



*The Nebraska*

**MASONRY**



**VOL. XXIV NO. 3**

**THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA**

**Fall 2005**

The Vision of Nebraska Masonry: Nebraska Freemasonry will establish itself as the premier fraternal organization promoting universally acknowledged values of friendship, morality, and brotherly love.



# PUBLIC AIRSHOW

**to conclude the Masonic Youth Leadership Conference**

**Kearney Municipal Airport**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2005**

**Aerobatic Show at 1:00 p.m.**

**Ground Displays Open at 11:00 a.m.**

**\$5.00 per person or \$20.00 a Car Load**

Events: Aerobatic Performance, Plane/Car Race, Transfer from Motorcycle to Airplane, Comedy Cub Act, Plane Landing on Car & Others

**Featuring: Debby Rihn-Harvey**

Five-time Women's U.S. National Champion Aerobatics Pilot.

She is the highest-ranked female aerobatics competitor in the United States. Recently, she won the Women's U.S. National Championship for the fifth year in a row, and was inducted into the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame.

Debby is a Past Bethel Honored Queen and Past DeMolay State Sweetheart in Nebraska.



**Tell Your Friends - Bring your Lawn Chair and Enjoy the Show!**

Sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Masons of Nebraska

Nebraska Masonry - Men putting ethics into practice.

# Grand Master's Message

Ivan A. Vrtiska

## MEMBERSHIP -

What is the importance of Membership? Are numbers important? Are we making members or Masons? How do we obtain new members/Masons? How do we keep afloat financially? Why do members allow their membership to fall out of good standing and into suspension for non-payment of dues? Do we enroll/engage our new members into our Masonic family? Do we have a value-added organization, and is there value in our Masonic Family? These are just a few of the questions I've heard this year and this is by no means an exhausted list of the membership concerns that have been expressed. Each question has a different answer and meaning to each Lodge and each Brother. Are there single wholly universal answers to these challenges? That is where much of the challenge exists. Each Lodge is unique and has its own personality, as does each Mason. Oh yes, we do have many common threads, however not one size fits all. Often we need to listen more to that famous radio station, **WIIFM** (What's In It For Me?). It seems like the amount of time we each have to invest keeps getting less and less, and the pace seems to continue to increase. But is that really true or are we looking for an organization that may allow us an opportunity to slow down and to smell the roses? Time to share and care about and with others seems like a rewarding solution. Many are saying they find this satisfaction in working a CHIP Event. CHIP, however, is not the only rock in the pile – it alone will not make a Lodge. It is one of many components that, when our trowel spreads the “cement of brotherly love and affection,” can be one very positive stone and when combined with many other stones, including the stones of Ritual, Masonic Education, Masonic Research, Social Events, Fund Raisers, Scholarships, Band Camp, can form a monumental structure which will house a class organization to which we are proud to belong and others will seek to associate.

To receive new members we must be prepared. It does very little good to bring in new members if we fail to be in a position to enroll or engage them in our Fraternity and to provide them that value which they envision as Masonry. This engagement must

involve them with fellowship and friendship and in a basic general education and understanding of our Fraternity (one may say “basic training”). It is often heard and observed that we gather with those whom we know and are comfortable and fail to go the extra step to allow that new Brother to enter and bond into our “group.” We all meet on the level, however sometimes we fail to really provide the light that allows our new brother the opportunity to see. This is not to say that the new Brother is without obligation to open his eyes and to see the light.

Our Nebraska Masonic Lodges and Masonic Family have so many rocks of which to be proud. The Unity of our Masonic Family is unsurpassed by any other Jurisdiction. Through the cooperation of all the Family, plus enthusiasm and optimism, there is no limit as to what we can achieve and the health we can maintain. As Grand Lodge Officers, we have the opportunity to travel and visit many of our Lodges and functions, and let me assure you there are many positive happenings in Nebraska. Many are related to maintaining that “**Positive Attitude**” to which I referred in the last issue of the Nebraska Mason.

