



Omaha Valley News

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry - Orient of Nebraska

Valley of Omaha - A Newsletter

February 2009, Volume 20

The 2009 Masters and Officers



Omaha Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master	Gregory W. Carlson, 32°
Senior Warden	Dean F. Skokan, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden	Peter G. Larson, 32°
Orator	D. (Rick) Whitesides, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Matthew W. Vandergriff, 32°
Expert	Gregory P. Hadcock, 32°
Assistant Expert	Chris M. Carter, 32°
Captain of the Host	Jeffrey M. Coleman, 32°



Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°
Deputy to the Supreme Council
in Nebraska



Omaha Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master	Donnie D. Perry, 32° KCCH
Senior Warden	Richard D. Myers, 32°
Junior Warden	Gary D. Fields, 32° KCCH
Orator	A. J. Johnson, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Micah I. Evans, 32°
Expert	William E. Martin, 32° KCCH
Assistant Expert	Michael J. Nelson, 32°
Standard Bearer	Douglas L. Lewis, 32°
Guardian of the Temple	Charles C. Lovell, 32°



Paul D. Rutherford., 33°
Personal Representative
of the
Deputy in Nebraska



Omaha Council of Kadosh

Eminent Commander	Carroll E. Sefrit, 32°
1 st Lt. Commander	Phillip F. Harris, 32°
2 nd Lt. Commander	Gary W. Bunnell, 32°
Chancellor	Jeffrey E. Jackson, 32°
Orator	Scott D. Reuman, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Nizar K. Wehbi, 32°
Tucoplier	William A Garner, 32°
Draper	Donovan D. Brand, 32°



John W. Webster, 33°
President
Scottish Rite Cathedral Association



Omaha Consistory

Venerable Master	Daniel J. Wellendorf, 32° KCCH
Prior	Robert F. Jasa, 32° KCCH
Preceptor	Ralph V. Joss, Jr., 32° KCCH
Chancellor	Cary L. Manson, 32°
Minister of State	Buster Hicks, 32° KCCH
Marshall of Ceremonies	Gary S. Eller, 32°
Expert	Alan R. Smith, 32°
Assistant Expert	James M. Sklenar, 32°



Curtis M. Edic, 33°
*General Secretary/Treasurer

*Almoner
*Tiler
*Assistant Tiler

Richard L. Corwine, Jr., 33°
William R. Craig, 33°
Donald D. Madsen, 33°
Richard W. Whiteman, 33°
Wayne E. Sherman, 32° KCCH
William A. Covey, 32° KCCH

*Common to all four bodies



Knights of St. Andrew Officers

Master	George A. Pfeffer, 32°
Senior Warden	Armel E. Mac Donald, 32°
Junior Warden	Christopher V. Edwards, 32°
Secretary/Treasurer	Micah I. Evans, 32°
Senior Deacon	Gary W. Bunnell, 32°
Junior Deacon	James C. Lee, 32°
Sentinel	Johnathan L. Paz, 32°



249TH REUNION – FALL, NOVEMBER 21-22, 2008

Top row, l. to r.: Brian D. Best, Class Orator; Matthew A. Leet, Class Treasurer; Christopher P. Younker; Mike Manta; Cannon P. Kinchelow, Jr.; John R. Fairlie, Class President; Sean J. Privitera.

Second row, l. to r.: Roy K. Bradburn; Thomas G. Mitchell; Robert W. Hamilton, Jr., Class Vice President; Joe D. Owens; Hugh D. Minor; Melvin N. Morton; Alan M. Koziol; Brian D. Johnson.

Third row, l. to r.: Gerard F. Melis, Sr.; Michael A. Push; Robert Ryan, Class Secretary; James H. Kassal; Thomas J. Sorensen; Scott G. Robertson; Ronald J. Gillespie; Edwin T. Vincent.

Bottom row, seated l. to r.: Paul D. Rutherford, 33°, Class Director; James O. Wolfe, 32° KCCH, Property and Stage Director; Dean F. Skokan, 32° KCCH, General Director of Degrees; Okley H. Gibbs, 32°, Venerable Master, Consistory; Edward W. Nolte, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection; Richard L. Corwine, 33°, Almoner; Thomas K. Brummett, 32° KCCH, Eminent Commander, Council Of Kadosh; Dennis P. Samuelson, 32° KCCH, Wise Master, Chapter of Rose Croix; Phillip F. Harris, 32°, Master, Knights of St. Andrew; John T. Maxell, 32° KCCH, Asst. Class Director; Curtis M. Edic, 33°, General Secretary, Valley of Omaha.

