Billed as the largest and best ever World’s Fair, the 1904 St. Louis Exposition, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase, spread its 20,000 exhibitors and vendors over 240 acres, today covering Forest Park and Washington University campus. From its opening on April 30, 1904 to its close on December 1, more than 19 million visitors met each other in St. Louis, purchasing ice cream in waffle cones and drinking new-fangled iced tea from over 50 concession stands on “The Pike.”

World travelers enjoyed art and music, educational and scientific displays, cultural exhibits and travel dioramas from some 62 foreign nations and 43 states, as well as the first World Olympics held outside Europe. Over 1500 buildings were connected by some 75 roadways, making it impossible to view the entire Fair in less than a week.

But on Sunday, March 10, HCJ members are invited on their own private afternoon tour of the Fair as HCJ member Bob Herman exhibits his decades-long love affair with the St. Louis Exhibition. Through slides of the architecture of the supposedly temporary buildings and numerous cultural exhibits, as well as a small exhibit of his Fair memorabilia collection, Bob wants to share his excitement about this marvel of the new century with us.

Bob relates how he started his Fair collection in 1967 with a plaster statue of a Greek goddess from a friend. His fascination with the history of the piece soon developed into a passion for the history of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. He also became an avid collector of Fair-related memorabilia that soon spread into every room of the Herman home. As a charter member of the St. Louis World’s Fair Society, Bob has talked about the Fair to many audiences, including last June his “State Museum after Hours” program “What I Brought Home from the Fair.” He has been assisting State Museum staff in their cataloguing of a large donated collection of Fair memorabilia scheduled to open March 2014.

Bob’s stories often relate to the immensity of the Fair. The interior of the Agriculture Building was—are you ready for this—17 acres! The event was delayed a year (the Louisiana Purchase occurred in 1803) to allow more foreign nations to participate

(continued on page 2)
A special committee has drafted revised bylaws for consideration and adoption by the membership. The proposed changes are available for review on the HCJ Web site at www.historiccityofjefferson.org and will be voted on at the March 10 annual meeting.

Please review the changes in advance of the meeting and, if you have any comments or suggestions, present them to any HCJ Officer or Board member prior to the next HCJ Board meeting, scheduled for February 14. The major revisions include the following:

1) The Articles of Incorporation (available at www.sos.mo.gov) will serve as the Constitution to ensure that we stay true to the purpose established by the original founders in 1983. The original founders were Gary Kremer, Carolyn McDowell, Elizabeth Rozier, Mary Ann Caplinger, Jill Johnson, Eldon Hattervig, and Christopher Graham. The revised proposed bylaws will now include the purpose as stated in the original Articles of Incorporation.

2) The number of Officers will be reduced to four; President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. One Director will be added for a total of fifteen (15) people serving on the Board of Directors.

3) Adding two standing committees: the Golden Hammer Award Committee and the Oral History Committee and updating the names and duties of the remaining committees.

The proposed revised document as well as the old bylaws and original Articles of Incorporation can be accessed via the HCJ website, or can be requested via email to hcjprez@gmail.com. Or, stop at Communique (512 E Capitol Avenue) during business hours for a printed copy.

since their ocean travel took longer than expected. The Jerusalem Exhibit alone—ten acres of 300 structures—featured hundreds of Jerusalem natives—Moslems, Christians, and Jews—to re-enact the holy site tours.

The Philippines, according to Bob, was the most popular exhibit since the Fair hosts had just won the Spanish-American War. An added ironic note regarded Scott Joplin, the popular musician, who had composed numerous songs for the Fair, including “Cascades” celebrating the cascading waterfall attraction. However, Joplin, as other black musicians, was not allowed to perform within the fairgrounds but relegated to “The Pike,” outside the Forest Park grounds.

So, make your reservations by February 28. Enjoy Argyle Catered pot roast/chicken and join us at the 1904 World’s Fair for a rare peek into the exotic lands and peoples at the turn of the 20th century.
The New Meets the Old Limestone Walls of Justice

by Carolyn Bening

The Thomas Lawson Price Society tour of the Christopher S. Bond U.S. Court House on Lafayette Street in October was an extra special event for members. Especially striking was the close proximity of the stately curved courthouse entrance clad in limestone and granite to the complimentary granite entrance of the historic Missouri State Penitentiary. The view leaves no doubt that the new courthouse was located in the perfect historical site, as if the prisoner ghosts of the past were walking across the road to the setting of justice.

