



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

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## Features:

**Renovations in Alliance**

**Hastings Takes the 'Rite on the Road**

**Annual Lincoln Corned Beef Feed a Success**

**RiteCare news and updates**

*... and much more!*



**Omaha Scottish Rite Masons Celebrate Love at the Annual Valentine's Ladies Night at the 'Rite. See page 5 for story.**

## Membership

In early January, the Scottish Rite fraternity lost a dear brother. We lose many brothers and this would normally not merit attention except when you think about his story as a whole.

Tom Begley joined Freemasonry in 2010. . . and I think originally Tom also saw the Lodges as helping his career as much as sharing those mystic ties of brotherhood we all enjoy.

Yet he quickly found that Masonic membership did not help his sales. Quite the opposite, many guys were initially put off by a Brother plying his trade in



*Thomas J. Begley, Jr., 32° KCCH  
1958-2016*

Lodge. Once he accepted that we are here to be Brothers rather than contacts in his Rolodex, Tom quickly jumped into the fraternity with his whole heart and soul. He was involved with the Knights of St. Andrew as one of the most prolific volunteers. He became a line officer known as much for cheesy jokes as for good ideas. He learned to take in stride the ribbing which came with his far-fetched ideas. In fact, his many good ideas were always heard with honest respect and consideration. As important, Tom put his work and effort, and as often, his own wallet into those ideas, and was as willing to work as hard as anyone to make them happen.

A brother who arrives first to volunteer and leaves only after everything is cleaned up quickly gains notice, and he was duly honored as a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH) in October, 2015 with his wife and family in attendance for the ceremony.

So his unexpected passing hit members harder than anticipated. His larger-than-life presence, his advice and council, his positive spirit were suddenly gone. It might have been different for a brother who was not as involved. But this was sudden and unexpected, so there became a hole in the middle of our fraternity that could not be easily filled.

I counted well over 75 Masons at the funeral, and we literally packed the room

*... continued on page 7*

## Orient Calendar

April 29 .....Statewide RiteCare Clinicians Meeting  
 Lincoln Scottish Rite (open to all Scottish Rite Masons)  
 May 4, 11, 18, 25 ..... Weds Masonic Lunch (H)  
 May 5, 6, 7 ..... Omaha Spring Reunion (O)  
 May 5, 12, 19, 26 ..... Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)  
 May 18 ..... Spring Outing at Papillion Gun Club (O)  
 May 20-21 ..... KSA International Gathering  
 Omaha, Nebraska at the Downtown DoubleTree Hotel  
 visit [www.scottishriteomaha.org/ksaomaha](http://www.scottishriteomaha.org/ksaomaha) for details  
 May 21 ..... Celebrating the Craft (statewide)  
 May 21 ..... Celebrating the Craft & RiteCare Walk (L)  
 June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 ..... Weds Masonic Lunch (H)  
 June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 ..... Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)  
 June 24 ..... RiteCare Classic Golf Benefit (O)  
 June 26 ..... WalkRite for RiteCare (O)  
 July 6, 13, 20, 27 ..... Weds Masonic Lunch (H)  
 July 7, 14, 21, 28 ..... Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)  
 Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 ..... Weds Masonic Lunch (H)  
 Aug 4, 11, 18, 25 ..... Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)  
 Oct 7-8 ..... Lincoln Fall Reunion (L)  
 Oct 8 ..... Walk for RiteCare (H)  
 Oct 21 ..... Feast of Tishri (L)  
 Oct 27-28 ..... Hastings Fall Reunion (H)  
 Nov 17, 18, 19 ..... Omaha Fall Reunion (H)  
 Dec 9 ..... Christmas Party & Banquet (L)

### Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month  
 Mar 25, Apr 22, May 27, June 24  
 Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month  
 Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3, June 7  
 Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month  
 Mar 16, Apr 20, June-August (Dark)  
 Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month  
 Mar 21, Apr 18, May 16, June 20

**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  
 John Maxell (Omaha) ..... (402) 342-1300



The next time many Brethren from the Valley of Alliance see our building, you will see the ballroom floor beautifully refinished, the first time since. . . well, long before anyone can remember. Our best guess is that the floor was last refinished in 1955! It looks beautiful. Please thank John Barrett, 32° from Kimball, who did the work.