Fellowship of the Double Headed Eagle

In my travels across the states visiting the magnificent temples of the Scottish Rite and my brothers, I feel compelled to write about the fellowship of the Double Headed Eagle or Scottish Rite as we members of the ancient fraternity call it. Each Temple has it's own character, unique capabilities and even specialties. From the great food and fellowship in Austin, Texas to the grandeur of Guthrie Oklahoma to the hometown and welcoming arms of my home consistory in McAlester OK and the absolutely first class belt busting meals and fantastic fellowship in Omaha, Ne.

Each and every temple I visit we are made to feel like we belong and fellowship with men young and old who all share a passion to share the light. The fellowship in every temple is heartwarming and humbling to see these grand facilities our fore brothers built for us to enjoy. I can always count on everyone to go out of their way to make room for the ever growing "Masonic Mall" as the Brothers in Austin nicknamed it. We all share much common strength and share a love for the fraternity to see it grow.

Each of us that become active in the Rite give what we can, when we can, it all counts each fraction adding up to a whole. So before you know it there is a viable and successful temple. It takes the sum of the membership, not just the one for a temple to survive. The kitchen crews, stage hands, actors, directors, tyler's and all other tasks that must be done to have a successful reunion.

The candidates have no idea as to the prep-work and setup behind the scenes for a successful reunion and that is how it should be. It is nice to hear the occasional joke

or story and even just talk about the different histories of the Fraternity. No matter where I travel though everyone opens the doors and makes me feel not only welcome but at home. Where else but the fellowship of our Fraternity can a stranger be a Brother and made to feel like Family as soon as he hits the door.

The Fellowship of the Double headed Eagle always leaves me in awe, because where ever I go I have family. No matter the size of the Temple I always leave with fond memories and more friends then when I arrived. I would recommend every brother traveling to Temple's besides their home Temple. Who knows other than a little culture shock you will always leave with more friends then you arrived with.

On a personal note on a recent visit to Austin, Texas I had to save a puppy, when I went to the cafeteria for some first class vittles they held up this little sad eyed floppy eared pup and told me if I did not eat all the food the pup would "get it" so me being a softy hitched up my britches and said don't hurt that puppy I'll do it. I believe I not only saved that puppy but I saved the entire litter. That is charity giving even if it hurts and for the love of a good puppy.. Of course all of that is in jest but the food is so great that I needed an excuse to be so full, so that is my story and I am going to stick to it.

*Terry Gardner, 32° KCCH
Valley of Tulsa OK*

Editor's Note: Bro. Terry has joined us here in Omaha for the last three Reunions bringing books and paraphernalia to sell to our members and candidates. The Omaha Valley appreciates all the work he does for the good of Masonry.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

I hope you all had a happy holiday season and that Santa was reasonably good to you and yours. The New Year is already upon us, and many of us have been engaged this month in that great Masonic pastime of the season, Installations. I've had the honor and pleasure to be involved in several installations this month, as both a participant and an observer. Congratulations to all those newly installed Blue Lodge officers, and best wishes for a great year!

Tangier Shrine had a great crowd for their installation, despite the bad weather that might have kept some folks away. The attendance is a tribute to both the leadership of the officers and the devotion of the members. (The fantastic spread of food after the installation may also have had something to do with attracting attendees!) Best wishes to Jeff Jackson and his Divan for the ensuing year.

The Omaha Valley's installation was held on the 19th of this month. Congratulations to all the new officers, elected and appointed. The Omaha Valley has a national reputation as a role model and leader in the Scottish Rite Masonic community and I have no doubt that this slate of officers will continue to enhance that reputation.

