

→ THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF ARROW ROCK, INC. ←

# HISTORIC ARROW ROCK™



OLD  
TAVERN  
ESTABLISHED 1830  
MEALS

## RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

➔ *FAR WELCOMES A DELICIOUS NEW OPPORTUNITY*

Vol. 39  
No. 3

Winter  
2018

←————→

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🍪 **LET'S EAT!** 🍪

**W**e knew 2019 was going to be a big year for the Friends of Arrow Rock. After all, it's our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year! But until a few months ago we had no idea just how momentous 2019 would be. It all started last June with a public meeting hosted by Missouri State Parks. State Parks Director Ben Ellis explained that, while the state government understood the importance of the J. Huston Tavern to Arrow Rock and to Missouri, it would be difficult for his division to continue running that restaurant. It was clear that if the Tavern was going to continue its tradition as the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi, someone was going to need to step up and take it on.



*Sandy Selby*  
Executive Director  
Friends of Arrow Rock

That's exactly what the board of trustees of the Friends of Arrow Rock did. After months of careful analysis, planning and negotiations, our board forged a cooperative agreement with Missouri State Parks. Beginning Jan. 1, 2019, Friends of Arrow Rock will manage the operation of the J. Huston Tavern restaurant, while Missouri State Parks continues to maintain the building. New General Manager Karen Avery Miller and Kitchen Manager Janet Carmack will have the Tavern ready to open by March 1.

Read more about this exciting new chapter for the Friends of Arrow Rock on Page 6 of this newsletter, and find out how you can help us make a smooth transition as we seek to preserve one of the most important historic businesses in the state. ▶

🌿 *Happy Holidays, Friends!*



➔ **LET'S PARTY!**

**E**ven Santa makes time in his busy December schedule to attend this party! Join us for a festive celebration at our annual Holiday with Friends fundraiser on Sunday, December 9. Start your evening in Arrow Rock with holiday shopping at our local stores, then drop in for drinks and nibbles at the Arrow Rock boardwalk home of Bret and Liz Kennon. We'll head across the street to the J. Huston Tavern for dinner and a silent auction that will be filled with fabulous finds and experiences to help you put a dent in your Christmas list. Tickets are \$65 per person. Get the details at [www.FriendsofArrowRock.org](http://www.FriendsofArrowRock.org) or call the office at 660-837-3231 to RSVP. ❄️

— COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS —

The Friends of Arrow Rock has been blessed this year. We have received very generous donations from several foundations: Irvin, Buckner and Sunderland.


Apparently, the Friends' historic preservation, maintenance, and history education programs have been recognized and appreciated.

We are very excited about the future. Next year the Friends are taking over the management of the J. Huston Tavern and also celebrating the organization's 60th anniversary!

We hope you will attend our Christmas party on December 9, starting with cocktails at the home of Liz and Bret Kennon, followed by dinner at the J. Huston Tavern. Call our office at 660-837-3231 for reservations. ▶



*Donna Huston*  
President  
Friends of Arrow Rock

*Merry Christmas  
and Happy  
New Year!* 



— RECENT MEMORIALS AND HONORS —

*In memory of Sarah Hains:* Donna & John Huston | *In honor of Donna & John Huston's 60th wedding anniversary:* Ann French | *In memory of Paul Kissel:* Donna & John Huston | *In memory of Fred McBurney:* Chet Breitwieser & Rod Starns | *In memory of Betty McPheeters:* Judy & Ernest Smith | *In memory of Rev. George & Elsie Schler:* Barbara Schler Rodriguez



## EAT, DRINK & BE MERRY S

**W**e couldn't have ordered a lovelier evening for our annual Sip & Stroll fundraiser than the one Mother Nature delivered on Sept. 22. More than 120 guests visited the four featured homes on the tour, then gathered at Arrow Rock's Old Schoolhouse for dinner, followed by silent and live auctions.

Our tickets sales and auctions brought in more than \$20,000 to support Friends of Arrow Rock's historic preservation and history education programs, and thanks to a generous sponsorship by Wood & Huston Bank, none of that money went toward event expenses. The evening concluded with a special Fund-A-Need auction where attendees were encouraged to donate for a new tour tram. By the end of the evening, we had raised nearly \$19,000 of the \$30,000 needed for the tram.

