



## FONDREN RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

live work shop play

**A**lison Hopton Davis, a Jackson native with breadth of experience in community building and in design, is the new executive director of the Fondren Renaissance Foundation. Alison takes the Foundation's reigns as the neighborhood's momentum continues to accelerate in any number of areas.

"We are at that precipice – about to take off," said Davis. "Fondren truly is a destination. It's a cool thing for the people who are already here and established property owners to be in the middle of. There's destination dining, destination shopping and destination events."

The new director grew up in the neighborhood, on Meadow Hill Road, and her first job was wrapping presents during Christmas at Sudie's, a children's clothing store where Interior's Market is now located. "I grew up going to Brent's after school, involved at St. James, cutting through the neighborhood as I walked to school and to play with friends."

Barry Plunkett, president of the Fondren Renaissance Foundation board of directors, said Alison's unique combination of personal connection to the neighborhood, professional experience and enthusiasm makes her a great fit. "Alison will step right in and keep us moving forward," said Barry.

After graduating from Belhaven College, Alison went on to earn



a graduate degree at the Savannah College of Art and Design. She returned to Mississippi in 1999 and became the first architectural historian of the State Capitol building, overseeing the iconic building to ensure repairs and renovations were in keeping with its history.

She's also taught interior design at Mississippi College and was working as a designer at the Fondren-based Cooke Douglass Farr and Lemons, where she could hear the Arts Eats and Beats crowds and music outside grow louder on Thursday afternoons and where she could witness first hand the growing vibrancy of the community. Changing

directions and working with a community-focused foundation is a way of giving back. "As I see my child grow, it becomes more important to me to make that difference," she said.

Alison first acknowledges she has a lot to learn about the ongoing projects being run by dedicated staff, Mary Jo McAnally, associate director and Kristen Martin, office manager/project coordinator, and board. But her thoughts for the future range from increasing efforts to make the community more pedestrian and bike friendly to capitalizing on the St. Dominic's-funded Phoenix initiative that helps homeowners rehab their homes; to more broadly broadly shepherding the momentum and ensuring "that new growth and expansion is cohesive with the existing feel and look of the community."



FONDREN  
RENAISSANCE  
FOUNDATION

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Barry Plunkett, President  
Bill Scruggs, Vice President  
Dottie Donaldson, Treasurer  
John Sewell, Secretary  
Erica Speed, Past President

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Meredith Aldridge  
Derek Alley  
Dr. Helen Barnes  
Reed Branson  
Cecilia Reese Bullock  
Kathy Clem  
Jeff Good  
Buddy Graham  
Bill Nation  
Bob Oertel  
Jimmy Sweat  
Joe Wise

## STAFF

Alison Hopton Davis  
*Executive Director*  
Mary Jo McAnally  
*Associate Director*  
Kristen Martin  
*Project Coordinator/  
Office Manager*

**Fondren Renaissance Foundation**  
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Jackson, MS 39216

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Website: [www.fondren.org](http://www.fondren.org)  
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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Summer has come to Fondren and the living is easy. Well, maybe not easy but certainly wonderful in our neighborhood. Fondren is about family, and friends and a real sense of community. Although we are proud of what we have worked hard for in our part of the world we call Fondren, we have a tremendous giving and sharing spirit. We want others to appreciate what we have here and therefore we welcome them to Fondren and hope they will all enjoy what we have to offer.

At a recent Fondren event, I did the automobile tag audit thing that marketing people have to do. Visitors in Fondren came from the following counties/states: Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Warren, Scott, Smith, Copiah, Texas and Tennessee. I ran into a family from Madison who brought their relatives who were visiting from Texas, into Fondren for dinner. We have truly become a destination.

Just last week, I met two young couples who have moved into Fondren. They are excited about the vitality surrounding them. For one couple the future of Fondren Park is one of the reasons they were drawn to their new home on the west side of State Street.

I could go on and on about what is happening daily in Fondren, from the "Y" to the northern business district but space is limited. But, one of the best pieces of good news is the announcement of the Fondren Renaissance Foundation's new Executive Director, Alison Hopton Davis. She has Fondren in her heart and the skills and passion to guide us toward even greater success. Please welcome Alison. (see article on page one)

Thank you for supporting the Fondren Renaissance Foundation and working with it to make Fondren even more fantastic.

