



## History and Rededication of Jefferson Masonic Temple

Bruce Barnes, Editor

[NOTE: Much of the historical information contained within this article is courtesy of research done by Brother Eric Diamond of Oriental Lodge #33, AF&AM in Chicago. Brother Diamond is the webmaster of Oriental's website at [www.oriental33.org](http://www.oriental33.org)]

On Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 2005, the Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce sponsored a presentation on the history of Jefferson Masonic Temple attended by more than 140 Masons, family members, friends and residents of the Jefferson Park

neighborhood. Coordinated by both the Chamber and King Oscar Lodge #855, the afternoon began in the dining room with a display of old photographs and original blueprints, and an introduction by the Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce. The building was open for self-guided tours and the formal program for the afternoon began about 1:00 PM. After a welcome by the Chamber, and the introduction of Brother Eric Diamond of Oriental Lodge #33, AF&AM of Chicago, everyone moved up to the Lodge where he gave a presentation about the history of the building and took questions about both the building and Freemasonry in general.

### Some Lodge, and Building, History

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## Letter from the East

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We are pleased to bring you the July 2005 issue of *"The Hesperian"*. As you will read in this issue, our own Jefferson Masonic Temple has been refurbished and, with the help of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, rededicated. I would like to invite any our Brothers, family members and friends to visit on any meeting night and see the substantial improvements and changes.

Although the stairs in the Lodge may be an obstacle to some of our Brethren, there is hope in site. As part of the remodeling of the building, Hesperians have already committed to contributing to the King Oscar Elevator Fund — keeping the funds on deposit at our bank to earn interest — until pledges from the other Lodges who use the building are received. Any Brother who wishes to make a personal donation, in *any* amount, will have their name added to a plaque by the elevator. Make your checks out to *King Oscar Elevator Fund* and either send them to us, or bring them to any meeting. *More in the Lodge History article.*

I am always delighted when Lodge Brothers participate in outside events. In this issue is an article about Alma Montejano, Hesperia's sponsored child's birthday party. Alma was very happy to finally meet the men who are helping to nurture her and doing so much to provide for her upbringing, and education.

Unfortunately, the 6th Northeastern District picnic has been cancelled, but the 5th Northeastern district has invited Hesperians to Bunker Hill forest preserve to enjoy theirs on Sunday June 24th — 10:00 AM on. Bring a salad or other dish.

As you are aware, during July and August we traditionally have only one meeting, on the 2nd Thursday of those months. As a substitute to the 2nd meeting during July, you are invited to a BBQ at The Renslow Family home on Thursday, July 28th, beginning at 7:00 PM. Watch your mailbox for more details.

This fall I would like to encourage our Brethren to come to Lodge early on the evening of Thursday, September 8th at 5:00 PM. Brothers who have not been to Lodge recently can see the newly remodeled facility, and play cards or checkers; I do not know how to play cards so maybe one of you can teach me. If there are seven or more Brothers available, I would like to use their experience to open Lodge early and then pause for refreshment at 6:30 pm. Those who wish to return home before sunset would be free to do so. We will resume Lodge with those Brothers in attendance after dinner.

Finally, Brethren, Hesperians accomplished something we've never done before — we made it into the second round of the Erika Challenge! My compliments, and a hearty thank you, to all the Brothers who participated in both rounds for their participation. It could only be done with your assistance.

Fraternally,  
Worship Master Richard Elia, Hesperia Lodge #411, AF&AM

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## Sponsored Child's Birthday Party

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On Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, ten Brothers from Hesperia Lodge #411, AF&AM of Chicago carpoled to the Masonic Children's Home in LaGrange Illinois to celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> birthday of our sponsored child, Alma Montejano. Because no birthday party is complete without the inclusion of friends, we asked Alma's House Mother to extend an invitation to all of the other children at the Home as well, and supplied enough pizza, salad and soda for everyone.

We arrived to find approximately 30 anxious kids, ranging in age from 4 to 17, waiting for us in the dining room. Worshipful Master Richard Elia presented Alma with a framed photograph of Hesperia's Officers, taken at their installation, and, after introductions and a pre-meal prayer, we all got down to the business of

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Hesperia's Sponsored Child, Alma Montejano, lights the candles on her birthday cake at the party sponsored by Hesperia Lodge #411 on Sunday, May 15, 2005. It was her 15th birthday!

Photo Courtesy of Rick Tamen

*(Sponsored Child's Birthday Party—Continued from page 3)*

consuming almost 2 dozen pizzas, several gallons of soda-pop and a miniscule amount of salad. What none of us knew before our arrival was that Alma's cousin, Maria is also a resident at the Children's Home and it was her birthday as well!

