

Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ▪ January 2013



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Old House Fair,
Know Nashville,
Nashville Conference on
African-American History and Culture,
and more!***

MHC/MHZC UPDATE

New Year, New Phones, New Website!

If you've called our office in recent weeks, you've probably noticed our new phone system—what a way to “ring” in the New Year! (pardon the pun) Our main number is still the same (615-862-7970), but now you can reach us directly via extensions, and leave personalized voice mail for individual staff members!

Save this list for future reference, or follow the prompts when you call:

79770 = Yvonne Ogren
79772 = Tim Walker
79773 = Melissa Baldock
79774 = Fred Zahn
79775 = Sean Alexander
79776 = Robin Zeigler
79777 = Michelle Taylor
79778 = Scarlett Miles
79779 = Tara Mielnik

Additionally, we are working to update our website as part of the comprehensive Nashville.Gov overhaul. The new look should be more user-friendly, but if you can't find what you need on our website, please let us know. The new Nashville.Gov will debut on Friday, January 11, 2013.

Register Now! “Know Nashville” Classes Offered by County Historian

February 7, 14, 21, & 28—10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

Fort Negley Visitors Center

1100 Fort Negley Blvd.

Dr. Carole Bucy, Davidson County Historian, returns with her wildly popular “Know Nashville” lecture series in February 2013. Mark your calendars now for Thursdays in February (7, 14, 21, & 28). The group will meet from 10:30 to 11:45 at the Fort Negley Visitors Center.

Space in these classes is limited and pre-registration is required. The fee for this series will be \$25.00, payable to the MHC Foundation. To register, you may mail or drop off your check, along with your [registration form](#):

MHC/Know Nashville
Sunnyside in Sevier Park
3000 Granny White Pike
Nashville, TN 37204

Winter Series:

1. February 7 - The Wall Street of the South: Business & Politics in Nashville
2. February 14 - Music City, USA: Nashville's Cultural Heritage
3. February 21 - "Doing Well While Doing Good": Health Services & Social Services
4. February 28 - E Pluribus Nashville: Nashville's Neighborhoods, Satellite Cities, and Ethnic Communities

For more information, call the Historical Commission (862-7970) or email Historian@nashville.gov.

Registration Now Open!

32nd Annual Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture

Friday, February 8—8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tennessee State University

Avon Williams Campus

10th and Charlotte Avenues, downtown

The 2013 Conference will be held on Friday, February 8, 2013 and will focus on political, social, and artistic legacies of the African-American community in Nashville.

As Nashville celebrates the 50th anniversary of Metropolitan government, Dr. Reavis Mitchell of Fisk University will analyze the impact of the governmental consolidation on the city's African-American community. Additionally, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, Dan Pomeroy of the Tennessee State Museum will examine the effect of the Emancipation Proclamation in Tennessee. The document itself will be on display at the Tennessee State Museum from February 12 – 18, by reservation only (to schedule your reservation, visit www.tnmuseum.org). Other speakers include Ophelia Paine, former staff member at the Metropolitan Nashville Historical Commission and former Commissioner with the Tennessee Historical Commission, and Dr. Stacey Graham of the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University. Mrs. Paine and Dr. Graham will both be discussing aspects of the impact of the Civil War on the African-American homefront community in Middle Tennessee. Victor Simmons, Director of the Fisk University Galleries, will discuss Aaron Douglas and his work at Fisk, as well as curating an exhibit of Douglas's work.

Please make plans to join us for this exceptional program on Friday, February 8, 2013. View the [full program brochure and registration form](#). The registration fee is \$20.00 and includes lunch. **Registration form and fee MUST be received by January 25, 2013.** Questions? Call the Historical Commission at 862-7970.

Save the Date! 2013 Old House Fair

Saturday, March 9—9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cohn School

4805 Park Avenue

The Metropolitan Historical Commission and the Tennessee Preservation Trust will hold the 2013 Old House Fair on Saturday, March 9, 2013. The Old House Fair is a FREE day-long festival showcasing new ideas, practical advice, innovative materials, and quality services for homeowners. Vendors and presenters will offer tips on enhancing energy efficiency, maintaining and restoring old houses, how to hire a contractor, choosing suitable materials, and identifying appropriate design elements for specific architectural styles and eras. Learn more about sustainable and historic products and services and gain tips for planning and executing your project. Exhibitors include companies, retailers, and artists experienced in working with homes of many ages and styles, from Antebellum to Mid-century Modern. Know a young preservationist? We'll have children's activities, too!

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact Robin Zeigler at robin.zeigler@nashville.gov or 862-7970 ext.79776.

IN THE NEWS

New! A Message from the Metro Historical Commission Foundation Board

***A New Way to Support Historic Preservation...*
Metro Historical Commission Foundation**

For decades the Metropolitan Historical Commission and the Historic Zoning Commission have been at the center of Nashville's preservation efforts and successes. Union Station, East Nashville, Germantown, the City Cemetery, Fort Negley, the Shelby Street Bridge, Parthenon, Hatch Show Print, Warner Parks, Two Rivers, and the Customs House are just a few of the city's historic resources for which the MHC and the MHZC have rallied support and given guidance and advocacy.

Metro Government – mayors and Council – have made Nashville the envy of other cities with their ongoing financial and political support of the commissions. But as we all know, budgets have been cut throughout the city. Like all other Metro departments, the MHC and MHZC have met the challenges of doing more work for less money. But still the cuts have inevitably limited the commissions in some of their services to the public. Preservation technologies and legalities are continually evolving, but funding for training is not available. The MHC's Preservation Awards program, which honors local preservation heroes, has costs that aren't covered by the budget. Historical markers, long popular for recognizing community history, are dependent on the ability of a neighborhood or institution to raise money.

