



Omaha Valley News

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry - Orient of Nebraska

Valley of Omaha - A Newsletter

May-June 2009, Volume 20, Number 2

RiteCare™ Revealed

In visiting with my Scottish Rite brothers, I have come to the realization that they understand little of our premier philanthropy, **RiteCare™**. The lack of familiarity does not surprise me for it wasn't long ago that I was the same.

The mission of **RiteCare™** is to provide therapy to children, age two through pre-kindergarten who have speech and language disabilities. Scottish Rite supports this mission throughout the Southern Jurisdiction with the sponsorship of over 170 clinics. The Orient of Nebraska has three clinics in operation in Hastings, Lincoln and Omaha. Reconstituting a clinic in western Nebraska is a goal hoped to be completed in the near future.

RiteCare™ began in Nebraska in 1974 and was the second Southern Jurisdiction to offer the program. Thousands of Nebraska children have been served by the program since its inception. The vital services are provided at no cost to families. The importance of RiteCare cannot be overstated and the families of children being served are most appreciative of the quality and efficiency of the care given. There is an enormous deficiency in the availability of speech pathology services for children not yet old enough to attend school. Families who have children enrolled in RiteCare transport their child many miles to attend a clinic one or more times a week.



Recently I visited the Lincoln clinic and met a five year old girl, Haley and her mother. Haley has been in therapy for 18 months. She attends the Hastings clinic two days a week and the

Lincoln clinic once per week. Haley's mother is very pleased with how well Haley has progressed since her enrollment in the program. Observing Haley as she works with her therapist and seeing her big smile, with each success, was more than enough to make this brother's heart swell with pride. Haley's development in the program has enabled her to verbalize her needs and wants giving her the independence so necessary to

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An Ethical Celebration

A Promise for the Future

April 27-28, 2009 was a landmark in the progress of the Omaha Valley. Two years ago in strategic planning sessions we committed to making the Omaha Valley known to the community as an organization of **ethical thinking and practice**. Thanks to the guidance of the Ethics Initiative core committee and the financial commitment of the Cathedral Board, the Omaha Valley is well on its way to achieving that goal.

We brought to Omaha Dr. Rushworth Kidder, President and founder of the Institute for Global Ethics, to consult, present and facilitate on programs of ethics. His timely counsel and methodologies were immensely beneficial in our planning process. There were four major components to his visit:



Dr. Rush Kidder

Community Forum – Moral Courage, Making Tough Decisions in Tough Times

Dr. Kidder conducted a community forum in the Scottish Rite Auditorium, and the free event, open to the public, was attended by over 300 people. Using gripping stories from global leaders, team players, whistle blowers, and ordinary citizens around the world, Dr. Kidder explained moral courage as the willing endurance of significant danger for the sake of **principles**. All of us Masons in the room immediately recognized the connection to the universal values and principles that guide our fraternity. We are grateful to the Nebraska Humanities Council in associating with us on this community forum.

Breakfast with Community Leaders

Over thirty leaders of Omaha's largest and most esteemed businesses and nonprofits attended an informal breakfast sponsored by Omaha Public Power District and Tenaska and hosted by the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. It was heartening to see the commitment of our community leaders to the core shared values so essential to sustaining and growing cultures of integrity

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her overall growth and maturity.

Most children show vast improvement and are able to enter grade school at a communication level commensurate with their peers. It is estimated that public education saves three to seven dollars for every dollar expended in a RiteCare clinic. In fact, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska has spent more than 15 million dollars through RiteCare since the inception of the program.

Awareness of this magnificent philanthropy of our Scottish Rite Foundation funded by our Nebraska brethren upholds the highest principles of charity and benevolence.

Ben Harvey, 33°, Chairman of Development

John James Monell



Who was J.J. Monell you ask? He was a real estate agent, Civil War Veteran, member of the Grand Army of the Republic post #298, devoted York Rite Mason, Illustrious 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, loyal husband and dedicated man of God.

John James Monell was born, 3 Oct 1837, in New York City, NY to Gilbert C. Monell and Lucinda Carpenter Monell. His father, the Honorable Dr. G.C. Monell, a staunch advocate for Lincoln, practiced medicine for 20 years before settling with John and family in Omaha, where he continued his practice for another 13 years.

