



# NEWS

WINTER 2017

from The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

*Dedicated to the recognition, preservation and restoration of Greater Kansas City's unique heritage.*



## 2016 Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala is a success!

Frank White, Jr. receiving his 2016 OKC award from Julia Irene Kauffman, 2011 OKC award recipient

**A**lthough the 2016 season for the Kansas City Royals ended weeks ago, the bright lights of Kauffman Stadium's towering crown scoreboard came back on for several hours on Thursday evening November 10. That evening, more than 200 NSDKC members and guests gathered in the festive facilities of the Kia Diamond Club for the 44th annual OKC Gala to recognize the accomplishments of the 2016 Outstanding Kansas Citian, the Honorable Frank White, Jr.

The guests enjoyed a sparkling social hour of warm social conversation, and bidders milled among the numerous silent auction tables filled with many unique Kansas City merchandise items as well as opportunities for Kansas City sports and entertainment experiences.

While the guests were busy pursuing their favorite auction items, numerous media outlets sent crews to record Mr. White's commentary and his reflections upon a storied career that began at Kauffman Stadium as a young Royals second baseman in 1973 and ended with his retirement 18 years later in 1990. His career has now

spanned over 40 years to today, and as Jackson County Executive he continues to serve the Kansas City community with his leadership.

After a delicious dinner, the audience watched as the Jackson County Sports Complex Authority was recognized for its leadership and governance role as the owner and operator of the Truman Sports Complex since its construction in the early 1970s. Executive Director of the Authority Jim Rowland and their Commission Chair Aimee Gromowski were presented with a NSDKC marker which was later installed on the grounds of the Complex.

All those in attendance then sat back to enjoy a rare opportunity as Channel 41 sportscaster Frank Boal interviewed Mr. White on topics ranging from his early years growing up in Kansas City to his acceptance into the new KC Royals Baseball Academy. For the next 15 minutes, Mr. White recounted many of the stops along the way which culminated in the Kansas City Royals winning the 1985 World Series.

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# The President's Message

**Dear members:**

I hope each of you had a wonderful holiday season and my best wishes to all of you for a healthy and happy New Year.

I am honored and enthusiastic to serve as President of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City as we enter into our 85th year as an organization. But it takes more than one person to make an organization grow and prosper.

Thanks to Whitney Kerr for hosting the Past President's luncheon. I was honored and moved from being reassured that I have support from all the former presidents and I appreciated the wisdom and advice passed on to me.

I want to thank the officers, board of directors, corporate and community service committee chairpersons, and staff who have agreed to serve and support the mission and projects to preserve the rich heritage of the Greater Kansas City area. I look forward to working with each of you.

Thanks also go to all of our membership. Please help our organization to grow by contacting your friends and family and ask them to join us for our most exciting year ever!

Talk about an exciting year . . . we are going to have one! Here are some of the Meet and Greet events and trips we have planned. One that is close to my heart is visiting the TWA Museum. I am pleased to have been instrumental in keeping the collection together here in Kansas City and returning it to the original building to be displayed.

We plan to visit the Kansas City Museum to explore the history and legacy of the Kansas City Fire Department, the Johnson County Museum located at the new Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center, and the College Basketball Experience which is a 41,500-square-foot fan-interactive facility that includes the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame in Sprint Center.

I look forward to seeing you at these special events.

Sincerely,  
Diane Boos Pepper  
2017 NSDKC President



**2017 President  
Diane Boos  
Pepper**

## Dr. Bruce Prince-Joseph continues giving to NSDKC

**I**t has been nearly two years since we lost our friend and NSDKC member Bruce Prince-Joseph. Not only was he an important part of our organization for many years, but also our 1998 Outstanding Kansas Citian of the Year. Bruce was a great friend and a remarkable musician. He graced us year after year with his Christmas concerts and a cameo performance at the Holiday Brunch. What a gift from a man well known throughout the United States and Europe for his extraordinary keyboard skills as well as the immense musical knowledge that he shared with countless students at Hunter



