

Great Gatsby Gala



Residents and visitors alike know that Wilmington has a very diverse social calendar. Among the Southern belles and Hollywood extravaganzas, a few events do stand out—perhaps foremost among them the Gatsby Gala. Hosted by City Club of Wilmington at the historic de Rosset house and sponsored by Kusek Financial Group, the Gala recreates in detail the Roaring Twenties, the romantic Jazz Age commemorated in the novels of F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Live 1920s music in the garden. Prohibition-era cocktails at the bar. Models in period fashion and a burlesque show in the speakeasy. All set against a Gatsby-themed backdrop at the rooms of the house are reimagined in 1920s themes. The historic spectacle springs from the fertile imagination of Jess James, Wilmington's own style girl. We were lucky enough to get an exclusive interview with Ms. James, for whom this year's Gala is both a celebration of a rich period in American Fashion and the chance to honor an old friend:

I have been hosting style-based events monthly for the past several years and I must say, the Gatsby just might be my favorite. The Roaring 20's were a time of high style, excess and romance! What can be better than a night to relive the Jazz Age dressed to the nines at one of the most beautiful estates in Wilmington?

It makes me sad to think of everyone who misses out on this event. It's a special one!

Thursday night's Gala is held in loving memory of Donna Crutchfield, my dear friend Amy Kennison's mom, who just loved this event and was hoping to break out her flapper pearls once again. Donna will always be an inspiration, a lasting smile, the fairest rose in the garden and a loving angel to so many.

Decadence and romance, rich indulgence and deep sentiment: Ms. James captures the spirit of the 20s and the feeling of the affair with her typical grand fashion. The tone is set for an evening we'll all remember for quite some time.

The Gatsby Gala is the only City Club event open to the public, and thus a great chance to introduce prospective members to everything the Club has to offer. The Club will be offering a generous 80% discount on the membership sign-up fee for this one night only. For more information about the event, including purchasing tickets and a themed photo shoot, visit Jess James's website (<http://stylegirljessjames.com/fashion-shows/great-gatsby-gala-tickets-on-sale-now/>).

We hope to see you there!

Networking

In the South, we have a long tradition combining business and pleasure. Social events have long been a venue in which commercial activities could be discussed, negotiated, and sealed with a couple of glasses of top-shelf bourbon. City Club's classic location in the historic De Rosset house is the perfect setting for this blend of relaxation and occupation, with a luxurious yet informal setting and world-class bar.

Toward that end, we'd like to invite you to join us for City Club Connections, a networking social set in the club's upstairs Tidewater Bar. This is the perfect chance to enjoy the club's trademark cocktails while rubbing elbows with other key business personalities from the area. Despite the prevalence of online social networking and long-distance communication, in-person networking has never been more important. According to BNI.com, an international networking association, 81% of business executives consider networking to be an important part of their work week. Closer to home, Neal Whittington, a serial entrepreneur, expert in sales & marketing, and long-time club member, emphasized the importance of both networking and the proper approach thereunto in a recent exclusive interview:

Networking and making connections has been the most profitable thing by far that I have done to further my business career. Most people say "it's not what you know but who you know," and I agree—but more importantly, it's who knows you!

One of the biggest mistakes rookie networkers make is going into it with the approach of what can **I** get out of this when in fact they should shift their thinking to **who** can I help. If you do enough of that, everything else seems to take care of itself.

These are words of wisdom, and a fine example of the kind of connection you can make at City Club. We are happy to invite you to join us on the 3rd of April for City Club Connections—an excellent chance to network and to introduce your spouse or significant other to all the club has to offer. Reservations are required, so please call 343.1880, extension 210, to secure your spot. As always, we look forward to seeing you and discussing the affairs of the day—over a cocktail, of course.

Holiday Events

The days may be sunny and warm, but the holidays are upon us. It's a Southern style Christmas, a bit short on snow but nonetheless replete with good cheer and celebration. In the spirit of the season, City Club of Wilmington decided to transform the De Rosset house into a holiday wonderland.

The Club turned to Decorating Intervention, a local interior decorating firm owned by Heda Waldrep and Susan Nettleman. Heda and Susan have a remarkable gift—the ability to find and showcase the existing beauty of a home. They have done so to great effect this Christmas, drawing on the club's historical grace and décor. “We wanted to enhance the club's existing look,” said Heda Waldrep in a recent exclusive interview. “We wanted the decorations to recall a Victorian look with a blend of some contemporary elements.” Susan explained the ideas behind the Club's holiday decorations in a bit more depth:

We always try to work with what's already there. Just rearranging the existing items in a room and adding a few Christmas touches can do a lot. For the Club, we wanted to draw on the elegance of the setting and have that reflected in the holiday décor. To do that we drew on the existing style, and in particular the wonderful colors of the walls and furniture. This gives the decorations a sense of harmony with the timeless style of the building.

In addition to the unique look of the De Rosset House, Susan and Heda drew upon the natural beauty of the grounds. The greenery used in the holiday decorations was all harvested from the garden surrounding the building, tying the exterior and interior together. This lends another layer to the holiday look, a unique beauty which could only be found at the De Rosset house.

Club members and their guest will have many opportunities to enjoy the festive appearance this season. In addition to regular lunch and dinner service, the Club will be hosting its annual Candlelight Dinner on the 21st, allowing diners to enjoy a very Victorian mood for the holidays. From the 28th to the 29th, diners may enjoy an excellent prix fixe menu, featuring prime rib. And we'll all be together to send 2012 off in style at the New Year's Eve “Party Before You Party” from 6 to 8 PM on the 31st. Reservations are required and slots are filling up fast, so please call 343-1880, ext. 206, to make your arrangements.

Susan and Heda can be reached at decorating intervention@yahoo.com.

The Inn

Whether it happened while you were enjoying a meal in the dining room, a drink at the bar, or a leisurely afternoon on the porch, we've all had the same thought: what would it have been like to live in the De Rosset house during its heyday. There's something welcoming about this building, exuding the ease and comfort of an earlier time and an open, family atmosphere. Coupled with the relaxed luxuries offered by City Club, the idea of a life at the de Rosset house is tempting indeed.

Full time residence will have to remain a dream, but a taste of that dream life has become a reality. City Club of Wilmington proudly welcomes its new sister business, the Inn at City Club. A residential portion of the house, remodeled as apartments in during the First World War, has evolved again and become a luxurious boutique hotel. Featuring five guest suites, The Inn offers a number of amenities: gas fireplaces, antique furnishings, modern luxury bathrooms, and access to the Club's dining facilities. Open to both club members and those not yet initiated, The Inn is a celebration of refined living, set within walking distance of downtown Wilmington's many exciting entertainment options.

The Inn is the brainchild of Jonathan Weiss, the owner of City Club and a man with a deep understanding of hospitality and good living. "We set out to create luxurious accommodations that made you feel like you were staying at The Grand Hotel in 1912, and I feel that we have achieved that goal." Weiss said in a recent exclusive interview, "Our overnight guests enjoy the service of a 24 hour on call Concierge as well as temporary Membership to The City Club for the duration of their stay." Through careful attention to detail, The Inn at City Club has become the perfect destination for the discerning traveler, or the ideal lodging for an out of town guest.

The Inn is open for business, and currently accepting reservations—just in time for the holidays. Interested parties should contact City Club of Wilmington's Member Services Office for reservations at 910.343.1880 ext 206.

Come join us at the bar when you arrive. We always look forward to meeting new friends and introducing them to Greg's classic cocktails.