



official publication of the Scottish Rite bodies of the **Orient of Nebraska**

January-February 2013 • Volume 3, Issue 1

Calendar

Jan 12 (2013).....Installation of Officers & Reception (L)
Jan 26 Robert Burns Dinner (\$20) (L)
Jan 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
Jan 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 ... Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Jan 31 - Feb 2Grand Lodge in Kearney, NE
Feb 6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
Feb 7, 14, 21, 28 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Feb 16...Scottish Rite/Sesostri's Valentine's Day Party (L)
Mar 9 & 10Hastings Spring Reunion (H)
Mar 14Corned Beef & Cabbage (L)
Mar 6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
Mar 7, 14, 21, 28 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Mar 20 Remembrance & Renewal (L)
Apr 3, 10, 17, 24..... Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
Apr 4, 11, 18, 25 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
Apr 17Scottish Rite Stag (L)
Apr 18, 19, & 20Omaha Spring Reunion (O)
Apr 20.....Alliance Spring Reunion (One Day) (A)
Apr 26 & 27 Lincoln Spring Reunion (L)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month
Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 22

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month
Jan 1, Feb 5, Mar 5, Apr 2

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month
Jan 23, Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 17

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month
Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15

For more information, call the
General Secretary in your Valley:

Gene Gatti (Alliance) (308) 762-4324
Glen Jorgenson (Hastings) (402) 462-5813
Bruce Wood (Lincoln) (402) 435-2144
Curt Edic (Omaha) (402) 342-1300

Membership

Did you ever see the movie *City Slickers*? There is a scene where Billy Crystal asks Jack Palance what is the meaning of life. "One thing," says the old cowboy. "One thing? What's that?" asks Billy.

"You have to figure that out yourself," says Jack.

Whenever someone says that Masonry takes good men and makes them better, I always think of that scene. But *how* do we make good men better, the potential candidate may ask.

You have to figure that out yourself. Finding that balance - that equilibrium in our duty to God, our country, our family, our brethren and ourselves - is the entire point of the 32nd Degree. No one can do it for you. You have to do it yourself. (As I like to say on tours of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, I just told you the secrets of the Masons. Go tell everyone you know.)

So what does that have to do with membership? Everything!

Some men who join Masonry grow disillusioned because we do not hand the new Master Mason a clearly marked road map to Perfection. We offer him our symbolism and the lectures of our degrees and through self-study and analysis, the new Master Mason must distill what is valuable to him and apply it to his daily life. I like to think that when a Master Mason is on the path to be a better father, husband, employer or employee, or member of society, and he associates with others on that same journey, he can't help but strive to be better himself and improve himself by their example and their company.

We've just come through another Reunion season, and we're already looking down the road to the Spring Reunion. Talk to your Masonic brothers at Lodge, invite them to continue on the road to "further light in Masonry." Tell them about the 32nd Degree. They'll want to know more.

They'll be in good company, **and they can figure the rest out themselves.**



The secret of Masonry? One thing.

Valley of Alliance

Alliance Valley Masons Making a Difference: *Then & Now*



In 1974, Scottish Rite Masons from the Valley of Alliance made a donation of \$50,000 (worth nearly \$250,000 in today's money) to the Box Butte General Hospital Building Fund Committee. In recognition of this contribution, the surgical complex of the new hospital was designated "The Charles E. Slagle Surgical Suite." The Alliance Scottish Rite bodies expressed their pleasure in perpetuating Dr. Slagle's memory in this contribution. In presenting the check, Scottish Rite member Bill Pittam said, "We feel that Dr. Slagle would have been proud of the progress our county is making in providing medical facilities for its citizens; we, therefore, are proud to be able to aid in this worthwhile project."

Pictured above: Wally Seiler, co-chairman of the fund drive, Edward Knight, George Tatum, George Seiler, Jim Wegner (Chairman of the fund drive for Box Butte County Hospital), J.W. Keebaugh, George Kuncel, and William Pittam. In the background is a painting of Dr. Charles Slagle, whose bequest continues to benefit Scottish Rite Masons in the Valley.