Brothers Del Weber and Larry Jacobsen have been instrumental in obtaining a nationally known speaker in the field of ethics. Unfortunately, there are very few institutions of higher learning these days that offer courses in subjects like ethics, and the fiscal and moral irresponsibility of those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the current economic crisis underscore that lack of moral fiber in our society. We, as Scottish Rite Masons, have been

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Dates to Remember

Feb 5-7	Grand Lodge Communication in Kearney
Feb 13	Membership Dinner - SRMC
Feb 16	Lodge Meeting - Ladies Night Masonic Education - Ladies Program Program
Feb 21	Grand Lodge Installation - Lincoln SR
Feb 26- Mar 1	Tangier Circus
Feb 26	GL meet w/BL Officers @ SRMC
Mar 7	Italian Wine Tasting w/food
Mar 14	357 Dinner - SRMC
Mar 17	Lodge meeting
Mar 17	Tangier Corn Beef & Cabbage Fundraiser
Mar 17	Corned Beef & Cabbage lunch @ SRMC
Mar 20	Friendship Dinner - Fremont
Mar 21	Grand Master's Dinner - Tangier Shrine
Mar 22	Daughter of the Nile Installation @ SRMC
Mar 26	Friendship Dinner - CB Temple
Mar 28	Tangier Potentate's Ball
Apr 3	SR Fish Fry lunch 11:00 to 1:30
Apr 10	SR Fish Fry lunch 11:00 to 1:30
Apr 11	One day Masonic Lodge @ SRMC
Apr 17-18	Scottish Rite Spring Reunion
Apr 20	Lodge Meeting Remembrance & Renewal
Apr 24	Scotch Tasting @ SRMC
Apr 27	SR Ethics Initiative featuring Dr. Kidder Institute for Global Ethics Public Forum Apr 27th - 7:00 PM - SRMC
Apr 28	Ethics Workshop - invitation only
May 16	Shrine Ceremonial
May 18	Lodge Meeting
May 20	Spring Outing @ Papillion Gun Club Tickets available in March
May 29	Friendship Dinner - Shrine
May 30	One day Masonic Lodge - SRMC

Officer Installation, January 19, 2009



Installing Officers: (l. to r.)
 Scott Oglesby, 33°, Marshal,
 Deputy Charles Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, Installing Officer,
 John Parsons, 33° Chaplain



Chapter of Rose Croix: (l. to r.) Micah Evans, Gary Fields, AJ Johnson, Don Perry, WM, Micheal Nelson, Rick Myers and Charles Lovell.



Omaha Consistory: (l. to r.) Cary Manson, Ralph Joos, Buster Hicks, Dan Wellendorf, VM, Jim Skelnar, and Bob Jasa



Tilers: Bill Craig and Wayne Sherman

Knights of St. Andrew: (l. to r.) Armel Mac Donald, Micah Evans, Chris Edwards, Don Gockley, George Pfeffer, VM, Gary Bunnell, Jim Lee and Jonathan Paz

A Public Community Forum Lecture

MORAL COURAGE

*Making Tough Decisions
in Tough Times*



*Presented
by
Dr. Rushworth Kidder
President and Founder,
Institute for
Global Ethics*

*7 p.m.
April 27, 2009
Scottish Rite
Masonic Center
202 S. 20th Street
Omaha, NE*

*Sponsored by the Omaha Valley SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER
in association with the Nebraska Humanities Council*

Free tickets will be sent to you when you call 402-342-1300 or email cedic@scottishriteomaha.org

*Italian Wine Tasting and Dinner
March 6, 2009
\$40.00 PP*

*Wine
presented
by
Jerry Rambo*



*Food
Presented
by
Access 66*

*5:00 PM Quaffing
7:00 PM Dinner*

HELPING CHILDREN COMMUNICATE

The RiteCare™ program was established to help children with speech and language disorders.

Through the program trained professionals provide diagnostic evaluation and treatment of speech and language disorders, as well as other disabilities.

With over 170 RiteCare™ facilities, the Scottish Rite is able to help thousands of children to talk and to read. Our professional clinicians work tirelessly with children who have difficulties with attention and memory. Many of these children struggle to process auditory information, making it difficult to speak and understand the spoken word or to read.

The RiteCare™ facilities are staffed by speech/language pathologist and other trained personnel.

These dedicated professionals take on the painstaking challenge of freeing children from a lifetime of disability.

The RiteCare™ program is open to anyone, regardless of the family's ability to pay. Donations provided to the Scottish Rite Foundation help to keep this essential program operating. Helping children is an important mission of Scottish Rite Masons

(The above information provided by the Scottish Rite Foundation for the Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.)

Are you a member of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha Century Club? If not call the office (342-1300) for information.

