

The Heritage Gazette



Preserve the Past, Honor the Present, Shape the Future

VOLUME IV, ISSUE 1 - SPRING 2017

Message from the President . . .

History is fun. Learning about our heritage is fun. Each year, as Program Director for Leadership St. Tammany, I have the pleasure of sharing the rich history and culture of Covington with a class of existing and emerging leaders. And each year class members tell me how much they enjoy the day. In other words, they have fun. However, one should ask, "How does learning about the art, the history and the culture of our community make for better leaders?" The obvious answer is leaders educated in our history have a better sense of what we, as a community, should work hard to preserve. The less obvious answer is "inspiration." We have learned the more one knows about one's community, about its people (past and present) and about its places, the more one is connected to the community and is "inspired" to keep Covington a wonderful place – and to make it even more better ;)



Please know that your Covington Heritage Foundation has become an important part of sharing our history and culture with our community. As such, your Covington Heritage Foundation has evolved into an important part of preserving what should be preserved and, hopefully, inspiring each of us to make Covington an even better place.

I would like to thank our outgoing president and one of our founders, Sharon Nunez as well as the late Councilman Lee Alexius, for all of their work the past few years.

They are and always will be the foundation of the Foundation. I am honored to serve as the president, and I encourage all of you to join us at our events. After all, it'll be fun.

–Mark Johnson

800+ Attend Candlelight Historic Home Tour

–Contributed by Ron Barthet

The Covington Heritage Foundation hosted its second Historic Home Tour on Sunday, December 11, 2016, with a four-hour event that attracted hundreds of visitors from near and far. The long-anticipated fund-raiser afforded a close-up personal view of some of the older homes in the area, as well as a few of the newly-built homes designed to look historic.

The tour featured seven homes in the Division of St. John and the Division of Spring, along with music, caroling, and refreshments, with participants either walking from home to home along luminary illuminated streets or hopping aboard a tram that made the seven-tenths of a mile circuit.

Each home carried through with the "Then and Now" theme, ranging from residences more than a century old to some built just 10 years ago that architecturally fit the look and feel of the historic neighborhood.

The first holiday home tour was a great success last year and the Covington Heritage Foundation (CHF) moved forward with plans to make the event an annual affair. It has become one of the most anticipated events of the year.

Homes on the tour this past December included 125 S. Vermont St. (Alice & Robert Couvillon), 100 S. Vermont St. (Mace & Susan Bonnett Bourgeois), 135 N. New Hampshire St. (Jan & Gayden Robert), 116 Park Dr. (Marian & Bruce Margetson), 449 S. America St. (Lisa Condrey & Joseph Ward), 315 S. New Hampshire St. (Jill & Stephen Lyon) and 403 S. America St. (Glenda & Willard Andes). Owners were asked over the year whether they would like to participate, and they all came together for a September meeting to hear the details of the venture.

Also, while on the tour, participants saw several oak trees that have been recognized by state and national preservation organizations.

The holiday tour serves as the CHF's major fundraiser. The CHF was formed in conjunction with the city of Covington's bicentennial celebration in 2013, and serves to preserve the city's culture, character and community. "With the help of the Board and our many volunteers, we've accomplished the goal of creating activities that celebrate our great city's culture and heritage," said last year's CHF president Sharon Nunez.



“St. Joseph Abbey: Hidden Jewel of the Northshore” Packs Art House

On Tuesday evening, March 14, the proverbial joint was jumping at The Art House. The Covington Heritage Foundation's first open meeting of 2017 featuring a presentation about St. Joseph's Abbey and Seminary College drew a standing-room-only crowd of members and guests. Everyone enjoyed a few minutes to catch up and visit time with friends along with refreshments and yummy snacks prior to the featured presentation.

