31. [Click here for the Call for Papers.](#)

**Reserve your hotel room soon.** The CHS group rate of \$149 plus taxes per night is only available until July 16, or when our room block is full, whichever comes first. [Click here to reserve your room.](#)

**Plan your travel and register to reserve your convention name badge!** The Early Bird member rate of \$200 ends on April 1. Register early and save!

[Click here for Registration and other convention information](#)

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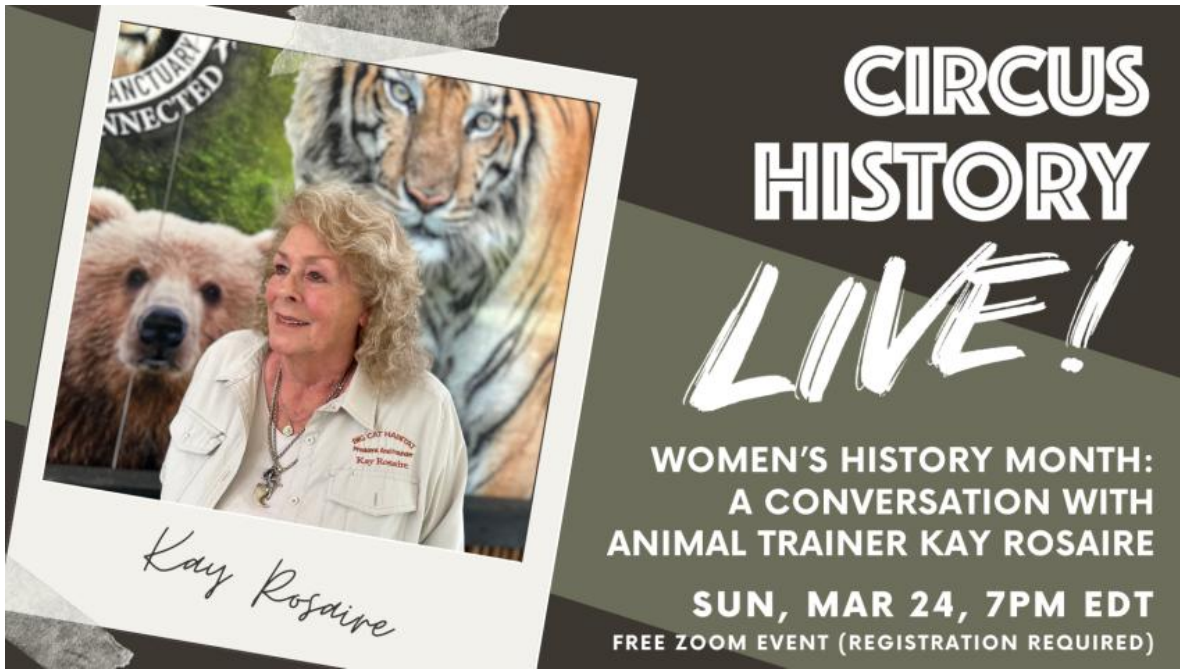


Photo courtesy of Chris Berry

## Register for *Circus History Live!* with Kay Rosaire

In celebration of Women's History Month, animal trainer **Kay Rosaire** will be our featured guest on the next edition of *Circus History Live!* Join CHS Vice President Chris Berry online at 7pm EDT on March 24 for an in-depth look at the career of this fascinating circus veteran performer.

*Circus History Live!* is a free monthly Zoom event for CHS members and non-members. Register now for your spot in the CHS Zoom Big Top where every seat is in the VIP section!

[Register for this event](#)

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## CHS Member Spotlight



Photo courtesy of Bruce Hawley

**CHS Trustee Wayne McCary** was in the well-deserved spotlight last month, as he was inducted into Sarasota’s Circus Ring of Fame. McCary was honored for his numerous outstanding achievements alongside other members of the Class of 2024. They are: HSH Princess Stephanie of Monaco, David Smith Sr. & Jr., Catherine Hanneford Carden, and Bob Yerkes.

A special ceremony was held February 10 under the Circus Sarasota big top, with video career highlights presented for each inductee. Selected “Generation NeXt” acts were showcased before the unveiling of Circus Ring of Fame plaques. The plaques were officially dedicated at the public site on St. Armands Circle the next day.

McCary received a standing ovation and many tributes at his festive after-party, hosted by Bello and Jenny Nock at their sprawling “Funny Farm” east of Sarasota. McCary was especially proud to have his family by his side, including his three grandchildren, for all the events.





