

MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

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Tennessee Motor Coach Association

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Allison with Addie Mae

Allison Gipson, co-owner of the Buttonwillow Church Civil War Dinner Theater has recently won "Best" in "Toys and Dolls" and "Woodcarving" in the Early American Life Magazine national competition.

Her interest in 19th Century dolls began with a simple doll she reproduced from one that was used by Confederate sympathizers to run medicines thru the line during the War Between the States. This started her on the way, and now she carves at every opportunity.

All of her dolls are beautifully reproduced from 1850s and 1860s patterns and are being purchased by doll collectors from the United States as well as Europe.

She has a large display of her dolls in the Buttonwillow Church Civil War Dinner Theater gift shop as well as area museums. Each doll takes about 130 hours to complete. They are carved from wood, painted, and dressed in tailored outfits. One can view her dolls at www.ButtonwillowPlantation.com.

She and her husband, Steve, have been members of the TMCA for two years and are usually seen at our get-togethers dressed in their traditional attire.

Our congratulations to them and their recent selection by the Travel Channel as "One of Five Reasons to Visit Chattanooga." www.ButtonwillowChurch.com



Georgia Tourism Division gets new leader

Kevin Langston named Deputy Commissioner as part of agency leadership changes

ATLANTA, October 29, 2009 – The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) has named Kevin Langston the Deputy Commissioner of the state's tourism division. In this role he will spearhead the state's work to grow the tourism industry in Georgia.

"Kevin has been an integral member of our department for many years. His economic development background, deep knowledge of tourism and understanding of our state's assets for visitors make him the ideal leader for this division," said GDEcD Commissioner Ken Stewart. "I look forward to working closely with him as we continue to establish Georgia as a premier travel destination."

Mr. Langston has served as Assistant Commissioner for the tourism division since May 2007, returning to the division after serving as Director of International Operations and Director of Projects, managing the state's offices in ten locations around the world. He has previously served as Assistant Deputy Commissioner for the tourism division, where he oversaw marketing, sales and product development initiatives. Other positions at the agency have included Director of Communications and a number of roles in the department's International Trade Division.

Originally from northeast Missouri, Mr. Langston graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Kansas State University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Georgia State University. He is board member of Travel South USA and chair of its International Committee as well as a member of the National Council of State Tourism Directors and the Georgia Economic Developers Association. Mr. Langston is a Certified Economic Development Finance Professional (CEDFP) and serves with numerous other industry and civic organizations.

Mr. Langston's new role will take effect December 1 upon the retirement of Charlie Gatlin, current Deputy commissioner for Tourism and Marketing, who has served the state for 24 years. Mr. Gatlin began his career with the department as Director of Marketing in business recruitment, and has held many vital positions within the organization, including Projects Team Leader, Chief of Staff and Deputy Commissioner for business recruitment. Mr. Gatlin is also executive director of the Georgia Allies.

In addition, Greg Torre has been named Division Director of the Marketing and Communications division for the department. Mr. Torre will be responsible for the strategies, execution and results of GDEcD's marketing and communications initiatives, including the Global Georgia international marketing program, the Georgia Dream Pass, Georgia.org and exploregeorgia.org.

Mr. Torre's previous roles at GDEcD include Director of the Business Communications team for the Global Commerce division and Division Director for the agency's Small Business and Innovation team. Mr. Torre joined the agency in 1987 as a field representative with the Georgia Film, Video & Music Office. He was named director of the office in 1998. Mr. Torre is a member of several economic development associations, including the Technology Association of Georgia. He serves on the board of the Georgia Economic Developers Association.

The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) is the state's sales and marketing arm, the lead agency for attracting new business investment, encouraging the expansion of existing industry and small businesses, locating new markets for Georgia products, attracting tourists to Georgia, and promoting the state as a location for film, music and digital entertainment projects, as well as planning and mobilizing state resources for economic development. For more information, visit www.georgia.org.

Special delivery from



November 6, 2009

ABC Companies Partners with Operators to Support Motorcoach Council Initiative

Faribault, MN... ABC Companies is announcing their **Voluntary Opt-In Service Parts Program** designed to help support Motorcoach Council's industry wide marketing program.

ABC Companies is a founding partner of the Motorcoach Council whose mission is to promote public awareness about the availability, selection, usage and benefits of motorcoach transportation. The Council is an outgrowth of a grassroots effort begun in 2007. For more information, visit www.MotorcoachCouncil.org.

The Voluntary Opt-In Service Parts Program provides operators the option of contributing a percentage of their net parts purchase to the Council. This one-half percent (.005) service charge will help fund this campaign. ABC Companies will match operators' contributions up to \$25,000 annually. Operators can Opt-Out of the program at any time.

