

# Historic Kerbyville Masonic Lodge planning 150th celebration

By ROGER BRANDT

The Kerbyville Masonic Lodge -- the oldest Masonic Lodge in Josephine County -- will celebrate its 150th anniversary in July.

It was founded before Oregon became a state, in a remote mining community that was still reeling from a recent war with the local Native Americans. These were the earliest years of white settlement in Southwestern Oregon, and the chronicle of the lodge's establishment provides a unique insight into the early pioneer and gold rush history of Oregon.

The traditions and formalities followed by Masons during their meetings in those earliest years are probably not very different from those practiced today.

Freemasonry is the oldest and the largest fraternal order in the world with traditions reaching back more than 500 years. Since Medieval times, traditions of the Masons have been handed down from one generation to another carrying a philosophy and spirit of self-improvement. Of all the virtues in this organization, none is more valued than selfless giving.

The heritage practiced by modern Masons reaches to the Middle Ages when structures such as the St. Peters Cathedral, Canterbury Cathedral and other complex stone structures were constructed in Europe. The Masons were the

craftsmen and architects who built these structures.

The skills of stonemasons and their commitment to the highest standards of moral and ethical values were highly respected and, unlike other classes of people, they were allowed to travel freely from country to country throughout most of Europe. For this reason they became known as Freemasons.

Until about the 16th century, only a stonemason or architect could be a Mason but early in the 17th century, membership in the Mason lodges began to decline. To compensate for their loss in members, they began to admit others who were not craftsmen or stonemasons, usually men of social prominence. This class of members became known as the Accepted Masons.

The modern era of Masonry began when four lodges in London joined in 1717 and created the first Grand Lodge. There were other lodges that did not join because they viewed the idea of a grand lodge as a "modern" invention, and against the "ancient" principles of Masonry.

Eventually, the lodges that practiced the "traditional" forms of Masonry formed their own rival organization. They called themselves the "Ancient" Freemasons, and called their rivals the "Modern" Freemasons.

Lodges that were formed under the Ancient's grand



Before moving to what has become the RCC Kerby Belt Bldg., the Kerby Masonic Lodge was based in this historic structure, built in 1907. It is now the home of The Dovetail Joint.

lodge, took the initials AF&AM for "Ancient Free and Accepted Masons." Lodges that formed under the "Moderns" took the initials F&AM, for "Free and Accepted Masons."

Early records indicate the Kerbyville Lodge began as an F&AM lodge and later became an AF&AM lodge.

In 1848, the first Masonic Lodge in Oregon was established at Oregon City, the end of the Oregon Trail. The first record of Mason activity in the Oregon Territory occurred in February 1846, 13 years before Oregon became a state. This was a meeting to discuss the formation of a lodge in Oregon

City. In October 1846, a charter was granted for the Multnomah Lodge, No. 84 to be established in Oregon City of Oregon Territory.

Owing to the great distance and the infrequent departure of emigrant trains for the Northwest, it was several months before an opportunity was found to carry the charter to Oregon City. Members of the new lodge received it in September 1848, two years and seven months after the first meeting in Oregon City.

This lodge continues to be the first and oldest chartered Masonic Lodge on the Pacific Coast.

Almost immediately the lodge's membership dropped when, a day or two after receiving the charter, most of its members, including the lodge's founder, started for the gold fields of California. With most of its leadership gone, the Multnomah No. 84 appeared to be poised for failure, but a representative was sent by the Grand Secretary of the Missouri and the lodge was quickly reorganized.

It may seem odd that the first lodge in Oregon history was given the number 84 but under Masonic numbering rules, the Multnomah Lodge was the 84th lodge to be established under the authority of the Missouri Grand Lodge. In 1851 the Multnomah Lodge number was changed from No. 84 to No. 1, the first in Oregon.

By 1850, two other lodges had been chartered in Oregon, and these along with Multnomah, No. 1 combined to form the Grand Lodge of

Oregon, which had the authority to charter lodges within the state. Each of the new lodges formed in Oregon were numbered sequentially as they were formed.

The first Lodge to be chartered by the Grand Lodge of Oregon was the Salem Lodge, No. 4. It then sponsored several other lodges including the Warren Lodge, No. 10 in Jacksonville, which later became the sponsor of the Western Star Lodge, No. 18 in Kerbyville.

Next week will continue with the story of the Kerbyville Masonic Lodge and its role in the establishment of lodges in Illinois Valley's Browntown and Grants Pass.