TLP members gathered in the soaring glassed atrium lobby, topped with a roof garden of plants and soil to help insulate and control rain water. Embedded in the terrazzo lobby floor is the appropriate inscription: “Let Justice Flow Like a River.”

Positioned high on the vaulting lobby walls are three two-dimensional sculptures created by internationally recognized ceramic artist Betty Woodman. The sculptured panels of water-themed artwork incorporates Woodman’s signature vase form, using the container and flowing water as a universal symbol.

The river-fronting 117,000-square-foot facility, overlooking eagle nesting sites, houses the Central division of the US District and Bankruptcy Courts for the Western District of Missouri. The space includes four courtrooms; bankruptcy chamber; U.S. Marshals Service; U.S. Attorney; Probation and Pretrial Services; and GSA offices.

The limestone and granite courthouse, designed by architects Kallmann, McKinnell & Wood from Boston and built by J. E. Dunn Construction, Kansas City, broke ground in December 2008 and was dedicated on September 27, 2011, completed ahead of schedule and $3.5 million under budget at a cost of $67.7 million.

The four-story building is impressive beyond the green features: tasteful and practical furnishings and artwork; state-of-the-art courtroom audio-visual and evidence-display equipment; secure prisoner-holding cells adjacent to courtrooms; underground-level secure parking; tall ceilings and windows that open rooms to the river valley and neighboring penitentiary views; and space for future expansion.

According to the Bond US Courthouse website, these sustainable and innovative green environmental features led to the highest gold rating by the US Green Building Council: reducing water use by 44 percent; using 13 percent recycled content; diverting 80 percent of construction waste materials from landfills; and achieving 36 percent more efficiency than current energy standards.

In one of the courtrooms, the Hon. Matt J. Whitworth, Magistrate Judge, described three famous Western District court cases: Thurgood Marshall’s civil rights integration case of Swope Park Pool; the 1953 Bobby Greenlease kidnapping-murder case and resulting execution of Carl Hall and Bonnie Heady in the Missouri State Penitentiary; and the 1939 arraignment of Tom Pendergast for income tax evasion. The history lessons continued as a Deputy US Marshal explained how the Marshals Service ensures that the justice process goes as orderly as possible in processing court orders and in safely bringing defendants into the courts. The consolidation of federal agencies in a single structure ensures that justice flows—like a river.
During the past forty years, the black culture that once flourished in the Lafayette Street area of Jefferson City has been eroded building by building. Now with the development of the Lafayette exchange where the Rex Whitton Expressway crosses Lafayette Street just north of Lincoln University, the last vestiges of this once thriving and self-contained community will be gone. This endangered area has been known historically as “The Foot.”

The December HCJ membership program featured Dr. Gary Kremer’s lecture on the history of this vital area and neighboring Lincoln University. Dr. Kremer, director of the State Historical Society of Missouri, is in high demand for his vast knowledge of Cole County history and, in particular, his active involvement with the “Black Historic Sites” project that he directed while he was a Lincoln University faculty member in the 1970s. His perspective as a social historian captures the stories of the participants, frame by frame, marked by events over time and place. “The Foot is not a just a moment in time,” Kremer explained. The history of The Foot could not be told separately from the story of where and why black residents have lived in Jefferson City, nor without the backdrop of Lincoln University.