The carpet has also been replaced in the front reception area just outside the office, and we are now accepting bids for new carpet in the Lodge/theater room upstairs. The father of an Alliance Mason and also the Master Councillor for DeMolay did the carpet work.

We replaced the HVAC about 5 or 6 years ago, and the contractor was Jerad Wilson. His grandfather, Ralph Wood owned the company and was a longtime Scottish Rite Mason. The old unit was practically built in medieval times, so this was an important upgrade. Our building is around a century old (though the theater is believed to have been added in the early 1930s), but it is important that we take great care to keep the building in good working order and not defer any major maintenance.

The Reunion will have taken place by the time you receive this, and I look forward to reporting on our new Scottish Rite brethren in the next edition of the *Scottish Rite Journal*. We will have three candidates. The York Rite bodies had an event at the same time, and we lost a few candidates to that, but they will be with us in the Fall.

As always, we welcome candidates in the Scottish Rite. Please reach out to Master Masons and let them know that the Scottish Rite degrees continue the symbolic and allegorical lessons of the Craft degrees. The Scottish Rite expands the social network of Masons and opens paths to leadership and involvement. If you want to get active with a Scottish Rite degree team or serve as an officer, please e-mail me or reach out. We welcome your involvement, and thank you for your membership.

Gene Gatti, 33°  
 General Secretary  
[gene123@mail.com](mailto:gene123@mail.com)



## Scottish Rite Masons Meet at Ashlar Lodge #33 in Grand Island for March Meeting



Left: Bill Nottage-Tacey, 32° KCCH and Bob Scott, 32° KCCH in front of Ashlar Lodge #33. Right: Jim Horsham, 32° leads an informal Scottish Rite Lodge meeting in March.



The Central Nebraska Scottish Rite met in Grand Island on Tuesday, March 1. Seventeen Scottish Rite Masons and wives enjoyed a great dinner of chicken, mashed potatoes, cole slaw, and biscuits, while Venerable Master Jim Horsham, 32°, held an informal meeting to cover upcoming events and locations for upcoming meetings. The Central Nebraska Valley is planning for a busy year, with upcoming meetings in North Platte, Burwell, and Kearney. Walk for RiteCare is on October 8 at the Hastings Masonic Center.

If you ever have a chance to visit Ashlar Lodge #33, it is well worth the visit. The

Lodge was chartered in 1870, and M.W. Robert C. Jordan dedicated the cornerstone of their Lodge in 1883. A six-story Temple was built at a cost of \$150,000 in 1925. The Lodge lost the building during the Second World War, but regained the building in the 1950s, around 1956 or 1957. Declining membership and attendance led the members to seek selling their Lodge. About 5 or 6 years ago, they purchased a storefront on Third Street, which has been converted into a beautiful Lodge, with a spacious Lodge room, offices, and a kitchen and social space in the back. This was the perfect meeting space for the Scottish Rite during our Grand Island visit!

## 2016 Meeting Schedule

In an effort to involve brethren from around the Central Nebraska Valley, Scottish Rite meetings will continue to host meetings in different towns communities during the year.

Check with the Scottish Rite office for detailed information, but the remainder of the 2016 meetings will tentatively be:

May 3.....	Hastings
June 7.....	North Platte
July 5.....	Hastings
August 2.....	Burwell
September 6.....	Hastings
October 4.....	Hastings
October 8.....	Walk for RiteCare
October 28-29.....	Fall Reunion
November 1.....	Hastings (Feast of Tishri)
December 6.....	Hastings

Walk for RiteCare™

**Saturday, October 8**

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



## Wednesday Lunches

Are you aware of Wednesday lunches at the Hastings Masonic Center, hosted by the Scottish Rite? For \$7, enjoy a great meal and fellowship. Wednesday lunches are open to members, guests, and the public. A relaxed lunch is a great opportunity to introduce a prospective Brother to the members, show them the Lodge building, the RiteCare Clinic, and talk to them about membership.

For questions on Wednesday lunches, call the office at (402) 462-5813.

## THE FISH ARE BITING

- Step 1: Put paper clips on sight word cards.
- Step 2: Go fishing for sight words with magnetic fishing poles.