John first tried his hand at studying law in NY but when his father wanted to move west he was excited to make the journey. They reached Omaha, April 11, 1857. Both father and son were associated for a time in the banking and real estate business in Omaha. His father, an established business man of above average means, was an excellent example for young John to follow. His father saw benefit in continuing westward so in 1859, they relocated to Colorado. Never far from the business spirit, his father joined with William N. Byers, who would later belong to Capital Lodge #3 in Omaha, and they founded the Rocky Mountain News, the first newspaper in Colorado.

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in our businesses and personal lives.

Consultation with Dr. Kidder

Our main objective in bringing Dr. Kidder to Omaha was to learn some of the processes and methodologies he has developed or observed in his leadership of the Institute for Global Ethics. Our Ethics Initiative Core Committee consulted with Dr. Kidder on how the Omaha Valley might best embark on long-term sustainable programs of ethical thinking and practice to the community and to our members. We walked away with a treasure trove of ideas and processes to evaluate, test and implement as we move forward with the Ethics Initiative.

Ethical Fitness Seminar

Dr. Kidder conducted a 3-hour Ethical Fitness Seminar for nearly 40 members of the Scottish Rite and other invited guests. Using a mixture of presentation, group discussion, and small-group exercises, Dr. Kidder demonstrated that there are **fundamental, shared values** that can be discovered and applied. Participants left the seminar with the tools and confidence required for resolving ethical dilemmas—equipped to confront issues that we all face every day, at work and at home.

Conclusion

We often talk about the relevance of Masonry and the lessons of our degrees. At its core are the universal shared values of honesty, responsibility, respect, fairness and compassion. The words may be different from what you experience in Masonic degrees, but the ideas they represent are in perfect alignment with our fraternity's values.

This was truly a two-day Ethical Celebration. The visit by Dr. Kidder was a creative way of thinking about how we communicate those values, not only to our own members, but more importantly, to the community – to EVERYONE, family, business, community, world. We have much work to do. Thanks to Dr. Kidder, we are now armed with a bigger 'sail' in directing us to action and a promise of the future.

“To put the world in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must cultivate our personal life; and to cultivate our personal life, we must first set our hearts right.”

Confucius (551-479 B.C.)

Larry Jacobsen, 33°, Ethics Initiative Chairman

Save the Date

Sunday, May 31, 2009

1st Annual RiteCare Picnic

Watch for details later!

EDITOR'S COLUMN

This has been a busy three months at the Omaha Valley following our January installation. There have been numerous activities and a few other projects to update you on. First of all, on the subject of projects, a number of facility upgrades are planned or in progress, including the improvement of a lavatory on the third floor. This lavatory is primarily for the use of the musicians and other entertainers who use the auditorium as their performing venue. Another planned improvement, this of a more substantial genre, is the replacement of the seats in the auditorium. While many things have shrunk in the last few years or months, including many of our retirement accounts, the bottoms of the audience members have increased a bit. That physical idiosyncrasy, coupled with the fact that the seats were installed several decades ago and are beginning to get a bit worn, has prompted us to look at installing new seats. A personal letter was sent by Chairman Ill. Bro. Frank Kroupa, 33° to say, "We're looking for contributions for the project." Get a seat with you name on it! How nifty is that? Better than sitting in the same pew at church every Sunday (the pews don't generally have your names on them).

Activities have also continued unabated. A wine tasting in March drew rave reviews, and a scotch tasting on April 24th drew similar praise. Dr Rushworth Kidder, a nationally renowned speaker, was here on April 27th and 28th to speak about ethics. We had terrific and interested crowds, including many Omaha business leaders. This presentation should put the Omaha Valley on the map even more as a center and forum for discussions and seminars like this.

