



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

January-February, 2016 • Volume VI, Issue 1

## Features:

Fall Reunions welcome new Scottish Rite Masons

KCCH and 33° Scottish Rite Masons honored in October conferrals

Central Nebraska Scottish Rite hosts Feast of Tishri

RiteCare news and updates

*... and much more!*



**Omaha Scottish Rite commissions and dedicates a hand painted mural. See page 5 for story.**

## Membership

In the 19th century, one way businesses demonstrated their viability and strength was through their company's letterhead. Stationery featured their factory belching smoke, their offices in New York, London, and Boston, a description of their wares, and the firm's prominent directors and officers.

Advertising, too, went for the bigger-is-better approach, and right through the 1950s, you couldn't pick up a magazine without a flowing description of a product and its benefits, with every font, photo, picture, or drawing crammed into the advertisement for good measure.

But in the 1960s, all this changed. Branding consultants did away with this old image and went for the less-is-more approach. The International Amalgamated Widget Company, Ltd. might have been

renamed WidgeCo and their logo reflected that simplicity with a bold Helvetica font. Lufthansa, J.C. Penny, and so many others adopted bold but graphically simple logos. Advertisements became simple: just a picture of a product and a slogan: "Coke. It's the real thing." Remember "Volkswagen: Think Small" ads, which began in 1959?

Masonry followed suit. We demonstrated the strength of our fraternity with mighty buildings, extraordinary theaters, lavish pageantry, parades with literally thousands of Shriners marching down the street in elaborate costumes. Knights Templar awarded extraordinary silver platters for drill competition, and cost was no object!

By the latter decades of the 20th century, Masons also scaled back, though more out of necessity than conscious choice. We sold



off many of our buildings, consolidated Lodges, and thousands joining our Lodges trickled down to hundreds. Simplicity became the watchword. Even the long-form Q&A section of the degrees became the short-form members learn today.

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## Orient Calendar

Jan 6, 13, 20, 27 .....	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Jan 7, 14, 21, 28 .....	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Jan 23.....	Robert Burns Dinner (L)
Jan 29.....	Scotch Tasting (O)
Feb 2-4 .....	Grand Lodge Annual Communication Kearney, Nebraska (Younes Conference Center)
Feb 3, 10, 17, 24 .....	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Feb 4, 11, 18, 25 .....	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 .....	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 .....	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
Mar 11-12 .....	Hastings Spring Reunion (H)
April 1-2.....	Scottish Rite Leadership Workshop (Phoenix, AZ)
April 1-2.....	Lincoln Spring Reunion (L)
Apr 6, 13, 20, 27 .....	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
Apr 7, 14, 21, 28 .....	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)
April 8-9.....	Alliance Spring Reunion (A)
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
May 21.....	Celebrating the Craft (statewide)
June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.....	Weds Masonic Lunch (H)
June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.....	Thurs Masonic Lunch (L)

### Lodge of Perfection meetings:

Alliance, 4th Friday of each month  
Jan 22, Feb 26, Mar 25, Apr 22, May 27

Hastings, 1st Tuesday of each month  
Jan 5, Feb 2, Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3

Lincoln, 3rd Wednesday of each month  
Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 16, Apr 20, May 18

Omaha, 3rd Monday of each month  
Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 21, Apr 18, May 16

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

## QUILT RAFFLE



John Barrett, 32°, Kevin Spencer, 32° presenting the quilt to Don Loos, 33°, and Frank Wooden, 32° KCCF

For the past few months, the Scottish Rite has hosted a group of ladies who meet each month to sew projects. They donated a beautiful, handmade quilt. The Valley of Alliance raffled off the quilt, raising \$700



for the RiteCare telemedicine clinic and the cost of high speed internet for the satellite clinic in Alliance. The drawing was held on November 20 at the Lodge of Perfection meeting. Don Loos, 33°, was the proud winner of the quilt.

Please call Gene Gatti, 33° at the Alliance Masonic Center if you would like to support RiteCare or to get involved in the Alliance Valley.







## Congratulations to our new Brother!

Our new Brother Doyle Daiss, 32° with the Thirtieth Degree team: Roger Deiningner 32° KCCH, Danny Nonneman, 32°, and Scott Krieger, 33°.

The Central Nebraska Scottish Rite welcomed Brother Doyle Daiss, 32° in the November 21 One-Day Reunion. We began with breakfast prepared by Bill Carson, 32° KCCH and Mike Small, 33°. After morning degrees, members enjoyed soup and sandwiches as RiteCare Clinician Emily Johnson gave a program on the Clinics.