Simply click below to access and download the form and return it to Kimberli Martin via fax at 407-905-7051 if you wish to participate in this program.

Any questions can be directed to Kimberli Martin at 800-222-2871, ext. 77306.

ABC Companies is proud to offer their support and present this opportunity to operators to help promote motorcoach travel to consumers.

ABC Companies is a leading provider to the transportation industry with diverse product and service offerings that cover a full spectrum of operational needs including new and pre-owned full size highway coach equipment, mid-size shuttle transport vehicles, and advanced design heavy duty transit equipment. With six strategic sales locations in the U.S. and Canada, five service locations and three fully-stocked parts warehouses nationwide, along with a major Canadian-based parts distribution hub, ABC supports customers with a comprehensive after sale service network for service and repairs, collision services, extensive OEM and quality aftermarket parts needs for transit, motorcoach and heavy-duty equipment. Additionally, private and municipal financing and leasing options are available through the company's financial services group – one of the largest financial service providers within the industry. For more information, contact ABC Companies at 1-800-222-2875 or visit the company web site at www.abc-companies.com.

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TUPELO TO CELEBRATE ELVIS' 75TH BIRTHDAY

TUPELO, Miss. – The City of Tupelo has big plans to celebrate what would have been Elvis' 75th birthday in January, 2010. Several organizations in the birthplace of Elvis Presley are putting together events to honor Tupelo's most famous native son.

The celebration will begin Jan. 7, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. with the unveiling of artwork on the city sidewalks of Downtown Tupelo. 14, six-foot tall guitars that have been decorated by the schools of Tupelo will become part of the permanent cityscape of Downtown Tupelo. A partnership of the Downtown Tupelo/Main Street Association and the Tupelo Public School District, the art project is a way for the city to recognize the influence of Elvis' art on the town's pop culture. Funding for the art project is being made possible by the Elaine Dundy & Roy Turner Endowment for the Arts.

The festivities continue the night of Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lyric Theatre in Downtown Tupelo where a concert will honor the legendary entertainer. Also a product of the Downtown Tupelo/Main Street Association, which presents the annual Tupelo Elvis Festival, the concert will feature the 2009 Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Bill Cherry and the 2008 Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Brandon Bennett accompanied by the fantastic EAS Band. Tickets go on sale Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009, and can be purchased by calling 662-841-6598. General admission tickets are \$29 dollars with premium seating available for \$54 and front row seating for \$79. Premium and front-row seating tickets include a reception and entertainer "meet and greet" before the concert on Thursday night.

"Elvis is a major component in our program," said Debbie Brangenberg, executive director of the Downtown Tupelo/Main Street office. "We are happy to add the permanent art exhibit to our downtown and to present a concert event in celebration of his life and music."

The celebration continues on Jan. 8 at 10 a.m. at the Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau with a reception and unveiling of a special exhibit in the lobby of the CVB. One component of the exhibit on loan from Elvis Presley Enterprises, will be the first exhibit of its kind to be displayed in Tupelo through a partnership with Elvis Presley Enterprises, Inc.

The "Sparkle & Twang: Marty Stuart's American Musical Odyssey" exhibit will enjoy its official opening on Jan. 8 at 10 a.m. at the Tupelo Automobile Museum. The collection represents more than 50 years of classic musical greats and includes, among other things, costumes, hand-written lyrics, photographs, instruments and audio visual elements. Plans are also being developed for a book signing and a concert with Marty Stuart during this time. Details to be announced later.

The official birthplace "birthday party" will be held on Friday at the Elvis Presley Birthplace at 1:00 p.m. where you can expect cake and entertainment by Elvis historians on the grounds.

Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Miss. on Jan. 8, 1935 where he grew up around his extended family. In the thirteen years that Elvis spent in Tupelo, he was exposed to many different kinds of music that played an important role throughout his career. He was exposed to gospel music in his childhood church, discovered the blues on "the Hill" where his family lived for a while and in the Shake Rag community, both historically black communities, and he listened to country shows on the radio with his family during this time. Linda Johnson explained it best when she said, "The culture of Tupelo was instrumental to Elvis and the success that he had. Elvis is now instrumental to Tupelo and the success that we have. It's an honor to celebrate his birthday."

For more information on visiting Tupelo, www.tupelo.net.



Elvis 75th Birthday Celebration Tupelo, Mississippi

Thursday, January 7, 2010 – 2:00 p.m.

Downtown Art Project Unveiling

Join the presenters of the Tupelo Elvis Festival to unveil 14 six-foot guitars on the streets of Downtown Tupelo. The art project, homage to the musical legacy of Tupelo, will become a permanent part of the cityscape of Tupelo. Free event

Thursday, January 7, 2010 – 7:30 p.m.