The Masonic education sessions have started back up prior to each month's business meeting, so I hope to see many of you there. The February session dealt with Masonic Presidents and the March meeting talked about

Dates to Remember	
May 16	Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska Annual Meeting - Lincoln Valley
May 16	Shrine Ceremonial
May 18	Lodge Meeting
May 20	Spring Outing @ Papillion Gun Club Tickets available
May 25	Office closed - Memorial Day
May 26	Master Craftsman Class
May 29	Friendship Dinner - Shrine
May 30	One Day Masonic Lodge - SRMC
June 5	Annual Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha Golf Outing - Shoreline Golf Course
June 7	Winery Tour
June 15	Lodge Meeting
June 23	Master Craftsman Class
July 18	One Day Masonic Lodge
July 20	Lodge of Perfection

Masonry and the Civil War. We took down suggestions from the folks in attendance at previous meetings about what topics they'd like to have covered. The Presidents and the Civil War were two, while others included Prince Hall Masonry, differences between the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions, and comparisons of ritual between the Lodge of Perfection and the Royal Arch degrees, to name just a few of the areas we'll be covering. April Session was suspended in lieu of the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal but the May meeting will feature a presentation on Masonry in Europe during World War II.

Another avenue of education is to join the group study the fourth Tuesday of each month working through the Master Craftsman program. Although you can study on your own, attending these sessions you get help with the quiz each month plus it creates interesting conversation about Scottish Rite Masonry.

The Spring Reunion was held on April 17th and 18th. Ill. Bro. Paul Rutherford, 33°, Class Director,

is impressed by the knowledge of Masonry the latest Reunion classes have known, mostly due to their study of Masonry on the Internet. A computer is now kept online to Google questions that are more difficult for the Directors to answer.

My challenge to you older members is to keep those new members involved in one or more of the Rite's activities, be it ritual, education, membership, or just social activities. New members need mentoring. Our General Secretary stated at a recent Friendship Dinner, "Mentoring is two-fold. One is Masonic Education and two is personal confidant to that newer Mason in his time of need. We learn from the past to prepare us for our future.

Don't forget there are plenty of things yet to do at the Omaha Valley. We have the All-Masonic Day 10 May, Spring Outing 20 May, Golf Outing 5 June and Winery tour 7 June. There are plenty of opportunities to join your Brothers and their guests; I hope to see you in the near future!

John T. Parsons, 33°, Editor

Meet the 2009 Masters

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master

Bro. Greg W. Carlson, 32°

Bro. Carlson was born (26 April 1949) and raised in Oregon. In high school he was initiated in Medford (OR) chapter, Order of DeMolay and served as Master Councilor in 1967. After college at the University of Oregon (1971) in Eugene ("Go Ducks!") he received orders for Grand Forks AFB, ND. So he petitioned to receive degrees at Warren # 10 in Jacksonville, OR in 1973 but was raised at Acacia Lodge #4 in Grand Forks as a courtesy. In Grand Forks he also received Scottish Rite degrees in 1974. Greg demitted from Scottish Rite after finishing his four years of military service. He returned to being a poor student!



He entered San Francisco Theological Seminary (Presbyterian) where he met Sally. They were married on the seminary campus in San Anselmo, CA in June of 1977. After graduation and ordination in 1978, their first call was a two-point parish in southeast Idaho. Greg attended Masonic Lodge in those respective towns of Soda Springs and Montpelier, ID.

Bro. Greg returned to active duty Air Force in December of 1981, this time as a chaplain. After 2 ½ years at Hanscom AFB, Massachusetts (just west of Boston), the family moved to Wiesbaden, Germany (near Frankfurt). During their four years there, Greg affiliated with Lüftbrücke Lodge #838 (American-Canadian Grand Lodge). In 1988, the Carlson family returned to the States moving to Albuquerque, NM where Greg was stationed at Kirtland AFB. He attended Lodge periodically.

In 1992 Greg separated from the Air Force, taking a buyout called Voluntary Separation Incentive. The family moved to Eastern Oregon where he and Sally were co-pastors at a church in Milton-Freewater (sic!). Greg transferred his Masonic Membership to Milton Lodge # 96, and was Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1996. While there he also received York Rite degrees and joined Al Kader Shrine (1994) (the temple was south of Portland, five hours from his home, but a shrine dinner club met monthly locally).

In August of 2000 the Carlson's moved to Ralston, NE so Sally could do training for hospital chaplaincy and Greg began serving local Presbyterian churches.

Greg turned in his Grand Forks demit and joined the Omaha Valley in 2001. He also affiliated with Mizpah Lodge # 302 and transferred to Tangier Shrine where he became a member of the Chanter Unit at the same time.

Bro. Greg has taken an active role here in the Omaha Valley by serving as Prelate when required, serves as Vice-President of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha this year, works on the Sound Crew at Reunions, the Retention committee, helps with annual picnic and other activities around the Valley. His Tuesday morning presence here for coffee with staff and to prepare for his Sunday Sermon is always welcome.

Bro. Greg and his wife Sally have one son in Seattle, Washington and a daughter living at home. He also volunteers at the Henry Doorly Zoo.

Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master

Donnie D. Perry, 32° KCCH

Bro. Donnie Perry was born and raised in Wake Forrest NC. He graduated from the Wake Forrest High School. Soon he joined the Air Force where he took training at Wichita Air Base, Texas. After basic he went to school to become a Minute Man Missile electrician. When the Minute Man program was discontinued he trained in other electrical areas. The latter part of his service was spent shutting down Air Force bases where required. His final assignment was at Offutt Air Base arriving in 1973 and retiring in 1975. He went to work for Data Control as an electrician, then as an electrical sales representative until it was closed. In 1978 he started



Perry & Associates Electrical Sales, Inc. which he serves as President today representing several electrical manufactures in both Iowa and Nebraska. Bro. Donnie also serves on the Board of P&A Management Company, L.L.C. that manages Hillcrest Landing office center in Ralston NE.

Bro. Perry has always been involved in his community and business activities. He is a Past President and Chairman of the Board of the Ralston Chamber of Commerce, Ralston Community Schools Foundation Advisory Board and Past President of the Nebraska-Iowa Electrical Manufacturers Association (NIEMA) and Past Board Member of the National Electric Manufacturers Association (NEMRA).

Bro. Don became a Master Mason in Covert Lodge #11 in 1985. He joined the Scottish Rite and Tangier Shrine the same year and became a Endowed Life Member in both organizations. Bro. Don has taken an active role in several Masonic organizations. He is Past Potentate of Tangier Shrine (2001), Board Member of the Nebraska Masonic

Youth Foundation, Board Member of the Directors of Twin Cities Shrine Hospital (Minneapolis), Vice-President of the Scottish Rite Line Officers Guild and one of the Chief Cooks for the Scottish Rite Culinary Masters. Bro. Don is constantly busy volunteering for projects and fundraisers for both Shrine and Scottish Rite.

Bro. Perry is married to his wife, Sharon and has two grown children, James and Sarah.

**Council of Kadosh
Eminent Commander
Carroll E. Sefrit, 32°**

Bro. Sefrit was born in 1956 and raised in New Market, Iowa area. He spent several hours fishing at local farm ponds and played high school sports. The family had a great interest in car racing which Bro. Carroll is still interested in today. While living at home Bro. Carroll, his father and brothers would travel to Indianapolis, Indiana to spend the week during the time trials and Indianapolis 500 race held on Memorial Day weekend. They were frequent spectators at the local dirt tracks in Corning and Knoxville, Iowa. Bro. Carroll now joins other Shriners when they make trips to NASCAR races around the country.



Bro. Sefrit graduated from New Market high school in 1975. Leaving the rural area he moved to Omaha the following summer. He joined 4 Seasons Heating and Air where he honed his skills in furnace and air conditioning installation. His specialty is in replacing units in older homes where many basements are finished and ductwork needs to be “improvised” at times.

When last year’s Eminent Commander Tom Brummett, 32° KCCH, a friend of the Sefrit’s family, bought into a partnership at A1 Heating and Air, Bro. Carroll applied for employment. He has been there for the past 26 years.

Bro. Carroll became a Mason, joined the Scottish Rite and Tangier Shrine in 1991. He is a member of the Tangier Provost Unit and the Boone & Crocket Club. He served as Provost Chief in 1996, CSSA Provost President 2001 and Chief Aide 1993 through 2008. He is a member of the Scottish Rite Line Officers Guild, serving as President this year and the Culinary Masters. When the Culinary Masters are cooking and serving food at a Scottish Rite event you won’t usually see Bro. Sefrit because he is in the kitchen helping clean up the “Master’s mess.” Everyone appreciates these behind the scene jobs being done.