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taught to live by the creed, "Do that which is right to do", and hopefully this symposium will help us to achieve those aims. Dr. Rushworth Kidder will be here Monday, April 27, 2009 for a public forum at 7:00 PM and will work with Business and Masonic Leaders the second day. Further details will follow, so keep your eyes peeled.

A few words of thanks are also in order for Cheryl Wonder and the other Scottish Rite ladies for their support of the Rite Care Clinic. Cheryl orchestrated the collection of toys for the children at the clinic and organized other activities for the clinic's benefit. Our sincere appreciation goes to Cheryl and the other ladies who contributed!

Finally, the Grand Lodge Annual Communication is right around the corner. It will be held in Kearney 5-7 February, and I hope to see many of you there. I wish all of you a healthy and prosperous New Year!

John T. Parsons, 33°, Editor

RiteCare™ Clinics in Nebraska

There are three RiteCare™ clinics in Nebraska located in Hastings, Lincoln and Omaha.

The Alliance clinic is temporarily closed until an appropriate speech clinician can be hired.

The Omaha Valley clinic is a part of the Nebraska Medical Center with facilities housed in Monroe-Meyer Institute at 44th & Dewey St. Marsha Sullivan, associate director and her staff of speech/language pathologist work with children 2 years to school age. The children are first evaluated on an individual basis to accurately determine their needs. Following establishment of a care plan the child is admitted to a group of no more than six children. In one and one half hour sessions the children rotate through several learning/work stations, receiving much individual instruction. Even within the group sessions the children receive much one on one instruction with a therapist. Most children attend two sessions per week. During the group therapy the parent observes the work through a one way mirror. This observation allows the parent(s) to better understand the instruction received by the child and also affords the opportunity to interact with other parents in the sharing of common experiences.

Children admitted to RiteCare™ come not only from the metro area, but from Columbus, Fremont, Auburn and other Nebraska towns. Parents are desperate for help and with so few clinics available they are very appreciative of this opportunity offered to their children by Scottish Rite.

The Nebraska Scottish Rite Foundation underwrites the cost of this program. This service is provided at no cost to those in need. If Scottish Rite through the RiteCare program did nothing more its existence would be justified. Children enter the program with serious speech disorders, but when at the programs completion they are able to say "I love you, Mommy" and then are able to enter kindergarten on a speech level commensurate with their age we may truthfully say "WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL BROTHER".

Ben Harvey, 33°, Chairman of Development



RiteCare Clinician Paul Laiko with Kaylee

Master Craftsman Graduates



These men completed the first Master Craftsman course: (l. to r.) Bro. Joe Carter, Chris Carter, William Craig, Newt Kelley, Dick Johnson, Ed Ticknor, Loren Moore, John Parsons. (2nd row) Rick Myers and Curt Edic. In the back: Don Perry, WM, Greg Carlson, VN, Carroll Sefrit, EC and Dan Wellendorf, VN of Kadosh. Congratulations to those completing the course.

Acting on Our Values with Integrity

April 27th will be a milestone day in the development of the Omaha Valley's Ethics initiative. Dr. Rushworth Kidder's visit to Omaha will be well promoted to both Masons and the community alike, and we expect to fill the auditorium that evening for his presentation on Moral Courage (see the announcement in this issue). But let us share why this visit and event is so important to all Masons.

Dr. Kidder is the founder and president of The Institute for Global Ethics, a non-profit, non-partisan think-tank headquartered in Rockland, Maine. Through extensive, around-the-world, research-based interviews, surveys, and focus groups, the Institute is finding that, despite different cultures, religions, and political systems, people worldwide tend to agree on five core, shared values: honesty, responsibility, respect, fairness, and compassion.

Those words may be different than experienced in our rituals, but the values of Masonry perfectly align with the research and principles of Dr. Kidder's organization. Compound that with his ability to present compelling, current day, real-life situations in which those values are tested and acted upon will provide you a new way of thinking and acting on the lessons of Masonry's ritual, lectures, symbols and allegories.

And that is the goal of the Omaha Valley's Ethics initiative – to demonstrate to ourselves and to the community the importance of acting on our values with integrity. Ethics is not just about distinguishing between right and wrong. The really tough issues are those decisions that pit one core value against another. Not right vs. wrong, but right vs. right. The broad patterns of justice

vs. mercy, truth vs. loyalty, short-term vs. long term and individual vs. community are the dilemmas that confront us everyday of our lives. Dr. Kidder will present with striking clarity the methods to think your way through these dilemmas and arm you with conviction in making those tough decisions.

