



Dinner on the Heritage Center's front lawn is always a treat.

## Annual meeting, with dinner on the grounds, approves board members for coming year

The Heritage Center has its leadership team for the coming year in place, thanks to elections at the Annual Membership Dinner and Drive held Tuesday, September 18, on the Cavitt Place front lawn.

Gerry Scholes will serve again as chairman of the Board of Trustees with Reginald Caldwell again filling the position of vice chairman. New board members Vicki Muzzall and Judy Garner will serve as treasurer and secretary, respectively.

Reginald Caldwell, Suzanne Richter, Jean Brogdon, Judy Garner, Vicki Muzzall, and Randy Scholes were elected to two-year board terms ending in August 2009.

Trustees who will continue to serve through August 2008 are Car-

ole Walsh, Diane Mahan, Jeri McAllister, Gerry Scholes, and Dan Vincent.

The elected Advisory Board members were Celeste Avirett, Arthur Lodge, Susan Bell, Rev. Guy McCombs, Joyce Miller, B. J. Gallamore, Susannah Murphey, Lee Greer III, Susan Reagor, Kenneth Humphreys, Vicki Snyder, Susan Jones, David Stone, Brent Knott, George Todd, Monte "Pete" Lackey, Bill Williams, and Carol Doster.

Some 130 guests were welcomed by Gerry Scholes, our board chairman, and the invocation was given by Reginald Caldwell, guests enjoyed a great meal of Mr. Garfield's barbecue, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, and cornbread pudding.

While dining, Pat Terrell provided music.

Gerry Scholes opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Barton Robison read the slate of nominees to the members of Heritage Center.

After the election, Membership Committee Chairman Dan Vincent encouraged both members and non-members support the Heritage Center through their membership donation.

The Heritage Center would like to give thanks to all the members of the Membership Committee and Nominating Committee. And special thanks to all our members and guests for showing their support of the Heritage Center.

## Let the good times roll! Mardi Gras ball will be festive occasion on February 2

By RAY HARDING

On Saturday, February 2, 2008, The Heritage Center Mardi Gras Ball will bring New Orleans Mardi Gras merriment to Henry County.

There will be a wonderful meal catered by Cindy Snyder. Beads, doubloons, dancing, a costume parade and a "Second Line" will be part of the festivities. Music will be provided by Bill McCutcheon.

A King and Queen will be elected in the best Louisiana tradition; votes will be purchased! Dress will be semi-formal, with costumes or black tie optional. A genuine "King Cake" shipped from New Orleans will be auctioned.

Not widely observed in Tennessee, the celebration of Mardi Gras came to the U.S. Gulf Coast in the early 1700's from France. Mardi Gras had been celebrated in Europe since the middle ages.

This very secular celebration marks its beginning and end by the Christian calendar. The French term Mardi Gras literally means "Fat Tuesday." This is a reference to the excess food and drink consumed on the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the

Lenten season.

In New Orleans, the partying begins long before Fat Tuesday. The season officially begins on Epiphany (January 6, the twelfth day of Christmas). At least one celebration takes place on the first day, but the parades and parties reach their peak in the last two weeks before Mardi Gras.

The celebration ends at midnight on Mardi Gras Day; at that time, policemen go through the French Quarter telling the revelers to go home. The whole season leading up to Mardi Gras Day is called Carnival (from the Latin for "farewell to the flesh") and technically our ball is a Carnival Ball, but we thought that term might cause confusion in Tennessee.

The Heritage Center Mardi Gras Ball will be held at the Paris Elks Club. Festivities will begin with a social period and cash bar at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for the event will be \$25 each, and may be purchased at Najie's, Jack's Java, The Heritage Center, or from any Heritage Center Board Member.

*Ray Harding and his wife Noragene and family lived in the New Orleans area for 19 years and actively participated in the Mardi Gras celebration there.*

## Tea for two or more offers heady touch of charm, elegance

In celebration of the Heritage Center's exhibit, *A Spot of Tea*, three High Teas were held at Cavitt Place during August and September.

The Tea Committee, Joyce Miller, Suzanne Richter, Noragene Harding, Carole Walsh, Gerry Scholes and Jean Brogdon, worked together to create an atmosphere of charm and elegance.

This ambiance was greatly accentuated by the dishes that were offered — items such as peach tea, scones, Devonshire cream, stuffed strawberries, cucumber and chicken salad sandwiches, mini cherry cheesecakes, and brownie tartlets.