After the 32° performed by Kearney Scottish Rite Masons, many members sat down in the ballroom for refreshments and caught up on the football game. Doyle was greatly impressed with the degree teams and is looking forward to becoming active in the Scottish Rite. Please ask your Blue Lodge members to consider Scottish Rite membership. Our Spring Reunion is currently scheduled for March 11-12, 2016.

## Scottish Rite Masons Celebrate Feast of Tishri

Twenty-five Scottish Rite Masons and guests came together on November 3 to celebrate the bonds of brotherhood at the Feast of Tishri. As Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh, 32° explained, the Feast of Tishri has its origins in the Jewish feast of Sukkot, held during the Jewish month of Tishri. Sukkot was one of the mandatory feasts commanded by the Lord commemorating the temporary shelters used by the Jews during their wandering in the desert. The feast has its origins as a fall harvest festival, representing renewed fellowship with God. For Masons, the Feast of Tishri is a symbolic time to renew our fellowship with ourselves and our fraternity.

The Feast of Tishri also commemorates the dedication of Solomon's Temple, an

edifice of particular interest to us as Freemasons. For Masons, WE are the Temple; we are the stones and our mystic bond the cement.

After introductions by our Master of Ceremonies, Bill Nottage-Tacey, 32° KCCH and a welcome by Bob Scott, 32° KCCH, Dan offered a Hebrew blessing. We started with a spinach dill and onion sop, or dip, with fresh pita. Afterward, Bill served an excellent creamed lentil and leek soup. Chef Monte Malouf, 33° outdid himself with a perfect prime rib. As sides, Bill prepared a red salad with romaine, red onions, cabbage, radishes, and picked beets with raspberry balsamic vinaigrette.

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## Projects at Masonic Center Have a Huge Impact on Building's Functionality in the Community



Jim shows off the area for RiteCare kids, which can open up to reveal access to an Order of the Eastern Star closet.

The Central Nebraska Scottish Rite at Hastings owes a big Thank You to Jim Horsham, 32° who built a play area for the RiteCare children across from the Clinic on the lower level. Covering a small stairwell leading to an Order of the Eastern Star supply room, children can read or play in this quiet nook by day. At night, Eastern Star members can simply pull up a hinged "trap door" to reveal the stairs and doorway and access their regalia and supplies!

Jim has also taken a great deal of time bringing the museum items from the lower level ballroom to the fourth floor and setting up a museum to recognize the history of Hastings two Lodges, Scottish Rite, Te-hama Shrine, Eastern Star, youth groups, and the Past Grand Masters. This freed up considerable room in the ballroom for sitting and meeting space, which will hopefully help make the building more attractive for rentals or public events.



With the museum moved to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, the ballroom offers considerably more usable space. Below: Joseph Seacrest's cap as SGIG (1950-1971).





**Congratulations to our new brethren in the Lincoln Fall 2015 Reunion  
November 6-7, 2015**

**Back Row:** Bruce Watkins, 32° KCCH, Steve Green, 33°, Dennis Brydl, 33°, Bruce Wood, 33° **Middle Row:** James Batten, 32° KCCH, Don Gray, 32° KCCH, Eric Bachenberg, 32°, Pat Gray, 32°, Todd Tinnear, 32° KCCH, and Ray Dimick, 32° KCCH **Front Row:** Michael Gray, 33°, Nick Furchert, 32°, Cory Blakemore, 32°, Bill Nelson, 33°, Tom Greenlee, 32° KCCH, Steve Busboom, 32°

THE LINCOLN SCOTTISH RITE PRESENTS

*Burns Night*

**Saturday, January 23, 2016**

Celebrate the birthday of Scotland's favorite son and poet laureate, Robert Burns, with dinner, bagpipe music, poetry, and a silent auction benefitting the RiteCare Clinics.

Reservations Requested  
Tickets are \$25/person



**October, 2015 - Personal Representative Mike Gray, 33°-elect presents Ed Boone, 32°, with his Scottish Rite Letter of Patent. Ed joined in the Fall, 2014 Reunion.**

The Scottish Rite Cathedral was dedicated before a crowd of 1,500 the following year on February 22, 1917!

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## Preparation for Lincoln Valley's *Centennial Reunion* (1916-2016)

dral at the corner of 15th and L Street, designed by famed architect and Brother Ellery Davis. Grand Orator Henry H. Wilson remarked "Within this cathedral which shall rest on this cornerstone, young men of generations yet unborn shall be taught. . . that he is most successful who best serves his generation and mankind."

**N**inety-nine years ago, on August 6, 1916, the M.W. Grand Lodge of Nebraska dedicated the Scottish Rite Cath-

## Paper or Plastic?

**T**he Lincoln Valley Scottish Rite took advantage of a unique fundraising opportunity offered by SuperSaver Grocery Stores in Lincoln. It is available to local nonprofit groups who benefit the community. On Saturdays from May through October they provide grilled hot dogs, brats, or pulled pork sandwiches along with chips and a drink for \$2. The Scottish Rite provided volunteers to serve from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They got to keep all the proceeds. During three Saturday sessions, the Scottish Rite raised a total of \$870!