What can be more important in Masonry today than to apply our values to the stuff of everyday life? And what can be more important today in our family/ community/ state/ country and world than living our shared values in everything we do.

Let's put aside the argument that 'you can't teach values because whose values are you going to teach'. We all share more values than we realize, and it's time those values take center stage in educational, business and family dialogues. We, as Masons, have much to contribute to that dialogue, both to our members and to the community.

The Omaha Valley has a great motto by Albert Pike – "To do that which it is right to do", but we should also memorize the rest of the sentence – "not because it will insure you success, or bring with it a reward, or gain the applause of men, or be the best policy, more prudent or more advisable, but because it *is* right, and therefore *ought* to be done."

Don't miss this great opportunity! Rush Kidder's calling is to help people make better, more ethical decisions in every aspect of life. Isn't that what we as Masons all aspire?

*Larry Jacobsen, 33°, Chairman
Ethics Initiative Committee*

From the Secretary's Desk...

As we sat through the Installation of Officers on January 19th, Bro. Ed Nolte, 32° KCCH, retiring Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection reflected on what happened in 2008. Frankly, knowing Bro. Nolte be a man of detail, I was still astonished of how much was accomplished last year by our Officers and members. It was wonderful to see every Line Officer position, Cathedral Board Trustee and Scottish Rite Foundation at-large Board member being installed by Ill. Bro. Charles Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, Deputy of the Supreme Council in Nebraska. As Bro. Nolte pointed out, Omaha Valley is truly vibrant and active.

When we hold each of the Friendship Dinners (two at the SRMC, two at Tangier Shrine, three at Council Bluffs IA Masonic Lodge and two at the Fremont Masonic Lodge) Scottish Rite in the Omaha Valley is explained in four phases: ritual, Masonic education, social and charitable.

In 2008 year added a new General Degree Director, Bro. Dean Skokan, 32° KCCH, starting with the Fall Reunion. He met with Degree Directors, gave guidance, expectations and added pre-recorded prologues to enhance the new candidates' experience. There are several things still to be added but now we are on a course and hopefully we may add a degree or two in future Reunions.

The Master Craftsman program developed by the Supreme Council has been added to the Omaha Valley's educational programming to help members better understand the basics of Masonry and the lessons taught in the degrees of each of the Four Coordinate Bodies. So far over 15 men have completed the six tests and 12 were recognized at the January Installation. We are offering a one hour class each month for those that want to study together. Plus there is an Masonic educational hour each night at 5:30 PM prior to the Lodge of Perfection dinner and meeting.

Socially the Omaha Valley offers a variety of opportunities not only with fellow members but with their spouses and friends. We have the annual Spring and Fall Outing at the Papillion Gun Club still going on for over 18 years. Attendance continues to be well over 200 members and male guest eating fine food prepared by volunteers, enjoy refreshments, shooting trap, playing horseshoe or just visiting, it is fun evening. The Broadway shows that come to Omaha are some of the best. The Omaha Valley gets group rate tickets and offers them at cost plus \$20 for the parking garage, food and drink at

SRMC and a bus ride to and from the show. This year we ordered tickets for nine different shows including "Wicked" coming this spring. Two wine and scotch tastings each year seem to be hits with the membership. They both get good attendance. Our wine tour went to Pawnee City this year, home of comedian Larry the Cable Guy where we were served "Get-'r-Done" wine. We are in the planning of going northwest of Omaha this year. Finally we started a tradition a few years ago called "Chili-n-Lights". We started here at SRMC with a bowl of soup then a trip around town to see the Christmas lights. This has evolved into "Chili-n-Entertainment" as this year we had a magician entertain us and we saved going out in the cold. In early December 2008 that was a good thing.

Charitable donations really came about this year with the production of the RiteCare™ Clinic video telling the story of the RiteCare clinics in Hastings, Lincoln and Omaha and the great work they are doing with children. Also we had a TV story featured on the Sunday evening news about the clinic here in Omaha. Awareness of the RiteCare program increased and the monetary help was better as well. Enthusiasm for RiteCare has prompted the hiring of Ill. Bro. Ben Harvey, 33° to be Chairman of Development for the Nebraska Orient. He will help each of the Valleys raise money for RiteCare and for local building or charitable projects. "Welcome, aboard, Ben!"