Among our sharing and caring components/rocks in our Jurisdiction are the three primary charities of our “Blue Lodges.” The Plattsmouth Home, a dignified and friendly residence for our Masonic Family Seniors; The Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children, a great environment for our youth that need special attention; and our Nebraska Masonic Foundation, which provides a means of resources for our CHIP Events and the Masonic Youth Leadership Conference, maintains our Masonic Museum and Library, our Grand Lodge Offices, etc. These programs earn our support and endorsement, as well as providing a simple means of helping to fulfill portions of our obligations. These charities must be part of our enrollment and engaging programs. What would be better than an organized visit by the Lodge and families each year?

I encourage you to participate in the many opportunities, functions and events of our Masonic Family, make new friends, develop new members, and to smell the roses along the way. Please join your Masonic Family at the Air Show, in a CHIP Event, participate in the Fall Area Meetings, attend the Masonic Leadership Schools (the previously known Wardens and Deacons School), and plan to attend the Annual Communication February 2, 3 & 4, 2006. **You are somebody and only you can make a difference – remember “Success comes in Cans.”**

## Swisher Lodge U.D. Operational in Kabul, Afghanistan

Written by Russell G. Reno, with content from W.B. Ritchie Inns

While some Masons find it difficult to travel across town to attend a lodge meeting in Nebraska, American soldiers in Afghanistan face up to eight hours of travel through hostile country to attend meetings of the first lodge created by the Grand Lodge of Nebraska through its Swisher Kit program.

Named for Staff Sgt. Christopher Swisher, a member of Lincoln Lodge No. 19 who was killed October 2003 in Iraq, the kit contains materials needed to start a lodge such as aprons, implements, columns, etc. Swisher was killed in an ambush in Baghdad while on patrol.

Ritchie Inns, Past Master of Cotner Lodge No. 297 in Lincoln, requested a Swisher Kit when he was sent to Afghanistan as part of an embedded training team to the Afghan Army. Inns' mission is to train the Afghan Army on tactics, discipline, security, etc. in order for them to become self-sufficient to protect their country.

Fresh off completing his year as Master of Cotner Lodge, Inns quickly found brothers from other states who were interested in starting a lodge under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. The result is Swisher Lodge.

An initial meeting was held August 23, at Camp Phoenix in Kabul. Brothers from Washington, Tennessee and Missouri joined Inns to

plan the launch of the lodge. After posting an announcement on a PX bulletin board, Inns said more brothers approached him about participating in the lodge and even more soldiers asked how they could become a Mason. A brother located in Kandahar also contacted Inns about joining the lodge.

“We are very excited about the progress and interest of the brethren coming out of the woodwork to be a part of this,” he said. “As long as no one gets killed, we’ll do great!”

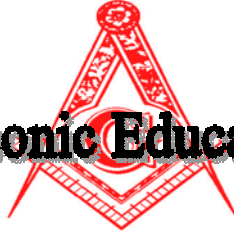
Lodge meetings will be held early Friday afternoons to avoid nighttime travel when attacks are most likely to occur. Inns said the drive from Kandahar to Kabul can take six to eight hours “and it can literally kill you.”

Noting that Afghanistan isn't in the news much, he said some soldiers feel they are part of this “forgotten war. People and soldiers are dying over here almost every day, if not every week,” he said.

Lincoln Lodge No. 19 purchased the Swisher Kit sent to Inns. Masons or lodges wanting to make a piece of home available to Nebraska Masons deployed overseas may earmark donations to the Nebraska Masonic Foundation, P.O. Box 83862, Lincoln, NE 68501-3862.

# TO LIGHT!

## Bringing Masonic Education To Light



A Publication of the Grand Lodge AF & AM of Nebraska

VOL VII NO 3

FALL 2005

### Confessions of a Masonic Philosopher Wannabe

by Larry Jacobsen

In my youth, philosophy ranked 113 on my list of 100 favorite things. After all, I was on a path to a profession (in my case, architecture), and I needed to know geometry, business, English, design, statics and strengths of materials. I had little use for the academia of philosophy.

In fact, I spent more time making fun of philosophy than I did studying it - "Philosophy is unintelligible answers to unsolvable problems" - or - "Philosophy is an orderly way of discussing subjects we don't know anything about." Needless to say, I was not a good candidate for the local Philosophical Society.

