



# Omaha Valley News

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry - Orient of Nebraska

Valley of Omaha - A Newsletter

February 2010, Volume 21, Number 1

## The 2010 Masters and Officers



### Omaha Lodge of Perfection

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



Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°  
SGIG in Nebraska



### Omaha Chapter of Rose Croix

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



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



### Omaha Council of Kadosh

Eminent Commander	Phillip F. Harris, 32° KCCH
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander	Gary W. Bunnell, 32° KCCH
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander	Scott D. Reuman, 32°
Chancellor	Nizar K. Wehbi, 32°
Orator	William A. Garner, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Donovan D. Brand, 32°
Tucoplier	Armel E. Mac Donald, 32°
Draper	Jonathan L. Paz, 32°



Frank W. Kroupa, 33°  
President  
Scottish Rite Cathedral Association



### Omaha Consistory

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

\*Common to all four bodies



### Knights of St. Andrew Officers

Master	Armel E. MacDonald, 32°
Senior Warden	Eric N. Emas, 32°
Junior Warden	Charles E. Sohm, 32°
Secretary/Treasurer	Jonathan L. Paz, 32°
Senior Deacon	William N. Wood, 32°
Junior Deacon	Roy K. Bradburn, 32°
Sentinel	Micheal A. Push, 32°



## 251ST REUNION – FALL, NOVEMBER 20-21, 2009

Top row, l. to r.: Curtis M. Edic, 33° General Secretary, Valley of Omaha; Peter J. Garcia; James "Sonny" Ashford, Class Orator; Macklin E. Emas, Class Vice President; Mark P. Lorenzen; Tyson J. Stanard; Paul D. Rutherford, 33°, Class Director.

Second row, l. to r.: James O. Wolfe, 33° elect, Property and Stage Director; Christopher S. Nigro; David L. Brewer, Class President; Ronald R. Giesselmann; C. Wesley Clowers; James S. Beard, Class Secretary; Travis R. Bader; Anthony "A. J." Johnson, 32° KCCH, Orator, Chapter of Rose Croix.

Bottom row, seated l. to r.: John T. Maxell, 32° KCCH, Asst. Class Director; Carroll E. Sefrit, 32° KCCH, Eminent Commander, Council of Kadosh; Donnie D. Perry, 33° elect, Wise Master, Chapter of Rose Croix; Greg W. Carlson, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection; Daniel J. Wellendorf, 33° elect, Venerable Master, Omaha Consistory; Dean F. Skokan, 32° KCCH, General Director of Degrees; Richard E. Gilmore, 32° KCCH, Asst. Class Director.

### Albert Pike: A Lesson For Today

I am writing this article on December 29, 2009, the 200th anniversary of Brother Albert Pike's birthday. Brother Albert Pike was credited with reinventing Scottish Rite Masonry. Among his many scholarly publications, Pike wrote *Morals and Dogma*, an incredible work drawing on philosophy and religions from around the world to describe the teachings of Scottish Rite Freemasonry. As I pause to read a brief biography of Pike, a single sentence sticks out:

He first joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in 1840 . . . [and later] joined a Masonic Lodge and become extremely active in the affairs of the organization. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert\\_Pike](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Pike))

Albert Pike joined the Odd Fel-

lows first, another fraternal organization? And yet, we don't read of Pike as having been the genius behind the Odd Fellows growth and prosperity. Why is that?

I surmise that no one stepped up to welcome the new brother, introduce him to members, and acquaint him with the traditions and teachings of the organization. Left to flounder on his own, young Albert Pike lost interest and never returned. The Odd Fellow's loss is our gain, for he joined Western Star Lodge #2 in Little Rock, AR a decade later in 1850. He was elected Supreme Grand Inspector General of the Scottish Rite in 1859, serving in that position for the rest of his life.

How many Albert Pikes are we losing today, as young men join our Craft and lose interest? Perhaps the young man who just joined at the last Reunion could be our biggest, brightest star of this century? If no one

takes him by the hand, mentors him, and encourages his participation, he may lose interest and leave. For want of a friendly handshake, we could be losing a Brother possessing all the wisdom and talent of Albert Pike.

That unknown Brother who first shook Pike's hand and welcomed him to Western Star Lodge is an unsung hero of Masonry. He should be honored as having been the making of Albert Pike.

