



Orient of Nebraska

May-June 2012 - Volume 2, Issue 3

Calendar

May 5 Alliance Spring Reunion (A)
 May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 ... Thursday Masonic Lunch(L)
 May 7, 14, 21, 28Monday 7:30 AM Coffee (L)
 May 12Sesostri Spring Ceremonial (L)
 May 23 Spring Outing(O)
 May 29-June 1 Masonic All-Star Band Camp (L)
 June 2 Shrine Bowl (L)
 Jun 7, 14, 21, 28 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 June 9 Soccer Classic (H)
 June 22 Golf Outing & Benefit (O)
 Jul 1-5 Imperial Shrine (Charlotte, NC)
 Jul 5, 12, 19, 26..... Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 June 9Cornerstone laying Re-enactment (O)
 Aug 2, 9, 16, 23, 30..... Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, last Friday of each month
 May 25, Jun 29, Jul 27, Aug 31, Sep 28

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month
 May 1, Jun 5, Jul 3, Aug 7, Sep 4

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month
 May 16, Jun 20, Jul 18, Aug 15, Sep 19

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month
 May 21, Jun 18, Jul 16, Aug 20, Sep 17

For more information, call the
 General Secretary in your Valley

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

Membership

A lot of thought has gone into who is joining Masonry, and lately, two age groups have emerged as the most frequent new members. Both join with very similar reasons.

Currently, we are seeing men in their 60s joining Masonry. Often, these Brothers reminisce about their father having been an active Mason years back and that

they always wanted to get involved, too. Work and family interfered, and now that they have leisure time in retirement, Masonry is something they want to pursue.



Morris Novit (age 23) with his father. Morris joined the Scottish Rite and Shrine in 1933, and was a 65-year Mason. Morris's grandson keeps the tradition going today.

The second age group - men in their 30s - also says the same thing. Grandpa was a lifelong Mason, they say, and they wanted to continue the family tradition. Now that the kids are in school and they are on their career path, they make time to join Masonry and get involved. These Brothers often talk about Masonry as a family legacy and a way to give back.

Now is a great time to reach out to good men and invite them to consider becoming a Mason. Talk to your sons or grandsons - or talk to your father - and talk to them about what Masonry means to you. They'll welcome an invitation to learn about our philanthropies, our history, and our events, and I bet they'll be as proud to stand at the altar as you were when you were raised.

Great Evening at the Burns Dinner in Lincoln

Nearly 70 guests enjoyed a great evening at the Lincoln Scottish Rite on January 28, 2012 for the annual Robert Burns dinner. Guests enjoyed a traditional Scottish dinner, including haggis, which was marched in by the Knights of St. Andrew and a piper. Venerable Master James Batten stabbed the haggis as Burns' "Ode to a Haggis" was recited by Dave Caudy.

Read more about the Burns dinner and see pictures from the dinner at: www.scottishritelincoln.org. The next Robert Burns Dinner is January 26, 2013.



Did you Know. . . . The Scottish Rite is on Facebook. Search for "**Scottish Rite, Valley of Lincoln**" or "**Scottish Rite, Valley of Omaha**" to join. Keep up with upcoming events, stories, and conversation with Scottish Rite members, wives, family members, and the community. Open to all Facebook members.

Lincoln Century Club welcomes new members

Please congratulate and thank the Century Club's newest members. These brothers have committed \$100/year to the Lincoln Scottish



Rite Preservation Foundation, which offers the annual Distinguished Teacher of the Year award and supports the services of the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic. Thanks to the generosity of Century Club donors, \$4,450 has been raised to date! To make a tax-deductible donation, please contact Bruce Wood at the Lincoln Scottish Rite at (402) 435-2144 or scottishrite@windstream.net.

**Dennis Brydl
Scott Dodge
Donald Stephens**



Congratulations to **Brother Cody C. Carlow** for successfully completing the Master Craftsman program. Brother Cody joins a select group who have sought further light and study in our ritual and history.