One functions held here last October that will become an annual event was the Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner/Auction. In collaboration with the Supreme Council, Nebraska Orient the Valleys of Hastings and Omaha participated in two events to raise money for RiteCare and for the Supreme Council. A new committee was formed involving several newer members who asked for donations from businesses and help sell tickets. The first year there was over \$22,000 raised with over \$10,400 profit split with the Supreme Council. Not bad for a first year endeavor

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha also donates to the University of Nebraska Foundation for 13 scholarships at UNO. The members and guests enjoyed meeting and hearing from these students here before our Lodge meeting in September. We have already invited the students back for 2009 and plan to make this an annual event. They appreciate the scholarships and we appreciate the opportunity to meet them and share their vision into the future. The Foundation also supports the local Masonic charities at the Masonic Home in

(Secretary's desk) continued on page 10

MASONIC FAMILY ACTIVITIES

OMAHA-COUNCIL B LUFFS METRO AREA

2008

FEB 5 D of Nile Brunch 11:00am
FEB 5-7 Grand Lodge Holiday Inn—Kearney
FEB 7 DeMolay Sweetheart Dance Fremont
FEB 8 Bethel #1 Celebrates 75th year 2:00pm CB
FEB 15 Spaghetti Dinner-Fontenelle OES 11am-2pm
Feb 21 Grand Lodge Installation Lincoln SR 2:00PM
*FEB 23 Fremont Home's Chili Supper 5-7:30pm
MARCH 7 York Rite Chapter Degrees Papillion
MARCH 11 EA School of Instruction at Covert
MARCH 14 M& W meeting 10:30 am at SRMC
hosted by Lininger Lodge
MARCH 14 Rain at the Orpheum 8pm see SRMC
for tickets
MARCH 15 Pancake Breakfast by AkSarBen OES
8am-1pm Shi-Oma
MARCH 19 OES Visitation at Narcissus OES 7:30pm
Benson
MARCH 21 Soup Supper RAM #1 time/place TBD
MARCH 21 Bill Crosby 8pm at the Orpheum see
SRMC for tickets
MARCH 21-22 Job's Spring Workshop at Camp Cal-
vin Crest Fremont
MARCH 23 FC School of Instruction at Nebraska #1
March 24 Masonic Education Symposium Omaha
place-TBA
MARC 26 1st MM School of Instruction at Beehive
SRMC
MARCH 27 19 OES Visitation at CB #441 7:30pm
MARCH 28 York Rite Council and Commandery
Degrees John J. Mercer Lodge
MARCH 28-29 Job's Spring Workshop at Camp
Comeca - Cozad
MARCH 29 Avenue Q 2:00pm matinee see SRMC
for tickets
*MARCH 30 OES Visitation at AkSarBen OES
7:30pm Shi-Oma
MARCH 31 2nd MM School of Instruction at G.W.
Lininger SRMC
APRIL 1-4 Grand York Rite --Columbus
APRIL 11 One-Day BL Degree @ SRMC
APRIL 17-18 Scottish Rite Reunion SRMC
APRIL 18-19 DeMolay Round-up Kearney
APRIL 24 OES Visitation at Fontenelle 7:30pm
*APRIL 27-28 Rushworth Kidder (ethics speaker) at
SRMC 7:00pm Open to Public
MAY 1 OES Visitation at Alpha 7:30pm Bellevue
MAY 12-14 Grand Chapter OES Lincoln