Bro. Carroll has two children. Daughter Nicole is a registered nurse, living in Des Moines, Iowa with husband Jed and their one-year old son, Jack. Son Wes lives in Booneville, Iowa and works the construction business. His hobbies include socializing, with friends visiting family and camping.

**Omaha Consistory
Venerable Master of Kadosh**

Daniel J. Wellendorf, 32° KCCH

Bro. Wellendorf is a native of Omaha. He graduated from Elkhorn High School in 1985 and received his Bachelor Degree in Finance and Business from Creighton University in 1989.



In his senior year of High School he started work at Builders Supply Company a 58-year old retailing company selling building materials in the Omaha market area. This employee-owned company has been part of the Wellendorf family for many years. His father serves as President and one of his brothers supervises outside sales. Bro. Dan started his career as a pricing clerk, yard dispatch/delivery driver, estimator, inside sales and Asst. Vice-President. He currently holds the title of Executive Vice-President and oversees many of the day-to-day operations.

His personal/business life requires participation in several organizations. He is a Director at Builders Supply Co., a member of the National Association of Home Builders, Nebraska State Home Builders Ass., and Metro Omaha Builders Ass. (current Secretary). He serves on the St. Thomas Lutheran Church Property Committee, Past Director of the Suburban Rotary Club, Past Vice-President of Finance for Creighton Student Board of Governors and Past Chapter Secretary of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He is a Trustee/Director of the Omaha Home for Boys and serves as Board Secretary.

Bro. Wellendorf joined Omaha Masonry in 1991 in Lincoln, Nebraska at a “One-day All the Way” event where courtesy work was done. He joined the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite and Shrine. He is Past Master of Springfield Lodge #112 (also Past Secretary), also joined G. W. Lininger Lodge #268 and gives the third degree lecture when asked. He serves the Omaha M&W by collecting money from the Nebraska Lodges to purchase Christmas gifts to be given at the Plattsmouth Masonic Home and the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont. He is a member of the Pirates Club at Tangier Shrine, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha Board, KSA, Line Officers Guild, Co-Director of the Reunion Stage Crew and gives a lecture in the 30th Degree.

Bro. Dan is married to his wife Jo, they have four children living in Elkhorn, Nebraska. Both enjoy scuba diving in the Caribbean.

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John was trying his hand at banking and real estate but political events were already building for the Civil War. Records are scarce but it is believed that around 1861, John journeyed back through the Nebraska Territory towards Iowa to find the war. Based on John Monell's gravestone, he was a Veteran of the Civil War, and later joined William Baker Post No 298 Grand Army of the Republic in Correctionville Iowa. Later, it was noted in the Census that he was residing in Council Bluffs Iowa in the mid 1860s, presumably having returned from the war.

Just a few short years later John met Ella, a bright young woman also from NY. They fell in love, were married in the summer of 1870, and had one child a few years later while residing at 2025 Dodge Street Omaha NE. They attended many Masonic events and Mrs. Monell was even seen taking a crash course in French with other notable wives like Mrs. Caroline Lininger, Mrs. Kountze, and Mrs. Brandeis.

It is here that we find that John was already a fervent member of Star Chapter 47, Council Bluffs Iowa and was initiated as a Charter member of St Albans Lodge No. 17 Council Bluffs, June 12 1872. Later the next year he demitted and transferred to Nebraska No 1. Later, at the 7th Annual Grand Lodge Convention, he was noted as being its 7th Chancellor, 1874-1875. The following year he is listed as having served as the Supreme Representative, from 1876-1884.

In 1880, John retired from his business and dedicated himself to the Order. Working from the Freemasons Hall on the Northwest corner of North 16th and Capitol Avenue, he sold Masonic and Secret Society Regalia traveling frequently between Omaha and Lincoln. During these travels and attendance in Lodge he met many times with Mr. George W. Lininger. Here he found a kindred spirit and someone who appreciated art and weapons. They began collecting various swords during their travels and amassed over 400 items ranging from armor to weapons of Japan, India, Iran, Africa and many more exotic places.

