



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

May-June, 2020 • Volume X, Issue 3

Features:

Alliance Plans Lodge Clean-Up Day
After 2019 Floods

Great Success for First Corned Beef and
Cabbage Feed in Hastings

Annual Valentine's Day Party in Lincoln

Ladies Night at the 'Rite in Omaha

RiteCare News of Nebraska

... and much more!



Celebrating our love for RiteCare in the Valley of Lincoln.
See Page 4 for story . . .

Membership

Masons generally are excited when Freemasonry is portrayed on TV shows or movies. We get such little attention in the media that any exposure is generally a cause for joy, even if it is a passing reference to Masonry.

Oftentimes, it might just be a Masonic ring in a television show or commercial, or a character wearing a generic fez as part of some "secret society" to which he belongs. Sometimes, a Lodge building is the backdrop for a TV show.

The Nicholas Cage movie *National Treasure* was, of course, a great example of this and the Masons were part of the theme of the movie, ostensibly responsible for hiding Knights Templars deep below the streets of New York. No Masonic lodge's movie night is complete without *National Treasure* being shown, and fortunately the movie



continues to hold up after having seen it so many times!

Oftentimes, Masons look at the appearance in popular culture as the catalyst to open the conversation about Masonry. Certainly, we hoped that Dan Brown's novel "The Lost Symbol" would open that floodgate and prospective members would come trooping in to the Tyler's room, petitions flapping in the breeze.

But the problem is, they don't.

That's why I'm a big fan of the *Not Just a Man. A Freemason.* campaign started by the Northern Jurisdiction Scottish Rite last year, supported by the SMJ Scottish Rite and the Shriners. Among a sea of good Masonic videos, these stand out as among the best, and you should check out the website at www.beafreemason.org.

This website is a simple, concise introduction to Freemasonry, aimed at the prospective Mason, weeding out most of the extraneous facts that the candidate can get later. With a few simple clicks, the prospective Brother can put in his state and name, and the Grand Lodge of his jurisdiction gets a message that he is interested, and can have someone reach out to him.

... continued on page 11

Orient Calendar

- May 7 Give to Hastings Day (H)
- May 7-9..... Omaha Spring Reunion (O)
- May 20 Spring Outing (O)
- May 20 Omaha Gives (O)
- May 28 Give to Lincoln Day (L)
- June 17 ...RiteCare Classic Golf Benefit at Pacific Springs (O)
- June 27 WalkRite for RiteCare at Lake Zorinsky (O)
- July 5-9..... Shriners Imperial Session (Kansas City, MO)
- July 18 Walk for RiteCare at Libs Park (H)
- Aug 7-8 Lincoln Summer Reunion (L)
- Aug 22..... Family Picnic (O)
- Sep 16..... Fall Outing (O)
- Sep 25..... Nebraska RiteCare Retreat (Lincoln)
- Oct 27..... Halloween Party (L)
- 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)
- Dec 5 Christmas Banquet (L)
- Jan 23 Robert Burns Celebration (L)

Please check with your Valley for current updates to events and cancellations due to COVID-19 virus

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month

May 22, June 26, July-Aug (Dark), Sept 1, Oct 6

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug 4, Sept 1, Oct 6

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, Sept 16, Oct 21

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug (picnic), Sept 21, Oct 19

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



OCTOBER 30-31, 2020

We had to cancel our Spring Reunion but now we have at least two candidates for the Fall Reunion, on October 30-31st. Please reach out to Brethren at your Lodge and let them know about continuing their Masonic journey through the Scottish Rite Degrees, or putting their leadership skills to continued use as an officer or committee member.

The Scottish Rite will continue to host our Community Table free lunches. However, instead of opening up the dining room, we are handing out free sack lunches at the door. The volunteers are taking care of disinfectant procedures and following Center for Disease



With school out, kids are helping to pack lunches

Control guidelines. The families and children we serve particularly need meals now, with schools being closed. We recently served 140 meals one day, and 150 the next. Over 12,000 meals have been served since Community Table began. I am proud the Scottish Rite is able to host Community Table.