MAY 26 Wicked at the Orpheum 7:30pm see
SRMC for tickets.
JUNE 1 Card Party by AkSarBen OES 10am-2pm
Mizpah
JUNE 6 M& W meeting 9:00 am at Benson hosted
by Florence Lodge
JUNE 12-14 Rainbow Grand Assembly Crete
JUNE 16-20 Grand Session Job's Daughters in
Grand Island
JUNE 20 OES Visitation at Vesta 2pm Shi-Oma
JULY 10-12 DeMolay Conclave North Platte
JULY 18 One-Day-Degree @ SRMC
*JULY 26 Centennial & Fontenelle Corn Feed 11am-
2pm
AUG 5-9 Supreme Session Job's Richmond, VA
AUG 10 Fremont Homes Achievement Day
AUG 29 German Dinner by AkSarBen OES 4-7pm
Shi-Oma
SEPTEMBER 12 M& W meeting 10:30 am at SRMC
hosted by Capital Lodge
SEPT 26 York Rite Chapter Degrees Plattsmouth
OCT 17 One-Day-Degree
OCT 22 OES Visitation at Trinity 7:30pm WOT
OCT 24-25 Haunted House by AkSarBen OES @
Shi-Oma
OCT 24 York Rite Council and Commandery Degrees
John J. Mercer Lodge
OCT 27 Masonic Education Symposium Omaha
place-TBA
NOV 13 KCCH Vesture SRMC
NOV 19 OES Visitation at Papillion 7:30pm Papi-
lion
NOV 20-12 Scottish Rite Reunion SRMC
NOV 22 Smorgasbord by Fontenelle OES 11am-2pm
DEC 5 M & W meeting 9:00AM am at Shi-Oma
hosted by Shiloh Lodge
*DEC 13 33 Degree Vesture SRMC

This is an informational service offered through the Omaha Metro Area Masters & Wardens Club to all of the Masonic family members in the Greater Omaha Area via e-mail. Updates are tentatively planned for mid-month and near the end of each month. This is also found on the Scottish Rite web site. The Tangier Shrine incorporates part of the list in their monthly publication—The Hot Sands.

For additions, corrections or the adding of people to receive the list, please contact Phil Edwards, Chairman of Masonic Activities List for Masters and Wardens at 895-3781.

operaomaha

Special Offers | Great Events

Sign up for Puccini 101 classes. The two remaining classes, February 16 and March 30, lead up to the April production of Puccini's masterpiece, *La Bohème*. Purchase individual classes. Don't wait - seating is limited.



You are eligible to receive a **special discount** ticket offer to this year's must-see show, *La Bohème*. Mention offer code **SRITE** to receive tickets at the prices below.

President Circle | Level 1 | \$89
 Level 2 | \$69 Level 3 | \$49
 Level 4 | \$29 Level 5 | \$15

34-OPERA | operaomaha.org | Box Office 17th & Farnam Streets



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Plattsmouth, Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont, Omaha Home for Boys and the Nebraska Masonic Youth Foundation.

Most of these projects and events will be done again in 2009 but the real exciting addition is our Ethics Initiative program. After almost two year of discussion on how the Omaha Valley of Scottish Rite could present itself to the community as an ethical organization, a plan has been launched. On Monday, April 27th at 7:00 PM here at SRMC, Dr. Rushworth Kidder, President of the Institute on Global Ethics will hold a public forum on the subject of ethics. It will be free to the public and we believe we will fill the auditorium to overflowing. The following morning a breakfast will be held with local business leaders, a conference with the Ethic Initiative Core Committee followed up with a three-hour invitation only workshop with Masonic Leaders. It will be a full two-day program but should set Omaha Scottish Rite's course for future programs and events about ethics.

Each year I enjoy working with the Line Officers, the Cathedral and Foundation Boards and the various committees involved here at SRMC. 2008 was no exception, it was a pleasure to get done what we did and I look forward to do what needs to be done in 2009. If you have time, enjoy the company of your fellow Scottish Rite Masons, come join them and me on a terrific ride in 2009.

Curtis Edic, 33°, General Secretary



Scotch Tasting
 April 24th
 6 PM
 Details to Follow.

Bring non-Masonic guests, introduce them to your Masonic Friends. It's a great way to introduce them to Masonry. Who knows you may even get a signed petition!

BROADWAY IN OMAHA

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

Social Time
 At SRMC begins 2 hours before the performances.

RAIN: The Beatles Experience
 The next best thing...
 Saturday, March 14, 2009, 8 PM \$69 pp

Bill Cosby
 The legendary American humorist.
 Saturday, March 21, 2009, 8 PM \$68 pp

Avenue Q
 Due to Adult content, **not** recommended for children under 13.
 Sunday, March 29, 2009, 2 PM Matinee \$80 pp

The deadline for ordering tickets is 30 days before the show.