Each one of us has that chance today to welcome and mentor a Brother who may prove to be the next great Masonic leader. Perhaps he'll be Grand Master in 20 years. Perhaps he'll write scholarly books on Masonry. He may be Master of his Lodge and have ideas that lead to a new golden age of Masonry in Nebraska. All he needs is a Brother who extends a fraternal arm of greeting, welcomes him, and shows him

*(Pike) continued on page 6*

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

I trust everyone had a great Christmas, Hanukah, and or New Year. I assume that many of you, like me, have devoted a large portion of late December and early January to watching the bowl games. How about the 33-0 shellacking the Huskers administered to Arizona? It's also been a very busy couple of months around the Omaha Valley, and the pace doesn't appear to be diminishing much. In November, many of us went down to Lincoln to see the KCCH Investiture Ceremony. It was extremely well done by the degree team from the Lincoln Valley. In December, the members of the Omaha Valley 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree team conferred that degree on the newly elected 33<sup>rds</sup> from Nebraska and South Dakota. Congratulations again to all the new red and white hats in the Omaha Valley and across the state.

There were several social events during that time period as well, including the Friends of Scottish Rite dinner and auction, and several holiday parties in December. January began the season for Installations of Scottish Rite, Blue Lodge, Shrine, and Eastern Star in particular. The Installation of Officers for the Omaha Valley was held on January 18<sup>th</sup>, followed by a dinner. All of the Omaha Area Masonic Lodges conducted their installations in January, and three of those installations were held in the Scottish Rite Center. Congratulations and best wishes for a great year to all the new officers in the Omaha Scottish Rite bodies, Tangier Shrine, and all the local lodges.

February will be a busy month as well, beginning with the annual Grand Lodge Session, this year being held at the Holiday Inn Midtown in Grand Island. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, the Grand Lodge of Nebraska will

*(Editor) continued on page 6*

## Dates to Remember

Feb 6	DeMolay Sweetheart Dance - SRMC
Feb 4-6	Grand Lodge Communication in Grand Island
Feb 12	Friendship Dinner - SRMC
Feb 14	Grand Lodge Installation - SRMC
Feb 15	Lodge Meeting - Ladies Night Masonic Education - Ladies Program Program
Feb 20	357 Dinner - SRMC
Feb 25- Feb 28	Tangier Circus
Feb 26	South Pacific Show - Lincoln
Mar 6	York Rite Degrees - Benson
Mar 13	KSA - Omaha Area M&W
Mar 15	Lodge Meeting - Remembrance & Renewal
Mar 17	Tangier Corn Beef & Cabbage Fundraiser
Mar 17	Corned Beef & Cabbage lunch @ SRMC
Mar 19	Fish Fry - SRMC - 11:30 - 1:30
Mar 20	Grand Master's Dinner - Tangier Shrine
Mar 26	Fish Fry - SRMC - 11:30 - 1:30
Mar 27	York Rite Degrees - Benson
Mar 27	Tangier Potentate's Ball
Apr 2	Fish Fry - SRMC - 11:30 - 1:30
Apr 10	KSA
April 10	Scottish Rite Foundation of NE - Lincoln
Apr 17	One day Masonic Lodge @ SRMC
Apr 16-17	Supreme Council Leadership Conference New Orleans
Apr 20	Lodge Meeting Reunion Renewal - Preview
Apr 23-24	Spring Reunion
April 25	WalkRite for RiteCare Walk/Picnic
April 29	Friendship Dinner - CB
May 7	Wine Tasting
May 8	KSA - Black, Red& White Breakfast
May 8	Scotch Tasting - SRMC - 2:00 PM
May 15	Tangier Shrine Ceremonial
May 17	Lodge of Perfection meeting
May 19	Spring Outing - Papillion Gun Club

# Officer Installation, January 18, 2010



**Installing Officers:** (l. to r.)  
 Paul Rutherford., 33°, Installing Officer  
 Robert Falk, 33° G. C., Chaplain  
 Frank Kroupa, 33°, Marshal



**Lodge of Perfection:** (l. to r.) Rick Whitesides, Dean Skokan, VM, Matt Vandegriff, Chris Carter, Pete Larson, and Jeff Coleman



**Chapter of Rose Croix:** (l. to r. ) (front) Donald Peterson, Gary Fields, Rick Myers, WM, Melvin Morton, (back) AJ Johnson, Douglas Lewis, Micah Evans and William Martin



**Council of Kadosh:** (l. to r.) (front) Armel Mac Donald, Nizar Wehbi, Phil Harris, Cdr., Jonathan Paz, (back) Scott Reuman, Donovan Brand, Gary Bunnell and William Garner



**Omaha Consistory:** (l. to r.) Alan Smith, Buster Hicks, Robert Jasa, VM, James Sklenar, Ralph Joos, Jr., Cary Manson, Gary Unger



**Knights of St. Andrew:** (l. to r.) (front) Micheal Push, Armel Mac Donald, VM, Roy Bradburn, (back) Charles Sohm, William Wood and Jonathan Paz



**Tilers:** Bill Craig and Donald Madsen  
**Almoner:** Richard Whiteman (center)

## CHAIR NAMING

As a way of promoting the upcoming auditorium renovation, an appeal to “sell the naming of the chairs” was made to all Scottish Rite Masons of the Omaha Valley. One anonymous brother came forward and stated “When there are 100 chairs sold, I will purchase 20 chairs”. I am pleased to report that we attained the sale of 100 chairs during the last week of December. Our unnamed brother came forth and purchased 20 chairs bring the total number sold, at \$500 each, to 126. The goal of selling 250 chairs for the auditorium first floor can be completed with your assistance.

