



# THE NATIVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

July 2012

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

## Maye Awarded Outstanding Kansas Citian

Please plan to be with us Tuesday evening, September 18th at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts to honor Kansas City's own Marilyn Maye as the 2012 Outstanding Kansas Citian.

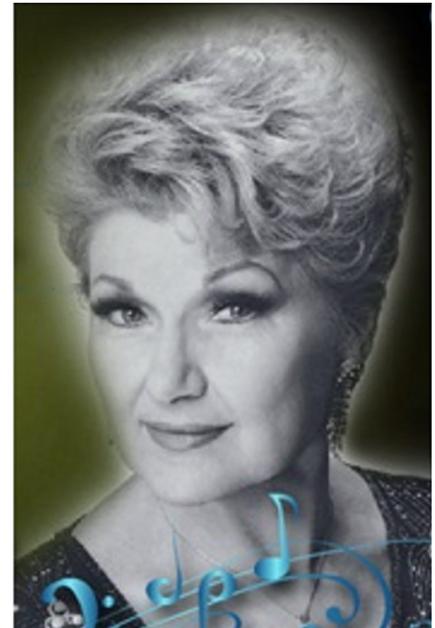
Attendees will enjoy a wonderful reception and a magnificent dinner in Brandmeyer Great Hall with Marilyn being interviewed and performing a mini-concert on the Helzberg Hall stage.

In addition, we'll also have the presentation of a NSDKC plaque to the American Jazz Museum, to be installed at the museum at 18th & Vine.

Members will soon receive a personal invitation to this exciting event. Please respond to this invitation as soon as possible because seating is limited. Please call Linda Dillon at 913.207.3310 with any questions, or email to [linda.dillon@nsdkc.org](mailto:linda.dillon@nsdkc.org).

Tickets may be purchased online at <http://www.nsdkc.org>. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

We look forward to seeing you at the Kauffman Center September 18th.



## Meet and Greet Tours Tunnel

The spring Meet & Greet was held April 26th at the 8th Street Tunnel. This event was held jointly with the Historic Kansas City Foundation and was attended by 66 Native Sons & Daughters and guests and a similar number from the Historic Kansas City Foundation.

We had a unique opportunity to tour the tunnel which has been preserved by DST and is rarely available for viewing by the public. We had four tours in order to accommodate the terrific turnout.

We want to extend a special thanks to Ray Elder for his presentations in the tunnel. We also want to thank our hosts at DST and State Street, which made this a truly memorable event.

*John Hess, Jr., Membership and Events  
Co-chair*



*Photo courtesy of Debbie Legrotte*

## Dedication October 6

Another step in our mission to interpret historic sites in the area will be achieved October 6. At 10:00 a.m., we will dedicate the new historic marker at the site of the Liberty Arsenal Raid.

The Historical Markers Committee of Gary Hicks, Ray Elder, Frank McMillian, Chris Sizemore, Craig Crease, Whitney Kerr, and I directed this effort. The Clay County Millennium Historical Board shared the cost, and the City of Liberty purchased

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# President's Letter

Summertime greetings to my fellow members of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City!

I am pleased to inform you that 2012 continues to be one of enthusiastic participation on the part of your officers, community service committee chairs, and your corporate standing committees. Our membership is growing, thanks to interesting and innovative tours, as well as successful Meet and Greets. In recognition of this historic organization, many of you have contacted individuals whom you thought would enjoy the benefits of NSDKC. I applaud each of you!

Recently, you have received a letter from me announcing the 2012 Outstanding Kansas Citian recipient, Marilyn Maye, on Thursday, September 18. Our honoree is known both nationally and internationally, as a talented jazz vocalist, and we are proud to call her one of Kansas City's own. The Kauffman Center will again be our venue for this prestigious event.

Our partners for the Outstanding Kansas Citian will be the American Jazz Museum, located in the Historic 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine District in Kansas City, Missouri. The famous Blue Room is recognized for upcoming bands, seasoned musicians of the local jazz community, as well as national and internationally renowned jazz artists. It is an icon that will continue to create, preserve, and recognize the unique heritage of jazz.

