

Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ▪ November 2009



****In this issue: 10 events, 1 exhibit, 2 contests****

MEET OUR NEW COMMISSIONER

In October, Mayor Karl Dean appointed **Linda T. Wynn** to the Metropolitan Historical Commission. Mrs. Wynn is the Assistant Director for State Programs with the Tennessee Historical Commission and a member of Fisk University's faculty. She earned her B.S. and M. S. degrees in history, and a Masters in Public Administration from Tennessee State University. A co-founder of the award-winning Local Conference on African American History and Culture, she co-edited *Profiles of African Americans in Tennessee* with Dr. Bobby L. Lovett and was one of the major contributors to the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of Culture and History*. Her work is widely published, and she has served as editor and consultant for numerous publications. Currently, Mrs. Wynn is revising the chapter on "Civil Rights" for the eleventh edition of the *African American Almanac* and a chapter on "African Americans in Tennessee" for the *African American State by State Encyclopedia*.

NATIONAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

Great Success! 2009 National Preservation Conference

The National Trust for Historic Preservation held its annual conference in Nashville, October 13-17. This year's theme was *Sustaining the Future in Harmony with our Pasts*. Despite the weather, the week was fantastic! We've heard nothing but positive comments about Nashville, our friendly citizens, and our terrific preservation work.

Thank you to EVERYONE who helped make the conference such a wonderful event. We are incredibly proud of Nashville and are thankful for the many volunteers who worked so hard to show off our great city and region! We will list the names of all volunteers on our website in the next couple of days.

Please visit the “National Preservation Conference” page of our website to see this incredible list of more than 400 individuals and groups from Nashville and Middle Tennessee: www.nashville.gov/mhc

To view photos from the week, read blog entries from National Trust staff members, and pick up handouts from the sessions, please visit the “Virtual Attendee” page of the National Trust’s conference website: [2009 National Preservation Conference](#).

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/EVENTS

Sign up soon!

Keeping the Faith: Family History Research in Nashville's Religious Archives

Saturday, November 7th -- 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Bellevue YMCA-FiftyForward Turner Center, 8101 Highway 100

The seminar will be held in the Community Room. Representatives from several Nashville-based archives will describe the genealogy and historical records available at their respective libraries. Speakers include McGarvey Ice (Disciples of Christ Historical Society); Taffey Hall (Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives); Greg Poole (Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee); Jim Havron (Tennessee Methodist Conference Archives); Jim Hoobler (Downtown Presbyterian Church); Carol Hansen (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Family History Center); Mary A.E. Dickerson (African American Records); and Annette Ratkin (Jewish Federation Library and Archives). A catered “box lunch” is included in the admission fee of \$5.00. For reservations, please call Taffey Hall 244-0344 or Bob Allen at 218-4580. Register early, space is limited to the first 100 registrants.

Cancelled! Fort Negley Haunted History Tour

Saturday, November 7th -- 7:00 p.m.

Fort Negley – 1100 Fort Negley Boulevard

~~Do spirits from the past occupy Fort Negley? Find out on the Fort Negley Haunted History Tour. You just might have a haunting experience! The tour is free and open to the public, but please RSVP in advance at 862-8470. For more information, visit the website of the [Fort Negley Visitor Center](#).~~

New! Big Draw 12 South: This is Where I Live!

The Frothy Monkey, 2509 12th Avenue South

On October 10, 2009, residents and neighbors of the 12 South Neighborhood gathered for the first neighborhood “Big Draw” in the United States. The Big

Draw program is sponsored by Drawing America, a national nonprofit initiative to promote drawing while building community. Visit The Frothy Monkey during business hours to view participants' drawings, including a few of Sunnyside. The exhibit continues through November 9, 2009.

To see photos and drawings from the event and learn more about Big Draw 12 South or Drawing America, please visit www.bigdrawnashville.org

New! Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society and Tennessee Historical Society:

23rd Annual Genealogical Seminar

Saturday, November 21st -- 8:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Brentwood Public Library, 8109 Concord Road

"Is Ancestry.com Worth It?: Fee and Free Web Sites for Genealogical Research" Speaker: Charles Sherrill, an experienced Genealogist, Archivist, and Director of the Brentwood Public Library

"Here Comes the Bride, and There She Goes" and "Early River Towns"
Speaker: Mark Lowe, a certified Genealogist, has conducted research for more than 35 years

Registration: \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members. Checks payable to MTGS. (If you do not wish lunch-deduct \$5.) **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, Nov. 13, 2009.** Register with Brenta Davis (bdavis66@comcast.net) For more details about the program or other events sponsored by the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society, please consult the MTGS website www.mtgs.org