The purchaser of the 20 chairs has decided to name each chair for someone who has played a significant part in the forming of his successful personal, business and fraternal life.

Have you purchased an auditorium chair? If not, I heartily encourage you to do so. The Centennial year of our building is 2015 and the plan to renovate the auditorium by that date.

As our generous brother has done you may wish to honor a person or persons who have been influential in your life. The requirement for the naming of a chair is without restriction. Envision the significance of having your honoree’s name inscribed upon the arm of a chair setting in the magnificent Scottish Rite auditorium well into the future.

The major portion of the Scottish Rite building was renovated in 2000 and the auditorium project represents the final stage of the overall project.

The cost of the naming rights of each chair is \$500 and if you wish the amount can be pledged and paid over a subscribed period of time. The cost of the auditorium renovation is estimated to be \$650,000 and the sale of 250 chairs will contribute a considerable amount (\$125,000) to the project.

Please give the naming of a chair your serious consideration. If you have any questions, please Give our office a call. I look forward to your help with this important undertaking.

*Frank Kroupa, 33°*



*Learn more about Scottish Rite Masonry,  
take the Master Craftsman Course*

## *Knights' Call*

You know those guys in the glengarries, those funny Scottish hats? You’ve seen them at the monthly Scottish Rite dinners, picking up dinner plates (sometimes before you’ve finished eating), tending bar, moving chairs, and telling you about an upcoming event at the Scottish Rite like the Wii competition.

*So who are these guys and what’s the deal with them, anyway?*

These are the Knights of Saint Andrew, a service club for 32° Masons. Since receiving a charter in 2001, the Knights mission has been to inspire leadership and involvement among all Scottish Rite Masons. A great deal has changed in nine years. Not too many years ago, semi-formal meetings were held in the Thirty-Third Degree room. Today, meetings have blossomed into active business meetings in the Lodge room, opened with our own solemn ritual. We still remain true to our roots serving the Valley and assigning responsibilities for upcoming events, donating income to projects which may not have otherwise been budgeted for.

*A member once said, “Why should I join a club to pick up dirty dishes? I can do that anyway.”*

Fair enough. But Knights enjoy being useful in the Valley. This is what we do. This is our value-added to the organization, and you can usually bet that many of those guys who come early to set the table or leap up to clean plates at your Lodge dinner, Shrine meeting, or Scottish Rite outings are probably KSA members. Serving the Valley is our mission, and we are proud to do whatever it takes to make an event successful whenever and wherever we’re needed.

But we do so much more than setting tables and clearing tables. In recent years, we have taken the rein in fundraising activities, including the Christmas ornament fundraiser and Memories of Elvis dinner last year, and the silent auctions in past years. In the nine years since receiving our Charter, the KSA has evolved into a leadership partner in Lodge of Perfection meetings. Fifty black-hat Knights retain executive and administrative responsibility for the KSA as Active voting members, and we have thirty Emeritus red and white-hat members, many of whom remain active at Reunions, degree work, events, and committees. Over the years, Knights have been sought out to join the officers’ line in the Lodge of Perfection, Rose Croix, Kadosh, or Consistory bodies, and have served on leadership committees within the Valley. Wherever those guys in glengarries serve, the

*(Knight’s Call) continued on page 8*

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Albert Pike joined the Odd Fellows first, another fraternal organization? And yet, we don't read of Pike as having been the genius behind the Odd Fellows growth and prosperity. Why is that?

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*continued from page 2 (Pike)*

ing, welcomes him, and shows him around.

Simply by welcoming a new Brother to Lodge, by sharing your positive experience of Masonry, and by spreading the good word of what we do and what we stand for, you may be opening the door for the next Albert Pike.

Or by doing nothing, you may inadvertently cause this future leader to lose interest and take his talents elsewhere.

The choice is yours. What will you do?

*Micah Evans, 32° KCCH*

*continued from page 3 (Editor)*

have its Installation of Officers at the Omaha Scottish Rite Center, with the ceremony beginning at 2:00 P.M. I will have the honor and privilege of being installed as the Grand Master for the ensuing year. Please consider this your invitation to attend.