Consistory and Lodge of Perfection officers took care of these fundraisers in 2015. Working at two or more of the sessions were Merv and Sharon Moeller, Ward and Sandy Shires, Jerry Pigsley, Don Gray, Eric Bachenberg and Keith Simonson. The participating Lincoln SuperSaver stores were located at 27th and Cornhusker, and 56th and Highway 2. In addition to providing the food, SuperSavers also paid \$2 for each of their employees who ate lunch that day. We very much appreciate their helping the local groups support their philanthropies in this way!



**Don Gray, Merv and Sharon Moeller, Ward Shires (pictured above), as well as Jerry Pigsley, Keith Simonson, and Bruce Wood were on-hand on October at Super Saver on 48th and O Street to sell hotdogs as a Scottish Rite fundraiser.**

by Merv Moeller, 32° KCCH  
Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection  
mlmoe41@yahoo.com



## Pacific Life Foundation Supports RiteCare with \$5,000 Gift



Mike O'Donnell, 32°, is presented a check by the Pacific Life Foundation for \$5,000 for RiteCare services. Mike worked on a grant, describing how speech-language services helped him as a child, and how the Scottish Rite's RiteCare Clinics serve children today. The gift from Pacific Life will support approximately 50 sessions of therapy at Nebraska's clinics through the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska!

## Valley of Omaha Fall 2015 Reunion Welcomes 10 New Scottish Rite Masons



*"Larry J. Zwart, 33° Memorial Class"*

November 19, 20, 21, 2015

Top Row: A.J. Johnson, 33°, Paul Rutherford, 33°, Chuck Sohm, 32° KCCH, *Brandon Kirby, 32°, Ralph M. Burch, 32°, Carl Simmons, 32°, Dillon Hadcock, 32°, Daniel Whitlow, 32°, Jeffrey Coleman, 32° KCCH. Middle Row: Eric Van Sky, 32°, Thomas Wilcoxson, 32°, Brandon Kirby, 32°, Joshua Shirley, 32°, Virgil Johnson, 32°, Chris Nigro, 32° KCCH, Rick Gilmore, 33°, Bottom Row: Jim Leedham, 33°, Armel MacDonald, 32° KCCH, R.W. Dennis Rix, 32° KCCH, Curt Edic, 33°, Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, Frank Kroupa, 33°, M.W. John Maxell, 33°, Dick Corwine, 33°, Mel Morton, 32° KCCH, Chris Carter, 32° KCCH*

## Writing on the Wall Omaha Valley Dedicates Painted Mural



On October 24, the Valley of Omaha dedicated a mural painted on the west side of the Scottish Rite, along the parking garage wall.

The mural was the fruit of several months of discussion about how to continue to beautify the Scottish Rite and integrate the historic building into the fabric of downtown Omaha. Past projects outside the building include "the Ashlars," a stylistic representation of the rough and perfect ashlar by local artist Charles V. Fisher, dedicated in May, 2013. Additionally, the Scottish Rite built a new sign in material matching the limestone exterior with a digital LED display (middle photo), promoting upcoming events and activities.

The task of creating the picturesque scene

went to Virginia-based Bulgarian-native Ivo Koytchev. This is his second collaboration with Scottish Rite. The partnership was engineered by interior designer and artist Sandra Lassley from Fe-Fi-Faux Studios. In 2014, Lassley brought Koytchev to Omaha to help her restore the Grand Cross Conference Room, including redecorating its ornate, gold-leaf crown molding and ceiling, dedicated at the Fall 2014 Reunion.

Since coming to the United States in 1989, Koytchev has received numerous commissions in the Washington, D.C. for his murals, including a three-story-tall portrait of Elizabeth Taylor that towers over a beer garden in the northwest part of the district! The Scottish Rite painting of an idyllic garden scene includes two Ionic columns representing the Scottish Rite's forty-foot



exterior columns, and a few nods to our Masonic degree work, which the viewer is left to discover for himself. Ivo also recommended, which the Board approved, a commission to paint clouds on the ceiling of the second floor hallway, adding a beautiful element to the floor. Ivo says the paint is guaranteed to last for at least 100 years.

The Scottish Rite finished the project with landscaping, benches and lighting to the lawn. The project is part of an ongoing effort by the Scottish Rite to make the exterior of its historic, 101 year-old building more inviting. General Secretary Curt Edic, 33°, noted that the beautiful painting may inspire wedding rentals, draw attention to the Scottish Rite, and ultimately help draw interest and membership.