We sustained some damage in the flooding last August, and after a great deal of time with our insurance company, we have learned they will not cover an of the damage sustained. Total damage did not exceed the deductible which is \$50,000, and even if we had exceeded that amount, they would have only paid 1.5% in excess of the deductible. Brethren have brought up some improvements to the building, but they will have to wait. At the last meeting, the Brethren decided to have a work party in lieu of the Reunion, and paint some of the walls damaged from the floods. We will make a hamburger or pizza day out of this for the painters.

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



The Hastings Valley of Scottish Rite held its first Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner on February 22, 2020 in the Hastings Masonic Ballroom. Venerable Master Dan Deffenbaugh, Brothers George White, Randy Jones, Don Rasmussen and Bill Carson cooked the original 40 pounds of brisket a week ahead and placed it in a freezer until the Saturday event. On the day of Corned Beef dinner, an additional 12 pounds of meat was cooked based on ticket sales.

Monte Malouf was in charge of potatoes while Phil Odom and Dan Deffenbaugh made sure the Southern-style cabbage was well cooked with plenty of bacon and butter to balance the taste buds. Dr. Carson used his secret family glaze recipe to garnish the top of all the Corned Beef, which gave it a slight kick of sweetness, that all seemed to enjoy.

The Valley served approximately 100 meals and netted \$850.00 toward our budget. 22 meals were handed out through the drive-up alley door by Mike Small, Randy Jones and Tehama Shrine Recorder, Ron Nielsen. This is planned to be an annual event for the Valley as plans are being made for another event in February of 2021. The Scottish Rite's Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner is planned earlier than St. Patrick's Day to avoid competing with local churches or groups who hold their own Corned Beef dinners in March.

Thanks to Dean Papenhagen, Chuck Hastings and Bill Taylor for their help in serving and Irish background music. A special thanks to Ill. Sir Ryan Waind and his Lady Beck from Tehama Shrine for their help and support at several positions during the evening.

THE MASTER ✦ CRAFTSMEN



Before each Scottish Rite meeting in Hastings, members hold an educational session, moderated by Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh, 32° KCCH, covering each of the Scottish Rite Degrees. This past March, the 17th Degree - Knights of the East and West - was covered.

Not merely content to simply read *Bridge to Light*, moderator Dr. Deffenbaugh, brings a wealth of knowledge stemming from the Bible, world philosophy, and the history of the time period.

Degrees are discussed in the context of the story being told, the lessons conveyed, as well as the actual events happening at the time. This is a wonderful opportunity to dive deeply into the Degrees and really understand what Albert Pike was trying to convey. It is definitely worth the time of every Brother to come to the educational discussion before each Scottish Rite meeting on the first Tuesday of each month in Hastings.

HASTINGS TELEHEALTH

Despite the Scottish Rite being closed through April, the Hastings RiteCare Speech and Language clinic has continued to serve children in central Nebraska through telehealth for the short term. Kids and parents simply log on through an iPad, PC, or even a cell phone and work directly with Kris Althouse or Sydney Norton, and continue to receive the top-notch therapy and services they had been receiving in person at the Clinic!

Pencil Us In

Give Hastings Day
May 7, 2020

Give Hastings Day is a day of online giving which supports the RiteCare Clinics and the philanthropies of the Hastings Scottish Rite Valley Foundation

www.givehastings.org/RiteCare

*Free Donuts and Coffee! **

On Saturday
October 10, 2020

* Also, there's a Reunion. Bring a Candidate or simply come by to welcome our new Brethren and watch the Scottish Rite Degrees!



Be Excellent to each other

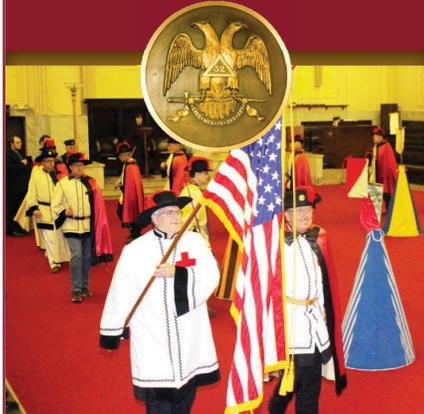
LINCOLN IS COMING!