The drive to purchase new chairs for the auditorium reached a milestone on December 31, 2009. We had donations and pledges for 106 chairs! Once we reached 100 an anonymous donor pledged another 20 chairs! So now we are at 126 chairs either paid for or pledged. We need to keep going because it will take a total of 250 chairs for the first floor auditorium seating. Please consider making a donation to make that vision a reality. Bro. Frank Kroupa, 33°, has been the driving force behind this campaign, so please contact him or one of the folks in the office to make your contribution.

I wish each and every one of you a happy and prosperous New Year and hope to see many of you at the Scottish Rite, one of its social activities, or at one of the many scheduled installations over the next few weeks.

*John T. Parsons, 33°, Editor*



Ill. Bro. Ben Harvey, 33° presents Bro. John Maxell, 32° KCCH with an **Intendant of the Building** certificate along with a lapel pin and specially designed tie for his contribution in his estate plan to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha

## MASONIC FAMILY ACTIVITIES OMAHA-COUNCIL BLUFFS METRO AREA

FEB 1 DeMolay Sweetheart Dance 7:00pm SRMC Omaha  
 FEB 4-6 Grand Lodge Holiday Inn Midtown Grand Island  
 FEB 7 Installation Westside Rainbow 2:00pm WOT  
 FEB 12 Friendship Dinner SRMC 6:00pm  
 FEB 14 Grand Lodge Installation SRMC time-2:00pm  
 FEB 20 Chili Feed Fremont Home for Children 5-7pm Fremont  
 FEB 21 Fontenelle's fundraiser  
 FEB 26 South Pacific at the Lied Center (se SRMC for tickets)  
 FEB 26 22 Spaghetti Dinner CB #441 OES 4:30pm-6:30pm CB  
 FEB 28 Pancake Breakfast by Bethel #18 8am-2pm WOT  
 MARCH 6 York Rite Chapter Degrees JJ Mercer Lodge  
 MARCH 6 Metro Area Job's HIKE Luncheon  
 MARCH 7 Pancake Breakfast by  
     AkSarBen OES Shi-Oma 8am-1pm  
 MARCH 11 EA School of Instruction at Mizpah 7:00pm  
 MARCH 13 M & W meeting 10:30 am at SRMC  
     hosted by Lininger Lodge  
 MARCH 13 Grand Lodge Committee meeting Fremont Home  
 MARCH 13-14 Job's Workshop Kitakia Camp  
 MARCH 14 Trinity's Spring Salad 11am-1pm WOT  
 MARCH 16 FC School of Instruction Papillion  
 MARCH 20-21 Job's Workshop Covenant Cedars Camp  
 MARCH 21 Glenn Miller Orchestra at the Holland via SRMC  
     Reservations required.  
 MARCH 23 VAMAFLONT Mizpah 6:30pm  
 MARCH 24 1<sup>st</sup> MM School of Instruction 7:00pm Shi-Oma  
 MARCH 27 York Rite Council & Commandery Degrees  
     Papillion  
 MARCH 27 Potentate's Ball Omaha  
 MARCH 29 2<sup>nd</sup> MM School of Instruction 7:00pm Waterloo  
     Elkhorn Masonic Center  
 MARCH 30 Mason Education Symposium  
 APRIL 7-10 Grand York Rite Columbus  
 APRIL 17 One-Day Degree-SRMC host-Lininger #268  
 APRIL 17-18 Job's Workshop Trails West Camp, Scottsbluff  
 APRIL 17-18 DeMolay Round Up ???  
 APRIL 20 Table Lodge by Lininger Lodge SRMC  
 APR 23-24 Spring Reunions SRMC  
 APRIL 24 Trinity's Style Show and dinner noon WOT  
 APRIL 25 Pancake Breakfast by Mizpah  
 APRIL 29 Frienship Dinner CB Masonic Center 6:00pm  
 MAY ??? Installation Council and Chapter YR  
 MAY 4 Garrison Keillor at the Holland via SRMC  
 MAY 8 The Four Bitchin' Babes@ Holland Center via SRMC  
 MAY 9 All Masonic Family Day at the Zoo/Ballpark Omaha  
 MAY 11-13 Grand Chapter OES Lincoln  
 MAY 21 Pancake Breakfast by Westside Rainbow 9am-1pm  
 MAY 25 VAMAFLONT Council Bluffs 6:30pm  
 MAY 30 Photo Day by Fontenelle OES 12-5:00pm WOT  
 MAY 31 Photo Day by Fontenelle OES 12-5:00pm WOT  
 JUNE 5 M & W meeting 9:00am at Papillion  
 JUNE 5 Outdoor Degree by Mid-West Lodge #317 Hastings  
 JUNE 6 Installation Bethel #18 2:00pm WOT  
 JUNE 11-13 Rainbow Grand Assembly Crete  
 JUNE 15-19 Grand Job's session Grand Island  
 JUNE 15-19Masonic Band Camp—Lincoln  
 JUNE 15-20 DeMolay International Supreme Council Dallas, TX  
 JUNE 19 Shrine Bowl Football Game 6pm Lincoln

