



Omaha Valley News

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry - Orient of Nebraska - Valley of Omaha - A Newsletter

August 2007, Volume 18, Number 3

Summer Reunion

Saturday, August 25, 2007



Approximate times

7:00-8:00 AM	Registration, Breakfast by KSA \$5.00 pp/Candidates - Free
8:00 - 8:15	Class Assembles
8:15 - 8:45	4°
9:00 - 10:00	14°
10:00 - 10:15	Break
10:15 - 11:30	18°
11:30 - 12:00	Picture
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00	29°
2:15 - 3:00	30°
3:15 - 4:15	32°
4:30 - 5:00	Order Pictures and Rings
4:20 - 6:00	Social Time

Nebraska Deputy creates an Orient of Nebraska Council

Since Ill. Bro. Charles Sederstrom, Jr. 33°, was appointed Deputy to the Supreme Council in Nebraska in mid-May, he has been busy visiting with the Personal Representatives and General Secretaries of each of the Valleys. At each Valley he has outlined his vision about how he would see the future of Scottish Rite in Nebraska.

The first vision was to develop a Orient of Nebraska Council consisting of the Personal Representatives, General Secretaries and an at-large member appointed by the Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection. This Council will discuss present issues within the Orient, share ideas that work in one Valley that could be used in another and make decisions that will be good for the Orient as a whole.

The first meeting of the Council took place July 10, 2007 at the Omaha Scottish Rite Masonic Center. This three-hour meeting was busy from start to finish.

The first major item was our philanthropy RiteCare™ Language Disorder Clinics. The Orient has supported clinics for many years in four Valleys; Alliance, Hastings, Lincoln and Omaha. Recently the demand for speech pathologists (clinicians) has increased to the point that salary demands created budget constraints on the Scottish Rite RiteCare Program. At our meeting Dr. Buehler, Director of Munroe-Meyer Institute, Dr. David Beukelman, specialist in Language Disorders and Ms. Marsha Sullivan, Director of the RiteCare Clinics in Nebraska presented the current services we were providing at our RiteCare Clinics. We serve approximately 300 children at any one time during the year in Nebraska with more needing our services. Dr. Buehler explained although we are doing a great job with the people we have but it is difficult to compete for new clinicians with the money provided now.

Bro. Sederstrom then asked the three from MMI to go back to create a vision of what a world-class program would look like in Nebraska and project its cost. He also asked if there were other sources of income to pay for the project. Dr. Buehler offered it

(Orient Council) Continued on page 4

Petitions are still needed!

Bring your candidate to the Friendship Dinner at Tangier Shrine on August 10th. We'll help you get his signature.



246th REUNION –SPRING, APRIL 20-21, 2007

Top row, l. to r.: Charles W. Amidon, 33°; James D. Baxter, 33°, General Director of Degrees; Richard L. Corwine, 33°, Almoner; John T. Maxell, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection; Robert D. Whipple, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master of Consistory; Curtis M. Edic, 33°, General Secretary.

Second row, l. to r.: Charles M. Richey, Class Vice President; Brett A. Drake, Class Secretary; Douglas L. Lewis, Class Orator; Michael L. Pohlen, Class Treasurer; Aaron T. Adams, Class President.

It's About Ethics

The Omaha Valley Embarks on Educational Programs of Ethical Thinking and Practice

"The art of living rightly is like all arts; it must be learned and practiced with incessant care."

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (German poet and dramatist, 1749-1832)

Take all the ritual, symbolism and allegories of the three degrees of Freemasonry, boil them down to single words or phrases and you have, for the most part, defined ethics. The same applies to the Scottish Rite degrees. Yet nowhere in the degrees do you find the word 'ethics'.

So what is ethics? As many would comment, it is simply the values our parents taught us when we were very young. And for the most part, they are right – Love, Truth, Fairness, Freedom, Unity, Tolerance,

Responsibility, Respect for life. But like many words that encompass broad ideas, ethics manifests itself in many different ways. We often see it as a code of conduct in our various professions – medical ethics, journalism ethics, legal ethics, etc. But these 'codes' are often couched as rules, and sometimes the rules become laws, and then the purity of ethics becomes mired in issues of enforceability.

