

THE ARTS & CRAFTS MESSENGER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
COLORADO ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

www.coloarts-crafts.org

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MIDSUMMER'S EVE GALA MARKS MILESTONES FOR MANSION & CACS

THURSDAY JULY 27, 2017

THE BOETTCHER MANSION
ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, GOLDEN, COLORADO
4 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

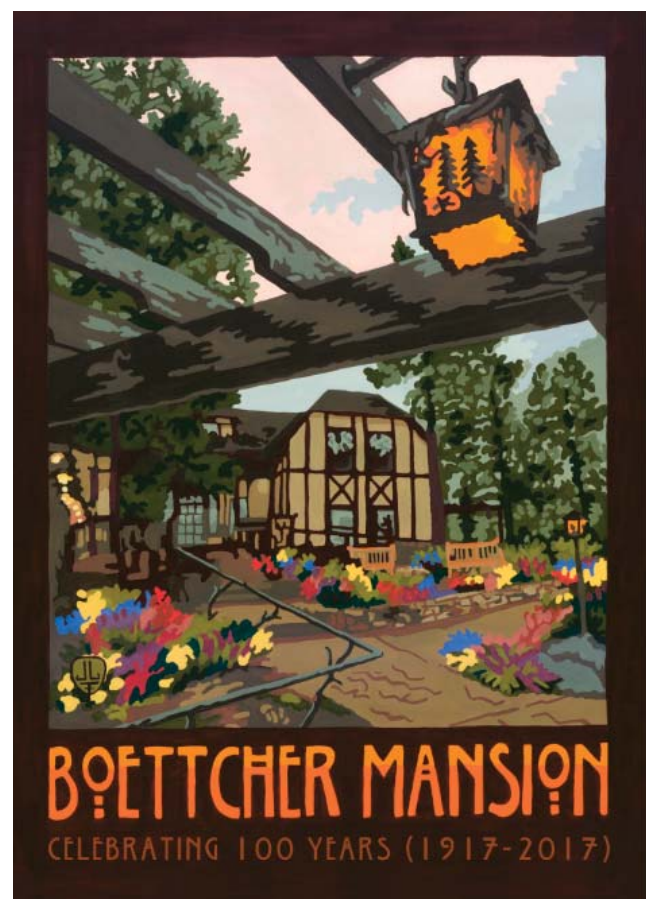
On Thursday, July 27th, from 4-8 PM both the Mansion's 100th birthday and CACS' 20th anniversary will be celebrated inside the Lookout Mountain Nature Preserve (admission is free to the public). Festivities will include live music by the band Renewed, food and beverage trucks and

tours of the Mansion and Nature Center.

Last but not least, three stunning prints created by local artists Julie Leidel, Leon Loughridge and Nathan Cook will be available for sale in the Mansion's gift shop.



Artwork & Poster by Nathan Cook



Artwork & Poster by Julie Leidel

1997: A PARTNERSHIP IS FORGED

By Cynthia Shaw

Here's a little history leading up to the creation of the Colorado Arts & Crafts Society onsite at the Boettcher Mansion and how the two entities have enjoyed a symbiotic relationship for 20 years.

If there were ever an impressive example of adaptive reuse in Jefferson County, the historic Boettcher Mansion would take the cake. Designed by Denver architects Fisher & Fisher as a summer home and seasonal getaway for Colorado entrepreneur Charles Boettcher (1852-1948), "Lorraine Lodge" was built of local stone and timber in the forest on top of Lookout Mountain. Completed in 1917, the Arts & Crafts-style dwelling offered the prolific Prussian patriarch a welcomed respite while still allowing him commanding views of his various business endeavors down on the plains below.

Having made an early fortune selling hardware to the miners during the silver boom in Leadville, Charles was contemplating retirement as he approached 50. In 1900, after realizing potential opportunities back home while visiting the relatives he'd left behind in Germany when he emigrated to Wyoming in 1869, he decided to establish two new companies: Ideal Cement and Great Western Sugar. By the time he died at age 96, he was still a hard-working businessman (living in a suite at The Brown Palace Hotel, another one of his wise investments).

The family getaway continued to be enjoyed by its descendants, with granddaughter Charline Humphreys Breeden purchasing the estate in 1958 so that her three children could enjoy it like she had. Prior to her untimely death in 1972, she bequeathed the 110-acre estate to Jefferson County for public use and enjoyment. Initially overwhelmed by this generous gift, Jeffco remodeled and reopened the former residence in 1975 as the Jefferson County Conference & Nature Center (at that point, despite the cathedral-beamed living room and expansive front terrace, its potential as a special events venue had not quite been realized).

