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Orient of Nebraska

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Features:

Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children Celebrates Centennial

Omaha Scottish Rite presents UNO scholarships and Albert Pike awards

Central Nebraska Scottish Rite heads to Burwell in August

RiteCare news and updates

... and much more!



Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children announces plans for first new cottage in many years during Centennial Celebration. See page 6 for story.

Membership

I had the honor of attending the Scottish Rite Biennial Session in August, and seeing several of our Nebraska brethren honored with the 33°.

The Biennial Session itself is only about two hours or so, full of the pomp and ceremony of Scottish Rite Freemasonry. The Valley of Washington, D.C. Knights of St. Andrew served as greeters and presented the colors with incredible pageantry. We heard greetings from VIPs, welcomed Grand Masters from states within the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction, and heard remarks from our Sovereign Grand Commander, Ronald A. Seale, 33°.

I couldn't tell you whether he rehearses his remarks in front of the mirror or simply speaks from the heart. But with his Baton Rouge, Louisiana drawl, you could listen to him read the phone book and come out inspired to march on Rome! He speaks simply and from the heart, but he knows how to inspire a brother!



Grand Commander Ronald A. Seale, 33°

At the closing banquet, as we gathered in tuxedos to enjoy rich food and drink, the Sovereign Grand Commander reminded us that all this was merely the illusion of Freemasonry.

In fact, it is our monthly meeting

in our own Lodges with the endless debate about the phone bill followed by the Stewards serving ham sandwiches in the basement that is the reality of Freemasonry. Surrounded by brethren in the beautiful embroidered robes of the Sovereign Grand Inspectors General and exquisite gold collars

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Alliance Valley

Orient Calendar

Nov 4, 11, 18, 25 Weds Masonic Lunch (H)		
Nov 5, 12, 19, 26Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)		
Nov 6-7Lincoln Fall Reunion (L)		
Nov 17 Broadway Series: Dirty Dancing (O)		
Nov 19, 20, 21 Omaha Fall Reunion (O)		
Nov 21 Hastings Fall Reunion (H)		
Dec 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Weds Masonic Lunch (H)		
Dec 3, 10, 17Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)		
Dec 11Christmas Banquet (L)		
Dec 21 Christmas Awards and Banquet (O)		
Jan 6, 13, 20, 27 Weds Masonic Lunch (H)		
Jan 7, 14, 21, 28Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)		
Jan 23Robert Burns Dinner (L)		
Feb 3, 10, 17, 24 Weds Masonic Lunch (H)		
Feb 4, 11, 18, 25Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)		
Feb 18Broadway Series: Newsies (O)		
Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Weds Masonic Lunch (H)		
Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)		
April 1-2 Scottish Rite Leadership Workshop (Phoenix, AZ)		
April 8-9 Alliance Spring Reunion (A)		
Apr 21 Broadway Series: Phantom of the Opera (O)		
May 20-21 KSA International Gathering		
Omaha, Nebraska at the Downtown Doubletree		

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month Nov 20, Dec 18, Jan 22, Feb 26, Mar 25

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month Nov 3, Dec 1, Jan 5, Feb 2, Mar 1

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month Nov 18, Dec 16, Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 16

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month Nov 16, Dec 21, Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 21

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

By the time you receive this *Scottish Rite Journal*, you will have heard the Fall Reunion was cancelled due to a lack of candidates. Please start planning for the April 8-9th Reunion next Spring, where we plan to have several candidates. Call Gene Gatti, 33°, General Secretary, with any questions, and Gene will be happy to help your candidate become a Scottish Rite Mason. And don't forget to pick up a few raffle tickets for the beautiful, hand-made quilt donated by a local quilting group.

Being a Scottish Rite Mason is more than having another dues card in your pocket. It is about putting Craft Masonry into action through leadership. As a Past Master at Blue Lodge, you might sit on the sidelines and lend your advice, but the Scottish Rite always needs Brothers who want to be active! We need Brethren who will help with the degrees, serve as officers or lend their expertise to committees, or represent the Scottish Rite at their home Lodge. There is always something to do, and we would welcome your participation. More important, your commitment is flexible: it might be monthly if you want, or twice a year for Reunions. Please help the Scottish Rite by promoting membership in the upcoming Reunion or getting involved yourself!