I joined Masonry while still in college. I participated in the rituals, went through the chairs, served as Master, and learned the Middle Chamber lecture. It was all I could do to keep up with the memorization and presentation. What was lurking behind all those allegories, metaphors and symbols was a mystery to me.

We had no formal Masonic education programs back then, no dialogues about what we were really doing every week in Lodge. Don't get me wrong - the fellowship with the brethren was great, and the training in verbal presentation skills via the rituals helped me immensely in my professional career. But I had yet to receive the "whack in the side of the head" as to the big picture of Masonry.

I joined the Scottish Rite, took part in a degree, and one of my speaking parts in presenting a whole series of signs, tokens, words and symbols was concluded with the following statement: "It remains for you to learn what meanings are involved in the legend and symbolism of this Degree." My first reaction to this was - "Well thank you very much - you just unloaded on me the whole of ancient esoteria, and now I need to figure it out myself?!"

Calm reflection being a virtue, I said to myself - "Ok, I'll take the bait. Let's begin to get beneath the surface and find out what this is all about." Thus began my Masonic education. It was around 1986, and I had already been a Mason for 20 years. I never said I was a fast learner.

The "whack in the side of the head" was yet to come. Either I just woke up around 1990, or there seemed to be a general reawakening



about Masonry going on then - new books examining its history, relevance, symbols, and its philosophy. Like assembling a 10,000 piece jigsaw puzzle, the connected pieces were beginning to make some sense. I was hooked - and showing just how conniving Masonry can be, here I was, heaven forbid, studying the great philosophers - my 113<sup>th</sup> favorite topic!

Continued on page 4

### Education Symposiums

#### SECRETS OF MASONRY EXPOSED!!!!!!

Now that we have your attention, if you were accused of being a Mason, would there be substantial evidence to convict you? The Grand Lodge Education Committee is determined to bring Masonic Education to every Mason in Nebraska. The Education Symposiums are another attempt to reach more Masons in Nebraska with Masonic Education. These symposiums promise and deliver fascinating facts about Masonic history, ritual, philosophy, biographies, and book reviews. The fall Masonic Education Symposiums will be held on October 24, 2005 at Oliver Lodge No. 38, located at 147 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Seward; October 25, 2005 at Hastings Scottish Rite Temple, located at 411 North Hastings Ave in Hastings; October 25, 2005 at Papillion Lodge No. 39, located at 101 West Centennial Rd in Papillion; and November 1, 2005 at Ogalalla Lodge No. 159, located at 319 N. Spruce in Ogalalla. The theme of the Fall Symposium will be "Myths and Masonry." Masonry has many myths and misconceptions that puzzle and confuse both Masons and non-masons alike. Was so-and-so really a Mason? Do Masons really (insert claim here)? This symposium will present many common myths about Masonry, and then involve participants in a discussion of internal and external Masonry-related myths, and how to set the record straight. This will be followed by a game of Masonic Jeopardy. One of Masonry's many lessons is to encourage members to learn more about the Fraternity. Seek MORE LIGHT IN MASONRY; attend the Fall Masonic Education Symposium nearest you.

But lo and behold, in the study of these philosophers, I began to see some familiar Masonic overtones:

Pythagoras – geometry  
Socrates – Know thyself  
Plato – Creator = *Architect of the Universe*  
Aristotle – the soul  
Aquinas – a lot of *Middle Chamber* concepts here  
Bruno – memory  
Bacon – House of Solomon  
Locke – civil government  
Shaftsbury – harmony  
*Encyclopedie* – knowledge

I even determined that perhaps I was wiser than Mark Twain who said, “The Ancients stole all our ideas from us.” Masonry really is a compilation of some of the greatest ideas from the greatest philosophers in history. However, as we all know, Masonry does not just put down the oats where the goats can get it. Ok, maybe Albert Pike said it more eloquently; “Masonry does not inculcate her Truths. She states them once and briefly; or hints them, perhaps darkly; or interposes a cloud between them and the eyes that would be dazzled by them. ‘Seek and ye shall Find.’ knowledge and the truth.” So here we are, full circle to the allegories, metaphors and symbols of Masonry – and yes, it does remain for you to learn what it means to you.

