



THE Marquee

From the Desk of Vonnie Corsini, Executive Director

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Theater Spotlight: This Russell, KS beauty, known as The Dream Theater, is the rebirth of the Main Street Theater, which opened in 1923. The Main Street Theater was renovated and renamed the Dream Theater in 1935. Tragically this 590 seat theater was destroyed by fire in 1947. This “new” Dream Theatre, designed by architects Robert Otto Boller and Dietz Lusk, Jr., of the Boller Bros Architectural firm, was resurrected on Easter Sunday, April 19, 1949. She is an Art Deco style one screen movie theater with a 425 seat capacity. The Boller Bros. designed about 100 theaters throughout the American Midwest during the first half of the 20th Century. In fact, our own Colonial Fox Theatre design was inspired by Boller Brothers theaters. The Dream Theater was closed by B & B Theaters in 2000 until the *Keep the Dream Alive* Committee raised the money to pay back taxes and remodel the theatre. The ten member Board of Directors oversee the day to day operations of the theater with the help of community volunteers.



The Four States Farm Show returns to Pittsburg on May 21 through May 23 boasting a new venue! This year the Four States Farm Show will be held at the Robert W. Plaster Center on the Pittsburg State University campus. Indoor and Outdoor exhibits will be on display. The very first Four State Farm Show, then known as the Tri-State Farm Show, opened in March of 1975 at the National Guard Armory in Pittsburg, Kansas.



The show was the vision of the Farm Talk Newspaper to bring agricultural production and agribusiness together. It was sponsored by the agriculture committee of the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with Farm Talk Newspaper. Very soon the organizers realized they had both a problem and a blessing on their hands: growth. The small 1975 show of about 60 exhibits grew to over 600 exhibits and attracted thousands of

people from the four states region. After a 2020 Covid break, the Four States Farm Show is back! Mark your calendar and welcome the Four States Farm Show to the Robert W. Plaster Center!

We extend our deepest sympathies to the families on the recent passing of our dear friends Roger Adams, Ray Bicknell, Marilyn Biggs, Ruth Bradney, and Tip Hutsey. They will be missed by their families and by this community.

“Embracing a Millionaire Mindset Just Down the Road From Kansas City.” Well, it’s no surprise to us that the City of Pittsburg was recently ranked as the ninth best place in the U.S. to stretch \$1 Million, according to a SmartAsset study. However, when I saw the images of the beautiful home of the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation Board President, Stephanie Watts, and the Brick & Mortar Social House in Block22, I knew this had to be a great story. Jacob Douglas, staff writer for the Kansas City on-line magazine FLATLAND. featured Stephanie and her husband Allen’s Pittsburg home and noted that “[it] was twice the size and half the price of their previous home in Orlando, Florida. The Pittsburg property also offers a much bigger lot to enjoy from their backdoor patio.” Douglas went on to toot Pittsburg’s horn, noting that there are also plenty of things to do in Pittsburg. “The city has made a conscious effort to team up with the university to make the city a place where students and other residents can not only co-exist, but make the community better.” Although newly relocated, Stephanie is already widely recognized for her work volunteering in the community, not the least of which is her role as president of the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation. To read the full article just post this link in your browser: <https://www.flatlandkc.org/news-issues/embracing-a-millionaire-mindset-just-down-the-road-from-kansas-city>.



Bicknell Family Center for the Arts exhibit honors Eva Jessye. Famous musician, actress, and author Eva Jessye was born January 20, 1895 in Coffeyville, Kansas. By the age of 12 she had organized her first choral group. She attended Western University in Kansas City at age 13, and went on to earn her certificate in teaching at Langston University in Oklahoma. A year before women earned the right to vote, Eva became the head of the music department at Morgan State College in Baltimore. In 1927, Jessye published *My Spirituals*, a collection of her arrangements of spirituals, together with stories about growing up in southeast Kansas. Jessye used her notoriety to advance the civil rights movement. Her protest against segregation at the National Theatre, in Washington D.C. prompted that venue’s first integrated audience. Eva served as Artist In Residence at Pittsburg State University from 1978 to 1982 and established the Eva Jessye Collection of poems and personal writings in 1977. She shared her talents with the PSU Department of Music by teaching, as well as conducting and directing many concerts and programs. The Bicknell Center exhibit opened on April 5th and will remain there until May 14th.



Did you know? In the fall of 1890 Robert Nesch and John Moore came from Atchison and embarked in the brick business, manufacturing building and paving brick of excellent quality. They entered into a contract with the city of Pittsburg, to pave Broadway for a distance of three-fourths of a mile.

QUESTIONS?

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The MARQUEE is provided to individuals and businesses who help advance the cause of philanthropy through the renovation and operation of the Colonial Fox Theatre.