



THE FRIENDS OF
TWO RIVERS
MANSION

NEWSLETTER Number 36

May - June 2017

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

President Marilyn Swing's Remarks - Spring at Two Rivers Mansion is a beautiful and very busy season, and this year that's particularly the case. The calendar is filled with weddings every weekend, and on April 28th The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion hosted its second annual "Evening of Elegance" to showcase this beautiful historic landmark to over 100 guests. The next event to which all members of the Friends organization are invited is "Phil the House", which is an open house on Sunday afternoon, May 21st, at which two unique local talents will display their work while guests enjoy lovely refreshments. Specifics are given later in this newsletter, and we hope to see you at the Mansion that afternoon.

Most importantly, some very visible enhancements to the Mansion property have taken place over the last month. We are eager for everyone to drive by and see what has been added and we think you will be as pleased as we are! We are especially grateful for the generosity of Mr. William Blundin for the support he has provided to enable us to proceed so quickly in making these very special additions.

We appreciate your continuing interest in Two Rivers Mansion and its history, and we look forward to your next visit very soon.

Mansion Property History - The human history of the Two Rivers Plantation area goes back thousands of years to a time when pre-historic Indians occupied the creeks and river valleys of middle Tennessee. One of the last dominant civilizations to settle in the region were the Mississippians. They were here between 500 A.D. and 1450 A.D. Known for the earthen mound structures and

agricultural villages, the Mississippians had all but disappeared by the time Europeans began exploring the southeastern part of North America in the 1500s.

The Mississippian presence in the Nashville area is well documented by the discovery of numerous burial sites distinguished by shallow stone box graves near the Mansion, at Heartland Park which occupies the flat bottom land at the confluence of the Stones and Cumberland rivers. A mid-1850s conversation between one of the founders of the Tennessee Historical Society and David McGavock described how graves were unearthed during road excavation. Again, in the 1970s, when the Two River Golf Course was developed, stone box graves were discovered on what is now the 10th and 11th fairways. Stone box graves were also unearthed when site work for Cumberland Trace Condominiums was being done. These remains have been carbon dated to between 1250 to 1300 A.D.

In the centuries that followed, the entire Cumberland River Valley was used as a hunting ground by several post-Columbian Native American tribes, including the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Shawnee, Choctaw and Creek. They were eventually driven out by Euro-American frontier families from east Tennessee who moved to the Cumberland Settlements in the 1780s. The lands they occupied were purchased from the Cherokee. More settlers followed over the next two decades from states such as Virginia and North Carolina to claim land grants awarded to Revolutionary War veterans. Others purchased property from veterans unable or unwilling to move west and made the trek across the Appalachian Mountains to middle Tennessee.

An Evening of Elegance - Dinner parties and social gatherings have long been a part of the Two Rivers experience and was one of the favorite things to do for the last McGavock widow, Mary Louise Bransford McGavock. When one walks through



the 900 square feet of double parlor space immediately adjacent to almost that much front and rear foyer space, its easy to image some of the impressive dinner parties and social gathering that took place at Two Rivers Mansion in the past. With that kind of history in place, it has been a goal of the Friends group, since the founding, to have a

'gala' event at the Mansion. That goal was achieved first in April of 2016 and repeated for the second time on Friday evening April 29th 2017. This 'Evening of Elegance at Two Rivers Mansion' began at 6 p.m. as guest arrived for light Hors D'oeuvres and cocktails on the rear veranda. Ample time was available for viewing of a number of silent auction items before seating for dinner began shortly after 7 p.m. Guests entered the elegantly decorated Mansion rooms for a formal dinner catered by the staff of Dream Events and Catering. They were treated to an exquisite menu consisted of a roasted Caprese Salad with fresh Basil Balsamic

Drizzle, Citrus and Herb Roasted Chicken and Garlic Rosemary Roast Beef accompanied with Sea Salted Roasted Fingerling Potatoes, Lemon Almond Butter Asparagus and Carrots and Roasted Roma Tomato Oreganato. Dessert to end this perfect meal was New Orleans Bread Pudding with Bourbon Raisin Sauce and whipped cream topping. The event was planned and executed by an event team chaired by Mary Beth Wilson and assisted by Marilyn Swing and Laura Carrillo.



Music at the Mansion - One to the benchmark events for the Mansion has been the summer 'Music at the Mansion' performances. This year these events will not be held as in the past. Instead, a committee will be working to rethink how music will factor into future Mansion activity. Last year's attendance at the music events was the lowest in the Friend's six year history. Part of the reason for that was unfavorable weather but support had been gradually declining for a couple of years. The biggest crowds have been for symphony performances of the last 3 years but after the 2016 performance we were told that the symphony would not return until the summer of 2018.

Given declining attendance and the absence of the Symphony for this year, it seemed appropriate to take a pause with these events and rethink how to provide these types of entertainment opportunities for the community going forward. The committee would welcome any ideas or suggestions and those can be submitted by responding to this newsletter at email address sgt08@bellsouth.net.

New Sign and Fence - Two of the recommendations from the first 5 year increment of the Master Plan called for new signage for the property and a fence across the front reflecting the equestrian history of the Two Rivers Farm/Plantation. Next time you come for a visit or drive by the Mansion it will be difficult for you not to notice the impressive difference these additions have made now that they are complete. Many thanks go to William Barnsford Blundin and Gary Grau for their role in making these two great additions to the property possible.



Phil the House - The annual 'Phil the House' open house and art show will be held in the Mansion on Sunday afternoon, May 21st from 1 pm to 4 pm. This year's artist's works will showcase the drone photography of Derek Bouza and the metal work of Keith Herndon. Keith's work can be seen around the Mansion in places like the mailboxes, the gates around the fountain area, and in the decorative horse head hitching post by the entry walkway. When asked about his work he said, "it all started in Cheatham County High School in Ashland City. At the beginning I taught myself everything through trial and error. I started creating simple paintings and sculptures. Then, one day I took a metals class and the more I

worked with metal the more I enjoyed the process. I realized forging metal was my creative outlet of choice. Exploring all options in art is the only true way to have eyes that can see, so I have no option but to hammer on."

Derek Bouza lives in the Pennington Bend area and is the principle behind Ninth Planet Media. Derek became interested in photography about 3 years ago and he immediately grew an interest in offering a different photographic perspective by operating drones for aerial imaging. Using the latest aerial technology equipped with high-definition cameras, he captures beautiful scenery and buildings from the most unique of views.



Just prior to purchasing his first home in Donelson, Derek started an innovative business venture with Ninth Planet Media and soon gained a "hip" local following by sharing many of his stunning photos online.



Over the past few years Derek has worked on many projects including community events, private parties, real estate promotion, local sports events, and car shows. However, his "favorite place to photograph in all seasons will always be the, just-down-the-road, Two Rivers Mansion".

The combined talents of Keith and Derek will result in an awesome show that you just don't want to miss. The date again is Sunday, May 21st, from 1 to 4 pm, and there is no admission. This will also be a convenient opportunity for membership renewals for folks that have membership expiration dates that have just passed or will come due in the next couple of months. As an incentive, each new membership or renewal that's made during the event will receive a free print of the Mansion.

Membership - 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 winter antique show 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.

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 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

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