Everything is so much more fun with magnetic fishing poles!

Thanks to our Nebraska Scottish Rite Masons for the purchase of these magnetic fishing poles!



Sight words are words that are critical to reading because they occur so frequently AND cannot be sounded out. If these words are sounded out by following the sound rules of the English language, they will be misread. They cannot be portrayed in the illustrations of a picture book.

Examples of sight words include: I, a, is, of, to, you, are, that, what. Learning to read these words can be hard, especially for children who struggle with language skills. But learning to recognize these words quickly is the key to opening up a child's world of reading, writing, and learning for life.

Emily Johnson, M.S., CCC-SLP  
RiteCare Clinician (Hastings)  
emily.johnson@unmc.edu

## Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage feed a great success!

Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite held their annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Day on March 17th. It took three days to precook the corned beef to get it ready for the 17th. People showed up to cook on the 17th at 8:30 a.m. and worked through the day until cleanup was finished at 8:30 p.m. It was a long day, but a very satisfying one.

A special thanks to Sandy and Ward Shires, Linda Wood, and Sharon and Merv Moeller for their hard work in the kitchen and the serving line all day. Also helping at various times during the day were Bill Hayes, Hersh Talley, James Batten, Jerry Pigsley, and George McCabe. Thanks also to Bruce Wood and Mike Gray for the signage.

The noon hour was the biggest rush. A lot of our traffic came from the State Office Building. It is always a pleasure and makes it all worthwhile when people say they look forward to it every year. All total, 125 people were served during the day!

We learned a lot and have already started plans for improvement next year. Thanks to everyone who supported this event!



## Work begins to replace aging Scottish Rite HVAC

With the Capital Campaign committee having raised almost \$200,000, significant work has begun on Valley renovation projects. Most notably, a contract was let to replace the aging HVAC system in the lower level. The new system will yield significant monthly utility savings, averaging more than \$1,000/month. With a more comfortable environment and considerable savings, the goal is to raise an additional \$50,000, receive the remaining \$150,000 matching grant and start work on the Great Hall and parking lot

entrance. With the renovations on Centennial Mall finishing next year in time for the state's 150th anniversary of statehood, the Scottish Rite is poised to be a great venue for wedding and corporate rentals. As always, we ask for your support of the Capital Campaign. The Lincoln Scottish Rite Preservation Foundation is participating in Give to Lincoln Day on May 26, and you can donate online through [www.RiteCareNE.org/Lincoln](http://www.RiteCareNE.org/Lincoln). All gifts receive a share of a \$200,000 matching grant.

## Membership Expansion and Engagement

If you missed the February Lodge of Perfection meeting, you missed a LOT! We voted to approve a brand-new website which should help us to drive interest in building rentals, events, and activities. Most exciting to me, the body overwhelmingly approved several motions I laid forth for consideration in January. It's a bit of a list, but I hope you will take the time to read and consider how these changes can help our membership:

**1 - FREE FOOD:** If you bring a man to a lunch or dinner (fundraisers excluded) who is interested in the Scottish Rite, his meal will be free! This gives us each no excuse not to tell our buddy who's interested in Masonry or the Scottish Rite, "Hey, friend, why don't you come down to that big beautiful Scottish Rite building with me - and I can get you fed for free while you meet the guys!" (He only gets this freebie once.)

**2 - CHEAPER DUES:** For each new member of the Scottish Rite whom a brother brings in, he will get a DISCOUNT on his dues. The discount is \$75 minus the age of the member, as our me-

dian age as a group is 75 years old. While our brethren who are rich in years are as worthy and welcome as anyone, the inexorable march of time tells us that this demographic is not sustainable. This program is simply an incentive to bring young as well as old to meet your Scottish Rite brothers. There is also no limit to the discount: a brother who welcomes 20 men to the Rite who are ages 20-30 won't have to pay dues for years!

**3 - GET INVOLVED:** We created two new committees under membership: Expansion (of which I am the Chair, and I would love some volunteers with sales or recruitment experience to join me) and Engagement (for which we still need a dedicated, motivated Brother to serve as Chair). The former will research, develop, and implement plans to expand the Valley (as we do not "recruit," but we expand our group of good and upright men); the latter will engage the membership we currently have, planning events, ideas, and techniques to keep members excited and involved (as we are not a business, we do not have "retention," but we want every brother to feel engaged and truly a part of the Valley).

4 - This isn't an official voted-upon proposal, but it's my own thing. Every Scottish Rite Brother who



Edward Boone, 32°

brings in ten new men to our amazing group will be given the "Roscoe Pound Award for Excellence in Service to the Scottish Rite." He will get a certificate and his name will be placed on a plaque to be hung in the building. This is my donation to the Valley, and as long as my estate ends up with more assets than liabilities, I will provide for the continuation of the award in perpetuity!

PLEASE let me know what you think about these new plans, and PLEASE join me in helping to grow and improve our already outstanding body! You can reach me at [boone.ed@gmail.com](mailto:boone.ed@gmail.com). I need your help and leadership on these new committees, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Edward Boone, 32°  
[boone.ed@gmail.com](mailto:boone.ed@gmail.com)



## No Rest at the 'Rite

March has been a very busy month! We broke a new record and served 190 guests at the first Fish Fry on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 130 on March 18<sup>th</sup>, and 117 on March 25<sup>th</sup>, for a total of 437 guests!

On the 11<sup>th</sup>, Kyle and Amanda Beckner (*right, top*) hosted the Cèilidh Gaelic Beer Tasting, with excellent Irish and Scottish beers and home-made dishes to accompany each beer. On Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Scottish Rite hosted the Daughters of the Nile installation ceremony. That same evening, the Tangier Shrine Mobile Nobles had about 400 guests on-hand for the 357 Dinner. KSA volunteers greeted, bussed tables, and bar-tended during the evening. (Kyle and Amanda were back, working that event, too!) On Sunday, the Scottish Rite's bookkeeper, Marcia Rulla, volunteered her day at the Omaha Bridal show, handing out

rental packages to guests at the Century Link Center.

The Scottish Rite Line Officers met on 14<sup>th</sup>. 70 guests enjoyed Corned Beef and Cabbage on St. Patrick's Day on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and we served 130 on the second Fish Fry on the 18<sup>th</sup>. That same evening, 45 guests enjoyed a five-course meal and sampled exquisite wines at the Spring Wine Tasting. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, we hosted the Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony, and welcomed our dinner speaker, Kate Boulter, lead nurse at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Bio-containment Unit.



*Left: Dick Corwine, 33° portrays Pontius Pilate at Remembrance and Renewal, explaining his reasons for putting Jesus Christ to death and expressing his dire remorse. Bottom photo: 45 guests at the March Wine-Tasting.*

## Ladies Night at the 'Rite

Valentine's Day. Always a lot of pressure to arrange a perfect evening on the most romantic day of year. You try to find a great restaurant, hope you can get a reservation. In the end, you get rushed through dinner to make room for the next seating. And of course, it's expensive.

The Scottish Rite has, of course, found the perfect alternative! Ladies Night at the 'Rite, the annual Valentine's Dinner, held this year on February 15<sup>th</sup>. 120 guests enjoyed a fantastic dinner of chicken marsala, roasted potatoes, steamed fresh vegetable, salad, and rolls prepared by the Culinary Masters.

And what better way to begin the evening than with the Scottish Rite's Ethics program. This night, State Senator Bill Kintner debated Anne Marie Kudlacz of the Refugee Empowerment Center on the issue of immigration. Anne Marie took the position that we can welcome refugees, offer them services, help them find benefits and jobs, and enrich the culture with refugees who become engaged and productive citizens. Senator Kintner did not disagree with those goals, but wanted stricter controls to guarantee that dangerous or radical elements were not coming to Nebraska or taking advantage of social services at the expense of American citizens.

Afterward, guests enjoyed music from Omaha's own Vintage Vocalist Michael Walker, who takes us back to the time when the Rat Pack ruled Las Vegas and crooning was cool. Singing Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, and classic standards, Michael Walker has been our Ladies Night entertainment for several years with great popularity.

The evening culminated with the DeMolay Flower Speech, the message emphasizing the abiding devotion a young man has for his mother. The speech was given by Ian Barchus, and was considered by all to be delivered with absolute perfection. In this beautiful lecture, the new DeMolay is reminded that while he "may rise to positions of great influence in commercial, political or professional life, but you can never reach the heights of your mother's secret hopes for you." Afterward, Scottish Rite Lodge officers presented ladies with boxes of chocolates in appreciation for all they do for us.

Ladies Night at the 'Rite may not be quite as romantic as an expensive dinner, but for a close second, it has become one of the best attended, most popular evenings of the Scottish Rite year!

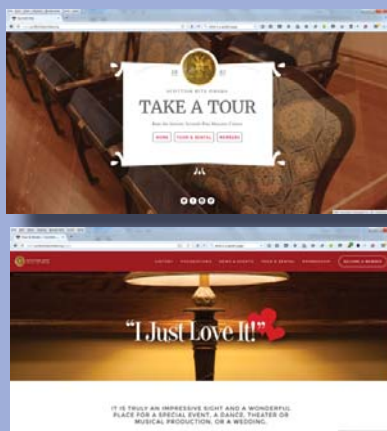
Next year's The Valentine's dinner will be on Monday, February 20, 2017. Don't miss out on a Scottish Rite tradition!



*Top: Michelle and Mark (32°) Pilley with Michael Walker. Middle: Dick (33°) and Kit Corwine, Bottom: Ian Barchus giving DeMolay Flower speech with Kyle Barchus and Mason Lamb, Junior Chancellor of the Omaha Chapter.*

## SCOTTISH RITE UNVEILS REDESIGNED WEBSITE

It seems to be an axiom among Masons that we never change, never adapt to the times, and somehow the expression “...that’s the way we’ve always done it” comes up. That may often be the case, but the Omaha Valley Scottish Rite has always taken great efforts to stay up to date with our technology.



The Scottish Rite website - [www.ScottishRiteOmaha.org](http://www.ScottishRiteOmaha.org) - has undergone numerous changes since it was first registered in 1996. Several considerations came into play driving the latest updates,

which have taken over a year of work with Adventure Studios.

First, the website had to be responsive to different browsers and devices. We no longer live in an age where most work is done on a desktop computer running Windows. The website had to work on Chrome, Safari, Explorer, Firefox, and other browsers. It also had to be adaptive, to work on smart phones, tablets, laptop, or desktop computer. With more people using their phones or tablets to surf the web on the go, a website has to work well or they give up and go elsewhere.

Second, we needed more flexible credit card processing, allowing members to easily donate, buy tickets, or make reservations through their phone, tablets, etc.

Last, we wanted something that made learning about rentals easier. The splash page, which members see first, gives guests the option of learning about the fraternity, membership, or rentals. Looking at the statistics, most guests use our website to learn about building rentals. Since this is a major source of revenue for the Valley, making rental information easy is essential.

Take some time and check out the website at [www.ScottishRiteOmaha.org](http://www.ScottishRiteOmaha.org). And keep your eyes open for similar changes at [www.ScottishRiteLincoln.org](http://www.ScottishRiteLincoln.org), as well!

## Dr. Karoly Mirnics Hired to Lead UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute

Following a nationwide search, Karoly Mirnics, M.D., Ph.D., has accepted the position of director of the Munroe-Meyer Institute. He will begin this July. Dr. Mirnics succeeds J. Michael Leibowitz, Ph.D., who retired in late 2015.

“The Munroe-Meyer Institute is a very important part of UNMC’s mission,” said UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D. “Dr. Mirnics brings an extraordinary degree of experience to this important role, and under his guidance, I am sure we will see MMI expand on its already impressive accomplishments in research, education and clinical care. The RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics are part of the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute.



**Dr. Karoly Mirnics, M.D., Ph.D.**  
*Director of the Munroe-Meyer Institute*

The Scottish Rite had a hand in the selection of Dr. Mirnics. Because of his long involvement with Munroe-Meyer as a Board member, Curt Edic, 33<sup>rd</sup> was asked to join the UNMC Search Committee.