Give to Lincoln Day is a day of online giving on May 28, 2020. Your online gift through the Lincoln Community Foundation will benefit the Lincoln RiteCare Clinics, the Teacher of the Year award, and the philanthropies of the Scottish Rite.

givetolincoln.com/nonprofits/ritecare

Friday, May 28, 2020

SAVE THE DATE



LINCOLN SPRING REUNION Aug 7-8th, 2020



GAME 1 www.ScottishRiteLincoln.org



Top Row: Nick Furchert, 32°, Ed Bennett, 32°, Andy Seachord, 32°, Bruce Wood, 33°
Bottom Row: Holly Schlautman, M.S., CCC-SLP, Bill Short, 32°, Suzie Budzinski, M.A., CCC-SLP

Lincoln RiteCare Valentine's Party

This was the Lincoln RiteCare Clinic's second annual Valentines Day party on Feb. 9th. The RiteCare families, Masons, and RiteCare SLPs joined up at the Scottish Rite Ballroom for an afternoon of games, crafts, cookie decorating, and silly and cute pictures with our photobooth. Holly and Suzie, the Lincoln RiteCare SLPs, gathered volunteers from the NSSLHA group who helped with the set-up, childcare, and tear-down of all of the activities. The kids had a blast walking the Xs and Os trails that were taped to the floor, creating delicious cookies, making a train-themed thank you (We 'choo' 'choo'se RiteCare) for the Masons, and playing a snowball toss game. The RiteCare party also allowed for many of the families to connect on a personal level, share their stories with each other, and make new friendships that last past the their time at the clinic.

Holly Schlautman, M.S., CCC-SLP
RiteCare Clinician
holly.schlautman@unmc.edu



With too much grim news lately, the Valley of Lincoln Scottish Rite is thrilled to congratulate Brother Andy Seachord, 32° and his lovely bride Brooke, who were married at the Scottish Rite on March 14, 2020 in front of friends, family, and numerous Brethren. It is fitting that the last wedding before events necessitated closing the Scottish Rite through April was for Andy and Brooke. Andy has been involved as a line officer, Knight Commander of the Knights of St. Andrew, supported numerous events, and wonderfully embodies the spirit of Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

Valley of Omaha



SCOTTISH RITE CELEBRATES OUR LADIES AT LADIES NIGHT AT THE 'RITE DINNER

No month better represents a time we show our love, respect, and admiration for the women in our lives than February, with Valentine's Day.

Scottish Rite Masons used the February Lodge dinner to show our love for our ladies. The evening began with cocktails in the lounge, followed by beautiful music performed by Madeline Maloley on her violin during the course of the evening.

The Culinary Masters excelled with a first-rate dinner of roasted chicken, shrimp, baked potatoes, green beans, salad, and ice cream served by the Knights of St. Andrew. The Lodge of Perfection officers handed out chocolates to the ladies.

Andrew Muska, 32° KCCH, served as emcee for the evening as Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection. After dinner, Andrew called up members of the Fall, 2019 "Charles Amidon, 33° Memorial Class" with their lady or top line signer, who placed their 32° cap on their heads.

"Ladies Night at the 'Rite" has been a tradition at the Scottish Rite for going on twenty years, and is an evening not worth missing. Mark your calendar for next February, and join us as we celebrate the ladies in our lives!



Capping ceremony for our newest 32° Scottish Rite Brethren



Class Orator Brooks Call, 32° reflects on his experience as a Scottish Rite Mason

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha
RITECARE CLASSIC
GOLF BENEFIT
Wednesday, June 17, 2020

PACIFIC SPRINGS GOLF COURSE 16810 Harney St. Omaha, Nebraska	\$100 PER PERSON	\$400 PER FOUR-SOME
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For more information, call (402) 342-1300

A benefit for the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute
www.ScottishRiteOmaha.org/golf

SAVE THE DATE
OMAHA GIVES
May 20, 2020
omahagives.org/ritecare

It is impossible to say how much has been raised since 1979, but it is fair to say that at least a half-million dollars has been raised, all of which supports our UNO scholarships and RiteCare Clinics.

Once again, we are asking for your support for the Century Club. Your donation of \$100 or more (or any amount) makes a significant impact on our Valley's commitment to our philanthropies. More important, it makes a lifelong impact on the young leaders who receive our scholarships and the children who receive speech therapy services through the Munroe-Meyer Institute.

We will celebrate our 2019-2020 accomplishments and Century Club members with a dinner at Cascio's Restaurant on July 23rd, and I hope you will plan to join us.