**Dr. Bruce Prince-Joseph**

*PRINCE-JOSEPH continued on page 3*



### OFFICERS & STAFF

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Steve Noll  
*1st Vice President*

Nancy Elder  
*2nd Vice President*

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*Secretary*

John Forbes  
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John Hess, Jr.  
*Immediate Past President*

*A list of all committees and committee chairs is available at NSDKC.org*

### Newsletter Production

Ross Marshall, *Editor*

Norman Besheer, *Proof Reader*

### Administrative Staff

Susan Hughes  
*Executive Secretary*

Linda Dillon  
*Administration and IT*

### Contact Information

Phone: 816-926-9397

Email: [publications@nsdkc.org](mailto:publications@nsdkc.org)

[NSDKC.org](http://NSDKC.org)

6320 Brookside Plaza, Suite 213

Kansas City, MO 64113

### MISSION

The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, Inc. is dedicated to the historic preservation of the unique and rich heritage of the greater Kansas City metropolitan area, both in Missouri and Kansas, through advocacy, education and restoration. It also seeks to preserve and maintain archives of historical interest relating to the development of the Kansas City region and to recognize individuals who have resided therein and contributed to such development.



# Message from the 2016 President

## Dear members:

As I reflect on the past year, I am honored to have served as your president. During the past year we had programs in which we toured the Federal Reserve, took a trip which included a stop at the Ben Ferrell Museum in Platte County, lunch at O'Malley's and a tour of the renovated McCormick Distillery in Weston. We held a Meet and Greet at the Roasterie and toured many of our downtown markers on a Trolley Tour.



**2016 President  
John Hess, Jr.**

Frank White, Jr. was our Outstanding Kansas Citian of the year which was highlighted by honoring him at the Kia Diamond Club at Kauffman Stadium on November 10. Additionally, we dedicated one of our markers at the Truman Sports Complex on November 15 which details the unique design of having the nation's first side-by-side football and baseball stadiums.

We have been working on a Native Sons and Daughters Monument celebrating the history of Kansas City which is to be completed in 2017.

At our October Annual Meeting, we elected Diane Boos Pepper as president for 2017. I believe that her terrific leadership skills exhibited in overseeing the 2015 Outstanding Kansas Citian event, leading the Communications Committee in 2016, as well as numerous other leadership roles in other organizations have prepared her well to lead us in the upcoming year.

We enjoyed members of the University of Kansas Choir which entertained us by singing familiar tunes at our Holiday Brunch.

Since our Brunch, I am pleased to announce that The Native Sons and Daughters has received a generous gift from the estate of our dear friend and former member, Dr. Bruce Prince-Joseph. Starting on page 2, there is an article detailing more information regarding this generous gift.

I am looking forward to 2017 and the exciting events that Diane and the board have planned. Thanks to the board for their support, to Carl DiCapo and Chuck Eddy for their counsel and to Susie and Linda for their help and for an outstanding year!

Sincerely,  
John Hess, Jr  
2016 NSDKC President



**Dr. Bruce Prince-Joseph**

**Prince-Joseph** *continued from page 2*

College in New York, and numerous interns he mentored throughout the years. We remember him fondly for all he did for NSDKC.

It has been our good fortune that 2016 was the year Bruce would remember us also. The Native Sons and Daughters were among nine recipients of the proceeds of Bruce's trust – along with such esteemed organizations as Yale University and the University of Southern California. Local recipients were also named, such as the Historic Kansas City Foundation, Friends of Sacred Structures, the Saint Luke's Foundation, Bishop Spencer Place, the Wornall-Majors House Museums, and Saint Therese Little Flower Church.

**Bruce was a great friend and a remarkable musician. He graced us year after year with his Christmas concerts and a cameo performance at the Holiday Brunch.**

As trustee, I have worked for the months since Bruce's passing to make sure that Bruce's wishes were carried out, that his historic Brookside home was cared for and preserved for years to come, and that the final recipients of the trust received the largest monetary gifts possible. It was through meeting these three objectives that Bruce's memory would truly be honored.