--BARRY PLUNKETT

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Summer is finally here!

Lazy days of working in the garden, lounging on the beach, and generally taking it easy prevail...at least for some of us.

What if, however, this is the summer that you are forced to remain in Jackson and no summer get-a-ways await? Maybe the house needs painting, or your Great Aunt Ethel is coming for the entire month of July, or perhaps you are scared to death to spend the money because of the economy.

Whether you're here – or there – here's hoping that you will find yourself in a place where you can relax and reflect and do yourself, your community – and the Fondren Renaissance Foundation – a favor. Let your mind wonder and think about just why it is that you live, work, shop, and/or play in Fondren. Is it because you think your neighbors are the best thing since sliced bread, or that the trees on your street might just be the biggest and prettiest in Jackson, or that the stores have just the right unique items, or that the restaurants are so cool and inviting, or that you don't have to drive 30 minutes to get where you want to go in town?

Now, while lost in these wonderful thoughts about Fondren think about the Board and staff at

Fondren Renaissance Foundation. We will be enjoying the summer too BUT we will also be working hard to ensure you have valid reasons to think nice thoughts about why you love Fondren. We will be planning more fun events for Fondren, creating an atmosphere for restaurants and other businesses to flourish, working with the local law enforcement agencies to keep you and your home safe while you are away (and at home), and generally making our neighborhood the best place to live, work, shop, and play in the Jackson metro area.

So, when at the beach, in the garden, at home, or wherever the summer takes you, think about home, friends, neighborhood and realize just how your financial support makes so much of what you think is great about our neighborhood possible.

Someone once wisely said that asking for money is a privilege earned by providing some thing that makes a positive difference in the community. Fondren Renaissance Foundation does lots of these things thanks to your financial support.

I hope to hear you say, "I would love to go on vacation or a fabulous trip but I'm happy being right here in Fondren for the summer."--DEREK

ALLEY

## Symphony at Sunset

**The Foundation will honor Anne and Mike Peters and Jan and Andrew Mattiace during this year's annual Symphony at Sunset scheduled Thursday, September 24 at the lawn on The Cedars. This year the much anticipated event 'goes green.'**



The Renaissance Society is a group of philanthropic leaders in the Jackson area who believe the works of the Foundation must be continued. A three year financial commitment of \$1,000 annually will ensure that the revitalizing of our business district, the renovating of our neighborhood and the many free special events that have enticed many to our area will not only continue but will flourish. Please consider joining this group of influential and dedicated group of community leaders. For more information, contact the Fondren Renaissance Foundation office at 981-9606.

Mary and Bob Adams  
Sara Anderson  
Joan and Buster Bailey  
Dea Dea and Dolph Baker  
Jene and Michael Barranco  
Melba and Chip Bowman  
Jean Brewer  
Ann Brock  
Cecilia Reese Bullock  
Jean Butler  
Nancy and Roy Campbell  
Janie and Stuart Clarke  
Sonja Battle and Kathy Clem  
Tammy and John Cook  
Pat and Butch Cothren  
Meredith and Jimmy Creekmore  
Mona and Robert Crowell  
Betsy and Kane Ditto  
Dottie and Joe Donaldson  
Susan and Frank Duke  
Kelley and Brian Fenelon  
Danelle and Kendall Garraway  
Debbie and Jeff Good  
Tommie Goodman  
Frenchie and Buddy Graham  
Rev. and Mrs. Duncan Gray, Jr.  
Joshua Green  
Sherry Greener  
Lynn and Jim Grenfell  
Sherry and Michael Gwin  
Leslie and David Hancock  
Claudia and Robert Hauberg  
Sarah and Randall Hines  
Jimmy and Paula Hood  
Carolyn and Randy Howard  
Robbie and Dudley Hughes  
Sandra and Peyton Irby  
Karen and Stuart Irby  
Paula and Randy James  
Elta and Jim Johnston, III  
Louis and Maurice Joseph  
Elizabeth Knight  
Holly and Alan Lange  
Lucy Lee