More than "Just Another Dues Card"

So what do you get as a Scottish Rite Mason? There has to be more than just another dues card in your wallet, right?

- A unique brotherhood with 290,000 Scottish Rite Masons
- Ownership in and support for one of the preeminent museums of Freemasonry at the House of the Temple
- The *Scottish Rite Journal*, published six times per year
- WSB Club, which supports membership initiatives
- · Scottish Rite Research Society
- SR Chirp and the Freemason Network
- The Tyler's Place, a national podcast focusing on Freemasonry
- Scottish Rite Geocaching Society
- Help with planned gifts, charitable gift annuities, and estate planning through the Development office
- The satisfaction of helping over 1,000 Nebraska children receive speech and language therapy each year, which many would not receive without our philanthropy

Valley of Central Nebraska at Hastings



The Central Nebraska Scottish Rite adopted the philosophy of bringing Scottish Rite Masonry to the membership throughout the year. We have visited Grand Island, Kearney, North Platte, and on Tuesday, August 4, we went to Burwell, about 105 miles north at the invitation of Charlie Haskell, 32° KCCH.

I was apprehensive about the kind of reception we would receive, but I didn't need to be worried. We met up at the Sandstone Grill in Burwell, and enthusiasm was high. Around 26 or 30 members turned out with their wives and guests. We even had to bring in more tables and chairs to accommodate the turnout! Dinner was fantastic, and the restaurant offered filet mignon, buffalo burgers, tacos, and soup. We ate very well!

The meeting was positive and upbeat, and we had great support for the RiteCare Clinic and members shared a few stories about what a great job our clinicians are doing! We encouraged members to help reach out to potential candidates for the November 21st One Day Reunion, and I am positive that we'll have candidates from Garfield County!

I am fired up to continue bringing the Scottish Rite to brethren in Central Nebraska. I encourage members to reach out to me or General Secretary Phil Odom, 33° at podom@hastingsmasonic.org if you have candidates or if you'd like us to bring a Scottish Rite meeting to your hometown!

Bob Scott, 32° KCCH Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection bobscottster@gmail.com



(Left) George White, 33° , Personal Representative to the SGIG, and (Right) Charlie Haskell, 32° KCCH in Burwell, NE at the August meeting.

ur September meeting was a rare treat! Dan Deffenbaugh, 32°, Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Hastings College, gave a presentation on "The Jerusalem Temple: From Solomon to Armageddon," focusing on the connection between Freemasonry and Solomon's Temple.

Many of us were enlightened by the context in which he presented the Temple history. He discussed the usage of the temple

past and present. Among interesting points was that many scholars, citing scripture and history, predict that an apocalypse will occur someday over the usage of the Temple Mount. Afterward, Dan was peppered with questions about the temple, and discussion went on for another 15 minutes!

We plan for Dan to present another lecture in the near future. Those attending agreed that it would be well-attended again.

ongratulations to
Don Rasmussen,
33°, who completed
the Master Craftsman
I program. Don was
presented with a MCI
lapel pin and a beautiful certificate signed by
Ronald A. Seale, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander.

Instead of a giant cookie, we gave Don two pieces of pie of his choice for him and Marie at the Sandstone Grill in Burwell. (Peach pie, in case you're wondering - an excellent choice!)

The Master Craftsman study group meets at 7:00 before the Scottish Rite meeting to talk about the questions and share answers. All brethren are welcome. Call the Scottish Rite office for the books and the first quiz questions. The questions are open book, followed by a simple essay on what degrees or the lessons mean to you. The program can be taken entirely at your own pace, so consider joining us for some very interesting discussion!



Valley of Lincoln

Feast in the East: Lincoln celebrates the Feast of Tishri

The Scottish Rite celebrated the Feast of Tishri on Friday, September 25th. The Feast of Tishri commemorates the period after the exodus from Egypt during which the Jews wandered in the wilderness

and lived in huts. The Feast of Tishri is an essential part of the Fourteenth Degree and alludes

to the symbolic details of the Temple's position, design, construction, furnishing, and decoration as the metaphorical temple of Freemasonry built in the heart of every brother.