JUNE 16 Mizpah Lodge Picnic and 25 year pin presentation  
 JUNE 26 High Plains Rendezvous York Rite at Hastings 9:00am  
 JUNE 26 Card party by AkSarBen OES  
     Northwest Hill Church 9334 Fort 10am  
 JULY 4-8 Imperial Shrine Toronto, Canada  
 JULY 16 Prince Hall Grand Lodge 8:30am Omaha  
 JULY 17 One-Day Degree—SRMC host-- Springfield #112  
 JULY 23-24 DeMolay Conclave Hastings  
 JULY 25 Corn Feed by Centennial Lodge & Fontenelle OES  
     11:00am-2:00pm WOT  
 JULY 28-AUG 4 Rainbow's Supreme Assembly Omaha  
     Hilton, Qwest Center and Civic Auditorium  
 AUG 4-7 Supreme Session Job's Daughters Colorado Springs,  
 AUG 8 Installation Westside Rainbow 2:00pm WOT  
 AUG 15 4-H Achievement Day  
     at Fremont Children's Home 2-5pm  
 AUG 21 CB Grand Fun Visitation OES CB  
 AUG 23 Masonic Charities Golf Tournament  
     North Bend Golf Course 10:30am  
 AUG 29 Rib Dinner by Nebraska #1 4-7pm WOT  
 SEPT 8 Widow "Masonic Ladies' Appreciation Dinner @ Mizpah  
 SEPT 11 M & W meeting 10:30 am at SRMC  
     hosted by Mercer Lodge  
 SEPT 11 German Dinner by AkSarBen OES Shi-Oma 4-7pm  
 SEPT 12 Pancake Breakfast by Bethel #18 9am-1pm WOT  
 SEPT 12 WOT's Calendar Planning for 2011 2:00pm WOT  
 SEPT 23-28 Grand OES/Grand Lodge trip to Washington, DC  
 SEPT 25 York Rite Chapter Degrees Papillion  
 SEPT 26 Steak Fry by Trinity OES 4-7pm WOT  
 SEPT 23-28 OES and Grand Lodge Washington, DC trip  
 SEPT 28 VAMAFLONT TBA  
 SEPT 30 Friendship Dinner CB Masonic Center 6:00pm  
 OCT 1-9 Potentate' tour of New England and Canada  
 OCT 13 50-year pin presentation by Mizpah  
 OCT 15 Grand Masters Breakfast OHB 7:30am  
 OCT 16 One-Day Degree—SRMC host—Omaha Lodge #288  
 OCT 23 York Rite Council and Commandery Degrees  
 OCT 23 & 24 Haunted House by AkSarBen OES  
     Shi-Oma 5-9 on Sat 4-8 on Sun  
 OCT 24 Fontenelle OES funds raiser TBD  
 OCT 30 Photo Day by Fontenelle OES 8am-5pm WOT  
 OCT 31 Photo Day by Fontenelle OES noon-5:00pm WOT  
 NOV 6-7 DeMolay Grand Master/Grand Chapter Class Hastings  
 NOV 14 Pancake Breakfast by Trinity OES 8am-1pm WOT  
 NOV 16 VAMAFLONT OHB  
 DEC 4 M& W meeting 9:00 am at Shiloh (change location)  
 DEC 19 Mizpah's Christmas Party  
     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. Please include the time frame.  
 For other activities see the following websites:  
 Grand Lodge-- [www.glne.org](http://www.glne.org)  
 OES ----- [www.neoes.org](http://www.neoes.org)  
 Scottish Rite [www.scottishriteomaha.org](http://www.scottishriteomaha.org)  
 Tangier Shrine [www.tangiershrine.com](http://www.tangiershrine.com)  
 Jobs Daughters [www.jdne.org](http://www.jdne.org)  
 DeMolay [www.nedemolay.org](http://www.nedemolay.org)  
 Rainbow [www.nebraskarainbow.com](http://www.nebraskarainbow.com)  
 York Rite [www.yorkrite.com/ne](http://www.yorkrite.com/ne)

*continued from page 5 (Knight's Call)*

Knights have consistently followed our original vision of inspiring service to and involvement in the Valley.