Friends of Arrow Rock extends a special thanks to our event sponsor, Wood & Huston Bank, and to the four homeowners who opened their doors to us for this tour: Myra & Truman Christopher, Lucy Fletcher, Margaret & Tom Hall, and Ryan Zirngibl. ▶



*Sip & Stroll attendees paused for party pics. From left: Greig & Deb Thompson, Mark Thompson, Donna Huston, Lisa & Willie Campbell, and Kathy Digges.*

# WALK & STROLL 2018 DRAWS A CROWD



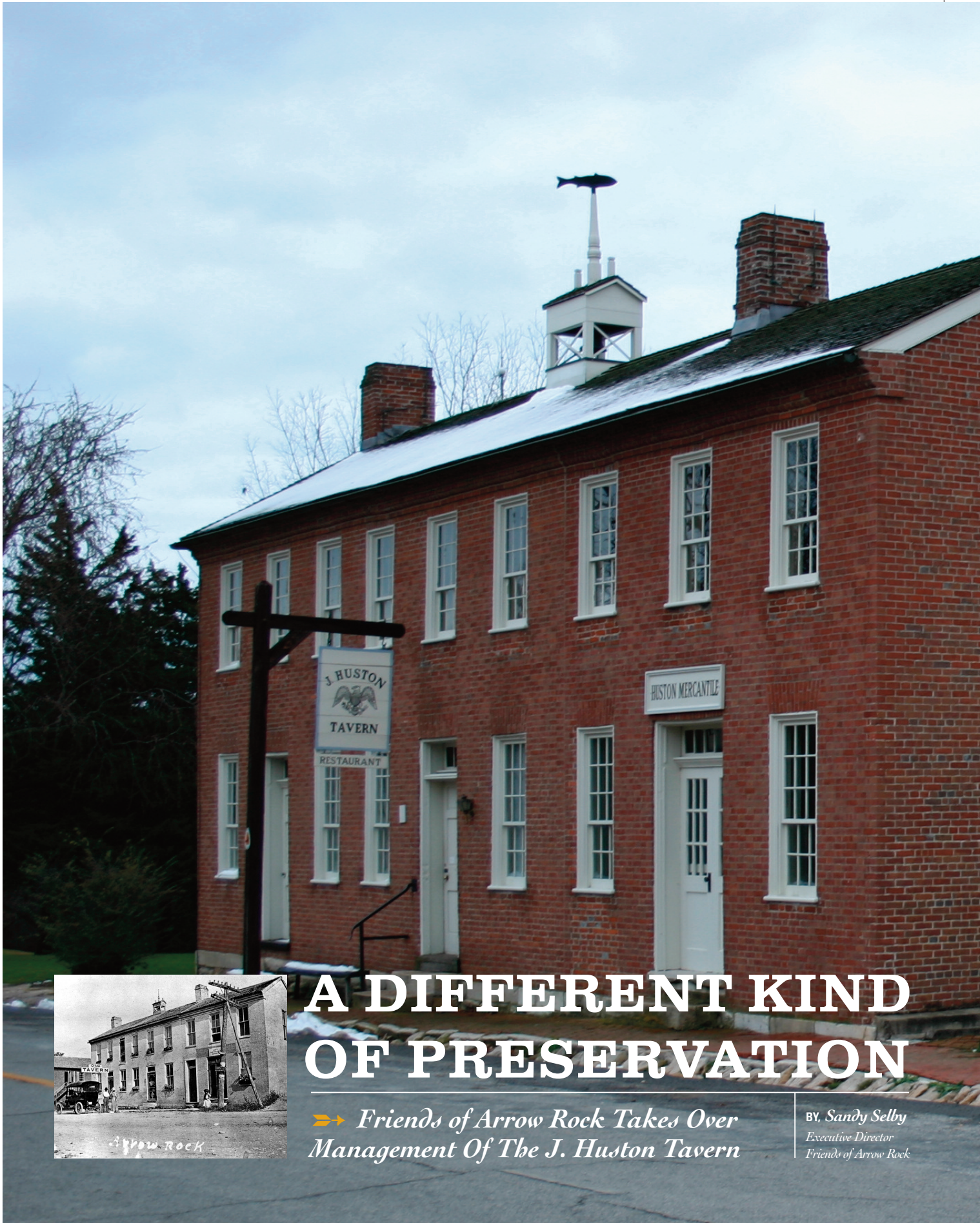
Left to right, from top: Kirk Isenhour and Bill Howie; Jared Bishop, Heather Gladfelter, Lynn Richardson, Donald Allen and Steven Bishop; Dale & Jan Hinnah; Ginny & Richard Edgar, Trudy Sommers, Maxine Glenn, Jackie Glenn and Glenda DeShon; Kevin & Pam Riggs; Ginny McCullough, Anna McCullough and Kirby McCullough.