Elta Livingston  
Chrissy and Walter Lydick, Jr.  
Jan and Andrew Mattiace  
Mary Jo and Ron McAnally  
Mary Eliza and Howard McMillan, Jr.  
Sally and Dick Molpus  
Jan and Billy Mounger  
Betsy and Bill Nation  
Lynn and Waddell Nejam  
Sarah and Phil Nelson  
Martin Newcomb  
Nix-Tann and Associates, Inc.  
Larry and J.T. Noblin  
The Paper Place/The Toy Place  
Pam Garmon and Roger Parkes  
Anne and Mike Peters  
Kent Peters  
Barbara and Barry Plunkett  
Becky and Don Potts  
Carolyn Pyror  
Lorry and David Rich  
Hollidae and Barney Robinson  
Ann Myers and George Schimmel  
Jennifer and Gregory Schulmeier  
Kim and John Sewell  
Linda Shelton  
Carol and Bill Sneed  
Charles Sours  
Bessie and Leland Speed  
Erica and Stewart Speed  
St. Dominic Health Services, Inc.  
June and Harper Stone  
Flo and Howard Stover  
Jimmye and Andy Sweat  
Judy and Denny Terry  
Beth and Shelby Watts  
Nell Weiss  
Audrey and Jim Wilkison  
Elise and Tommy Williams  
Elise and William Winter  
Julie and Dudley Wooley  
Jane and Frank Yerger  
Mary and Wirt Yerger

# Friends of Fondren

## Grand Benefactor (\$5000 and above)

BancorpSouth  
BankPlus  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi  
Cellular South  
Garden Club of Jackson  
Risen Son Foundation  
St. Dominic's Health Services, Inc.  
Southern Beverage

## Benefactor (\$1000-\$4999)

Mary and Bob Adams  
Camp Best  
Gertrude C. Ford Foundation  
Leland Speed  
Sir Speedy  
Belmont and Frank Trapp

## Investor (\$500-\$999)

Eric Hatten  
Judith B. Howard  
Richard McKey  
Betsy and Bill Nation  
Rebecca and Randy Tardy

## Supporter (\$100-\$499)

Alliance Business Services  
Brook Garden Club  
Nancy and Roy Campbell  
Sally and Charlie Carmichael  
Martha and Jay Cooke  
Computer Co-Op  
Suzie and Phillip Cranston  
Joan S. Dattel

Susan and Frank Duke  
Fondren Express Trolley  
Wendi and Frank Garrison  
Shannon and Kevin Hahn  
Jack Hammond

HomeWorks of Jackson, Inc.

Anne and Charles Hooker  
Jeanette Jarmon

Dawn and Stan Jones  
Jan and Bill Kientz  
Mary and Clayton Lewis

Julia and T. W. Lewis  
Jim Lowe Realty

Natalie Maynor  
Mary Jo and Ron McAnally

T. E. McDonald  
Richard D. McRae  
Shani and Jackie Meck

June and James Milam  
Camille and Bill Morris  
Donald B. Morrison

Sally and Darden North  
Kathleen and Ryan O'Beirne  
Janet and Luther Ott  
Jacquie and Joe Planck  
Jeff Proctor

Professional Mental Health Assoc. Inc.

Becky and Tom Richardson  
Stacye and Bill Rinehart

Jennifer C. and Frank Robinson

Janet K. Shands

Margaret Barrett and Al Simon

Robert W. Sneed

Ward and Jim Sumner  
The Everyday Gardener

Cecile and Bill Wardlaw

Sara J. Weisenberger  
Nell L. Weiss

Sissy and Blake White  
Letitia C. Withers  
Woodland Hills Baptist Church  
Judge and Mrs. Swan Yerger  
Ann and Jimmy Young

## Friend (\$10-\$99)

Kaylin C. Allen  
Virginia Campbell  
Allied Home Mortgage Capital Corp.  
Dixie and Joe Chapman  
Jim Child  
Russell Christie  
David Church  
Janet and Jamie Crawford  
Gloria Fisher  
Pamela M. Franklin  
Tanya Newkirk and Michael Galaty  
Archeater Hampton  
Susan Howell  
Erin Orgeron and Ron Knappe  
Claire Lambdin  
Kathe and Doug Levanway  
Jenny and Pete Markow  
Kristen Martin  
Jewel and James Merritt  
Loy Moncrief  
Ruth D. Priester  
Nan Prince  
Gina and Tony Sawyer  
Janet and Bill Scruggs  
Nell Permenter Smith  
Jackie Tatum  
Tops  
Pam and Jon Turner  
Anne and Joe Wilkins