An English jurist in the early 20th century by the name of Lord Moulton defined ethics as "obedience to the unenforceable". He was, of course, distinguishing ethics from law, where law is obedience to the enforceable. If you're caught running a red light you've broken the law and that is enforced with a fine. If you are disrespectful to your parents you are doing wrong, but there is no law out there to enforce

that wrong.

So ethics lies in that wide gray zone, bordered on one side by absolute freedom unencumbered by any sense of morality or social customs, to the opposite pole of strict laws and regulations. The entire fabric of our civilization is defined by how we, as a society, self-govern our lives in this gray zone called 'ethics'.

So what? Is it just a nice thing that there are some organizations out there that espouse ethical values, or is this a relevant critical issue in the 21st century? Throughout history there has always been a contingent of society in the unethical category, but with the pace of change in today's world, fueled by the incredible growth in technology, ethics is playing catch-up on many fronts. How often do you read of bullying

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Editor's Column

This edition of the Omaha Valley News finds us all in the midst of the summer, complete with picnics, vacations, and a host of other typical summer activities. While the pace around your Omaha Valley may have slowed just a bit, there are still a lot of activities going on. We've had a wine tasting trip to Iowa (admittedly it wasn't the Napa Valley, but it wasn't bad and those of us that went had a lot of fun) and a riverboat cruise on the Missouri. The annual Scottish Rite picnic is coming up this month, and we have some other great activities laid on for the fall. A number of Omaha folks are scheduled to attend the joint meeting of the Northern and Southern Scottish Rite Jurisdictions to be held in Washington, D. C. during the last week of August. This is the first time that both jurisdictions have met together, and it should prove to be an interesting event.

Congratulations are in order to a number of individuals in the Omaha Valley. First of all, I'd like to personally congratulate the new Red and White Hats that were recently announced (their names are listed elsewhere in this edition). Each and every individual that was named as either a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor or elected to receive the 33rd Degree is well deserving of that recognition. While attendance at the 33rd Degree conferral is limited to 33rd Degree Masons, the KCCH Investiture is open to the public. I highly encourage you to attend that event later this year. Next in line for congratulations is the new Nebraska Deputy, the Omaha Valley's own Chuck Sederstrom, Jr., 33°. Chuck was appointed to succeed Ill. Warren D. "Duke" Lichty, 33° who recently retired. Congratulations

Dates to Remember	
Aug 4	Masonic Friends present "Caine Mutiny Court Martial:
Aug 10	Friendship Dinner @ Shrine
Aug 20	Scottish Rite Picnic Cooper Farm
Aug 22	Friendship Dinner Emerson IA Community Center
Aug 25	Summer One-day Reunion
Aug 26-28	Supreme Council Session
Aug 31 - Sept 3	Office Closed
Sept 17	Lodge Meeting with Robert Davis, 33° GC
Sept 19	Fall Pig Roast @ Papillion Gun Club
Sept 21	150th Grand Celebration Lincoln Capital Building
Sept 27	Friendship Dinner in CB
Sept 28	Wine Tasting @ SRMC

are also in line for Ill. Bro. Duke for his successful and productive term as the Nebraska SGIG. Finally, congratulations to Paul Rutherford who was appointed as the Deputy's Personal Representative to the Omaha Valley. It's been a banner year thus far.

Coming up this fall we're going to embark on a new series within our education sessions. Bro. Larry Jacobsen has been putting together a series of presentations on morals, ethics, and how they define what a Scottish Rite Mason should be. Larry's article is also listed elsewhere in this edition. Similarly, we have included an excellent paper

on the symbolism of the Square and Compass written by Bro. Eduardo Casas of the Hastings Valley. Eduardo is also a member of the Grand Lodge Education Committee, and I thought his paper deserved to reach as wide an audience as possible.

The Omaha Scottish Rite Center just hosted another successful one day Blue Lodge where we made 13 new Master Masons, nearly all of whom were under 30 years of age. While some of you may not have noticed, we are getting a good number of younger men into the fraternity. Some Masonic
(Editor's Column) Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3 (Editor's Column)

prognosticators have asserted that we're on the verge of the largest increase in membership since just after World War II, and many of the signs are pointing that way. Finally, the Grand Lodge of Nebraska celebrates its 150th Anniversary this year, and there will be a celebration at the capitol in Lincoln on September 21, so stay tuned for more information. Have a great rest of the summer!