## 32° KCCH and 33° HONORS ARE CONFERRED ON NEBRASKA SCOTTISH RITE MASONS



*Pocket jewel of a 33° Inspector General*

Every two years, the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite votes to confer the highest honors on a small number of Scottish Rite Masons, recognizing their service and leadership within the fraternity.

Thirty-one brethren in the Valleys of Alliance, Hastings, Lincoln, and Omaha were invested with the Knight Commander of the Court of Honor on Friday, October 23 at the Lincoln Scottish Rite. After a beautiful public investiture ceremony, the

new KCCH 'red hats' were honored at a banquet as General Secretaries from each Valley presented the new 32° KCCH recipients with their patents from the Supreme Council.

On Saturday, October 24, the Omaha Valley Scottish Rite began the day with a brunch hosted by the Royal Order of Scotland. Afterward, guests joined Cathedral Board President Frank Kroupa, 33°, Charles V. Sederstrom, Jr., 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General for Nebraska, Personal Representative to the SGIG Paul Rutherford, 33°, and General Secretary Curt Edic, 33° as they cut a ceremonial ribbon, dedicating the new mural to the membership. At 4 p.m., the Valley conferred the 33° Inspector General Honorary on eighteen recipients, followed by a great banquet.

After presenting the new 33° Scottish Rite Masons their patents, the SGIG and Personal Representatives surprised guests by announcing the Scottish Rite Distinguished Mason

Award. This year, John Ferguson, 33° recognized Robert Phillip, 33°, for his years of active service to the Scottish Rite! Two brethren helped pay for Bob's Scottish Rite degrees - if he served on the stage crew for Reunions. Bob has been with the stage crew ever since, missing only 3 Reunions since 1946!

Personal Representative George White, 33°, of Hastings presented the next award to



*Hastings brethren in Lincoln for the KCCH conferral on Friday, October 23, 2015.*

## Fight at the 'Rite III: Come for the debate. . .stay for the dinner!



Thanks to the work of Lee Terry, Sr., 33°, the Valley of Omaha Scottish Rite has been treated to some extraordinary debates as part of our Ethics Series. In September, Gambling with the Good Life executive director Pat Loontjer debated TV and radio personality Tom Becka on the merits of allowing legalized gambling in Nebraska. In October, State Senators Merv Riepe and Tommy Garrett debated the whether medical marijuana is harmful to persons or provides relief to those with medical conditions. In November, Lee Terry and Hal Daub treated members and guests to fireworks, as they debated the need for a national Constitutional Convention.



*TV and radio personality Tom Becka makes a strong argument for legalized gambling in Nebraska at the September Lodge of Perfection meeting.*

Forty to fifty Scottish Rite Masons usually attend the debate, filling the small dining room. Great questions and continued discussion always follow the debates, which are always lively but never mean-spirited, and always stimulate thinking about a difficult ethical issue facing lawmakers. Ethics debate and the Spring Ethics on Trial program are part of the Valley of Omaha Scottish Rite's mission of serving as a center of ethical thinking. If you are interested in thought-provoking debate about topics our law-makers face, stop by the Scottish Rite for the debate. . . and stay for an excellent Lodge dinner afterward!

## 2015 Honors, continued. . .

M.W. Les Seiler, 33° for his leadership and service, including his current service to the (fittingly) 33rd legislative district as state Senator in the Nebraska unicameral.

Mike Gray, 33°, Personal Representative for the Valley of Lincoln, presented an award to M.W. Ken Beebe, 33° for his service on Reunion degree teams, as Personal Representative, and many years of leadership. Paul Rutherford, 33°, Personal Representative for the Valley of Omaha recognized M.W. Charlie Amidon, 33° for his service as Class Director, Board member, Grand Master, President, Volunteer, and Trustee for the Omaha Home for Boys, years and years of degree work, and so much more. Last, Orient Representative M.W. Dean Skokan, 33° presented an award to Curt Edic, 33° for his years as General Secretary and years - decades! - of service to the Valley of Omaha. All the recipients were received to standing ovations for services far too long to adequately mention.

In a long list of special moments, a few deserve special mention. Geoffrey Phillip received from Alliance received his 32° KCCH, joining Walt, Bob, Don, and Scott

Phillip as Alliance Valley honor men. They represent the largest family contingent of Scottish Rite honors men in the Southern Jurisdiction. Jack Lorenzen received his 33° Saturday, joining his "little brother" M.W. Phil Lorenzen as Inspectors General! James Henry Ferguson received his 32° KCCH this Friday as well, joining his father John and grandfather, our late Grand Master James L. "Sonny" Eatmon, as honors men in the Alliance Valley Scottish Rite.