A magnanimous Friends of Arrow Rock board member has offered to match up to \$6,000 in donations designated for a new tour tram, as long as those donations come in by December 31. Her gift, combined with \$6,000 in matching gifts, would get us to our \$30,000 goal and have a new, 12-passenger tram in service for the 2019 tour season. The new tram is enclosed, so we won't have to fret about rainy days. It includes a heating system, fans for cooling, and an on-board PA system that will allow our tour guides to share information even while they're driving.

See our Friends of Arrow Rock Wish List on Page 11 to learn how you can contribute for the tram.





# A DIFFERENT KIND OF PRESERVATION

➡ *Friends of Arrow Rock Takes Over Management Of The J. Huston Tavern*

*By, Sandy Selby  
Executive Director  
Friends of Arrow Rock*



**H**istory unfolded within its walls. George Caleb Bingham immortalized it in his paintings. Political careers began over rounds of beer; romances began in the ballroom. It has been the heartbeat of Arrow Rock since 1834. But here in 2018, the J. Huston Tavern needed help from some Friends. Missouri State Parks owns the building and has been running its restaurant for the past five years. It hasn't been easy; governments aren't set up to run restaurants. In the case of the Tavern, it wasn't the building, but rather the business that needed preservation, and the Friends of Arrow Rock board wasn't about to let the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi cease to operate if there was something they could do to keep it going. The organization has entered into a cooperative agreement with Missouri State Parks to operate the tavern, starting in 2019.

"Our organization is deeply committed to the preservation of Arrow Rock's historic treasures and certainly the Huston Tavern is no exception," says Chet Breitwieser, vice president of Friends of Arrow Rock. "Members of our board of trustees were united in their strong desire to keep the Huston Tavern operating in addition to expanding hours, offerings and hospitality."

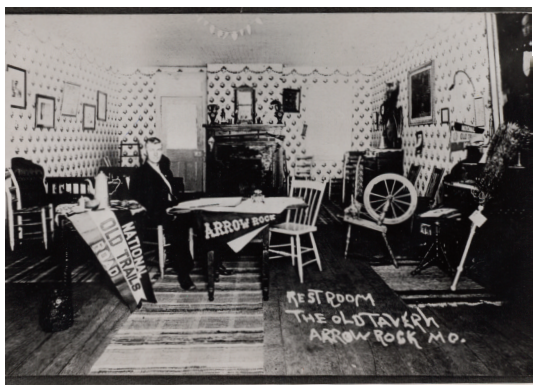
### **Mr. Huston's House**

Joseph Huston moved to Arrow Rock in 1819, ten years before it was incorporated as a town, and is counted among Arrow Rock's founding fathers. In 1833, he spent \$89 to buy all four lots of Block 17, and it was there that he built a four-room, two-story, Federal style structure. Although he envisioned it solely as his family's home, opportunity was at Huston's doorstep as tired, hungry travelers heading out to the untamed American West passed by his house.

Huston quickly expanded his home to make room for those travelers, and he added a mercantile and a second floor ballroom in 1840. During the mid-to late 1800s, the J. Huston Tavern served as hotel, restaurant and community gathering place. During some of the town's darkest days, it even served as a hospital.

Huston sold his interest in the Tavern in 1858. It was subsequently owned and operated by other families, including the Cobbs, the Scriptures, and Joseph Huston's daughter, Rachel McJilton.

Much of the town's prosperity depended on trade with the South, so the end of the Civil War marked a period of a decline for Arrow Rock and its Tavern. By the turn of the century, the Tavern's glory had faded and the old building seemed destined to disappear into the pages of history.



### Revolutionary Women

Today we would call it heritage tourism, but in 1912, the Arrow Rock chapter of the National Old Trails Road Association just wanted to give people a reason to come to town. They set up a museum room in the J. Huston Tavern and filled it with historical artifacts. Those artifacts often had nothing at all to do with Arrow Rock, but they were interesting curiosities that appealed to families who were venturing out in their new automobiles.

The real renaissance of the J. Huston Tavern came in 1923, when the Arrow Rock chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution persuaded the Missouri legislature to purchase the Tavern for \$5,000, making it the first building purchased with public funds for the purpose of historic preservation. The legislature recognized a can-do spirit in the women of the DAR, and put them in charge of the restoration and the tavern's operation. The DAR's work at the Tavern so impressed the legislature that it purchased land around the Tavern to establish Missouri's first state park. The Tavern's restoration inspired others, too, and soon a preservation revolution was underway in Arrow Rock.