John T. Parsons, 33°, Editor

Continued from page 1 (Orient Council)

may be time that MMI look at this program more as a partnership than a service provider. This may open up sources of donors not available to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska. An oversight committee will be assigned to work with MMI to work on the project and bring recommendations back to the Council.

The Council was then introduced by Bro. Sederstrom to Brian Scholl, website developer. Bro. Sederstrom has Mr. Scholl developing an interactive website for the Orient of Nebraska. It will contain a calendar, e-newsletter, broadcast email and a project manager. It will be available to anyone in the Orient who signs up (just login) and will keep everyone up-to-date in the Orient as well as in each Valley. You will be able to check dates, read current news items and watch projects progress within the Orient. One of the goals of Deputy Sederstrom is to keep everyone informed of what is happening at all times. This website will be a great asset to all of the membership. To logon go to www.orientofnebraska.com and it will lead you through setting up your login and password.

The Northeast Valley was

discussed by the Council. Deputy Sederstrom voiced a concern of the lack of activity going on in Norfolk. It was decided he would send a survey to the membership to ask their opinion. The main concern was to see that these important members are active again.

We discussed cooperation of services within the Orient to help the Valleys to become more efficient and save costs when possible. The Sentinel database program was discussed. It has been offered by the Supreme Council for about 5 years and soon will be mandated at a prorated cost for each Valley to use. Bro. Edic, Orient Administrator, will be of assistance when needed.

A retirement reception held in late July was discussed and schedules for the KCCH Investiture and 33° Conferral were set. (Look for schedule elsewhere in this issue.) It was decided to coordinate Valley Reunions so that we may find time to visit each others' Valley to watch the work.

The next meeting was set for October 27, 2007 before the 33° Conferral. Dinner was shared by everyone and everyone thought there was a lot of progress done by the Orient of Nebraska Council.

Curtis Edic, 33°

Continued from page 2 (Ethics)

in schools, cheating on exams, workplace discrimination, religious intolerance, political corruption, misleading advertising – and the list goes on and on. Does our future hinge on having more and more laws to keep these issues in line, or can a renewed culture of self-regulation (aka 'ethics') be a more rational approach? So, allowing this writer to draw a conclusion: Yes, how we deal with ethics is a very critical issue in this century.

So what does this have to do with the Omaha Valley Scottish

Rite? The core of our degrees and lessons are about ethics. Outside of the informed members of our organization, who knows that? What are we doing in our internal programs, and more importantly, what can we be doing in our community to promote and instruct the values of ethical fitness?

The leadership of the Omaha Valley went through a comprehensive, long-range strategic planning process earlier this year. Three major visions came from that exercise. One deals with making our building financially self-sufficient, another deals with a professional public relations campaign about the values and benefits of the Scottish Rite and Freemasonry, and the third is the kingpin to all three, and it was stated as follows:

By 2012, The Omaha Valley will be known in the metro area as an institute of ethical thinking and practice.

To achieve that vision we must first provide education to our members (new and old alike) in translating the values and lessons of Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite into relevant, 21st century terms. We need open discussions about the definitions of ethics, developing a language of public discourse, how to frame ethical decision-making, and discussing the various programs that will be of need and benefit to our community.

Our monthly Masonic education programs this fall will focus on these topics of Ethics. We invite all Masons to participate in these presentations and discussions, for only in that way can we develop a pattern language that resonates not only with our membership, but also with the needs of the community at large.

Larry Jacobsen

Eminent Commander,
Council of Kadosh



Bro. Richard Chilton was born in Whiting Ia and raised on a farm 10 miles south of Sioux City IA. He graduated from Climbing Hill High School in 1958. Attending Morning Side College for a short time but returned to the farm due to his father illness.

While still farming Bro. Rich married. He and his wife, Barb, had two daughters. Nikki now lives in Omaha and has two children and her sister Rhonda, also with two children resides in St. Joseph MO.

After leaving the farm he worked short stints at an animal feed processing plant and construction before moving to Omaha in 1962. He first worked for Builders Supply Company before moving to Presto X Company in 1965. January of 2008 will be his 43rd year at Presto X. He has traveled across the state of Nebraska servicing businesses with pest control.