The Yellow Envelope



By now, you should have received your Century Club appeal letter. Hopefully, the bright yellow envelope and return envelope will catch your attention, rather than hit that pile of stuff to address later on down the road.

The Century Club is celebrating 41 years of being the backbone of fundraising for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha.



Grand Lodge of Nebraska Catalogs and Organizes Library and Museum

by Russ Reno, 32° KCCH, PGM
negrn2009@hotmail.com

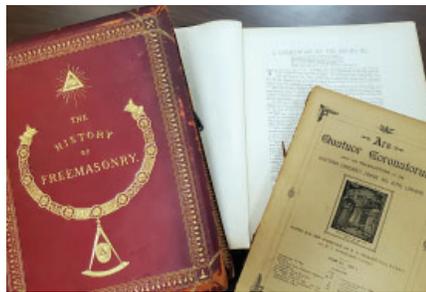
A repository of Masonic thought from three centuries of books and magazines is now searchable online and available at the Nebraska Masonic Foundation's Museum and Research Library at the Grand Lodge Office in Lincoln.

For more than 100 years, books and magazines donated to the Grand Lodge remained hidden in boxes or put on shelves with no way to locate those related to specific Masonic topics. Tabula Rasa Lodge No. 332 volunteered to process and organize the books and magazines so they are usable for research.

After lodge members spent two years working in the Library, the more than 2,000 books and magazines were catalogued and placed on a searchable database (<https://glne.pastperfectonline.com/>) as well as categorized by subject on bookshelves according to a Masonic library classification system.

Work so far on this phase allows research to be conducted on books and magazines published from the 1700s to today, and persons interested in visiting the library now can place a request to review these publications.

Yet, there is more work to do. Many of the older books are in need of cleaning and repair, which requires significant



funds. The Foundation is raising funds not only to complete work on the books, but also to identify, photograph and catalogue the numerous artifacts in the museum, which also will be searchable on the database. So our Brothers and the general public can learn about Freemasonry and its history in Nebraska, funds will be necessary to buy display cases and develop displays.

Naming rights to the Museum and Research Library, display cases, and bookcases are available with a donation. Donations of all amounts are appreciated to complete the work. See the list of benefits on the donor form at: <https://glne.org/documents/MuseumDonor.pdf>.

The Museum and Research Library offers brothers and the public the opportunity to preserve the heritage of Freemasonry in Nebraska. Donations today may influence brothers or the public in the future.

ODDS & ENDS



The Omaha Scottish Rite participated in the Meyer Foundation for Disabilities Walk and Roll on Sunday, March 1st at Oak View Mall. Walk and Roll raised \$25,000 to support the programs of the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute, which includes our RiteCare Clinics. The Walk also raises awareness, understanding and funding for recreation services for teens and adults with developmental disabilities at the Munroe-Meyer Institute.



Oh, baby!

Congratulations to our Lincoln Clinician Holly Schlautman and her husband Isaac who welcomed daughter Leah Rose on February 19, 2020 at 7 lbs and 11 oz. Holly reports that Mama, Papa (Isaac) and big sister Kenzie couldn't be happier with their new family addition, and Kenzie loves being a big sister!

Reflections on COVID-19

The Coronavirus, known as COVID-19, has wreaked havoc on our communities. Our financial markets have taken a tumble, and we've seen disruption in work, social life, and Masonic life. As of mid-March, many Masonic activities have been cancelled well into April. We don't even know if we'll be back to "business as usual" by May!

Much of what we hear on one news station is contradicted by another. Suddenly everyone on social media seems to be a Ph.D. in Virology. People are panic-buying food and necessities in case we're given a "shelter in place" order as we've seen elsewhere about the nation.

All this uncertainty got me thinking about our Masonic fraternity. We've endured anti-Masonic fervor during the Morgan Affair and we've seen Brother set upon Brother during too many wars. We've seen our Masonic Lodges decimated by the Great Depression, and we



The anatomy of a Freemason. Make it viral.

have seen Lodges merge or close as membership declines.

But Freemasonry has weathered these storms and will continue to weather them. Our physical temples may be closed, but as others have noted, our fraternal ties do not close shop.