After dinner, as Alma and Maria put candles on their respective birthday cakes, one of Hesperia's newest Master Masons, Brother Ralph Kipness, co-owner of the National Marionette Company of Chicago, gathered everyone up in a semi-circle at one end of the room and opened a very special trunk . Inside the trunk



Marionette Lessons, given by Brother Ralph Kipness. You're never too young to learn how to make a clown toss a baton!  
Photo Courtesy of Rick Tamen

*(Sponsored Child's Birthday Party, Continued from page 4)*

were several clowns, a ballerina, dragon and Pinocchio, all of whom joined Brother Kipness in providing entertainment for everyone as we consumed cake and ice cream. When Brother Kipness asked for an assistant, nearly everyone in the room raised their hands. Several children were able to get their first lesson in how to manipulate the airplane control and the strings that control the marionettes and allow them to walk, turn their heads, and, in the case of one of the clowns, control the clown's ability to toss a baton.

More than two hours after our arrival, both the children and Brethren of Hesperia posed for a group picture. After assisting in the clean-up of the dining area, everyone scattered to enjoy a couple more hours of playtime before getting ready for bed and school on Monday morning. Prior to our leaving, Alma gave those of us who were interested a tour of her cottage and thanked us for both her birthday present and the afternoon of fun and fellowship.



Young and Old Have Fun Together! Kids and members of Hesperia who were still there after cleanup pose in the Dining Hall at the Masonic Children's Home in LaGrange with Alma,  
Photo Courtesy of House Mothers at the Masonic Children's Home

## Follow-up: Toys for Iraq



**An Iraqi soldier, assigned to the 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Division of the Iraqi Army, hands out a new pair of shoes to an Iraqi girl during a joint patrol with US soldiers assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry Regiment, May 19, 2005, near Balad, Iraq.**  
U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel W. Bailey

Hesperian's were among the many groups and individuals who sent boxes of toys, clothing and supplies to our troops in Iraq. After seeing the article that appeared in last month's Hesperia, many people donated things on their own as well. Here's a thank you note received from Sgt Brad Lyga, son-in-law of Past Master David Grooms. [see *The Hesperian*, Vol 70 No 2 — April, 2005]

*"These items are some of what was donated by all of you. It was a very nice experience considering how thankful the people were and how needed the items are. I still have items left and have been taking pictures so I'll share more, but thought it was nice that this article made it to the press. Again, thank you all for your support.. Brad"*

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Brad's wife, Tracy, went on to say: *"The following list is not complete I am sure, but I wanted to make sure all of you knew about the items that were sent to Brad..*

*The Behavioral Health Dept and Information Systems Dept at Gund-Luth held a shoe drive that brought in over a hundred pairs of shoes and enough money to send them as well as buy more with the excess money, many friends and family contributed to this as well, every bit was so appreciated.*

*The IS dept has done so much it would take a whole separate email to list it, but they have sent Brad personal items, as well as school supplies, participated in the shoe drive and even put a picture of his face on a golf cart during the muddy flats open. We will never be able to thank this group of people enough, you are truly amazing coworkers and friends.*

*Girl Scout Troops in Viroqua [WI], held a school supply drive, and sent four boxes packed with stuff for the kids in Iraq. A very large article about the drive appeared in our local paper and made them celebrities for a week, they loved doing it. Thanks, Sherry, for organizing this and submitting the article to the paper. Our girls learned a valuable lesson about the children of this country and how they can contribute to helping others less fortunate than them.*

*The Masonic Lodge in Chicago, to which my step-father is attached, did a fundraiser and sent literally hundreds of small toys / candy, etc, to be passed out to the children. Thanks, guys, for organizing this and for all the hard work you put into it — it means so much.*

*The church [in which] we were married at has adopted Brad and sent him numerous items as well as letters, etc. This has meant so much to him, as has every letter, box, email, etc, from all of you.*

*If I missed something or someone, I am sorry, the generosity and support you have all shown is humbling. I hope you know that your acts of kindness are making a difference in someone's life in Iraq. Tracey.*

The donations and efforts made news in *Defend America*, a publication of the US Department of Defense. For more information, see the online article at:  
<http://www.defendamerica.mil/articles/june2005/a0627051a1.html>

EDITOR'S NOTE: Shortly after receiving the note from Brad, his unit was attacked. One of his troops was killed and two were injured. In order to prevent the rest of the unit from becoming "gun-shy," the Army sent them right back out on another assignment and Tracy is anxiously waiting for another update. I know I speak for everyone in our Lodge, and all of our families, when I say that both Brad, all of the men in his unit, his wife Tracy and everyone else serving in Iraq is in our thoughts and prayers. As we hear more about the status of Brad and his troops, we'll post that information on the Hesperia website at [Hesperia411.org](http://Hesperia411.org).

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# The Fates of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence

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Compiled by Bruce Barnes

Most of us think the Declaration of Independence was signed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. That's not actually true. Rather than doing the research on this topic myself, I'm going to defer to the personal writings of my good friend and Brother, Harry S Truman.

While I'm certainly old enough to have known Brother Truman (he died in 1972), I never actually met or spoke with him. I have, however, been reading many of his writings and books written about him, by both his Daughter, Margaret, and other writers lately, and consider those writings to be nearly as good as having met him personally .

