



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

May-June 2014 • Volume IV, Issue 3

Calendar

Apr 26 Reunion & Remembrance & Renewal (H, L)
 May 1, 2, 3 Omaha Spring Reunion (O)
 May 7, 14, 21, 28 Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
 May 8, 15, 22, 29 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 May 17 Celebrating the Craft (A, H, L, O)
 May 21 Spring Outing (O)
 June 4, 11, 18, 25 Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
 June 5, 12, 19, 26 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 July 6-10 Shrine Imperial (Minneapolis, MN)
 July 2, 19, 16, 23, 30 Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
 July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
 Aug 6, 13, 20, 27 Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
 Aug 7, 14, 21, 28 Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
 Aug 8-9 Kool Aid Days (H)
 Aug 16 WalkRite for RiteCare (O)
 Sep 7 WalkRite for RiteCare (L)
 Sep 12-13 Scottish Rite Leadership Meeting in Hastings
 TBD WalkRite for RiteCare (H)
 Sep 26 Feast of Tishri (L)
 Oct 11 Hastings Fall Reunion (H)
 Oct 17 & 18 Lincoln Fall Reunion (L)
 Nov 20, 21, & 22 Omaha Fall Reunion & Banquet (O)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month

June-August (Dark), Sept 26

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

June-August (Dark), Sept 2

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

June-August (Dark), Sept 17

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

May 21, June 16, Jul 21, Aug 18 Sept 15

For more information

contact the Secretary in your Valley

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

Membership

A few months ago, Brother Adam Thayer, 32° posted an article on Facebook from the *Boston Phoenix* about the changing face of Freemasonry. The title of the 2011 article was “How the Boston rock scene grew up, got real jobs, and became — Freemasons. The article covered the changing face of Masonry in Boston as men in their 20s and 30s in the arts and music scene were attracted to Masonry. To paraphrase that Oldsmobile advertising campaign, these aren’t your father’s Freemasons. Today you are as likely to find a tattooed and pierced artist or musician sitting in a tyed meeting next to a minister, an accountant or retired businessman.

We don’t have to look all the way to the east coast or west coast for the same kind of changing demographics. I can think of more than a few respectable Brothers, Past Masters, officers and businessmen with incredible Masonic tattoos just above the sleeve line or below the collar! Dave Rose, 32°, Master of Florence Lodge #281 has an extraordinary square and compass on his calf with the Scottish Rite motto *Virtus Junxit, Mors Non Separabit*.



But what makes these Brothers “different” than the typical image of what a Freemason looks like is not what I am writing about. It is what we have in common: the connection to traditions, to the past and to one another. For whatever reason, men are coming to Masonry and they are changing the face of the Craft, even as the core values remain the same.

A 2009 article in the *Los Angeles Times* credits the internet for part of this surge.

The internet hasn’t only made it easier to learn about the Freemasons . . . it’s changed the type of men coming forward. “There is so much information on the Internet that by the time someone comes to a lodge to seek membership, they already know a lot about Masonry. . . [I]t means they are more likely to be active participants.”

... Continued on page 2

Valley of Alliance

Many Scottish Rite brethren remember James W. ("Hook")

Keebaugh, longtime Secretary for the Valley and business owner in Alliance. In 1999, our SGIG Duke Lichty, presented him with the Grand Cross, the highest honor accorded by the Supreme Council. Hook was one of five men in the history of the Scottish Rite in Nebraska to have received this honor. If you would like to make a donation in support the Orient of Nebraska's recognition of Hook by naming a room after Nebraska's Grand Cross recipients (see inset on page 5), please let me know.



Ill. Brother Duke Lichty, 33°, SGIG in Nebraska, presents the Grand Cross to Ill. James W. ("Hook") Keebaugh.

Bro. Keebaugh became a member of Alliance #183 in March, 1950, and served as Worshipful Master in 1958. He joined the Alliance Scottish Rite in 1951, received the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour in 1961, was coroneted 33° Inspector General Honorary in 1971, and received the Grand Cross in

1999. In 1984 he was elected Secretary of the Alliance Scottish Rite and served in that position until his death in 2006. He was a member of the York Rite bodies, Shiloh Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, a DeMolay advisor from 1963 through 1976, a member of Tehama Shrine Temple and Aloyah Chapter No. 185, Order of the Eastern Star.

