



NEWSLETTER Number 18

May – June 2014

The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion, a 501(c)(3) organization - 3130 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214

Message from Board President, Jeff Syracuse - It felt like Spring would never get here, but it has finally arrived and The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion are gearing up for some wonderful events you don't want to miss. Our annual Phil the House with Arts & Friends is in its fourth year and will be the anniversary of the inaugural event of the Friends group held at the Two Rivers Mansion. We have accomplished a great deal in this short time and we hope you'll come to this annual open house event on the afternoon of Sunday, May 18 to celebrate with us, visit the mansion and experience the artistry of Patricia Johnson. The following month on Thursday, June 12 will be another milestone for our Friends group with the first-ever performance of the Nashville Symphony at the Two Rivers Mansion, which will kick off our Music at the Mansion series for 2014. These are exciting times of expanding community awareness of the Two Rivers Mansion while continuing our work of restoring and preserving the 1859 Two Rivers Mansion, the original 1802 House and surrounding 14-acre property. We hope to see you soon!

Mansion History –

Following the death of Spence McGvooock in 1936 Mary Louise moved back to her family home of Melrose off Franklin Road. Periodically she would return to Two Rivers for short periods of time and then return to Melrose until 1955 when Melrose was sold and she returned to Two Rivers to live out the last years of her life. She was noted for saying that some of her happiest times of her life were spent at Two Rivers.

During the years following Spence's death the farming operation at Two Rivers continued under the oversight of various caretakers. Prior to moving back to the Mansion permanently in 1955, Mrs. McGavock did some redecorating with wallpaper and carpet and other changes; some of which is still reflected in the interior of the Mansion today. One of the most notable changes that occurred was the installation of a small elevator in the corner of the men's parlor that connected to a sitting room on the second floor. Paperwork for the purchase and installation

was found indicating the total cost to be \$1,100 and is believed to have possibly been one of, if not the first, residential elevator in the county.

Mrs. McGavock died on November 22, 1965 and her body was interred at Mt Olivet Cemetery off Lebanon Road just east of the city. Her will named numerous family members, friends and employees as beneficiaries and also instructed that the estate be sold and the proceeds be used to establish an endowment for the operation and/or expansion of the work of the Division of Hematology at Vanderbilt Hospital and Medical School. The fund was named the William S. Bransford Fund in honor of her father and has continued to provide assistance to the present time.

Phil the House With Art and Friends – This summer’s activity schedule will begin with the annual “Phil the House” event on Sunday afternoon, May 18th from 2 – 5 pm. “Phil the House” is designed as an open house event for Friends members and potential members to come enjoy an afternoon of art, music, wine and food. This year’s featured artist is Patricia Johnson whose paintings chronicle her life’s story in the artistic forms of cartoon, landscape and portraiture. She is a Donelson native and a former Miss Nashville who studied at Watkins Institute and Peabody College. She is a member of the Tennessee Art League. Admission to this event is free.



Music at the Mansion Events for 2014 – We are excited to announce that this year’s “Music at the Mansion” series will begin on Thursday evening June 12th with an appearance by the Nashville Symphony. Every summer the Symphony has joined with the Department of Parks and Recreation to step out of the concert hall and into the community for a concert series. This year the Friends of Two Rivers Mansion is joining in this effort to bring this exceptional evening into the Donelson area. You can expect to hear the sounds of fun and familiar tunes as well as some beloved orchestral classics. Pack a picnic or enjoy the offerings of Rose Mary Lane Catering; bring the whole family and best of all – it’s FREE. What better way can you think of than to spend an evening in June at Two Rivers Mansion listening to Nashville’s award winning symphony orchestra?



The Moonlighter's make a return to the Mansion – On Saturday evening, June 21st the Moonlighters Big Band orchestra will return for a second appearance with “Music at the Mansion”. They are a swing era style group of 20 members from all professions that play for the love of big band music. You can expect to hear your favorite songs from the 1930’s thru the 1950’s with a rhythm that perfect for dancing on the dance floor that will be installed on the lawn. Bring the lawn chairs and blankets and come early to get a good spot and with time to sample some of Rose Mary Lane’s delicious sandwiches and deserts. Admission for this event is free by showing the Friends membership card. Admission for all others is \$5 per person or a maximum of \$20 per car.

Other “Music at the Mansion” events for this year will include a patriotic God and Country presentation on Saturday evening, July 19th featuring the praise bands from The River Church and The Donelson Fellowship. Then on Saturday evening, August 16th The Nashville Blues Society returns for a fourth time to inspire the crowd to foot tapping and soul dance moves. All “Music at the Mansion” events are outdoor events and attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs/blankets for the lawn. Coolers and snacks are allowed but excellent on site catered food is also available from RoseMary Lane Catering. Admission to each of these music events is \$5 per person or \$20 maximum per car. These are must save dates for every calendar and don’t forget; admission is free for Friends members who show a current membership card.

Historic tours of the Mansion to Return – On Friday afternoon, May 23rd from noon until 4:30 pm, the Mansion will again be open for tours. Plans currently call for the Mansion to be open each Friday afternoon during the summer. Since last season a number of Friends members have invested the time to train as docents to explain the history of the property as well as the three generations of McGavock who have lived there. Tours will last between 45 minutes to an hour and are free to Friends members. The cost is \$5 per person for non members.

One of the challenges to providing multiple dates and times for Mansion tours hinges on the availability of guides to staff the schedule and support volunteers to greet guest as they arrive. Docent training is available for those who would like to get involved with the Friends in this way and anyone interested in receiving this docent training can schedule a convenient time to begin. There is also a need for greeters and admission price collectors and requires very little more and a nice smile, the ability to give a warm welcome and a willingness to give some of your time to make this magnificent historic home available to the public. If you’re interested in the docent training or would like to volunteer in a support role you can contact Phil Claiborne for details. The e-mail to contact for information is phil.claiborne@nashville.gov or you can call 889-2907 for more information.

Friends of Two Rivers Merchandise – Friends related merchandise is available at all Friend’s sponsored events as well as from the website. Items available for purchase includes prints of the Mansion and 1802 House, note cards, Friends of Two Rivers T-shirts in a variety of colors, tote bags as well as a number of salvaged items from the restoration. The recently published booklet entitled *Dr. Clara C. Plimpton McGavock: An Unlikely Mistress of Two Rivers* is also now available. Any of these items would be great to add to your personal collection and would also make great gifts for someone special in your life. 100% of the proceeds from the sale of Mansion merchandise goes directly into the promotion and upkeep of the Mansion and can be considered as a tax deductile donation.

Memberships – Memberships for “The Friends of Two Rivers” are available in categories that range from a minimum of \$20 a year up to corporate memberships of \$2,000 a year or \$3,000 for two years. **All membership fees are considered donations and are, therefore, tax deductible.** The **Basic Memberships** are listed below and anyone interested in using the Mansion for an event can choose from one of **Event Membership** categories which will be determined at a time of consultation with the Two Rivers Mansion Events Coordinator, Laura Carrillo. She can be reached at 615-885-1112 or laura.carrillo@nashville.gov .

BASIC Membership for Friends of Two Rivers Mansion includes:

- I. Senior citizen or Student - \$20 annual or \$55 for 3 years
- II. Individual - \$25 annual or \$65 for 3 years
- III. Family - \$50 or \$125 for 3 years

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Enclosed is \$_____ for my tax-deductible membership.

Make check payable to: The Friends of Two Rivers

Mail check to: 3130 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214

Phil Claiborne

Founder