Here's a quote from "*Where the Buck Stops – the Personal and Private Writings of Harry S Truman*"

"Congress finally adopted a resolution for independence on July 2 and the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4 – though not signed on that day as a lot of people seem to think. The official date for the signing of the Declaration of Independence was August 2; forty-nine delegates signed on that date, and six others weren't present and signed afterwards. Not everybody signed it, however. Robert R Livingston, for example, never did, even though he was on that committee."

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

- Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.
- Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.
- Two lost their sons [while they were] serving in the Revolutionary Army.
- Another had two sons captured.
- Nine of the 56 fought, and died, from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed the Declaration, pledging their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they?

**"We didn't fight just the British. We were all British subjects at that time and we fought our own government!"**

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated.

But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

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- Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

- Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

- Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

- At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

- Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, who died within a few months.

- John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

- Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.



Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were educated men of means. They had security, but they valued liberty more.

Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

The original signers gave each of us a free and independent America. Most of the history books we read in school never went into depth about what really happened during the Revolutionary War.

One thing is clear, however, we didn't fight just the British. We were all British subjects at that time and we fought our own government!

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## Between The Ashlars

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Bro Joseph Laiacona

In all regularly constituted Lodges of Master Masons, the Master of the Lodge sits between two Ashlars: on his right is the rough Ashlar, on his left, the perfect.

Albert Pike, in *Morals and Dogma*,

whether the Ashlars signify individual growth or communal improvement, they do remind us of our acceptance of the need for more light, that we begin as rough men who intend to improve ourselves by the instructions written by the Grand Architect, namely that ideal found in our hearts.

Pike goes on to note his interpretation:



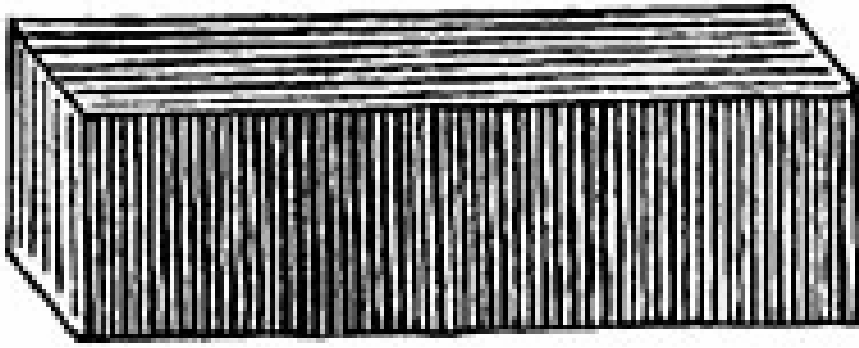
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writes: "You will hear shortly of the Rough Ashlar and the Perfect Ashlar, as part of the jewels of the Lodge. The rough Ashlar is said to be 'a stone, as taken from the quarry, in its rude and natural state.' The perfect Ashlar is said to be 'a stone made ready by the hands of the workmen, to be adjusted by the working-tools of the Fellow-Craft.' They are declared [in the York Rite] to allude to the self-improvement of the individual craftsman, -- a continuation of the same superficial interpretation." (*Morals and Dogma*, page 5.)

As Brother Pike alludes to here, there are multiple layers to the various elements found in a Lodge, as well as differing opinions as to what they represent. Still,

"The rough Ashlar is the people, as a mass, rude, and unorganized. The perfect Ashlar, or cubical stone, symbol of perfection, is the state, the ruler deriving their powers from the consent of the governed; the constitution and laws speaking the will of the people; the government harmonious, symmetrical, efficient, -- its powers properly distributed and duly adjusted in equilibrium." (*ibid.*)

None of us were present when the first rough and finished stones were hauled into a lodge and set as reminders and symbols of our Masonic growth. Likewise we can't read the minds of the Masonic forebears to ascertain what they were thinking when they did



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it. We are free, then, to use the symbols as an aid in whatever way we find helpful.

**'None of us were present when the first rough and finished stones were hauled into a lodge and set as reminders and symbols of our Masonic growth . . . We are free, then, to use the symbols as an aid in whatever way we find helpful.'**

I have noticed, for instance, that the Master of the Lodge sits (relatively speaking) between the Ashlars. This position gives us the idea that even the master is on the path from rough to finished. If he, then, how much more the rest of us?

The Ashlars also offer an interesting idea about this growth. How does one move from rough to finished? Only by being cut, chiseled, planed, sanded, and polished — none of which are very pleasant processes.

Yet a finishing process it is. There's nothing gentle, nothing quick, and probably nothing painless about it. It is an abrasive process, to be sure. After all, it raises dust, sparks fly, pieces of rock leap dangerously about. Sanding and polishing, too, require hard muscle power, or at least they did before the days of Craftsman tools.

Do you find that brother bothersome? Is he abrasive? Is life chipping away at you? Do you feel like pieces of yourself are falling away?

"Step by step men must advance toward perfection; and each Masonic Degree is meant to be one of those steps." (Pike, p. 126).

