



Message from President Marilyn Swing - With beautiful spring-like weather in Middle Tennessee, a crowd of 250 people turned out in mid-February for the annual Two Hearts Antiques and Crafts Show at the Mansion. Vendors displayed their wares on all three levels of the historic home, and the final day was tabbed “Appraisal Day Sunday”, as Sam Holden of Pickle Road Appraisers inspected and appraised treasures brought in by attendees. Our visitors hailed from as far away as Calgary, Canada, and numbers of Donelson neighbors came out also. Many expressed their eagerness to return for a docent-led tour this summer to learn more about the history of the Mansion and the McGavock family.

Another very special event this spring for The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion will be its annual “Evening of Elegance” on Friday evening, April 28. Starting with music and hors d'oeuvres on the front lawn, guests will then move into the Mansion for a seated dinner in the grandeur of this Donelson showpiece. Tickets are \$100.00 with proceeds going toward continuing Mansion preservation efforts. Only a handful of seats remain, but reservations may be made by contacting chairperson Mary Beth Wilson at 615/ 300-1995 or marybeth.wilson@mckendree.com.

Implementation of the 20-year Master Plan for Two Rivers is well underway, and our President Emeritus Phil Claiborne will share more of that detail on the following pages. We hope to see each of you at the Mansion this year at some of the many events hosted by our organization!

Friends of Two Rivers Board for 2017 - With the ending of 2016 the last of the original Friends of Two Rivers Board members rotated off the Board and the Friends group moved into a new era as an organization. Even though the new Board is composed of members who have a somewhat limited knowledge of the formative years of the organization, they do have the recently completed Master Plan for the Mansion and the surrounding Mansion property to guide their work going forward. Their challenge is to build on what the first Board was able to accomplish and move the organization to the next level in terms of greater educational offerings and community events designed to encourage exploration and use of the property.

The Board for 2017 consist of Lisa Baugh, a freelance writer; Lanaii Benne, Assistant City Recorder for the City of Franklin, TN; Betty Cannon, President of the Stone's Rivers Woman's Club; Greg Hammond, Associate Professor of History at APSU; Mary Hart, Stone's River Woman's Club representative; Greg Hinote, Managing Director of the Ingram Group; Pam Huff, Director of Visitor Services, Nashville Convention Bureau; Robert McDonald, Assistant Vice President, Cedarstone Bank-Donelson; Shannon Sullivan, Ryman Hospitality Partners; Marilyn Swing, Metropolitan Nashville Clerk (Retired); Larry Weber, Professional geologist, TTL Inc; Mary Beth Wilson, Director of Campus Activities and Senior Living Specialist for McKendree Village. This group of current members are being joined by **Ken Fieth**, Metro Nashville Archivist; **Christopher Glenn**, Business Development Manager for Serra Chevrolet; **Cathy Holland**, Director of Community Affairs, Metro Nashville Airport; **Beverly Oakley**, Special Events Mgr for the Culbertson Mansion and Mary Kay sales director; **H.E. (Buddy) Wooten III**, Vice President, Business Planning, Innovative Financial Group, LLC. The **bolded** names are those who came on to the Board at the beginning of this current year and will serve 3 year terms.

Ex Officio Members of the Board include Councilman Jeff Syracuse, Founder and President Emeritus Phil Claiborne, Parks Director Tommy Lynch and Metro Historic Director Tim Walker. Laura Carrillo is a Parks employee who serves as the Events Manager for the Mansion.

Each year new members are added to the Board to replace that portion which rotates off. Any Friends member in good standing is eligible to apply to fill one of those vacancies. If you have an interest in being considered for one of the 2018 vacancy seats, the next step toward that aim would be to submit your resume along with a brief statement detailing why you would like to serve and what you feel your background and experience would bring to the Board's work. That information can be mailed to: Friends of Two Rivers Mansion, 3130 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214.

The Master Plan - About this time last year plans were well underway for a master planning process for the Mansion and the surrounding grounds. The plan was underwritten by a grant from the Tennessee Historic Commission, the Friends group and Metro Parks and it was administered under the guidance of Encore Interpretive Design, Inc. located in Nashville. The plan document is now complete and it represents a 20 year

phased plan that provides guidance for Friends and Parks as to development and spending priorities in 5 year increments.

