

The Advance Car

The Official Newsletter of the Circus Historical Society

October 2023

It has been a busy few months for Circus Historical Society! Our annual Convention was a huge success, bringing together over 100 members in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois, a place rich with circus history. Thank you to everyone who supported the event! An article about our gathering will be in the next issue of *Bandwagon*. Additionally, suggestions gleaned from the Convention survey are being carefully considered as we make decisions for next year.



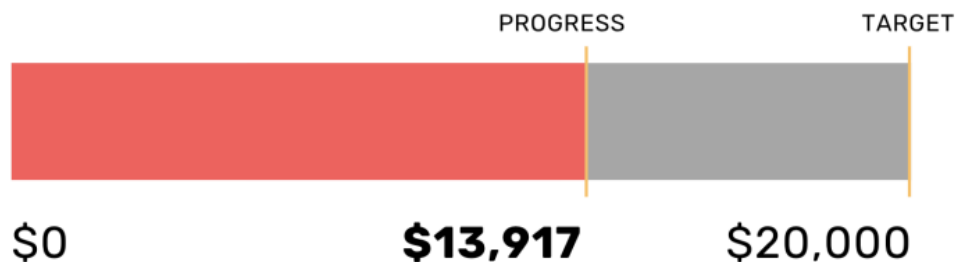
The next issue of *Bandwagon* will also include a ballot and the bios of nominees seeking election to the CHS Board of Trustees. Please be sure to carefully consider these individuals for the important contributions they can make to our group and be sure to vote before the deadline of December 15, 2023.

We're excited to bring you this issue of *The Advance Car* and to celebrate the immense circus history contributions of our members. If you are not already a member, [join CHS today](#).

See you down the road!

Bruce Hawley,
President, Circus Historical Society

Make a Year-End Donation to CHS



As 2023 comes to a close, please consider a year-end donation to CHS. We've set a goal of \$20,000 and are making progress toward that. With everyone pitching in to our organization, we may even surpass that target!

We're kicking off this final call for 2023 donations with a promotion: the next five persons who donate \$75 or more will receive a *Bandwagon* slipcase!

[Click here to donate](#)

The Circus Historical Society, which is an IRS Section 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, relies on both dues and donations to create the resources and events appreciated and expected by our members. That includes the production of Bandwagon, the annual CHS Convention, maintenance of our website and the resources shared there, and coverage of our CHS's operating expenses. Your generous contribution will help keep our membership dues affordable. Thank you for your support.

The poster features a black and white photograph of Art Concello in a circus setting, a color photograph of Maureen Brunsdale smiling, and a circular graphic with text. The background is a dark red gradient.

CIRCUS HISTORY LIVE!

MAUREEN BRUNSDALE
ON WRITING THE BIOGRAPHY
OF ART CONCELLO

SUN, OCT 22, 7PM ET
FREE ZOOM EVENT (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

WE WILL ALSO
ANNOUNCE
THE WINNER
OF OUR 2023
THAYER PRIZE!

Art Concello

Maureen Brunsdale

Register for *Circus History Live!* Featuring Maureen Brunsdale

Our upcoming *Circus History Live!* features a discussion with CHS trustee Maureen Brunsdale about her [recently-published biography](#) of circus legend, Art Concello. We'll also announce the winner of our 2023 Stuart Thayer Prize during this event.

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

[Register for this event](#)



Photo: Courtesy of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey

Return of The Greatest Show On Earth

Three CHS trustees and several CHS members were on hand for the grand re-opening of The Greatest Show On Earth in September. The extravaganza premiered at the Brookshire Grocery Arena in Bossier City, Louisiana to enthusiastic reviews from audiences, insiders, and members of the media.

CHS vice president Chris Berry gave a sneak peek of rehearsals and the show to members of the CHS Facebook Group over the past few weeks, sharing many photos and videos. Not a member of the group? [Click here to join the conversation!](#)

CHS Member Spotlight

Recognizing our members and their dedication to the preservation of circus history.



Photo: Circus Ring of Fame

Wayne McCary: 2024 Circus Ring of Fame Inductee

CHS trustee and legendary circus producer, Wayne McCary, is one of the 2024 Circus Ring of Fame inductees! Congratulations to Wayne and all inductees. [Read more.](#)



Photos: Jonathan Shipley

Circus World's Shrake and Cronk Featured for Circus History

CHS members and Circus World archivist and curator, Peter Shrake and Jennifer Cronk were featured in a recent news article about circus history preservation. [Read more.](#)



Mini Documentary on Stars Above Circus

Josh Aviner, CHS member and co-founder of Hideaway Circus with Lyndsay Aviner, produced a new mini-documentary about *Stars Above*, their latest outdoor family-friendly spectacle. The documentary, titled *Behind the Magic: A Day in the Life of Stars Above Circus*, is [available to watch on YouTube.](#)

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

This message was sent to you by Circus Historical Society

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, you can [unsubscribe](#) at any time

Images in The Advance Car used with permission from The Ringling, Milner Library Special Collections at Illinois State University, and private collections.