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*A healthy and thriving community can only survive through the generosity and support of its residents, businesses, and friends. This manifests itself in many ways. Fondren is fortunate. Not only does our village have people willing to give of their time, but also many who offer support through a financial commitment to the annual fund. The 2009 Annual Fund drive is under way. To learn how you can be a part of the renaissance of Fondren please call Mary Jo McAnally at 601-981-9606.*

# FABricating a Fondren Association of Businesses:

## *FAB why?*

What started as a small round table discussion group at Cups coffee house the summer of 2008 has transformed into an exciting business unification entity now called FAB (Fondren Association of Businesses). Our purpose was derived from several business owners in Fondren finding it imperative to create a formal strategic effort to aggressively promote the Fondren businesses. FAB's purpose is to create a unified agenda targeting the areas of advertising, promotion, planning, improvements, and networking to help accelerate the growth and awareness of the Fondren Business Community to the entire Jackson Metropolitan Area. Working together we will introduce and maintain a strong branding and recognition campaign designed to benefit all styles and sizes of businesses while collaborating and complimenting the great strides already taken by FRF (Fondren Renaissance Foundation).

## *FAB who?*

FAB is a non-profit organization chartered in November 2008 with an elected board membership comprising 15 of Fondren's most dedicated and energetic business owners and representatives. Additionally, four members have been elected to serve as FAB's Executive Committee. We are pleased to announce the board members for

2009/10 whom collectively with their business have made not only a commitment of their time and talents but also provided FAB with the initial seed money required to jump start our initial three phase initiative:

Mike Kincses, Mishkas' A.R.T. Gallery, president; David Waugh, Pro Staffing Group, vice president; Karen Moseley, BancorpSouth, treasurer; Courtney Peters, Mosaic, secretary; Ron Aldridge, NFIB; John Rankin, BankPlus; Tommie Goodman, MAX Furniture; Jennifer Emerson, Walker's Drive-In; David Byrd, Regions Bank; Sedrick Lilley, Campbell's Bakery; Elizabeth Robinson, Studio Fondren; Jim McIntyre, A Complete Flag Source; Rachel Horn, The Bohemian Kitchen; Nancy Price, Nancy Price Interiors; Todd Stauffer, Jackson Free Press and Boom Magazine.

## *FAB what?*

Most importantly, FAB is for all businesses of Fondren. To those who make a contribution and become members of FAB, various levels of benefits will be available. We understand that having a strong and unified membership base is the most critical phase toward FAB's immediate success. The initial membership roll out drive was held June 10 at 8:30 a.m. at Sal & Mookies Restaurant. At the meeting, detail for plans to incorporate a three phase initiative were presented. They include:

Initiative One – Charter membership drive offering five levels of membership. Members will be given sticker/plaque branding identification along with special advertising benefits coinciding with Initiative two and three to help promote both Fondren as well as each individual Fondren business.

Initiative Two - 16 page full color "FABulous Businesses of Fondren" Booklet with full page map on inside of booklet along with member's business listing and locator number. Other pages reserved for higher level memberships individual advertising. Additional center maps and business listings scheduled to be printed separately for a quick reference available for each Fondren businesses to hand out to customers.

Initiative Three - up to 12 months round the clock digital billboard advertising at six different strategic areas in the Jackson Metro Area.

The levels and effectiveness of these three initiatives will solely depend on a strong support from our total FAB membership. We are excited about our progress and participation and truly need the support of all Fondren businesses and individuals alike. Working together, we are confident that FAB will strive to achieve a direct improvement for each member individual business.s.--MIKE KINCSES

## **“FONDREN IS . . .”**

**“Fondren is grounded by those who have been here and energized by those who are drawn here, it is a self sustaining community steeped in rich history, southern hospitality and urban ingenuity.”**

**Joan Hawkins, Fondren Merchant (Joan Hawkins Art & Interiors)**

## THE EARLY YEARS

Yes, I was born in Fondren. On the corner of North State and Duling Avenue. And I have lived in Fondren all my life. What a record. I and my siblings went to Duling School for all six grades. And the teachers we had, they were the best. First grade was taught by Miss Bessie Will Gilliland. She joined the WAVES and became a lieutenant commander. My, was she a handsome lady in her uniform. She gave us a great beginning. And, too, we had Mrs. Roby, Miss Barber, Miss Neal, Miss Majors and Miss Winn. I remember them all well.