When life, then, wears at you, when the sandpaper of ill rubs you the wrong way, when you find yourself being chipped away, turn your mind to the Ashlars and hold on to the knowledge that even under the most difficult chisel and mallet, we are guided by the Grand Architect, whose notes written on the trestle board of our hearts will form us into that perfect temple.

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## Community Builder's Award Goes to Lori Cannon of Vital Bridges

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Each year our Lodge is given the privilege of selecting an organization or individual who has done exceptional work for the Community in which they are located. Suggestions are solicited from all members present at the meeting when the decision is made. As part of that process, members of the Lodge must look back on those we have already honored, and forward to find projects and community involvement ideas that are fresh and will provide the Brethren of the Lodge with both a new challenge and a new experience.

In 2004, the oversight of the selection process for the Community Builder's Award fell to Brother Paul Laws. Brother Laws decided to explore the possibility of doing both Community work and fundraising for Vital Bridges — originally Open Hand, an organization that provides both meals-on-wheels and a grocery store type of environment for People with AIDS (PWAs).

During the discussion of the Vital Bridges fundraising project, the Brethren of Hesperia Lodge #411 quickly realized that Hesperia's efforts to collect both food, in the form of a food drive, to collect donations and to provide hands-on assistance in the form of a group of Brethren going to Vital

Bridges grocery store, Groceryland, would be greatly enhanced if Hesperians could invoke the assistance of other Lodges within the 6th North-eastern District of Illinois. After the usual discussion that is so aptly available for such a project we voted to present the idea to both the other Lodges of the 6th Northern District and the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

Brother Secretary Ron Ehemann then wrote to the Grand Lodge of Illinois asking for their blessing on the project, the approval was received, and Hesperia Lodge #411, together with King Oscar Lodge #855, Northwest Lodge #271 and Paul Revere Lodge #998 began the process of collecting both canned food and dry goods for the Groceryland store at Vital Bridges.

On Saturday, July 17th, 2004, Brethren and Friends, of both Hesperia and the other Lodges involved in this benefit for Vital Bridges, met at the Groceryland facility to assist in the operations of the store for the day. We greeted, selected grocery items, packed bags, assisted those who were shopping in various ways and helped in every possible way. But our involvement didn't end there . . .

Hesperian's decided to continue to collect food and monies for Vital Bridges and sent a check, in the amount of \$200.00, authorized at our September, 2004 meeting.

This year, when it came time to select a recipient for our Community

Builder's Award, Hesperians decided that we wanted to Honor Lori Cannon, one of the founders of Open Hand — now Vital Bridges, as a way of continuing our support of Groceryland. Here's a little of Cannon's history . . .

Back when Lori Cannon was working as a bus driver for Winkle Transportation, she gained a reputation as "Driver to the Stars". In that roll, she was assigned to chauffeur a number of national touring companies and suddenly found herself driving for the chorus of Chorus Line. It was during that time she found herself becoming friends with so many of the gay men involved in the Theatre Community.

As AIDS started to impact the Gay Community in Chicago, Lori found herself looking for ways to help. Some of her earliest volunteer work was with Chicago House, a residence for people with AIDS who are unable to take care of themselves. Calling upon her strong maternal instincts, an irreverent sense of humor, and an inexhaustible source of energy, Cannon soon found herself doing shopping, laundry and providing personal care for those who were no longer able to do for themselves.

She became the regular overseer of the weekly "family meals" at the Chicago House residence, planning and coordinated the Thursday night meals at which both residents and staff members of Chicago House sat down to dine together,. She also coordinated friends to provide other ser-



***Lori Cannon of Groceryland unpacks one of the hundreds of boxes of food received each week.***

vices required by the residents. From time-to-time she would also plan outings and borrow a school bus to provide transportation. Whenever there was a large public gathering and a big yellow school bus parked nearby, you could be certain that Lori Cannon was somewhere in the vicinity.

In 1997, when Lori found out that the newly formed Chicago chapter of the Names Project was planning to bring a display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt to the old sheds on Navy Pier during the summer of 1998, Lori volunteered to be

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***WM Richard Elia with Lori Cannon of Groceryland / Vital  
Bridges — Photo by Bro Justin Torres***

*(Community Builder's Award — Continued from page 13)*

on the Steering Committee and coordinated both Media and Public Relations activities. She continued her work with the Names Project, and performed the same responsibilities in 1990 for a display at McCormick Place in Chicago and also volunteered to work with the National displays in Washington DC in 1989, 1992 and 1996.

Throughout her career as an activist and supporter of the AIDS and HIV Community in Chicago, Lori assisted her friends Paul Adams and Danny Sotomayor and in the formation of ACT-UP Chicago; worked with James Monroe Smith to form AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, helped with the 1993 Chicago March on Washington Committee, and helped to elect Tom Chiola as the first openly gay judge in the City of Chicago. For the last 17 years, Cannon has been working tirelessly with what is now known as Vital Bridges, formerly Open Hand, at Groceryland, to provide food and nutrition to men and women throughout the Chicago area who are living with AIDS and HIV. Congratulations Lori and Groceryland!