The 32° KCCH and 33° are awarded by vote of the Supreme Council every other year before the Biennial Session. Only a small percentage of Scottish Rite Masons receive these honors, so please congratulate our 2015 recipients!



*Photos: (1) Bob Phillip receiving the Distinguished Scottish Rite Mason Award. (2) Les Seiler receiving the award. (3) 33° Brothers M.W. Phil Lorenzen and Jack Lorenzen. (4) James Ferguson receiving KCCH patent from Gene Gatti, Chuck Sederstrom, and parents John and Liz Ferguson.*

## Membership, continued

By the internet age, companies turned to relationship-based marketing to promote their name. You can't visit a website without being asked to "like" their Facebook page, subscribe to their newsletter, or participate via a loyalty club card program (think of grocery store cards, which offer special promotions or discounts for card-holders). Social marketing keeps companies and customers connected 24/7/365, opening up instantaneous interaction and dialogue, offering direct feedback from consumers.

Could Freemasonry learn from these trends. Why can't our Membership card be as equally relevant as the grocery store's card? How can we develop a relationship with individual members and provide more dynamic communication?

To an extent, we have. E-mails, FreemasonNetwork.org, SR Chirp, Facebook, Twitter, and social media give us numerous opportunities to communicate in



*Is this the kind of in-your-face promotion we really want for Freemasonry?*

nearly real-time with one another. Never before in Freemasonry have so many brethren from around the nation been able to connect and exchange ideas!

But to a large extent, Freemasonry can't compete with the marketing world, both to our benefit and to our detriment. Television and radio advertising are a costly scatter gun approach, barely reaching the target audience. Freemasonry still lives in a world

of "hand to back" and "mouth to ear" communication, and the personal contact with members is tried and true.

We can't compete with wholesale mass media communication, the 24/7, always-on, everywhere and anywhere marketing world. So let's go back to the old school way of promoting ourselves. I don't mean we let our letterhead do the talking. Instead, let's let Brotherhood itself do the talking. If we can't compete with today's 24/7 advertising, let's carry ourselves with the dignity and self-respect our Craft deserves. Let's be our own marketing campaign. When men see you walking down the street, they see a walking billboard of what Freemasonry is about.

Come to think of it, what could be a better representation of always-on, 24/7, interactive method of advertising Freemasonry than a Freemason whose very actions and carriage serve as better advertising than we could ever purchase!





Denise and Jeff Gehringer with son Jacob. Inset: Curt presents the Friend of Scottish Rite award.

## *Friends of Scottish Rite* DINNER & AUCTION

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner and Auction on October 9, 2015 an event which supports the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics, Ethics on Trial, UNO scholarships as well as the House of the Temple Preservation Foundation. David Meinzer, 32°, served as Chairman for the Friends committee this year.

120 guests bid on more than 100 extraordinary silent and live auction items, including a Churchill Downs VIP horse racing package and an exotic supercar driving experience in Las Vegas, a drumhead autographed by the Rolling Stones, condo stays, an airplane ride, fine wines, jewelry and art. About \$30,000 was raised for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Omaha this year through tickets, auctions, and donations, which benefit the philanthropies of our Foundation. \$4,000 will be shared with the House of the Temple His-

toric Preservation Foundation, Inc. to renovate our historic headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The Scottish Rite honored RiteCare parents Denise Gehringer and Patty Kircher as the 2015 Friends of Scottish Rite award recipients. Past recipients have included RiteCare clinicians Beth Hughes, Paul Laikko, and Marsha Sullivan, as well as Scottish Rite Masons Hal Daub, 33°, Bruce Buehler, 33°, and Del Weber, 33°.

Denise Gehringer has been engaged with RiteCare for 18 years when her son Jacob first came to the clinic on his second birthday. Since then, Denise has been an advocate for all individuals with disabilities, taking a leading role with many organizations including the Down Syndrome Alliance of the Midlands, the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute Board, Nebraska State Soccer, and the TOPS Soccer program, a league for

for children of all abilities. Denise is program coordinator at the Ollie Webb Center, where she runs programs for teens and young adults with disabilities.

Patty Kircher and her daughter Hope have been a part of RiteCare for almost 10 years. Patty has been a generous supporter of RiteCare through support for the WalkRite for RiteCare committees, the Friends of



Kristi and Matt Vandergriff and Shirley and Joe Evans



Scottish Rite Dinner, and with her husband Chris, they have been active in the Omaha community. Most recently, Patty and Chris served as Honorary Chairs for the American Red Cross.

After Curt Edic presented the awards to Denise and Patty, Amy Nordness, Ph.D., Director of Nebraska's RiteCare program, surprised Curt with a presentation honoring and thanking him, to a standing ovation, for over twenty years' service to the RiteCare program.