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The public can join the Kerbyville Masons as they celebrate their 150th anniversary at the Rogue Community College Belt Bldg. in Downtown Kerby, across from Joe's Market, on July 12. The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. with the setting of a Ceremonial Cornerstone conducted by the Grand Master of Masons in Oregon and his Grand Officers.

This is an ancient tradition performed by Masons for public buildings. The lodge will be open to the public, and various other ceremonies will be conducted until 1 p.m.

## Obituary

**'Alex' Brown**  
Former Illinois Valley resident Alexander "Alex" Pike Strider Brown, 34, died Thursday, June 19, 2008, in Eugene due to cardiac arrest.



Alex was born in Chico, Calif. on June 1, 1974. He grew up in Cave Junction, where he graduated from Illinois Valley High School after spending his junior year in Japan as a Rotary International exchange student.

He was active at IVHS in wrestling, soccer, drama and Academic Masters. He moved

to Eugene in 1992 to attend the University of Oregon, where he met his wife, Sachiko Itoh. They were married at the home of his parents in Cave Junction.

After he graduated in 1997 with a bachelor of science degree in physics and in Japanese, Alex & Sachiko moved to Seattle for work opportunities. They returned to Eugene three years later where Alex worked as a software engineer.

Most recently, he was director of software development at ILOG Supply Chain Applications in Eugene. He continued to do programming for enjoyment.

Nothing was more important to Alex than his family and friends. He planned and participated in many activities for his sons, nieces, nephews and friends. He had many hobbies including creating music with his guitars and singing to others. He also enjoyed soccer, home projects, fishing, skiing,

rafting, science, cooking, and hosting parties.

He was always ready to enliven any gathering with his genuine interest in others, his charm and wit.

Alex is survived by his wife, Sachiko Itoh; and two sons, Kai Brown and Shota Brown, all of Eugene; his father and mother, Wesley "Wes" and Nancy Brown, of Cave Junction; two brothers, Christopher Brown, of Forest Grove, and Geoffrey Brown, of Eugene; a sister, Ryan Brown, of Westfir; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, June 25 at Milton Park in Eugene. A reception followed. Viewing was conducted at Musgrove Family Mortuary in Eugene. In lieu of flowers, an Alex Brown Memorial Fund has been established at Oregon Community Credit Union for the benefit of his children.

**"Vendors/Buyers Wanted"**

**Swap Meet** \$5.00  
**Farmers Market**  
Open 1st Come 2nd Buy

**Every Sat & Sun 8am 4:00pm**  
**South of Rough & Ready Saw Mill**  
**Over 200 Buyers A Day Pass Through**

**On 199, Lots of Parking**  
**Why Expose Your Home to Lookie-Loos**  
**Multiply Your Yard Sale Experience in a Safe Environment!**

**FOLLOW THE SIGNS**  
**highway199swapmeet.com**

**Back Street Salon** **592-4277**  
222 N. Redwood Hwy.

*Every Monday*  
**\$5 ~ Manicures**  
**\$5 ~ Haircuts**  
**\$5 ~ Brow Waxes**

*June Specials*  
**Bikini wax ~ \$20**  
**Boogie toes ~ \$15**  
**Scalp massage & treatment ~ \$15**

**Now offering two (2) tanning beds – choose between:**  
**10-minute high-powered bed with 11 facial tanners**  
**20-minute bed with high-pressure facial tanner**

*All-You-Can-Bake \$30 a month*

## Church News

**St. Matthias Episcopal Church**  
Bishop Sanford (Sandy) Hampton will visit the church Sunday, June 29 for the 5 p.m. service.

A potluck meal will follow. The bishop is the father of Fred Hampton, owner of the rock shop in Kerby.

## Places of Worship

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SELMA**  
18285 Redwood Hwy.  
P.O. Box 279, Selma, OR 97538  
597-4169  
**Pastor Monty Pope**  
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.  
Worship - 11 a.m.  
Sunday evening: 7 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.  
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**BRIDGEVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
P.O. Box 645  
5181 Holland Loop  
592-3923  
"BCC invites you to experience God's love in music, prayer and His Word!"  
Non-Denominational  
Pastor Frank Salerni  
\* Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
\* Children's Church-10:30 a.m.  
\* Bible Study  
Wednesday 7 p.m.  
\* Youth Group  
Wednesday 7 p.m.  
\* Men's Prayer breakfast  
1st & 3rd Saturday 8 a.m.  
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**ST. MATTHIAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
25904 N. Redwood Hwy.  
Sunday Services:  
1st three Sundays 11 a.m.  
Fourth Sunday 5 p.m.  
592-2006  
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**BAHA'I FAITH**  
Phone 592-5234