The Lodge may not meet, but Brotherly love and affection continue. We have tools at our disposal - the phone, social media, internet, e-mail - so long derided as detrimental to the "hand-to-back and

mouth-to-ear" nature of Masonry. We can continue to reach out to one another, check on Brethren in distress, help those in need, and share a few much-needed laughs. Now is the time we can strengthen our fraternity by communicating with members and continuing to check on Brethren in distress.

There is no question that COVID-19 is scary, and may disrupt our daily routines. This may be a distant memory by the time this *Scottish Rite Journal* arrives in your mail box, or we may be in a new stage of quarantine. But while these may be the times that try men's souls, this should also be seen as the fire that tempers the fraternity so we may emerge stronger and more resilient.

With "social distancing," we have time to communicate with Brethren and let them know we're thinking of them and even stand ready to bring them food or supplies. Let us use this time to make our Craft all the stronger so that when this passes, our Brethren remain committed to our fraternity well into the future.

Membership, continued

I will argue to my dying breath that Freemasonry is "hand to back, and mouth to ear." It works with the individual touch and personal communication. No one has ever joined because Masonry looked cool in a movie or on a website.

Men join because they were met by a friend, whom they afterwards found to be a Brother, who makes a personal invitation to join. Men join because Freemasons represent the kind of men they admire, and they want to associate with such people.

And that is the beauty of this campaign. Once our prospective member has reached out through the website, someone in his state will make a personal connection, arrange a personal visit, and get to know him.

The sister website to bea.freemason.org is www.notjustaman.org, and this site offers Masons great campaign material, including posters, banners, videos, and social media.



The material may be customized for each Grand Lodge, and retains a brand that is consistent across the nation.

In short, the website is a two-prong strategy for a prospective member to learn about the fraternity, with tools for Masons to better promote the Craft.

Of course, we can't sit back and expect potential candidates to drift over to the

website themselves. That sometimes happens, but if we are to have a real impact, we have to speak to sons and grandsons, co-workers and neighbors, and friends. One Brother had a conversation about Masonry with a stranger at a bar, who wound up sending in his petition! The one-on-one, personal approach is, in the end, the tried and true method that works.

Not all of us can express Masonry eloquently in our own words, and that is okay. The website is no magic bullet to grow our numbers, but the website is there to provide basic answers to questions and serve as a conversation starter. Bookmark www.bea.freemason.org on your smart phone, on your computer, or tablet. Share the resources with your Lodge and Brethren.

But most importantly, share the website with prospective members. Start a conversation with prospective candidates who would make good Masons. This is how we will truly grow our members.

VOICE

Giving the Gift of

SGIG Circle and 101-Club Donors Make a Special Gift to RiteCare

The benefit of our Nebraska RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics to children has been incalculable. Scottish Rite Masons recently met Flynn, who had been evaluated for Autism Spectrum Disorder. Beth Hughes at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute guided Flynn's family through the system to get him the help he needed. His parents reported that Beth unlocked something that really opened him up and taught them to communicate with him in ways that they didn't even know were possible. Beth even came out to Wahoo to help transition Flynn to Head Start and work with the staff at his school!

It is hard not to be moved by the stories like Flynn's, and the parents are profoundly grateful to Nebraska's Scottish Rite Masons for providing services at no cost to the family.

Ten years ago, the 101-Club was established to support speech therapy, and Scottish Rite Masons have donated over \$90,000 for speech therapy for children like Flynn.



The SGIG's Circle challenge coin

The 101-Club appeal will be sent to Scottish Rite Masons in July, and I ask your support in helping children like Flynn with speech therapy through the RiteCare Clinics. Every tax-deductible donation of \$101 pays for one session of therapy for a child in Nebraska.

For each donation of \$101 or more to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska, you will receive the 101-Club lapel pin, and I ask you to wear it with pride and explain its significance to your Brethren and friends.

Donations of \$300 or more enroll you in the Sovereign Grand Inspector General's Circle, and you will receive the SGIG Circle challenge coin and lapel pin. Both 101-Club and SGIG Circle donors will be recognized at the Annual Communication, and SGIG Circle donors are recognized for the year in the *Scottish Rite Journal*.

Flynn's parents are profoundly grateful for your incredible generosity, and thank you for your continued donations to our 101-Club/SGIG Circle appeal!

SCOTTISH RITE 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 July-August, 2020 Scottish Rite Journal must be received no later than mid-May 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 Courtnage	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
Charlie Odorizzi	Omaha
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 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.