On Thursday, May 17th, the Lincoln Community Foundation will be sponsoring Give to Lincoln Day. During this record-setting 24 hours 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 \$200,000. Gifts on May 17th will be matched based on dollars received by non-profits.

This is about our daily lives, about taking care of our community, and providing for the things that make our community great. Please join us on May 17th and **Give to Lincoln!**

<http://givetolincoln.razoo.com>



Masonry Making a Change???

Good friend and Ill. Brother Bob Davis, 33° GC, General Secretary in the Guthrie Valley and Editor of the *Heredom*, a publication for the Scottish Rite Research Society, is, unlike me, a studious person. His partner in this quest is Ill. Bro. Jim Tresner, 33° GC, Book Review Editor for the Scottish Rite Journal and member of the Guthrie Valley. These two men are great readers and study the many parts of Masonry in great detail. I always seem to learn something by osmosis when I'm around either one of them, as I learn by watching better than reading.

Bro. Bob once told me history shows Masonry evolved from the beginning until 1948 when it seemed to stagnate. Our Brothers in leadership set the rules that "could not" be changed. Their attitude seemed to be that we must run each Lodge the same, that we must do the ritual the same, that a Lodge's social time would consist of coffee, a sandwich and dessert (if one member could get his wife to fix it.). We lived by this because it was our tradition and we couldn't change tradition.

Later as finding members became more difficult, many Masons decided they simply didn't have time anymore - their schedule was full of work, family and church.

We needed to make it easier for new membership. We went to a workbook instead of all memory work. We added One Day Masonic Lodge Conferrals to create Master Masons. And I must say it worked! We continue to have between 10 and 20 men joined the fraternity during the Saturday classes. I am encouraged that Lodges are now initiating about as many new members, individually, each quarter. Participation by these new members has also been good.

But in the last few years there has grown an underlying current of interest from younger men who may want more. I attended a seminar at the Conference of Grand Masters recently and listened to Colorado Brother Cliff Porter who joined because his Grandfather was a Mason. He came away disillusioned by the current way the work was being done. He wanted more; he thought that Masonry should be more. More serious ritual, more study of the ritual meaning and more social atmosphere with his Brothers. In his area it worked. They went back to the European style of Masonry where it may take one, two or three years to become a Master Mason.

You are scrutinized before your offered a petition, you are not only given the degree, you have help learning the meaning of that degree before you are allowed to continue and you thoroughly understand what it means to be a Master Mason.

I'm sure you're thinking that will never work in Nebraska, but Bro. Porter will tell you that their Lodge meetings will have more visitors than members most months! There are a certain number of potential candidates who want that "full" meaning of membership and are willing to take the time to receive it. Many of the newest candidates have been on the Internet and learned more about our Fraternity than I can say many of our current members know. They have the meaning of the work; I believe they come to absorb the ritual and to study it with others of like thinking.



We've done the same thing in the Scottish Rite. The Omaha Valley now portray fifteen degrees at each Reunion on a Friday evening and Saturday with about 170 volunteers class directing, acting, staging, sounding and costume robing. It takes a good number of people (who happen to be busy). But they enjoyed the experience, and when asked to come back to help they do because they want the new members to have a good experiences. We do as much as we can as quickly as we can in an effort to "save time."

Taking a bit from the Colorado seminar session and from the Guthrie Valley, this spring we are opening on Thursday evening with social time (pizza and drink), an orientation time and tour of the building and three of the first Scottish Rite Degrees. We will come back on Friday evening for dinner, more degree work and finish on Saturday as we've done in the past. We decided to give this try because the current format was too short. The new schedule will allow us more time for questions and answers for the candidates, with time to reflect on what we've learned.

We'll try a 3-day Reunion, see how it works, and I'll tell you next time how we did.

Curtis Edic, 33°, General Secretary

Teacher of the Year - Nearly 50 Years of Recognizing Excellence

Herb Henry, 33° recently reminisced about the Scottish Rite Distinguished Teacher of the Year award, given each year to an outstanding teacher in Lincoln. In 1963, Herbert Henderson, 33° an attorney with Midwest Life Insurance and Venerable Master had the idea of doing something to recognize a teacher.