We learn to recommit ourselves to building Freemasonry "in the hearts of men and among nations." The consecration of the Temple teaches the equality and unity of all members of the Rite. Brethren and guests share the bond of fraternal unity. In essence, the Feast of Tishri is the symbolic rededication of ourselves to the fraternity. Sixty guests attended the Feast of Tishri, marking the traditional feast of thanksgiving. Jerry Pigsley, 32° emceed the evening. Bill Hayes, 32° led the invocation over the bread, as guests enjoyed freshly-baked

challah bread and honey butter,. The
menu included squash
bisque, mixed greens
salad, herb-crusted
chicken with wild rice
pilaf, roasted vegetables with
za'atar, caramel apple for dessert.
Dinner was catered by Jenn Beebe,
with menu items reflecting the traditions surrounding the Feast of

Jerry Pigsley, 32° led the traditional toasts. Dale Leuders, 33° made a special announcement, dedicating the Shrine Bowl office in honor of Sam Nelson, Past Potentate and a leading force in making the Shrine Bowl a success. Afterward, Lincoln's new RiteCare clinician Carrie Kenny spoke about RiteCare therapy. The Feast of Tishri has become an annual tradition not to be missed!

Tishri.



Dedicating the Shrine Bowl Office in honor of Sam Nelson, Past Potentate.



Entertainment was provided by Nancy Youngman and Friends.

The Knights Call

by Adam Thayer, 32° Knight Commander adam.thayer@gmail.com

A fter a very slow start to the year, the Lincoln Knights of St. Andrew held an open forum in July to discuss the future of our organization. The topics discussed ranged from our pride at being members, the original intentions and goals of the KSA, the hard work we've put into building a strong 29° team, and the great work we've accomplished in the Valley.

We also discussed frustration that we did not have enough to keep members active and engaged, that we need to focus more on personal growth and fraternalism, and that sometimes we've felt like unpaid restaurant workers.

After each Knight had the chance to speak his mind, we voted unanimously to continue the Chapter, and each agreed to brainstorm ideas that we could implement to improve our problem areas.

One area we have decided to focus on is bringing the fun back into the KSA.

Kicking this off, our August business meeting was kept short, after which we closed to focus on more important matters: steak and beer! We all agreed that the best parts of Masonry happens outside of the "official" business, and so moving forward we will focus on finding more ways to enjoy each others company and get our business done quickly so it doesn't get in the way.

We have also worked to clean up our By-Laws to clarify our mission. In addition, we presented a new "Squireship" program for all new KSA members to go through before they can become full voting Knight members. We'll have more details in future issues regarding this program, and I think you will be very excited about what we're going to have our new guys accomplish.

I am honored to be part of this great organization. If you are a Knight and haven't joined us in a while, get involved again and join us for service, fun, and fellowship!





Valley of Omaha

SCOTTISH RITE FAMILY

Abit of rain did not stop the Scottish Rite's annual tradition, the family picnic at the Omaha Home for Boys Cooper Farm picnic pavilion! 125 members, their families, guests, and friends came out for a great evening on August 17th.

The Culinary Masters outdid themselves with freshly grilled hamburgers, brats, hotdogs, sides, and watermelon. Rob and Marnie Corsaro with son Caleb manned the s'mores table to help guests assemble s'mores, though it did not seem to stop a lot of faces and fingers from getting sticky. Greg and Other Greg - Swinarski and Carlson - called out raffle prizes afterward, and all of the kids went away with something.

We were also joined by several prospective Masons, including Jim Schmidt and his wife Elizabeth, who will be joining Mizpah Lodge.

Everyone enjoyed a great evening at the annual picnic. Save August 15, 2016 on your calendar now for next year's picnic at Cooper Farm.