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This summer the Valley of Alliance and Alliance Lodge #183 will be placing a cornerstone on their building. The Alliance Masons have been chartered for 125 years this June. The building, originally dedicated by the Masonic lodge in 1917, is now owned by the Scottish Rite. The

building was remodeled in the 1930's to accommodate the full set of backdrops we currently use during Reunions. We will also present a 50-year pin to Bob Knight, our treasurer and financial investor. Bob has managed the Slagle Fund for many years.

Gene Gatti, 32° KCCH/gene123@mail.com

Membership, continued

Meanwhile, the public perception of Freemasonry has undergone a change. 60 years ago, a substantial portion of men were in a fraternal organization. The fraternal life was so ingrained, it could be easily lampooned by Ralph Kramden's Friendly Sons of the Raccoon, Howard Cunningham's Leopard Lodge, or Fred Flintstone's Order of the Water Buffalo.

We are seeing a different resurgence of Freemasonry portrayed in Dan Brown's novels, "National Treasure" movies, and lately with TV shows like "Sleepy Hollow." Masons are portrayed as the keepers of esoteric wisdom rather than as goofy fun-loving clubs as seen in previous years.

The resurgence in interest in Masonry has led to a growth in affinity lodges, or lodges that are geared toward a specific demographic, such as graduates of a specific university.

In Washington, D.C., the House of the Temple hosts Colonial Lodge #1821, whose members are graduates of George Washington University. Members are men primarily in their 20s or 30s. The Lodge meets in the Supreme Council chambers, and their charitable work raises funds for

George Washington University, set each year at the Master's discretion. Colonial Lodge began with no affiliation to GWU, but by becoming an annual donor, the Lodge got the attention of the University and now reaches a steady stream of new members from the university who want to get involved. There are active and growing university affiliation lodges in Texas, Massachusetts and Washington.



Members of North Hollywood Lodge 542. This isn't your father's Lodge!

All this indicates a sincere interest in the part of younger men to belong. They want to serve. They want to lead. They want to give back. In short, they want to be better men, they want to re-connect with the past, and they want the social opportunities that can only be had in person.

Our job as Masons is to create new ways to get these prospective men involved. We should to focus on those social aspects that get men interested. We need to re-think what it means to be a Mason, what Masonry should be, and even what a good Mason looks like.

Young men are clearly waiting to belong. Let's open the door and invite them in!

Valley of Hastings



It wasn't quite a reenactment of the first Scottish Rite meeting at Shepherd's Tavern in Charleston, South Carolina in 1801, but the Central Nebraska Scottish Rite did meet over a tavern in March, moving their March meeting from the Hastings Masonic Center to Nathan Detroit's Tavern and Restaurant in Grand Island.

Twenty brothers came out for a great evening of fellowship, from Hastings, Kearney, Grand Island, and Wood River. After quickly approving the minutes and financials, Venerable Master Bob Scott,

32° brought up ideas for both increasing membership and engaging members.

Ideas included forming Scottish Rite clubs in Kearney, Wood River, Grand Island where members could meet and hold their own social events. Members discussed how Lodge of Perfection degrees might be conferred by the Scottish Rite clubs

for Master Masons who want to be members of the Scottish Rite, rather than at biannual Reunions in Hastings.

Another idea included formally changing the name of the Hastings Valley to be more inclusive for all members, potentially calling it the Central Nebraska or Platte River Valley. Some of the members thought about raising funds through the clubs so they could offer a Teacher of the Year or scholarship each year in their town.

There was a great deal of enthusiasm, and Bob Scott wants to move the meeting to other locations during the year. In addition, he has a busy year planned with social events over the Summer and Fall, including grilling burgers or hotdogs for Kool-Aid Days in August, the Scottish Rite leadership meeting in September and WalkRite for RiteCare. To get involved or learn more, e-mail Bob at bobscottster@gmail.com.