As members get involved, we have the opportunity of meeting our entire membership, getting known themselves, and making the Omaha Valley one of the pre-eminent Valleys of the Scottish Rite in the nation. You don't believe me? Go to another Valley and look at the KSA charter gathering dust in the General Secretary's office? Take a look at their lackluster dinners, and you'll quickly realize that our Culinary Masters, Line Officers, Knights of St. Andrew, and dozens of other volunteers make our Valley the envy of the nation. This is not top-down leadership. It's bottom-up leadership, and KSA members are rightfully proud of the great things we've done over the last 9 years.

One of the events we are planning to help recruit, engage, and retain our members is the upcoming Black/Red/White breakfast. This is an opportunity for all Knights of St. Andrew and all members of the Scottish Rite to join us for breakfast at an open meeting. We will have three speakers – all Knights of St. Andrew members – who will talk about our unique role as Black, Red, and White hat members to reach out to new and existing Masons. As KSA members, we all have a duty to develop entry-level leadership and involvement that will lead to our continued prosperity well into the future.

*So, you think you've got the right stuff to wear the glengarry?*

Now is the best time to be a member of the KSA. As we near our second decade, our mission and vision provide us direction and keep us focused on our core role in the Valley. And most important, we have a group of active members who are working hard to ensure that we continue to develop our membership talent into leaders for both today and tomorrow.

**Note: By our very nature, the Knights of St. Andrew voting members and officers must be 32° "black hat" members. However, any Scottish Rite Mason is eligible to be a member of this truly unique organization. Please contact Jonathan Paz, Secretary-Treasurer, at [omahaprogrammer@yahoo.com](mailto:omahaprogrammer@yahoo.com) for information on joining. Initiation is \$50/year and dues are \$20/year for Active membership (black hats) and \$5/years for Emeritus (red and white hats).**

## 2010 Spring Reunion

April 23rd and 24th

It's not too late to bring us a candidate.  
Reunion time will be here before you know it.



*Michelle Hoberman, RiteCare parent, presents a \$316 check for the Scottish Rite Foundation to Bro. Ben Harvey, 33°. Michelle presented a "Pampered Chef" sales display at the November lodge meeting and donated the profits to the Foundation.*

### From the Secretary's Desk – A Year in Review

I'm sitting at my desk thinking about the variety of events that took place in 2009. The quarterly One-day Masonic Lodge conferrals were held here with great success again. Bro. Larry Zwart spends his time coordinating the candidates and Bro. Gary Bunnell lines up the ritualist teams to present some of the best Masonic work held in the Omaha area. The Friendship Dinners held here, at the Shrine, in Council Bluffs and Fremont (Blair as well) make a major contribution to the success of the one-day conferrals. The dinner is an opportunity to get an overall view of Masonry in the Omaha area and the group atmosphere enhances the opportunity to get a signed petition from a guest just learning about Masonry.

Our Reunions both spring and fall bring new Master Masons to Scottish Rite each year. It always amazes me how over 200 men come together as actors, stage crew, sound crew, wardrobe crew, office helpers or Class Directors to put on the day and half production called a Reunion. New members receive the best from these dedicated volunteers. The enthusiasm at the end is always high because of their work.

The Spring and Fall Outings continue to be great men only event that brings Brethren together with their guests to have an evening of fun, good food and a chance to win trophies for shooting trap or playing the washer game. Each year we see men come as guest only to come back the next year as a Mason and usually a member of one or more Appendant Bodies.

The wine and scotch tastings have grown to an annual place twice a year on our calendars that members and guest anticipate attending. Ill. Bro. Maynard Tatelman, 33°, being our "resident single malt expert" pro-

*(Secretary's desk) continued on page 9*

*continued from page 8 (Secretary's desk)*

vides a good taste and good fun for those that join him. For the wine tastings we look for a theme for the event. A country or a local provides the different wines for tasting with foods that match that area's cuisine.

The Omaha Performing Arts continue to bring great Broadway show to Omaha and we have been very successful in selling tickets at discount then add back for parking, food, drink and bus ride to and from the event. Five to six times each year we provide these shows to members and guests. It's wonderful time to socialize and see a great show.

Three new events were introduced this year to the Omaha Valley. First the KSA held a fundraiser dinner theater, featuring Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe impersonators in early fall. Over 120 people attended a dinner provided by the Culinary Masters. The KSA worked hard at this event and was rewarded with a nice income. Money raised by KSA is always used to purchase needed items within the building. Since their inception, several thousand of dollars have purchased everything from media equipment to an ice maker to a set of decorative lamps in the 33° Room to coat hanger with many things in between. These active 32° Masons are truly an important part of the Omaha Valley; we are blessed to have them participate.

Secondly a long range goal was set in 2008 was to create a public awareness of the ethical background of Scottish Rite. To make ourselves relative to the community, we contracted Dr. Rushworth Kidder, President and Founder of the Institute for Global Ethics to come to Omaha as a speaker at a public forum, a breakfast meeting with community business leaders and a workshop with Scottish Rite membership about ethics. It was a quick day and half but our Ethics Initiative committee continue to work on ideas of ethics we can share within the community.

