

Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ▪ December 2010



MHC/MHVC UPDATES

New! Meet Our New Commissioner

In November, we welcomed **Annette Levy Ratkin** to the Metropolitan Historical Commission. Ms. Ratkin received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Vanderbilt University, earning Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa honors, and received her Master of Library Science degree from Peabody/Vanderbilt. She was a freelance manuscript editor for Abingdon Press until she became Director of the Jewish Federation Libraries and Archives, where she served until this year. Ms. Ratkin has been the volunteer archivist for The Temple Archives since 1978 and the Saint Thomas Hospital Archives since 1994. She was married to the late Ralph Z. Levy, Sr., and to the late Ruben Ratkin. She has three children, who live in Nashville, and six grandchildren. Ms. Ratkin states, "I love Nashville, and look forward to learning more about it from the knowledgeable commissioners and staff."

Hot Off the Press! New Nashville City Cemetery Brochure (and Book!)

The next time you stop by our offices at Sunnyside in Sevier Park, be sure to look for the latest installment of our "Discover Nashville" brochure series. The colorful Nashville City Cemetery brochure highlights the new Informational Kiosks and now includes an easy-to-follow map.

This new brochure is a great companion to the recently-published Second Edition of *The Nashville City Cemetery*. The Nashville City Cemetery Association's 2010 release continues the story of the City Cemetery, including the recent restoration of this Nashville landmark. Please visit www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org to purchase your copy!

GET INVOLVED

New! Preservation Action Wants Your Feedback

We apologize if you have already received a similar message through Preservation Action or the National Trust for Historic Preservation, but we want to encourage you to share your thoughts about Federal Historic Preservation Programs by participating in this survey.

Federal programs such as the National Register, the Historic Tax Credit, State and Tribal grants-in-aid, Heritage Areas and Save America's Treasures are key to the preservation movement. Dubbed "External Programs" by the National Park Service who administers them, these programs have been increasingly neglected over the years and there are concerns about the effectiveness of the organizational structure for these programs.

Faced with massive cuts proposed to these programs, many in the movement believe that it is now more important than ever to tackle the visibility and functionality of program management. The Federal Historic Preservation Program Task Force was formed in early 2010 by the Preservation Action Foundation in partnership with nearly a dozen major national preservation organizations to document the condition and trajectory of the External Programs; to arrive at a consensus plan for structural improvement of these programs; and, finally, to engage with partners in a grass-roots advocacy campaign for implementation of this plan.

Accomplishing these goals requires engaging everyone who cares about our shared heritage. Please take ten minutes of your time to assist the Task Force in this important mission by following this link and providing your feedback:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FederalPreservationSurvey>

The survey will close Friday, December 17, 2010. To learn more about the Task Force, please visit www.preservationaction.org.

Preservation Action is a 501c4 nonprofit organization created in 1974 to serve as the national grassroots lobby for historic preservation. Preservation Action seeks to make historic preservation a national priority by advocating to all branches of the federal government for sound preservation policy and programs through a grassroots constituency empowered with information and training and through direct contact with elected representatives.

New! Submit Your Nomination for the Certificate of Merit Awards

The Tennessee Historical Commission is now accepting nominations for its Certificate of Merit Awards to honor individuals or groups that have worked to preserve Tennessee's cultural heritage during 2010. **The deadline for submissions is December 31, 2010.**

"Although much of our work at the Tennessee Historical Commission focuses on efforts to preserve and to restore historic structures, **we also want to recognize people for the work they do in the areas of publication, commemoration and education to safeguard our history and heritage,**" said Patrick McIntyre, executive director of the Tennessee Historical Commission.

The awards program recognizes individuals or groups throughout the state who have worked to conserve or highlight Tennessee's cultural heritage during the past year. The awards recognize historic preservation projects as well as work in the field of history. **Award recipients will be honored during Historic Preservation Month in May 2011.**

The Tennessee Historical Commission Awards program began in 1975. Certificates of Merit are presented annually to individuals, groups, agencies or organizations that have made significant contributions to the study and preservation of Tennessee's heritage during the 12 months prior to the application deadline.

To make a nomination for a Certificate of Merit Award, please contact the Tennessee Historical Commission and request an application or visit www.tn.gov/environment/hist/. The Commission can be reached by calling (615) 532-1550, by writing to 2941 Lebanon Road, Nashville, TN 37214, or contacting Angela Staggs via e-mail at Angela.Staggs@tn.gov.

Ongoing! Nashville Flood Digital History Project

The Special Collections Division of the Nashville Public Library, in partnership with institutions throughout the city, is beginning to create a historical record of the May 2010 Flood by collecting oral histories, still images, text, audio, video and documents of its aftermath. Participate in this project by suggesting someone for an interview, contributing your photos or memorabilia, or sharing your story. Volunteers are also needed to conduct interviews and scan items for the archival record.

To learn more, visit the Project's page on the Nashville Public Library website: www.library.nashville.gov/flood.

CONFERENCES, TOURS AND EVENTS

New! Open House at Two Rivers Mansion

Saturday, December 4th -- 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 5th -- 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Two Rivers Mansion

3130 McGavock Pike

On Saturday, December 4th and Sunday, December 5th the Stones River Woman's Club will host an open house at Two Rivers Mansion. The Mansion will be decorated for Christmas and members of the Woman's Club will be on hand to give tours and information about the history of the property. The 1802 house will be stocked with baked treats. Tickets will be available at the door for \$4 (children 6 and under are free). Ticket fees will support the ongoing restoration of the Two Rivers Mansion and proceeds from the baked goods

sale will support the Club's operating fund.

For more information, please visit the Two Rivers Mansion page of the Metro Parks website: www.nashville.gov/parks/historic/two_rivers.asp

New! Christmas with the Acklens at Belmont Mansion

Saturday, December 11th – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Belmont Mansion

1900 Belmont Boulevard

The Belmont Mansion invites families to experience a very Dickens Christmas celebration for its annual free day, Christmas with the Acklens, on Saturday, December 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Make way for the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future as they perform excerpts from Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" with Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and Jacob Marley. Meet Father Christmas, enjoy hot cider and Christmas cookies, and join Victorian carolers in making moveable puppets and bread dough ornaments. The Mansion will be extravagantly decorated—don't forget to take a tour!

For more information about this event and other holiday programs at the Belmont Mansion, please visit www.belmontmansion.com.

New! Hodge House Holiday

Saturday, December 18th – 11:00 a.m. to noon (registration opens 12/3)

Hodge House in Warner Parks

The Hodge House, reconstructed in 2009, represents life in the Wild, Wild West of Nashville between the early 1800s and 1927, when the property became Percy Warner Park. Learn more about the history of this great house and our Parks while enjoying the holiday season. Heather Gallagher and Will Rubino, Nature Center Volunteer, will lead the program. Registration opens December 3rd.

For more information, please visit the Warner Parks page of the Metro Parks website: www.nashville.gov/parks/wpnc/.

The Metropolitan Historical Commission publishes this monthly newsletter to keep you informed on events and happenings at the MHC. If you have questions, comments, or news to pass along, please email scarlett.miles@nashville.gov, with E-NEWS in the subject line.