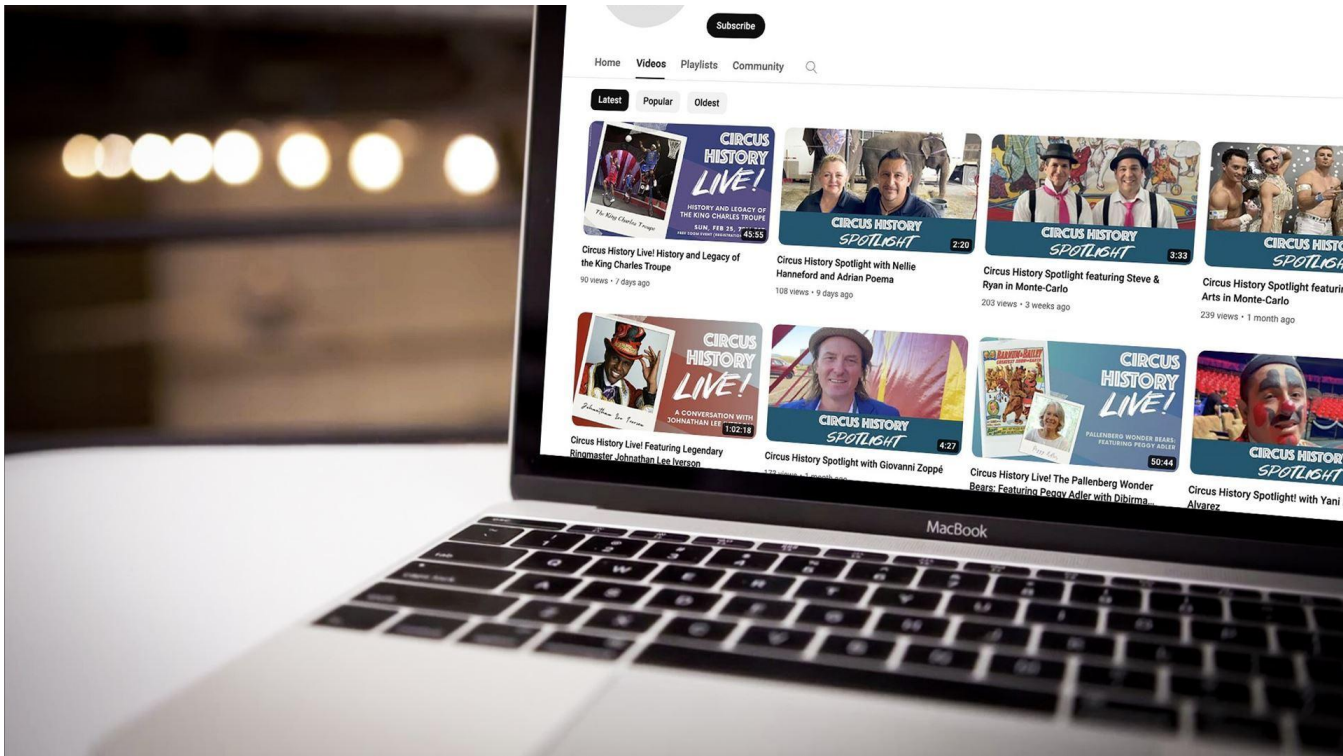
Belinda DeBelli when she was with the RBBB Circus

Another group of circus history enthusiasts has graduated from a special class at Furman University in South Carolina. Nineteen students attended the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) program study of circus history last fall, taught by **CHS member Lynn Duncan**. Topics included circus music, clowns, and lingo, posters, logistics, parades, performers, and much more.

**CHS member Belinda DeBelli**, a Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus Blue Unit showgirl from the 1970s, gave an in-person presentation highlighted by memories of being trained for the aerial ballet by Antoinette Concello. CHS President Bruce Hawley, along with Aíne Norris and Roger Smith, shared circus insights via Zoom.

*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 [CHSmarketingpr@gmail.com](mailto:CHSmarketingpr@gmail.com)*

# CHS YouTube Channel



The CHS YouTube channel has more than 50 videos available for you to watch anytime, including our new series *Circus History Spotlight* and previous recordings of our monthly program, *Circus History Live!*

Visit the CHS channel today, and don't forget to subscribe!

[Click here to visit the CHS YouTube Channel](#)

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