
Journal Notes

...published quarterly for the members and friends of the *Native Sons of Greater Kansas City*

Number 66



September 2006



Jeannette Nichols Named 2006 Outstanding Kansas Citian

On October 5, the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City will honor one of Kansas City's great philanthropists and community volunteers when it names Jeannette Nichols Outstanding Kansas Citian for 2006 at a reception held in her honor at the Liberty Memorial, 100 W. 26th Street.

Accomplishment is part of the Nichols' family tradition. J.C. Nichols, Ms. Nichols' father-in-law, created the Country Club Plaza in 1922. Her husband, the late Miller Nichols, took over his father's business and took the Kansas City landmark to new heights by adding hotels, apartments and artwork to the Plaza landscape.

Jeannette Nichols' own accomplishments are just as renown, especially in the arts. She serves as honorary co-chair of the University of Missouri - Kansas City's \$200 million capital campaign and is spearheading the expansion of the Miller Nichols library on the UMKC campus.

She and her late husband, Miller, received the Philanthropic Award from

the Jackson County Historical Society in 2001.

Two years later, Ms. Nichols received the William F. Yates Medallion of Distinguished Service from William Jewell College.



Jeannette Nichols, photo first published by William Jewell College's Achieve magazine

She serves on the Campaign Steering Committees of both the Kansas City Public Library and the Metropolitan Kansas City Performing Arts Center.

She has even served at the national level on the President's Advisory Committee

on the Arts at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

The Native Sons of Greater Kansas City are pleased to name Jeannette Nichols Outstanding Kansas Citian for 2006.

The 2006 event will be a special homecoming for many Native Sons who worked hard to see the Liberty Memorial restored to its former glory. Now members have a chance to honor a living legend at one of Kansas City's greatest landmarks. **JN**

Outstanding Kansas Citian

What:

2006 Outstanding Kansas Citian Reception

Where:

Liberty Memorial
100 W. 26th Street
(Enter from Main Street or Kessler Boulevard. Enter the building through entrance by reflective pool)

When: Thursday, October 5, 2006. Reception begins at 6:00 p.m. Program at 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30 per person

Reservations:

Reservations must be received by Monday, October 2, 2006

Mail to:

*Native Sons of GKC
P.O. Box 10046
Kansas City MO 64171*



Letter from the President

The beauty of the Fall is evident with all of the reds, yellows, oranges and other colors that bombard our senses during this time of year. It is a wonderful time to enjoy what our city has to offer as the air gets a little crisper.

The Outstanding Kansas Citian event will be another colorful affair offering a unique perspective for us as we make our way to the Liberty Memorial to congratulate our honoree, Jeannette Nichols. What better way to show our love for our city's history than to spend an evening in one of Kansas City's most important landmarks.

The contributions that Ms. Nichols has made to our community is so long it staggers the mind to try to encapsulate them all.

It's equally impossible to describe the surprise and sadness we all felt upon hearing about the passing of our friend and Native Sons Treasurer, Judge Cordell Meeks, Jr. His accomplishments, both professionally and within the community, are equally impressive and show how one person can touch many lives.

Within this issue of *Journal Notes* you will find the names of the nominees for the 2007 Native Sons board of directors. It is appropriate that we should consider the leadership of our own organization in the shadow of both Ms. Nichols and Judge Meeks. Truly both give us the best examples of individual leadership and selfless desire to perform community service.

We would all do wise to follow their example, both on behalf of our own organization and in our every day interaction with others.

William C. Cross, President

HISTORY IN OUR AREA

Saturday, October 21, 2006

Priests of Pallas

Union Station

The Priests of Pallas ball returns to Kansas City featuring costumes, masks, lively entertainment, great food, historical displays and program. Get your tickets while they last for this exceptional event that benefits local historical organizations like the Jackson County Historical Society. For more information, go to our official Priests of Pallas website at www.popkc.org, or call 816-461-1897.

Did you know that the Liberty Memorial has been recognized officially as the National World War I Museum? Did you also know that they need volunteers for their Educational programming? If you can help, contact Jim Barkley at 816-784-1926. **JN**



Don't forget to check www.native-sons.org for information about the Native Sons and local Kansas City area history.

NEW BYLAWS VOTED ON AT HOLIDAY BRUNCH

The Native Sons Bylaws Committee, made up of the late Judge Cordell Meeks, Judge Tom Sims and Steve Goodman, worked earlier this year to update our organization's bylaws. A few grammatical changes along with changes that bring the organization into compliance with the Sarbanes - Oxley Act have been suggested. In addition, the Bylaws Committee has suggested and the organization's Executive Committee and Board of Directors have recommended that the organizational name be changed to the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City both to reflect our membership and where they reside. A final vote by the general membership will be taken during the Native Sons Holiday Brunch in December. **JN**



IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIEND JUDGE CORDELL D. MEEKS, JR.