So it is with great pride that these goals were achieved and I was able to present the Board of Directors of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City with a check from the Bruce Prince-Joseph Trust of just over \$26,000. It has been a great honor to know such a man and it will be an honor to continue his legacy of historic preservation in his beloved Kansas City.

Rev. Jeffrey Hon, Trustee  
The Bruce Prince-Joseph Trust



OKC Committee Chair Steve Noll at left and Markers Committee Chair Ross Marshall present the Sports Complex marker to the JCSA Commission Chair Aimee Gromowski.



Frank, his wife Teresa and Mona Young, Frank's sister



Frank Boal, Channel 41 sportscaster interviews Frank White

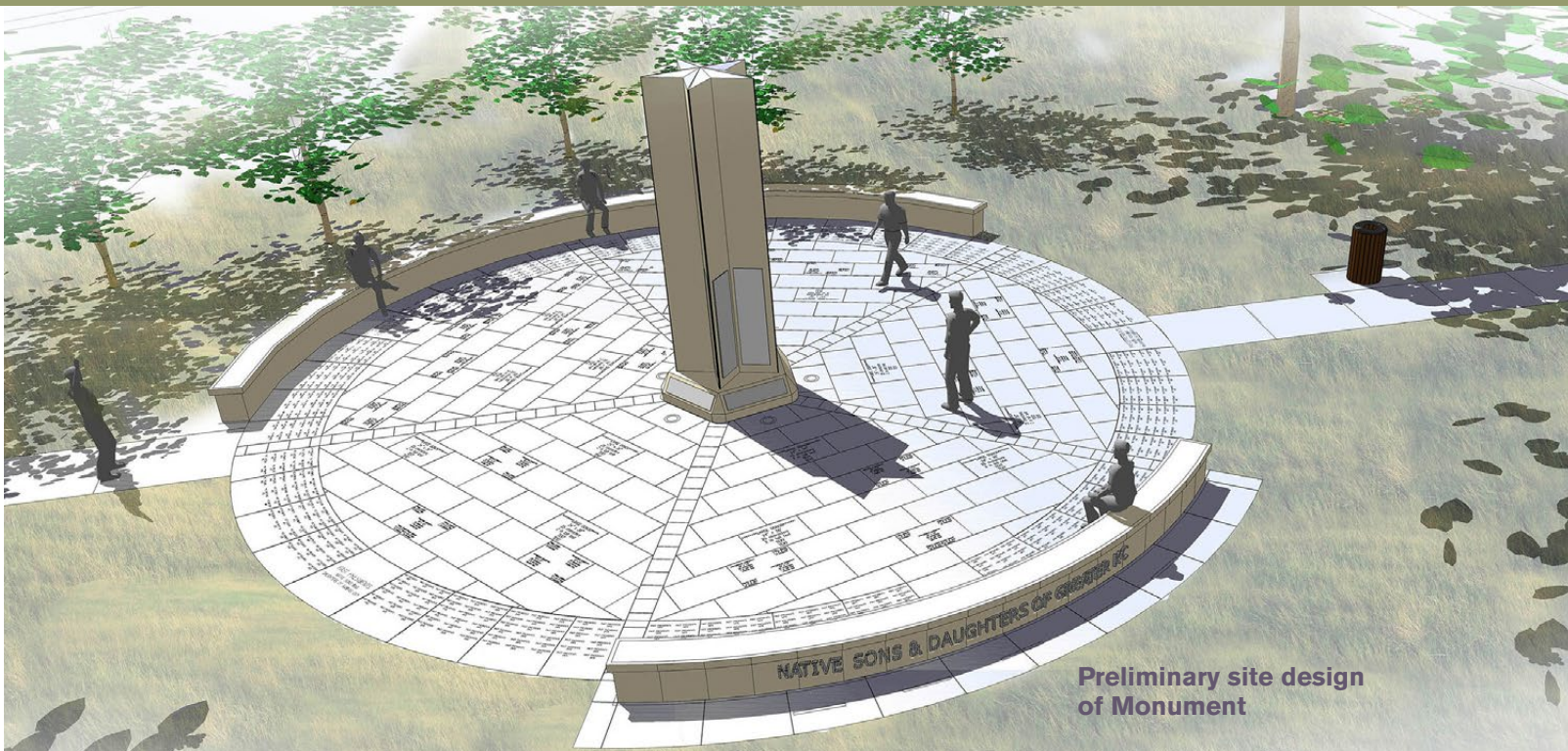


(l-r) Shirley Marshall, Dot Benner, Henry Leonard and Lane Smith

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After remarks from Teresa White, Julia Irene Kauffman presented the OKC Medallion and trophy to Mr. White. Following the ceremony, Mr. White answered questions that were previously submitted by the audience.

Steve Noll, NSDKC OKC Committee Chair



Preliminary site design of Monument

# NSDKC Monument makes progress

The architectural rendering of The Native Sons and Daughters Monument reflects over three years of conceptual planning, site evaluation, design development, evaluation of construction techniques, cost estimating, permitting, and the soliciting of funds. With the Monument design 90% complete, the Monument Committee is pursuing final authorizations from the City of Kansas City, Missouri to make this project become reality.