The women of the DAR operated the Tavern until 1984. After that, a string of concessionaires managed the business until the state took it over in 2013.



### Partners & Friends

In 1959, during a statewide meeting of the DAR at the J. Huston Tavern, the members agreed to spin off a new organization that was entirely devoted to historic preservation and history education in Arrow Rock. By the time the luncheon meeting had concluded, the newly formed Friends of Arrow Rock had a long list of charter members.

“Our organization actually began inside that building,” says Donna Huston, current president of Friends of Arrow Rock. “We’re excited by the opportunity to keep the Tavern going and look forward to continuing a 185-year tradition of good, home-style food and warm hospitality.”

FAR's new partnership with the state was made possible by recent legislation that allows Missouri State Parks properties to enter into mutually beneficial agreements with nonprofit “friends” groups. In the case of the Tavern, the state has agreed to continue maintaining the building and to cover utility expenses. They are also willing to share the expense of installing a back-up generator, which will save the day for the Tavern and its customers when the town experiences one of its all-too-frequent power outages. Friends of Arrow Rock will run the restaurant with very little oversight from the state, and will not pay the state any percentage of the proceeds.

In preparation for the board of trustees' vote, FAR's executive director prepared budgets, job descriptions and timelines to help the board through the decision-making process. Historic preservationist Marty Selby made a thorough conditions assessment of the Tavern, carefully studying the building from rooftop to crawlspace. The board made a well-informed decision at a special board meeting on September 29; the vote to take on the Tavern was unanimous.



Once the agreement was signed, FAR's executive committee went to work finding two individuals to fill key roles in the operation: the general manager and the kitchen manager. General Manager Karen Avery Miller and Kitchen Manager Janet Carmack both have strong ties to Arrow Rock along with the professional skills the organization was looking for. Karen and Janet are committed to following in the footsteps of Joseph Huston: offering delicious, home-style food with a heaping helping of hospitality. ▶

## Meet The Managers



**Karen Avery Miller** brings a combination of professional management experience and artistic flair to her role as general manager. She purchased her home in Arrow Rock in 2013, and made it her full-time residence in 2016. From the start, she immersed herself in her new community as an active volunteer.

She is a member of the Experience Arrow Rock tourism committee, serves on the town's Board of Architectural Review, and is a former trustee for Friends of Arrow Rock.

Karen is a talented artist and a nationally renowned expert on genealogical research. For Karen, leading the Tavern into this next chapter is more than just a job: it's a way for her to honor the Tavern's important past and protect its future.

**Janet Carmack** grew up in Arrow Rock. Her parents owned the country store and she recalls playing in the Tavern as a girl. Now her career brings her full circle as this talented cook returns to her roots to run the J. Huston Tavern kitchen. Janet, the former proprietor of the II Palms restaurant in Boonesboro, is familiar to mid-Missouri foodies who know her home-style cooking is worth the drive. She promises to keep the Tavern's famous fried chicken on the menu, but will be adding her pork tenderloin sandwich, which was named the "Best in Missouri" by the Missouri Pork Association.



*Our new Tavern management team will work through the winter to get the restaurant ready for Opening Day on March 1. Be among the first to dine with us. Make your reservations now by calling 660-837-3231.*

## How You Can Help

The Friends of Arrow Rock believes there is tremendous potential for the Tavern to thrive. With a highly capable management team in place and a deeply committed board of trustees, we have most of the ingredients we need to start off strong. But we need your help to ensure success.

- If you live in the area, come dine at the Tavern and bring your family and friends! We plan to open on weekends (Friday through Sunday) during March and April, and will extend our weekday schedule beginning in May.
- It's not too early to make your 2019 reservations. You can reserve a table now for dates in 2019 by calling the Friends of Arrow Rock office at 660-837-3231. After January 1, you can reach General Manager Karen Avery Miller at the Tavern: 660-837-3200.
- Consider the Tavern as the venue for your next event or special occasion. The Bingham Dining Room can accommodate up to 60 people, and we're happy to work with you to create a menu that fits your needs and budget. For a truly unique dining experience, consider entertaining a small group (20 or fewer) in the upstairs ballroom.
- We'll be looking for friendly, reliable kitchen assistants and wait staff who can begin working in March. If you know of someone who is interested in a fun and rewarding job at the Tavern, have them contact the FAR office at 660-837-3231.
- We'll have expenses to cover in January and February as we prepare for our March opening and we hope Friends who have fond memories of the Tavern and high hopes for its future will contribute to our start-up fund. This fund will purchase needed equipment and supplies, cover insurance and license fees, and pay our managers as they work to get the Tavern ship-shape in time for opening day.