Cordell D. Meeks, Jr., District Court Judge for the 29th Judicial District of Kansas, passed away on June 28, 2006 in Kansas City, Kansas. He was 63 years old.

Judge Meeks' love of our shared history was evident, serving as Treasurer and by-laws chair of the Native Sons as well as secretary of the board of directors of the Truman Presidential Museum and Library. He also served on the Liberty Memorial Association's board of governors.

To the friends and family of Judge Meeks, the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City extends its most heartfelt condolences. **JN**



NATIVE SONS AWARD PRIZES TO STUDENTS

Since 1992, the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City has supported regional History Day students by annually awarding prizes of \$100 to the best entries in the Missouri and Kansas State History Day contests on topics relating to the history of the Kansas City area.

This year one of the Native Sons Prize winners from Kansas earned special recognition at Nationals by coming in First in the group documentary category for the junior division. Sjobor Hammer and Anna Hamilton, both 14 and who were eighth-graders at Topeka Collegiate this past school year, researched, wrote, and produced a 10-minute video, *Lighting the Dark Places: Esther Brown and the Webb v. School District No. 90 Case*. The documentary explored the Merriam, Kansas, school segregation case that preceded *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Receiving the Native Sons Prize for Missouri was Michael McCormick of Risco, Missouri, for his Senior Individual Performance, *Unredeemed Rebel: The Legend of Jesse James*. Michael demonstrated his research by writing a script and assuming the character of governor of Missouri, Thomas T. Crittenden agonizing over what to do about Jesse James.

All the students who enter the National History Day contests, learn valuable skills for understanding, and an appreciation of history. For a list of all the student winners since 1992 go to the Native Sons website at www.native-sons.org. For more information about History Day and the Native Sons Prize contact David Boutros at (816) 235-1544. **JN**



Kansas winners Sjobor Hammer, left, and Anna Hamilton, photo courtesy of David Boutros

2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATED

The Native Sons Nominating Committee brings forward to the membership the following nominees for officers and directors for consideration. Final voting will take place annual meeting.

Officers

<i>President</i>	Eileen Sullivan
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Thomas E. Sims
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Dan Sturdevant
<i>Secretary</i>	Gary L. Hicks
<i>Treasurer</i>	James Flanagan, IV
<i>Historian</i>	Norman O. Besheer

Directors

Dorothy Benner	John F. Hess, Jr.
Bill Chastain	Whitney E. Kerr
Joanne M. Collins	Bruce Pennington
James F. Davis	Lee I. Pickering
Charles A. Eddy	Edwin D. Shutt, II
John F. Hess, Sr.	Mary Lee Sturdevant

Native Sons of Greater Kansas City
P.O. Box 10046
Kansas City MO 64171



Bequests

Just One Way to Support the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City in Perpetuity

Including the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City, Inc., a 501(c)(3) tax exempt Missouri corporation, offers members the opportunity to make a gift which will support our efforts to preserve and promote local history for years to come.

A legacy may be granted to one of the Native Sons' established projects as designated for use in future historic projects to be established and approved by the board of directors.

I bequeath to the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City, Inc., P.O. Box 10046, Kansas City, MO 64171-0046, a nonprofit corporation, the sum of \$_____ to be used by said corporation for purposes as stated in the organization's objectives and bylaws.

Cut and Keep With Your Records

Officers

<i>President</i>	William C. Cross
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Eileen Sullivan
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Thomas E. Sims
<i>Secretary</i>	Dan Sturdevant
<i>Treasurer</i>	James Flanagan, IV
<i>Historian</i>	Norman O. Besheer

Directors

Dot Benner	Whitney E. Kerr
Joanne M. Collins	Bruce Pennington
Charles A. Eddy	Lee Pickering
John F. Hess, Sr.	Jud Shepherd
John F. Hess, Jr.	Ed Shutt
Gary Hicks	

Community Service Committees

Alexander Majors	Dan Sturdevant
Archives	Gary Hicks
Daniel Morgan Boone Park	William Worley
Corinthian Hall/KC Museum	Scott Wagner
Fort Osage	John F. Hess, Sr.
Historic Markers	James H. Bernard
Liberty Memorial	Bruce Pennington
Town Site Preservation	Thomas E. Sims
Truman Statue	Lori Hirons
Westport Historical Society	John F. Hess, Jr.
Wy. Co. Hist. Soc. & Museum	Joe Vaughan

Executive Secretary
Susan Hughes

Newsletter Editor
Scott Wagner