Bro. Chilton's good friend in Sioux City, Bro. Payne Sargisson, had always encouraged him to join Masonry. In 1991 he decided it was time and signed his petition to become a member of Bee Hive Lodge #184. His sponsor and mentor has been Bro. Bill Covey, 32^o KCCH, Past Eminent Commander who also appointed him to the Council of Kadosh Line of Officers. Of course Bro. Bill also encouraged Bro. Rich to join the Omaha Valley of Scottish Rite and Tangier Shrine.

He became active almost immediately. Bro. Chilton is always ready to help with any project that he has been asked to do. He has served two terms as Worshipful Master of Bee Hive Lodge and is currently Captain of Motor A Patrol as well as serving as Eminent Commander in the Omaha Valley. He is Chairman of the Spring and Fall Outing Committee and serves as President of the Masters and Wardens Club.

Bro. Rich's Lady, Rosemary Thomas, encourages and enjoys all the functions that Bro. Rich gets involved in. Some of their special times together include working in the yard and riding in their Corvette or on their Harley Davidson motorcycle. Both Bro. Rich and Rosemary are avid deer and turkey hunters. Bro. Chilton is a five time winner of the Nebraska State Turkey Calling Championship.

Venerable Master of Kadosh
Omaha Consistory



A native Texan, Bob Whipple was born in 1957 in Fort Worth, Texas and moved as a kid to Lubbock, Texas, where his father, Bob Sr., a Scottish Rite Mason, worked at Texas Tech University. Bob went to Monterey High School in Lubbock and then to Tech, where he graduated in 1979.

All that time spent on a college campus must have grown on him, because he went on to get a MA in English from the University of Texas in 1983 and a PhD in the same subject from Miami of Ohio in 1990. Bob's been teaching for over 25 years, the last 17 at Creighton University. His specialization is the teaching of writing, and he has taught writing classes to all levels of undergraduate and graduate students, business professionals, Boys Town staff, and Omaha police officers. He enjoys teaching writing because, he says, "most people are better writers than they think they are, but everyone still has something to learn." At Creighton Bob directed the composition program and was Chair of the English Department. College teachers have to do research, too, and Bob has done plenty of that, turning out over 30 articles, book chapters, and reviews, and 2 books, with more on the way. He currently holds the A.F. Jacobson Endowed Chair in Communication at Creighton.

A fourth-generation Mason (his brother, father, grandfathers, and great-grandfather were or are Texas and Oklahoma Masons), Bob was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in Florence Lodge # 281 in 1997, and served as Master in 2003. He Joined Scottish Rite in 1998, and is an active member of the Fourth Degree Team. He also serves as a member of the Grand Lodge Masonic Education Committee, is a member of Tangier Shrine, and received the rank of KCCH in 2005.

In 1984 he moved into an apartment next door to a charming lady named Susan Reaves, and in 1988 they were married ("I really did marry the girl next door," Bob says). They enjoy traveling, working on their home, movies, music, University of Texas baseball, and books. They have four cats.

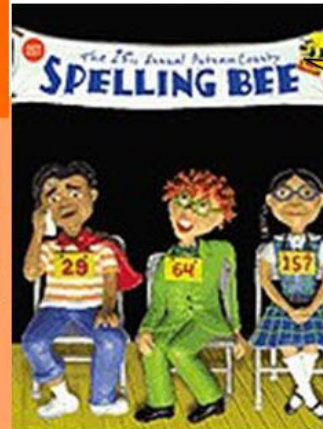
BROADWAY IN OMAHA

&

PERF



Spelling Bee,
September 30, 2007
Sunday Matinee, 2 PM
\$73.00



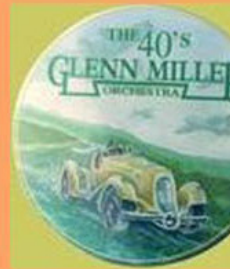
Oak F
November
Tuesday



Monty Python's Spamalot,
November 7, 2007
Wednesday, 7:30 PM
\$66.00

Prices include inside parking, food, drinks, bus to and from show AND your show ticket.

Social Time will begin 2 hours before the performance at SRMC.



The Phantom of the Opera,
February 7, 2008
Thursday, 7:30 PM
\$73.00



Orpheum Theater

Ho

Hiram's Call to all Brethren of Freemasonry

4/11/07

To my Dear Brother Master Masons throughout America and around the world;

I have dedicated and committed my music and creativity to promoting Freemasonry throughout our country for the past 4 years and if need be I will continue this until I am no longer able because of old age. There is a very special reason for all this and I'm asked "why?" at every performance of the "Masonic Pride Hiram's Call Tour" so here we go.