In addition to Curt, the committee consisted of Department Deans and Chairs, representative parents of children using the facilities, and the Munroe-Meyer Foundation President. The committee first decided to select a National Search Company to specialized in hiring doctors, deans and chairs of medical facilities. Each committee member was interviewed to determine what the vision of Munroe-Meyer Institute should be. There are 17 different medical practices involved.

Ten candidates were narrowed down to seven and then down to four. Two final candidates were presented to the Chancellor. He asked Dr. Karoly Mirnics, Ph.D., a doctor with research in disability development research at Vanderbilt University to take the position of Director of MMI, which he accepted.

Dr. Mirnics has a long record of working with children with disabilities. He even helped

set up a musical number at the Country Western Music Awards for children with Autism to sing with country singer Darius Rucker.

It was the Search Committee’s decision that Dr. Mirnics brought the most ability and vision to lead MMI into the future. Dr. Mirnics is married and has a teenage daughter, who will attend school in Omaha.

Karoly obtained his M.D. degree from University of Novi Sad School of Medicine in the former Yugoslavia in 1986 and his Ph.D. degree from Semmelweis University in Budapest, Hungary. He arrived as a postdoctoral fellow to the University of Pittsburgh in 1990. In 2006 his laboratory moved to the Department of Psychiatry at Vanderbilt University. He currently serves as the departmental Vice-Chair for Research and Associate Director of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center. His research focuses on gene expression patterns of human brain disorders, where he is trying to understand the mechanisms by which various environmental influences and immune system activation affect the developing brain and predispose to disease.



## joe's story: Another RiteCare Success

Through the Nebraska RiteCare Speech and Language Clinic at Munroe-Meyer Institute, the Scottish Rite Masons have blessed our son, Joe (age 5), with the invaluable gift of effective verbal communication. Before receiving services, Joe (then age 4) struggled to verbally communicate with his family, educators, and peers. As his parents, we could only understand about 30% of his speech in a known context and 10% in an unknown context. This wasn't acceptable to him or us. Initially, Joe used a picture book to communicate and though it helped immensely, we knew that with the right people and tools he could achieve one of our major goals: effective verbal communication.

We learned about RiteCare after being referred to the Munroe-Meyer Institute by our pediatrician. We immediately applied for the program, knowing these were the people and tools that we were looking for!



RiteCare clinician Leslie VanWinkle and Joe

Once Joe began the speech therapy program at MMI, our hopes were confirmed. His speech and language therapist, Leslie, was a perfect match for Joe! She understood and shared our goals for Joe and remained focused on achieving those goals. Joe's progress didn't come overnight. It took commitment from everyone involved (Leslie, parents, family, teachers, therapists, and Joe) but after a year of consistent efforts, we can now say that Joe is effectively talking to EVERYONE!!! Upon completion of the RiteCare services, someone unfamiliar with Joe can understand 60% of his speech in known context and 30% in an unknown context. This has enabled him to function the best he ever has at school.

Overall, we believe that because of this invaluable gift of verbal communication, our son is happier and more confident. Joe has a brighter future because of our experience

and we could not be more grateful for the opportunity that was given to our family by the Scottish Rite Masons.

*Grant & Jessica Pelster  
RiteCare parents*

### a new arrival



Congratulations to Lincoln RiteCare Clinician, Carrie Kenny. Carrie and husband Chris welcomed a new addition to their family.

Connor Lucas Kenny was born December 20, 2015. Carrie took some time off to be with her beautiful son, but she is back at the Lincoln RiteCare Clinic, working with children at the Barkley Memorial Center on the UNL East Campus.

### Membership, *continued*

and had to stand in the hallway. The Master of his Lodge became choked up during the service, and no one there was unmoved by the experience.

His family confided to us that his personal growth as a person, a Man, and as a leader were in largely due to his warm welcome and involvement in our gentle Craft. The fraternity closed ranks to embrace Tom and his wife, and even after two months, I am not ashamed of the tear in my own eye as I think of my friend.

His personal story may not be relevant to you, but the larger issue of his life ought to be of great importance to us as Masons! In his own way, he chipped away the rough edges of his life in his effort to symbolically become a more Perfect Ashlar. And his great strides in that direction made him much beloved by all.