Photos: (Top): Lee Terry, Sr., 33° may have found a new gig with Squiggles the Clown (Bryan Deming, 32°); (Middle): Don (32°) and son Donald Leu; (Bottom): Joel Wahling, 32° and daughters.

PICNIC







Meeting Our 2015-2016 Scholarship recipients

A bout 120 Scottish Rite Masons, wives, and guests attended a great evening at the September Scottish Rite meeting.

We began with a debate between Pat Loontjer and TV/radio personality Tom Becka, who debated gambling in Nebraska. Both were well-prepared and gave a spirited debate about the pros and cons of allowing gambling. 40 members attended the and many had questions afterward for both participants.

We followed with an excellent prime rib dinner, prepared by the Culinary Masters. Our guests included our 2015-2016 UNO scholarship recipients. Senior Alexander Clarke, an Information Sciences and Technology spoke about what the scholarship meant for his ability to pursue his dreams of a college education and expressed his gratefulness to Scottish Rite Masons who have supported UNO scholarships since 1992. We also presented the Albert Pike awards to Mizpah Lodge #302 and Magnolia Lodge #220 for membership growth.



Valley of Omaha hosts Grand Master's Leadership Conference



Grand Standard Bearer for the Grand Lodge of Utah, Matthew Nelson, was keynote speaker for the Grand Master's Leadership Conference on September 12, 2015 at the Omaha Scottish Rite.

Matt Nelson is author of the "Lodge Leadership: a 5-Step Guide to Lodge Reform." Among many points Lodge leaders should note, Matt spoke about the need to create Lodge leadership based on merit rather than an "advancing line" of officers. Leaders are developed not simply by moving up the line, but through apprenticeship, preparation, mentoring, and building a crew of talented leaders. As Matt reminded us, "Being good got YOU there. Being great gets US there!"

Masonry, said Matt, is transforming. In the end, men do not stop coming to Lodge because of money, but because we stop supplying something they want. Discovering

what Masons want is part of every Lodge officer's quest as he develops his own leadership skills.

The afternoon session was a discussion with Stan Dodd, 33°, from the House of the Temple Membership Services office. Stan engaged attendees, asking them what works in their Lodges and Valleys to engage members and generate participation.

Forty Masons were present throughout the day, and the feedback was uniformly positive, with members having thoughts and ideas to bring back to their Lodges for discussion.

Masonic-Eastern Star CELEBRATES 100 YEARS Home for Children

The Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children's Centennial Celebration was held on August 8th and was an unqualified success! Nearly 500 people attended the event to celebrate the 100th year of serving children and to learn about the new Cottage Project!

This year, the 4-H Achievement day was combined with the Centennial Celebration and announcement of the start of a new building project. With so much good news to celebrate, the crowd was treated to a display of the award winning 4-H projects along with wonderful music by the Children's Home band and a great lunch!

The big announcement of the day was that the Children's Home is launching a project to build a new cottage. This will be our first new cottage in some time and the assembled crowd responded with great generosity and over \$13,000 was raised during the celebration. The Grand Master of

Masons in Nebraska, M.W. John T. Maxell, presented a check on behalf of the Grand Lodge to get the project kicked off.

The need for quality childcare is essential today. At the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children, we take pride in our work and being there for children. Our new cottage campaign was born out of a need to help more children find their way in life. We believe in service and helping mold and shape children. We want to be around for the next 100 years and a new cottage is essential to making this vision a reality.

Donations to the project can be made by mail, phone or online and the Children's Home is thankful for any support given on this project. For more information, go to the website at: www.meshc.org

Ron Giesselmann, 32° Executive Director Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children rgiesselmann@meshc.org







Photos: 1) Mariah winning the 4-H award exhibitor award 2) Daniel winning the 4-H showmanship award 3) M.W. John Maxell, Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska (Photos by Ann Hauder)





Top: Clinician Emily Johnson and Aubrey Cheetsos. Bottom: Walk for RiteCare committee member Jim Horsham and a former RiteCare student Eric Shade, thrilled to win a solar light Jim made for the silent auction.

