



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

September-October • Volume IX, Issue 5

Features:

Alliance Addresses Hunger with Community Table Over Summer Months

Hastings Show & Shine Raises Money for Clinic

Lincoln Celebrates Summer with Ice Cream Social

Omaha Supports Speech Therapy with RiteCare Classic and WalkRite for RiteCare

RiteCare News of Nebraska

... and much more!



Gray Skies Can't Stop the 11th Annual WalkRite for RiteCare - see page 5 for story.

Membership

We recently celebrated Independence Day, which is my favorite holiday. The July Fourth is the one day a year that binds Americans together - at least for the day. Whether we are Republican or Democrat, whether we are immigrants or descendants of Mayflower pilgrims, whether we agree or disagree with the government, we come together for one day to celebrate the idea that the United States of America is truly the land of the free and home of the brave. We set aside differences to watch parades, set off fireworks, grill hamburgers and enjoy the idea that we are one great people. I wish we felt this way all year round and could remain united around these ideals!

The Fourth of July should remind us how the genius of the American system mirrors the genius of Freemasonry.



My local neighborhood parade on the Fourth of July celebrates Americanism

E. Pluribus Unum - Out of Many, One.

There is no such thing as a unified body of Masons. We are divided into our fiefdoms - our Lodges, our Scottish Rites, our York Rite bodies, our Shrine clubs and units, Eastern Star. A man may be active in all of these or none of these. Yet even if he

devotes his entire energy to his York Rite Chapter, he is still among the body of Masons. No matter how we divide ourselves, we can still say "we are all Masons," and we can judge the whole by our maxims of *meeting on the level* and *parting on the square*.

Freemasonry is truly a melting pot

Freemasonry is a wonderful melting pot. We accept men as Brethren who work with their hands or who work in an office. We make no distinction between the average working man and the man of distinction. In the Lodge room, *Mister Jones* is simply Fred. Titles and honors outside the Lodge mean nothing, and the retired Colonel may be taking out the trash while the electrician is running the Board meeting.

... continued on page 11

Orient Calendar

Sept 4, 11, 18, 25 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
 Sept 5, 12, 19, 26 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Sept 13 Cocktail Tasting (O)
 Oct 5 Broadway Series: *Kansas* (O)
 Oct 12 Walk for RiteCare and Hastings Fall Reunion (H)
 Oct 18 Nebraska KCCH Investiture (Lincoln)
 Oct 25 Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner & Auction (O)
 Oct TBD RiteCare Halloween Event (L)
 Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
 Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Nov 5 Broadway Series: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (O)
 Nov 8-9 Alliance Fall Reunion (A)
 Nov 21, 22, 23 Omaha Fall Reunion (O)
 Nov 6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
 Nov 7, 14, 21, 28 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Dec 15 Broadway Series: *Jesus Christ Superstar* (O)
 Dec 16 Scottish Rite Christmas & Awards Dinner (O)
 Dec 4, 11, 18 Wednesday Masonic Lunch (H)
 Dec 5, 12, 19 Thursday Masonic Lunch (L)
 Jan 20 Installation of 2020 Officers (O)
 Jan 25 Robert Burns Celebration (L)
 Jan 25 Scottish Society of Nebraska Burns Dinner (O)
 Feb 7-8 GLNE Annual Communication (Kearney, NE)
 Mar 7 Hastings Spring Reunion (H)

Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month

Sept 27, Oct 25, Nov 22, Dec 27

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month

Sept 3, Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month

Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month

Sept 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16

For more information

contact the General Secretary in your Valley

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



Community Table Volunteers

The Valley of Alliance has been dark this Summer, but we certainly haven't been idle. Community Table continued to feed 50 to 60 people per week while school is out, showing the incredible need in our community. I am truly proud that the Alliance Scottish Rite is part of Community Table, making a difference in the lives of people in our home town. We say we're "building the best home town in America," and I'm honored that the Masons are part of that initiative.

We will move our meetings around the Panhandle this Fall, and Kimball, Nebraska will host our September meeting. If your Lodge wants to host a Scottish Rite meeting, please let me know so we can get it on the schedule.

The Fall Reunion is scheduled for November 8-9, and we have 3 Candidates lined up to continue their Masonic journey. My goal is 5 or 6, so please reach out to Brethren in your Lodges and explain how they can continue to learn about the philosophy and symbolism of Freemasonry through the Degrees of the Scottish Rite. Our Spring Reunion is scheduled for April 17-18, 2020, and our Fall Reunion in 2020 is scheduled for October 30-31. Please plan to join us and welcome new Brethren.