So a new 501(c)(3) organization, the Metro Historical Commission Foundation, has been formed to act as a friends group. We will help the commissions with these short-term expenses. We also have hopes for the future of raising larger sums that could make the Foundation a financial force that could step in to save our resources.

Watch for the MHC Foundation's official launch very soon.

The Metro Historical Commission Foundation

Ann Eaden, President

Jeff Ockerman, Treasurer

Ann Roberts, Secretary

Board: Joan Armour, Debby Dale Mason, Dr. Reavis Mitchell, Laura Rost

New! Ponder “Sunnyside Mansion” Ornaments Now Available

Phil Ponder’s print “Sunnyside Mansion” is now available as an ornament. Through the generosity of Mr. Ponder and Picture This gallery, sales will support the MHC Foundation. Ornaments are \$6 and are available at the MHC office (checks payable to MHC Foundation). Larger prints are available upon request. It’s never too early to stock up for the 2013 holidays!

Ongoing! Be part of planning Nashville's - and our region's - future!

Work is just beginning on a new Nashville General Plan which will provide a vision for our city’s future over the next 30 years, along with guidance for growth and development in Davidson County and much of Middle Tennessee.

Metro Government and many local agencies and organizations are leading the General Plan’s development – and a Community Engagement Committee is now forming which will include a wide variety of individuals from all walks of life who are familiar with community/neighborhood/civic engagement processes.

If you’d like to be considered for membership in that Committee or other volunteer initiatives, please visit the Nashville 2040 website: www.nashville2040.com. The website also includes links to Nashville’s current General Plan as well as plans currently in place in other major cities, including Raleigh, Cincinnati, and El Paso.

Ongoing! Metro at 5-0!

The Nashville community is coming together to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the creation of Metro Nashville. The nine-month celebration, from June 28, 2012 to April 1, 2013, will involve many events and educational opportunities. Please join us in celebrating our great city! Find “Metro at 50” on Facebook or visit www.MetroAt50.org to learn more!

CONFERENCES, EXHIBITS AND EVENTS

New! First Tuesday at the Archives

Tuesday, January 8—2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Metropolitan Government Archives

3801 Green Hills Village Drive

The “First Tuesday at the Metro Archives” for January will feature Suzanne Burns portraying Adelia Acklen. Sponsored by Friends of the Archives. This event is free and open to the public.

With the exception of January 2013, "First Tuesday at the Metro Archives" meets on the first Tuesday of the month, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Please contact the Archives at 862-5880 or Ken.fieth@nashville.gov for more information.

***Be sure to "like" Metro Nashville Archives on Facebook!

New! Clements to Speak to Middle Tennessee Genealogy Society

Saturday, January 19—1:00 p.m.

FiftyForward Knowles Center

174 Rains Avenue (Across from the State Fairgrounds)

The January meeting of the Middle Tennessee Genealogy Society will feature Paul Clements, historian and regular columnist for *The Nashville Retrospect*, a locally published historical newspaper. Mr. Clements is the author of *A Past Remembered* and recently published *Chronicles of the Cumberland Settlements*. No charge for the meeting and refreshments will be served. For more information, please visit www.mtgs.org.

Call for Papers & Save the Date!

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Annual Meeting

October 10–13, 2013

Nashville

The [Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society](http://www.aahgs.org) is pleased to announce that its 34th annual conference is to be held in Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 10-13, 2013.

With the theme "150 Sounds of Freedom," this year's conference explores all aspects of freedom, including, but not limited to, such topics as literacy, death, the Emancipation Proclamation, religion, art, sports and music.

The annual AAHGS Conference is the premier opportunity to explore standard and innovative methods, resources, and findings related to the expansive history of African-Americans and the African Diaspora. Scholars and others are encouraged to submit proposals in accordance with the 2013 conference [Call for Papers](http://www.aahgs.org) [submissions are due February 20], also available at [aahgs.org](http://www.aahgs.org).

This year for the first time in AAHGS history, college students and journalists are especially encouraged to participate.

"It is too thrilling for the people who write the first drafts of history to have prominent roles in this historical examination of black freedom," said Pamela E. Foster, co-founder and secretary of the [AAHGS Nashville](http://www.aahgs.org) chapter and a key organizer of the 2013 conference. "We also for the first time are encouraging college students to embrace family history and be a part of the conference that celebrates the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation."

AAHGS Nashville is hosting a meeting for members and others who want to be involved with the conference at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, in the Nashville Room of the Main branch downtown of the Nashville Public Library. All who are interested in the history of the African Diaspora are invited to attend.

Founded in 1977, AAHGS is a 501 c(3) not-for-profit organization based in Washington, D. C. Via its 30 chapters nationwide, AAHGS promotes scholarly research, provides resources for historical and genealogical studies, assists members in documenting their histories, and creates a network of people with similar interests.

AAHGS Nashville was chartered in 2005 by founding members Dr. Carol Creswell-Betsch, Margarete Robinson Foster Chesser, Dolores Porter Foster, Pamela E. Foster, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Jewel Ann Dillihunt McCallister, Michelangelo McCallister, Sr., Gloria Haugabook McKissack, Lena Brown Prince, Jessie Carney Smith, and H. Henryne D. White.

For more information, please contact AAHGS Nashville chapter president Chajuan Fitzgerald at 1-866-202-6423 or info@aahgsnashville.org.

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
Sunnyside in Sevier Park • 3000 Granny White Pike • Nashville, Tennessee 37204 • Phone: 615.862.7970
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County • Karl F. Dean, Mayor