WALKTOTRITECARE

The Central Nebraska Scottish Rite at Hastings held the second Walk for RiteCare on Saturday, September 19. About 60 RiteCare families and Scottish Rite Masons came out on a perfect fall afternoon to walk through historic downtown Hastings. Hastings College radio station KFKX 90.1 broadcast live from the Walk all afternoon, interviewing the clinicians, family members, and Scottish Rite members about the RiteCare Clinic.

Eileen's Cookies donated cookies and the kids enjoyed piling frosting on their cookies during the day. Guests had the opportunity to bid on silent auction items donated by members and the community. Kids enjoyed bean bag toss games for prizes and enjoyed climbing on members' motorcycles. Afterward, everyone enjoyed excellent chicken noodle soup, sand-

wiches, and chips generously donated by Big Dally's Deli. Donors received a Walk t-shirt made by INKcredible in Hastings.

The Walk for RiteCare raised over \$5,500, to support speech therapy for children in Hastings. Sponsors included Flowserve, Kitty's Roadhouse, Whitefoot Landleveling, Johnson Concrete Products, Milt and Debbie Kennedy, Diamond Truck Wash, with additional support from Jim's Electric, Jon and Ricki Yocom, Highland Park Lawn Company, 3-Points Tire Service, Retina Center of Nebraska, Dunmire, Fisher, and Hastings, the Elks Club, and Clever Container.

The Walk for RiteCare committee included Emily Johnson, Deb Wilhelm, Jim Horsham, Jon Yocum, Phil Odom, and Inde Wissing.

RiteCare . . . making a difference

RiteCare Success: one | LOYE YOU at a time!

Thave known Colleen, a young lady with Down syndrome, since she was 18 months old. She began receiving services through the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute's RiteCare Clinic at that time. She attended weekly group therapy sessions with other toddlers and preschoolers. She began learning to use sign language to communicate and by the time she was heading

to kindergarten was talking as much as she was signing.

That was 10 years ago. Now Colleen uses words like "actually" and "fantastic" when she talks. Her speech is pretty clear, she uses sentences, and we don't see any sign language anymore. She began receiving RiteCare sevrvices again 3 years ago. This time the focus has been on literacy. Colleen has always been willing to work, but she lets you know when it gets hard! Even when she was little, she would cross her arms or roll her eyes if she did not like what you asked her to do. As a teenager, she has "fired" me on multiple occasions during therapy, but



RiteCare Clinician Korey Stading and Colleen

the hugs and the "I love you"s always outweigh the protests.

Colleen had some sight words when she started receiving literacy intervention services, but that was the extent of her reading abilities. She has a great memory, and the one on one intervention has really made a difference in her learning. Colleen is able to read more

than 600 sight words now. She has learned to sound out words with short vowels and long vowels. Most importantly, Colleen has learned to enjoy reading books. Her favorites are about animals. In the beginning she would beg to not read a book, and now she picks out her book first thing. Her teacher at school says that she is the best reader in her class now!

If it wasn't for the RiteCare Clinic, Colleen would not have learned to read like she can. She really benefits from the specialized program and the individualized instruction that can be found in the clinic. Thank you Scottish Rite for serving terrific kids like Colleen!

RiteCare at the HolidayS

With the holidays nearly upon us, please think about a year-end gift to help our RiteCare children throughout Nebraska.

Ways you can support RiteCare:

- Simply shop! When you buy through Amazon.com, simply start through smile.amazon.com, and select the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska.
 .5% of your purchase is donated back to the Foundation and helps our RiteCare kids!
- A tax-deductible year-end gift from your IRA distribution has certain tax advantages
- Consider a donation of gently used toys, electronics, or gift cards for the RiteCare Clinics.

Membership, continued

worn by dignitaries and Grand Masters, Brother Seale reminded us not to be fooled by the illusions presented at the Biennial Session. We were reminded that it is our job to go home and make the reality of our Masonic experience extraordinary.

The problem is that the illusion of Freemasonry - the idea of banquets, perfect brotherhood, harmonious meetings with no contentious problems to solve - takes no investment from a Brother. Anyone can post a photo to their Facebook wall and talk about perfect brotherhood, and perhaps they even believe it. It is, however, oftentimes wishful thinking.