Freemasonry saved my life and allowed me to live life more

abundantly. After conversations with my Dad and my Lord, I joined our Fraternity of my own free will and accord and not once have I ever regretted it. That was in 1990 and not long afterwards I went on the road as a traveling entertainer touring and logging million of miles across America. I was very fortunate that my Dad decided to become my road manager and my own personal babysitter. Brothers, the travels were full of fun, pain, excitement, and heartbreak. The days became long and the nights became even longer. From the beginning, I felt the presence of danger every

where I looked. Drugs, alcohol and immorality plagued every stop and every appearance. The innumerable long talks between Dad and I helped, but being a father and a husband myself and being gone from home sometimes nine weeks at a time became unbearable. I could have gotten hooked on drugs, fallen into the pits and may have never gotten out. All those distractions and temptations could have destroyed me and my family. Actually some of the close calls I had during those days - still cause me to loose sleep to this day. So..... we did something different. Dad and I both

OMAHA FORMING ARTS

Ridge Boys
er 27, 2007
y, 7:30 PM
\$61.00



Glenn Miller Orchestra
March 15, 2008
Saturday, 8:00 PM
\$43.00

olland Center

were Master Masons and we started taking noticing of all the other Freemasons out there as we traveled and performed. We began visiting Lodges wherever we would go and whenever possible. I embraced Freemasonry and *followed my guide*.

Brothers, we ate more beans and cornbread in those early days than you can shake a stick at. But, something was happening. I felt an increasing presence of fraternal *character* and *pride*. I started wearing my Masonic Ring during the shows and then I reorganized the all Seeing Eye upon me - with every thing I said and in everything I did on and off the stage. Brothers began attending my shows and there

was a huge lump in my throat when I looked out at the audiences and could see all those rings – just like mine... shining in the lights. I saw pride re-emerge in Lodges and Men. Lodges and Men, who also gained my respect *everywhere*, are still out there spreading the cement of Freemasonry.

The things that I have learned have given me hope and motivated me to realize that Life is worth living to the fullest and that it's meant to be an adventure and not one big problem to solve. My focus has changed and so have the themes of the stories that I tell in my songs. The more I played my newer songs, the more people have started commenting on what those songs meant to them personally – and how they have been affecting their personal lives.

Let me tell each of you that my chin quivers when I see your memory work during my attendance at Lodges near and far. It takes much more talent than I have singing, to learn all those rituals in perfect form and then present them in as only a passionate Freemason can do.

Brothers, I have prepared for this journey for a long time and now.... the time has come. I have noticed as of late, a small but real decline in the pride, passion and participation of many brethren and it's almost like we are losing a whole generation of active members in some places. What to do, you ask? I am not asking any of you to purchase anything or donate a dime but I AM calling out to all of you to stop..... and listen to Hiram's Call. Step out of your comfort zone and let's all together breathe new life into our Craft. Let's bring it back, like it is meant to be. I once heard that Adolf

Hitler feared the Freemasons and that's why he outlawed Freemasonry during his reign in Germany and Europe. Today Adolf is gone and our fraternity in Germany is alive and well and full of proud passionate *good* men and growing everyday. Rebound, Rebirth and Rejoice!

I am preparing to put together for the first time the largest gathering of Freemasons in one spot that has ever occurred. "The Masonic Pride Hiram's Call Tour" will feature as many Brothers in the entertainment world as possible. Wouldn't it be great to have Brothers from all over the world there? It will be a job but you all will help me in this labor, I'm sure. As you can plainly see, I believe in dreams and there's a very special reason for this, "most of mine have come true". I get paid to hunt and fish on National TV, I get to see the world and sing my songs and meet Brothers all across the country. I have the greatest family in the world, I have the biggest dog I've ever seen (200lbs), and I love living in the greatest country in the world. I, like everyone, do have some problems now and again in life, but I can't really think of any of them right now.

Well there you have it! I hope I have given you a sense of who, what and why. I am who I am – a humble and grateful Free and Accepted Mason. Please forgive me for sounding egotistical but I do want to tell you that there is a cave on my land which I bought from my good and late friend "Johnny Paycheck", in which I frequently go to be alone. There in that cave I pray with my lord and Savior and thank him for allowing me to use all the skills He has given me and allowing me to create all the wonderful things that he does. Do you have a cave? I just spoke a few days ago with a new Brother

(Hiram's Call) Continued on page 9

The symbolism of the square and compass.



