



# NEWS

SPRING 2015

from The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

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

## NSDKC President sets agenda for 2015

I'm sure you have read the quote about our organization on the homepage of our website. In part, it reads: "The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City is among the oldest, most enduring historical societies in Kansas City, and they have unquestionably been a major force in preserving and promoting the region's history."

As the president of NSDKC, I find the quote to be both a fitting description of our efforts and a challenge to each of us as members. We must be the "major force in preserving and promoting the region's history."

When we combine our energies, we are indeed a force — six elected officers, 14 board members, and more than two dozen committees. The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City is "preserving and promoting the region's history." However, we cannot do it without you. Your membership — not only the annual dues, but also your participation in our events throughout the year — provides the foundation that protects

83 years of past service by the Native Sons and Daughters and ensures our future success.

It was a pleasure to see many of you at our program at Union Station in February, and I hope to see many of you again at our Meet & Greet in Janssen Place in late April. You'll find more information on both of these programs in this newsletter, where you can also read more about this year's Outstanding Kansas Citian Award. Today, however, I want to share how pleased I am to be president of NSDKC during the year that we honor former Mayor Kay Barnes and the Ethnic Enrichment Commission. During Kay Barnes' time as Mayor of Kansas City, she had the courage to rebuild an aging downtown into a vibrant community, thereby permanently changing the landscape of our city. During her time as mayor, all of us who championed Kansas City knew we had the support of City Hall.

Honoring the Ethnic Enrichment



2015 President Carl DiCapo

Commission is a point of personal pride for me. In 1975, Mayor Charles Wheeler asked me to chair Kansas City's Bicentennial Board. I agreed to take on that challenge with a belief that Kansas City should celebrate the rich ethnic heritage that had built America. We established the Ethnic Enrichment Commission, with twelve groups being represented. It must have been the right idea. Our city's bicentennial celebration was noted as one of

*PRESIDENT continued on page 2*



## DON'T MISS THE 43rd OUTSTANDING KANSAS CITIAN GALA ON NOV. 10, 2015

Grand Ballroom, Kansas City Convention Center

Honoring Mayor Kay Barnes and recognizing the Ethnic Enrichment Commission

### BE A SPONSOR

Help preserve our unique history for your children and grandchildren.

You can help by becoming a corporate sponsor, purchasing a table at the event, and donating to the silent auction. [Details on NSDKC.org](http://Details.on.NSDKC.org)

*Read the story on page 3.*



## Welcome New Members!

Duane and Sandra Benton • William H. Nicks  
Vincent Michael Anch

*PRESIDENT continued from page 1*

the best in the nation, and John Warner, the Director of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, presented the city an award for its outstanding contribution to this national celebration. Today, more than 68 ethnic groups are part of the commission, and an annual festival is celebrated at Swope Park.

I also want to share with you a new program I have established this year — the Founders Group. This is a unique support group recognizing companies founded in Kansas City. There has never been an organized effort to honor businesses founded in Kansas City, and I believe such recognition is an important part of preserving our area's history. This special group of businesses will lend support to the efforts of NSDKC and, at the same time, we will honor their contributions to the growth of our city with special recognition at the annual OKC event. The first member of the Founders Group was J. E. Dunn Construction. A special committee has been formed to promote the project, and we are sending our first information on this group to prospective candidates in mid-April. You'll hear more about this group in the following months.

I suspect that every president of The Native Sons and Daughters, for more than 80 years, has called his or her term a "special year." The fact is, each year is a special year to live up to the challenge of preserving and promoting our area's history. I trust you will join me in this year's effort by participating in our Meet & Greets, tours, programs, and especially our annual Outstanding Kansas Citian award dinner. Your support will make this an extraordinary time in our organization's history.

Carl J. DiCapo  
President, The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

Thursday, Apr. 23, 6:00 pm: Meet & Greet, Mansion Tour,  
7 Janssen Place in Historic Hyde Park

### ★ 2015 CALENDAR ★

Wednesday, October 14, 6:00 pm: Annual Membership & Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 10, 6:00 pm: Outstanding Kansas Citian



#### OFFICERS & STAFF

Carl DiCapo  
*President*

John Hess, Jr.  
*1st Vice President*

Diane Boos Pepper  
*2nd Vice President*

Mike Burke  
*Treasurer*

Steve Noll  
*Secretary*

John Dunnewind  
*Historian*

Ross Marshall  
*Immediate Past President*

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

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#### 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.