The stated objectives for the first phase of the plan are:

- + increase visibility and visitation at the site,
- +new facilities to alleviate rental usage of the Mansion
- +new public use assets
- +generate additional revenue

Specific goals are given as the means to accomplish the stated objectives and they fall into three categories: physical site improvements, interpretation and administration. Two projects are currently in progress that are related to the site improvement goal. One is new signage and the companion project is the installation of a 1880's era wood panel farm fence across the front of the property. Both of these projects are being underwritten by Mr. William Blundin who is a surviving cousin of the last McGavock widow, Mary Louise Bransford McGavock. Both projects are due for completion by the end of March.

A third, but far larger, goal is the development of a rental facility in the edge of the wooded area directly behind the Mansion. This will require an investment of Metro Capital Project dollars that will hopefully be included in the current budget proposal that is headed to the Mayor and Council for approval later this summer.

Needless to say, these are exciting times at Two Rivers and reasons to be involved with the Friends group. There are a number of what could be termed 'low hanging fruit' items in the first phase of the plan. Anyone interested in assisting in some way with accomplishing some of these easier and less expensive projects can get more information by contacting Mrs.Carrillo at the Mansion by calling 615-885-1112 or Phil Claiborne at 615-889-2907.

New Primitive Trail - One of the products of the Master Plan process was a survey of the wooded areas around the Mansion grounds. The results of the survey work identified



a number of stone walls and foundations in addition to the remains of a spring/ice house. The recommendation was made that a trail be created to allow visitor access to these remains. Recently a Parks grounds crew began the process of creating the first portion of such a trail which terminates at the Spring House. This is a primitive trail at the present time but it does allow for unhindered progress through the woods. At some point, perhaps next winter, the second half of the trail will be blazed and will connect to the remains of an old dairy barn on the golf course side of the woods.



Christmas Came Late - On Saturday, January 14th Christmas came late at the Mansion as Richard Wagoner delivered a number of items from the estate of Jeanette Rudy. Among the treasures were various newspaper clippings related to the Mansion, a listing of many of the items that were sold in the 1965 estate sale, along with the purchaser and the amount paid. A large framed 1880's photograph of a hunting party standing on the front steps of the Mansion and a second portrait photo of Felix Grundy, who was the grandfather of Mrs. Spence (Mary Louise Brandsford) McGavock. Since the entire contents of the Mansion were sold at public auction in January 1966, the return of such items is invaluable in helping the Friends group to rebuild some of the family history that does not exist in public record.



The friendship between Mrs. Rudy and Mrs. McGavock is one that could be described by the phrase 'Some friendships are meant to be'. The story of how this friendship was formed is related in the following account as told to Mrs. Laura Carrillo by Mrs. Rudy in 1994.

"Jeanette Cantrell moved to Nashville from Sheffield AL. to attend (the former) St. Thomas Hospital School of Nursing. While working in the hospital there was a patient on her floor named Dan Rudy. After his recovery Dan asked Jeanette out on a date and she agreed. Dan picked her up that evening and headed to Donelson. Driving down McGavock Pike he turned the car into the driveway of Two Rivers Mansion. It was already dark by the time the car pulled into the circle at the front doors. Dan looked at her and said, I do not know why our butler Clinton did not turn the lights on for us. Jeanette was thinking that she was on a date with the owner of Two Rivers Mansion! Well, it was all a big joke, she was on a date with the owner of Rudy's Farm Sausage. Jeanette and Dan did get married and build a fine home on Pennington Bend.

A few years later Jeanette became a Davidson County Health Nurse. One day while making calls in the Donelson community she decided to make a call on Mary Louise McGavock, the real owner of Two Rivers Mansion. She rang the doorbell at the massive front doors. Eva the house keeper answered and escorted Jeanette into a sitting room. From that day forward the two women became fast friends. I am sure that Mary Louise enjoyed the story of Jeanette and Dan Rudy's first date. The two women shared the same birthday and Mary Louise would always send Jeanette roses. In fact if Jeanette would not

visit often Ms. McGavock would call around until she got word to her. There were very few phones in Donelson at that time.