*See our holiday Wish List on Page 11 for details on how you can help get the Tavern off to a great start in 2019.*

## Church Buildings Benefit From Buckner Gift

**Hallelujah!** FAR has completed some much-needed projects on two FAR properties the — 1869 Brown’s Chapel Freewill Baptist Church, and the 1872 Christian Church — thanks to a generous donation from the Buckner Foundation.

The gift allowed us to install a new roof and repaint the interior and pews at the Christian Church. That work, combined with recent electrical rewiring, sidewalk replacement, and exterior painting funded by other generous donors, makes the Christian Church even more attractive as rental space for weddings and special events. A substantial grant from the Sunderland Foundation (see sidebar), will enable us to install heating and air conditioning in the Christian Church, so it will be comfortable for congregants in every season.

Using Buckner funds, we fixed the foundation skirting and replaced the crumbling sidewalk and steps at Brown’s Chapel. This building, an important part of Arrow Rock’s black history, is used frequently for meetings and workshops. These improvements enhance the beauty and safety of the building for all its many visitors. ▶



## FAR Receives Sunderland Grant

**In early November, Friends of Arrow Rock received word that its grant request to the Sunderland Foundation for \$150,000 had been funded in full. This amazing gift will allow us to check off all the priorities on our property to-do list.**

**INCLUDING:**

- Replace the aging wood shake roof on the Sites House.
- Install a new roof on the Arrow Rock Post Office building.
- Paint the exterior trim and metal roof on the Dr. John Sappington Medical Museum.
- Repair front wall structural issues at the Miller-Bradford House.
- Install heating and air conditioning at the Christian Church.
- Restore and repair the upstairs meeting room in the Masonic Lodge Hall.



**T**he Friends of Arrow Rock expects it to be a very Happy New Year as we celebrate our 60th Anniversary and expand our preservation mission to include management of the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi. None of our many accomplishments over the past six decades would have been possible without the enduring support of our members, and we depend on your generosity as we head into what will be one of the most eventful years in our history. Please consider making a year-end gift to support the important work of Friends of Arrow Rock.

*Here's what's on our Wish List this holiday season:*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Contribution to the Tavern start-up fund (a total of \$30,000 needed)	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contribution toward a new tour tram (\$6,000 needed to meet a promised match)	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spring education program scholarships (\$5 per student you wish to sponsor)	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use my donation where it is most needed.	\$

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed    Charge my credit card    MASTERCARD    VISA    DISCOVER

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_   Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_   Security code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

➡ Or call the Friends of Arrow Rock office at 660-837-3231 to make your donation via credit card over the telephone.

P.O. Box 124  
 Arrow Rock,  
 Missouri 65520  
 660-857-5251



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Our Mission: Sharing the Missouri Frontier Experience



### An Invitation to Join the Friends of Arrow Rock

The Friends of Arrow Rock safeguards the history, historical artifacts and 13 of the historical structures of the village of Arrow Rock, a National Historic Landmark, through ongoing education programs and preservation initiatives. **Please join us in 2019, our 60th year,** and help us share the Missouri frontier experience with this and future generations. Memberships may be deductible for income tax purposes.

**FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION** →

**CALL**  
 660-837-3231

**EMAIL**  
 office@FriendsOfArrowRock.org

**WEB**  
 FriendsOfArrowRock.org

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 Marshall, Mo

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Kevin T. Riggs  
 Marshall, Mo

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### Thank You to ...

**Jim Breece** for an antique  
 Sappington's Anti-Fever Pills  
 receipt.

**Children's Craft Festival  
 Volunteers** for bringing history  
 to life for hundreds of youngsters.

**Parilee Jackson** for a complete  
 issue of the Arrow Rock Statesman  
 newspaper.



Arrow Rock welcomed more than 1,200 attendees for a day of fun and learning at the 2018 Children's Craft Festival in September.

**CHECK OUT** our Web page at FriendsOfArrowRock.org and "like" us on Facebook.

➡ ~ FRIENDSOFARROWROCK.ORG ~ ⬅

**OUR VISION:** To develop Arrow Rock into one of the premier historic destinations in the country so that the important lessons of our past will not be forgotten.

**On the cover** FAR will continue a proud tradition of providing hospitality to guests at the J. Huston Tavern when it takes over management of the business in 2019.