I want to congratulate Ross Marshall for conducting an excellent historic Leavenworth, Kansas tour. John Hess, Jr., Chair of Membership and Social Events, and Dr. Chuck Eddy, are to be commended for an outstanding Meet and Greet at the American Jazz Museum. Our third tour on August 18<sup>th</sup> celebrates the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Weston, followed by the National Agricultural Hall of Fame tour on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

My appreciation to member Bryan Flanagan, who is Chair of *Young NSDKC*, a recently formed committee whose proposed goals are to ensure the future health and strength of this great organization. More details will be forthcoming in my next letter. I encourage each of you to enjoy our wonderful website, our newsletters, our varied activities, and get to know your fellow members through the roster as well as events.

Yours in NSDKC,  
Dorothy "Dot" Benner, President

# 2013 Nominating Committee

President Dot Benner has appointed the 2013 nominating committee to fill vacancies of directors. Following the nomination process, the entire membership will vote at our November 14 meeting. The nominating committee is also responsible to select officers for 2013. This will follow the election of the directors at a later date. The 2013 officers will be approved by the Board of Directors.

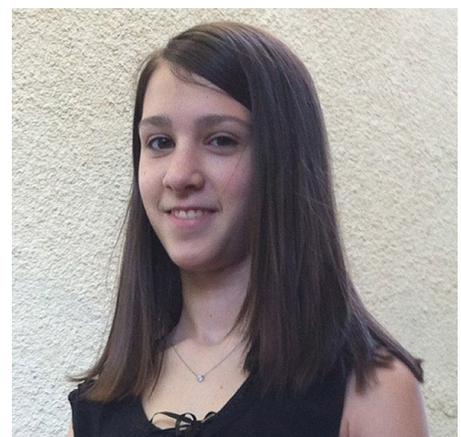
The nominating committee: Norman O. Besheer, Chair; Dave Baumgartner, Chuck Eddy, Dan Creasy, John Hess, Sr., Gary Hicks, and Joe Vaughan. Dot Benner, president, will serve as an ex-officio member.

# History Day

Again this year, the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas City participated in the annual National History Days in Kansas and Missouri state level competitions. David Boutros, a member of the NSDKC and Assistant Director, State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City, coordinates NSDKC's participation in the statewide competitions.

The NSDKC special prizes went to Missouri student, Sophia Mauro, and Kansas student, Avery Munns. NSDKC sends a \$100 prize and an certificate to each student whose project reflects not only the assigned theme of the competition, but also relates to the interests of NSDKC. This year's theme was "Revolution, Reaction and Reform in History."

Sophia Mauro, a student at Barstow in Kansas City, was an entrant in the Junior Division single performance category. Mauro did a multi-character performance titled, "Order Number 11: An Overreaction to the Lawrence Massacre."



*Sophia Mauro, History Day winner*

According to Sophia, "Through this experience, I have learned a

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[www.nsdkc.org](http://www.nsdkc.org)

# Celebrating Historic Weston's 175th Anniversary

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, you will have the opportunity to visit Historic Weston. President Dot Benner and Ross Marshall are guided and hosting this event.

The bus leaves at 8:30 a.m. from the public parking area at 7<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania in Kansas City, Missouri, and returns at 5:00 p.m.

The itinerary includes Half-Way House, circa 1840, and a visit to The Benner Farms, where Earl and Clark Benner will explain the process of producing burley tobacco from seed to harvest. President Harry and First Lady Bess Truman's White House punch will be served at the site.



*The dining room at O'Malley's 1842 Pub, in historic Weston, Missouri*

Russell and Terri French have invited us to tour their Weston antebellum home, Turner-Schneider-Spratt, circa 1849, and placed on the National Register of Historical Places. A visit to the Weston Museum will allow us to view the rare Mitchell Map, restored and framed in 1908 by NSDKC. In addition, we will have a guided tour of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, circa 1846-1861, located a short distance from Weston, and view the tomb site of Mary Vineyard, Lincoln's other Mary. Lunch will be served to half of our tour group at the American Bowman Restaurant, while the other half will be given a tour of O'Malley's 1842 Pub, followed by the reverse schedule. Should time permit, we will visit NSDKC's marker commemorating early settlers crossing the Platte River in Platte City.