Access 66 catered the evening, serving an excellent kale caesar salad, beef tenderloin and chicken saltimbocca with prosciutto and gruyere, and a sweet corn risotto, followed by a chocolate mousse torte. For the third year, the Friends Dinner featured a hosted wine tasting with six extraordinary cabernets, zinfandels, and chardonnays, and four exquisite Scotches.

The Knights of St. Andrew provided support for the evening, bartending, helping host the Scotch and wine tastings, and monitoring the auctions. Randy Fleming, 32° and Great Plains Auction Company supported the registration and check out with expertise in running the live auction.

The Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner is also indebted to the students from the UNO Nebraska Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA), who were on-hand to help during the evening, serving wine, hors d'oeuvres and volunteering during the live auction.

In addition to raising funds for the Scottish Rite philanthropies, the dinner has been a catalyst for membership. Several guests have petitioned Lodges and joined Freemasonry. The evening is a great event to introduce potential members to other Masons and the philanthropies we serve.

Next year's dinner is scheduled for **October 9, 2015**. If you are interested in serving on the Friends of Scottish Rite committee or donating items for the auction, please e-mail micah@SRNE.org.



**Brenda Coleman and Kristi Vandergriff were in charge of decorations and centerpieces.**



**Thanks to the members of NSSLHA for supporting the Friends Dinner each year!**



**Charlie (33°) and Connie Marchand at the Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner and Auction.**

## Hastings Scottish Rite Celebrates Feast of Tishri

*...Continued from page 3*

Bill also prepared a fantastic dish of roasted sweet potatoes, cauliflower, green beans with crusted parmesan top. For dessert, mixed Mediterranean fruits were served over a citrus cake, topped with whipped cream. No one went away without having enough to eat!

After Dan's speech about the origins and history of the Festival of Sukkot, Dan offered a blessing of the wine and lighting of the menorah. Bill Nottage-Tacey led the traditional toasts, with brethren offering additional toasts made in honor of our guests, our ladies, and to our departed brethren.

The Feast of Tishri is definitely an evening not to miss. Mark your calendars now for next year and plan to be here for a fantastic dinner and a great evening to rededicate yourself to your brethren and fraternity!

*Photos: 1) Chef Monte Malouf, 33°, 2) Dan Deffenbaugh, 32° discusses the history of the Festival of Sukkot, 3) George White, 33° proposes a toast, 4) Phil (33°) and Dana Odom enjoy the feast*





## RiteCare . . . *making a difference*

### RiteCare welcomes new clinician to Hastings.

**M**y name is Kris Althouse, and I am the newest member of the Hastings RiteCare Clinic. I am very excited and honored to join the team! I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in 2001 and Master of Arts degree in 2003, both from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.



Birth-to-3 and speech therapy in the schools in Iowa, assisting with Developmental Feeding Assessments in the NICU and starting a Pediatric Feeding Team, pediatric therapy in the hospital and private practice settings, as well as adult acute care and skilled nursing facility settings.

I grew up on a dairy farm in Northwest Iowa, and after high school I was planning on pursuing a Veterinary Medicine degree before Speech Pathology took me down another path! I spent two seasons working at a resort in Custer State Park in South Dakota's Black Hills before returning to finish my degrees.

My clinical experiences include providing

My husband, Paul, and I have two children, Shannon (6) and Austin (2) and we live on a cattle farm about 30 miles east of Hastings, near Saronville, Nebraska. I love helping on the farm with livestock and crops, especially haying (we have a custom hay company), gardening, crafts, and the outdoors.

I am excited to join the talented group of RiteCare Speech Pathologists!

## EMMETT'S SUCCESSFUL SPEECH STORY

**A**s first time parents five years ago, my husband and I were perhaps somewhat unknowing of the developing work of a speech-language pathologist. It was when our son Emmett was about 18 months of age, we were told by another parent that he should have been talking more than he was. At that point, we didn't think much of the "sounds" he was making because we knew what he wanted and what he meant. We also never received any warning of speech concerns from the pediatrician and were told to "just give it time." After giving it some thought, we went forth with initial speech testing, and Emmett qualified to receive services. We were thankfully directed to the Scottish Rite RiteCare Clinic at Lincoln's Barkley Memorial Center.

It has been with such amazement that we have watched Emmett grow in his speech and become understood through the last few years by all individuals, not just his parents. We are so thankful and feel so blessed to have come upon these services. There was much frustration in our sons little life before he was able to use whole words instead of sounds to communicate.

We feel strongly that these last few years have truly changed his life and our lives for the better. Without the help of the RiteCare Clinic, we would have a

much more frustrated and upset five year old. Now, in less than a year, he will be attending kindergarten with the full ability to communicate with his teachers and friends. We feel so blessed to have received these outstanding services over the past two years. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the services you are providing! It is truly life-changing!