Using the camera in any laptop or desktop computer, a Speech-Language Pathology student, under the direction of the RiteCare clinician, can work with a child seated at another computer with a camera. Parents help by keeping the child focused on the camera. By purchasing the license to use a secure connection, patients' privacy is protected, and we avoid the need for special equipment. As the telepractice model proves effective, it can be replicated anywhere. This program has already received interest from other RiteCare programs around the nation.

Laura Moody, RiteCare clinician at the University of Nebraska at Kearney recently wrote to update us about the first month of the new telepractice clinic in Alliance:

The telepractice clinic has been growing here at UNK! I wanted to let you know that we saw our first telepractice client this week on Monday and Wednesday [October 1st and 3rd]! While we had a few bumps in the technology road, we couldn't have asked for better sessions. They went really well and our first little client was very excited and engaged. We will begin a second telepractice client next week on Monday and have a third client that we hope to transition from face to face services to telepractice within the next 2-3 weeks. We also have two additional families with whom we have discussed telepractice, however, they are pending evaluations. Our current telepractice clients reside across the state of Nebraska including: Gretna, Minden and North Platte.

Please help share the news with other families in Alliance and the Panhandle counties who may benefit from these services.

Valley of Hastings

On November 14, the Valley of Hastings celebrated the Feast of Tishri at the Hastings Masonic Center. Over 30 guests were in attendance, celebrating the symbolic re-dedication of King Solomon's Temple and our rededication to our Brethren at the Feast of Tishri. The Reverend William Nottage-Tacey of First Presbyterian Church in Hastings assisted with an explanation of the Jewish customs related to the feast and with the Hebrew prayers.



Ill. Brother George White, 33° chaired the Feast of Tishri dinner this year. In addition to the traditional toasts, George opened the floor to toasts from members attending the dinner. He was honored to

introduce Jan Herbek, the 2012 Teacher of the Year, who discussed the state of education in our area, and thanked the Scottish Rite for our support. Emily Johnson, the new speech and language clinician at the Hastings RiteCare Clinic, spoke on current RiteCare initiatives and goals.

After a fantastic dinner, toasts to the health of our Grand Lodge and Grand Master, Sovereign Grand Inspector General, the Grand Commander, and our fraternity and brethren, fellowship abounded and guests left both full and recommitted to the Scottish Rite craft.

George White, 33°
gwhite@hastings.edu

Congratulations to Ill. Brother Les Seiler, 33° who was elected to represent Nebraska's 33rd Legislative District in the State Unicameral. Les served as Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska in 2004, and as



President of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska, which oversees the Scottish Rite's RiteCare program. As State Senator, Les is championing the Building a Healthier Nebraska initiative, which provides much-needed health and medical services to rural Nebraska.

**Help us recruit candidates for the
Hastings Spring Reunion!**

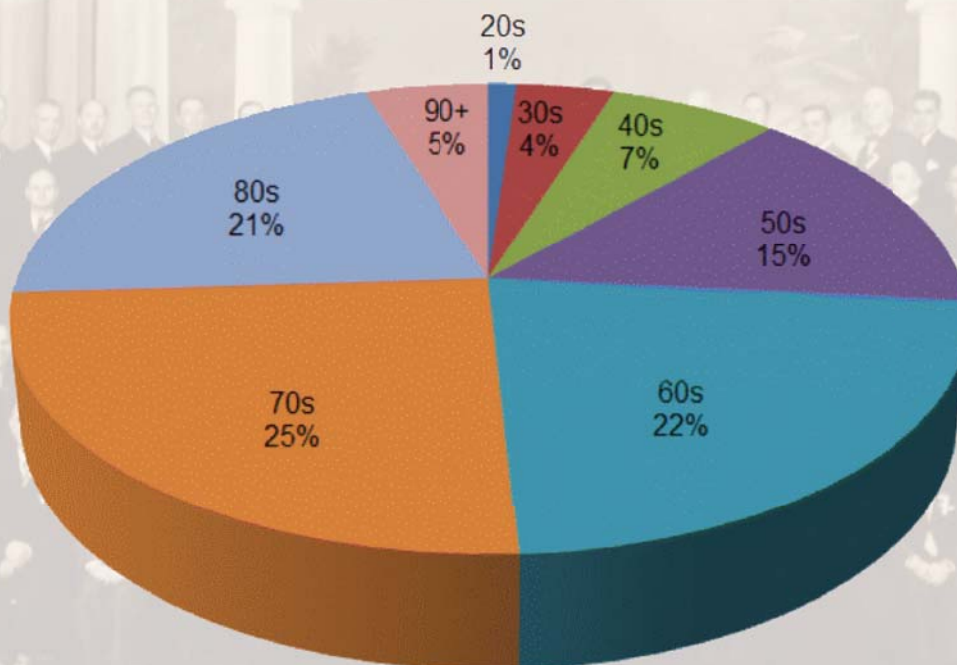
March 9th and 10th, 2013

**Petitions for membership \$175
(\$125 for Masons 31 and under)**

**Stated meetings are 1st Tuesday of each
month at 7:30 p.m.**

**Call Glen Jorgenson, 33°, General Secretary
at (402) 462-5813 or e-mail masonic temple@windstream.net for more information.**

What does membership look like for the Orient of Nebraska?



- The average age of Scottish Rite Masons for Nebraska is 68.73, which is about the same for all 4 Valleys individually.
 - o 51% of our total membership is 70 or older
 - o 44% are between 40 and 69
 - o 5% of our members are in their 20s and 30s.
- The average Scottish Rite Mason in Nebraska has been a member for 28.5 years.
- Excluding Masons living in south west Iowa, 15% of our members live out of state.

Nebraska membership data as of October 2012

Valley of Lincoln

Congratulations to the new Scottish Rite Brothers in the Fall, 2012 Class



Back Row: James Stull, 32°; Herschel Talley, 32° KCCH; Shane Rhian, 32°; Andy Sechord, 32°; James Brown, 33°

2nd row: Joe Huskey, 32°; Bruce Wood, 33°; Dennis Hecht 32°; Warder Shires, 32°; Jim Batten, 32°; Micah Evans, 32° KCCH; Greg Prososki, 32°

1st row, **Jerry Pigsley, 32°; Troy Heinrich, 32°; Eric Dinsdale, 32°; Carl Willert, 32°; Korey Johnson, 32°;** David Bloomquist, 32° KCCH

increased as people enjoy the good food and fellowship.

Apart from Scottish Rite functions, they also participate in the annual Blessing of the Tartans at the local Presbyterian church every spring. They are a visible presence in the parade, then sit together as a group during the church service which recognizes our Scottish heritage.

The purpose of the KSA has been more clearly defined. Rather than being just a service group, the Knights have become an organization whose members truly desire to help the Scottish Rite. It has become a place where leadership skills are developed so members can take their place in the four lodges of the Scottish Rite body.

Membership has increased to the point that the KSA is able to do the formal opening and closing, creating a true sense of pride in the organization. The year 2012 culminated with the impressive Knighting Ceremony performed by Red and White Caps. Ten of our twelve new members were knighted. They were proud and excited to be officially dubbed Knights of Saint Andrew.

the Knight's Call

The last two years have been a growing time for the Knights of Saint Andrew (KSA) in the Lincoln Valley. By actively recruiting among the new Scottish Rite members, we have more than doubled our membership. The new members have come in with a sense of purpose. Their enthusiasm shows in all they do, and we have nearly 100% participation by new Knights. At every meeting, they come up with new ideas in which the KSA can support the Lincoln Valley.

KSA has become a more visible presence at Scottish Rite functions. Members help with the Reunions by greeting the candidates and staying with them during the day. This in itself creates interest. They have improved the standard of excellence in the performance of the 29th Degree. During the year they assist with the Feast of Tishri and the Robert Burns Dinner. The Knights are easily recognizable by their uniforms, which they wear with pride.

The group has been responsible for providing the meal which follows the stated meetings of Scottish Rite each month. Attendance has



It is with a sense of great pride and satisfaction that I am able to turn the organization over to a new group of officers for 2013, who are enthusiastically committed to making the group the best it can be. I know they will raise Lincoln Valley KSA to a new level of accomplishment and respect.

*Mervyn L. Moeller, 32°
Knight Master, 2011 and 2012
mlmoe41@yahoo.com*



Inset: David Bloomquist, Jim Brown, and Carl Plants knight Joe Huskey, Shane Rhian, & Ward Shires

Bottom picture:

Back Row: M.W. Jim Brown, Merv Moeller, Jim Batten, Adam Thayer, Jim Stull, Shane Rhian, Joe Huskey, Eric Dinsdale, David Bloomquist, Hersch Talley, Carl Plants

Front Row: Ward Shires, Dennis Hecht, Andy Seachord, Korey Johnson, Greg Prososki

Valley of Omaha



Congratulations to the new Scottish Rite Brothers in the November 2012 Class

Top row, l. to r.: John T. Maxell 33°, Asst. Class Director; **Peter J. Storm, 32°, Class Orator; Samrat B. Pande, 32°; Stephan W. Spear, 32°; Allan C. Ziesemer, 32°; William B. Kimme, 32°, Class President; Timothy J. Schlosser, 32°; David R. Thompson, Sr., 32°; Richard E. Gilmore, 32° KCCH, Asst. Class Director.**

Bottom row, seated, l. to r.: James O. Wolfe, 33°, Stage Director; A.J. Johnson, 32° KCCH, Wise Master, Chapter of Rose Croix; Curtis M. Edic, 33°, General Secretary, Valley of Omaha; Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, SGIG in Nebraska; John Ferguson, 33°, Valley of Alliance; Scott D. Reuman, 32° KCCH, Eminent Commander, Council of Kadosh; Dean F. Skokan, 32° KCCH, General Director of Degrees; Paul D. Rutherford, 33°, Class Director.

On Saturday, November 17, 2012, M.W. Rex J. Moats, Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska and the officers of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska re-enacted the laying of the cornerstone at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Omaha. The original cornerstone was laid by M.W. James R. Cain, Jr. on October 2, 1912. The event was part of the Centennial celebrations of the Scottish Rite, which celebrates 100th anniversary activities in 2012, 2013, culminating with the Fall, 2014 Reunion. Scottish Rite Masons, their families, and guests are invited to participate.

In addition to Grand Lodge officers, the cornerstone re-enactment was attended by the officers of the Scottish Rite, and over 100 Masons and guests. Afterward, members attended a banquet to recognize the new members of the 2012 Spring and Fall classes. Ill. Brother Larry Jacobsen, 33° gave a presentation on the Masonic Temple at 19th and Douglas and opened the building's cornerstone, which was rescued when the building was razed in 1998.



Matthew Vandergriff, 32°, representing the Lodge of Perfection assists the Grand Master during the ceremony, as Robert Moninger, Grand Orator, Ill. Brother Ron Stites, 33° (Grand Marshal), Ill. Brother Charles Sederstrom, Jr., 33° SGIG in Nebraska, and Ill. Brother Paul Rutherford, 33° look on.



Left to right - Don Kavalec, 32°, John Chester, 32°, Chuck Sohm, 32° (Venerable Master), Scott Reuman, 32° KCCH and daughter Brittany Reuman, David Meinzer, 32°, and Don Leu, 32° (not pictured, Chris Carter, 32° KCCH)

On Saturday, October 20, 2012, members of the Omaha Knights of St. Andrew volunteered to help clean a stretch of highway in Elkhorn, Nebraska as part of the Adopt-a-Highway program. The Knights of St. Andrew picked up approximately 400 pounds of garbage from Highway 36 between mile markers 3 and 6. This was the first effort of four clean ups (twice per year for two years) required by the Adopt-a-Highway program. In return for cleaning up the highway, two signs displaying the Scottish Rite name will be erected on location by the State Department of Roads in the near future.

If you missed the fun the first time around, there will be more opportunities to help the community by cleaning up the highway. Please e-mail me if you would like to join the next clean up project (you don't have to be a member of the Knights of St. Andrew to participate - or even a Scottish Rite Mason).