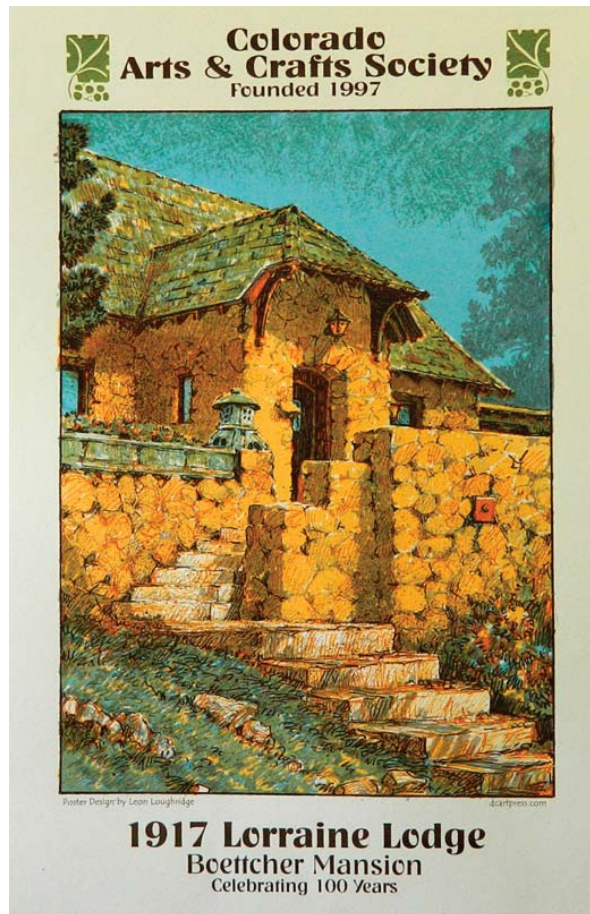
Over the next decade, as more and more couples asked if they might be married on the premises, weddings and receptions became the primary focus (and much needed source of revenue) for the property. After being listed on the National Register of Places in 1984 as a place of architectural and social significance – and enlarged with an

historically sensitive two-story lobby addition in 1986 – the landmark was renamed the Boettcher Mansion to better reflect its new function. There is no doubt that Charles – one of Colorado's earliest entrepreneurs – would be very proud to know that his former home is now turning a profit of its own!

In 1997, the founding of the Colorado Arts & Crafts Society onsite helped solidify the Mansion's identity as a rustic but resplendent example of the Craftsman style. Twenty years later, the non-profit volunteer organization continues to maintain an impressive collection of books and periodicals dedicated to this aesthetic movement in America (c. 1895-1920) in Charles' former study. Attracting a loyal cadre of aficionados and other fans on a regular basis throughout the year, CACS also offers lectures, tours and other educational programs such as the Winter Symposium and Spring Gathering of the Guilds.

In 2005, the completion of a grant-funded historic structures assessment and a conservation report led the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners to approve a \$3.1 million Capital Improvement Plan funded by a portion of Colorado's Conservation Trust Fund monies. For the next two winters, the Mansion was closed to the public while Slater-Paull and its team of architects, contractors, engineers, preservationists and landscape designers constructed a new kitchen/storage addition, restored the exterior façade, refurbished the existing bathrooms, upgraded the electrical and HVAC systems, abated asbestos and lead paint, installed a slate roof and heated walkway, and implemented a new garden and irrigation plan. Other enhancements included purchasing a variety of reissued Stickley furniture and sprucing up the interior with period paint colors, wallpaper and stencil patterns.

By the time of its Grand Reopening in October of 2007, Lookout Mountain's "Grand Dame" was gussied up enough to take on another century of doing what she does best: graciously receiving and entertaining her guests. Now 10 years later, as she turns 100, the Mansion is finishing up renovation of the Aspen Room into a bridal lounge and executive suite. This project should be complete by the July 27th celebration, and we look forward to seeing you on this fine midsummer's eve! For more details, contact Cynthia at (720) 497-7632 or cshaw@jeffco.us.



Artwork & Poster by Leon Loughridge



Watercolor sketches by Leon Loughridge for the Boettcher 100th Celebration



Side View of Boettcher Mansion



Leon Loughridge at Work



BOETTCHER MANSION

 Celebrating 100 Years (1917-2017)

The Arts & Crafts Messenger, the newsletter of the Colorado Arts & Crafts Society, is published quarterly for the society's members as part of their membership contribution. Send comments to julie.leidel@gmail.com. All articles are ©2017 the Colorado Arts & Crafts Society, with rights reverting to the authors after publication.

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900 Colorow Road
Golden, Colorado 80401

WHY SHOULD YOU HAVE ALL THE FUN?

GIVE A FRIEND THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE COLORADO ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIETY

Make a special gift of the growing enthusiasm, activism and educational opportunities offered by the Colorado Arts and Crafts Society. Our members are always the first to learn about our special events, such as our annual Winter Symposium and Gathering of the Guilds, plus neighborhood walking tours and field trips to significant Arts and Crafts sites. Plus, as members they'll receive discounted or free admission to all CACS events, and our quarterly newsletter. Give a gift today!

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Organization or Business membership | |

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Mail completed form and payment to: CACS, 900 Colorow Road, Golden, CO 80401

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A YEAR'S MEMBERSHIP
IN THE COLORADO ARTS
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