This Monument will be a landmark, reflecting upon our proud heritage in our community. A large, granite-paved circular 'plaza' area surrounding the Monument's 16-foot, star-shaped tower will provide each of us the opportunity to personally honor our heritage through a sponsored 'brick' program. Stay tuned!

## Truman Sports Complex Marker Dedicated

**O**n November 15, a very nice sunny day, we dedicated the Truman Sports Complex marker. It had been presented to Authority officials at the Jackson County Sports Complex Authority at the OKC event the previous Thursday night at the nearby Kia Diamond Club.

Those officials, Executive Director Jim Rowland and Authority Commission Chair Aimee Gromowski were on hand and spoke to the crowd about the relationship between the Sports Complex, the Authority, the State of Missouri and Jackson County. The JCSC Authority is commissioned by the State of Missouri to be essentially the landlord of the property among Jackson County and the Kansas City Royals and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Since the current Jackson County Executive Frank White, Jr. was our 2016 Outstanding Kansas Citian honoree, a NSDKC marker erected at this key site seemed very



JCSCA Executive Director Jim Rowland

*MARKER continued on page 6*

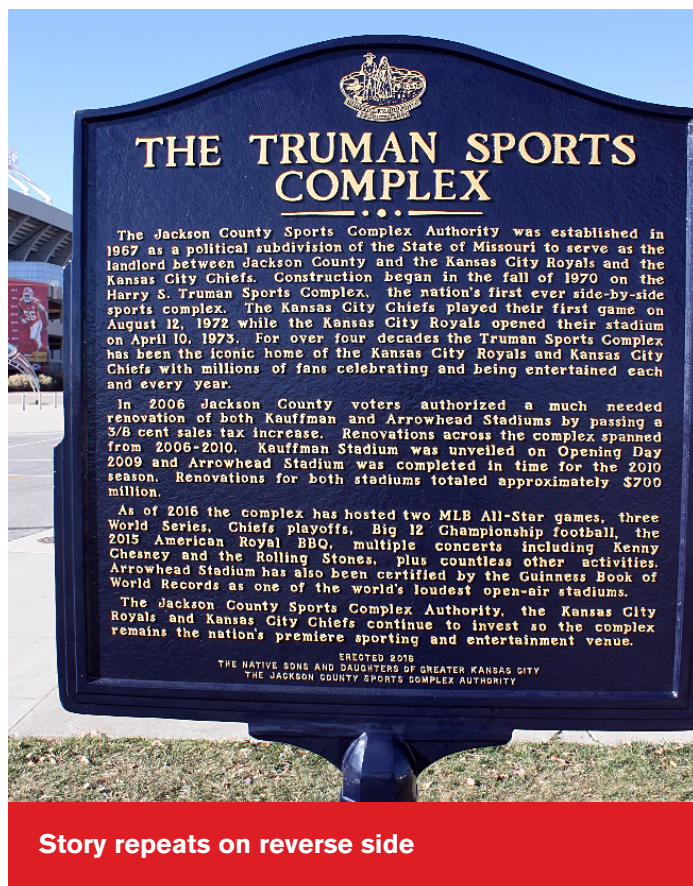


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appropriate and needful. It describes the uniqueness of our complex because it was the first side-by-side baseball and football stadiums built in the nation. Prior to its completion in 1973, cities had built single stadiums that could be used for both sports, but with difficulty. But Kansas City did it right!