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The Jefferson Masonic Temple building came about because Wiley Egan Lodge, #593, the first lodge in Jefferson Township, couldn't find a permanent home. Shortly after the Great Chicago Fire, in 1872, Wylee Eagan, like so many other lodges in Chicago, fell upon hard times and went under. During the year after the Chicago Fire, most of the City's residents were concentrating on rebuilding homes and businesses that had been lost in the fire, and involvement in Freemasonry, like many other elective activities, took a back seat to the work of rebuilding the City.

By 1873, much of the rebuilding effort was completed, those Freemasons involved in rebuilding Chicago after the fire once again had time to devote to Freemasonry, and Providence Lodge #711 was formed in Jefferson Park. The new lodge was named Providence Lodge because the first Master of the Lodge saw the charter as an "act of providence".

Their first meeting space was above Rubin's Blacksmith Shop at 4826 N Milwaukee Ave. In 1898, the Brethren of Providence Lodge began entertaining discussions about building their own Lodge Hall on a 50 foot wide lot they owned at 4902 N Milwaukee Avenue, but quickly realized they had neither the financial means nor the momentum to raise the amount of money required to erect a new building at that time.

In 1899, they moved the Lodge to Johnson Hall, on the Southwest cor-

ner of Milwaukee and Lawrence avenues. About the same time as their move, the trolley lines were extended into Jefferson Township, and the area began to grow, substantially, mostly because of the large immigrant population now moving into the area.

Because of the extension of the trolley service, the Township was growing so quickly that the Lodge kept being evicted from the spaces they were renting — evicted because the owners of the buildings they were renting from realized they could turn those spaces into multiple apartments and make more money renting living space to the new residents of the area than they could by renting to the Lodge. By 1906 the Brethren of Providence Lodge had moved so many times they were disgusted with the work required to move from location to location so frequently.

Looking back on their previous plans to build a building, they formed an association, but quickly realized the cost of a new building would deplete their resources, and they would not have enough money to either furnish or maintain the building once it was completed. Good fiduciary judgment prevailed, and the Brethren of Provident Lodge put their plans for a new building on hold, signing a new five year lease at 4015 North Milwaukee, a lease that would give the Lodge

**The cornerstone  
was laid on  
September 13,  
1912 and the  
building was  
completed by  
January 4<sup>th</sup> 1913**

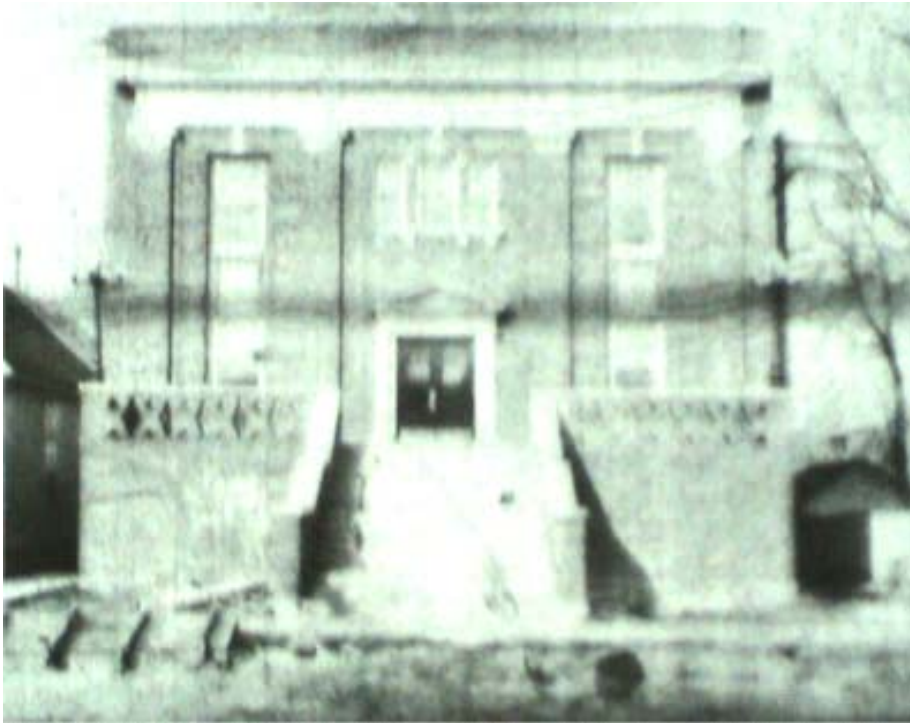
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enough time, and stability, to make solid plans for their future.