Birthday Celebration Concert at the Lyric Theatre in Downtown Tupelo

Join the presenters of the Tupelo Elvis Festival to celebrate the birthday of Elvis Presley through musical tribute. Sponsored by the Downtown Tupelo/Main Street Association. Tickets available by calling 662-841-6598

Friday, January 8, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.

Unveiling of a special exhibit housed in the Welcome Center of the Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau. Join the Tupelo CVB to unveil a special exhibit of music memorabilia and enjoy live gospel music. Free event.

Friday, January 8, 2010 – 10 a.m.

Official opening of the Sparkle and Twang exhibit at the Tupelo Automobile Museum. The Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau will bring Marty Stuart's music memorabilia collection home to his birth state of Mississippi. The collection, named "Sparkle and Twang: Marty Stuart's American Musical Odyssey" is an homage to music legends like Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, George Jones, Bob Dylan and more and includes costumes, instruments, hand-written lyrics and personal mementos. Admission to the Tupelo Automobile Museum gains you entrance to the exhibit at no extra charge.

Friday, January 8, 2010 – 1:00 p.m.

Birthday Party at the Elvis Presley Birthplace

Celebrate Elvis' birthday "where it all began." Enjoy birthday cake with guests from around the world while reflecting on his humble beginnings in Tupelo. Free event.

UNWRAP THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT IN CHATTANOOGA, TN AND GET READY FOR SOME WHIMSICAL FUN!



Chattanooga, Tenn. (2009) – There are numerous reasons to break away from the holiday crowds, cold weather and the stress of entertaining – especially when it means you can share more quality time with your family and friends. Escape from all the work of preparing for the holidays and relax while Chattanooga rolls out the red carpet just for you.

Capture the warmth of the holiday spirit downtown while singing Christmas carols on a river cruise; building gingerbread houses; catching the high tide on a tropical adventure with coral reef Santa divers, surfin' penguins and exotic wildlife; watching the holiday starlight parade or sleeping in a converted traincar. Then just minutes away, bundle up for an amazing evening on Lookout Mountain in a nocturnal fantasyland with nearly one million star-bright twinkling lights illuminating the sky; deep below the mountain at an enchanting underground waterfall or just 15 minutes from downtown, hop on board the train for a North Pole adventure!

The Scenic City's magic unfolds with elegant décor, music and special events for making your holiday memories more joyful than ever before!

TOP TEN HOLIDAY ADVENTURES

During the holiday season, take time to clear the mind and relieve the spirit. Chattanooga's attractions offer wonderful holiday activities for every member of the family.



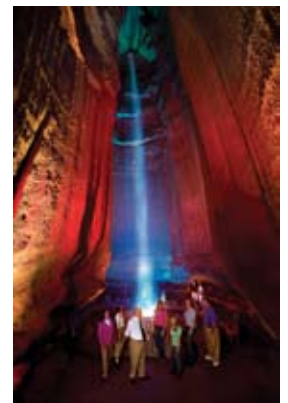
Rock City Garden's Enchanted Garden of Lights/ Nov. 20, 2009-Jan. 2, 2010, nightly 6-9 p.m. – Enjoy nearly a million lights that transform the gardens' daytime splendor to a nighttime fantasyland along the enchanted trail. Enjoy cookie decorating, hot cocoa and nightly musical entertainment. www.seerockcity.com



Tennessee Aquarium's Tropical Holiday Adventure & IMAX 3D Film/Nov. 20, 2009-Jan. 3, 2010 – Bask in balmy temperatures and explore exotic wildlife during the tropical holiday adventure with narrated daily dive shows, animal feedings, butterfly releases and much more. At the IMAX 3D Theater, experience the wonder & delight of The Polar Express. www.tennesseeaquarium.com

Ruby Falls' Deck the Falls/Nov. 20, 2009- Jan. 2, 2010 & Ruby Red Christmas/ Fri. & Sat. nights, Dec. 2009

The 145-foot waterfall has been magically transformed for the season with an array of enchanting lights and sound effects. Also enjoy a Currier & Ives old style holiday with indoor snow, wonderful turn of the century time period characters and holiday acoustical music. www.rubyfalls.com





TN Valley Railroad's North Pole Limited Adventures/Nov. 20-Dec. 21, 2009 – Take a trip to the “North Pole” pulled by a steam locomotive with refreshments, storytelling, caroling, visits by Santa Claus and other surprises! www.tvrail.com