*Emmett and RiteCare Clinician Carrie Kenney at the Clinic at UNL's Barkley Memorial Center*

*Megan Pieper  
RiteCare Mom*

### Phi Rho Sigma Medical Fraternity Holds Golf Tournament and Donates \$2,000 to RiteCare

**O**n Sunday, September 27, members of Phi Rho Sigma Medical Fraternity hosted the an Alumni Golf Scramble, raising \$2,000 for the RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics through the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute.

Medical students Lindsey Kendrick and Sasha Kapil presented a check for \$2,000 for speech-language therapy to the Munroe-Meyer Institute Clinicians for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska. Lindsey and Sasha are philanthropy co-chairs for the UNMC chapter of Phi Rho Sigma. Their donation will support 20 sessions of speech therapy for children.

Phi Rho Sigma Medical Society, founded in 1890 at Northwestern University, is a coeducational society for medical students. Chapters were founded at Creighton Medical College in 1900 and the Omaha Medical College in 1901. Their mission includes promote good fellowship among students, alumni, and faculty of medical schools and the medical community.

Thank you Phi Rho Sigma!



*From left, speech therapist Korey Stading, medical student Lindsey Kendrick, speech therapist Leslie Van Winkle, medical student Sasha Kapil, speech therapist Beth Hughes, Micah Evans of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska, and Amy Nordness, Ph.D., director of the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute's RiteCare Speech & Language Clinic, gathered for the presentation.*



# Tiana's *Triumphant* Tale

Submitted by Leslie VanWinkle, CCC-SLP  
RiteCare Clinician  
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June 2, 2010 at 10:41 am, Tiana Azra was born... our beautiful little girl. We sometimes refer to her as our little "surprise box". We call her that because she was full-term. I had a healthy pregnancy and there were no indications on the ultrasound that anything was amiss. Shortly after her birth, we learned that Tiana was born with a recessed chin that would complicate breathing and feeding, as well as a cleft palate. At seven days old, Tiana underwent jaw distraction surgery. She spent four weeks in the NICU before her homecoming. Our long-term outlook at that point was that she would have another surgery in three months to remove the screws from her jaw, surgery at approximately nine months to repair the cleft palate, and to expect possible orthodontic procedures and speech issues as she gets older. So that is what we knew was to come on our journey with Tiana.

Due to her congenital birth anomalies, Tiana started receiving Early Intervention Services – which was a team made up of a service coordinator, physical therapist, and occupational therapist. In November 2010, Tiana was sedated for her ABR (auditory brainstem response) hearing test.

It was at this appointment, we learned of Tiana's hearing loss. The evaluation revealed mixed hearing loss – moderate rising to mild. She was immediately fitted for hearing aids. A deaf educator joined the Early Intervention team at this point. Speech and language were a big focus, wanting to make sure Tiana received everything possible for language development. It was our Service Coordinator who told us about the Scottish Rite's RiteCare Augmentative Speech Pre-school Program when Tiana was approximately 2 years old. I called right way and put her name on the waiting list.

Ten months later I received the phone call



*Tiana overcomes any challenges as a lifelong learner*

that Tiana would be able to attend the Scottish Rite Speech group. I was thrilled as I heard so many good things about the program and it would give Tiana the opportunity to interact with other children.

She started speech group in August 2013 and graduated from the program in July 2015. Tiana also attended pre-school at Lied Learning and Technology Center for Childhood Deafness.

Tiana's two years in the Scottish Rite Speech Clin-

ic were enjoyable and very educational. It was one of Tiana's first visits to the clinic when I saw a familiar face...Paul Laikko. During her NICU stay, unbeknownst to us, we encountered Paul, one of the wonderful RiteCare therapists. He was introduced to us as a Feeding Specialist. He was instrumental in finding the right bottle for successful feedings. As our paths crossed again, three more compassionate speech therapists joined our journey: Korey Stading, Beth Hughes and Leslie Van Winkle. We met some wonderful families during this time too.

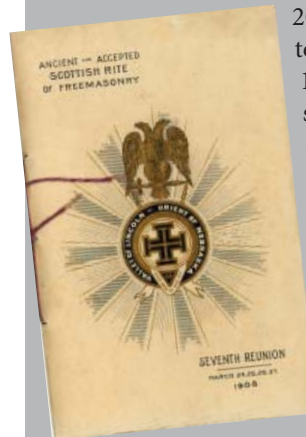
We were on a "communication/language" hunt with Tiana to find out what was the best mode of communication for her. Sixth months into the program, Tiana was diagnosed with Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS), a motor speech disorder. The child knows what she wants to say, but her brain has difficulty coordinating the muscle movements necessary to say those words. Another surprise and challenge for our little girl to overcome. She used many forms of communication and to this day, still does. Tiana vocalizes, signs, and uses a Dynavox (Assistive Augmentative Communication (AAC) device). Before the Dynavox, pictures were used to help her with expressive language. The amazing therapists that lead this speech group worked very hard to incorporate all of these

communication styles with Tiana. With the support of these fabulous ladies, the frustration of not being able to express herself seemed to diminish as she was getting better with making words and using her language "tools".