The marker is erected between the Arrowhead and Kauffman Stadiums at a location that most fans will walk by it or very close to it. The text is the same on both sides, so we get them coming and going!

**The marker describes the uniqueness of our complex because it was the first side-by-side baseball and football stadiums built in the nation. Prior to its completion in 1973, cities had built single stadiums that could be used for both sports, but with difficulty. Kansas City did it right!**



# Annual Holiday Brunch brings holiday cheer

**W**ell over 100 NSDKC members and guests attending our 2016 Holiday Brunch at Indian Hills Country Club on Saturday, December 10 enjoyed a sumptuous meal, warm fellowship, enjoyable entertainment, reviewing our events of 2016, and participating in recognition of NSDKC leaders.

We have been doing Annual Holiday Brunches since about 1970, with approximately the first 10 years at Homestead Country Club. The last 36 years we have been at Indian Hills.

After the wonderful buffet lunch President John Hess, Jr. introduced and thanked the Officers and members of the Board of Directors. He then reviewed the various events, activities and accomplishments of our organization in 2016.

Awards Committee Chair Cherie Davis came to the podium and presented several awards to NSDKC members as shown in the photos.

President John introduced the 2017 President, Diane Pepper, who briefly addressed the crowd, mentioned some of the plans for next year's events, and introduced the new 2017 Officers and Board members.

We were entertained with some wonderful music. During the reception and luncheon period we enjoyed the excellent Chuck Eddy Band with vocalist Lori Tucker, who have been entertaining for us many years. As a University of Kansas student, President John Hess, Jr. once sang in the KU choir. He invited the choir to join us and perform some delightful Christmas music. They were followed by our own Dan Sturdevant doing his very entertaining song *We Didn't Start the Fire*, which reviews the history of Kansas City—an amusing treat!

**RIGHT: Chuck Eddy receives the Lee I. Pickering Award for Excellence**



**(l-r) Lane Smith as Gen. Lee  
2017 President Diane Pepper  
Gary Hicks as Alexander Majors**



**ABOVE: Presidents John Hess, Jr.  
(2016) and Diane Pepper (2017)**



**Dan Sturdevant receives The George E.  
Hicks Award for Perseverance**





## Annual Past Presidents Luncheon welcomes 2017 NSDKC President Diane Pepper

**A**s has been our custom for many years, NSDKC Past Presidents gathered and extended a warm welcome, support and encouragement to our incoming President Diane Boos Pepper on November 14 at the River Club.

The group picture above was taken in front of the spectacular Thomas Hart Benton "Trading at Westport Landing". Westport Landing is located very close to the River Club.

Standing (left to right) are **Ross Marshall (2014), Joe Vaughan (1998), A. J. Cameron (1990), Chuck Eddy (2013), Diane Pepper (2017), John Hess, Jr. (2016), John Hess, Sr. (2002), Dot Benner (2012), John Dillingham (2003), Carl DiCapo (2015), and Jim Bernard (2004).**

Seated (left to right) are **Dan Creasy (2005), Dan Sturdevant (2009), Norm Besheer (2011), Gary Hicks (2010), Whitney Kerr (NSDKC Board member and luncheon host), and Ted Seligson (1989).**

**WELCOME TO  
OUR  
NEW MEMBER**

David Hess

**IN MEMORIAM**

Dennis Owens

We used to play the Savoy Ballroom, and we always had a boogie tune in the set. Bands like Tommy Dorsey used to do a little boogie woogie. —*Jay McShann*