Perhaps by now I was getting closer to the Philosopher’s Stone. If Harry Potter went after it, why not me. By the way, this ‘Philosopher Stone’ stuff is a whole history in itself. Throughout history and up to nearly the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were serious attempts at alchemy, an attempt to physically transmute base metals to gold. Even Isaac Newton dabbled in this “science.” Gold was the most precious of materials then, and gold was the means to *everything* that could be bought. Michael Miller in an essay entitled the *Philosopher’s Stone* stated “Their quest for the philosopher’s stone can be viewed as irrational silliness or the highest idealism. There was no reason to expect such a “stone” to exist, but what alchemists hoped to gain by means of the philosopher’s stone is the sum of all human ambition. Transmutation of metals was the least of the stone’s supposed powers. Gold is a means to all wealth, but the philosopher’s stone is a means to *all* ends, a universal means. And it’s lying around for the taking. It’s everywhere! If you have the wit merely to recognize it and learn how to use it, then *all* ends are within your reach. We needn’t wonder why those who believed in the philosopher’s stone devoted their lives to finding it. What higher ideal could they seek? What better *end* could a man set himself than a *universal means*?”

Pardon the digression. The Philosopher’s Stone has, of course, no place in Masonic ritual, and I am certainly not equating this to

some Harry Potter adventure. But I could not help but draw a parallel to our Masonic “secrets.” Is it possible that the secret may not be what is important, but rather the *search* for the secret that matters? [enter ‘whack in the side of the head’] And the clues in that search are all around us.

Where, you ask? Listen closely the next time a Brother speaks from the heart about our fraternity. Read the sincerity of a fellow member as he coaches you in the ritual. Listen and *interpret* what you hear the next time your lodge does the Middle Chamber lecture. Read Victor Hugo’s *Les Miserables*, listen to the *Scottish Fantasy* by Bruch, spend an evening in the mountains under full starlight, and countless other experiences that can take you on an ascent of inquiry.

Ah, the beauty of philosophy. Not because I discovered the “secret,” but that I’ve begun to find a path to that “secret” that works for me. Others may not have a clue what my path is, but I know they have their own path. I can see it in their eyes and in their deeds. Good Masons do not disguise themselves easily.

Well, there you have it – confessions of a Masonic philosopher wannabe, and the only thing I can state for a fact is this – it is for each individual Mason to discover the “secret” for himself. Through Masonic education we provide information, but what it all means is for you, and only you, to discover. Relish the journey!

PS: Want more dialogue on this topic? Attend the Masonic Education Breakfast at Grand Lodge in February. A debate on Masonic “Secrets” is the main topic.

## Union and Harmony

In the late 1700’s William Preston researched, consolidated and rewrote the Masonic ritual used in England into the form we are familiar with today. In his book *Illustrations of Masonry* he made many observations pertaining to Masonry and the roll it plays in men’s lives. These observations, for the most part, are as relative to today’s Mason as they were 200 years ago. The following quotation is from Preston’s work.

Preston writes: “Union and harmony constitute the essence of Freemasonry; while we enlist under that banner, the society must flourish, and private animosities give place to peace and good fellowship. Uniting in one design, let it be our aim to be happy ourselves, and contribute to the happiness of others. Let us mark our superiority and distinction among men, by the sincerity of our profession as Masons; let us cultivate the moral virtues, preside over our conduct, and under her sway, let us perform our part with becoming dignity; let us preserve an elevation of understanding, a politeness of manner, and an evenness of temper; let our recreations be innocent, and pursued with moderation; and never let irregular indulgences lead to the subversion of our system, by impairing our faculties, or exposing our character to derision.

In conformity to our precepts, as patterns worthy of imitation let the respectability of our character be supported by the regularity of our conduct and the uniformity of our deportment; then as citizens of the world, and friends to every clime, we shall be living examples of virtue and benevolence, equally zealous to merit, as to obtain, universal approbation.”

