The highlight of the Historic City of Jefferson’s year is the Annual Dinner meeting allowing members the opportunity to catch up on current organization activities and to enjoy socializing with old and new friends. This year promises to be especially enjoyable and informative. Plan to join your friends on Sunday evening.

THEME: Collaboration Makes It Happen
March 21 at the McClung Park Pavilion,
930 McClung Park Drive off Chestnut Street
4:30 PM—Social hour
5:15 PM - Invocation, Welcome, and Dinner
6:00 PM—HCJ Year in Review, Foundation Report, & Election of Officers
6:45 PM Keynote Speaker; Esley Hamilton

Argyle Catering Company will be catering the meal serving chicken cordon bleu and pork chops with salad and accompaniments. More details on the menu are available on our website as well as a registration form. The cost is $18 per individual, $20 for non-members, and $15 for TLP Society members.

Please note that anyone interested in collaborating with HCJ or learning more about preservation is welcome to attend.

We hope to see you there and please invite others in our community to hear this exciting speaker!

HCJ Annual Dinner Meeting Theme:
“Collaboration Makes It Happen”

You would not suspect the power behind mild-mannered Esley Hamilton, the keynote speaker for HCJ’s Annual Dinner Meeting. In a profile of Mr. Hamilton the St. Louis Post Dispatch says; “He has been known to change the course of highways - bending steel, if you will - by the force of his historical documentation.” Mr. Hamilton is a legend in St. Louis among preservationists. It is quite an honor that he has agreed to speak at our March 21 Annual Dinner Meeting. The title of his talk is “Visionaries and Ladies in Tennis Shoes: A History of Historic Preservation in Missouri and America.”

“The urge to preserve America’s heritage goes back two centuries, being parallel to and sometimes even ahead of similar efforts in Europe. Early debates about what to save and how to save it still shape our attitudes. Some preservation groups in Missouri have now passed their 50th anniversaries, so it is appropriate we revisit this history to see how these organizations became successful,” Esley said.

Esley Hamilton is preservation historian for St. Louis County Parks and Recreation and a lecturer in the Washington University College of Architecture.

This promises to be an interesting and inspirational talk. Invite others to come with you to hear this exciting speaker! For more information on Mr. Hamilton go to: http://www.pearyha.org/text/63-hamilton_esley.html

Visit our web site at www.historiccityofjefferson.org
Two HCJ Events You Don’t Want to Miss

Two of the biggest events of the year for HCJ are coming up soon—the Annual Meeting and the 2010 Homes Tour. Here are just a few reasons why I hope you will be part of both events:

Annual Meeting—March 21

- Our keynote speaker, Esley Hamilton, is a remarkable man who has done wonders in the St. Louis area when it comes to historic preservation. He has won much acclaim for his work and he will share some of his insights with us.

- Two of Jefferson City’s most colorful characters will emcee the event—our own Sam Bushman and the announcer who owns morning drive time, Warren Krech, from KWOS radio.

- Back by popular demand, we will serve wine again as we gather before dinner.

- Event organizer Lois Heldenbrand assures us that a good sound system will be in place with Jim Logan providing music.

- It will be a nice mix of socializing and HCJ business as we focus on this theme—Collaboration Makes It Happen!

2010 Homes Tour—June 6

- This popular event will shift to the West side of town this year, and feature the big house at the corner of West Main Street and Donald Avenue, and four other great homes.

- This is the biggest fundraising event of the year for HCJ and the proceeds will benefit HCJ programs and activities.

- We need you...to volunteer for this event! It takes over 80 HCJ members and friends to make this event work, and if you work it, you get a discount for the tour. Call Mary Ann Hall at 635-8512 to sign up!

- The Homes Tour showcases wonderful architecture, unique interior design, and provides a peek inside some of Jefferson City’s most unique abodes. It happens this year on Sunday, June 6, and you really don’t want to miss it!

Contact Steve Veile at: steveveile@mchsi.com

**Two HCJ Events You Don’t Want to Miss**

Jefferson City Postcard History - *Images of America*

by Arnold G. Parks

Dr. Parks will present our Heritage Month program on May 18 featuring his recently published book on the Postcard History of Jefferson City. Details as to time and place will be announced. His book is available exclusively at Samuel’s Tuxedos at a discount to HCJ members for $18. The regular price is $21.99.

By Steve Veile
HCJ President

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Contact Steve Veile at: steveveile@mchsi.com

**Historic City of Jefferson 2009 Board of Directors**

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- Kenneth Winn

Historic City of Jefferson, Inc. P.O. Box 105056 Jefferson City, MO 65110 www.historiccityofjefferson.org
The HCJ Foundation was established in November of 2009 as a vehicle to encourage long-term funding options for the support of the organization. Individuals who support the HCJ mission may leave bequests, make memorial contributions honoring a loved one, or donate money or property within the guidelines of the Foundation.

The Foundation offers several advantages to both donor and beneficiary. Donors gain from tax benefits through the organization’s tax-exempt non-profit status applied for in November 2009. Secondly, HCJ benefits as the accrued funds will enhance HCJ’s educational programming and provide needed resources to fulfill HCJ’s mission. Third, and perhaps of most impact, a donor to the Foundation plays a major role in augmenting valuable historic preservation throughout the community.