David E. Meinzer
dmeinzer@design-logistics.net

Ode to a Haggis



If you missed last year's Burns dinner, you missed a treat! Come to the Burns dinner on January 26, 2013 at the Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite for a great evening of entertainment and a catered, gourmet Scottish dinner . . . and a wee dram of Scotch. Of course, the guest of honor is the haggis! - piped in by a bagpiper, escorted by the Knights of St. Andrew, and ceremoniously stabbed after the traditional reading of Robert Burns' Ode to a Haggis!

Tickets are \$20/person. Call Bruce Wood at the Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite at (402) 435-2144 for your reservations. The Burns Dinner is open to Masons, their families, and the public, so bring your friends, co-workers, and prospective candidates for a fantastic evening!



The Lincoln Scottish Rite presents a traditional

Burns Dinner


Celebrating the life of Scotland's favorite Son, the Ploughman Poet and Freemason

Robert Burns

Saturday, January 26, 2013
Cocktails beginning at 5:45 p.m.
Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$20/person

Call (402) 435-2144 for reservations



Visit <http://www.scottishritelincoln.org/newsdetails?NewsID=126> for pictures from last year's Burns dinner



Hi, my name is Thomas Clark. I reside at The Nebraska Masonic Home with my wife, Lois. We are nearing the end of our tenth year here.

So why did we chose to live at The Home? Although my health was fairly good, I had gout, arthritis in my knees and a heart that was showing a little wear. At that time Lois was having greater problems with her arthritis. Since we lived in a multi-story home it made using a wheelchair next to impossible. We had to do something.

Lois also was worried that if something happened to me, she would be without transportation, a means to go get food, prepare meals or get to and from appointments. Since we have no children, it would devolve to our immediate families to provide help. However, what few family members we have left were out of state. We couldn't look to them for help.



Putting the in the Masonic Home

Further, I never was a fanatic about taking care of house and yard. A driveway that was difficult to keep clean of snow during the winter months brought a big message home to me one day as I was walking down to get the mail and suddenly found myself on my back examining the clouds, thanks to the black ice that I hadn't noticed. Since I was nearly seventy years old, I readily realized that I was lucky to not have broken some bones.

Soon we began talking of leaving our home and finding another place to live. We discussed the options and chose The Nebraska Masonic Home. The Home has independent apartments for those of us still able to care for ourselves. This would meet our needs. Should either of us need further assistance, there are assisted living units in the same building; along with a nursing care center, should we need more medical and personal help. We could reside here without further worry about someone being here to assist us if need be.

So what do we have here? We have three meals a day prepared and served by our dedicated dietary staff. We have housekeeping services once a week. We have on-call access to nursing staff who also check our vital signs monthly. We have mail service and cable TV. The only monthly expenses we have are for our phone and internet services. Transportation to and from appointments is available for those who do not drive for a nominal charge.

The big advantage here is that The Nebraska Masonic Home staff is excellent and always looking for ways to help us. And on a side note...the maintenance department provides on-call emergency plumbing service, keeps the

grounds mowed, the flowers tended, and the snow moved off the driveways, sidewalks, and parking areas. That's why we have chosen to live at The Nebraska Masonic Home. Stop by for a visit and see for yourself why it's a good place to be!

Tom A. Clark, 33°
dom331104@windstream.net

RiteCare

Thirty-six-year-old Beth Hughes still attends preschool four times a week.

As a RiteCare speech therapist at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute, she leads the clinic, sponsored by the Scottish Rite Masons, for children with Down syndrome, autism and other speech disorders.

"People ask me if I write speeches," Hughes laughed. "I tell them, you know when kids have trouble with their L's, R's and S's? We help them."

Class starts with attendance. On this day there's a 1:1 ratio of teacher: student. "Who wants to go up?" Hughes asks the toddlers, pointing at the ceiling. She uses sign language and speech with each sentence.

"It's the multi-model approach," she said. "Some kids tune in to key-word signing, others gravitate toward pictures and symbols on augmentative communication devices."

You could say Hughes' resume dates all the way back to age 3.

"My older brother spoke a made-up language and I was the only one who understood it," she said.

He, too, attended a Rite Care clinic. Today, he's an attorney.

Hughes started volunteering at Camp Munroe at age 12. The recreation therapy department hired her at 16 and she worked there through college. She's been in the speech department for almost six years.