In 1911 the association purchased the land at 5814 W Gale Street, the current

include things like running water and electricity. The cornerstone was laid on September 13, 1912 and the building was completed by January 4<sup>th</sup> of 1913, when the newly erected lodge building was dedicated. The first Mason to be raised in the newly constructed temple



**Jefferson Masonic Lodge as it appeared in a photo taken at the completion of the construction in 1913. Notice that the sidewalks have not yet been poured. Photographer unknown. From the collection of the Jefferson Temple Association.**

site of Jefferson Masonic Temple for \$625.00 and contracted to build the existing building for \$17,755. That was actually the second bid for the cost of erecting the building. The first bid was closer to \$15,000, but probably did not

building was Albert Brown, raised on January 18<sup>th</sup> of 1913.

Between January of 1913 and 1929, the

*(Continued on page 17)*

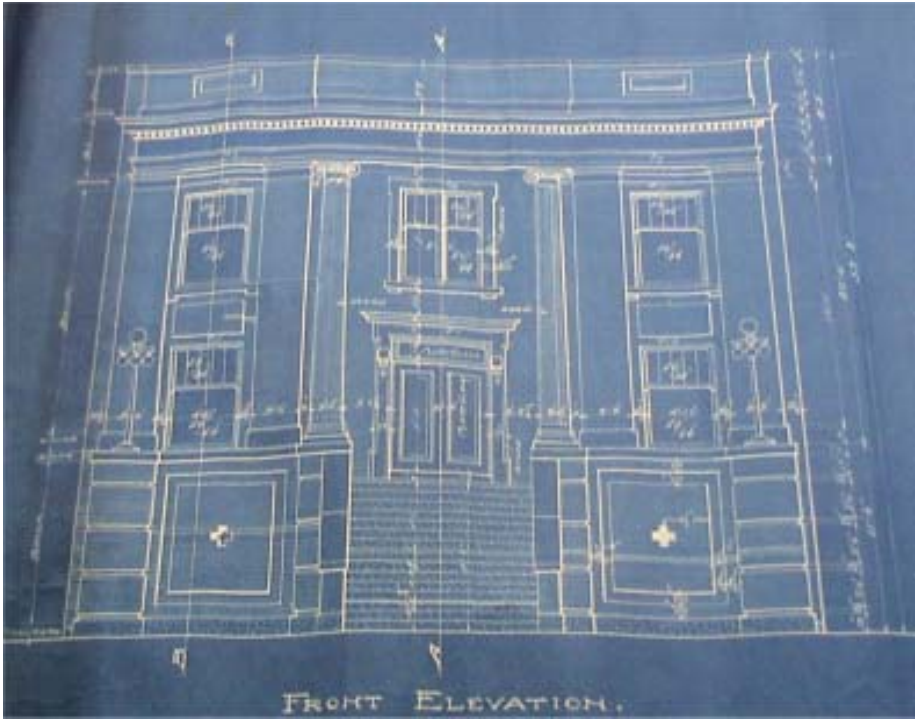


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*(History and Rededication — Continued from page 16)*

membership of Providence Lodge grew from 262 to 796 members – proving the importance of having a regular meeting space, large enough accommodate the members of the Lodge! Providence Lodge merged with King Oscar Lodge #855 on August 11, 2003.

Jefferson Masonic Temple will soon be 93 years old, and is one of only three Ma-



sonic owned buildings left within the City of Chicago. The other two are the Scottish Rite Cathedral, and an older, not too well cared for building on Chicago's south side. The membership of the Scottish Rite has recently authorized the sale of the Cathedral, and, as such, that makes Jefferson Masonic Temple an extremely important Masonic property, of historical significance to Masons. The property and building are now owned by the Jefferson Masonic Temple Association, headed by King Oscar Lodge #855.

## **Refurbishing the Temple Building**

For the last year, the Jefferson Masonic Temple Association, under the direction of MW Russell Johnson, PGM and Secretary of King Oscar Lodge #855, has invested a

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great deal of time, and money, doing much needed repair and maintenance work to this grand old building so many of us call home to our Lodges. Much of the work has been performed by a steady stream of volunteers who have graciously given up their weekends for the betterment of a worthy Chicago home to Freemasonry.

The first area to be completed was the dining area. The interior walls, and old ceiling were removed and replaced in their entirety; new electrical and lighting fixtures installed, and some of the smaller storage areas relocated out of the dining room area to create more usable space. The old pipe style columns were covered by Greek columns, a new ceiling and sound system installed, new counters replaced the old and a new seating area and display case were added. A cloak room was also added and a built-in reception desk has been permanently installed immediately outside the doorway to the stairs that lead to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.



*Redecorated Lodge Hall.* Photo: Temple Association Archive

The inefficient boiler and radiators, used to heat the building since day one, have been replaced by several new high-efficiency, forced-air heating and air-conditioning, each having individual programmable digital thermostats, which can be used to control the temperature of each of the various public and meeting spaces throughout the facility, and all of the drafty old windows have been replaced by energy efficient thermo-pane.