The square and compass are two of the three great lights of Masonry. The square is the instrument used to remind us that our work and actions need to be correct at all times. The compass is the instrument used to remind us that our wants must be restricted within our society's rules and to behave properly. These are the fundamental teachings of these instruments.

These implements are the most recognized symbols of Freemasonry. Their use has always been explained to the candidates during the ceremonies of initiation. However, few of us understand the meaning and significance of the position of these instruments in the three Blue Lodge degrees. When Lodge is opened in the Entered Apprentice degree both points of the compass support the square. In the Fellow Craft degree, one point of the compass is elevated above the square. Both points of the compass are supported by the square in the Master Mason degree. The position of the square and compass in the three degrees has a special meaning.

There are many interpretations about the position of the square and compass in the Blue Lodge degrees. In the Master Mason degree, both points of the compass are elevated above the square to symbolize that the Brother has been brought to light. But, why is this? Why not the other way around? That is, why not both points of the compass supporting the square symbolize light in Masonry in the Master Mason degree? Bro.

H. L. Haywood, in his "Symbolical Masonry" gives the most beautiful explanation on the reason for why we position these tools in different ways in the three degrees. I will use this interpretation and expand on it.

Until approximately five hundred years, people thought that the earth and the sky (The Heavens) had different shapes. It was thought that the earth was flat. Not only it was thought to be flat, but it was also thought to be a four-sided square. The sky, on the other hand, was thought to be a dome because stars and moons travel in curved tracks. All domes have a circular shape. Therefore, the four-sided square and the circle were the primary shapes to describe the earth and the Heavens.

Two different instruments are needed to trace the primary shapes of heaven and earth. To trace a four-sided square, a square may be used. The compass is needed to trace a circle. The square and compass are the implements needed to trace the representative shapes of heaven and earth. In this sense, the square and compass have come to represent the earth and the heavens. In Masonry, the compass is always placed above the square. The position of the square and the compass in Masonry is representative of the heavens above and the earth beneath us.

The square and compass represent more than the heavens and the earth. Material possessions and spiritual beliefs have always been part of human nature. Material possessions are part of the mundane wants of man, while spiritual

knowledge is part of the spirituality in human nature. In every person, the mundane or earthly elements are represented by the square, while the divine or spiritual elements are represented by the compass. That is, the compass and square are representative of Heaven or the divine, and earth or the mundane, respectively.

The position of the square and compass in the three degrees is representative of the struggle between the mundane and divine in every person. When a man is initiated in the Entered Apprentice degree, he is a natural man, with his earthly nature dominating or covering the spiritual. The representation of this in the Entered Apprentice is the square supported by the compass. In the Fellow Craft degree, the Brother is half way to achieve spirituality, so only one point of the compass is elevated above the square. In the Master Mason degree, spirituality has conquered the mundane in the man. This is represented in the degree by having both points of the compass elevated above the square.

The square and compass are representatives of the duality of life. The Heaven and earth, day and night, good and evil, male and female, black and white. All coexist in harmony in nature. We as Masons must assure that we square our work and actions and we keep our needs and wants within the framework of humanity.

*Eduardo Casas
Hastings Valley*

June 13, 2007

Dear Brethren,

Among the strategic goals to come out of Masters and Wardens' recent meetings, foremost is the need to put Scottish Rite income on a sound footing for the future.

I would like to propose that the Omaha Valley begin a Building Fund similar to the Foundation's Century Club. Members would donate \$100 a year for 10 years to help guarantee our building will remain in great physical and financial shape as a historical part of Omaha.

Curt has mentioned to me that donating to the building is not tax deductible. For myself and for many others, guaranteeing the survival and financial footing of our great building and our Craft is far more important and satisfying than saving a few dollars with a tax deduction.

There are over 2,000 members to the Omaha Valley. If 100 of us joined in, the Valley would have raised \$100,000 to help ensure our building's future. Imagine if 250 eventually joined in, this that would be \$250,000, or if you dare to dream that 500 people would have become members of this club, it would add \$500,000 to the security of our buildings legacy in Omaha.