Not quite Shepherd's Tavern, birthplace of the Scottish Rite in the United States, but a worthy location for a business meeting in Grand Island.



The drive up serving line. (front to back, left to right:) Wayne Vian, 33° starts processing the order with salad while Bob Summers, 32° and Mike Small, 33° fill the spaghetti and sauce. Lynn Naber bags the order and delivers to the drive up lane.

Sunday, March 30 was a beautiful day for the annual Spaghetti Feed at the Hastings Scottish Rite. 250 guests came to the spaghetti feed, which lasted from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Both the dining room and the drive-through did brisk business during the course of the afternoon.

(Left) Randy Jones serves tea to Shrine Transportation Secretary, Gaylene O'Brien and her husband John.



"A BIG shout out to Emily M. Johnson at the RiteCare Clinic here in Hastings - she is an amazing Speech Pathologist that our little Jayce LOVES LOVES LOVES to play with and "chat with".....so thankful for her!"

Stacey Wiese-Balfour
RiteCare Mom

Valley of Lincoln

BLACK TIE NUT FRY

What do you call a skinny Mason? . . . an Entered Apprentice!

That old canard proved true in Lincoln once again with the Black Tie Nut Fry on March 26. At Grand Lodge, Mark Kinzie, 32° had the idea of hosting the Black Tie Nut Fry as a stag event at the Scottish Rite. The evening featured freshly made Rocky Mountain Oysters, with ham and butterfly shrimp for the less adventurous, and cole slaw and potato salad on the side. Bob Kruse, 32°, Jennifer, Ric Helms, 32°, Todd Tinnear, 32° and Mark Kinzie, 32° KCCH prepared the food for the evening.

During the course of the evening, about 50 guests came down for a great dinner, including members of the Widows Sons, the Masonic motorcycle riders group who held their monthly business meeting afterward. Jerry Rauch, 33° dealt blackjack afterward and several stayed around to shoot a few racks of pool.

The evening was a great success, and Mark says that they are already thinking about hosting the event again next year.

We can truly say that everyone had a ball. Or two.

Speaking of Communication

by Amber Jara, M.A. CCC-SLP (RiteCare Clinician)

The Lincoln RiteCare Clinic has recently begun free information sessions for the public entitled "Speaking Of Communication." These sessions are provided for anyone who wants to attend, and are focused towards parents, caregivers, and educators of children from birth to Kindergarten age. They are held at the Lincoln Scottish Rite the last Saturday of every month from 9:00am to 10:30am.



The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Student Speech Language Pathology/Audiology group (NSSLHA) has joined in, offering free childcare for those attending! Every month covers a new topic regarding speech, language, play, sign language and social skills for children of all abilities! For more information you can e-mail SpeakingOf.SOC@gmail.com, look us up at speakingofcommunication.com, and "like" us on Facebook!



Above (l. to r.) Denny Brydl, 33°, Homer Puderbaugh, 32° KCCH, Gene Sibley, 33°, and M.W. Jim Brown, 33°



Left: Mark Kinzie, 32° KCCH serving fresh rocky mountain oysters at the Black Tie Nut Fry



Top right: Jennifer and Bob Kruse, 32°



Bottom right: Bob Moninger, 32°

On **Thursday, May 29, 2014**, the Lincoln Community Foundation will be sponsoring Give to Lincoln Day. During this day of online giving, we can raise thousands of dollars to support the Lincoln Scottish Rite Preservation Foundation. Every donation received on Give to Lincoln Day will increase, thanks to a challenge match pool of \$300,000. Gifts on May 29th will be matched based on all dollars received by non-profits.

This is about taking care of our community, and providing for the things that make our community great like our RiteCare Clinic and the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award. Please join us on May 29th and Give to Lincoln! (All donations may be considered Century Club donations and are 100% tax-deductible.)

www.ra200.com/story/Scottishbritelincoln



Valley of Omaha

The Omaha Valley suffered an incalculable loss with the passing of Illustrious Brother Robert A. Falk, 33° G.C.. Bob was born in Omaha on October 23rd, 1934 and passed away on February 20th, 2014 at his residence in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska after a brief illness.