The main Lodge has been updated as well. The old carpeting was removed and replaced by a new black and blue checkerboard patterned carpet with distinct

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## **Richard D Johnson School for Masonic Instruction**

**Gale Street Masonic Temple., 5418 Gale St, Chicago**

**7:30PM to 9:30PM on the Second and Fourth Mondays**

**a schedule of meetings is posted at [www.Hesperia411.org](http://www.Hesperia411.org)**

***e-mail: [rick.taman@e-masons.us](mailto:rick.taman@e-masons.us)***

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marching lines and a beautiful gold star centered directly under the altar. Both the chairs lining either side of the Lodge, as well as those used by the officers, have all been reupholstered and the folding chairs placed in storage, only being brought out as required and the wainscoting behind the chairs has been sponged with blue paint, the same color as the carpet on the floor.

On the outside of the building, the grass that used be so prevalent next to the walkway to the side entrance has been replaced by a brick patio and a new aluminum flagpole installed. Alongside the building, next to the parking lot, previously used by the Chicago Police Department, a new wrought-iron fence was installed, to protect the air-conditioning compressors and prevent vandalism to the side of the building and windows, and a fresh bed of white stone laid down.

In order to bring the building into ADA compliance, and make the journey from one floor to another easier for the Brethren and guests of the various lodges that meet in the building, the Temple Association has received a bid for an elevator that will run between the dining room level and the Lodge Hall level of the building. The elevator will be installed once all of the required funds have been raised. Hesperians, as a Lodge, have already pledged a total of \$6,500.00 to the elevator fund, to be held in our interest bearing account until the remainder of the total cost has been pledged. If you would like to make a personal contribution to the elevator fund, please make a check, in whatever amount you are com-



**New stained glass window, designed and created by Brother James Stephens of Hesperia Lodge #411, now installed in a seating area in**

fortable with, payable to *King Oscar #855 Elevator Fund*, and send it to Brother Secretary Ron Ehemann, or bring it to any meeting. As recognition for your donation, your name will appear on a plaque located near the elevator.

## **Lodge Rededication**

Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> was a very special day at Jefferson Masonic Temple. The day began with a pancake break-

*(Continued on page 20)*

*(History and Rededication — Continued from page 19)*

fast, raising money for the 6<sup>th</sup> Northeastern District, and then moved into a rededication of Jefferson Masonic Temple at 2:00 pm.



**MW Grand Master  
David W Miller**  
photo courtesy  
Grand Lodge Website

After an abbreviated public Lodge opening, overseen by WM Bruce A Polit, WM Polit of King Oscar #855, Senior Deacon Michael Fortunato informed The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois that King Oscar Lodge was ready for the Officers of the Grand Lodge to begin what was to be a once in a lifetime experience for most who were present. The processional entrance was preceded by four members of King Oscar who carried in a miniature, ceremonial model, of a lodge building to be used during the rededication ceremony. As was later explained by Most Worshipful Grand Master David Miller, the model of the lodge building is used to create a more comfortable and practical rededication ceremony – something well appreciated by all who were in attendance; considering the outside temperature was close to 100 degrees that afternoon.

Most Worshipful Master Miller made a brief welcoming statement and then turned the floor over to Worshipful Brother Joseph A Ward, Junior Steward of the Grand Lodge.

Brother Ward, described what a dedication consisted of stating: “In a dedication of a Masonic Hall, we reenact certain ancient ceremonies. These are ceremonies have been handed down to us and form a proud heritage from the days of the operative craft, in the Middle Ages, when they erected those noble structures and assorted cathedrals of Europe and the British Isles.” He went on to say, “Although the hall in which we are now assembled was constructed and dedicated many years ago, we have seen fit to meet on this historic occasion to rededicate to the high purposes of Freemasonry and, in so doing, to remind ourselves of those lawful principles and ideals to which we pledged ourselves when we became members of this ancient and honorable fraternity.”

After a short prayer to invoke the blessing of the Supreme Being, the Grand Lodge

*(Continued on page 21)*

Officers formed a single line on the North side of the Lodge, and proceeded to march around the ceremonial model of the Lodge building, stopping in a formation completely surrounding the model. Another prayer was given asking that the Lodge, and the work for which it is set apart, be “instrumental in promoting the range of peace on earth and good will among men.”

The actual rededication consisted of songs of praise to the Almighty, being both played and sung by, Grand Organist Thomas R Osborne Jr, as the Brethren of the Grand Lodge marched around the ceremonial model of the lodge building three additional times; once each before the pouring: first of corn, in the name of the Great Jehovah and dedicated to Freemasonry; then of wine, in the name of the Holy Saints John and rededicating the Hall to virtues; and finally of oil, in the name of the whole Fraternity, to rededicate this hall to Universal Benevolence; unto that model by the Most Worshipful Grand Master; and followed each time by the Grand Honor. That portion of the rededication process was then closed with another prayer, asking the Lord to “forgive our enemies... bless all of the Brethren, and to grant to each one gathered the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment and the oil of joy.”

The Grand Marshall was then called upon to make a proclamation, stating: “By order of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, I hereby proclaim that this Lodge in which we are standing has been rededicated to the purposes of Masonry as used in ancient form. All persons interested will take due notice and act accordingly.”