Now, I would say we could name this fund after someone who has had a great impact on our building and on our Valley. It could be decided by our Line Officers. One suggestion I have is to name it for our current General Secretary Curt Edic.

This is something I am going to do for the Valley. To put my money where my mouth is, I am enclosing my first check written to the Omaha Scottish Rite Building Fund along with this letter. I hope many of you would act on this as well. Fraternally,

Marcus Micheli

(Hiram's Call) Continued on page 7-

who walked alone, into a Masonic Lodge here in Ohio and asked how he could become a Master Mason. He is 30 years old and his name is *Jonathon Bo jangles Paycheck Jr.* Welcome to the Brotherhood BO. As you travel and go about your daily routines, I ask each of you to simply make conversation about Freemasonry to 20 people per month. Keep the *All Seeing Eye* on me and allow me to redirect the same toward you. We today have a tool that has never before existed in the history of our Craft and it can be the greatest new working tool in the world. It's used everyday by Brothers who communicate all over the world...the "Internet". Join the Pinoy Masons group on Yahoo or go to Masons-4-Masons or any of the innumerable places on the internet where Masons meet and feel and witness the pride of our membership and participate in conversation, every day! I have been accused of not speaking very good English (mostly by my Yankee brothers - HA!). In fact, brothers overseas who speak *literally* very little of our language love to claim they speak better English than I do....and maybe, MAYBE they are right. But the internet brings all Masons together on the level across the great expanses and waters of the world and we do in fact ALL speak the same language fluently, the language of friendship, morality and brotherly love.

My goal is simple and that is to use the means we have at our disposal today and fill the gaps that have arisen worldwide and to unite the Brethren of the Craft worldwide even more so - through the use of technology, music and fraternal love. I believe (and who knows maybe it's just me) that the teachings and

wisdom of Freemasonry provides the answers to most of humanities issues and problems today. If we all join together, wherever we may be, we can make a difference in today's world.

And one thing is for darn sure..... the sale of Beans and Cornbread will sore and that is OK with me.

Sincerely & fraternally

Brother Howie Damron
32nd Scottish Rite



howie@fpc1.com

www.buckeyewild.com

Editor's Note - Hirman's Call CDs by Howie Damon are available at the SRMC for \$20/copy.

2007 Omaha Honorees Elect Every two years active 32° KCC Scottish Rite Masons are nominated by the SGIG in Nebraska to receive the high distinction of 33° Inspector General Honorary. Those that have been elected by the Supreme Council in 2007 in the Omaha Valley include -

- Alan Gunther Berk
- Thomas Allen Clark
- Benjiman Hassel Harvey
- Craig Charles Hummel
- Danforth Dana Loring, Jr.
- Donald Wesley Madsen
- Ronald Douglas Stites

The 33° Conferral will be held on Saturday, October 27, 2007 at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Omaha. This degree conferral is tiled ceremony for members only.

(Honorees) Continued on page 11



**Scottish Rite Fall Wine Tasting
Friday, September 28th at 6PM
\$40 per person**

“Pacific Rim Inspired”

**Please join us at the Historic Scottish Rite for an evening
of fine wines, tantalizing food, and great conversation.**

**Limited to the first 80 people
Reservations are required.**

(402) 342-1300

5 wines, appetizers and dinner for \$40

WHAT A DEAL!



Remember your mentor...

Last year at our annual Century Club dinner III. Bro. Charles Sederstrom, 33°, now Deputy to the Supreme Council for Nebraska, appealed to those present to honor a fellow Mason or someone who has been a mentor in your life. Someone who has been special to you, that led you through troubled times, help you with business or was instrumental in you become a Scottish Rite Mason.

Bro. Chuck has asked me to appeal to you again this year to think of that special person. You may purchase a Century Club membership in that person's name and he/she will be listed on our Century Club plaque. No one needs to know it was you that made the donation but that person will be recognized.

This is not a new idea. Rotary International has the "Paul Harris

Fellow" with the same format, commit to at least \$100 per year for 10 years. I've witnessed several Rotarians purchasing not only donations in their name but in the name of their family members or a person special to them.

Since our last Century Club dinner 65 men have joined the Century Club. This is a wonderful addition to our Club but what if you have completed your commitment? Wouldn't you like to continue? What better way than to continue in the name of someone else that is important to you.