New! Middle Tennessee and the Civil War: Lectures in Honor of the 145th Anniversary of the Tennessee Campaign of 1864

October – December 2009 -- 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Fort Negley Visitor Center, 1100 Fort Negley Boulevard

November 10:

“‘Son of the Gods:’ Ambrose Bierce and the Tennessee Campaign of 1864”

Speaker: Christopher Kiernan Coleman, Hendersonville, TN

November 24:

“The Long Goodbye: The End of the Isham Harris Administration and his Exile”

Speaker: Kent Moran, University of Memphis

For more information on the series, please see the website of the Tennessee Historical Society at www.tennesseehistory.org, call 615-741-8934, or email THS at info@tennesseehistory.org

Lectures presented with support from the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and the Metro Nashville/Davidson County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Ongoing! Nashville Civil War Roundtable

3rd Monday of each Month at 7:00 p.m. at the [Fort Negley Visitors Center](#) Nashville Metro Parks, in cooperation with the MTSU Chapter of the Society for Military History, presents the monthly Nashville Civil War Roundtable. The CWRT is free and open to the public.

New! Oedipus the King

performed by John Holleman Company at the foot of Athena, The Parthenon November 13-15 and 19-22

7:30 p.m. each night

\$15 tickets, \$12 students & seniors, \$10 groups of 10+

General Admission Seating

Adapted by Holleman from Sophocles' best-known tragedy, this three-actor version uses two people to play all the non-title roles. The actors take off their masks periodically throughout the play to talk to the audience about the nature of the art they're performing, the history of Greek theatre, mask work, and the mythology surrounding the Oedipus story, thus creating an unusual and involving evening of theatre. Call 862-8431 for reservations -- to purchase tickets online (and to learn about other events at the Parthenon), please visit www.conservancyonline.com

New! Battle of Nashville and the Grounds of the First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, November 18th -- 6:15 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 4815 Franklin Pike

James D. Kay, Jr., a local attorney and president of The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society, will speak on November 18 at 6:15 p.m., on the history of the Church property at 4815 Franklin Pike through the Civil War.

The PowerPoint presentation will be held in Courtenay Hall of First Presbyterian Church, which owns the property at the corner of Franklin Pike and Tyne Boulevard. It is open to the public.

"The decisive Battle of Nashville in December 1864 was fought on these grounds as well as in the surrounding area," said Kay, a Nashville native who grew up near the property the church has owned since 1949. "It is estimated that General John Bell Hood's Army of Tennessee lost 2,300 men killed or

wounded in the two-day battle December 15-16, 1864. In addition another 8,500 were taken prisoner. This battle effectively ended all fighting outside of North Carolina and Virginia.”

The presentation is part of the Wednesday Nights at First Presbyterian series that includes an optional dinner buffet dinner at 5:15 p.m., which is \$6 for 7th graders through adult, \$2.50 grades 1-6, \$1 kindergarten and younger, \$18 family maximum.

Please call 383-1815 if you plan to attend the program, the dinner, or both.

The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society is a non-profit organization created in 1993 to preserve the remaining battlefield sites and promote an understanding of life in Davidson County during the American Civil War. The BONPS has been instrumental in saving the Shy's Hill, Redoubt No.1, Kelleys Point battlefield sites and Fort Negley.

Save the Weekend!

Historic Nashville to Tour Hodge House in Warner Park

Saturday, December 12 -- 10:00 a.m.

Hodge House in Warner Park, 1905 Chickering Road

HNI's new "Behind-the-Scenes" Tour Series, a special program for HNI members, offers an exclusive opportunity to learn about local restoration and rehabilitation projects going on around Nashville. HNI will host three tours this fall.

Tour #3: What better way to celebrate fall than by a visit to our city's beautiful Warner Park? Discover the recently renovated Hodge House and learn about the innovative restoration process for this Metro-owned historic site. Located in Percy Warner Park, the Hodge House has undergone an extensive renovation over the past three years and will now serve as an educational center. The extensive project was undertaken from 2006-2009 with funding from Metro Government, Friends of Warner Parks, and other donors.

Not a member of Historic Nashville? You can join on the day of the tour! Space is limited, so RSVP today to membership@historicnashvilleinc.org

Please visit the HNI website www.historicnashvilleinc.org for more information.

Holiday High Tea at the Buchanan Log House

Sunday, December 13 -- 2:00 p.m.

