



Message from Board President, Phil Claiborne - It's hard to believe the year is almost gone and even harder to believe all that's been accomplished since January of this year. We had the most successful Two Hearts Antique Show to date in February and a much anticipated event took place during 'Phil the House' in May when we dedicated the renovated boxwood garden and fountain. Music at the Mansion added a 4th event in September and for the first time we were able to hire part-time docents to do Mansion tours during the summer months. Earlier in the year an application was made to the Tennessee Historic Commission for a grant to underwrite a Master Plan process for the Mansion and grounds. That \$30,000 grant was awarded in August and plans are now underway to engage the firm that will do that work. During the summer we were able to secure Metro funding to have both WiFi and security cameras installed at the Mansion and we are currently in the process of doing some necessary improvements to the interior of the 1802 House in order to furnish it with items that were re-located by the DAR from Fort Nashboro. By the time this newsletter arrives our community Halloween event will have taken place and we have plans in place to extend the Holiday Tours of the Mansion in December. So you see, it's been a very busy year for the Friends group and the Mansion.

The end of the year also brings with it the expiration of a number of Board member terms so I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to Joe Carrillo, Beverly Oakley, Cathy Randall and Carolyn Sullivan who have served faithfully since the beginning of the Friends group and to acknowledge that much of our success is due to their individual efforts.

Mansion History - On Sunday afternoon, October 4th a group of alumni from the first graduating class of Two Rivers High School gathered at the Mansion for the purpose of dedicating a bench to commemorate of their 50th class reunion. Their Superlative photos for the 1965 yearbook were made at the Mansion and this edition of the Mansion history is based on remembrances of two of the class members (Dicky Dixon and Judy McInturff) who paid a visit to Mrs. McGavock for the purpose of asking permission to make the photos there and to name an award after her husband, Spence McGavock. Writing about the event Dicky recalls, “I remember meeting her maid at the door and being shown into the large sitting room to the right as you go in. It was impressive. Mrs. McGavock came in and began the conversation, very friendly, and eager to show us most everything. Judy and I were attentive and equally eager to please her. Mr.LaFever had told me that she was troubled by all the traffic on “her” road (McGavock Pike) because of the school, and the weekends were clearly different after the school was built with its football stadium and lights and the active weekend social schedule accompanying the high school. The school and stadium had been build on property that had belonged to her at one time and it probably was difficult for her to see the era slowly changing and actually coming to an end.”

Mary recalls that, “Mrs. McGavock was a petite woman and chattered the entire time she showed us through the house. Nothing was left - we saw the kitchen and met the cook, rode upstairs in her elevator, toured the bedrooms and large bathroom, and went through the clothes in her closet. She was quite proud of all the things she had accumulated. Her chauffeur drove her in a light blue Cadillac to the bank every week. She was a widow with no children or close relatives and I think she enjoyed the attention Dicky and I gave her that day”.

In reflection, Dicky’s thoughts were, “at the time we were continuously looking forward to the future but she was deeply considering the past. Now that we are in our 70th decade of life, it becomes easier to understand some of what she felt. She truly was a product of a prior century, and so with the passing of 50 years Two Rivers High



School and the first graduating class have become products of a prior century. This bench is a reminder to “rest” in the moment.”

International Recognition - Following the May “Phil the House” event the dedication of the renovated boxwood garden and fountain caught the attention of a British publication entitled *Historic Gardens Review*. The Historic Gardens Foundation publishes the periodical twice a year and promotes it as “the voice of historic parks and gardens worldwide”. This photograph and the accompanying article entitled “Funding Flows” appeared in the July 2015 edition.



“Best known as the capital of country music, Nashville, Tennessee, is also the home of Two Rivers, an Italianate antebellum mansion built in 1859 by plantation owner David McGavock. Three generations of his family lived here until it was bought in 1965 by the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County; but it then deteriorated owing to lack of funds. Now, thanks to a donation from William Bransford Blundin, a relative of the

McGavocks, the 1920s garden maze has been restored to its original design and the fountain at the maze’s centre, with its statue of a white angel holding a goose, is flowing once more. If more funding can be obtained, work on more gardens will be continued.”

Halloween at the Mansion - This event continues to be a favorite for the community and in spite of iffy weather, a crowd of 900 - 1,000 parents and children turned out to enjoy the trick or treating booths, hayrides, ghost stories, haunted basement,

pumpkin painting, etc. This event was sponsored this year by Sunbelt Rentals and Regions Bank and much of the success goes to the great group of volunteers from McGavock High School and the Wyndham Resort in Music Valley.



Security of the Mansion - For the greater part of this year the Friends group has been working with Metro ITS and the Parks Department to acquire proper security for the Mansion and its contents. As of the writing of this newsletter I'm glad to announce that we now have a camera system that continually records activity on the property and all windows and doors of the Mansion are now equipped with intrusion devices.

Corporate Sponsors - As the current year comes to a close there is a group of local businesses that deserve recognition. These are businesses that have partnered with the Friends group as Corporate Sponsors for all or most of the last 5 years. *Big Mean Kitty* (Letha Edwards) has been responsible for the design and maintenance of our website, www.friendsoftworiversmansion.org, which rates well above most of our peer organizations. *Picture This* (Matt Fisher) is the source of the various pieces of art work featuring images of the Mansion and 1802 House that are available for fund raising purchase. *Sunbelt Rental* (Kent Barrow) provides the outdoor light towers for the nighttime visibility to and from the front lawn parking areas. *Ryman Hospitality Partners* (Colin Reed) has been a source of financial support from the very beginning and has made it possible for some of the important steps in our success to be taken. *Grau Construction and Restoration* was responsible for the completion of the 18 month exterior renovation of the Mansion and continues to stay engaged with the Friends as a restoration expert. 'Thank you' seems grossly inadequate in acknowledging the importance role each of these sponsors have played in the success of the Friends of Two Rivers organization but those are words that carry a depth of appreciation that simply can't be adequately expressed with words.

Calendar of Events - The remaining events for the 2015 calendar year are the Holiday Tours and the schedule will be extended for the first time to include more dates and times. This year tours conducted by period costumed docents will be offered on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 10th, 11th, 12th from 4 pm until 8 pm and on Sunday, December 13th from 1 pm to 5 pm. The same tour schedule will be repeated the following week on December 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th. Tours are \$10 per person and take approximately 1 hour.

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** categories are listed below and anyone interested in using the Mansion for an event can choose from one of **Event Membership** or **Supporting 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.

All Friends events are free to members so the cost of membership is more than covered if you attend all the events that are offered during the year. Memberships also make a great gifts for friends and relatives.

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 \$ _____ gtfor my tax-deductible membership.

Checks should be made payable to Friends of Two Rivers Mansion and mailed to: The Friends of Two Rives Mansion, 3130 McGavock, Nashville, TN 37214

Phil Claiborne

Founder and President
The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion
a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization