



Official publication of the Scottish Rite bodies of the Orient of Nebraska

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Features:

Alliance Welcomes New Scottish Rite Brethren at November Reunion

Hastings Hosts Annual Autumn Walk for RiteCare

Lincoln Valley Celebrates Feast of Tishri

Omaha Celebrates the Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner and Auction

RiteCare News of Nebraska

... and much more!



Hastings Valley Hosts Annual Walk for RiteCare on October 12th. See Page 3 for story . . .

Membership

There is a Yiddish word *menschkeit*. The root word is *mensch*, which means man. But *menschkeit* is an adjective, which might literally translate into “manship” or “manhood.”

Menschkeit does not indicate being a man as a gender, or manhood as a state of adulthood. It does not indicate doing “manly” things like riding the range, roping cattle, or wrestling bears.

Rather, it takes into consideration the things that make a man. . . well, a man. The friend who drops what he’s doing on a late Friday night to come over and help with a plumbing emergency would be said to have *menschkeit*. The Lodge Brother who comes by on a Saturday morning with his truck to help another Brother move, asking no thanks or reward for his service would have *menschkeit*.



Robert Davis, 33°, G.C. has written about Manhood and Masonry, and how Freemasonry historically developed the Jungian archetypes of manhood. *Menschkeit*, however, is different than the elements of manhood.

The person with *menschkeit* might better be said to live with a philosophy of doing

the right and decent thing in every situation, of *living on the level* and *acting by the square*.

A Mason might demonstrate his *menschkeit* by being the kind of Brother who steps up to help another Lodge with Degree work on short notice. He may give up his afternoon to volunteer at a Lodge event, seeking neither recognition or reward. Our Almoner’s Fund is an example of this spirit, anonymously helping those in need. When asked why he gave to charity, one Brother responded simply, “Because I can.”

Personally, I think of *menschkeit* as the kind of person who goes above and beyond the call of duty. Not just above and beyond once or twice, but as a consistent element of his very being.

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Orient Calendar

- Jan 8, 15, 22, 29 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
- Jan 9, 16, 23, 30 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
- Jan 16..... Broadway Series: *Les Miserables* (O)
- Jan 16..... KSA Members Appreciation Dinner (O)
- Jan 20..... Installation of 2020 Officers (O)
- Jan 25..... Robert Burns Celebration (L)
- Jan 25..... Scottish Society of Nebraska Burns Dinner (O)
- Jan 31..... Scotch Tasting (O)
- Feb 7-8 GLNE Annual Communication (Kearney, NE)
- Feb 13 Broadway Series: *A Bronx Tale* (O)
- Feb 5, 12, 19, 26 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
- Feb 6, 13, 20, 27 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
- Feb 28 Broadway Series: *Stomp* (O)
- Mar 7 Hastings Spring Reunion (H)
- Mar 9..... Broadway Series: *Dear Evan Hansen* (O)
- Mar 4, 11, 18, 25 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
- Mar 5, 12, 19, 26 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
- Apr 17-18..... Alliance Spring Reunion (A)
- Apr 26 Broadway Series: *The Lion King* (O)
- May 7-9..... Omaha Spring Reunion (O)
- June TBD..... WalkRite for RiteCare (O)
- June TBD..... RiteCare Classic Golf Benefit (O)
- July 5-9..... Shriners Imperial Session (Kansas City, MO)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month

Jan 24, Feb 28, Mar 27, Apr 24, May 22, June 26

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

Jan 7, Feb 4, Mar 3, Apr 7, May 5, June 2

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

Jan 15, Feb 19, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20, June 17

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 16, Apr 20, May 18, June 15

For more information
contact the General Secretary in your Valley

- Gene Gatti (Alliance) (308) 762-4324
- Phil Odom (Hastings) (402) 462-5813
- Bruce Wood (Lincoln) (402) 435-2144
- John Maxell (Omaha)..... (402) 342-1300



Kurt Blazek, 32° KCCH Memorial Class

Front Row: Dwight Smith, 33°, Gene Gatti, 33°, **Fred Holz, 32°**,
Tracy McConnell, 32°, John Ferguson, 33°, Don Phillip, 33°

Back Row: Nathan Holthusen, 32°, Micah Evans, 33°, Dave Thomas, 32° KCCH, Terry Phillip, 33°, Art Stricker, 33°, Scott Phillip, 33°, Walt Phillip, 33°, Tommy Yung, 32°, Geoffery Phillip, 32° KCCH

We were pleased to welcome two new Brethren in the Kurt Blazek, 32° KCCH Memorial Class this past November. The Class remembers Kurt Blazek, whom we lost in December, 2018. His presence is definitely missed in the Valley. As part of the Reunion, the Alliance Valley enjoyed a wonderful banquet on Friday evening, with chicken fried steak and mashed potatoes catered and served by Whitney Baldwin from Community Table.

It has certainly been busy the past few months. We had some significant hailstorm damage in August, damaging the roof and requiring the carpets and floors to be professionally cleaned and dried. I am still working with the insurance companies regarding this, but the Valley would welcome donations to help cover the cost of these repairs. If you want to support the repairs, please consider a donation sent to the Valley at 123 W. Third Street, Alliance, NE 68901. Unfortunately, they are not tax-deductible, but it would go a long way toward covering the cost of the repairs to our Valley.

We met in Kimball in September, with quite a few Brethren joining us at James L. Eatmon Lodge #294, and I appreciate John Ferguson, 33° setting this up for us. If you want the Scottish Rite to meet at your Lodge, please drop me a note and we will arrange it! Let's engage the Brethren at your Lodge!

By the time this goes to press, we will have invested Dave Thomas with the 32° KCCH, and I want to congratulate him on his KCCH and thank him for all he does for Freemasonry. Art Stricker received the 33° in Washington, DC this past August, and I am grateful for his time, talent, and work on Reunions, as well as his contributions toward Masonry.

This is YOUR Valley, so get involved, join us for meetings, and help bring new Brethren further light in Masonry by giving them a petition for our Spring Reunion on April 17-18, 2020. I hope to see you at an upcoming meeting!

~ Gene Gatti, 33°
General Secretary
gene123@mail.com

Valley of Central Nebraska at Hastings



WALK FOR RITECARE

Wherever the Hastings RiteCare Clinic orders their weather from, they did a first rate job for the annual Walk for RiteCare on October 12th. The morning began chilly, but by the time the Walk began, it was a sunny Autumn day in the upper 50s.

Fifty Scottish Rite Masons, RiteCare parents, children and families turned out for the annual walk. The Walk for RiteCare was planned for the same day as Hastings College Homecoming, and families enjoyed the parade and cheered as marching bands passed by the Masonic Center.

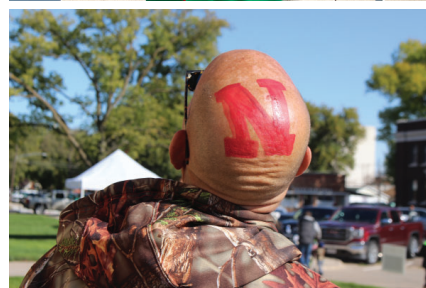
The Walk for RiteCare was more than just a Walk. . . it was a celebration!

Children decorated cookies donated by Eileen's Colossal Cookies, played games including bean bag toss, bowling, pumpkin chuckin', and a bubble station.

One of the hits for kids of all ages was a compressed air-powered rocket launcher, built by Bill Taylor, 32°. Bill let the children launch a foam rocket and the kids had a fun time running after the rocket, trying to catch it in a basket.

Afterward, Mike Bruns from Big Dally's Deli sponsored lunch of sandwiches and chicken noodle soup. A silent auction raised several hundred dollars for RiteCare.

This year's \$250 sponsors were the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute, Jon and Ricki Yocom, Johnson Concrete Products, Keith's Pharmacy, Family Medical Center of Hastings, and Eileen's Colossal Cookies. \$100 sponsors included Dunmire, Fisher & Hastings, Victoria and Brian Winfield, Milt and Debbie Kennedy, Phil and Dana Odom, Highland Park Lawn Co., Kershner's Auto Corner, and the Krumm family



Photos: 1) Child enjoying the bubble station (by John Brooks), 2) RiteCare Clinician Kris Althouse with daughter Shannon (by John Brooks), 3) RiteCare Clinician Sydney Norton with Sadie, 4) Jim Horsham, 32° KCCH gets in spirit with face (or head) painting!

Hastings Valley Celebrates the Feast of Tishri



The Valley of Central Nebraska celebrated the Feast of Tishri on November 5th, beginning with an excellent dinner prepared by Chef Monte Malouf, 33°. As always, the prime rib was perfect, served with scalloped potatoes, vegetables, followed by cake. Monte served as Master of Ceremonies, and Dan Deffenbaugh, 32°, gave the opening prayer and spoke about the significance of the Feast of Tishri.

After the traditional toasts, our speaker was Rob Kerr, the Hastings Scottish Rite's 2019 Educator of the Year. Rob has been a history teacher for 34 years, and his father was Potentate of Tehama Shrine in 1991. Rob spoke about how his love of teaching began with his American History teacher in 8th grade

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Celebrating the Feast of Tishri

Venerable Master Don Albrecht, 32° KCCH welcomed fifty Scottish Rite Masons and their guests to the Feast of Tishri on October 20, 2019. Don, Jeffrey Schumacher, 32° and Keith Simonsen, 32° set the stage for the evening by enacting the story of Nathan the Wise, written by Gotthold Ephraim Lessing in 1779. This parable set in Jerusalem during the Third Crusade, describes how the wise Jewish merchant Nathan and the enlightened sultan Saladin bridge their gaps between Judaism, Islam and Christianity. The story's major themes are friendship, tolerance, relativism of God, a rejection of miracles and a need for communication.

Brethren gave the nine obligatory toasts of the Feast of Tishri. At the end of the evening, guests were asked to open a sealed envelope on each table and pick an additional toast to propose. These were both humorous and touching, and a new twist to the obligatory toasts.



Oscar Sinclair, 32° proposes a toast

Our entertainment were singers Greenblatt and Seay of Avoca, Nebraska, who performed a mixture of standards, Yiddish classics, and their original songs during the evening. Husband and wife team Deborah Greenblatt and David Seay are multi-talented, with rich vocal harmonies accompanied on a variety of instruments, including the fiddle, guitar, harmonica, and tin whistle.



David Seay and Deborah Greenblatt

The principal speaker for the evening was Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Jimmy spoke about the significance of the month of Tishri, the Jewish High ... continued on page 8




Streets Alive!

RiteCare Clinician Holly Schlautman, Andy Seachord, 32°, Nick Furchert, 32° participate in Streets Alive! street fair on September 22nd. In addition, Greg Prosocki, 32° and Don Albrecht, 32° KCCH also supported the Scottish Rite/RiteCare table at Streets Alive!

Streets Alive! is an outdoor community festival that promotes active living and healthy nutrition in a fun and interactive way. Streets Alive! encourages people to get off the couch, go outdoors and move up and down a stretch of city blocked off from traffic. This year, Streets Alive! was held on September 22nd in the South Salt Creek/Cooper Park neighborhood and makes to make the whole community healthier by filling the streets with non-profit organizations, free health resources, fitness, music, dance, art, and fresh healthy food. The RiteCare table educated guests about speech therapy services and the Scottish Rite Masons.

**ROBERT BURNS
DINNER & CELEBRATION**



Saturday, January 25, 2020
5:30 PM Social Time | 6:30 Program and Dinner

Celebrate the birthday of Scotland's favorite son and poet laureate, Robert Burns, with dinner, bagpipe music, poetry, and a silent auction.

Reservations Required by January 21st
\$40/person
visit ScottishRiteLincoln.org/events



Charles W. Amidon, 33° Memorial Class
November 21-23, 2019

(Top row, left to right) Jason Triplett, 32° Class Secretary, Grant Anderson, 32°, Class President, Wesley Rodenburg, 32°, Karl Bergmann, 32°, Tracy McClarnon, 32°, Terry Winter, Dylan Peters, 32°, Nicholas Warner, 32°.

(Middle row left to right) Jeffrey Coleman, 32° KCCH, Assistant Class Director, Zachary Flott, 32°, Carl Lewis, 32°, Robert Gilmore, 32°, Mark Young, 32°, Brooks Call, 32°, Class Orator, Carroll Peacock, 32°, Class Treasurer, 32°, Daniel Alati, 32°, Richard Gilmore, 33° Assistant Class Director

(Front row left to right) Paul Rutherford, 33°, Class Director, John Maxell, 33°, General Secretary, Charles Wood, 32° KCCH, VM of Consistory, Wade Ridout, 32° KCCH, EC of Kadosh, Patrick Watson, 32°, VM of Perfection, Dean Skokan, 33°, Orient Personal Representative, Robert Pelletier, 32°, Master of KSA, Micah Evans, 33°, Orient Development Director

The Scottish Rite celebrated the 271st Reunion on November 21, 22, and 23, named in memory of Charles (Charlie) Amidon, 33°, PGM, who passed away this past September. Fifteen new 32° Princes of the Royal Secret received the Degrees on Thursday and Friday nights and all day Saturday.

As always, the Degree work was excellent with 16 Degrees being staged. For this

Fall Reunion, continued

Reunion, a video showing a sample of the 22° - Knight of the Royal Axe or Prince of Libanus - was shown, which extols the value of work and is done mostly in song. The video was recorded in the Valley of Denver in 2016 during the RiteCare Conference.

During the Reunion, John met with Candidates' ladies, and gave them a tour of the building and spoke about events and how to get involved. After the Reunion, the Valley hosted a well-attended cocktail reception.



The 21st Degree teaches us that arrogance is a crime and humility is a virtue. A Knight recently returns from the Crusades to find his lands and heritage stolen under a forged deed. He appealed to the Frank Judges for justice. His story supports the man's belief in God and His willingness to sustain truth and right a wrong.



Knights of the Campfire

On Friday Oct. 11th members of the Omaha Valley KSA visited Bellevue Berry Farm. The night started with a nice toasty campfire, followed by hotdogs roasted on the fire.

Members then hopped on the hayrack for spooky fun time. Unfortunately we did not get to hear the Venerable Master scream like a little girl, but there was much fun and jokes had aboard the ride. Afterwards we retired back to the warmth of the fire and had s'mores. There were lots of stories and good times shared.

Episcopal Bishop Rev. Scott Barker Tours the Omaha Scottish Rite



Steve Spear, 32° invited Reverend Scott Barker, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska to tour the Scottish Rite on September 1st.

Rev. Barker has relatives who are Masons, but is not himself a Mason. Steve and John Maxell spoke about the history of Nebraska Masonry, and our membership ties to the Episcopal church in Nebraska, including the Reverend George Beecher, 33°, a past Bishop of Nebraska, and George Betts, 33° G.C., an Episcopal clergyman in Omaha shortly after Nebraska became a state. George Betts (*bottom left*) is recognized as one of Nebraska's first 33° Grand Cross recipients (1876). John Maxell and Steve Spear presented Rev. Barker with the history of the Omaha Scottish Rite.





Friends of Scottish Rite

DINNER AND AUCTION

\$60,000 Raised for RiteCare at 11th Annual Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner & Auction

The 2019 Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner was a record-setter! This year, the Dinner and Auction was held on Friday, October 25th, welcoming a record 232 guests! Dinner guests enjoyed a hosted wine tasting and fine Scotch tasting, bid on extraordinary silent and live auction items, including a handmade hope chest made by A.J. Johnson, a Sonoma Wine Tasting trip, a luxury Mexico getaway, autographed baseballs, basketball and hockey tickets, golf foursomes, and numerous baskets donated by members.

The evening was a benefit for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha's principal philanthropy, the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute.

Our emcee for the evening was Chris Baker, radio host on KFAB-1110 AM. Chris called up Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, SGIG in Nebraska, to recognize our 2019 Friends of Scottish Rite honoree Dr. Karoly Mirnics. Karoly is Director of the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute. Under his tenure, MMI has raised more than \$90 million dollars for a new building on the Ak-Sar-Ben campus and

grows their capacity to serve children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He has been a passionate advocate for MMI services, and an enthusiastic supporter for the RiteCare Speech Clinic. As General Secretary Emeritus Curt Edic, 33° G.C. recalled, there were several reasons he was the obvious choice for Director at MMI:

- His building relations with and securing grants from local, state, and national government organizations
- Building relationships with community organizations, including the Autism Action Partnership, Autism Center of Nebraska, WhyArts, and the Scottish Rite
- His nationally-recognized research

And most importantly, Karoly is “a really nice guy.” In that assessment, Curt could not have been more right, and Dr. Mirnics has been a true friend to the Scottish Rite Foundation.

Chris welcomed RiteCare parents Andrew and Amber Francis, who spoke about how their child Caleb has received

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All photos by Roger Humphries Photography



Our new 32° Knight Commanders of the Court of Honour

Top row: Patrick Graves, Andrew Muska, Donald Leu, James Flowers, Donald Leu, Greg Seiler, Keith Plummer, Don Albrecht, Jerry Pigsley Middle Row: Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., SGIG in Nebraska, Schadd Gray, Dan Deffenbaugh; First Row: Michael Precella, William German, Donald Peterson, Dave Thomas, Jim Horsham, Bill Hayes, and M.W. Bob Moninger, Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska

2019 Honors Brethren Invested with 32° KCCH and Coroneted 33° Inspectors General Honorary

Sixteen Brethren from across Nebraska were invested with the 32° Knight Commander of the Court of Honour on Friday, October 18th at the Valley of Lincoln. M.W. James Brown, 33° served as Grand Commander and led a beautiful investiture ceremony in the large Lodge room, followed by a first rate banquet downstairs in the newly renovated Lincoln Scottish Rite.



On Saturday, October 19th, eight Brethren were coroneted 33° Inspectors General Honorary in Omaha, with nine Brethren coming from the four Valleys of South Dakota. Ed Nolte, 33° served as Grand Commander for the Degree.



After the 33° Coronation, SGIG Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr. of Nebraska and SGIG Jeffrey D. Larson of South Dakota presented patents to the newly coroneted Inspectors General Honorary. Unfortunately, the 33° patent for M.W. Bob Moninger never arrived, so Chuck Sederstrom and John Maxell jokingly presented the Grand Master with a blank piece of paper.



Grand Master Bob Moninger concluded the evening with some remarks, reminding members that recruiting new Masons to our ranks is a critical mission for all of us, while thanking everyone for flawless degrees and wonderful Brotherhood at the Omaha and Lincoln Valleys.

Top: M.W. Bob Moninger's patent didn't arrive from the House of the Temple, so Charles Sederstrom, Jr., and John Maxell jokingly presented the Grand Master with a blank 33° patent; Middle: Chuck Sederstrom, Jr. and Gene Gatti present a 33° patent to Art Stricker; Bottom: George Lininger Lodge #268 Honours men Don Leu, Andrew Muska, Mike Precella, and Patrick Graves



Chuck's Place

At the October 14th dedication of the new bar and lounge in the Lincoln Scottish Rite, an etched mirror was unveiled, dedicating the room to Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, SGIG in Nebraska, as "Chuck's Place."

At the dedication, Chuck likened the lounge to an old-fashioned speak-easy-era bar, with paneled mirrors, oak bookshelves, three large-screen televisions, and comfortable custom-made tables covered in green leather. Gary VerMaas, 32° KCCH of VerMaas Construction, was responsible for the vision, design, and execution of the former board room. Chuck remarked that the lounge will be a great place for members to socialize and meet, as well as promoting the building as an exceptional venue for events and rentals. In fact, Bruce Wood, 33°, General Secretary, remarked that the average monthly rental royalties from the Venue are making a significant impact on the Valley's long term financial health and ability to attract Masons to a first-rate location to gather and relax.

Future plans include renovating the library behind the ballroom stage, replacing lighting and the ceiling, as well as repairs to the parking lot.

All of these projects have been possible thanks to the extraordinary generosity of numerous Brethren. As an enthusiastic supporter for the project, "Chuck's Place" is a fitting recognition of our SGIG's support for Valley of Lincoln's renovation projects, valued at more than \$500,000 over the past five years.



Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner, *continued from p 6*

services, and how he continues to make strides in his ability to communicate and learn.

This year marked a significant change for the Friends Dinner. For 11 years, it has been Friends of Scottish Rite, but now it will be known as the Friends of RiteCare Dinner, recognizing the true purpose of the event - raising funds for the RiteCare Clinic services and supporting our principal philanthropy.

The Scottish Rite is indebted to the Nebraska Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) students at the University of Nebraska at Omaha who volunteered for the evening, setting up, serving hors d'oeuvres and dinner, and cleaning up afterward. NSSLHA students have been involved for many years as volunteers. Beginning in 2020, the NSSLHA students will receive additional recognition by being called up to give a few minutes presentation on their activities during the year as speech students.

The evening raised approximately \$60,000 for speech therapy, including about \$8,000 for a special appeal directly for RiteCare speech therapy.

Next year's dinner will be on Friday, November 6, 2019 at the Scottish Rite. Plan to join us for another great Dinner and Auction!



Photos - Page 6 (Top left) Charles Sederstrom and Dr. Karoly Mirnics; Page 6 (top right; top to Bottom): 1) Alzuri from Cocktail Creations, 2) Wine tasting with Chuck Wood and Paul Rutherford; 3) Erin and Bryan Deming with Mike Gardner; 4) our 2019 NSSLHA student volunteers; 5) Tammy and Darren Carlson. Page 8 (top): Curt Edic, Amy and David Meinzer, and Schadd Gray; (bottom left) KSA volunteers Alan Boulter and Ralph Tomonelli; (bottom right) Donna and Greg Hadcock

Feast of Tishri, continued



The Feast of Tishri is a rededication of Brotherhood, and a great evening!

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Holidays, and the celebration of Thanksgiving, as an offering commanded in Deuteronomy 26 as well as a secular event, celebrated by the Pilgrims and Native Americans in 1621.

Don Albrecht instituted a new tradition to celebrate the Mystic Bond among Brethren and friends, and everyone joined hands to sing *Auld Lang Syne*, as a fitting close to a wonderful evening.

The Chairs for the evening was Merv Moeller, 32° KCCH, Eminent Commander for the Council of Kadosh and his wife Sharon, and the Master of Ceremonies was Michael Lagueux, 32° KCCH, Master of the Lincoln Consistory.

The Valley of Lincoln's Feast of Tishri is truly a celebration of Brotherhood not to be missed!



Phil Odom, 33° and Micah Evans, 33° visited Rob Morris Lodge #46 in Kearney on November 6th to educate Brethren about the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic. After dinner, UNK Clinician Denise Wolfe, M.S. spoke about the program. Phil and Micah joined the Brethren for the Lodge meeting afterward.



The Omaha Speech-Pathology clinicians at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute hosted a car in the MMI “Trunk or Treat” on Sunday, October 27th. The theme was children’s story “There Was a Little Old Lady Who Swallowed a Bat.”



Mallory and Edward Boone with “the Magnificent” Ed Bennett

RITECARE TRICK OR TREAT AT THE LINCOLN SCOTTISH RITE

The Valley of Lincoln wanted to host an event for our RiteCare families, so the idea of a Halloween party was born earlier this year. Building on the concept of “Trunk or Treat,” where hosts decorate a car trunk in a Halloween theme, the Lincoln Halloween party focused on decorated tables. The UNL Chapter of the Nebraska Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) students hosted several tables for the kids, including various craft projects. One included bowling over toilet paper rolls with an inflatable pumpkin and another was a coloring station. RiteCare Clinicians Holly Schlautman and Teagan Dinslage hosted another two tables, while the four bodies of the Scottish Rite decorated tables along with the Knights of St. Andrew.

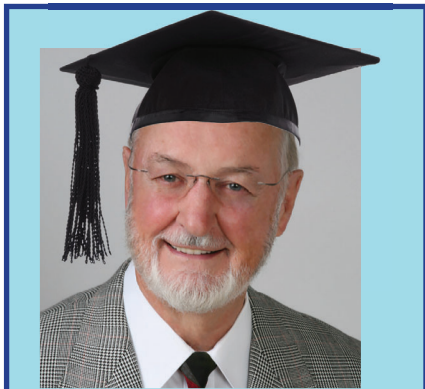
children attend the RiteCare Clinic, and to be able to thank Masons in person for all the financial assistance they’ve given, and also help children practice their social skills, including saying “Trick or Treat,” “Thanks,” or even waving goodbye as they leave the table.

Greg Prosocki, 32° came with his family, hosting a Job’s Daughters table for Bethel #5, and David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH came with Brent Warwick and Joe Bing and some of the boys from the Lincoln Chapter of the Order of DeMolay, who also hosted a table.

Many Scottish Rite Masons came in costumes, including Edward Boone, 32°, who dressed as a pirate with his wife Mallory, who came in hippie garb. Don Albrecht, 32° KCCH dressed as a pirate. Ed Bennett, 32° won the prize for best adult costume, dressed as “Carnak the Magnificent,” from the Johnny Carson show.

RiteCare Clinician Holly Schlautman, said the event was hosted to offer families a time to meet other families whose

An estimated 155 RiteCare kids and parents came during the evening, along with some members’ children and grandchildren. The children enjoyed getting candy at each table, and the families appreciated a low-key, relaxed event for their kids. This is an event the Lincoln Valley anticipates building on next year!



That’s Doctor Courtnage

Ill. Brother Larry Courtnage, 33°, a 2018 Omaha Business Hall of Fame inductee, Past Potentate of Tangier Shrine, and President of C&A Industries received an honorary Doctor of Commerce degree from Bellevue University in recognition of his longtime service on the University’s Board of Directors. The degree was presented at the University Board of Directors’ meeting on Oct. 25.

Courtnage founded C&A Industries in 1969 with a desk, a phone and a Rolodex and grew the company into a national leader in staffing and recruitment services. C&A Industries is known for innovation and growth and has been recognized eight times as a winner of Best Places to Work in Omaha. Courtnage’s credo throughout his business career was simple – “It’s all about integrity and taking care of the customer. The customer comes first.” . . . *continued on page 11*

Meet Lucas



Lucas is 5 years old and is in kindergarten. He attended speech therapy at Lincoln RiteCare Clinic for 2 years.

Lucas was born with a cleft palate and severe hearing loss in his left ear. He has had 2 surgeries to repair his palate. When Lucas started at RiteCare, his speech impairment was severe. Since his surgery last November his speech has improved, not only from the repair in his palate, but also from the hard and patient

work with Lincoln RiteCare Clinician Holly Schlautman, M.S., CCC-SLP.

He attended speech 2-3 times a week for a total of approximately 215 sessions. One of his best times was when his Grandfather (Lucas calls him “Guppy”) got to go with him. Lucas also enjoyed bringing his cat stuffed animal “kitty”. Holly never missed a beat with Lucas’ guests! His big accomplishments were learning to use an augmentative alternative communication (AAC) device to help supplement his speech sounds, making the /p/ sound in sentences, and saying his name, Lucas, with a correct /l/ sound.

Lucas’ mother writes, “RiteCare is and was such an important part in Lucas’ speech improvement. Although Lucas is unique in his disabilities being a part of the RiteCare family has allowed me to see as a parent that I am not alone in this fight. *Thank you, Holly, Teagan and the RiteCare team!*”



Mike Small, 33° proposes a toast at the Feast of Tishri

which occurred during the American bicentennial in 1976. 60-second “Bicentennial Minutes” aired during this time, focusing on a snippet of American history. By college, Mr. Kerr knew he’d major in history, and he knew he wanted to be a teacher, turning down a rare opportunity working for the CIA to teach. He began an innovative program with the English department, where English curriculum aligned with the history curriculum - Charles Dickens’ *A Tale of Two Cities*, for example, coinciding with discussion of the French Revolution.

Mr. Kerr mentioned that two of his boys received RiteCare speech therapy. General Secretary Phil Odom, 33° used the opportunity to remind Brethren the value of speech therapy in our rural communities, reminding Brethren they can support through a year-end IRA distribution, a cash gift, or bequest. The evening is always an excellent dinner, excellent Brotherhood, and a reaffirmation of our commitment to Scottish Rite Freemasonry, which is the true purpose of the Feast of Tishri.



Welcome Latrice Bond

It is my pleasure to be a part of the RiteCare Clinic as the Operations Associate at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute. I have worked for the University of Nebraska, beginning my career as the UNO Health Center’s Office Manager in 2007. I was responsible for directing providers, staff and student workers on policies, and daily operations; facilitating financial and budgetary activities; and supporting the medical office billing and the universities’ student delivered health insurance plan. However, my tenacity for meeting patients’ needs did not start there, I served from 2000 to 2006 as a Financial Assistant for Mid-Nebraska Individual Services in Kearney where I developed a passion for helping individuals with disabilities, through managing their financial and social needs.

With a degree in Business, I bring to the RiteCare clinic considerable knowledge in general accounting, operations, organizational planning, budgeting and reporting. Beyond my knowledge of business procedures, I have a calm demeanor and a positive interaction style. Which to my advantage, support my commitment to patient confidentiality and customer satisfaction.

Outside of the job, I am married to James and we have two beautiful teenage daughters. I also enjoy spending time with family and friends, reading, and I have a large collection of clocks. One of my favor quotes by Helen Keller is, “*Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.*”

I am looking forward to learning all I can, and together with this wonderful RiteCare team, change lives.

TESSA'S STORY

Soon after Tessa was born, we were told that she had Down Syndrome. From that moment on, we knew that we would have some challenges that lay ahead when it came to Tessa's physical development, cognitive development, and speech. Early on, the delays in those areas were not very apparent. Tessa actually did not struggle too much when it came to her physical development and kept up with her peers. She was also a pretty bright little girl, so she caught on quickly to many things presented to her. She did not speak very much when she was a toddler or young girl, but we weren't too concerned because we knew she would most likely be delayed in some area, and she was doing so well physically and cognitively that we thought maybe her speech was suffering a bit because she was so focused on those areas.

By the time Tessa was 7, she was still hardly saying any intelligible words. She spoke in her own little language and used different sounds in place of words. At this point we started to realize that maybe something else was going on and began to get a bit concerned. We decided we should look into having Tessa evaluated. A close friend of our family



RiteCare Clinician Paul Laikko and Tessa

told us about a speech pathologist named Paul Laikko at the UNMC Munroe Meyer Institute. When Tessa was 7 ½ years old, Paul evaluated her speech. After his evaluation, he told us that Tessa had speech apraxia and dysarthria.

That was the beginning of our journey with Paul. Tessa began to attend speech therapy sessions with Paul 2-3 times per week free of cost, all thanks to the Scottish Rite Masons. Tessa has been attending speech therapy sessions with Paul year round for the last two years and is absolutely flourishing!

The progress that she has made with Paul is outstanding. He is an amazing speech pathologist who has gotten to know Tessa and found what works best for her. She is not only speaking words, but also speaking in sentences.

We are so incredibly grateful to not only Paul, but also to the Scottish Rite Masons and their support of children with language delays. If it were not for them, Tessa would not be speaking as well as she is today.

Doctor Courtnage

....continued from p. 9

During his time leading C&A Industries and as a member of the Bellevue University Board of Directors, Courtnage championed the use of technology to accomplish work and improve productivity. Courtnage provided a million-dollar challenge grant that led to the establishment of the C&A Industries Intelligence Systems Lab, a state-of-the-art facility that serves hundreds of students studying cybersecurity, data sciences and systems network administration.

Bellevue University President Dr. Mary Hawkins said, "Larry Courtnage's life and career embody the American Dream. Throughout his lifetime, Larry learned to think big, recognize opportunities and develop his talent and tools to turn those opportunities into reality."

Congratulations Doctor Courtnage on this great honor!

Membership, continued

It would be easy to call attention to numerous Brethren who have consistently served "above and beyond" as part of their lives, but I won't do that because I would need thousands of pages of *Journal* space to do justice to those stories, and I'd still miss someone.

But the very surfeit of these selfless traits throughout our fraternity imbues Freemasonry itself with the spirit of *menschkeit*. I personally see this again and again when it comes to our philanthropies. When a need arises - be it an iPad for one of the Clinics, or the need to cover the expenses for travel or continuing education - a Mason steps up and quietly provides the funds or supplies. This is done without the need for recognition or accolades. It is simply doing the right thing.



In *Morals and Dogma*, Albert Pike wrote ". . . to do that which it is right to do, 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. . . are some of the duties of a Mason.

"To do that which it is right to do" because it is right, and therefore ought to be done. Powerful words, and perhaps the ultimate expression of this concept of *menschkeit*.

Those words are stenciled on the entrance of the Omaha Scottish Rite, reminding members of this fundamental maxim of Scottish Rite Masonry every time they enter the building.

Menschkeit is a fragile thing. If we're not all "doing that which it is right to do," as Masons, we may as well not even try. Aristotle wrote that developing virtue was done by consistently behaving in the right way until it became a habit. If virtues are formed by action, *menschkeit* is not a single act, but a habit.

What better way for Masons to display *menschkeit* than by doing that which it is right to do as a matter of habit, and showing our virtuousness through everything we do!

Giving the Gift of VOICE

As the year draws to a close and we look forward to 2020 (and hopefully an early Spring), many members consider charitable giving. Remember that a gift to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska or your Valley's Scottish Rite Foundation helps children across the state receive exceptional speech and language therapy.



In towns and cities throughout Nebraska, children with Apraxia, Aphasia, nonverbal children, Autistic children, and children with Down Syndrome are learning to communicate. They are able to express their personalities as they learn to say "Daddy read me a story," or "I love you Grandma!" These miracles would not happen without your gifts in support of speech therapy.

Each year, members ask how they can best support RiteCare Therapy and the philanthropies of the Scottish Rite.

IRA Charitable Rollover

If you are 70 1/2 or older, please consider a tax-free charitable gift of up to \$100,000 directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Speak to your retirement account administrator if you have a 401(k), which can be rolled over to an IRA. A simple letter to your IRA administrator can direct a gift be made directly from the account, which can reduce your tax liabilities while helping provide speech therapy.

Life Estate Agreements

A personal residence or farm may be given as a charitable gift. You retain the right to use the property for life and know you are leave a life-changing gift for tomorrow's leaders. Several Brethren have chosen this option, making a significant impact on our philanthropies' ability to serve Nebraska children.

Wills, Trusts, and Bequests

A bequest is simply a statement in your will that leaves a set amount or percentage of your estate to the Masonic philanthropy of your choice.

Each method has its own advantages and benefits, and there are many details to consider with a charitable gift.

Please consult your attorney or financial advisor before deciding which method is best for your own philanthropic goals. You can always reach me at (402) 342-1300 or micah@SRNE.org to work with you in crafting your own Masonic legacy.

Micah I. Evans, 33°
Orient Development Director
(402) 342-1300
micah@SRNE.org

SGIG Circle Donors (\$300+) to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska: July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Name	Valley
Adam Bailey	Omaha
Gary Bunnell	Omaha
Thomas Brummett	Omaha
Karel Capek	Omaha
William Cook, Jr.	Lincoln
Warren Cooke	Omaha
Larry Courtneage	Omaha
Micah Evans	Omaha
John Ferguson	Alliance
David Fisher	Hastings
Michael Gray	Lincoln
Charles Hastings	Hastings
James Heinke	Lincoln
Virgil Johnson	Omaha
William Kimme	Omaha
Reginald Kuhn	Lincoln
Jeffrey Passer	Omaha
Homer Puderbaugh	Lincoln
Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr.	SGIG in NE
Donald Shiu, Jr.	Omaha
Ron Stites	Omaha
Dan Wellendorf	Omaha

Thanks to the generosity of numerous Scottish Rite Masons, Nebraska RiteCare children receive all the services they need, without regard to a family's ability to pay. SGIG Circle donors have pledged or donated \$300 or more toward speech therapy for the year. Please consider a donation or pledge and join these Brethren in making a significant impact on our ability to provide exceptional Speech Therapy for Nebraska children.



*“Your dues change the light bulbs.
Your donations change the world.”*

The Scottish Rite Journal is published bi-monthly by the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, USA. The Orient of Nebraska insert is prepared for members of the Alliance, Hastings, Lincoln, and Omaha Valleys, and is mailed to all current Scottish Rite Freemasons in Nebraska's Valleys. For submissions or articles, please contact Micah Evans at micah@SRNE.org or call (402) 342-1300. Whenever possible, please include a high-resolution photo with your submission. All submissions must be received at least 45 days before the date of publication, which occurs at the beginning of odd-numbered months. (Submissions for the March-April, 2020 Scottish Rite Journal must be received no later than mid-January for consideration.)