More than one visitor was overwhelmed by the many dishes to choose from.



The Red Hat ladies were among those who enjoyed the finery of High Tea at Cavitt Place.

During High Tea, the guests were encouraged to view the collection of antique tea sets and services which included a service belonging to Nel-

lie Barton Hawkins, a former resident of Cavitt Place.

*A Spot of Tea* closed on Thursday, September 27.

From the Director's Desk —

# Come to our big Christmas party

It will not be long before the holiday season is upon us. In preparation for the hustle and bustle of Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Heritage Center has been working hard to decorate Cavitt Place from top to bottom to create an atmosphere that will get everyone in the mood for the holidays.

I know this is always a busy time of year for everyone, but I encourage you as members to take a few moments out of your shopping, cooking and other preparations to enjoy our new exhibit, "Santa's Workshop," and the beautiful decorations.

I have really enjoyed watching the Heritage Center be transformed into a winter wonderland, and I would

hate for any of you to miss the opportunity to see Cavitt Place in the splendor of Christmas.

I want to extend a personal invitation to you and your families to come to our Christmas Party on Sunday, December 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. It's a great opportunity not only to support the Heritage Center, but to create some holiday memories with your friends and families.

It's also a way for the Heritage Center to thank you for all that you have done to support the Heritage Center this year with your time, donations, and encouragement.

Merry Christmas from me to you!!!

## Heritage Center completes assessments

We have been working hard at the Heritage Center over the last few months to make improvements. In connection with our architectural assessment that occurred in early August, we have also recently completed a collections and institutional assessment.

Shelley Paine, a sculpture conservator from Nashville, visited the Heritage Center August 29 to look at our collections. Ms. Paine noted that the Heritage Center has ample space to store its collections, but we need to work on organization and environmental controls, and suggested that we look seriously as the possibility

of hiring a collections manager.

She also took time to review policies and spoke with board members on various ways of addressing the needs of the collections. Ms. Paine will submit a full report to the Heritage Center of her observations and suggestions.

However, in order to assure that we would be able to accomplish all the goals of both the architectural and collections assessment, Tony King, deputy director of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Mass., also visited the Heritage Center on September 20 as part of an IMAP Grant from

the American Association of Museums.

Mr. King's objective was to evaluate how the Heritage Center functions as an organization. He reviewed many aspects of the Heritage Center's day to day operations including board structure, policy and procedures, budgets, and community partnerships.

Together, the architectural, collections, and institutional assessments will be invaluable tools to help the Heritage Center work better as organization and receive grants to accomplish all the goals set forth by these reports.

*The Inkwell*  
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## Baseball legend J. J. 'Buck' O'Neil to be featured in traveling exhibit

As centerpiece of annual Black History Month display

A traveling exhibit about "Buck" O'Neil, a groundbreaking black baseball player of the past century, will be coming to the Heritage Center this winter.

The exhibit, "Buck: Right on Time," was created by the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, in honor of the player's 96th birthday.

The tentative dates are January 19 through February 30, coinciding with the Heritage Center's annual Black History Month observance.

The Heritage Center also plans to highlight its own African American baseball history by featuring a small exhibit on the Paris Giants. Please look for upcoming information about the exhibit and some great outreach programming.

John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil was born November 13, 1911, in Carrabelle, Florida. He realized at a very young age that he wanted to play baseball.

In pursuit of his dream, Buck attended Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, Florida, where he played baseball for six years. In 1934 — four years after graduation — he began his career with the Miami Giants and got his nickname "Buck" from one of the team's owners.

Buck's career as a first baseman lasted until 1955 in which he played on teams such as the New York Tigers (1935), Shreveport Acme Giants (1936), Memphis Red Sox (1937), Zulu Cannibal Giants (1937), and Kansas City Monarchs (1938-1943, 1946-1955). He served in the military during World War II from 1943-1945.

Although denied access to play in the major leagues, O'Neil finally got his opportunity to break the color barrier by working as a scout with the Chicago Cubs. In 1962 the Cubs named him the majors' first black coach.

O'Neil finally rose to national prominence with his



**'Buck' O'Neil in Cubs uniform**

compelling account of the Negro Leagues as part of Ken Burns' PBS "Baseball" documentary. O'Neil was also very involved with the creation of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.