Robert A. Falk, 33°, G.C.



Grand Cross of the Court of Honor

Bob was raised a Master Mason in February, 1958 at Covenant-Welcome Lodge #526 in Chicago, Illinois. Brother Falk demitted to George W. Lininger #268 in November, 1962. He joined the Scottish Rite that same month. Bob received his KCCH in 1967, and was coroneted an Inspector General Honorary on December 6th, 1975. He received the Scottish Rite Grand Cross of the Court of Honor in 2007.

The Grand Cross of the Court of Honor is the highest individual honor the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction bestows. Bob served as Personal Representative to the

Sovereign Grand Inspector General from 1990 to 2005, succeeding Howard Lundgren, 33°. Curt Edic remembers Bob as a true gentleman and one of his mentors in Masonry, particularly during his first years as General Secretary for the Valley of Omaha. In addition, Bob was a member of the Tangier Shrine, National Sojourners Omaha Chapter #19, and Joseph Warren Camp of the Heroes of '76.

Bob Falk graduated from UNL, and served in the U.S. Army after graduation, achieving the rank of Captain. He worked in the investment sector for 50 years, retiring as a senior investment banker from RBC Wealth Management. His community involvement included serving as director for the Omaha Community Foundation and as president of the board of directors at Immanuel Medical Center.

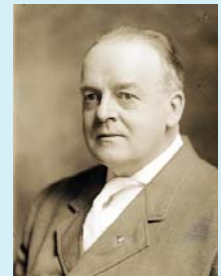


Women's Lounge room to be redesigned as the Grand Cross Room

The Orient of Nebraska has only had five men who have been honored with the Grand Cross. Bob Falk received the Grand Cross in 2007. Theodore W. McCullough, received the Grand Cross

in 1937, and served as managing editor for the *Omaha Bee*. Longtime Secretary of the Alliance Valley James W. "Hook"

Keelbaugh received the Grand Cross in 1999. In 1876, the Supreme Council honored Robert W. Furnas, former Governor and Deputy to the Supreme Council, and Rev. George C. Betts, rector of Trinity and St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Omaha.



T. W. McCullough, 33°, G.C.

To honor the accomplishments of these Illustrious brethren, the Omaha Valley is re-purposing the second-floor room, originally called the women's lounge. The room will be updated to serve as a small conference room, with a flat-screen TV for media presentations, a board room table, and gold leaf highlights to the ornate plaster work on the ceiling. The room will be called the Grand Cross Room, and framed photographs will honor all of Nebraska's Grand Cross recipients.

Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, SGIG for Nebraska, envisions the Grand Cross Room as hosting community events, Masonic committee meetings, or being available for small events.

The Knights of St. Andrew donated two new defibrillators to the Omaha Scottish Rite, worth about \$2,500, in addition to the first defibrillator donated in 2006. With the increased public events, it made sense to be prepared in case they were needed. In addition, A.J. Johnson, 33° and Michael Brooks, 32° are certified CPR trainers through the Nebraska Safety Council, and willingly offer classes to any Masonic organization who request CPR training. Several KSA members and their wives have received their annual certification through their training sessions. The defibrillators are located on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floor.



MORE THAN "JUST AN APRON" - ONE MASON'S STORY

The last edition of the Scottish Rite Journal had a great story about an apron, dating to the early 1800s. This got me thinking about a beautiful leather apron stored in the Omaha Scottish Rite vault. The only clue to its history was a faded name, of which "W. C. McLean, Cambridge Valley No. 481, November 10, 1866" was the only legible clue to its history. I reached out to Cambridge Lodge #481 in Cambridge, New York, and began doing some research.

In Andreas' History of Nebraska (1882), I found references to William Clark McLean of Papillion #39, also referencing his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic as a member of the 123rd New York Volunteers. That took me to the New York Library archives, where I found a biography and copies of some of his Civil War letters in their collection. Mr. McLean was born in England and educated in the public schools of Greenwich, NY. In the summer of 1862, he enlisted in the 123rd NY Volunteer Infantry, serving under General Joseph Hooker in Virginia, and taking part in the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg.