Father Matthew Clark and Father Jonathan DeFrage, both priests of the Order of St. Benedict, teamed an oral



Father Matthew Clark O.S.B. and Father Jonathan DeFrage, O.S.B.

history of “The Abbey,” as locals call it, tracing the concept of a new community from its inception as a satellite of St. Meinrad's Abbey in Indiana (1889) through its first beginning in Gassen, Louisiana (now Rosaryville), the move to the Hossmer property here in 1901. Mention was made of each of the Abbots and his primary goals and dreams for the community committed to his care. Among those was Abbot Columban Thuis's concentration on institutional stability and refinement. Under his tenure came the commissioning of Dom Gregory DeWitt, a Dutch Benedictine monk and artist, to paint the walls in the church and monk's refectory. And paint the walls he did! Folks from all around the country visit primarily to see his incredible murals and to understand the meaning and message behind each one.



Officers with the Covington Heritage Foundation (CHF) greet the speakers.

The Fire of 1907 was only a precursor to the Flood of 2016. Every building on the Abbey's campus held water during this flood (the Church's basement was inundated but no water entered the Church itself). Just as the community did not back to St. Meinrad's after the Fire of 1907, you can bet your bottom dollar that our community is working hard to overcome the damage of last year's flood. Looking back at the Abbey's history, Archbishop Janssen's “little seminary” is doing well and will prevail.

Included in the presentation were some questions for the audience to consider, the correct answers for which would win a luscious block of Monk Soap or a delicious loaf of Abbey Raisin Bread. The other apostolates of the Abbey were mentioned, including Pennies For Bread, The Abbey Gift Shop, A-BEE Honey, and The Christian Life Center, to mention a few.



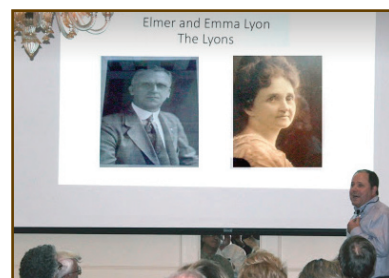
If you have not had the opportunity to visit the Abbey yet, do so soon. Get a group together and call the office to arrange a guided tour. You will then understand why donations in excess of 5 million dollars have been given from private individuals to complete the restoration work necessary since the flood.

—Contributed by Mary Pratt Lobdell

Heritage Foundation Holds Gala

The Covington Heritage Foundation held its annual Gala at the Southern Hotel on Tuesday, December 6, 2016, with Mark Johnson speaking before a packed room about the connections and inter-connections of the people of Covington over the past 100 years.

He accompanied his talk with a slide presentation showing the people, businesses, and buildings of key importance in Covington's history, weaving the storyline through several decades and winding up with the calling of the names of many of the people in attendance at the meeting. The room was filled with people who were the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the pioneer Covington families being discussed.



Mark Johnson, at right, speaks to group

Johnson launched his talk by focusing on the Elmer E. Lyon family, telling how that led to Lyon High and its achievements and the Covington High Lions fielding many excellent basketball and football teams. Historical highlights came one after another, punctuated by humor, a heaping measure of memories, and a standing ovation to the late Lee Alexius, a foundation officer and City Councilman who died recently.

Mayor Mike Cooper gave the welcome to the event, with President Sharon Nunez conducting the business part of the meeting, including the election of new officers and board members. The standing room only crowd filled the meeting room to capacity, and music was provided by the Covington High Talented Music students.