Henderson reflected on Brother Benjamin Franklin, a man of letters whose passion for public education inspired newly independent America to adopt free public schools throughout the states. Henderson sought to honor this tradition by acknowledging a teacher and presenting an award which was designed to encourage educators to seek graduate degrees in education.



Lincoln Northeast High School Spanish teacher Nancy Smith was named 2010-11 Teacher of the Year. Nancy was recognized for her compassion, care, and the warm classroom environment which welcomes and challenges her students to excel.

In 1969-1970, Herb Henry was Venerable Master. John Selleck, 32° KCCH, retired Chancellor from the University of Nebraska and Chair of the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Committee, stepped down. Herb took over in 1971. Herb took over the role as Chair, bringing his own passion for education to the job. All 4 of his kids were expected to go to college, and 3 won Regent Scholarships to UNL. Education would be a lifelong passion for Herb.

The Venerable Masters who followed Herb never sought a new Chair for the committee, so he held the job until 2002, despite retiring as President of

Latsch Office Supplies in 1990. Herb was briefly succeeded by Steve Alvis, 32° KCCH until 2005 when Herb again resumed his role as Chair. In 2007, Scott Dodge, 32° KCCH took over and continues to hold the chairmanship today.

Each year, principals are asked to nominate the teacher who goes above and beyond the call of duty for his or her students. Any teacher in Lincoln at a public school is eligible. A committee of Lincoln Public School administrators and Scottish Rite Masons review the nominations and whittle down the selection to 3 or 4 candidates. These candidates are then asked to fill out an in-depth questionnaire for the committee to review and select. The committee then has the honor of informing the teacher of their selection. Following the notification, the school arranges an assembly for the public announcement of the selection and presentation of the award.

The Scottish Rite's Distinguished Teacher of the Year is considered the most prestigious of the several teachers of the year award given by different organizations. Since 1964, each Scottish Rite Distinguished Teacher of the Year's photo has hung in the lobby of Lincoln Public School's Administration Building. After the fire in 2011 destroyed the administration building, the Scottish Rite was able to contact the photographer who had the original negatives of every teacher, and the photos will again hang in the new building, reflecting the long history of excellence recognized by Scottish Rite Masons.

Forty-seven honorees have been chosen since 1964, with many winners returning each year to welcome the current year's honoree. Teachers receive an award of \$1,500 which can be used to continue their education or for any use they desire. Herb Henry tries to attend each recognition ceremony to greet the teachers, many of whom he's helped select.

The Teacher of the Year award will celebrate 50 years in 2014. This has been made possible through the generosity of Scottish Rite Masons to the Lincoln Scottish Rite Preservation Foundation. Donations to the Century Club - \$100/year – help fund the Teacher of the Year award. Please consider a gift to permanently endow the Teacher of the Year fund, either through a tax-deductible gift to the Foundation or a bequest in your will or estate plan. For information on how your gift can continue this 50 year tradition, please call Bruce Wood at (402) 435-2144 or e-mail scottishrite@windstream.net.

Dwight (Rick) Whitesides

Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection



Rick was born in Omaha and has lived here his entire life. His father was a home builder and had also worked for a while as a mortgage banker. He, too, was a Scottish Rite Mason. Rick's mother was a stay-at-home wife.

Rick graduated from Technical High School in 1965 and attended classes at UNL and UNO.

His business career started with a stint at Montgomery Wards at the Westroads and then quickly moved to Avco Finance. After that, Rick worked at Occidental Savings and Loan as an appraiser trainee, where he worked for 17 years, evolving into a position as the in-house appraiser, appraisal reviewer and asset manager. After the Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC) liquidated Occidental, Rick went to work with Mitchell and Associates where he is employed today. Currently, Rick is a partner in the firm concentrating on commercial properties.