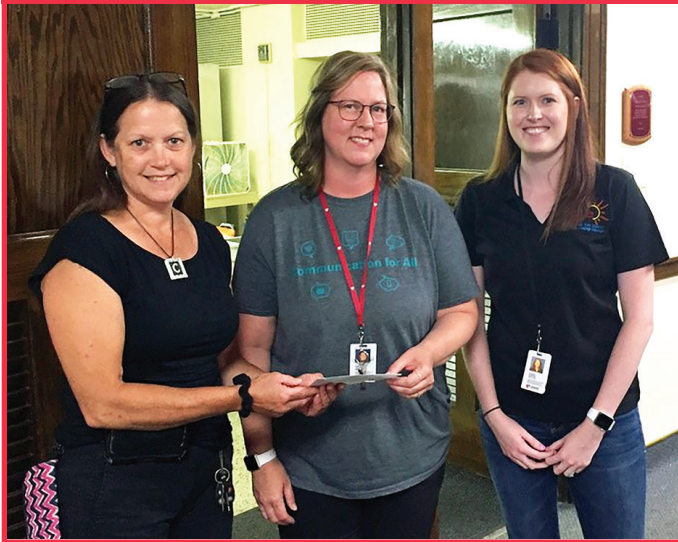
As always, this is YOUR Valley, so please let me know what the Scottish Rite can do to further your light in Masonry. I welcome your ideas, suggestions, input, and participation!

Fraternally,

Gene Gatti, 33°
 General Secretary
 gene123@mail.com
 (308) 762-4324



SHOW & SHINE for RiteCare



RiteCare Clinicians Kris Alt-house (center) and Sydney Norton (right) received a check for \$1,466 from Cindy Howe, 2019 President of the Island Cruisers Car Club in Grand Island. The presentation was made at our weekly Scottish Rite lunch in the Hastings Masonic Center.

...continued on page 9

2019-2020 Reunions

October 12..... Fall 2019 Reunion
March 7..... Spring 2020 Reunion
October 10..... Fall 2020 Reunion



**SAVE THE DATE
FOR THE**

Hastings Valley

Fall Reunion

Saturday, October 12, 2019

Call Phil Odom, 33° at
(402) 462-5813 or e-mail
podom@hastingsmasonic.org

SUMMER

at the UNK RiteCare Clinic Brings Opportunity for Learning

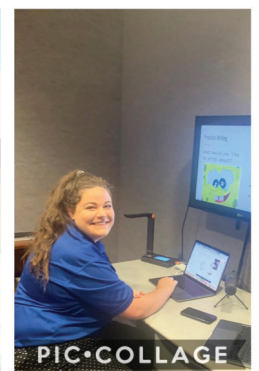
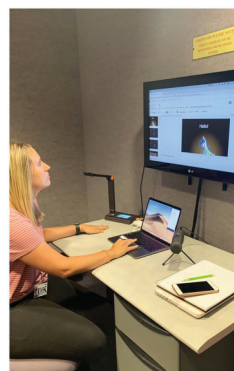
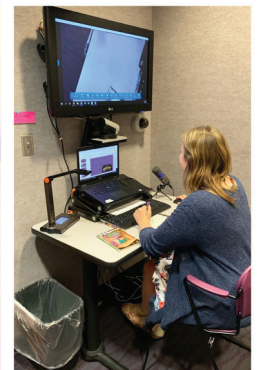
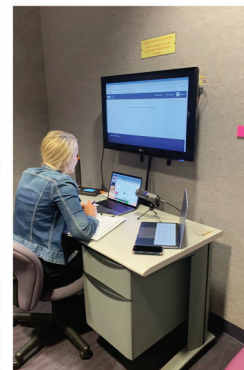
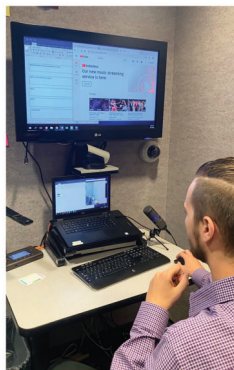
by Denise Wolfe, M.S., Ed, CCC-SLP
UNK RiteCare Clinic Coordinator
wolfedl@unk.edu

The University of Nebraska-Kearney Communication Disorders program provides hands-on training for our graduate students as they prepare to become speech-language pathologists. Every semester, including our summer session, we are fortunate through the RiteCare clinic to be able to give our clinicians practicum experience with the traditional face-to-face service delivery model, as well as telepractice services. This summer, six graduate clinicians attended telepractice training through our department on techniques needed to provide quality services to families throughout Nebraska. They learned how to use "Zoom" which is the encrypted software we use to provide services through the internet. The also learned how to design treatment sessions, how to work with e-helpers, and held practice sessions to prepare for their first day of therapy with their clients.

During our six-week summer session, we have provided telepractice services to children across Nebraska ranging from ages 4-16 years. Since these services are provided through the internet, we have saved families over 13,600 round-trip miles over the course of the summer. Our families

have expressed appreciation that we are able to provide these services which help their child carry-over and maintain skills throughout the summer.

We are confident that this telepractice practicum experience will be beneficial to our clinicians as they enter the future workforce. We are extremely grateful that the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska and the generous philanthropic support from Nebraska's Scottish Rite Masons allows us to make this training opportunity possible!