As described by Lois Heldenbrand, HCJ Foundation Board Member, the financial resources made available through donations to the HCJ Foundation “facilitates collaboration with other like-minded organizations to build on our historic buildings as community assets, similar to the Cole County Historical Society preserving artifacts of a society.”

The aesthetic value of intact historic-district neighborhoods is one measure of the success of community betterment. However, the economic value of adaptive reuse of historic properties is immeasurable, as the pebble’s ripples expand: the previously deteriorating building takes on a vital identity and purpose; other home and business owners join in to contribute to the re-visioning of the neighborhood; the neighborhood realizes an increase of property values; the business community is compensated for rehab services and materials; and the revitalized historic neighborhood draws recognition and resulting tourism.

The HCJ Foundation Board of Trustees consists of President Stephen Stark, Vice-President Mark Johnson, Secretary Cathy Bordner, Treasurer Lyle Rosburg, Lois Heldenbrand, Mark Schreiber, Kenneth Winn, Barbara Fitzgerald, and Steve Veile. Ex-officio members of the board include HCJ officers Laura Ward, Debbie Goldammer, and Mary Ann Hall. At its second meeting in February, the board got down to brass tacks, so to speak, as it finalized organizational and financial structures to direct stewardship of funds, as well as established public relations goals. For more information on the HCJ Foundation, contact Foundation President Stephen Stark or HCJ president Steve Veile, at steveveile@mchsi.com or 635-8667.

Article and photo submitted by Carolyn Bening
Now you can renew your HCJ membership, make a donation to the Asset Fund or the HCJ Foundation or pay your TLP Society installment with your credit card on-line. It does not get any easier. This service saves HCJ time and money, besides the convenience it provides our members.

On-line dues payment is provided free to HCJ, courtesy of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. One hundred percent of all dues payments and donations go directly to the Historic City of Jefferson. Participants in the on-line payment system, if not already National Trust members, will be provided a free one-year membership in the National Trust for Historic Preservation, including a subscription to their excellent magazine, Preservation.

You can only make one payment at a time, so if you are paying your annual dues and also want to pay your TLP Society installment, you will have to pay one at a time and enter the site twice.

Dues are $15 for the individual, $25 for a family and $50 for a business. To access the on-line payment go to www.historiccityofjefferson.org. The home page has a link to the secure on-line payment system.

New members of the Thomas Lawson Price Society were welcomed and existing members were honored at a Christmas Tea hosted at Villa Panorama. For the second time in 2009, Villa Panorama owners, Michael and Carolyn Mills, graciously opened their home for the HCJ event. In June Villa Panorama was the Crown Jewel of the HCJ Swift’s Highway Homes Tour. Photos from the Tea are below. Carolyn Mills is in the bottom left photo.

With the addition of five new members to the TLP Society, its number is now 18! HCJ extends its sincere appreciation to these generous supporters of historic preservation.

Right: HCJ President Steve Veile presents new TLP Society members with certificates; Daryll and Connie Hubble, Sheila and Stephen Stark, Linda David, Joann and Larry Steinmetz, and Dottie Dallmeyer.
A new HCJ team is coming to town! In their official role, the HCJ Ambassadors will attend the organization’s social functions as goodwill representatives of HCJ’s mission of historic preservation and neighborhood revitalization.

As their major responsibility, the Ambassadors will begin their assignment in April 2010 by awarding Golden Hammers and planting yard signs of recognition.

The HCJ Golden Hammer Award Program was launched in 2008 to recognize home and business owners who have succeeded in revitalizing their neighborhoods by renovating older buildings, thereby preserving our community’s architectural heritage. The award organizer Deedie Bedowsky explained that she recommended the Ambassadors as a way to ensure a consistent team of HCJ members at the renovated property to celebrate the building owner’s achievements and to convey the importance of the GH award to the community and to the Historic City of Jefferson. The team of Ambassadors will assist at the monthly Golden Hammer Award presentations, now in their third year, by participating in the yard sign planting and by presenting the Golden Hammer certificate and award to the building owner. Besides the visible revitalization of neighborhoods that community preservation conveys to the public, the HCJ Golden Hammer presentation offers a positive incentive to future renovators wanting to preserve the historical integrity of their structures. Thank You, HCJ Ambassadors!

Submitted by Carolyn Bening
Last November I had the opportunity to join a tour of the now abandoned Missouri State Penitentiary overlooking the Missouri River in Jefferson City. Our tour group was composed of Historic Preservation Commissioners, some City Councilmen, and Historic City of Jefferson members. Charlie Brzuchalski, who led the awareness tour, added to our impressions with fascinating stories of penitentiary life and of the prison’s inhabitants. Charlie is an architect with the Office of Administration and has been involved with the Prison Redevelopment plans since the old site’s decommissioning in September of 2004.