Rick was raised in John J. Mercer Lodge #290 in 1993. He is a member of Tangier Shrine, and has been a Scottish Rite Mason since 1994. He received his KCCH in 2011. Rick has served as director of the Clowns at Tangier Shrine, and is active in the Unit. He enjoys playing golf and has served on the Scottish Rite Golf Outing & Benefit committee for several years. He continues to play on the Tangier Shrine Golf League, and he also bowls in a league with some of his high school friends.

Anthony (A.J.) T. Johnson

Wise Master of Rose Croix



Bro. AJ Johnson was born in Keokuk IA and graduated from Southeastern High School in Augusta, IL. He joined the United States Air Force right after graduation. While in the Air Force he served in several different countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Bro. Johnson retired in 2006 after 27 years in the Air Force as a Chief Master Sergeant. Bro.

Johnson works as a Division Chief for Intelligence and Scenario Development for the United States Strategic Command. Bro. Johnson would tell you his greatest accomplishments while in the Air Force were meeting Wendy his wife and the birth of their two daughters Annette and Angela. Also while in the service, AJ accomplished the completion of three Associate Degrees and two Bachelor Degrees besides numerous deployments.

AJ comes from a family of Masons. His Father and youngest brother are both 33° Honoraries. He was raised as a Mason in Denver, IL where he maintains a lifetime membership. Bro. Johnson is also active in the other appendant bodies of Masonry. He is Past Master of George W. Lininger Lodge #268. In the Shrine he was Director of the Clown Unit. In the York Rite Bodies Bro. Johnson has served as High Priest of Chapter and Illustrious Master of the Council of Cryptic Masons. He is also currently involved in the Grand York Rite Bodies as a Grand Officer in both the Chapter and Council. In the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons he is the Grand Lecturer and in the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons he is the Grand Deputy Master. AJ is currently degree director for the 29th Degree and an active Knights of St. Andrew member. He also supports Wendy in the Order of the Eastern Star where they have served as Worthy Matron and Patron respectively.

Share the Scottish Rite Journal with prospective candidates and show them how Scottish Rite Masons are active in our fraternity, participate in our communities, and have fun!



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Hastings

The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in the Valley of Hastings is striving to grow in Masonry as well as in the communities that make up the Valley. We have recently formed a committee for the purpose of seeking out new members. The primary goal of this committee is simply to spread information about the Scottish Rite.

For example, not many men or Masons seem to know that the primary philanthropic mission of the Scottish Rite is to help children learn to communicate better. The mission of RiteCare is something that we as Scottish Rite Masons must better teach to our friends and brothers. When our organization does something so important for families around the country, we must be willing to talk about it and answer questions about it.

As Masons, we often fear revealing some secret we have vowed to keep safe. However, very few things are truly a secret of Masonry. Our ritual; we must retain. Our purpose and our friendship; we are called upon to share.

It is in the very core of both Blue Lodge and the Scottish Rite to spread brotherly love. This means that we ought be willing to spread the word of the fraternity we enjoy so much. Without this willingness to share our stories, we will find ourselves continually losing numbers. Continued losses in membership spell the end of our beloved fraternity.

To put it simply, Brothers: we must wear the pride we feel for this fraternity on our sleeves; we must share our compassion and brotherly love with all good men; we must do this without fear or anger when people fight us with stereotypes and innuendo; or we must face the fact that we should no longer call ourselves men, much less Masons.

Kyle T Martindale 32°
Joined the Scottish Rite at the Fall Reunion,
October 2, 2011, in Hastings, Nebraska

Congratulations to our newest Brother, from the Spring Reunion, 2012



(From left to Right) Mario Koletic 32° Dan Scarborough 32° K.C.C.H., New Scottish Rite Mason **Jason Gale, 32°** (North Platte), Kyle Martindale 32°, and Glen Mulholland, 32°, K.C.C.H.