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Est. 2019

PREMIUM QUALITY

They all screamed for ice cream and the Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite responded!

The Lincoln Scottish Rite was filled with kids, members, and guests of all ages for an old-fashioned ice cream social, where the ice cream and fun were free and it was hard to tell which age group was enjoying the event the most. The only disagreements occurred over preferences of toppings.

After the success of the Walk for RiteCare in May, the line officers of the Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite wanted to build on the momentum of members engaging with RiteCare families, so they decided on an old-fashioned ice cream social. About 40 Scottish Rite Masons and their families, RiteCare families, and Masons came out for ice cream donated by the UNL Dairy Store,

Valley of Lincoln

tons of toppings, and a magic show by Louie Lopez, of Jolly Bean Magic Castle. Freewill offerings raised \$250 which will support the RiteCare Clinic at the Barkley Memorial Center on the UNL East Campus.

Jolly Bean, the magician, entertained the kids and had several of the children serve as his assistants, and the children got to meet and pet his rabbit, turtle, and dove which featured in his show. He also welcomed up Don Albrecht, 32° as an assistant and performed a trick to pierce Don with a sword. Fortunately, Don emerged unscathed!

"It's a hot summer day, so an ice cream social is a perfect time to get people together for cold ice cream and support our speech and language clinic," Don said. RiteCare Clinician Teagan Dinslage was there, as well, engaging with the kids, as well as talking to members about the programs at the RiteCare Clinic.

Members talked about making this an annual event for the Scottish Rite, and the plan is for the ice cream social to be a summer tradition at the Lincoln Scottish Rite.



Knights at the Range

The Knights of St. Andrew enjoyed fellowship at Big Shots Gun Range on Saturday, June 22nd. Jeff Schumacher, 32°, Andy Seachord, 32°, Nick Furchert, 32°, Don Albrecht, 32° and Don's son David spent sharpened their shooting skills. Hardware ranged from 9mm, 44 magnum, 45, or 22 rapid-fire rifles. Afterward, they enjoyed fellowship and at least one wee dram at McKinney's at the Hay Market.



The Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program is a Department of Defense program, established in 1972, to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. Volunteers in all 50 states work to recognize employers who foster a culture of support and value for employees' military service.

Bruce Wood, 33°, has been a volunteer with ESGR for many years, and is seen here with BNSF Railway, recognizing them for accommodating employees deployment time.

Valley of Omaha KNIGHTS LANDING



Venerable Master Bob Pelletier, 32° with the Knights of St. Andrew

The Valley of Omaha may not be King's Landing, but it certainly has plenty of knights. And we added ten new knights to the realm at the July Scottish Rite dinner.

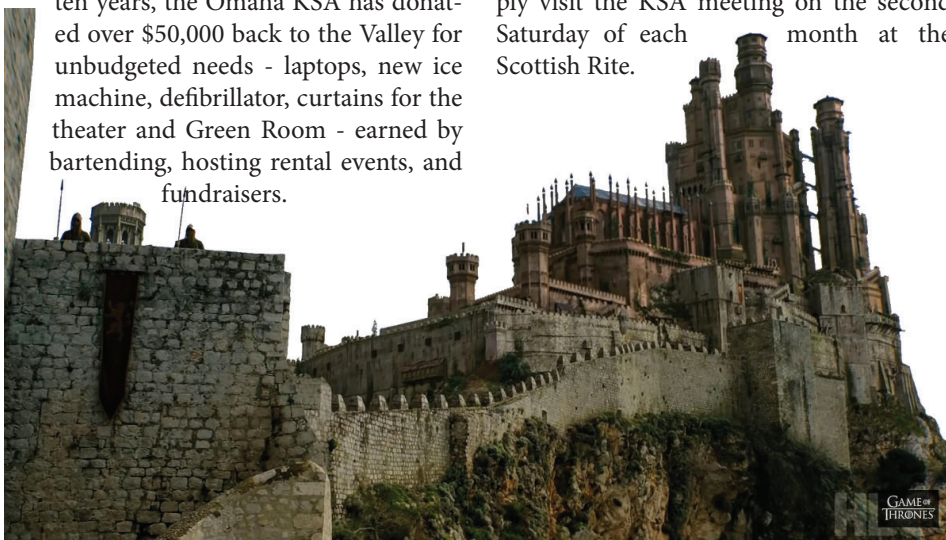
In an impressive ceremony, Knights of St. Andrew (KSA) Venerable Master Bob Pelletier, 32° knighted ten brethren and presented them with their KSA patents, tartan swatches and pewter KSA medallions. The ceremony began with a brief history by Kyle Beckner, 32°, who recounted how King Philip IV of France ordered the arrest of the Knights Templar on October 13, 1307. According to legend, many Knights escaped France and found refuge under Robert the Bruce of Scotland, and helped him defeat the English at the Battle of Bannockburn in June, 1314.

The Scottish Rite Knights of St. Andrew adopt the tradition of being descended from these Knights and pledge themselves to service to the Scottish Rite. Over the past ten years, the Omaha KSA has donated over \$50,000 back to the Valley for unbudgeted needs - laptops, new ice machine, defibrillator, curtains for the theater and Green Room - earned by bartending, hosting rental events, and fundraisers.

After an excellent Lodge dinner of spinach-stuffed chicken breasts prepared by the Culinary Masters, Bob Pelletier knighted

- Roy Bradburn, 32°
- Jim Carter, 32°
- Blake Nelson, 32°
- Mark Pilley, 32°
- Richard Ray, 32°
- Aaron Smallwood, 32°
- Ralph Tomonelli, 32°
- Rex Waller, 32°
- Gary Williams, 32°
- Tracy Willets, 32°

Over the course of the year, Bob has instituted programs to encourage Knights to get involved in the Valley and participate in rental event "gigs." He has requested Knights volunteer for three gigs, and there are incentives for new Knights who volunteer for six gigs in their first year. To learn more about the Knights of St. Andrew, visit www.scottishriteomaha.org/KSA or simply visit the KSA meeting on the second Saturday of each month at the Scottish Rite.



Photos: [Top] Bob Pelletier, 32° knights Blake Nelson, 32°; [Middle] Bob congratulates Rex Waller, 32°; [Bottom] Mark Pilley with wife Michelle, receiving their KSA patent

Century Club Raises \$14,935 for Scottish Rite Philanthropies

Thanks to 126 donors, the Scottish Rite Century Club raised \$14,935 during the 2018-2019 year, including 12 new members who pledged to make a donation of \$100 each year to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha.

Started in 1979, the Century Club is the backbone of Scottish Rite philanthropies, having raised hundreds of thousands of dollars over the decades for RiteCare therapy and Scottish Rite charities. Each year, donors are recognized at the Century Club dinner, hosted this year at Cascio's Steakhouse on July 18th.

There is always time to support the Century Club with your donation of \$100 or more. Visit www.scottishriteomaha.org/century-club to learn more.

WalkRite for RiteCare™

fun walk



The threat of rain was not enough to stop the 11th annual WalkRite for RiteCare on Sunday, June 23, 2019. Despite heavy rains in other parts of Omaha, it held off at Lake Zorinsky for the Walk, and a strong 75 RiteCare families and Scottish Rite Masons came out to walk and raise around \$5,000 for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha.

The Nebraska Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) students turned out to do face painting and crafts with the RiteCare children, and the Culinary Masters grilled hamburgers and hotdogs. The RiteCare Clinicians brought ten raffle baskets, which raised additional money to support speech-language therapy.

Officers from each of the Scottish Rite bodies were present, representing the Lodge of Perfection, Chapter of Rose Croix, Council of Kadosh, and Consistory, as well as the Knights of St. Andrew.

Raising funds to support RiteCare is imp-

ortant, but part of the goal of WalkRite for RiteCare is to create a family-friendly event that families can bring children of all developmental and intellectual disabilities. "It's an opportunity to raise funds and celebrate the partnership between the MMI Speech-Language Pathology Department and the Scottish Rite Masons of Nebraska, while enjoying a day of fun, games, and food with all of our families," said Amy Nordness, Ph.D., Director of the RiteCare program. "It is a chance to relax, have fun together, and show how much we care about our families and about sustaining the future of the RiteCare Clinics of Nebraska."

WalkRite for RiteCare began in 2009, and has grossed around \$75,000 since the beginning, all of which goes back to support speech therapy at the RiteCare Clinic.

"We can't thank the Scottish Rite Foundation enough for its generous support. They are truly making a difference for families in need of speech and language services," said



Dr. Karoly Mirnics, Director of the Munroe-Meyer Institute.

"We encourage others to join us at the walk. It's an opportunity to meet the speech therapists at MMI and learn about the services they provide, while enjoying a fun walk and lunch."

RiteCare Classic GOLF BENEFIT

In 1998, the Scottish Rite golf outing began as a fun event for members, with extra money going to RiteCare. Somewhere along the way, it became a fundraiser in its own right, and was rebranded as the RiteCare Classic. This year, the RiteCare Classic, held on June 12th at Pacific Springs Golf Club, grossed over \$20,000 for speech and language services.

RiteCare Classic committee chair Buzz Garlock, 32° KCCH welcomed guests to the 22nd annual RiteCare Classic, and spoke about the speech and language services at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute supported by the RiteCare Classic. This year, 22 foursomes registered as the RiteCare Classic continues to grow. "Awareness of the impact the RiteCare Clinics make for Nebraska children continues to grow, and people want to support that mission," Buzz said. "Each year, the committee strives to put together a top-notch event for our players, and to increase what we raise to support speech therapy for our RiteCare kids."

"We did both, thanks to the extraordinary support from the community!"

This year was no exception, and thanks to the generosity of sponsors and players, we had another record year supporting the Clinics!

For the second year, the RiteCare Classic hosted the Mega Putt Challenge. All participants purchased a golf ball, and everyone shot at once. One lucky player made the hole, and won a \$100 split-the-pot prize. Other contests included a Super Mulligan package, and a hole-in-one contest, sponsored by McMullen Ford, for a Ford Ranger.

Flight winners were Matt Johnson, Ward Reesman, Darren Trull and Steve VanderPlaats coming in 11 under par. The 2nd place teams at 10 under par were Travis Payne, Emmalee Westfall, Lerdahl, and Scott Wedergren.

The RiteCare Classic extends its appreciation to the Order of DeMolay members, who carried players bags to their carts. We also are truly thankful to the Nebraska Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) students and Munroe-Meyer Institute volunteers who spent the day with us to make sure everything ran smoothly.

The 2019 RiteCare Classic was generously sponsored by:

UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute
Presenting Sponsor

C&A Industries, Inc.
Volunteer Sponsor

RBC Wealth Management
Golf Ball Sponsor

NuMale
Beverage Cart Sponsor

McMullen Ford
Hole-in-One Sponsor

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Hole Sponsors

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Eaton Vance Investment Managers
Edward Jones Investments
(Andrew Muska)

Edward Jones Investments

(Gary Unger)

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Florence Lodge #281 Foundation
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J.P. Cooke Company
Keast Chevrolet
Knights of St. Andrew
Hy-Vee (90th & Center)
McFarlin & Brokke, CPA
Portfolio Advisors
Sage Advisory Group

Flag Sponsor

Downtown Omaha, Inc.

Photos: (Top left) Darren Trull, Steve Vanderplaats, Ward Reesman, and Matt Johnson; (Bottom right) Larry Crowell, Mark Pilley, and Ira Nathan; (Top right) Mega-Putt challenge; (Bottom right) Don Leu at the hole-in-one-shot sponsored by McMullen Ford (More photos at <https://tinyurl.com/y2xx74az>)



2019 Honors Men

Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, SGIG in Nebraska, announced the Brethren who had been elected by the Supreme Council to receive Honors in 2019. 19 Brethren in the Valleys of Alliance, Hastings, Lincoln and Omaha will be invested with the Knight Commander of the Court of Honour and 10 KCCH Brethren will be coroneted 33° Inspectors General Honorary this October. Please extend congratulations to:

KCCH-elect:

Alliance:

- Dave Thomas

Hastings:

- Dan Deffenbaugh
- Jim Horsham
- Gregory Seiler

Lincoln:

- Donald Albrecht
- William Hayes
- Jerry Pigsley
- Keith Plummer

Omaha:

- Patrick Graves
- Schadd Gray
- James Flowers
- Donald Leu
- Andrew Muska
- Donald Peterson
- Michael Precella



33rds-elect:

Alliance:

- Art Stricker

Hastings:

- Charles Haskell

Lincoln:

- Micheal Buchardt
- Virgil VerMaas

Omaha:

- Donald Kavalec
- Armel MacDonald
- Charles Sohm

SGIG's Orient Honoree

- M.W. Robert Moninger

Nebraska DeMolay Conclave 2019



The DeMolays from the Lewis M. Keene Chapter check out the gold content in their Ritual Competition medals

ter Business Session, Chevalier Investiture and a visit to the Hastings Museum. The weekend concluded with the Conclave Banquet, Installation of State Officers and crowning of the new State Sweetheart at the Sweetheart Ball.

Jonathan Moats of Elkhorn Chapter was installed as the 99th

The Hastings Masonic Center was the site of Nebraska DeMolay's Annual Conclave on July 12-14, 2019. Highlights of the weekend included Statewide Ritual Competition, Full-Form Initiation, NASCAR racing activity, State Chap-

... continued on page 9

FRIENDS
SCOTTISH RITE
DINNER & AUCTION



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019

A DINNER BENEFITTING THE RITECARE
SPEECH & LANGUAGE CLINIC AND THE
PHILANTHROPIES OF THE SCOTTISH RITE
FOUNDATION OF OMAHA

FOR RESERVATIONS & INFORMATION, VISIT:

WWW.FRIENDSOFSOTTISHRITE.ORG

OR CALL 402.342.1300

COMING ATTRACTIONS

The Valley of Omaha instituted the Broadway Series as a way for members to remain engaged with their Valley. The Scottish Rite buys blocks of tickets to shows or concerts at the Orpheum Theater and Holland Center, which are offered for about \$20 above ticket price.

After cocktails and brunch at the Scottish Rite, a chartered bus or trolley which will take you to the venue and back to the Scottish Rite. Past shows have included the *Book of Mormon*, *Phantom of the Opera*, Disney's *Aladdin* and *Beauty and the Beast*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *the Sound of Music*.

Visit <http://www.scottishriteomaha.org/broadway> for the upcoming 2019-2020 season and to make reservations.

2019-2020 Broadway Series

Sat, Oct 5, 2019 at 7:30 PM	Kansas
Tues, Nov 5, 2019 at 7:30 PM.....	Charlie/Chocolate Factory
Sun, Dec 15, 2019 at 1:00 PM	Jesus Christ Superstar
Sun, Jan 19, 2020 at 1:00 PM.....	Les Miserables
Wed, Feb 12, 2020 at 7:30 PM.....	A Bronx Tale
Fri, Feb 28, 2020 at 7:30 PM.....	Stomp
Sun, March 22, 2020 at 1:00 PM.....	Dear Evan Hansen
Sun, April 26, 2020 at 1:00 PM	The Lion King
Sun, June 7, 2020 at 1:00 PM.....	Anastasia

Walk for RiteCare™



Saturday, October 12, 2019

Hastings Masonic Temple
Registration begins at 10:00
Walk beginning at 10:30
Lunch follows

Registration:
\$20/Adults | \$10/Children
All proceeds benefit
Hastings RiteCare Clinic

SHOW & SHINE
for RiteCare

...continued from page 3

This \$1,446.00 donation will be used for a number of Clinic needs in the near future. Plans are to investigate the purchase an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) using these dollars. A second set of Bjorem Speech Sound Cards will be purchased for the Clinic's additional clinician. Bjorem Speech Sound Cues are a picture cueing program to help children acquire speech sounds and literacy, especially those with apraxia or speech delays. These cards will bring an up-to-date, fun child-inspired speech and language illustrations that are diverse and speak to children.

During the early spring rains, Brothers Jon Yocom, 33° and Jim Horsham, 32° (KCCH-elect) cleaned out the old, original, Clinic room which has been used for storage over the last 15 years. They added a chair swing and cleaned the carpets along with several other improvements. Workout mats are now needed for safe use of the new swing. Some of the monies donated by the Islander Cruisers will go toward purchasing new mats.

Foundation President, Jeffery Herber, 32° KCCH said, "We are very grateful to the Islander Car Club for the generous donation they have made to our Scottish Rite Found-

SCOTTISH RITE -THINGS-



General Secretary John Maxell, 33° presented 32° Scottish Rite patents at the July Knights of St. Andrew meeting to Rex Waller, 32°, Aaron Smallwood, 32°, and Ralph Tomonelli, 32° who joined the Scottish Rite this past May. The Omaha Valley has 32° patents framed, and they are presented to members, usually at their home Lodge. Several Master Masons have expressed interest in joining the Scottish Rite after these presentations.

At the July business meeting in Omaha, T.J. Brumfield, 32° presents a certificate to Chuck Davis, 32° who completed the Master Craftsman program. Chuck has completed all three Master Craftsman programs, which cover the development and symbolism of the Blue Lodge (I), the ritual and history of the Scottish Rite (II), and Scottish Rite philosophy (III).



Nebraska DeMolay Conclave

State Master Councilor of Nebraska DeMolay. Caid Bles of Lincoln Chapter and Ethan White of Lewis M. Keene Chapter were installed as State Senior Councilor and State Junior Councilor respectively. Miss Kathryn Rice of Omaha Chapter was crowned as Nebraska State Sweetheart.



ation. These dollars will allow us to purchase a number of items to support our clinicians and children".

The Masonic Temple Board and the Hastings Valley Scottish Rite Foundation are continually looking for avenues that will enhance our support of the Scottish Rite – RiteCare Clinic in Hastings. If you would like to support your Clinic, please send your donation to the Hastings Scottish Rite Valley Foundation or the Nebraska Scottish Rite Foundation. Feel free to contact Phil Odom, 33° or Micah Evans, 33° for more information on how to donate.



Omaha Chapter was recognized as the Overall State Ritual Champion and Tom Waller was recognized as the Nebraska DeMolay – DeMolay of the Year.



ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND

An Association of Worthy Masons and Gentlemen

The Royal Order of Scotland first came to the United States from Scotland in 1877, with Scottish Rite Grand Commander Albert Pike as the first Provincial Grand Master. Speaking of the Royal Order of Scotland, Albert Pike wrote,

"We have desired to create an association of worthy Masons and gentlemen...to assemble annually, not for dry discussions or for display, but for social intercourse and festive enjoyment. . .

After visiting the Omaha Valley, the Provincial Grand Lodge chose to break from tradition of holding the Degrees in a hotel ballroom and decided to utilize the Omaha Scottish Rite theater for the Degrees on July 20, 2019. They Degrees were conferred on stage, with backdrops, sound, and lighting in an impressive ceremony done entirely in rhyme and by memory by the officers.

34 Nebraska Masons from across the state applied and were approved to receive the Heredom of Kilwinning and Knight of the Rosy Cross of the Royal Order Degrees, along with 52 Brethren from around the nation.

Candidates are required to have some degree of both Masonic "stripes," which can be York Rite or Scottish Rite honors, service as an officer in the Rites, the Shrine, or Blue Lodge, along with military experience and civic engagement. All Nebraska candidates had distinguished themselves with service to Freemasonry as well as service to their communities in an impressive list of non-profit Boards and civic organizations.

Afterward, the Sir Knights and their ladies enjoyed fellowship during a banquet hosted at the Omaha Scottish Rite. Speaking of the Royal Order, Provincial Grand Master Sir James Winzinreid challenged members, many of whom are Past Grand Masters, Potentates, Scottish Rite or York Rite officers, as well as active men in their communities



Nebraska Royal Order of Scotland Knights and Members

to develop the unity between the Masonic bodies, and in the larger world.

Members of the Royal Order of Scotland in Nebraska have expressed their desire to fulfill Albert Pike's original vision of "social intercourse and festive enjoyment," with an annual event in Hastings, Lincoln, or Omaha. This event would welcome an interesting speaker during an elegant dinner, and bringing together Nebraska members for fellowship and Brotherhood.

DeFreece Letter of Thanks

Our family began the RiteCare "Parent Training" course at the Munroe-Meyer Institute in October of last year. We have two children, Henry (6) and Alexander (2) who are on the Autism Spectrum. Henry has "graduated" much of his medical need for speech and occupational therapies, and is thriving in Kindergarten at Swanson Elementary.

Our family had never been able to take advantage of services provided by the Munroe-Meyer Institute due to insurance restrictions – but fortunately our 6-year-old responded well to a traditional, rigorous speech and occupational therapy

course of treatment at another clinic, and received second-to-none early childhood education when he was diagnosed nearer to the age of 3.

When our younger son, Alexander, was diagnosed at 19-months-old in 2018, we knew where to "start". Alex had twenty words, but at right around 18-months-old he was down to just 2-3 words.

Little did we know that with his Autism being identifiable and diagnosed so much earlier than his older brother, a different course of treatment was needed. He was in no way responding to traditional medical speech

therapy, as his ability to attend treatment at another clinic, and received second-to-none early childhood education when he was diagnosed nearer to the age of 3.

When our younger son, Alexander, was diagnosed at 19-months-old in 2018, we knew where to "start". Alex had twenty words, but at right around 18-months-old he was down to just 2-3 words.

Little did we know that with his Autism being identifiable and diagnosed so much earlier than his older brother, a different

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DeFreece Letter of Thanks, *continued from page 6*

a different course of treatment was needed. He was in no way responding to traditional medical speech therapy, as his ability to attend to any one activity was no more than 30 seconds – leaving it nearly impossible to teach him to speak. In addition, we were limited by our insurance company by how many visits we could make (30 total, per year), and decided to start by focusing on building his ability to attend via Occupational Therapy.

When we found out from Alex's "Birth-to-3" team assigned to us by Westside School District that we may qualify for the Scottish Rite's RiteCare Parent Training course, we were thrilled. There was so much we had learned from our older son's early years, but we were now working with an ENTIRELY different child with different skills, motivators, abilities and needs – and with insanely limited health care coverage



for Autism needs and medical debt already accumulated from our eldest son, we were so grateful to hear we could continue his Occupational Therapy path, AND have access to Speech Therapy.

communicative speech outside of labeling, I cried – embarrassingly hard. Beth received an unsolicited hug. Todd and I both felt a gift had been given to us and our child that we could never have imagined in a lifetime! Keeping Alexander from falling farther behind in his speech and RECEPTIVE speech development will keep our son able to grow and learn like his peers. Without this type of specialized therapy, Alex would surely fall very far behind developmentally. He is an incredibly smart boy who is loving, loved, educated and someday employable and a fantastic member of our community.

The RiteCare program has been a game changer for our family. It has been a time for our entire family (and respite care provider) to come together and learn techniques from Beth Hughes, the speech pathologist assigned to us, that are innovative and adjustable. She helped us find a speaking device that would help grow his vocabulary and curb potential frustrations and meltdowns that are sure to come more frequently with age.

The day Beth informed our family that Alex could continue weekly ABA-based speech therapy with her on a weekly basis as he still was a ways away from true

So with that, THANK YOU for accepting Alexander into the RiteCare program at Munroe-Meyer Institute. Without this program, Alex's outlook for his education, development and potential mental health may not have been the same in the future. You are truly changing lives through this program, and we are so grateful to have been a beneficiary. THANK YOU for supporting and giving hope to families like ours!

With Gratitude,

Todd, Kourtney, Henry & Alexander

Membership, *continued*

Of the people, By the people

It is said that the principles of Freemasonry informed the Founding Fathers when they created the American system of government. Whether that is true or not, the Lodge is reflective of the American system of government.

We elect our officers to preside for a year, and after they have served, they go back to the sidelines as Brethren. Members own the power of the purse, and the democratic vote decides what will be spent, what activities the Lodge will undertake, and the Lodge By-Laws we follow.

Equality of Opportunity

The beauty of Freemasonry is that no man advances by virtue of his birth or his station. Everyone is raised as a Master Mason by essentially the same process. The



King of England may well be the hereditary Grand Master of Masons in Great Britain, but in the United States, any man may become Grand Master. By his labors in the quarries of Masonry, any man may be honored as a 32° KCCH or 33° Scottish Rite Mason or Potentate or any such honors or titles as Masonry may confer.

Continuity

Few nations are members of the 200 Years-Club. In spite of the Civil War, America endures. In spite of the vast chasms that separate Americans every day, the nation continues. Each generation fears that this is the end; yet the nation remains strong.

So, too, does Masonry. States may recognize or disrecognize one another over conflicts. Lodges come and go. 20 years ago, the Shrine no longer required Scottish Rite membership. Yet Freemasonry perseveres! Men continue to seek us out and make their home in our organizations.

I truly wish the spirit of Independence Day could live all year. But then, when I see how that which Daniel Webster called "the genius of the place" prevails within Freemasonry, maybe that spirit does indeed live all the time!

Giving the Gift of VOICE

Take a look at Alexander's story on page 10. Alexander is an affectionate two-year old on the Autism Spectrum. Traditional speech therapy was only able to make so much progress, but RiteCare was a "game changer" for his family. Today, he works with Miss Beth [Hughes] in the Omaha Clinic, and with specialized therapy, he is able to learn with his peers rather than fall behind.

His story is unique and special, but it is also one of hundreds of children that the Scottish Rite's RiteCare Clinic can share. And as important, Alexander's therapy is provided without regard to cost to his family and without the limitations of insurance. Alexander will go on to be able to communicate, to express himself, to share his needs and wants, and - most importantly - to be *understood*.

This is because of the Nebraska Scottish Rite Masons' commitment to RiteCare.

By now, you should have received the 101-Club appeal in the mail. I ask you to please consider a donation to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska, which helps hundreds of children like Alexander across the state. Their parents can not begin to express their gratitude for these services.



Each \$101 donation supports a session of therapy for children like Alexander, and donors will receive the new 2019-2020 101-Club lapel pin. I hope you'll wear it with pride and explain its significance to your Lodge brethren, co-workers, friends, and neighbors. Each \$101 donation will also be recognized on a poster at the Grand Lodge of Nebraska Annual Communication.

For each donation of \$300 or more, you will receive the new SGIG Circle challenge coin, authorized by Charles

V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Nebraska, as well as the 101-Club pin, and special recognition at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication and in the *Nebraska Scottish Rite Journal*.

Last year, Scottish Rite Masons raised nearly \$15,000 for RiteCare through the Nebraska Foundation's 101-Club/SGIG Circle. Please consider the appeal again this year as part of your 2019 philanthropy.

Thank you for your generosity through your Valley and the Nebraska Foundation. You are making a significant impact on the lives of children in Nebraska, and their families are truly grateful for what you continue to do to improve the lives of children like Alexander.

Micah I. Evans, 33°,
Orient Development Director
(402) 342-1300
micah@SRNE.org

MAXIMUM IMPACT

Masons often ask about ways to maximize the impact of their donations to our Masonic philanthropies.

Two extremely powerful ways to leave your Masonic legacy and support the Masonic Home, the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children, your Lodge, the Shriners Hospitals for Children, and the Scottish Rite's philanthropies are through an IRA Distribution. You simply direct your 401(k) or IRA provider to distribute some or all of your annual required distribution to the philanthropies you choose. You pay no tax on the distribution, and the Masonic philanthropy receives the full value of your distribution. It's as easy as that!

The second powerful measure is to direct your annual gift toward an insurance policy that names the Scottish Rite Foundation (or your chosen philanthropies) as the beneficiary. You receive a tax benefit, and the non-profit will eventually receive an amount far in excess of what you might otherwise be able to give.

As always, consult a financial advisor or attorney about how these donations impact your own financial situation.

SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL
OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

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

The Scottish Rite Journal is published bi-monthly by the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, USA. The Orient of Nebraska insert is prepared for members of the Alliance, Hastings, Lincoln, and Omaha Valleys, and is mailed to all current Scottish Rite Freemasons in Nebraska's Valleys. For submissions or articles, please contact Micah Evans at micah@SRNE.org or call (402) 342-1300. Whenever possible, please include a high-resolution photo with your submission. All submissions must be received at least 45 days before the date of publication, which occurs at the beginning of odd-numbered months. (Submissions for the November-December 2019 Scottish Rite Journal must be received no later than mid-September for consideration.)