Friendship – Masonry – Membership

Since we were young children we have tried to cultivate friendships. We wanted to be with the most popular guys (or gals) every chance we could when we were in grade school. As we grew older we “hung around” with the best athletes in school or our hunting buddies or the computer nerds who helped you with your studies. And finally there was that special girl that you couldn’t live without dating.

When we left home we looked at old friends differently. Some we kept, others we questioned why we wanted to be friends with them. We learned more, grew up and our interests changed. Influences from college, work or social circles mapped our lives as we reached that magic age, adult.

As we move on through life we make new friendships. As before, some are “keepers”, some are acquaintances. We establish ourselves in our community, we work to raise our families and we socialize with those we feel most comfortable. Life continues and then one day a friend introduces you to his friend. You like this person, he makes you feel comfortable and the two of them seem to have something in common. They may work at different jobs or different companies but they seem to think very much the same. Their mannerisms are similar and they both have a confidence in life. Finally you learn they are Masons. Their membership to a Masonic Lodge and one or more Appendant Masonic Bodies is their bond. Their confidence is in the life lessons the Masonic ritual teaches them. They are part of the largest fraternity in the world.

You may meet other Masons who become your friend and soon you are interested in what this “Masonry” is all about. Today you can do it privately on the internet or reading books, your choice or you may want to learn from others.

Does this sound like the way you learned about Masonry? Does this mirror your experience in life? You are the one that knows. One thing is certain, you are a Mason, you are proud of your membership and you would like to bring a friend into the fraternity. In Omaha you can have the best opportunity to bring him to Masonry. Bring him and his spouse to a Friendship Dinner. There’s good food, good social time and good information about Masonry. The evenings are highly “charged” with Masonic energy. It is much easier to

ask for a signed petition and more likely to have it happen than to do it alone.

The Masonic Lodge is explained as well as the York Rite, Scottish Rite and Shrine. We use videos, good speakers and a great atmosphere. We encourage you to consider bringing the that friend to a Friendship Dinner then in the near future you can call him Brother.

The story I relayed above has five distinctive parts to bring a man to Masonry. They are as follows:

1. Meet a stranger
2. Develop a friendship
3. Introduce him to your Masonic Friends
4. Introduce him to Masonry, maybe at a Friendship Dinner
5. Make him a Mason!

These are the simple steps it takes to bring men to Masonry. We are just fortunate in Omaha to have the Masonic Unity of the Masonic Lodge and the Appendant Masonic Bodies to offer the Friendship Dinners. Take advantage of these dinners. Here’s the schedule for 2008:

- Fri, February 13th - Scottish Rite Masonic Center
- Thurs, March 26th - Council Bluffs Masonic Lodge
- Fri, May 29th - Tangier Shrine
- Fri, June 19th - Fremont Masonic Lodge
- Thurs, June 25th - Council Bluffs Masonic Lodge
- Fri, August 21st - Tangier Shrine
- Thurs, Sept 24th - Council Bluffs Masonic Lodge
- Frid, October 23rd - Fremont Masonic Lodge
- Frid, October 30th - Scottish Rite Masonic Center

As you can see you have several opportunities to bring a Friend to learn about Masonry. Oh, by the way, the food and drink is free with a candidate for both of you and your spouses. We will charge \$10 each if you don’t have a candidate but it is a great time to learn ways to approach a friend about Masonry. This is the time to take advantage, I challenge you to make it happen.

Curtis Edic, 33°, General Secretary

**Masonry creates Friendships of like minded men across the world.
Give that friend the advantage!**

IN MEMORIAM

Darrell W. Johansen
Merlin E. Mabon
William H. Coates
Robert E. Keeling
Michael R. Hoberman
August N. Christenson
Edward H. Gregory
Leonard G. Irvin Sr
Wendell C. Manley
Harry A. Swanson
John W. Hopp
Charles R. Crozier
Thomas Q. Thornton
James O. Jones
Don C. Metcalf

If you haven't given us your email address, please send me an email at cedic@scottishriteomaha.org. We plan to send more information via email in 2009, we want you better informed!

Scottish Rite Officers will have Fish Fry Lunches for the benefit of the Valley. It will be held for the last two Fridays during Lent including April 3rd & 10th. Hours 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Bring guests and friends! More information to follow.

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GIFTS TO THE OMAHA FOUNDATION IN MEMORY OF

Irene Hosier

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