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Groundbreaking Re-Enactment
Scottish Rite Masonic Center

Join us as we relive the
Centennial Anniversary
of the Scottish Rite ground-
breaking ceremony
1912—2012

Sat., June 9, 2012
Scottish Rite, Omaha

- Groundbreaking
- Program
- Dinner prepared by Culinary Masters

Details to follow

www.scottishriteomaha.org

Rebuilding the Temple

Over 100 years ago, the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite undertook the massive project of constructing a fitting home for the Council, their records, administration, and history - a building worthy enough to be called The House of the Temple. The temple was designed by noted architect John Russell Pope, who modeled it after the tomb of Mausolus at Halicarnassus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The building was dedicated four years later on October 18, 1915.

After 100 years of use, The Supreme Council and the House of the Temple Historic Preservation Foundation, Inc., are undertaking the biggest project since the House of the Temple was built. They are looking forward to restoring and improving the House of the Temple, one of the premiere Masonic landmarks in the United States, to make it and the resources contained within its walls even more relevant to the fraternity and the public at large for future generations.

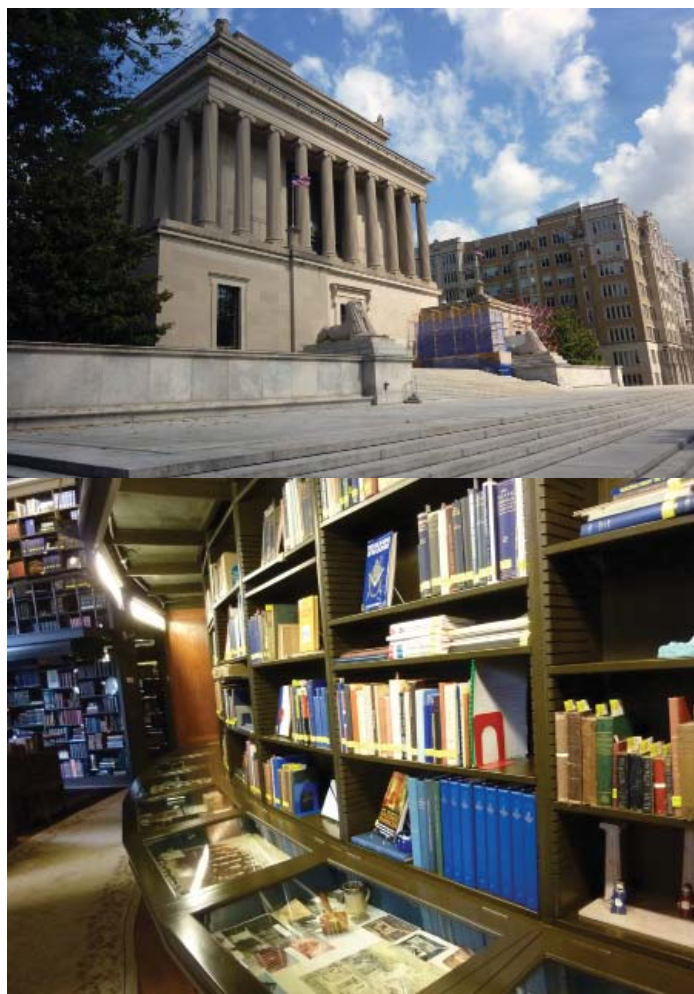
The Rebuilding the Temple Campaign

Leading up to this landmark year, the Historic Preservation Foundation plans to raise funds to restore the building. Following this Campaign and the needed restoration work, the House of the Temple will serve as a national center for education, historic preservation, events, and tourism for fellow Masons and all Americans. Visitors will learn about Masonry and their influence in shaping our nation. The completion of the Campaign will preserve the legacy of Masons in American history, enlighten others and promote Freemasonry to the next generation.

You can help by making a tax-deductible donation to the House of the Temple Preservation Foundation or your local Scottish Rite Foundation. **You are also invited to join Scottish Rite Masons for a special event, the Temple Web-a-Thon, helping the House of the Temple raise \$1 million from around the nation in support of the campaign. Log on to www.scottishrite.org for a live broadcast from the House of the Temple on May 19, 2012, beginning at 6 pm.**

The House of the Temple is our house. Help support this campaign and help the Scottish Rite lead Masonry in the 21st Century!