## OKC: Kay Barnes started the KC Renaissance

Former mayor Kay Barnes is certainly a Kansas City history maker! After she took office in 1999, she began the largest citywide increase in construction since the 1970s resulting in our urban renaissance. Her optimism and never give-up attitude resulted in an expanded Bartle Hall, Sprint Center, H&R Block headquarters and the Power & Light district to name a few. We also gained thousands of residential units, new hotels and a continuing demand for more urban housing. Her list of accomplishments is six single-spaced pages! She covered city reforms, promoted diversity, economic development and environmental improvements. Barnes stated that one of the most satisfying parts of being mayor has been energizing citizens who are passionate about Kansas City and want to make it better. This legacy has continued as people are involved with our city more than ever.

During the evening we will also be recognizing the Ethnic Enrichment Commission by presenting to them a Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City marker which will be placed in Swope Park and will have the names of all Ethnic groups located in the Kansas City area.



### About the Ethnic Enrichment Commission

“It is the responsibility and duty of each Ethnic Group to preserve the cultural heritage of their people not only for the benefit of their descendants but also for the enrichment of our entire community.” — Ethnic Enrichment Festival Guide

Started by Mayor Charlie Wheeler in 1976, The Ethnic Enrichment Commission began with a parade celebrating the many cultures that have contributed to Kansas City. The Ethnic Enrichment Festival has grown

from 15 countries in 1976 to 60 countries in 2014 with 35,000 visitors. Every August, Swope Park becomes the place to enjoy food, dancing, music and goods from other countries. Each country operates a booth and there are many activities for children such as face painting and crafts. Where else can you find a geographical mashup with Haiti and Ukraine sharing a space or Greece between Jamaica and India? The aromas of different foods compete for your attention. The Festival is the only place in Kansas City where people can rub elbows with people of the world.

## THE 43rd OUTSTANDING KANSAS CITIAN GALA

Grand Ballroom of the Kansas City Convention Center  
16th Street and Wyandotte Avenue | Kansas City, Missouri

Reception and silent auction, 6 p.m. | Dinner, 7 p.m. | Program, 8 p.m.

Visit our website [NSDKC.org](http://NSDKC.org) to

- **SPONSOR:** Be a corporate sponsor, buy a table and donate to the silent auction
- **VOLUNTEER:** Contact Diane Pepper at 816.719.1044 or [diane8689@aol.com](mailto:diane8689@aol.com)
- **BUY TICKETS**

# April 23, Meet & Greet at Janssen Place Mansion



I am pleased to announce that the spring Meet & Greet will be held on Thursday, April 23, at the home of NSDKC members Frank and Ann Uryasz. It is located at 7 Janssen Place in Historic Hyde Park, two blocks east of 36<sup>th</sup> and Gillham Road in Kansas City.

The 7,000 square-foot house, was built in 1909-1910 for Rodella G. Dwight, and includes a solarium (now an office), a third floor ballroom, and a complete apartment over the garage which was occupied by the chauffeur. They are graciously opening their home to share the history of the house and neighborhood with us.

This is an excellent event for bringing friends or colleagues that might want to join our organization but want to know more about us.

The event is free and will be held from 6 to 8 PM. Food and drink will be served. Please RSVP to Susie Hughes by April 20 at phughes9@kc.rr.com or 816-926-9397.

We look forward to seeing you there!

John Hess Jr., 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President NSDKC



## Meet & Greet in Historic Hyde Park

Thursday, April 23, 6 to 8 PM

7 Janssen Place, two blocks east of 36<sup>th</sup> & Gillham Road in Kansas City.

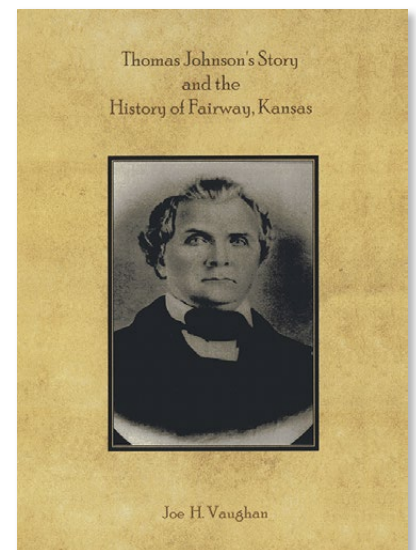
RSVP by April 20 to Susie Hughes at phughes9@kc.rr.com or 816-926-9397

## Joe H. Vaughan introduces his latest book

*Thomas Johnson's Story and the History of Fairway, Kansas*

NSDKC past president, local author and writer, Joe H. Vaughan has just published his latest book on Kansas and Johnson County cities and it is now available at Rainy Day Books in Fairway and Bruce Smith Drugs in Prairie Village. The new book is filled with information and photographs about Fairway, Kansas and features the story of Johnson County's Rev. Thomas Johnson.