Southern Belle Riverboat's Christmas Carol Dinner Cruises/Nov. 27-Dec. 19, 2009– Enjoy delicious prime rib and shrimp Creole and then join the singing deckhands for a special selection of Christmas carols, live entertainment, dancing and a visit from the man in the big red suit! www.chattanoogariverboat.com

Creative Discovery Museum's Gingerbread Workshops/Nov.-Dec. 2009 & Helping Hands Exhibit/Nov. 21, 2009-Jan.3, 2010 – Create a new holiday tradition by constructing a delicious gingerbread house masterpiece as a family or learn how the choices we make affect the world around us through photos & activities in the Helping Hands exhibit. www.cdmfun.org



Chattanooga Choo Choo Holiday Packages/Nov.-Dec. 2009 – Packages include rooms in sleeper train cars, a ride on the North Pole Limited Train, the Elf Workshop, Elf Tuck-In Service for the little ones, a visit from Santa, commemorative holiday ornament and attraction tickets. www.choochoo.com

Winter Days and Lights, downtown Chattanooga/Nov. 27-Dec. 11, 2009 – The Winter Days and Lights holiday season features holiday activities that include. The Grande Illumination on the River, Chattanooga Riverfront, Nov. 27; Breakfast with Santa, Chattanooga Hotel, Nov. 28; Holiday Starlight Parade, Downtown, Dec. 5; Appalachian Christmas, Miller Plaza, Dec. 11. www.downtownchattanooga.org



Chattanooga Market's Holiday Market, First Tennessee Pavilion/Nov. 29, Dec. 5-6, 2009 – The Chattanooga Market, an open-air market, offers a special holiday theme with live music and over 100 vendors selling unique, locally hand-made items perfect for your holiday gifts. www.chattanooga market.com

NCAA Division I Football Championship, Finley Stadium/Friday, Dec. 18, 2009 – Gear up for another great football championship with pre-game activities, tailgating, entertainment, food, fireworks and more. This is a great place to spend some quality time with your friends and family. www.div1fbchampionship.com

FOR A FULL LIST OF CHATTANOOGA'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY EVENTS, PRINTABLE COUPONS, HOTEL PACKAGES, COMBO ATTRACTION TICKETS AND MORE, VISIT WWW.WINTER.CHATTANOOGAFUN.COM





**AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION
NAMES ROCK CITY'S
ENCHANTED GARDEN
OF LIGHTS ONE OF
NORTH AMERICA'S 100 BEST
EVENTS FOR 2010**

CHATTANOOGA, TN - The American Bus Association (ABA) recently announced that Rock City's Enchanted Garden of Lights opening November 20, 2009 – January 2, 2010 has been designated as one of the Top 100 Events in North America for 2010 by an elite tourism industry selection committee. Inclusion in the Top 100 list indicates that The Enchanted Garden of Lights offers excellent entertainment value to tour groups, said ABA.

“We are honored by the recognition of the Enchanted Garden of Lights as a TOP 100 EVENT for ABA and the general tourism industry. We love to deliver a high quality, unique experience to tour groups from across the nation. Come see the beauty of the Enchanted Garden of Lights!” said Andrew Kean, President of See Rock City, Inc.

With the release of the ABA's 2010 Top 100 Events in North America, ABA celebrates 28 years of the Top 100 Events. What began as a way for motorcoach operators to incorporate new product into their itineraries has grown to one of the most sought-after lists by travel professionals, motorcoach operators and the general public.

ABA's 2010 Top 100 Events Selection Committee selected Rock City's Enchanted Garden of Lights from among hundreds of U.S. and Canadian events nominated by state and provincial tourism offices and convention and visitors bureaus. Judges considered the event's broad appeal, its accessibility to motorcoaches and skill at handling large groups, and a variety of other relevant criteria. The Top 100 Events list is available online at www.buses.org.

**For more information on the
2010 Rock City's
Enchanted Garden of Lights go online to
[http://seerockcity.com/pages/Enchanted-Garden-
of-Lights/](http://seerockcity.com/pages/Enchanted-Garden-of-Lights/)
2011 DATES are:
November 18, 2011 – December 31, 2011.**

**For more 2010 Chattanooga Holiday
events go: [http://winter.chattanooga.com/
adventures/](http://winter.chattanooga.com/adventures/)**



New Year's Eve 2010

December 31, 2009 | 8:00pm | General Morgan Inn



Heavy Hors d'Ouevres
Cash Bar & Party Favors
New Year's 12 o'clock Toast
Midnight Breakfast Buffet | Live Music & Dancing

Featuring **SuperGlide**

\$199 per couple | plus tax
Tickets On Sale Now

Stay Where You Play Thunderbolt Rate
only \$95 plus tax

*General
Morgan Inn*

423-787-1000 | www.generalmorganinn.com