When we go to the business meetings, when we actually break bread together month after month, when we laugh over



Wouldn't it be great if our meetings looked like this? But this is just an illusion. Our job is to work with the reality of our Lodge meetings to make the experience extraordinary.

the shared experiences over coffee after the meeting or go out to a ballgame as brethren on a summer's night, we are making the time, energy, and investment to make Freemasonry real, rather than an illusion of perfect brotherhood.

The Biennnial Session is an event that any Scottish Rite Mason ought to experience, but while there is much that is real about it, a lot of it is illusion. The challenge to ourselves is to make our business meetings and brotherhood at the local level as un-missable an experience as anything we attended in Washington, D.C.

Grand Commander Ron Seale, 33° is a great and inspirational leader, but we don't have the luxury of waiting for a Ron Seale to appear at our Lodge. We need to take the ragtag group of brethren and the Lodge meetings as they really are, and create our own exceptional Masonic experience that can not be missed.

The illusions are the blue print of what Masonry could look like, and the challenge to you is it to make it our reality.

Development

BUILDING for the AGES

Micah I. Evans, 33°, Orient Development Director

he 1910s were a momentous time in Nebraska Freemasonry. The second generation of Masonic leaders were coming of age, and the buildings they left us were a manifestation of their pride in the Craft, then about 50 or 60 years old in Nebraska.

On August 6, 1916, the Grand Lodge of Nebraska laid the cornerstone of the Scottish Rite in Lincoln. At the same time, Brethren were settling into the new Masonic temple in Alliance at Third and

Laramie and the recently completed Scottish Rite in Omaha, completed in 1914. In fact, Grand Lodge laid more than a dozen cornerstones for Masonic Lodges alone in the 1910s!

This generation of Masonic leaders inherited a culture of philanthropy, and the records are full of brethren who personally reached into their wallet to make a significant personal investment in our Masonic temples and philanthropies, including the Plattsmouth Masonic Home, the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children, and so many other local charities.





Alliance Masonic Building, c. 1950s, and Lincoln Scottish Rite, c. 1910s.

Every Nebraska Mason ought to know the names Dr. Charles Slagle, Frank Knight, Dr. Arthur Andrew Smith, and Tinley Combs, and their personal financial commitment to build these Masonic temples and fund Nebraska's Masonic philanthropies in the 1910s and 1920s. Lodges ought to be named for them!

No mistake, our members are still as generous today, and there is not a cause where Masons won't whip out the checkbook and liberally support the RiteCare Clinics, the Shriners Hospitals for Children,

and so many others. But here's the crux: While we give generously, we have not retained a true culture of philanthropy, which is defined as the practice of charitable or benevolent actions. *Practice* is the key term - a long-term, sustained course of giving for social betterment. Lapel pins, plaques, or challenge coins support the cause, but that is giving with the expectation of a return on the gift.

In the coming year, I ask you to do the hardest thing to do: think about leaving your own Masonic legacy for future generations with a planned gift, charitable gift annuity, gift of stocks or securities.

The men who built these Masonic temples a hundred years ago did not think they were building for a decade or a single generation. They truly viewed their support for these structures as part of their responsibility to build for generations to come. It would absolutely not have surprised these men that we were still meeting in these buildings a century later. They would have absolutely no doubts that the charities they established in the 1910s and 1920s would be serving children and our communities today!

Whether your interest is the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children, the Shriners Hospitals for Children, or our own RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic, will you please join our forefathers in building something through your gift that lasts for the ages?

The holidays are nearly on us. With your family's input and support, please think about setting aside a portion of your estate to provide for our Masonic philanthropies for generations to come. Once you've taken care of your family, your children or grandchildren, your church, and your favorite philanthropies, please consider your Masonic legacy that will stretch for the ages. Our philanthropies provide timeless services, and with your help, we can continue to make our mark on generations to come just as our predecessors still inform Freemasonry today.



Your dues change the light bulbs. Your donations change the world.

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