In 1863, he campaigned in Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee. McLean was promoted from Corporal to Sergeant Major, and discharged from service in Albany, NY in 1865. According to the notation on his apron, and confirmed by John Patterson, Secretary of Cambridge Lodge #481, he was raised on November 10, 1866.

A year later, he came to Nebraska, settling in Bellevue where he was active with the Bellevue R. A. M. He was a member of Papillion #39, demitting in 1881, when he joined Nebraska #1 and served as Secretary by at least 1889.

McLean was a representative for Phoenix, Etna, and Home Fire Insurance Companies, and he served as County Clerk of Sarpy County, and postmaster of Papillion, and County Assessor for Douglas County. He married Mary Elizabeth in 1869 in Bellevue. In 1916, they moved to Upland, California where a daughter lived. William McLean died in 1922, and Mary died in 1942 at age 93.



MASONIC LEGACY

Have you given any thought about what will happen to your Masonic "stuff" when you're gone? William McLean thought enough of Masonry to donate his apron to us. Most of us have accumulated a lifetime of Masonic "stuff" - our aprons, rings, gavels, lapel pins, books, souvenirs and trinkets. It may not be worth anything by itself, but as a collection, these items tell future generations about you, what was important to you and the times we lived in.

If your children or grandchildren are not interested in your Masonic collection, consider donating it to the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, the Scottish Rite, the House of the Temple or your favorite Masonic body. Don't worry whether it has monetary value - its real value is that it tells your story.

Perhaps in the future, someone will be writing about your apron or ring discovered in the vault!

*Micah I. Evans, 33°
Development Director
Orient of Nebraska*



Your tax-deductible donations to the House of the Temple Preservation Foundation through the **May 17th Celebrating the Craft** web-a-thon help preserve items like this 19th century apron. Renovation of the historic House of the Temple and preservation of numerous rare artifacts preserve the history of Freemasonry and communicate its legacy to visitors for generations to come.



RiteCare ... *making a difference*

Two RiteCare Moms recently wrote us about the services they've received from RiteCare Clinician Amber Jara, M.A. CCC-SLP in the Lincoln Clinic:



We came to the RiteCare Clinic because of another family whose child saw Amber Jara for therapy and they couldn't say enough great things about the quality of her service! So here we are in our first year with RiteCare and our two year old with Down Syndrome.

Her name is Jenna. She loves coming to see Amber and playing with her. She will even walk down the hall, wave bye-bye and shut the door (and I am not inside). Amber has the patience of a saint and really knows her stuff. Because of the service Jenna gets at RiteCare, she is signing her first few words and initiating some communication with us. She is completely aware of her surroundings but seems to have an agenda all of her own. Amber does a great job keeping her on task and giving us great tools to use at home.

I love that I am not in the room but am able to watch as Jenna does an hour of therapy. We have seen Jenna grow in the first 6 months at RiteCare. She does have three little therapists at home too, one sister and two brothers who create their own therapy with her constantly.

"We are so thankful for the Scottish Rite's RiteCare Clinic and for Miss Amber."

We are so thankful for the Scottish Rite's RiteCare Clinic and for Miss Amber. I was able to raise some funds myself this Christmas from family and my employer Ameritas (company match) for the RiteCare Clinic. That should show how valuable we think you are.

*Leighann Lang
RiteCare Mom*

The blank spot in our baby book sat there staring at us. Hudson was 2 ½ and still no 'babies first word' to write down. Developmentally, everything else was almost par for his age. We started making calls. By the age of 3, our first therapist had failed us. Hudson still had no words. We felt pretty frustrated and discouraged. It should be easy to make a kid talk, right?



That's when we found the Scottish Rite-funded clinic, RiteCare in Lincoln at the UNL Barkley Memorial Center. At age 3, Hudson's first evaluation he scored off the charts. Language was estimated as that of a 12 month old. Nonetheless, Amber was optimistic and jumped right into his first session.

"I cried the day Hudson said his name."