Amazingly, she never tires of singing the same songs year after year. When you watch her belt out "We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo! How bout you, you, you? You can come too, too, too. We're going to the zoo!" it's like she's doing it for the first time.



"I guess I just feed off of the reaction from the kids," she said sheepishly.

The children are pretty comical. When the music pauses, they all freeze and make some pretty hilarious faces, Hughes said.

After music, the schedule calls for arts and crafts, reading time and then wraps up with a snack. Parents watch the class unfold from behind an observation window.

Hughes recently ran into a parent in a parking lot. Mom told her that today was the first time her son had EVER independently requested to go anywhere with his augmentative communication device Hughes helped the family obtain. Her son is 24 years old. So they went.

It was then Hughes knew she'd chosen the right career path.

Guess where she was?

The zoo, zoo, zoo.

Nicole S. Lindquist
UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute
nlindquist@unmc.edu



RiteCare mom Lucinda Hennings writes from Lincoln:

Wyatt started receiving services from the Rite Care Clinic in September 2011 after being referred by our pediatrician. He had been receiving speech therapy through our local school for a year but it was obvious he needed additional therapy. At 2 ½ years old, Wyatt had no words. In January 2012 Amber joined the Rite Care Clinic and that was when something amazing happened. Amber got Wyatt to sign the word "more." From there Wyatt began using sign language to communicate and this spring he started to say "Mama and Dada," something we had been waiting a very long time to hear! Over the summer Wyatt increased his spoken vocabulary even more and now he is in preschool 5 days a week. Because of his preschool schedule we regrettably are no longer able to continue therapy at the Rite Care Clinic. The improvements he made over the past year with the help of the RiteCare Clinic have been amazing and we are truly grateful to Amber and the Scottish Rite Masons for their dedication to children with language disorders!

Development

Are You Celebrating the Craft?

Did you know. . .

If every Scottish Rite Mason in the Southern Jurisdiction made a one-time contribution of \$459 to the House of the Temple Preservation Foundation, we would reach our goal of \$90,000,000.

So why is this important?

First, the House of the Temple is celebrating their Centennial as the home and headquarters of the Scottish Rite Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction. Like any 100 year old building, the House of the Temple needs renovations and upgrades to remain architecturally sound for the next century. As you might anticipate, this nearly 100-year old structure requires extensive updates of utility systems, elevators, entrances, and fire safety measures to comply with today's codes for the comfort and safety



The Scottish Rite flag Brother Buzz Aldrin brought to the moon in 1969 in the Americana Collection.

You've read about the Celebrating the Craft web-a-thon in the last edition of the Scottish Rite Journal, scheduled for May 18, 2013 at the House of the Temple.

of visitors and employees. More serious is the deterioration of parts of the building, making some areas unsafe or no longer weather proof. Several years ago, one of the water pipes burst in the ceiling of the Special

Collections vault, causing water damage to several volumes. Mold growing on rare and old books is a real threat, requiring immediate action.

The time for that action is now. A multi-year campaign is long overdue, and funds raised ensure the preservation of our Masonic history and the promotion of Freemasonry to future generations. Nebraska is proud to support the Rebuilding the Temple Campaign, and I am asking for your participation.

I have invited each Valley Secretary to think about an event at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center on May 18, 2013.

Perhaps this might be a chili feed, a pasta dinner, or a contest to see which line of officers can contribute the best desserts. While we enjoy dinner, dessert, and the company of our Brethren, the 2013 web-a-thon would air, and members would be encouraged to contribute. Are we going to raise \$459/person this way? Who knows, but we'll give it the ol' college try as my father would say. We will challenge ourselves to do more, and we will do what we do best in Nebraska: bring the art of fraternity to the highest levels and show that we actively support the goals of our Supreme Council and our SGIG.

Talk to your Valley Secretary with your ideas for the 2013 Celebrating the Craft web-a-thon, and support the House of the Temple's mission for the next century or call me at (402) 342-1300 or e-mail me for ideas or questions.

Micah I. Evans, 32° KCCH
micah@SRNE.org

SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL
OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

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 March-April's Journal must be received no later than mid-February for consideration.)



The Albert Pike collection at the House of the Temple, Washington, D.C.