The story begins during the latter years of the Civil War with the influx of blacks to Jefferson City seeking protection offered by the large number of Union troops garrisoned here. Prior to 1900, a majority of city blacks lived mostly downtown, along alleyways that bisected major streets. The largest concentration was in what was known as “Hog Alley,” today known as Commercial Avenue. The people who lived in this area worked as domestic servants to wealthy whites who lived nearby on High Street and East Main, now called Capitol Avenue. But this circumstance changed after 1900, especially when the segregated Washington School was built in the 700-block of East Elm Street in 1904. Ironically, Jefferson City became increasingly segregated as the twentieth century wore on. From the time the first African American was elected to the Missouri legislature in 1920, into the 1960s, legislators stayed on the campus of Lincoln University because there were no places of public accommodation open to them in downtown Jefferson City. Legislators took their meals in the Lincoln University cafeteria because downtown restaurants were closed to them as well. Although there were no “laws” that prohibited racial integration in restaurants, bars, hotels and swimming pools, local custom prohibited it. A black “service industry” began to spring up in The Foot area in the early twentieth century. Eventually, black–owned businesses flourished along Lafayette Street, especially in the 600-block. The businesses there eventually included the Booker T. Hotel, Norman’s Laundry, Pat’s Shine Parlor, Turner’s Service Station, Leona’s Café, the Tops Bar, and Acme Cleaners, to name but a few.

Kremer gave life to the culture that thrived along The Foot, with stories of the entrepreneur Duke Diggs, the Slim Greer poems of Lincoln University professor Sterling Brown, the weekly checkers games at a bar/restaurant at the corner of Lafayette and Dunklin streets, the Lloyd Gaines and Lucile Bluford court challenges to segregation, and many more….too many stories to tell in the small space of this recap!

Dr. Kremer explained a pivotal transition in Lincoln University’s history that occurred soon after World War I. Prior to the 1920s, Lincoln was known as “Lincoln Institute.” During that time, it was primarily a teacher-training and vocational educational school. African Americans in Missouri were seeking access to the University of Missouri, in the wake of black contributions to the World War I effort. State legislators and University of Missouri officials refused to open the University of Missouri to African Americans. Instead, the State of
Missouri, through legislation sponsored by the state’s first black legislator, Walthall Moore of St. Louis, renamed the school “Lincoln University.” An increase in state funding accompanied the school’s new status, leading University President Nathan B. Young to recruit an impressive cadre of Ivy League-trained scholars that included the following: Sterling Brown and Cecil Blue from Harvard, and, later, Lorenzo J. Greene from Columbia University and Oliver Cromwell Cox from the University of Chicago. Many accomplished writers and poets were among these black intellectuals. It was a golden era that earned Lincoln University the nickname, “Black Harvard of the Midwest.”

But nothing gold can stay. Tension soon developed between blacks on university hill and town blacks, all of them surrounded by a larger segregationist white community. More than reporting on the structures making up The Foot, Dr. Kremer wove a story of a divided black community, a distinguished community of black academics on the hill separated from the black townspeople who had established a business community for themselves in The Foot.

The physical demise of this community began with a frenzy of urban renewal in the 1960s designed to modernize the city core but with little regard for the resulting destruction of a black neighborhood and culture. This demise may have actually been aided by a few influential citizens connected with Lincoln who convinced town blacks living along The Foot that it was for their own good.

The Foot as it existed in its heyday is gone. One of the last vestiges of this community, soon to be demolished, is a house at 504 Lafayette, the home of Dr. Lorenzo Greene and Professor Cecil Blue, both Lincoln academics, who described themselves as “the color boys.” The “Monastery,” as Greene and Blue’s home was known, became the gathering place of black intellectuals. This house will soon be gone, and with it the final footprint of a thriving community.

Kremer summed up the loss of this area: “HCJ exists because its members believe that place is important…. a place is a location of experience. The experiences associated with a place do not happen anywhere else—they belong to the place. How do you recreate the place when the buildings are gone?”

Reckless urban renewal practices disrupted many neighborhoods back in the 1960s and 1970s. It was a wake-up call to historic preservationists all around. In fact, HCJ was founded in the wake of the destruction of the old City Jail during this time. Fortunately, blacks are no longer prohibited from access to services like they were before the mid-1960s, so the necessity of a community such as The Foot is diminished. Also, black academics are not restricted to teaching just at black institutions. But, it is important to preserve our past experiences or we are doomed to repeat our errors.

Dr. Kremer gave us many things to reflect upon, recounting not just a history of buildings, but of the social history of the residents of The Foot. He delivered a eulogy to a largely forgotten era and to a culture.
Why did you join HCJ?

I was interested in old buildings and Jefferson City’s history. At an HCJ program Greg Stockard invited me to “join a fun group of people.”