Ten months later, I still load our 3 small children up and drive to Lincoln up to two times a week. Spending 2 ½ hours in the car each time. Why? Because I see a difference. I cried the day he said his name. I cried the day he couldn't get a word out. To date he says words like 'stocking hat' and 'I want apple'. He still falls in the 7% percentile for his age, but we are making progress.

We thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for this wonderful clinic you have funded. And thanks to our brilliant therapist Amber!

*Lacey Gloystein
RiteCare Mom*

At the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska's annual meeting held in Kearney during the Grand Lodge annual communication in February, the Board of Directors, who have ultimate fiscal responsibility for Nebraska's RiteCare clinics, approved a budget of \$710,345 for 2014. We could not continue to serve children like Jenna and Hudson without your donations and support.

In July, you will receive a DVD with the new RiteCare video and an appeal to support RiteCare through the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska. Please consider a gift of \$101, the cost of one session of therapy, to continue serving our RiteCare kids.



Development



Hersh (32° KCCH) and Betty Talley from the Lincoln Valley in Guthrie, April 2012

If you have a Masonic “bucket list” of things to see in your lifetime, perhaps Roslyn Chapel in Scotland, the House of the Temple, the George Washington Masonic Memorial ought to be on it. Certainly the Guthrie, Oklahoma Scottish Rite ought to be on that list.

Formerly the territorial state capital, the Guthrie Scottish Rite defies description in its opulence and magnificence. To put it in perspective in size alone, the Guthrie Scottish Rite is over 400,000 square feet on 10.6 acres of land. That is 25% larger than the Hastings Masonic Temple, 9 times larger than the Lincoln Scottish Rite, 12 times larger than the Omaha Scottish Rite, and a staggering 30 times larger than the Alliance Scottish Rite! All four Masonic buildings in Nebraska could fit in the Guthrie Scottish Rite!

Jim Wolfe, 33°, a member of both the Omaha and Guthrie Valleys, led a trip down there in 2012 with members from the Lincoln and Omaha Knights of St. Andrew, and we saw all 29 degrees



Valley of Guthrie theater, seating 1,760

of the Scottish Rite performed with extraordinary ritual, lavish costumes, in a theater that seats 1,760 people. Members come from around the state for the Reunions, staying in a hotel right there in the Scottish Rite, with the hotel rooms being the original offices of the territorial legislators.

The downside to all that is someone has to dust and vacuum the place. I jokingly asked what their utilities bill must be to

run the place! Maybe a smaller building is a blessing in disguise.

In the March edition of *The Oklahoma Scottish Rite Mason*, there was a story about twin brothers, Lew and Lee Vaughn, 60 year members of the Valley. Lew passed away in 2011 and Lee passed away in 2013. In their estate, they left over \$600,000 to the Guthrie Valley



The Gothic-styled library looks like something you'd see at Oxford University. . . except for Native Americans and Cowboys on the columns!

Scottish Rite. Records indicate Lew and Lee only visited the Valley three times over the course of their 62 years of membership, but their bequest creates a perpetual legacy to the Guthrie Valley, which will help care for Oklahoma's most beautiful building in perpetuity.

I will yield to no Mason in my appreciation and praise for the Scottish Rite cathedrals across Nebraska, each with their own merit, history, and architectural significance. Our buildings represent a significant investment from our Masonic forefathers who left their legacy to us in the very bricks, mortar, and halls we meet in today.

Like Lew and Lee Vaughn, I ask you to consider your Masonic legacy with a planned gift to your Valley's Scottish Rite Foundation or to the Masonic charity of your choice. After you've provided for your wife, your children and your grandchildren and your favorite charitable organizations, please consider a percentage or set amount of your estate set aside as your gift to the next generations of Masons who will meet in our buildings. If you have questions about how to do it or the legal language to use, e-mail me at micah@SRNE.org or call me at (402) 342-1300 and I'll be happy to help. Your planned gift represents your Masonic legacy to future generations and helps care for our buildings and our philanthropies today.

*Micah I. Evans, 33°
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SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL
OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

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