Other tour sites and surprises await you. You may register and pay \$48 for the tour online at [www.nsdkc.org](http://www.nsdkc.org), or send a check payable to the Native Sons and Daughters to NSDKC, P.O. Box 10046, Kansas City, MO 64171

“City's Sons to Organize”, *Kansas City Star*, January 15, 1932

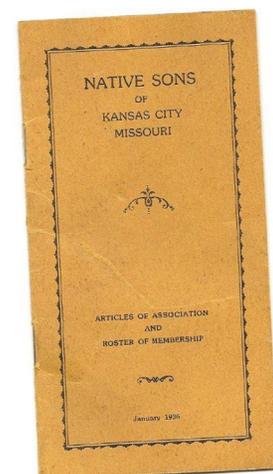
“Native K. C. Sons of Pioneers Will Compile History”, *Kansas*

*City Journal*, January 21, 1932

In 1932, the January 15, edition of the *Kansas City Star* announced an upcoming meeting of “City Sons,” while a week later, the January 21 edition of the *Kansas City Journal Post* reported on the meeting of the, “Native K.C. Sons of Pioneers.” Both papers were referring to the beginning of what has grown to be known as the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City.

Eighty years ago, at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20, 1932, about 100 native sons of pioneers met at the Hotel Muehlebach to organize a group to “compile data concerning Kansas City's early history,” according to the report in the *Kansas City Journal Post*.

A week earlier, the *Kansas City Star* had announced, “Histories and biographies have been dignified and accurate, but an undercurrent of salient facts relating to the founding and growth of Kansas City remains to be gathered and recorded by the Native Sons Society of Kansas City,  
*continued on page 5*



*1936 Native Sons roster donated to the NSDKC archive by Dr. Mary Davidson Cohen. The roster belonged to her father, Julian Klein Davidson, an early member of the Native Sons.*

# NSDKC Leadership in the 1930s

Celebrating our eightieth anniversary provides a time for reflection on NSDKC's past. Who were our presidents in our first decade and how were they related to the founding of Kansas City? Answers were found in our archives at the Missouri Historical Society's collection on the UMKC campus. The following are summaries of presidents from 1932–1939, focusing on their family history and employment.

## *Ralston Spalding, 1932*

His grandfather was a member of the City Council and Board of Education in 1867. Ralston was President of Spalding Commercial College at 31st & Troost.

## *Stanford Lyon, 1933*

His uncle settled here in 1858 and served on the Missouri Supreme Court. Stanford was a 1904 graduate of Central High School and worked as a judge on the Circuit Court.

## *William Thomas, 1934*

His parents arrived in 1839 from Kentucky and farmed 100 acres at 47th & Troost. As a seven year old, along with Frank Wornall, Thomas viewed the Battle of Westport. William also served on the Circuit Court and then became vice president at City National Bank.

## *Baron Fradenburg, 1935*

His father came in 1865 and worked as depot master at the original Union Station in the West Bottoms, then followed a police career. Baron founded an insurance company.

## *Pierre Porter, 1936*

His father was one of the first doctors in the area in 1859 and the family lived on Quality Hill in the 1880s. Pierre was a lawyer and historian who studied in pre-World War I Germany warning Americans of the aggressiveness of Prussian militarism.

## *Herman Trabor, 1938*

His father came as a lawyer in 1866 from Ohio. Herman rejected law school before working as the General Agent of the Missouri Pacific Railroad. His family lived near Cliff Drive where he observed the activities of the railroads in the East Bottoms. In addition, he was instrumental in the founding of Lake City Arsenal in 1941.

## *Flourney Quest, 1939*

His father came to Kansas City in 1857. Flourney was City Clerk under the reform Mayor Gage in 1940 after being employed as a long time Collector and Clerk for Peoples Ice Company.

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# Kansas City in the 1930s

1. In 1938, who joined and played first base for the Monarchs?
2. In 1934, which 92 year old Madame gave her house at 3rd & Wyandotte to the City Union Mission?
3. Why was the Missouri State Capitol called Uncle Tom's Cabin?
4. Where were the NSDKC archives stored in the 1930s?
5. What type of job experience did TWA require of their stewardesses?
6. What platinum blonde actress, who died at the age of twenty-six, was a native Kansas Citian?
7. What city cemetery, which was established in 1858, received special assistance from the NSDKC?
8. What dancing partner of Fred Astaire was a native Kansas Citian?
9. In 1934, which KCMO radio reporter used the Kansas City Police Department to cast fraudulent votes in the infamous election?
10. Within 50,000, what was the city's population in 1940?