Our footfalls echo in the dark and silent halls. No clattering of steel bars, no voices clamoring to us for attention, no human smells. There is a palpable sense of sadness for all the personal tragedies that were concentrated here in this one place—the lost and broken lives. This place of darkness is so foreign and remote to us who live outside the high walls, yet is so close in physical proximity. This dark place that has been in our midst for years but separated from us by a mere wall now arouses an intense curiosity. "The MSP site is almost too much for the senses to take in. You walk off the Capitol Avenue sidewalk into this huge weird world and two hours later step back out onto the sidewalk. Like Dorothy visiting Oz," Mayor John Landwehr summed it up nicely.

As our tour progressed, I was captivated with Charlie’s tales of the prison’s notorious residents, the heinous crimes, the escape attempts, the executions, the murders within the walls, the shear mass of flawed humanity that passed through these hallways. I was an outsider, yet in awe and fully engaged with the history of Looking into a cell in Housing Unit 4, the oldest prison building built in 1866. At its peak with 5,300 inmates, some of these cells housed up to six inmates.

To begin with, Missouri State Penitentiary, built in 1836, was the oldest operational prison west of the Mississippi until its decommissioning in 2004. It has been interwoven with the fabric of Jefferson City from the very beginning: staff lived among the city’s population, numerous industries profited handsomely on cheap inmate labor, and the industrialists’ homes graced the neighborhood of MSP on Capitol Avenue. In 1888 it was the most populated prison in the country. The overcrowding led to inmate unrest and riots in the 1940s and 50s, culminating in Time magazine’s 1967 unfortunate designation as "...the bloodiest 47 acres in the country."

Mark Schreiber and Laura Burkhardt Moeller describe the punitive measures used to deal with inmate misbehavior in their colorful history of MSP Somewhere in Time: 170 Year History of Missouri Corrections. The book is a fascinating read—full of anecdotes, historical pictures, and a factual chronology of the evolution of penal practices at MSP and in the country. Early punitive measures, common practices

(Continued on page 7)
The public’s curiosity about the dark secrets of prison communities has been heightened in recent years with award-winning television series, full-screen movies, and books about prison life. However, reading about an experience cannot be matched with a visitor’s powerful experience of walking through the actual site of punishment and incarceration—complete with graffiti-stained walls, rusty bunks, and still-clanging-shut iron bars. The list of redeveloped penal institutions as popular tourist destinations—from Maine to Louisiana—is growing, much to the advantage of local city coffers. Pennsylvania’s Eastern State Penitentiary, a landmark for a century and a half, counted almost 150,000 tourists in 2006. The place where nobody wanted to go is now where people are paying to get into! Alcatraz, one of San Francisco’s most popular attractions, lures over a million curiosity seekers each year.

The Missouri State Penitentiary has extraordinary tourism and economic potential. Jefferson City, Cole County, and the State of Missouri have a unique opportunity to reap enormous economic benefits from historic tourism by making Jefferson City a tourist destination. Move over Alcatraz! MSP has more of everything Alcatraz has except the island: 100 more years of incarcerated history than Alcatraz; easier access with an extension of Lafayette Street; a grand plan for the site including the nearly completed Federal Courthouse and restoration of the oldest buildings; a possible prison museum; a mix of private and government development; potential for jobs creation; and greenway trails to hook up with Adrian Island and the rest of the city. Hey, we even have an island!

However, besides the intrigue and fascination in exploring the prison’s history during the tour, I felt enormous alarm at the degree of neglect of these historic buildings. Alarm that if they are not stabilized to prevent further deterioration, we may lose this incredibly historic heritage landmark and the economic potential. There were broken windows, crumbling walls and standing water. Those of us interested in historic preservation can see beyond the neglect to recognize the architectural aesthetics of this heritage site. Besides the beauty of the stone wall itself, the old buildings held within have remarkable craftsmanship, masonry and even flourishes with their massive stone foundations, Gothic Revival gargoyles, and castle turrets. The stone wall that borders Lafayette and East Capitol, long a landmark fixture of Jefferson City, definitely needs to be preserved! You take away the prison walls and you take away its identity.

Six years have passed since MSP was decommissioned. Our Missouri legislators approved funds to stabilize the old buildings, but the money has been redirected every year while Mother Nature continues to reclaim the buildings. The more these historic buildings deteriorate, the more expensive the repairs, along with unrealized tourist dollars. The sooner we make the investment, the sooner we begin to reap returns, then profit. Obviously, the challenges are great, but the opportunity is far too great to squander. It could be a major part of our city and state’s economic recovery.
Looking back
Moving forward

Web Master—Tony Smith
Newsletter Editor—Jenny Smith
Membership—Sam Bushman
Programs—Laura Ward
Special Events—Mary Ann Hall
Oral History—O. J. Nash
Golden Hammer Awards—Deedie Bedosky
Development—Lois Heldenbrand

SAVE THE DATE!
Historic City of Jefferson Annual Dinner Meeting
Sunday evening, March 21, McClung Park Pavilion
4:30 pm Social Hour—Dinner @ 5:15 pm

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
To proactively preserve our historic resources and create an environment that makes preservation a central focus for the future development in the City of Jefferson.

Visit our Web site at www.historiccityofjefferson.org