What did we do as six-year olds? We played hopscotch because we had sidewalks where we could draw the game with chalk. We skated, rode bicycles as we got a little older—no bikes with training wheels. Too early for that. What's missing? Soccer, tennis, organized ball games, swim lessons.

There were lots of friends our age: Carolyn, Laura Ceil, Frances, Ann, Nina, Joyce...too many to name. No one took big trips. We just enjoyed our friends and our neighborhood. We made our fun. In the summers,

we attended Bible School at all three churches:

Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist. Two were located on North State, but the Methodist sat where it is now.

I grew up in a family of four children, two boys, two girls. We were widely separated in age. My older brother (oldest of us) served in the Air Force in WW II. Made the war real to my family.

When we graduated from Duling, we went to Bailey Junior High—the big pretty school down the street. Can you believe that on some days we walked there? Right through the Asylum grounds, with patients living there. About this time, we gained our own up-to-date drug store, Nolen and Broom. Doc Nolen and Cecil Broom were neighbors and friends. Drive across Duling Avenue to the west and you would run right into it. Does this sound like small town America?

Then the theater was built and opened. On Saturday afternoon, they showed “shoot-em-up cowboy” movies. My younger brother learned coins then because it took a nickel and a penny to get in—six

cents.

Changes came. A. N. Morgan built the shopping center on Duling in 1946. It is the oldest in the state and is still viable. Stores have changed over the years, but the center is still a busy place. Brent's is the oldest business there but it is taking on a new character.

Early in the 30s, Mississippi Power & Light took away the trolleys, removed the tracks and brought in buses. Those buses took us to Central High School. Add Duling, Bailey and Central High and you get just about the best 12 year education you could get anywhere. Some say it equaled junior college.

After the war several subdivisions were developed north of us and Jackson truly became a city. No more small town atmosphere. But what a great start we all got. Great memories, great friends, good education and solid start on life.

And, I'm still here. WOW. Continuous, native resident.s.--ELTA LIVINGSTON



FONDREN RENAISSANCE  
FOUNDATION  
3318 North State Street  
Jackson, MS 39216

### NEW MERCHANTS IN FONDREN

#### S Moak Salon

622 Duling Avenue  
(601) 982-5313

#### Twenty Nine 06 Studios

2906 North State Street, Suite 106  
(601) 366-8010

#### Complexion . . . By Anne Geddie

622 Duling Avenue  
(601) 316-2325

#### Under New Ownership

#### Cosmo Tots

Elizabeth Sprattlin and Melissa Massey  
2906 North State Street, Suite 101-B  
(601) 427-3322

#### Brent's

Brad Reeves  
655 Duling Avenue  
(601) 366-3427

#### Opening Soon

#### Tulip Florist

Leslie Frascogna  
622 Duling Avenue  
(August 1)

## Coming Soon

### July

**Thursday, July 23** - Precinct 4 National Night Out -  
6 - 8 p.m.

**Thursday, July 30** - Precinct 4 COPS Meeting -  
5:30 p.m. - Redeemer Church, 640 East Northside  
Dr.

### August

**Thursday, August 6** - Fondren after 5 – downtown  
Fondren – 5 to 8 p.m.

**Thursday, August 27** – Precinct 4 COPS Meeting  
- 5:30 p.m. - Redeemer Church, 640 East  
Northside Dr.

### September

**Thursday, August 3** - Fondren after 5 – downtown  
Fondren – 5pm to 8pm

**Thursday, August 24** - Symphony at Sunset - 7  
p.m. - The Cedars, 4145 Old Canton Rd.

**Thursday, August 24** - Precinct 4 COPS Meeting -  
5:30 p.m. - Redeemer Church, 640 East Northside  
Dr.