The question is not how you are being a better man, but how are you helping another Brother, possibly a new Mason himself, seek his own Perfect Ashlar? Are you moving outside your comfort zone to welcome a new brother you don't know too well to make him feel accepted and engaged in your Lodge? Are you helping him find his role as an officer, a leader, a volunteer? Are you making sure his wife feels equally welcome and that her husband is someone trusted and valued?

It is human nature that we sit with our friends in Lodge. Yet it takes a certain personality to stick his hand out and greet the new guy and sit with him, when it's just easier - it's just natural - to sit with your friends instead.

Being the gregarious man he was, Tom made a point that among the first words new Scottish Rite Brethren heard were, "Hello, my name is Tom Begley." A lot of new brethren have found a warm welcome and a place in the Scottish Rite because of Tom's warm welcome. That is a heck of a legacy to leave, and one that will pay dividends for years to come!

*Masonry brought out a light in Tom, his wife said.  
How are you bringing a light out in new members?*

Tom might not be here, but his spirit and attitude lives on in the hearts and minds of those who knew him, and more importantly, in the hearts and minds of those who continue his legacy of welcome and involvement. We should all take those lessons to our own Lodges and Valleys so that future generations of men may find their own place in our fraternity.

## FORGING A RELATIONSHIP TO OUR PHILANTHROPY

If you maintain a social media account like Facebook or Twitter, you are bombarded with the daily musings of family, kids or grandchildren, friends, and some near-strangers who happen to “friend” you. At least for me, posts run the gamut from endless game requests or political posts to the overly personal posts with photos of what friends had for breakfast or lunch.

It can be overwhelming.

In an age, where anyone can be your “friend” with a click of a button, building a real relationship is tougher. Building relationships is essentially what Freemasons do, and

we do this on the retail level, one brother at a time, “hand-to-back and mouth-to-ear.” The Scottish Rite also makes friends at a slightly more wholesale level with Reunions bringing in anywhere from 3 to 20 guys at a time, but essentially on a Brother-to-Brother basis.

When men become active in their Lodge or at the Scottish Rite, Shrine or York Rite, they become more than Brothers, but friends. That’s where the relationship between men and the fraternity is truly forged.

Building a personal relationship between you and Masonic philanthropy is the challenge for Freemasons, particularly when you are bombarded with fliers asking for your support. This is why we make every effort to include stories - particularly moving ones, I think - in each edition of the *Scottish Rite Journal* and include speakers at events or dinners or meetings. I hope you will really listen to their stories and think about how a Mother can hear her son or daughter say “I love you” for the first time and be moved.

Even if you do not identify with their story, you should think about how YOU made this happen for the child. A teacher was recognized for excellence or a student was able to realize his or her college

dreams because YOU supported your Scottish Rite philanthropies. When you pass down the street and see the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, you should proudly think about how the roof is being repaired or the furnace replaced because YOU choose to support YOUR fraternity.

When you get the letter for the Century Club, the Capital Campaign, the Walk for RiteCare or the RiteCare Classic - and even for the Shriners Hospitals for Children or the Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children - please take a moment to think about

your relationship to our philanthropies. It can be impersonal like so much of what we see online through social media, or you can choose to make your relationship with our philanthropies a personal one. After all, you are the owner!

★ ★ ★ ★



You have heard a lot in the *Scottish Rite Journal* as well as in the Nebraska supplement about *Celebrating the Craft* on May 21, 2016.

Participation is easy - events are planned in each Valley to watch *Celebrating the Craft*, including a Walk and dinner in the Lincoln Valley and a prime-rib banquet at the Omaha Valley for a \$25/person donation. Or simply log on to [www.scottishrite.org](http://www.scottishrite.org) and watch online, beginning at 5 p.m. (CST).

Every donation supports RiteCare therapy and programs here in Nebraska as well as renovations at the Scottish Rite House of the Temple in Washington, D.C. Once finished, our national headquarters will be the pre-eminent museum of Masonic history in the nation. Donations are 100% tax-deductible, and create a long-term impact both on our philanthropy and our ability to share our story with future generations.



*How do you create real relationships when we are bombarded with impersonal social media messages?*

**SCOTTISH RITE** JOURNAL  
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“Your dues change the light bulbs.  
Your donations change the world.”

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