*See page 5 for the answers. From Kansas City—An American City, Monroe Dodd, Editor, Kansas City Star Books, 1999 .  
Thanks to Dan Creasy for the quiz.*

## Quiz Answers

1. Buck O'Neill, Outstanding Kansas Citian, 2001
2. Annie Chambers
3. The influence of Boss Tom Pendergast
4. 26th Floor, City Hall
5. Nursing training. Passengers might be attracted if they thought flying was safer.
6. Jean Harlow
7. Union Cemetery
8. Ginger Rogers
9. Walter Cronkite
10. 399,000

## Hicks Plays Majors at Rendezvous

On September 21st, 2012, Gary Hicks, 2010 NSDKC President, will present a first-person re-enactment of Alexander Majors, at the 2012 rendezvous of the Santa Fe Trails Association, at Ft. Larned, Kansas. Thanks to McKay Anderson, and Dave and Nancy Baumgartner for their support and materials provided to enhance the presentation.

Majors' role was significant in the western expansion movement of the nation in the mid-1800's. In 1846, Majors began a small freighting operation. In 1855, with his new partners William Russell and William Waddell, the firm of Russell, Majors & Waddell became the largest freighting contractor in the nation, and one of the largest private employers in the country. The firm employed legendary figures Kit Carson, Bill Hickok, and William F. Cody, and operated the Pony Express.

In the later 1860's while in Utah, Majors' firm hauled railway bed material and telegraph poles during the construction of the transcontinental railway and telegraph.

Majors' home, built in 1855-56 at 83rd and State Line in Kansas City, Missouri, is a testament to his success and noble character. The site is a national treasure and registered historic landmark. In 1982, his home opened as a museum with the support of the Native Sons and Daughters.

As chair of the NSDKC Wornall-Majors House Museums Committee, Mr. Hicks is honored to present the personal story of Alexander Majors, most of which is not discussed in Majors' biography, *70 Years on the Frontier*, published in 1893. The compelling personal story of Majors' life reveals a man of integrity, with a proud work ethic and Godly faith. Majors' legacy is imprinted upon the heritage of our country.

## Native Sons Founded 80 Years Ago continued from page 3

Mo., which will hold its organization meeting Wednesday night, January 20, at the Hotel Muehlebach.”

The foundation for the organization had been in place for some time and D. Ralston Spalding was referred to as the chairman of the organization calling the meeting. In the article prior to the meeting Spalding was quoted, “The scope of the activities of the new society will be determined by the charter members at their organization meeting, but I shall try to induce the members to prepare interesting notes of family activities, either to be compiled and published or to be kept in the archives of the society.”

Spalding was elected the first president of the organization. His father, James F. Spalding, “founded the Spalding Commercial college in 1865 and whose grandfather, E. H. Spalding, was a member of the city's first school board,” according to the Kansas City Journal article. In addition to Spalding, a slate of officers was elected that evening and, “a special committee was appointed to select a historian to compile data.” It was also ruled that members must be more than 40 years old and must have been born in Kansas City.

The Kansas City Star said that Spalding “believes the new society can render a service to the city through the collection of facts, as recalled by the senior sons from reminiscences of their parents.”

It would seem the reminiscing began quickly, as the Kansas City Journal reported that more than 40 attendees to the organizing program shared stories as they were introduced by Spalding at the organizing committee.

Eighty years later, the organization thrives with a membership that remains dedicated to the collection, study and preservation of the history of the greater Kansas City area.

*Frank McMillian, Historian, Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City*

# History Day Winners *continued from page 2*

lot about working on long-term projects, revising my skit almost to the point of perfection, using the correct MLA bibliography format, and interpreting historical facts and information. National History Day has definitely changed my view of the past and its impact on the present.”

In addition to the Native Sons and Daughters prize, Sophia won the Freedom’s Frontier prize and took first place in the Junior Division Single Performance. She represented Missouri at the national competition.

Avery Munns of Washburn Rural Middle School in Topeka, won first place in the Junior Individual Documentary category for her paper, “Clarina Nichols: Frontier Freedom Fighter.” In addition to the NSDKC award, Avery also advanced to national competition.