Listed in Masonic proceedings for 1881, we find John serving the position of Prelate for the Mt. Calvary Commandery No.1, at the same time he was also Master of Ceremonies and a 28th Degree Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Mason, Mt. Moriah Lodge of Perfection No 2. The following year he proudly became a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason.

A few years later, John would be paid an immense honor, that of being coroneted as an Honorary Inspector

General, 33rd Degree Ancient Free and Accepted Scottish Rite Mason on 24 Oct 1884. Unfortunately, Illustrious Brother Monell would only be able to serve in this capacity for a few years before being bedridden by failing health. Amazingly though, he actively wrote letters to the Supreme Council and tried to remain as active as possible.

On a crisp winter morning, November 27, 1902 Illustrious Brother Monell passed from this earthly sphere to that blissful shore, where there is no parting. A quiet Masonic service was given and his family interred him in Fairview Cemetery, Council Bluffs, IA.

We learn of Illustrious Brother Monell, and thus pay tribute in the reading, so we may have a deeper appreciation for yet another example of the uncompromising character, devotion, and dedication so familiar to the Ancient Free and Accepted Scottish Rite.

“Well done, good and faithful son.”

Douglas Lewis, 32°

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bro. Lewis joined the Omaha Valley in 2007. He is also a member of G. W. Lininger Lodge #268 which celebrated 100 years in 2008. Bro. Lininger was an implement dealer in Omaha, a heavy influence in Omaha Masonry and served as Grand Master in 1877. Bro. Lininger's hobby was art and books with the first public library and art museum attached to his house in Omaha which upon his death was given to the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. Bro. Lewis has done extensive research on Bro. Lininger and found Bro. Monell, 33° was a close friend. We wish to thank Bro. Lewis for his efforts.



Spring Outing 2009

Papillion Gun Club

Steak Dinner
and all the fixin's
Spring Outing 2009
@ Papillion Gun Club
On Wednesday, May 20
4:30 - 9 PM
Com'n get it...
Food served 5:30 - 7 PM

MEN ONLY

Call to order your tickets:
342-1300

OR purchase them from a
Line Officer

Buy an extra and bring a
friend—
Only \$15.00 each



Master Masons are Proud Builders

The Scottish Rite Masonic Center had the ground breaking ceremony in 1912 for construction that lasted, amazingly, only two years before the Omaha Valley moved their offices and paraphernalia into the four story Neo-classical building at 202 S 20th Street. A 1914 Class picture shows over 160 men being brought into Scottish Rite Masonry and a 1915 picture of the ballroom looks to have well over 400 men attending a banquet. Records show not all work was done as the organ was dedicated in 1926. Thomas Moses, the original designer/painter of the backdrops, was here in the mid-1920's to paint and hang them on the original rigging.

I'm sure the entire membership was proud of the building that was created. As far as we can tell the building was used in its original design until sometime in the later part of the 1960's when the patio was installed, new front doors were added off the patio, offices were moved from the 3rd floor (now 33^o Meeting Room) to the 1st floor, the first floor kitchen was enlarged, the rest of the 1st floor made into an entry area and dining room. In the auditorium new chairs were added on the main floor and new light fixtures replaced the original

lights in the 2nd floor ballroom. Much of the styling was "modernized" with art deco design.

Again the membership was proud of the changes. Fortunately, our Cathedral Board leadership had updated the facilities by adding energy efficient windows and modernizing our HVAC system both which helped with our energy costs. Then we seized an opportunity to purchase newer stage drops from the NE Kansas Valley to replace our original worn and faded backdrops.

In mid and late 1990's Ill. Bro. Larry Jacobsen, 33^o headed the Omaha Valley on the path of setting goals and objectives. All areas were covered; Valley strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. We looked into the past to see where we had been and we looked into the future to vision where we were going. By 2000 we had a plan. It was to again remodel the building over a period of years to beautify the existing structure and provide opportunities to open it up for use by the public.

We started with a complete remodel of the 1st floor to expand the offices, making the entrance more inviting and providing a nice dining area. The following year the kitchen was renovated and extra cooking equipment was installed with a promise from several volunteers (now called Culinary Masters) that meals would be cooked for our regular monthly meetings and special events.

