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**The Tradition Begins, Again: Tellepsen to Level Cornerstone at  
Tellepsen Family Downtown YMCA**

*Tellepsen Family Downtown YMCA and the Houston Masonic Library and  
Museum Foundation Host Special Ceremony*

HOUSTON (October 13, 2009) – For centuries, honoring magnificent new building projects with the leveling of a cornerstone was a tradition passed down from generation to generation; yet the cause seems to have been lost in time, especially in Houston, where such time-honored ceremonies rarely, if ever, occur. On October 20, 2009 at 9:00AM at the Tellepsen Family Downtown YMCA construction site at 808 Pease St., as part of a renewed cornerstone-laying commitment made by Tellepsen, the Houston builder, the tradition will begin anew.

In conjunction with the Houston Masonic Library and Museum Foundation and the YMCA of Greater Houston, Tellepsen will further its reputation as a “Cornerstone of the Community” by placing a new building cornerstone at the YMCA, a renewal of tradition the company intends to make available for its building projects moving forward, says Howard T. Tellepsen, Jr., third-generation Tellepsen and Chairman and CEO.

“In years past, laying a cornerstone at a building was an inspirational event, cherished by the organizations and communities that supported them,” said Howard Tellepsen, Jr. “Our goal is to rebuild that sense of history and importance into every Tellepsen construction project. We decided to renew this tradition as part of our centennial commemoration early in the year, and after opening the 86-year-old time capsule in September that my grandfather placed in the Masonic Temple Building, we became all the more certain we wanted all of our clients to have the opportunity to experience that same excitement, pride, and purpose.”

(more)

(Tellepsen to place first new cornerstone in renewed tradition, pg. 2)

Tellepsen and the YMCA agreed to place a cornerstone in the new downtown building to honor the contribution of the YMCA to Houston and the long relationship between the two organizations for the past century.

“Our relationship began in 1910 when the founder of Tellepsen, Tom Tellepsen, took drafting classes at the Houston YMCA,” said Clark Baker, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Houston. “Our organizations have maintained a wonderful relationship throughout the years, so our designation as the first project in Tellepsen’s renewed cornerstone laying tradition is truly an honor.”

Randon Reaves, Chairman of the Houston Masonic Library and Museum Foundation, along with Howard T. Tellepsen, Jr. and Clark Baker, will share the rich history and significance of cornerstone laying along with more details about the history that the Tellepsen family and the YMCA share. The Houston Masons will perform a centuries-old cornerstone leveling ceremony as part of the event.

### **About the YMCA of Greater Houston**

*First organized in 1886, the YMCA of Greater Houston’s mission is to put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.*

*In the greater Houston area, 39 YMCA facilities and hundreds of program sites provide character enrichment and fun activities for people of all ages, cultures and abilities. Last year, nearly 900,000 people in Houston were served through values-based Y programs such as child development and education, older youth and teen programming, health enhancement, wellness, camping, sports and recreation, community development, fellowship, refugee resettlement and affordable housing.*

*Locally, the YMCA utilizes the skills of nearly 6,000 staff members and 15,000 volunteers. The YMCA ensures to serve everyone, regardless of economic circumstance. To learn more, call 713-659-5566 or visit us on the web at [www.ymcahouston.org](http://www.ymcahouston.org). The YMCA of Greater Houston is funded in part by the United Way.*

### **About Tellepsen**

A “Cornerstone of the Community,” Tellepsen, a fourth-generation, family-owned and -operated construction company with more than a century of experience, has constructed many landmarks that profile Houston’s landscape. Enhancing the quality of life in our communities, Tellepsen’s building experience ranges from healthcare, education, industrial plants and churches to mission-critical facilities, retail, hospitality and office buildings. For more information on the company, projects, awards, news and helpful building advice, visit [www.tellepsen.com](http://www.tellepsen.com).

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