On one visit Jeanette asked Mary Louise if she could photograph the house and get some information about the beautiful antiques, valuable art works and gold guild mirrors. Ms. McGavock thought that was a great idea and told Jeanette that when she passed on all of her massive collection would be scattered everywhere. Which is what happened after Mary Louise's death in November of 1965.

Jeanette Rudy continued to be connected to Two Rivers Mansion, working with community leaders for a proper use of the 1859 Mansion and 1802 House after being purchased by Metro Nashville in 1966. In 1973 Jeanette finally had her first book published; "Historic Two Rivers". The book has been a valuable resource for restoration projects on the Mansion and genealogy of the McGavock family."

Celebrating Heart Month and Go Red for Women - On Friday, February 3rd landmarks and buildings from coast to coast were lit up red to spotlight the threat of cardiovascular disease in America. This event was part of the American Heart Association's 'Go Red for Women' initiative and the Friends of Two Rivers was proud to participate in helping to bring awareness to the Donelson community. The entire month of February has been dedicated to a focus on cardiovascular disease since 1964 when President Lyndon Johnson declared the first Heart Health Month. The photo image of the Mansion that evening is included at the end of the newsletter.

Evening of Elegance on April 28th - President Swing mentioned this event in her opening remarks. This is the second year for this fundraising event and will be the first time that seats will be available to the general membership of the Friends group. To repeat her remarks, the evening will begin "with music and hors d'oeuvres on the front lawn, guests will then move into the Mansion for a seated dinner in the grandeur of this Donelson showpiece. Tickets are \$100.00 with proceeds going toward continuing Mansion preservation efforts. Only a handful of seats remain, but reservations may be made by contacting chairperson Mary Beth Wilson at 615/ 300-1995 or marybeth.wilson@mckendree.com." **If you would like to attend this absolutely awesome event you must contact Mary Beth ASAP since the remaining seats are in the single digits.**

Are you interested in being a Volunteer? Now that the Master Plan is complete and the recommendations for the future are a reality, there will be increasing needs for volunteers to help with the implementation of additional educational programs and opportunities. These programs and events will require additional staffing in addition to the existing Friends activities that are calendared during the year. The needs don't require a lot of physical effort and the time requirement is minimal and flexible. In addition, it fun and rewarding. If you are interested in finding out more about the volunteer needs you can respond to the e-mail this document is attached to or you can inquire the next time you attend an event at the Mansion.

Membership - A membership with the Friends of Two Rivers Mansion is one of the best deals in Nashville. Memberships 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.** Friends members are admitted free at all Friends sponsored events at the Mansion upon presentation of a current membership card. Those events include, but are not limited to, the fall and winter antique shows in the Mansion, all Music at the Mansion programs, Halloween at the Mansion and historic tours of the property. Admission to these events range from \$5 to \$10 per person so its easy to see that a basic membership cost far less than the combined admissions. Parking is free and traffic is not a problem, and, your support enables the organization to continue offering more opportunities, while at the same time, continuing the restoration and preservation work that's at the heart of our mission statement.

Renewal notices are sent via e-mail at three times; during the month prior to, the month of and the month following a membership expiration. If no response is received the membership data base is updated and future notifications related to Friends events and information will no longer be sent to those e-mail addresses.

The **Basic** categories are listed below and anyone interested in using the Mansion for a wedding or other large event can choose from one of **Event Membership or Supporting Membership** categories which will be determined at a time of a consultation with the Two Rivers Mansion Events Coordinator, Laura Carrillo. She can be reached at 615-885-1112 or laura.carrillo@nashville.gov .

The Friends website located at www.friendsoftworiversmansion.org has a link that will allow for a membership purchase as well as other items that are available in the Mansion Shoppe.

The membership form below can also be used to secure a membership. The Friends of Two Rivers is a 501c3 organization which means that membership are tax deductible gifts to the organization.

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 \$ _____ gift for 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 Emeritus
The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion,
a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization



