



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

March-April, 2020 • Volume X, Issue 2

## Features:

Alliance Prepares for April Reunion

Hypnotist Show Raises Funds for Hastings Valley

Lincoln Celebrates Annual Robert Burns Dinner

Santa Claus a Hit at Omaha Christmas Banquet

RiteCare News of Nebraska

... and much more!

Annual Christmas Banquet and Awards Dinner at the Valley of Omaha. See Page 5 for story . . .

## Membership

By age sixteen, young George Washington had copied out by hand, 110 *Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation*, presumably as an exercise in penmanship assigned by a schoolmaster. The Rules are based on a set of rules composed by French Jesuits in 1595. For example,

*Spit not in the Fire, nor Stoop low before it neither Put your Hands into the Flames to warm them. . .*

By today's standards, many of these rules sound out of date. In fact, they represent a discipline of character that is as valued in 2020 as they were in Washington's youth. We may not spit into the fire, but perhaps today's rule might be *Don't bury yourself in your cell phone in the company of others*. More than just good manners, Washington's rules represent



the sacrifices a man makes of his own immediate comfort or self-interest for the sake of those around him and the community in which he lives. His rules demonstrate respect for others, and in return, his rules gave him the gift of self-respect and self-esteem.

In his book on Washington, Richard

Brookhiser wrote that "all modern manners in the western world were originally aristocratic. *Courtesy* meant behavior appropriate to a court; *chivalry* comes from chevalier – a knight.

Yet George Washington would dedicate himself to freeing America from a court's control. Could manners survive the operation? Without realizing it, the Jesuits who wrote them, and the young man who copied them, were outlining and absorbing a system of courtesy appropriate to equals and near-equals. When the company for whom the decent behavior was to be performed expanded to the nation, Washington was ready. Parson Weems got this right, when he wrote that it was 'no wonder every body honoured him who honoured every body.'"

... continued on page 11

# Orient Calendar

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Mar 7 .....               | Hastings Spring Reunion (H)                  |
| Mar 9.....                | Broadway Series: <i>Dear Evan Hansen</i> (O) |
| Mar 4, 11, 18, 25 .....   | Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)                  |
| Mar 5, 12, 19, 26 .....   | Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)                   |
| Mar 27-28.....            | SR Leadership Conference (St. Louis, MO)     |
| Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29..... | Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)                  |
| Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30..... | Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)                   |
| Apr 17-18.....            | Alliance Spring Reunion (A)                  |
| Apr 25 .....              | Walk for RiteCare (L)                        |
| Apr 26 .....              | Broadway Series: <i>The Lion King</i> (O)    |
| May 1-2.....              | Lincoln Spring Reunion (L)                   |
| May 7-9.....              | Omaha Spring Reunion (O)                     |
| May 20 .....              | Spring Outing (O)                            |
| June 17 .....             | RiteCare Classic Golf Benefit (O)            |
| June 27 .....             | WalkRite for RiteCare (O)                    |
| July 5-9.....             | Shriners Imperial Session (Kansas City, MO)  |
| Aug 7-8 .....             | Lincoln Summer Reunion (L)                   |
| Aug 22.....               | Family Picnic (O)                            |
| Sep 16.....               | Fall Outing (O)                              |
| Sep 25.....               | Nebraska RiteCare Retreat (Lincoln)          |
| Oct 10.....               | Hastings Fall Reunion (H)                    |
| Oct 30-31.....            | Alliance Fall Reunion (A)                    |
| Nov 6.....                | Friends of RiteCare Dinner & Auction (O)     |
| Nov 19-21 .....           | Omaha Fall Reunion (O)                       |

**Lodge of Perfection meetings:**

**Alliance, 4th Friday of each month**

Mar 27, Apr 24, May 22, June 26, July-Aug (Dark)

**Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month**

Mar 3, Apr 7, May 5, June 2, July, August

**Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month**

Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20, June 17, July August

**Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month**

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 |



## APRIL 17-18, 2020

Greetings from St. Petersburg, Florida! The weather is warm, the roads are clear, the water is blue and the scenery is beautiful. I have been on a much-needed vacation for the better part of the past month, and it has been fun to catch up with friends I haven't seen in more than 35 years! I have to admit the Valley has been on auto-pilot in my absence.



*A fellow can get used to shorts in January!*

That said, there is not a lot to report. All good things come to an end, and I am heading back to Alliance shortly, and it will be business as usual for the Alliance Scottish Rite.

Of course, the next major event is the Spring Reunion on April 17-18, 2020. I want to recognize Tommy Yung, 32°, who got involved at the last Reunion as the Class Director. There is a role for all Brethren who want to be involved, and we need help with the stage crew, props and costume, Degree team members, and Brethren who simply want to sit on the sidelines and watch Degrees. I understand we have a few Brethren interested in joining to continue their Masonic education in philosophy and symbolism. If you have Brethren interested, please have them reach out about a petition.

Once the weather warms up, we are eager to take the Scottish Rite on the road to your Valley. Let me know if you want to host a meeting, and we will arrange to have the meeting at your Lodge, at a restaurant in your community, or wherever Brethren can meet and share some fellowship and fun!

This is YOUR Valley, so please get involved and invite good Brethren to join us to share in the Brotherhood. I hope to see you at the Spring Reunion in a few months!

~ Gene Gatti, 33°  
General Secretary  
gene123@mail.com  
Valley of Alliance Scottish Rite





*You are getting drowsy... Brent Breckner hypnotizes some of the guests.*

## HASTINGS SCOTTISH RITE HYPNOTIST COMEDY SHOW

The Hastings Valley Scottish Rite held a Hypnotist show on Saturday, January 25, 2020. Attendance was estimated at 130 tickets sold. Approximately \$1,500 was raised for the Scottish Rite budget.

Brent Breckner of Doniphan, Nebraska served as our hypnotist for the evening. Brent is well-known in the high school prom circles as an entertaining component of any high school after prom party. He also performs quite often for many Central Nebraska entities who are raising money for their cause.

Before beginning the hypnotizing portion of his entertainment, Mr. Breckner directed the audience through a series of exercises to help determine who might have the best chance to undergo hypnosis. Eventually, fourteen audience members volunteered to attempt being

hypnotized on stage in front of friends and family members.

If laughter is the “best medicine”, then Saturday night’s attendees should be healthy. During the first thirty minutes, volunteers went through a series of quiet exercises to relax into hypnosis. After a while, those that were not slipping into a hypnotic stage began leaving the stage. The remainder began going through phases of reactions to heat, cold, horrible smells in an elevator and many other every day embarrassments.

As the night progressed some on stage began waking up due to some unexplained noise and joining their table once again. The final two were deeply under hypnosis and had a hilarious time answering questions from Mr. Breckner.




*RiteCare Clinician Sydney Norton, M.S. CCC-SLP and a patient utilizing our SGD to request a toy to play with.*

## Generating Speech

The Hastings RiteCare Clinic recently received a Tobii Dynavox Indi with Snap + Core First Speech Generating Device (SGD). This device contains a specialized communication system called Snap + Core First which allows children who are nonverbal, have unintelligible (hard to understand) speech, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Childhood Apraxia of Speech, and other developmental delays to communicate with those around them. Each child who utilizes this speech generated device will select meaningful picture symbols in order to convey their message (e.g. “I am hungry.”).

Hastings RiteCare will use this device for a variety of purposes: to evaluate and

*... continued on page 10*





On the nice list: Evelyn Rauch and Jerry Rauch, 33° share a few words with Santa Claus

## Great Evening at the Lincoln Valley Christmas Banquet

Last December 6th, the Valley of Lincoln hosted the annual Christmas Banquet, with 70 guests enjoying a first-rate evening of dinner, entertainment, and fellowship.

Bob and Jennifer Kruse and Doug and Sue Krogman catered a prime rib and lobster tail dinner, with a loaded baked potato, salad, and cheese cake. The prime rib was so good, a few guests were seen to sneak back to the catering line for a second serving of the prime rib!

Mike Gray, 33° served as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening, and welcomed the Lincoln Southwest High School choir who performed several holiday selection before closing with the state song "Beautiful Nebraska."

Even St. Nick made an appearance during the evening, shaking hands and checking names off the naughty and nice list.

With the building renovations, events in the Lincoln Valley have consistently become better and better each year, and the Christmas banquet is definitely not an event to miss.

Visit [www.scottishritelincoln.org/events](http://www.scottishritelincoln.org/events) to keep an eye for upcoming events in the Valley!



Pictures: (Top) Ole and Lynn Friesen, (Middle) Dennis Brydl, Bill Short, Jean and Don Albrecht, (Bottom) Santa Claus with Lincoln Chapter DeMolay members Kolyn Beard, Past Master Councilor; Brooke Beard, Chapter Sweetheart; Garret Bloomquist, Junior Councilor



Wahadi Allen, 32° rises to propose a toast

## Scottish Rite Hosts December Table Lodge

From time immemorial, Masons have enjoyed their food and beverage. Wherever our ancient Brethren met, whether in temporary lodges adjoining the mighty cathedrals, in the homes of patrons, or even the 18th century tavern, a tankard of ale and a good dinner were part of our early Craft. The festive board honored Brethren being initiated or passed. The festive board taught the work of the fraternity and served as a respite from the grim realities of the day.

During the Revolutionary War, even a meager festive board served to buck the spirits of Colonial men, facing the grim odds of fighting the biggest and most well-trained army in the world.

As part of this tradition, the Lincoln Valley hosted a Table Lodge on Wednesday, December 18th. Thirty Brethren gathered to enjoy fellowship and a great dinner of prime rib sandwiches and cole slaw.

This Table Lodge was opened in the Entered Apprentice degree, which allowed us to welcome Raul Ochoa, working toward his proficiency in the EA Degree at Lancaster Lodge #54.

Don Albrecht, 32° KCCH served as Venerable Master, leading the Brethren in the traditional toasts. With the cannons (glasses) charged (filled) with red or white wine, Brethren rose to propose toasts. Don then gave the order to "Ready, Aim, Fire, Order, Arms" and the glasses were held up, drinks downed, and slammed down

... continued on page 7





Schadd Gray, 32° KCCH presents Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33° a Jack Nicholson print at the annual Christmas Banquet

## ST. NICK JOINS SCOTTISH RITE MASONS AT THE OMAHA CHRISTMAS AWARDS BANQUET

*He knows when you've been bad and he knows when you've been good.*

Santa apparently is not aware of the 4th Amendment's guarantee of the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches. Or so argued Lee Terry, 33° with the annual Christmas Ethics debate. Lee argued that Santa violates our rights to privacy, while Hal Daub, 33° made the counter-argument that our rights to privacy are not violated.

Both Hal and Lee gave us plenty to think about with their debate, with much laughter and humor. When put to a vote, the audience gave Hal the victory with a slim majority over Lee.

175 Scottish Rite Masons and guests turned out for a record-setting Christmas Awards Banquet at the Omaha Scottish Rite on Monday, December 16, 2019. Patrick Watson, 32°, Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection served as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening, welcoming guests.

Patrick introduced the Omaha Heartland Harmonizers Barbershop Chorus, who opened the evening with several holiday songs, and sang as members enjoyed a wonderful Christmas dinner prepared by the Culinary

Masters. This year, the Culinary Masters served grilled-to-order steaks, with loaded baked potatoes, vegetables, and salad, followed by ice cream served by the Knights of St. Andrew.

After dinner, the Lodge of Perfection officers presented awards to Brethren who have made a difference during the course of the year as well as a few of the famous Rubber Chicken Awards. Gary Unger, 32° KCCH took home the first rubber chicken for last year's Christmas soup dinner. Everyone agreed that this year's steaks more than atoned for the soup last year. Degree Director AJ Johnson, 33° recognized Jonathan Paz, 32° KCCH for both the 29th Degree as the best Degree of the Fall Reunion as well as for Jonathan's excellent work in several Degrees during the Reunions.

Schadd Gray, 32° KCCH, Director of the Stage Crew, recognized Gary Williams, 32° for his unsung work in the clouds during the Reunion, where Gary is responsible for making sure scenic drops are raised and lowered for the right scenes during each Degree of the Reunion.

Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33° presented the SGIG's award to Jim Parks, Sr., 33° and Tom Brummett, 33° (who was not present) in recognition of nearly 20 years work as Culinary Masters. After



... continued on page 6





## CHRISTMAS AWARDS BANQUET, *continued*

the building was renovated in 2001, Jim had the idea of the Culinary Masters, largely made of men from the Tangier Shrine Divan, cooking for the Lodge dinners rather than a caterer. For almost two decades, the Culinary Masters have continually upped their game, cooking first-rate dinners for the membership and creating a Masonic unity between the appendant bodies rarely matched in American Freemasonry.

Bill German, 32° KCCH and Schadd Gray, 32° KCCH then presented Chuck Sederstrom with a print of actor Jack Nicholson, which Chuck had been bidding on at the Friends of RiteCare Dinner this past October. The print was a gift on behalf of a large number of members who supported Bill's winning bid, and represented members' appreciation for all Chuck does as Sovereign Grand Inspector General for Nebraska.

As General Secretary, John Maxell, 33° recognized Dennis Newman, 32° as a new member who has jumped in to volunteer and serve. Dennis has become very active with the Knights of St. Andrew, managing the gig list, and volunteering whenever asked. John also recognized Chuck Wood, 32° KCCH, Master of Master of Kadosh for the Omaha Consistory and his officers as Line Office of the Year, for their attendance and engagement in Scottish events, activities, and fundraisers.

For the 7th year, Arnel MacDonald, 33° has been instrumental in recognizing men who make a difference through their service, their mentoring, and as ambassadors for the Scottish Rite. Carl Simmons, 32° was recognized for Exemplary Service, willing to be involved whenever asked and needed. Andrew Muska, 32° KCCH was recognized for mentoring members through his service as a line officer and degree work. Mike Stuhr, 32° KCCH was recognized as the ambassador, representing the Scottish Rite through his long service to the Order of DeMolay, Blue Lodge, and in the Grand Lodge line.

Arnel had a different idea for leadership. Rather than recognizing a single person for their leadership, Arnel recognized numerous Brethren for their service to the nation through the Armed Services. This included Jack Duffield and Bill Craig, whose service reached back to World War II. The members gave Jack a standing ovation for his service. Arnel then recognized men for their past and current service in each branch, asking them to stand as their names were called. It was a true honor to applaud men for extraordinary service in each branch extending over more than 60 years.

Of course, Santa Claus himself was present and took photos with members as well as member's children who were present. The evening closed



with Jonathan Paz, 32° KCCH singing a beautiful version of Silent Night/*Stille Nacht* in both English and German, said to have been sung by English and German troops during the Christmas Eve truce in 1914 during World War I.

This was definitely an evening not to be missed, and a great way to close the year's Lodge meetings. Mark your calendars now for December, 2020 for the 8th annual Christmas Awards Banquet.

*Photos: (Page 5, clockwise from top left) Schadd Gray, 32° KCCH presenting Chuck Sederstrom, 33° Jack Nicholson picture; Kids visiting Santa Claus (Steven Barchus, 33°); Arnel MacDonald, 33° presents the Exemplary Service to Carl Simmons, 32°; Jack Duffield, 32° recognized for his service in World War II; John Hardy, 32° and Mike Stuhr present a Rubber Chicken to Mitch Inman, 32°; Roy (32°) and Kat Bradburn with St. Nick; Hal Daub, 33° and Lee Terry, 33° with Santa.*

*Page 6, clockwise from top left): Omaha Heartland Harmonizers; Jonathan Paz, 32° KCCH receives Best Degree award from AJ Johnson, 33°; Jim Parks, Sr., 33° receives the SGIG's Award from Chuck Sederstrom, Jr., 33°; John Maxell, 33° presents the General Secretaries award to Dennis Newman, 32° for his engagement as a new member.*



## Knights of St. Andrew

### Membership Appreciation and Awards Dinner

The Knights of St. Andrew added two new names to the distinguished roster of Knights who have been awarded the Dennis P. Samuelson Service Award. Gary Williams, 32° and Kyle Beckner, 32° join 14 Brethren who have received the award since 2012, recognized for their extraordinary service to the KSA and the Valley as well as their leadership.

This year marked a new recognition, as Venerable Master Bob Pelletier, 32° honored Amanda Beckner (top right) with the first Lady of the Order of the Thistle award. Bob thanked Amanda for volunteering to bartend, her involvement with KSA and Valley activities, as well as service on the notorious “Chain Gang,” the KSA’s highway clean-up project. Amanda and husband Kyle join his father-in-law Alan Boulter, 32° as a family of members who are active and engaged in Scottish Rite Masonry. Kyle is also Master of Bellevue Lodge #325 this year, and both Gary and Kyle are Line Officers in the Council of Kadosh.

In addition to the awards, Bob Pelletier knighted several new Brethren: Dan Alati, 32° (bottom right), Carroll Peacock, 32°



Tracy McClarnon, 32°, and Terry Winter, 32°.

With so many Brethren volunteering for gigs during the year, the entire KSA was recognized for their service, while T.J. Brumfield, 32° was recognized for volunteering for the most gigs (33).

Bob Pelletier listed several major

... continued on page 9



## Omaha Valley Installs 2020 Line Officers

January weather was no deterrent from installing 2020 Scottish Rite Masters and Line Officers, the Cathedral Board, Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha Board members, and Knights of St. Andrew.

On Monday, January 20, 2020, Andrew Muska, 32° KCCH was installed as Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection; Mark Pillely, MD, 32° was installed as Wise Master for the Chapter of Rose Croix, James Carter, 32° as Eminent Commander for the Council of Kadosh, and Donald Leu, Sr., 32° KCCH as Master of Kadosh for the Omaha Consistory (Consistory officers pictured below). Kyle Beckner, 32° was installed as Venerable Master for the Knights of St. Andrew.

Paul Rutherford, 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG, served as Installing Master, and Frank Kroupa, 33° as Installing Marshal.

The four incoming Masters presented the outgoing Masters with a Past Masters jewel for their Scottish Rite body and words of wisdom as they begin the new year.

Afterward, members, ladies and guests enjoyed a catered dinner of pork tenderloin, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, and rolls with the KSA serving ice cream for dessert. Andrew Muska served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening, a role held by the Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection.





# A Robert Burns Celebration



Each year, across the nation and around the world, Robert Burns Night is held in late January in memory of Scotland's most famous poet, Robert Burns. This year, the Lincoln Robert Burns Night fell on his birthday - January 25th.

It is said the tradition started a few years after the poet's death in 1796, when his friends commemorated his career on the date of his death (July 21) each year. So began the Burns Supper, and more than two centuries later it has become a worldwide event with recitals of the poet's works and haggis. A wee dram of Scotch is traditionally on-hand to help wash down the haggis.

Over 90 guests came to the Valley of Lincoln Scottish Rite. The evening began with cocktails and music by harpist Kim Meyer.

The evening formally began as guests entered the dining room under an arch of steel by the Knights of St. Andrew. David Bloomquist, 32° KCCCH served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Robert Burns' Selkirk Grace was given by Rev. Oscar Sinclair, 32°, who serves at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln. Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn of Westminster Presbyterian Church piped in the haggis with the Knights of St. Andrew. Adam Thayer, 32° recited Burns' immortal Address to a Haggis:

*Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,  
Great chieftain o the puddin'-race!*

as Andy Seachord, 32° stabbed the haggis letting its juices flow over the platter.

Singer Chris Sayre performed a few Scottish and Gaelic songs as guests enjoyed a dinner catered by Doorstep Diner, with kailkenny mashed potatoes and braised cabbage, chicken with whiskey sauce and wild mushrooms, young vegetables with tarragon, followed by a ginger plum pudding.

Dowd's Irish Dancers performed a few dances after dinner. Several of the dancers have performed nationally and teach Irish dance to students as young as five or six years old.



Knight Master for the Knights of St. Andrew Nick Furchert, 32° called up Past Knight Master Andy Seachord, 32°, presenting him an engraved KSA fly pin for his kilt in appreciation for all he has done for the KSA. Nick also recognized Andy's fiance Brooke, presenting her with a gift certificate in appreciation for her support. Last, he presented Andy with a bottle of Balvenie's Scotch, promptly appropriated by Brooke. Hopefully she will share with her husband-to-be!

... continued on page 10





## Lincoln Scottish Rite Officers Installed for 2020

On January 18, 2020, the Lincoln Scottish Rite officers were installed for the 2020 year. Mike Gray, 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG, was the installing officer. The Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection is Edward Boone, 32°; Wise Master for the Chapter of Rose Croix is Micah Evans, 33°; Eminent Commander for the Council of Kadosh is Don Albrecht, 32° KCCH; and Commander of Kadosh for the Lincoln Consistory is James Batten, 32° KCCH.

As Venerable Master, Edward Boone, 32° is looking forward to an ambitious year of engagement for all the Scottish Rite officers. The Lincoln Scottish Rite is hosting the Valentine's Dinner in February, the RiteCare Clinic's Valentine's event, Walk for RiteCare in April, and events throughout the year to involve the membership.



*Ready, Aim...Fire!*

## Lincoln Table Lodge, *continued from page 4*

on the table in unison (though perhaps less so as the toasts progressed), echoing the fire of the cannons. In addition to the traditional toasts, members proposed toasts to the Brethren, members who have served in the Armed Services, and to the ladies who support us.

The Table Lodge is always a fun tradition, whether a formal setting or informal as was the case at the Scottish Rite, and the Brethren enjoy a relaxing occasion to get together and enjoy a few drinks and fellowship.



*Newly knighted members of the Omaha Valley KSA*

## KSA Membership Appreciation Dinner

*... continued from page 7*

accomplishments of the KSA for the past year.

- Over \$60,000 donated back to the Valley for unmet needs, with \$10,000 donated back in 2019.
- In 2019, Knights provided volunteer support for 62 gig events, and did not fail to fulfill a scheduled event.
- In 2019, KSA members increased volunteer participation from 10% to 36%, with 34 Brothers performing 2 or more gigs this year.
- In the past year, the KSA set a goal of recruiting 25 new Knights; 36 new Brethren joined the KSA increasing membership to 122 members.
- At the end of 2019, membership retention was 99%, with only 1 Brethren not paying dues.
- Social activity programs were implemented for the KSA to build stronger bonds and inspire life-long friendships.
- The KSA began a mentorship program for new members, resulting in higher retention and participation.



*A future Knight of St. Andrew? Shawn Boulter with Grandpa Alan Boulter, 32°*



*Looks like Gary Williams, 32° was surprised by the recognition as a Dennis P. Samuelson Service Award recipient!*

To learn more about the Knights of St. Andrew or to join, visit [www.scottishriteomaha.org/ksa](http://www.scottishriteomaha.org/ksa).



# Caden's Story



Caden (3) is a talker and always has been.

He has a wonderful vocabulary for someone so young but was struggling with properly forming certain sounds. Basically, the issue was that certain sounds that should be formed and come out of his mouth were coming through his nose instead. We tried to help him correct this leaving everyone frustrated. We were at a loss about what to do. After consulting our pediatrician, we ended up at the Lincoln RiteCare Clinic on the UNL East Campus for an evaluation, where we met Holly Schlautman.

After many sessions and a lot of hard work, things began to click for Caden. He enjoyed his time and was learning at the same time! His all around speech improved but more than that, all of his errored sounds are now coming through his mouth!

I can not express how amazing it is to hear him speak so clearly. Had we not been directed to the Lincoln RiteCare Clinic we would have waited to get help and I have no doubt Caden would have been heading to preschool next year without any of his speech issues resolved. Words can not express how truly thankful we are for Caden to have been given the opportunity to correct his speech issues in such a wonderful environment. Thank you to Holly and the biggest thank you to the Scottish Rite Masons for making all of this possible!

~ Submitted by Caden's mother

## Generating Speech,

*continued from page 3*

assess a child's communication method and communication needs, assess the appropriateness for a speech generated device, advocate to parents and other professionals how a speech generated device can be a helpful tool in facilitating communication, and most importantly, help children discover their voices. A speech generating device and Assisted and Augmentative Communication is truly a gift to some children and their families.

Hastings RiteCare is thankful for the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the Munroe-Meyer Institute for Genetics and Rehabilitation for the purchase of this speech generated device!

Sydney Norton, M.S., CCC-SLP  
sydney.norton@unmc.edu  
RiteCare Clinician, Hastings

## Robert Burns,

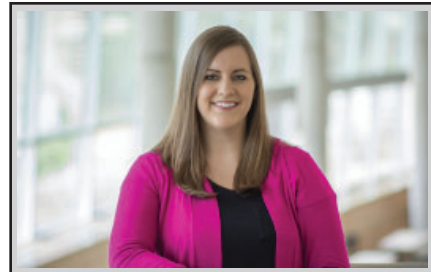
*continued from page 8*

Nick Furchert gave the Toast to the Lassies, with Brigette Corder, a Doctoral candidate in Biological Sciences giving the Reply to the Laddies.

The evening also featured a silent auction, which included jewelry, Masonic books, gift certificates, a stained glass Square and Compass, all benefiting the RiteCare Speech Clinics, and raised about \$500 for speech therapy.

After parting words from Venerable Master Edward Boone, 32°, singers *Those Two* closed the evening with several Scottish medleys, including *Auld Lang Syne*.

Next year's Robert Burns Dinner will be on Saturday, January 23, 2021 at the Lincoln Scottish Rite Masonic Center.



Leslie VanWinkle, M.A., CCC-SLP

## Head of the Class

I began my role at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI) as a Speech-Language Pathologist in May 2014. Over the first six months of my job, I began learning about the other treatments my patients with Autism were also receiving, including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA).

In January 2015, we supervised an intern, Lilith Reuter-Yuill, who was working towards both her Master's in Speech-Pathology and ABA. She was the first person to show me how Speech and ABA could fit together in a way that maximized outcomes for the children I was working with. As a result, I became interested in pursuing more formal education in the science behind ABA to improve my clinical skill set and ability to collaborate with other behavior analysts.

Beginning in August, 2015, I enrolled in the ABA Certificate Program through the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In 2017, I began the Master's program in ABA at UNO. This gave me access to more courses and opened the door for me to eventually become certified as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. I took 1 course per semester for 9 semesters and in December 2019, I graduated with my second Master's degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Applied Behavior Analysis!

This has been a long but rewarding road that should culminate in certification this summer! I'm so thankful for the inspiration from Lilith, the support and flexibility of my director, Amy Nordness, and the continuing education credits available to me through UNMC that made this all possible.





## Welcome Suzanne, our newest RiteCare Clinician in Lincoln

My name is Suzanne Budzinski, and I joined the Lincoln RiteCare team in January 2020. I am an ASHA-certified Speech-Language Pathologist, thrilled to be working in collaboration with such an amazing team of speech-language pathologists across Nebraska.

I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in 1998 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Master of Arts degree in 2000 from the University of South Dakota. I bring experience from a school-based setting as a school-age, early childhood and telepractice speech-language pathologist. I am passionate

about family and interprofessional collaboration, early childhood intervention, functional Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) use in young children across environments, and serving children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, childhood Apraxia of speech, general speech sound disorders, and language delays. I am currently pursuing a certification in Project IMPACT, a coaching program for parents of young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and related social communication delays.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, exercising, cooking, and reading. I am so thankful and proud to be part of an organization dedicated to improving the lives of young children.



The Scottish Rite played host to the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute's Camp Monroe Theater Company again this past January.

The performing arts camp lets children of all intellectual and developmental disabilities, helping them become more independent and confident. This year's theme was "Tales from the Sea."

## Membership, continued

Within Freemasonry, the Rules of Civility include the ancient charges that "it is now thought more expedient only to oblige [Masons] to that Religion in which all Men agree, leaving their particular Opinions to themselves; that is to be good Men and true, or Men of Honour and Honesty, by whatever Denominations or Persuasions they may be distinguish'd; whereby Masonry becomes the Center of Union, and the Means of conciliating true Friendship among Persons that must have remain'd at a perpetual Distance." (Anderson's Constitutions of 1723)

So in other words, leave your religion and politics at the door. This dictum holds true today in Masonry.

As men of our communities, we have our passions, our disagreements - increasingly less pleasant in this politically-charged age - but for the sake of our Masonic community and the well-being of the entire Craft, we individually (try to) set aside those things which separates us and what divides us.



Like George Washington's rules, we do this to illustrate our respect for others who may believe differently. In return for our forbearance, we gain the respect of others, who might otherwise "have remain'd at a perpetual distance."

Most recently, an e-mail from the Grand Master of Massachusetts, oldest Grand Lodge in the United States, invited

Masons to practice the virtue of civility. An invitation. Not an edict. Masons are not *required* to be politically neutral or to give up their free speech. Masons were simply asked to honor our history and be a worldly exemplification of the virtues our Craft holds so dear.

It seems that the rules of civility are in as much need now as they have ever been. The factions that divide us are everywhere - social media, the news outlets we watch, the sports team we celebrate. It only takes a click of a mouse to lambaste those with whom we disagree as the enemy!

Yet Freemasonry, by its very nature, unites men of all backgrounds. Practicing civility in the Lodge and communities is as important as ever.

George Washington made the practice of civility his habit, and by doing so, united an entire nation. The least we can do is follow his noble example.



# Giving the Gift of VOICE

## Preserving Your Legacy

The Scottish Rite Foundation received a significant gift when a Brother who passed away last year when he named the Scottish Rite Foundation as the beneficiary in a Charitable Remainder Trust.

A Charitable Remainder Trust is a tax-exempt irrevocable trust designed to reduce the taxable income of individuals by first dispersing income to the beneficiaries of the trust for a specified period of time, and then donating the remainder of the trust to a designated charity or charities. In this case, his wife can spend the money in the trust as she sees fit for the remainder of her life. Whatever remains after she passes away goes to the Scottish Rite Foundation and other non-profit organizations.

As our membership ages, Charitable Remainder Trusts have become increasingly popular as a way to both take care of loved ones while leaving a member's legacy for Masonic philanthropies. Another Brother set his trust to pay the Scottish Rite 1/8th of the remainder of his trust in October, 2029.

In short, the charitable remainder trust allows you to make a significant gift through your estate while retaining an income for you or your loved ones for life or for a term of years. In addition,



you can receive immediate charitable income tax benefits when you establish a charitable remainder trust.

A second gift that we have seen increasingly used is the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) distribution. For those 70 1/2 years or older, you can simply direct your IRA administrator to make a donation to the Scottish Rite Foundation in your Valley or the philanthropies of your choice. The advantage is that you are using pre-tax dollars to make a tax-deductible gift, rather than using after tax dollars. (You have to earn \$118 to make a \$100 donation if you pay taxes of 15%, versus an IRA distribution of \$100 on money you didn't pay any taxes on.)

Always consult an attorney or tax professional to determine whether this is right for you or to learn how this impacts your own financial situation. You can always call me at (402) 342-1300 to learn how you can make a gift that leaves your Scottish Rite legacy for years to come.

## SCOTTISH RITE<sup>®</sup> JOURNAL

OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

“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 May-June, 2020 Scottish Rite Journal must be received no later than mid-March for consideration.)

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      |
| George White               | Hastings   |

*Thanks to the generosity of numerous Scottish Rite Masons, Nebraska Rite-are 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.*