Upon the conclusion of the formal ceremonies, the Grand Master called upon the Right Worshipful Grand Orator, Brad Cole, to deliver the Grand Oration for the rededication of the Lodge, introductions of those Officers who participated in the rededication were made and the Grand Lodge Officers marched back out of the Lodge in procession.

Many who were present at the rededication stayed for a dinner of steak, chicken, salad, vegetables and dessert; cooked on a charcoal grille in front of the building, by Worshipful Master Richard Elia of Hesperia Lodge #411, and the left for home after a very long, but historical and worthwhile, day.

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**It must be remembered that there is nothing more difficult to plan, more doubtful of success, nor more dangerous to manage, than the creation of a new system. For the initiator has the enmity of all who would profit by the preservation of the old institutions and merely lukewarm defenders in those who would gain by the new ones.**

-- Niccolo Machiavelli, 1513

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## Masons Take to the Street (Fair)

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In an effort to bring more visibility to Freemasonry in the 6th Northeast District, Moshen Moderevski was able to convince King Oscar Lodge #855 to take a booth at the Jefferson Park Street Fair during the weekend of June 24 thru 26th. Calling upon volunteers from both the Lodges that met at Jefferson Masonic Temple, and other Lodges throughout the 6th Northeastern District, Moshi was able, with very short notice, to garner enough “Brother-Power” to man the booth on Friday and Saturday to educate those attending the festivities about the Ancient and Accepted Craft of Freemasonry.

Many men who visited the booth shared stories about family members who were, or had been, Masons, and, during the three-day event, Moshi and his volunteers handed out more than 100 petitions and countless brochures and other information. Congratulations, Brethren, on a job well done!



Moshi and some of his *Band of Masonic Brothers*, including District Deputy Grand Master Erlindo Derupe of the 6th Northeast District, at the Jefferson Park Street Fair on Saturday evening, June 25th 2005 .  
Photo by Bruce Barnes

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## Articles From The Past

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from *The Hesperian*  
Volume 1, No 8 — August, 1935

Freemasons, in affixing dates to their official documents, never make use of the Common Epoch or Vulgar Era, but have one peculiar to themselves, which, however, varies in different rites. Era and Epoch are synonymous.

Masons of the York, American and French rites,, i.e., the Masons of England, Scotland, France, Germany and

America date from the creation of the world, calling it “Anno Lucis,” which they abbreviate “A.L.” signifying “in the year of light.” Thus, to find the Ancient Craft date, add 4000 to the Vulgar Era. Thus A.D. 1935 becomes A.L. 5935. This they do, not because they believe Freemasonry to be co-eval with creation, but with a symbolic reference to the light of Masonry. (From information obtained by our Junior Steward, Fred A. Bode)

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Much of the history of our Lodges has been lost because it was never written down. If you are a long-time member of Hesperia and would like to record your history, we'd like you to volunteer to record your history onto tape. For more information, please contact Bruce Barnes, via e-mail at [Newsletter@Hesperia411.org](mailto:Newsletter@Hesperia411.org), or by calling 773.276.6303 or see the next *Hesperian*.

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## Newsletter Submissions

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Please consider sharing your thoughts, grievances or memories with your fellow Hesperians! Whether it's Masonic in nature, some Lodge or personal history from the past, your thoughts on Freemasonry in general, or something special from your life you'd like to tell us about, we're always looking for articles of interest for *The Hesperian*.

Articles can be any length but articles around 500 words usually work best. Don't forget to include pictures as well. If you can't scan a picture, contact us and we'll arrange to scan and return them to you. Newsletter items can be submitted as standard text files, Microsoft Word documents, e-mail messages, or in written form.

Send your articles to the newsletter editor, Brother Bruce Barnes, via e-mail, to [Newsletter@Hesperia411.org](mailto:Newsletter@Hesperia411.org) or to our Lodge Secretary, Brother Ron Ehemann, PM, e-mail: [RJE@RonEhemann.com](mailto:RJE@RonEhemann.com). Submissions can also be mailed to Hesperia Lodge #411, Attn: Newsletter Editor, %Ron Ehemann, Secretary, 4535 N Beacon St, Chicago IL 60640. We'd love to hear from you!

All newsletter submissions become the property of Hesperia Lodge #411, AF & AM. Credit will be given to the author of the article.

**T H E H E S P E R I A N**

Hesperia Lodge #411 A F & A M  
% Ron J Ehemann, Secretary  
4535 N Beacon St  
Chicago Illinois 60640

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**  
**Address Correction Requested**

**Hesperia** Lodge  
No. 411

## **2005 Trestleboard**

- August 11<sup>th</sup> Regularly Scheduled Meeting
- August 25<sup>th</sup> Picnic at Renslow Family House
- Sept 14<sup>th</sup> Regularly Scheduled Meeting
- Sept 18<sup>th</sup> October Newsletter Deadline
- Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> Regularly Scheduled Meeting
- Oct 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grand Lodge of Illinois
- Oct 18<sup>th</sup> Regularly Scheduled Meeting