In 2002 we directed our efforts to the 2nd floor. New lights modeled after the originals were installed along with indirect lighting and a new sound system. A lounge with bar and fireplace was built plus a buffet serving counter and preparation area was designed. Power, media, cable TV and men's restroom was added. Before the work was finished two rentals were contracted. Also the 3rd floor 33^o Meeting room received a facelift with the addition of wainscoting and new donated lighting.

The reaction from the membership was one of pride. Our Valley started to add more social programs and by word-of-mouth the rentals started to increase. Our whole agenda was changed. We had to schedule our Masonic activities far in advance as the demand for rental space grew. Today we have most of the schedule set into 2010 and 2011. We have seen a steady increase in rentals and in 2008 we served over 33 rentals producing \$80,000 gross income. This exceeded our income rate from investments by several thousands of dollars. Everyone that uses the building is excited to have the opportunity to rent it and we are already ahead of last year in signed contracts.

Occasionally we rent the auditorium for a wedding ceremony, a concert or a play. The question was asked how could we increase rentals. The answer was the addition of women's restrooms on 3rd and 4th floors. Both floors had "smoking rooms" outside each of the men's restrooms so we put in walls, brought in water and designed ADA restrooms for both men and women in 2004.

The last room left in the master plan is the auditorium. It is still a grand room, but when you sit in the audience you may look up and see a crack in the wall and some peeling paint. A grand room but is a bit worn. A preliminary design was proposed to add new stage lighting, sound booth and system, acoustical enhancements, extend the stage to accommodate all degree work and replace existing seating estimated to be \$650,000. Recently a model of a new chair showed up at the SRMC and an appeal letter was sent to the membership asking to donate \$500 to the purchase of a new chair that would be engraved with the donor's name. We need at least 250 chairs for the main floor alone but our first goal is to reach 100 because an anonymous donor has agreed to purchase 20 chairs more when the first 100 are sold.



Our appeal stated you could purchase chairs as many as you wish, you could make one payment or pay over three years. Although this is only a portion of our needs, it will be a good start toward completing our a long term goal. Giving us another opportunity to utilize and offer our facilities for the use by the public. An investment in our building today will pay dividends well into the future and be the pride of the Scottish Rite Master Mason Builders.

Curtis Edic, 33°, General Secretary

Winery Tour to

Big Cottonwood Vineyards & Winery



**NW of Tekamah NE
Sunday, June 7, 2009
Bus Ride, Dinner
& Taste Six Wines
\$40 per Person**

Enjoy a great afternoon with friends and Family.

Omaha Valley News

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If you haven't given us your email address, please send it to cedic@scottishriteomaha.org or update your membership profile at the Supreme Council Website www.scottishrite.org. We plan to send more information via email in 2009, we want you better informed!

IN MEMORIAM

Arnold H. Kruse
Mark G. Wurtele
Robert E. Wolf
Ralph A. Barbe
Dale R. Cole
Kenneth G. Keszler

GIFTS TO THE OMAHA FOUNDATION IN MEMORY OF

Jean Amidon
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Edic
Ralph A. Barbe
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Edic
Mr. & Mrs. D. William Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Edward W. Nolte

Greg Marchand
(Brother of Bro. Charles Marchand, 32° KCCH)
Scottish Rite Culinary Masters



12th Annual

**Scottish Rite
Foundation of Omaha
Golf Outing & Dinner**

*Dinner and cash bar will be at
Scottish Rite Masonic Center afterwards.*

Formerly Lake Shore Golf
Club. Same Location,
different name.

SHORELINE GOLF COURSE
Carter Lake, Iowa

Friday, June 5, 2009
12:30 p.m. Texas Scramble
Flag Prizes - Ticket Drawings
Maximum 144 golfers
\$85.00 each / \$340.00 per team

*open to everyone,
wives, family
and friends ...*

**I don't golf, but would like to
come to dinner ** for \$20**
Fellowship 6:00 PM
Dinner 6:30 PM
Call for reservations. 342-1300

Funds will benefit all Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha charities which include:
RiteCare Language Clinic at the Munroe-Meyer Institute; 13 Scholarships to UNO; Omaha Home for Boys; Plattsmouth Masonic Home;
Park East Association; Nebraska Masonic Youth Foundation; Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children