*Avery Munns, History Day winner*

Avery said, “History Day was a great experience because I was able to be a historian. I enjoyed researching and writing about my topic, Clarina Nichols. By learning about her I became more aware of the women’s rights movement and Kansas history during the civil war era. It has been an amazing experience participating in National History Day and it has made me appreciate history so much more.”

*Frank McMillian, Historian, Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City*

# Leadership *continued from page 4*

We owe a debt of gratitude to these leaders for preserving our history, especially in their assistance with the saving of the first city cemetery, Union Cemetery, at 27th & Grand. The pioneer family backgrounds gave them personal insights into the history of Kansas City, which must have made Board Meetings very interesting.

If you wish to do further local research on the people and events of the time, start by contacting David Boutros, Assistant Director, State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center–Kansas City, (formerly Western Historical Manuscript Collection–Kansas City) at 816-253-1453, or email WHMCKC@umkc.edu. David is a member of the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City.

*Dan Creasy*

# June Jazz Museum Meet and Greet

The summer Meet & Greet was held on June 21st at the American Jazz Museum in the historic 18th and Vine District. The event was attended by 40 Native Sons & Daughters and guests. We had a chance to tour the museum and then had the opportunity to listen to live music in the adjoining Blue Room.

We’d like to extend a special thank you to Greg Carroll with the Jazz Museum, and to Chuck Eddy



*Left to right, Ron and Sandra Riley, Erma Hess*



*Greg Carroll, CEO of the Jazz Museum and President Dot Benner at the Jazz Museum*

for helping set up the event. Look for the fall Meet & Greet in October. Meet & Greets are a great opportunity to share our organization with potential new members.

*Photos courtesy of Debbie Legrotte*

# Daniel Morgan Boone and His Gravesite

The photo of Daniel Morgan Boone's gravestone were taken recently at Boone-Hays Cemetery, located up the hill to the west at the intersection of 63rd Street and Brooklyn, in Kansas City, Missouri.

That is where Daniel Morgan Boone and his wife Sarah are buried. The Boone-Hays Cemetery is on part of Daniel Morgan Boone's former 80-acre farm just east of Paseo at 63rd Street.

The Boone-Hays Cemetery was first dedicated by the NSDKC in June, 2005. This 12 year effort by George Hicks of the Native Sons acquired the land and arranged a suitable Boone Gravesite Park with Kansas City, Missouri, Parks and Recreation Department. In 2005, a metal park bench was dedicated to Hicks at the site. Parks and Recreation is making plans to provide better access up the hill to the gravesite, and the Native Sons are discussing a possible rededication of the gravesite.

As the photo shows, the gravestone recognized Daniel Morgan Boone as a Captain in the Missouri Mounted Militia in the War of 1812, but there is much more to say about him.

Daniel Morgan Boone is one of the six sons of Daniel Boone. He brought the Boones from Kentucky to Missouri in 1799. As time went by, Daniel Morgan Boone turned out to be the big brother of the large Boone family. Morgan was the family name of Daniel Boone's mother, so Morgan was added to his name to avoid confusion with his father.

Like his father, the famous Daniel Boone, Daniel Morgan Boone made much of his living as a hunter. It was on a hunting trip from Kentucky to what is now Missouri that Daniel Morgan Boone found a new home. Missouri was part of Upper Louisiana, and wasn't part of the United States proper. The territory was controlled by the Spanish, operating out of St. Louis and New Orleans.