Finally, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha and the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska have gotten



*Bro. Ben Harvey, 33°, attended the annual World-Hearld Scholarship Banquet at UNO where he presented one of the four Merit Scholarships provided each year by the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha to Daniel K. Miller of Ft. Calhoun NE. Ben and Dan are pictured with Dan's parents.*

*In 2009, two of the scholarships were named in honor of Bro. William Webster, 33° and Robert Falk, 33° GC.*

a real boost this year by the work of Ill. Bro. Ben Harvey, Chairman of Development. He has created a much better awareness of the RiteCare Language Disorder program in Omaha and across the state. The Omaha Foundation holds an annual golf outing raising money for RiteCare and this year Bro. Harvey and parents of children in the RiteCare program held our first annual "WalkRite for RiteCare" event. We went to Zorinsky Park to walk and picnic to raise money and awareness for RiteCare. The event made almost \$3000 and was a great time. The next Walk is planned for April 25<sup>th</sup>. (See page 10.)

I can only say, "Thank you," to all the volunteers that work in the Omaha Valley to make all these events and special programs happen. Cathy Segrell, Marcia Rulla and Greg Swinarski work here with me to coordinate the programs but without everyone else it just wouldn't happen. Again, thank you to all.

*Curtis Edic, 33°, General Secretary*

### **Reunions, Review and Preview**

Do you remember going home after your two-day Scottish Rite Reunion and your spouse asking, "What did you do at the Reunion?" If you were like me, you couldn't tell her much. It wasn't because it was so secret; it was just too much information in such a short time. Remember sitting through those plays (degrees), hearing about the Almoner, RiteCare, Scottish Rite Foundations, times for Lodge meetings and anything else that came to mind.

How about a review? For our April 19, 2010 Scottish Rite program after dinner we'll share the activities of the Reunion with you and your spouse. Explain the lessons of the degrees (can't share the obligations, ladies), what's the Almoner fund does, what's RiteCare, what's the Scottish Rite Foundations do, what social programs are available and many other things that happens for you as a member. Please plan to join us that evening then come back the following Friday evening and Saturday (April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>) to relive the events of the Reunions with the men that work so hard to put it on and the new candidates that will be there for the first time.

Oh, the preview, we're going to invite the men that have a signed petition to join us April 19<sup>th</sup> too so they can "learn ahead" and meet you and other Scottish Rite Members.

## The Future for the Valley – for the Orient

What's the future of the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Omaha in the Orient of Nebraska? What's your vision of what we'll be doing or preparing for in the future? Let me share just a few thoughts that I have about what I think may happen.

In the Omaha Valley last year we set three long range goals for the Valley. They were to make the building self-sufficient, bring an awareness of Scottish Rite to the community through an Ethics Initiative and an better awareness of our charities to our membership.

To make our building more self-sufficient we've started by contracting with OPPD to do a "Continuous Commissioning" service to add speed reduction devices to the HVAC fans and new software to operate our heating and air conditioning 24/7. Although it is expensive to install it should save us 25% or more on energy usage and pay for itself in less than five years.

Also you've received letters from Ill. Bro. Frank Kroupa, 33°, asking for donations for auditorium chairs. It's part of a plan to refurbish the auditorium back to its former glory with up to date equipment in the background. The suggested cost was \$650,000, now we have about 1/3 donated or promised. In pristine condition it should provide rental income from outside vendors. We need to remember that in 2012 we will celebrate 100 years since the ground breaking took place. In four years we can celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary,. What better timing to rededicate the auditorium.

Our Ethics Initiative began last year bringing Dr. Rushworth Kidder, President and founder of the Institute for Global Ethics to Omaha. It refreshed our memory of the ethical lessons taught by Scottish Rite in the ritual. Our committee is now proposing to sponsor ethical programs at high schools in the area. This is an ambitious project with substantial dollar commitment each year for the community

Ill. Bro. Ben Harvey hired last year as the Orient Chairman of Development. He's only the second development person hired in the Supreme Council (other - California). Since starting he has built awareness to members and community of the RiteCare Language Disorder program. Whether he is helps parents plan the WalkRite for RiteCare event or writes appeal letters or sends a thank you notes to donors, RiteCare awareness has grown 10-fold.