**FOUNTAIN OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
451 S. Junction Ave.  
592-3956  
**Pastor Mark McLean**  
Sunday School - 10 a.m.  
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.  
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.  
Wednesday - 7 p.m.  
Adult Bible Study  
\*\*\*

**ST. PATRICK OF THE FOREST CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
407 W. River St., CJ  
592-3658  
**Father Gregory Moys, Pastor**  
Mass - Saturday 5:30 p.m.  
No Sunday Mass  
Holy Days TBA  
Sacrament of Reconciliation  
Saturday - 4:30 to 5 p.m.  
\*\*\*

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**  
113 S. Caves Ave., CJ  
Evangelical & Non-Denominational  
Sunday School 9:15-10:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Service - 6 p.m.  
Jr. Church, Infant & Toddler Nursery Provided  
Youth Awana - K to 6th grade  
Wednesday - 6:15 to 8 p.m.  
Pastor Dave Gordon  
Community Christian Academy  
Preschool to 12th grade

**SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**  
265 S. Old Stage Rd.  
Sabbath School - 9:30 a.m. Sat.  
Church Service  
11 a.m. Sat.  
Prayer & Praise  
7 p.m. Tues.  
Pastor Verne Hyland  
Church 592-3218  
Everyone Welcome  
Madrone Adventist School  
592-3330  
Sr. Teacher: Mrs. Amy Whitchurch  
592-6604  
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**ILLINOIS VALLEY PRAISE CENTER**  
28569 Redwood Hwy.  
Cave Junction  
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting - 6 p.m.  
Thursday evening - 7 p.m.  
Home Bible Study/Youth Group  
Non-Denominational  
Bible Teaching Church  
Pastor Doug Wilson  
592-4872  
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**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
East River Street  
& Lewis Court  
Pastor Don Torala  
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Worship - 10 a.m.  
Tuesday Youth group - 6 p.m.  
Church Phone: 592-2290  
www.goodshepherdlutheraniv.org

**FIRST LOVE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
139 Caves Ave.  
592-4775  
Worship Schedule  
Sunday Adult Bible Study 10 a.m.  
Sunday Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Children's Sunday School 11:15 a.m.  
Wed. Service 7 p.m. Fall-Winter  
Thurs. "First Love Kitchen" 11:30 a.m.  
Sat. "Free Bread" 2 p.m.  
Phone for info on "Bible College Classes"  
Pastors:  
Bob & Virginia Kurko  
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**ILLINOIS VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
2110 Caves Hwy.  
Sunday School- 9:30 to 10:15  
Sunday Worship - 10:30 to 11:30  
Bible Study - Tuesday 12:30 p.m.  
Refreshments after service  
A Southern Baptist Ministry  
Phone: 592-6149  
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**ILLINOIS VALLEY PENTECOSTALS**  
Bible Study & Fellowship  
987 1/2 Caves Hwy.  
2:30 p.m. Sunday  
592-4716  
Individual Bible Studies available  
Home of the Acts 2:38 Experience  
Pastor Wendell Owens

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**  
207 Junction Ave., CJ  
Sacrament Meet - 9 a.m.  
Sunday School - 10:20 a.m.  
Priesthood, Relief Soc. - 11:10 a.m.  
Bishop John A. "Jack" Brown  
1st Counselor Bob Knott  
2nd Counselor Dan Fiske  
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**IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
200 Watkins Ph. 592-3876  
Pastor Charles Chase  
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Worship - 9:15 a.m.  
Child-care for small children  
Web Page:  
http://UMCImmanuel.org  
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**TAKILMA BIBLE CHURCH**  
10300 Takilma Road  
Pastor Dan Robinson  
Bible Study/Prayer Time 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.  
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**VALLEY EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**  
498 Laurel Road  
P.O. Box 1248  
Pastor Les Knapp  
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service - 11 a.m.  
evfree@frontiernet.net  
592-6160

**Senior Nutrition Menu**  
Sponsored by  
**True Value**  
**592-3562**

Meals are served in the  
CJ County Bldg.  
**592-2126, 955-8839**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 27**  
**BEEF HAMBURGER PATTY ON A BUN**  
Oven braised potatoes,  
country trio vegetables,  
ambrosia fruit cup  
**MONDAY, JUNE 30**  
**MACARONI & CHEESE**  
Escalloped tomatoes, confetti  
coleslaw, sunflower seed  
bread, pistachio pudding  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 2**  
**SCALLOPED POTATOES & HAM**  
Carrot coins, cut green beans,  
potato wheat bread, banana  
nut cake