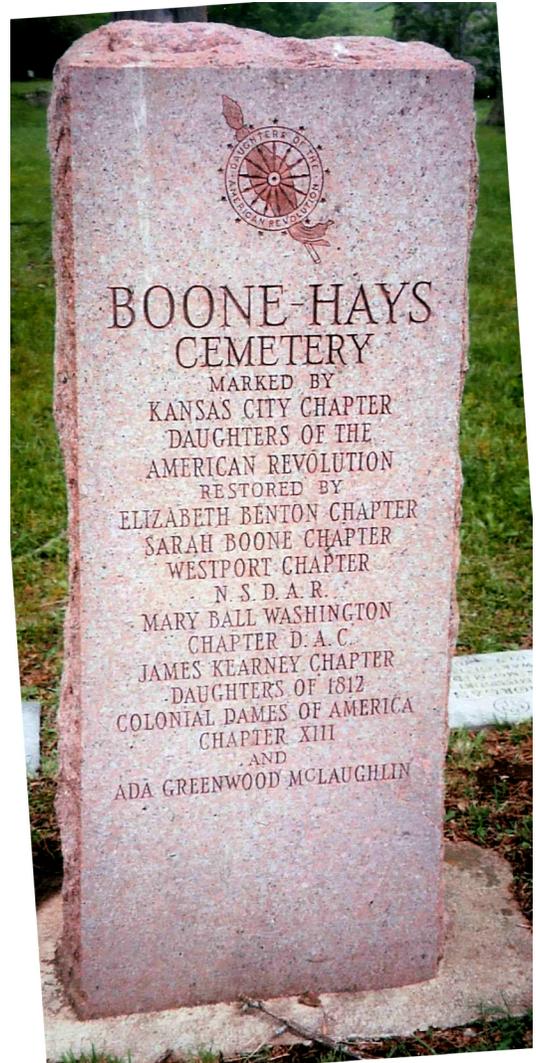
He liked the area so well that he made a deal with the Spanish authorities to give him and his extended Boone family large land grants in return for their settling in what is now Missouri. The Spanish knew the Boones were a prestigious American pioneer family and expected that the family would be a benefit to them and add to the attraction of their Spanish holdings.

Daniel Boone himself approved the deal in 1799. The 36 person extended Boone family moved from Kentucky to St. Louis and on to their land grants in what is now St. Charles County, Defiance, Missouri. When the 36 members of the extended Boone family arrived, the Spanish welcomed them with a parade. Missouri became a State in 1821 and in 1825, at age 56, Daniel Morgan Boone accepted a government job as Farm Instructor to the Kaw Indians. He located his family along the Missouri River within the present boundaries of Kansas City.

In 1831, he bought a large tract of land and built a log house near present 63rd Street and Holmes and in 1836, sold part of his land to his nephew, Boone Hays. On July 13, 1839, Daniel Morgan died of cholera at his farm, in the arms of his nephew Albert Gallatin Boone. He was 70. At the time of his death, his wife, Sarah, was 53 years old, and was living with 5 of their children who were still underage.

We can say that Daniel Morgan Boone and his wife are our connection to the Founding Fathers.

*Herb Ziegler, Jr., Chairman, Boone Hays Park Committee,*



## Marker Dedication

*continued from page 1*

the site for the marker. We'd like to especially thank member Chris Sizemore, a Liberty resident, who worked diligently with those partners to complete this project.

The site for the dedication is on the west side of Missouri 291 at Southview Drive and Seven Hills Road on the south side of Liberty.

As you arrive from the south on Highway 291, the site is on the rise from the Missouri River floodplain.

The Arsenal was attacked April 20, 1861, just a week after the fall of Fort Sumter. This was perhaps the first armed action after Fort Sumter. The armaments taken had an impact on many of the battles fought in Missouri in 1861. No interpretive marker has been at this site to educate the public about this key, but not well known event of the Civil War.

This will not only be a dedication, but also an opportunity to learn about an important Civil War event in our area. Don't miss it!

*Ross Marshall, Chair, Historical Markers Committee*

## Sturdevant Receives Award

Mary Lee Sturdevant, left, has been presented the Award of Appreciation for her five years of service as chair of the Program committee. Mary Lee received the award, presented here by President Dot Benner, at the July Executive Committee meeting.



## Welcome Our New Members

Christopher E. Beal  
Carolyn Grover  
Robert L. Grover  
Jim Heeter  
Carol Retrum  
Richard O. Retrum

A graphic with a blue and purple background. It features musical notes, a silhouette of a person playing a trumpet, and a stylized building. The text reads: "SAVE THE DATE! September 18, 2012" and "OUTSTANDING KANSAS CITIAN 2012 honoring Kansas City's own Marilyn Maye".

SAVE THE DATE!  
*September 18, 2012*

OUTSTANDING KANSAS CITIAN 2012  
*honoring Kansas City's own Marilyn Maye*

Purchase tickets online at <http://www.nsdkc.org>