Give it some thought. We all have special people that we admire. We know that the "little Ethan's" at the RiteCare Language Disorder Clinics need your help. Don't stop because you think you've reached the end. Make that donation today.

Curtis Edic, 33°, Secretary

(Honorees) Continued from page 9-

Likewise 32° Scottish Rite Masons are nominated by the SGIG to become Knight Commander Court of Honour. Those elected by the Supreme Council in 2007 in the Omaha Valley include –

Bruce Alan Buehler
Donald Paul Ellenberger
Donald Warren Engdahl
Lauren Gayle Faist
James Thomas Gleason
William Earl Henderson II
Ralph Vernon Joos, Jr.
Cecil Andrew Martin
Harry R McMullen
Glenn Albert Ried
Dean Frank Skokan
Gerald Dean Verbeek

The KCCH Investiture will be held on Friday, October 26, 2007 starting at 4:00 PM. This ceremony is open to the public and will be followed with a dinner. Reservations only.

GIFTS TO THE OMAHA FOUNDATION

IN MEMORY OF

Melvin "Bud" Walling
Jim and Marcia Ochsner
Edward & Bette Swanson
Thomas & Ann Brannen
Robert & Marilyn Gillen
Lucille Coschka
Allen Sohl
Mary Frances Brannen
Harlan & Diane Aden
Jennifer Schenck
Philip & Dana Waldorf
Merl & Nancy Core
Frank & Connie Foley
Robert & Catherine Lane
Thomas & Jeanne Brogan
Jerry & June Denkinger
Deborah Sandstedt
James & Patricia Johnson
Georgene Marks
Dale Widoe
Fran Vav
IN HONOR OF

John Hobbs

Mr. & Mrs. James R. Erixon
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis M. Edic

IN MEMORIAM

Omer L. Whiteaker
Otto J. Ludewig
Robert A. May
John R. Bullock
Edward C. Miller
George A. Prescott
Joseph Scigliano
John A. Garrod
Wilfred R. Irish
Werner H. Mueller
Daniel J. Lucey
Wayne R. Hansen
Frederick W. Van Auken
Otto E. Haffke
William H. Mattison
James L. Forristall

Special Events later ...

- Special speaker Robert Davis, 33° GC from Guthrie OK
Septemeber 17
- Fall Outing - September 19
Papillion Gun Club
- Grand Lodge 150th Celebration
in Lincoln, September 21
- Feast of Tishri - October 15
Traitor Degree by
Sojourners Chap #19
- 1st Annual Scotch Tasting
October 19
- KCCh Investiture - Lincoln
October 26
- 33° Conferral - Omaha
October 27
- Trip to Guthrie Reunion
November 2 - 4
- Fall Reunion at SRMC
November 16-17
- Reunion Banquet November 18
- KSA Chili Cookoff December 7
- Christmas party December 14

THE LAMBSKIN APRON

It is not ornamental; its cost is not great,
There are things far more useful, yet truly I state
That of all my possessions none can compare
With the White Leather Apron, that all Masons
wear.

As a young lad I wondered, just what it all meant,
When Dad hustled around, and so much time was
spent

In shaving and dressing and looking just right.
Until Mother would say, it's the Masons tonight.
Sometimes Mother would say, "Dad what makes
you go,

Way up there tonight, through the sleet and snow;
You see the same things each night of the year."

And then Dad would say, "Yes, I know my dear;
Each time I see the same things, it is true,
Though they be old, they always seem new,
For each hand that I clasp, each friend that I greet
Seem just a little closer, each time that we meet.

Years later I stood at that very same door,
With good men and true, who had entered before,
Kneeled at the Altar, and there I was taught.
That Virtue and Honor never be bought.

Omaha Valley News

Published for the members of the Scottish Rite Bodies

John T. Parsons, 33°, Editor

W. Larry Jacobsen, 33°

Robert Whipple, 32° KCCH

R. Todd Simpson, 32° KCCH

Curtis M. Edic, 33°, General Secretary

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That there on the level, men meet and abide.
That wealth and position, is all cast aside.
So Honor the Lambskin, and may it remain,
Forever, untarnished, and free from all stain.
So that when we are called to the Grand Architect's
Love
We will meet him up there, in that Grand Lodge
above. *AUTHOR UNKNOWN*

Check what's going on at the Orient Website-

www.orientofnebraska.com

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202 S 20th Street

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