Micah Evans, 32° KCCH



House of the Temple Web-a-thon

The Supreme Council will host the first-ever Masonic "Web-a-thon" on **Saturday, May 19** to raise money for the Rebuilding the Temple Campaign.

5:00-6:00 PM—Cocktails & Social Time

6:00—11:00 PM Web-a-Thon

Scottish Rite Masonic Center ♦ Omaha, NE

OR log on to www.scottishrite.org from your own computer to watch and donate

Join us for an evening of food, drink, snacks and the Web-a-thon's special guests at the House of the Temple:

- Ernest Borgnine,
- Brad Paisley,
- Art De Hoyos,
- Brent Morris, AND
- Norm Crosby!

Money raised supports

- Preservation
- Education
- Restoration
- Structural rehabilitation and safety at the historic House of the Temple in Washington, D.C.



Donald Sangdahl at the November 1958 Scottish Rite Reunion.

A number of years ago, Brother Don Sangdahl called up Curt Edic, 33°, General Secretary for the Omaha Valley and let him know he was including the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha in his will. Brother Don retired sometime later from a long career as an insurance agent, and moved to Arizona.

Brother Don passed away in 2007, and we learned from his attorney that the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha would receive a sizeable bequest, which was used to support the preservation and philanthropies of the Scottish Rite Foundaton.

Don had a long and active career as a Scottish Rite Mason, and was an active member of the bagpipe band and drum and bugle corps at Tangier Shrine. Masonry was important to Don, and he wanted to ensure that Masonry would continue to serve the community long after him. His gift to the Scottish Rite was his legacy and helps the Scottish Rite continue to meet our obligations to RiteCare kids, our scholarship recipients, and our community long after he passed.

Have you considered your Masonic legacy? The question is not how we're seen by our Brothers today, but how we see Masonry serving Brothers tomorrow. Don's gift will support Masonry long beyond his years. You don't have to be wealthy to leave something in your will to support your local Scottish Rite Foundation. Once you've taken care of your wife, your children, your grandchildren, and your favorite charities, consider setting aside a percentage in support of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska or your Valley's local Foundation. You'd be surprised how much this will mean in the future, and how much good this will do for years and years to come.

For more information about leaving a bequest to the Scottish Rite Foundation for the Masonic charity of your choice, please call Micah Evans, 32° KCCH at (402) 342-1300 or e-mail micah@SRNE.org



Another Way to Support. . .

Many Scottish Rite Masons already support the community through their workplace United

Way campaign. Now Scottish Rite Masons in northeast Nebraska have another way. When you support **the United Way of the Midlands** through your workplace campaigns, you can designate your gift to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha, and your donation will go toward supporting RiteCare, scholarships, ethical initiatives, and providing valuable donations to the community.

Why are we asking you to support Scottish Rite Masonry? Are we becoming like so many other non-profits, asking members to give? I get



Micah Evans, 32° KCCH
Development Director,
Orient of Nebraska

asked that question often, and there is no easy answer. In short, yes, we are asking Scottish Rite Masons to do more to support our philanthropies. Our leadership made the wise decision to stop "eating our seed corn" year after year, dwindling our reserves at the expense of building new capital. We could either spend less and reduce our commitments. Or we can dig deeper, talk to our Brothers, and invite the participation from

members and the community.

Wisely, our officers have consistently chosen the second option. To our credit, our members are doing so much more - Century Club donations, United Way giving, including their Valleys in their estate planning - so that we can continue to support our RiteCare Clinics and the kids who need our help. Hundreds of Brothers have made the decision to embrace our mission of helping today's kids become tomorrow's leaders. Please consider joining this elite circle of donors and making a difference. It is sometimes a tough choice when we're asked to do so much already, but together, we can preserve our institutions and charities for future generations.