Her journey still continues and will no doubt be challenging, yet her determination, positive attitude and focus will keep ALL of us going. Tiana is a bright, sweet, fun loving, delightful girl with a song always in her heart. She just sparkles and lights up a room. She is now in Kindergarten and is having a successful year. Thank you Scottish Rite masons for making such a wonderful program for children possible. We are grateful for all of the speech therapists who worked with Tiana. You are all a part of Tiana's Triumphant Tale!

## Lincoln Scottish Rite Centennial Reunion in 2016

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*1908 Lincoln Reunion program*

2016 is our historic home's 100th anniversary, and we're celebrating the Centennial with something special!

Please reach out to Bruce Wood or Mike Gray if you'd like to serve on a committee

to plan the 2016 Centennial Reunion. Ideas might include a Scottish Rite challenge coin fundraiser, special pricing for brethren who join, a Grand Lodge cornerstone rededication ceremony during the Reunion, followed by a banquet and entertainment for members, officers, candidates and guests.

Get involved and help us create an extraordinary Reunion experience for our Brethren and our Candidates. Let's create something that will be remembered for the next century!



## The treasure of the Masons



Micah I. Evans, 33°, Orient Development Director

If you knew nothing about the Freemasons except what you learned on the History Channel or the 2004 Disney movie *National Treasure*, you'd think that the Masons were responsible for hiding a cache of lost



Templar treasure under the streets of our towns, leaving clues scattered about on the U.S. dollar bill, the Liberty Bell, or in invisible ink on the back of the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

If the state of some of our Lodges is any indication, that treasure was spent a long time ago.

But if you know a child with a spinal or orthopedic disorder, you've seen some of that treasure on display at the Shriners Hospitals for Children. Take a look at the leadership on display through the young women and men of Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, or the Order of DeMolay, and you'll see the treasure of the Masons put to good use.

And no less glamorous than buried Spanish doubloons, Scottish Rite Masons have put that treasure to use through our RiteCare Speech and Language Clinics. Beginning with the Almoner in Colorado helping a young widow pay for her

son's speech therapy, about 178 clinics now provide untold millions of dollars in services helping children overcome speech and language disorders at no cost to families.

Brother Tregg Lunn, 32° of the Lincoln Valley

told us last year that among all his beautiful daughter's surgeries and health needs, expressing herself through RiteCare therapy was the one service that did not come with an expensive price tag attached.

In 2016, the RiteCare budget for the state will be roughly \$640,000, encompassing salaries for 9 clinicians (7.2 FTEs for those in the Human Resources field) in Kearney, Hastings, Lincoln, and Omaha. They see more than 1,000 children throughout the year in over 5,500 sessions of therapy. Other than the public schools, RiteCare clinicians are the single largest provider of speech and language therapy for children, not just in Nebraska but in the United States!

That's quite a commitment of treasure!

Unfortunately, the Knights Templar did not sail from France and bury their treasure under the plains of Nebraska. We can only meet this commitment to children with your help. In the coming year, we ask you to support RiteCare (and your favorite Masonic philanthropies) through:

- A planned gift or charitable gift annuity in support of RiteCare through the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska or your Valley's Scottish Rite Foundation.
- A gift of \$101 to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska, supporting the cost of one session of therapy.
- Support for Scottish Rite events, including the Walks for RiteCare, the RiteCare Classic Golf Outing and Benefit, and the Friends of Scottish Rite Dinner and Auction.
- Participating in *Celebrating the Craft* on May 21<sup>st</sup> in your Valley, which benefits our RiteCare Clinics and Scottish Rite philanthropies.
- Remembering to select the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska when you shop on Amazon.com, by starting with [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). RiteCare gets .5% back from every purchase made through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) when you select the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska.

Our treasure isn't buried under the streets. Albert Pike didn't bury Scottish Rite gold inside Mt. Rushmore. Our treasure is hidden in plain sight with every child who can say "Daddy, I love you," and "Mommy, read me a story." Every child who receives services from Shriners Hospitals for Children or the RiteCare Clinics reveals the treasure of the Masons!

*Isn't that better than buried treasure?*

**SCOTTISH RITE** JOURNAL  
OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

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

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