—Contributed by Ron Barthet

Covington Heritage FOUNDATION

2017 OFFICERS

MAYOR MIKE COOPER - EX OFFICIO

MARK JOHNSON - PRESIDENT

GINA HAYES - VICE PRESIDENT

HELEN CURRAN - RECORDING SECRETARY

ALICE COUVILLON - CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

GINA ROWBATHAM - TREASURER

2017 BOARD MEMBERS

RON BARTHET - MEMBER-AT-LARGE

MARY PRATT LOBDELL - MEMBER-AT-LARGE

CINDY MENDOW - MEMBER-AT-LARGE

AIMÉE FAUCHEUX - MAYORAL APPOINTEE

PAM KELLER - MAYORAL APPOINTEE

C. HOWARD NICHOLS - CONSULTING HISTORIAN



2016 Gala Pictures



Eddie and Becky Fielding



Enid Poole, Karen Johnson, Kelly Swords



Don and Carol Brunies, Cindy Mendow



Pat Clanton, Ralph Menetre

Third Year is a Charm for Antiques and Uniques Fest

From quaint antiques and vintage collectibles recalling a bygone era, to fashionably repurposed items with a chic, retrograde style, the 3rd annual Covington Antiques and Uniques Festival will offer a bounty of venerable delight in downtown Covington on April 22 and 23.

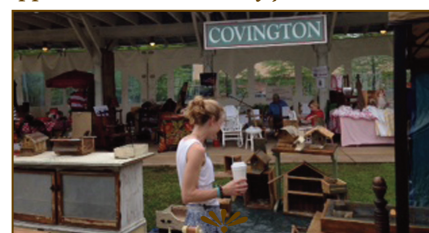
Headquartered at the Covington Trailhead, 419 N. New Hampshire Street, the two-day juried event will feature an eclectic mix of antique furnishings, period collectibles, architectural salvage, and vintage-inspired fine arts and crafts. Other attractions include a live auction by Auction Louisianne, and a team of industry experts who will be stationed at tables to offer informal appraisals to the public. Demonstrations, food, and live music will round out the offerings.

The City of Covington is hosting the festival in partnership with the Covington Heritage Foundation. "We are pleased to partner once again with the CHF to produce the Antiques and Uniques Festival. After two successful years working together on this popular event, we anticipate a stellar third year. We cordially welcome people to visit our historic downtown, shop the festival, and enjoy our city," said Covington Mayor Mike Cooper.

The festival is coordinated through the City's Department of Cultural Arts and Events, which oversees and assists with more than 40 special events annually. Department Director Aimée Fauchoux said as the festival grows and evolves each year, the goal remains the same: to offer a first-class juried event that reflects the unique charm and history of Covington.

"The response from vendors and the general public has been incredible this year. We're three weeks out and already achieved 50 vendors from the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Ohio," said Fauchoux.

As in the past, the success of the festival weekend relies heavily upon the team of dedicated volunteers who serve in a variety of areas such as the hospitality committee, information booth, appraisals, and more.



If you have a love of Covington and want to help promote the event and support the Covington Heritage Foundation, call Event Volunteer Coordinator Leslie Durio at 504-606-9500 or email antiques@covla.com.

Festival hours are 10 am to 5 pm Saturday and Sunday. Proceeds from booth fees will help support CHF project.

—Contributed by Kelli Moore



COVINGTON HISTORY MYSTERY Bogue Falaya and more . . .

SEND US YOUR TRIVIA AT info@covingtonheritagefoundation.com

Did you know: There are no "bayous" in France. They are only found where French explorers interacted with Native Americans, putting in writing the phonetic pronunciation the natives used for waterways. Then there is our word, "bogue," only found in Louisiana and the Carolinas and which arguably is simply a different spelling by the French of "bayou." . . . Falaya is long, Chitto is fast and Bogalusa is black water.

"The Foot Paths of the Future are guided by the Footprints of the Past."

✿ Patricia Fuhrmann Clanton ✿



UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, APRIL 22 & 23
Covington Antiques & Uniques Festival
Covington Trailhead • 10 am to 5 pm Both Days



THURSDAY, MAY 4
4th Annual Crawfish Boil
Covington Brewhouse • 5 pm to 7 pm



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7
Presentation by Greyhawk Perkins
Fuhrmann Auditorium • Time TBD



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24
Cemetery Tour
Covington Cemetery #1 • Time TBD



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5
Holiday Membership/Annual Meeting and Gala
Southern Hotel Ballroom