Buchanan Log House, 2910 Elm Hill Pike

The Buchanan Log House Board will host a Holiday High Tea on Sunday afternoon, December 13th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Period costumes (up to the

1870s) may be worn. The High Tea is free of charge. The Historic Buchanan Log House is located at 2910 Elm Hill Pike in Nashville near the airport. For more information call 871-4524 or email loghouse@buchananloghouse.com.

EXHIBITS

Ongoing! The Plan of Nashville: Avenues to a Great City, Celebrating Five Years

*Tuesday, October 6th 2009 through Sunday, January 10th 2010
Courtyard Gallery of the Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street*

The Nashville Civic Design Center and the Nashville Public Library are proud to announce ***The Plan of Nashville: Avenues to a Great City, Celebrating Five Years*** exhibition, in the Courtyard Gallery of the Downtown Public Library (running Tuesday, October 6th 2009 through Sunday, January 10th 2010).

The exhibit chronicles the creation of ***The Plan of Nashville***, a community-based, fifty-year vision of how the urban core of Nashville should look and work in the future. *The Plan*, completed in 2004, was conceived and orchestrated by the Nashville Civic Design Center (NCDC), a non-profit organization committed to urban design and fostering public participation in the design process.

The visioning process that created *The Plan* involved more than 800 people in 50 community meetings that took place over two and a half years. *The Plan of Nashville: Avenues to a Great City* book was published by Vanderbilt University Press in 2005, and written by Christine Kreyling.

The exhibit features more than 250 original drawings, chronicling Nashville's historic development, the process that created the plan, the plan's vision for the future, and work the NCDC has done in the past five years since the Plan's release. This is the first time these drawings have collectively appeared on display in Nashville.

For more information about the Nashville Civic Design Center, *The Plan of Nashville*, and events celebrating *The Plan*, please visit the NCDC website: www.civicedesigncenter.org

AWARDS/NOMINATIONS/CONTESTS

Extended! Nashville 2054 – Call to Artists
How will Nashville look fifty years after the release of The Plan of Nashville?

The Nashville Civic Design Center, in partnership with the Arts and Business Council of Greater Nashville, announces a Call to Artists seeking submissions for artwork depicting the “Nashville of the Future.”

The resulting piece should be reflective of the efforts of the citizens of Nashville to make their city a more beautiful and functional city for all; a celebration of the hard work of the citizens of Nashville in the creation of *The Plan of Nashville*. Entries are due Wednesday, January 13, 2010. Entrants must submit notification of intent via email or fax prior to submitting their final entry (see link to competition website).

The competition is part of the activities scheduled to celebrate *The Plan of Nashville*, released in 2004. The winners of the competition will be announced in February 2010.

For information on *The Plan of Nashville* and the Nashville 2054 Design Competition (including prizes and contest rules), please visit the [NCDC's Competition website](#).

New! Is Your Neighborhood the Best Place to Buy an Old House?

As part of the ongoing commitment to the preservation community, [PreservationDirectory.com](#) has once again teamed up with *This Old House* magazine to promote their search for "The Best Places to Buy an Old House." An upcoming issue and Web feature from TOH will feature the 3rd annual "The Best Places to Buy an Old House" article, which strives to identify affordable—or just plain magnificent—homes in historic neighborhoods and districts across the United States.

According to *This Old House* Associate Editor, Keith Pandolfi, “In the past two years, TOH has introduced our readers to more than 100 great neighborhoods jam-packed with older homes, and residents determined to both restore them—and maintain them—for future generations. This year, we’re looking for 51 more (one in each state, and one in Canada) to add to our list of the Best Places to Buy an Old House. As always, we’re especially interested in overlooked places known for affordable houses that are heavy on architectural details.

In order to most effectively accomplish this search, *This Old House* and [PreservationDirectory.com](#) are seeking the help of dedicated preservationists, neighborhood boosters and heritage travelers! To nominate your historic district, town or city, please submit the following information:

- The name of the neighborhood, town or district you wish to nominate
- A brief history of the area
- A brief description of the types of houses available, including architectural styles, the period in which they were built; and the average

- price range.
- A short paragraph on why you think the area deserves to be included on our list.
 - At least five high-res digital photographs (300 DPI, at about 8.5 by 6.5) of houses and/or streetscapes in the neighborhood.

The top picks, as determined by the *This Old House* staff, will be published in a future issue of *This Old House* and will be featured on the homepage of PreservationDirectory.com. **Nominations are due no later than November 16, 2009.** Please send information outlined above to *This Old House* Associate Editor, Keith Pandolfi at keith_pandolfi@timeinc.com.

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.

Metropolitan Historical Commission
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Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County • Karl F. Dean, Mayor