What do you like best about being a member of HCJ?

The programs and visiting with others interested in Jefferson City’s history and architecture. I’m also proud of what HCJ has accomplished and being part of HCJ.

Do you have a favorite HCJ program or activity?

The annual homes tour is my favorite HCJ activity.

Do you think we have made progress in Jefferson City on historic preservation?

Definitely. But challenges remain. We need to get vacant old buildings (that are deteriorating) into the hands of owners who will rehab and reuse them.

If someone asked you the benefits of HCJ membership, what would you say?

You’ll be part of a group with a variety of interests and skills. You’ll receive a wonderful newsletter and have access to HCJ programs.

What one thing might HCJ members be surprised to learn about you?

I make an excellent chicken gumbo.

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Thank You!

We want to thank member Susan Ferber, of Ferber Designs, for creation of the new masthead that you see on the front cover of this newsletter. Bravo!
New donations to the HCJ Office

The HCJ office at 108 W. Atchison St. continues to acquire furnishings and decorations. The most recent donations include a desk donated by Laurie Schweinefus and a secretary donated by Marilyn Rooney. If you have not had the opportunity to see HCJ's fully furnished new home, a photo taken from the entry door is provided below. Many thanks to Tammy Boeschen for organizing the effort of acquiring the items for the office and to all those who donated items. REMINDER: The Board of Directors meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5:30pm. These meetings are open to members and provides an opportunity to our members to tour the new office!

Moreau Drive Neighborhood Advances Toward NRHP Listing

The process to place the Moreau Drive neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) has moved one step further down the lengthy process. The neighborhood residents within the boundaries of the nominated area were invited on January 8 to a meeting to update them on the progress of the application.

This most recent development was the selection of a consultant, Lynn Josse, to prepare the nomination for the City. She will prepare and send the justification for the nomination to the SHPO in February. If the advisory council finds everything in order, it will be shuttled on to the Federal level for approval in May.

This effort was begun in 2008 by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as part of a training exercise for new employees. The project is funded in part by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the City of Jefferson, and the Historic City of Jefferson. HCJ contributed $1,000 to the project.

The NRHP is a program administered by the National Park Service to promote and support public and private efforts to identify and protect historic and archeological resources. The benefits of a listing on the NRHP are recognition of the historical significance of the area, tax incentives and grant eligibilities, and some measure of protection to the properties.

If accepted, the Moreau Drive Neighborhood will be the 8th area in Cole County to be listed on the NRHP. There are also over thirty buildings or houses on the listing in Cole County.

New Officers Take Helm at HCJ Foundation

A new president and vice president have been elected to serve at the helm of the HCJ Foundation.

Attorney Nicholas M. Monaco was elected president of the Foundation at the January meeting of the group. Historian Mark Schreiber was elected to serve as vice president. Continuing to serve in their present positions are Cathy Bordner, secretary, and Lyle Rosburg, CPA, as treasurer.

Other members of the Foundation board include Larry Kolb, Jason Schwartz, Lois Heldenbrand and Steve Veile. Ex-officio members of the board are Joann Steinmetz, Debbie Goldammer and Deedie Bedosky.

If you are interested in donating to the Foundation through a cash contribution, memorial or bequest, please contact President Nick Monaco at the Inglish & Monaco law offices, Jefferson City.

HCJ NEEDS YOUR ACCOUNTING SKILLS!!

The Historic City of Jefferson thrives only because of its dedicated and involved membership. We have a vacancy in the office of Treasurer. We need you! This is your opportunity to be more involved in a great organization. Please contact President Steve Veile, 635-8667 for more details.
SAVE THE DATE!

Historic City of Jefferson Annual Dinner Meeting

Sunday March 10, 4:30 PM
McClung Park Pavilion

Looking back . . . . . . Moving forward

Web Master—Laura Ward  Golden Hammer Awards—Deedie Bedosky
Newsletter Editor—Jenny Smith Development—Lois Heldenbrand
Membership—Sam Bushman Homes Tour—Mary Ann Hall
Oral History—D.J. Nash HCJ Foundation—Nicholas Monaco

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.

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