The Orient RiteCare has additional service available now, two clinicians have been hired, one in Hastings and one in Omaha. Ill. Bro. Charles Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, SGIG in Nebraska is working with MMI and

Alliance Valley to provide service in their area again. A speech pathologist has been hired in the local hospital that may be available to help re-open the RiteCare clinic in the Alliance Valley building, at least part time. Other avenues of service may be through tele-medicine. A child and speech associate may work together in the western part of the state while the licensed speech pathologist is sitting in front of a television screen here in Omaha watching and advising in the clinical session. It is Bro. Sederstrom's goal to provide RiteCare to as many children as possible in the state speech and language services.

There is one more important vision in the Orient. The Lincoln Scottish Rite is in negotiation with the Grand Lodge to merge their operations in the Scottish Rite Temple. In a moment of Masonic pride, this idea sounds ridiculous but in a moment of Masonic reality, it is a perfect match. Grand Lodge is in a non-descript building in a rather tough part of the city waiting to build an edifice that would be an icon to Masonry in Nebraska. Lincoln Valley on the other hand is in a very large, beautiful edifice that is underutilized and needs repairs. What a great opportunity for Nebraska Masonry. The Lincoln Scottish Rite Temple may lose direct identity but on the other hand changing the name to the *Nebraska Masonic Center* can gain the Masonic Icon needed in Nebraska. The building sits one block north of the State Capital a perfect location for Masonry. General operations of both Grand Lodge and Scottish Rite can be run more efficiently and better building utilization. Lincoln Scottish Rite has the building and Grand Lodge brings the 13,000 plus Masons to support the fraternity. It also offers an opportunity for a museum to showcase Masonic history and a large Lodge room for different programs plus rental opportunities for the ballroom area and smaller meeting.

You may ask how it will affect me in Omaha. As a Scottish Rite Mason, very little, but as a Nebraska Mason it affects you immensely. Masonry needs an impressive presents in the state. Omaha Scottish Rite Masons will need to support this Masonic Center for the fraternity's well being. A recent report by Paul J. Strawhecker, Inc., a development counsel for nonprofits, states no other nonprofit showed so much dedication to their organizations than Nebraska Masons. When asked to help, please consider a contribution to the strength and stability of Masonry in Nebraska.

*Curtis Edic, 33°*

**BROADWAY**  
**IN OMAHA**

**2009-10**  
**Season**

**& OMAHA PERFORMING ARTS**

**Ticket deadline:**

February 20, 2010 for this show!!

The World Famous  
**Glenn Miller Or-**  
**chestra**

Sunday, **March 21, 2010**  
 2:00 PM show \$60.00

**Only 7 left**  
**Call now!**



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.



An Evening with  
**Garrison Keillor**

Tuesday, **May 4, 2010**  
 7:30 PM show \$83.00  
 Holland Center



*A Perfect Mother's*  
*Day Gift!!*

Saturday, **May 8, 2010**  
 8:00 PM show  
 Holland Center \$56.00

*The Four Bitchin' Babes*



*Disney's*  
*Beauty*  
*and the Beast*

Friday, **June 25, 2010**  
 8:00 PM show \$75  
 Orpheum Theater



**2nd Annual Book Sale**

**June 21st -**

**Lodge meeting night**  
**Members only**

**June 22th - 24th -**

**Open to the Public**

**Bring used books to the**  
**Scottish Rite Masonic Center**  
**or**  
**call for pickup of larger quantities.**  
**342 - 1300**

2nd Annual

**WalkRite for RiteCare**

April 25, 2010  
 Zorinsky Lake  
 9:45 AM - Registration



Information and Registration forms  
 will be mailed seperately.  
 Save the date, plan to attend,  
 have fun with the children of RiteCare!

**Omaha Valley News**  
**Scottish Rite Valley of Omaha**  
202 S. 20 Street  
Omaha, NE 68102-1275

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## Save the Date

Corned Beef & Cabbage - lunch only  
March 17, 2010 - 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM  
Wine Tasting/Dinner  
Great Wines - Good Food  
Friday, May 7, 2010  
6:00 PM  
Scotch Tasting  
Single Malts - Chocolates - Cigars  
Saturday, May 8, 2010  
2:00 PM

If you haven't given us your email address, please send me an email at [cedic@scottishriteomaha.org](mailto: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 three Fridays during Lent including March 19th, 16th and April 2nd. Hours 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Bring guests and friends! More information to follow.**

### GIFTS TO THE OMAHA FOUNDATION IN MEMORY OF

**Mrs. Mary Ellen Dean**

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Lundgren  
Mr. and Mrs. Curt Edic

**Cecil Martin**

Mr. and Mrs. Curt Edic

**Wayne Sherman**

Mr. and Mrs. Curt Edic

### IN MEMORIAM

Leo E. Maertens                      Cecil A. Martin KCCH  
Paul F. Zimmerman                Frank A. Hansen  
Robert G. Hurstad                 Thomas G. Mitchell

## Omaha Valley News

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