The book describes the history and growth of Fairway, Kansas, enhanced by many photographs. It also includes unpublished information



about the intriguing life of one of this region's most controversial figures, Rev. Thomas Johnson, as well as information and history of the Shawnee Indian Mission in Fairway.

Vaughan is a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Journalism. He was a broadcast news anchor and journalist for several Kansas City area radio stations for a number of years and is past president of the Kansas Associated Press Broadcasters. Today he is CEO of Joe Vaughan Associates and resides in Prairie Village.

# National Historic Trails: One of Kansas City's important historical legacies

**T**he Greater Kansas City area is a national focal point for trails because four National Historic Trails course through the area: the Lewis and Clark, Santa Fe, Oregon, and California NHT's. The reasons for this concentration of trails are geography and politics.

Geographically, Kansas City is not only located on the Missouri River, but also at the confluence of the Missouri and Kansas Rivers. In those days, large rivers served travelers as the "super-highways"—in fact, they were the only passageways until trails and roads began to open up.

Politically, the western border of Missouri passes through this confluence. That western border also became the eastern boundary of the Permanent Indian Frontier when the Indian Removal Act was passed by the U.S. Congress in 1830 and signed into law by President Andrew Jackson. Most of the eastern tribes of American Indians were moved to that frontier and non-tribal people could not settle or establish towns west of that border. The small towns of Independence (1827), Westport (1834), and the town of Kansas, today's Kansas City (1838), blossomed near that border.

Hundreds of trail signs, as pictured in this article, can be seen in our area marking where these trails cross our streets and roads. Many others are currently being installed to guide motorists along the route of our historic trails. In addition, over the last dozen years or so, nearly 100 wayside exhibits have been installed at various locations to educate the public about our trails and several new parks have been created. And more are currently being planned.

The National Park Service and many of the local city public works departments have been key public partners to enable all this signage and interpretation to be installed for the



On September 19, 2012 our own Dan Sturdevant, NSDKC Past President and later the Lewis and Clark National President, addresses the crowd at the dedication of nine wayside exhibits about our trails and history at the Town of Kansas site on the Missouri River in Downtown Kansas City.

enjoyment of our citizenry and the public in general.

Our historic trails attract many tourists to our area to observe the various trail sites and to learn from all the interpretive signage now available. One example was a very successful and well-attended Kansas City Trails Conference held in Independence, MO in March 2014. Bus tours along our trails and strategic planning for the development of "trail corridors" involving both historic trails and hiking-biking recreational trails were also included.

A second example is the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, which will be held in our area August 1-5 this year, based at the Argosy Hotel in Riverside, MO. People from across the nation will gather to learn about the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail along the Missouri River.

NSDKC proudly shares in this wonderful mission to promote, protect and interpret the many historical legacies of the Greater Kansas City area.



One of the many signs that are now being installed between Independence, MO and Gardner, KS

# Private tour, friends and food highlight evening at Union Station

**M**ore than 60 NSDKC members and guests enjoyed a wonderful Meet & Greet at the spectacular Union Station on Thursday, February 26.

A sumptuous hors d'oeuvres table catered by Brancato's was enjoyed by all as we gathered at Harvey's in the Great Hall's balcony.

Special thanks go to President Carl DiCapo, Membership Chair John Dillingham and Program Chair Dick Retrum for arranging and managing this event. Each of these gentlemen took turns addressing the crowd as did the new Kansas City Museum Executive Director Anna Marie Tintera. We were also welcomed by Union Station's President George Guastello.

Later, Mr. Guastello gave us a guided tour of the spectacular historical exhibits and photo displays covering the building's first century of existence.

Opened on October 30, 1914, Union Station is just over 100 years old and is one of the largest train depots in the nation. It replaced the original Union Depot in the West Bottoms which opened in 1878. Union Station served huge passenger traffic through the end of World War II, then spent the next four decades in gradual decline until its closure in 1985. In 1996, a public/private partnership began funding Union Station's \$250 million restoration.

In 1999 the station reopened and is now a very successful and iconic attraction featuring various museums and restaurants, Science City, the Planetarium, a 3-D Theater, Amtrack service, and a continuing series of special exhibits and events.

Thanks to Carl, Dick and John for arranging this very enjoyable and successful event!



Diane Pepper (L) and guests Kathy Gellings and Sandy Bostian.



(l-r) George Guastello, President and CEO of Union Station, Brancato's Manager, and Chuck Eddy



Visit our   
picture  
gallery at  
[nsdkc.org](http://nsdkc.org)  
for more  
event photos.

Anna Marie Tutera, Executive Director at Kansas City Museum and Ross Marshall