## According to Coil

Excerpts from Coil’s Masonic Encyclopedia, authored by Henry Wilson Coil.

### Shibboleth

The 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Book of Judges tells the story of how Jephthah led the men of Gilead against the Ephraimites, who had rebelled, because Jephthah had not invited them to share in the spoils of the war against the Ammonites; and how the victorious men of Gilead first seized the fords of the River Jordan and intercepted the fleeing Ephraimites, who denying their identity, were required to pronounce a word which they invariably mispronounced. The story proceeds:

“5. And the Gileadites took the passages of Jordan before the Ephraimites: and it was so, that when those Ephraimites which were escaped said, Let me go over; that the men of Gilead said unto him, Art thou an Ephraimite? If he said, Nay:

“6. Then they said unto him, say now Shibboleth: and he said Sibboleth: for he could not frame to pronounce it right. Then they took him, and slew him at the passages of Jordan: and there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty and two thousand.”

Hence the word *shibboleth* came to be used generally to indicate a password, amulet or other safety device, though the bloodshed which accompanied its origin seems out of proportion to the necessities of either that occasion or its subsequent symbolic use. The Masonic symbolism is decidedly obscure, complicated as it is by the association with several other symbols apparently unrelated to the Ephraimitish war or to each other.

Later commentators, in an effort to ameliorate the harshness of the tale, have asserted that forty and two thousand did not mean 40,000 plus 2,000 but meant 40 plus 2,000 or 2,040 – not a very plausible interpretation, and still leaving a rather shocking day’s work in slaying the defeated and fleeing foe.



*"Dear Members of the Masonic Lodge No. 317:  
 I just wanted to tell you thank you very much for sending me to the Masonic All-Star Marching Band Clinic. It was an experience that I will never forget! Between all the people that I came to know, to the marching and most of all, learning how the Masons help and support the children...I couldn't imagine that one organization could sponsor so many kids, but it is possible!...When I was out on the field marching I thought that it is hot and I wanted to sit down, but then I remembered that I was doing this for the kids and so I kept going because I knew that I was doing this all for them and that my efforts would help them only in a small way, but with all of us helping, it made huge difference I'm sure...Everyone there made things run smoothly and efficiently all week long! Thank you!  
 Randi Pohlmeier, Blue Hill High School, Glenvil"*

## 11TH ANNUAL MASONIC ALL-STAR MARCHING BAND CLINIC

# The Nebraska Masonic Home

Mary C. Stapp, Executive Director



Family gatherings and visits are always welcome at The Masonic Home. Selby Corby (right) enjoys a visit from her family.



Hat Day is one of the favorite activities for the residents. Resident Catherine Carey could easily be a hat model.



Leola Crapo enjoys a friendly game of horseshoes.



Wilma McManigal (left) is delighted with the outstanding musical entertainment provided by Billie James.



OES Grand Chapter's annual visit to The Masonic Home each year is in July in conjunction with the Home Chapter No. 189 picnic. It is a fantastic time for everyone. We thank you for your faithful visits.



Debra & Tregan Albers (left), Worthy Grand Patron and residents Katherine Wehrbein and Joe Stoupa take a break for a photo during the much-enjoyed sing-a-long at the Home Chapter picnic.

# The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation

Anita B. Crisp, Executive Director

The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation gratefully acknowledges the gifts from the following individuals.

## In Memory of

(May 1, '05 – Aug 31 '05)

**Wayne & Mildred Ablott**  
Terry & Marilyn Theis

**Myra Anderson**  
William & Evelyn Wrenn

**Verna & Charles Bosley**  
Nadine Bosley McCreary

**Daniel R. Bowland**  
Gordon G. Cram

**Wauneta Burkley**  
Vesper Chapter No. 9

**Charles Burnett**  
Floyd & Ruth Reynolds

**M. Bernice "Ann" Burnett**  
Temple Chapter No. 271

**Henry & Emma Buschmann**  
Donald & Elaine Kemper

**Frederick Clark**  
Frank & Lorraine Lawson

**John M. Claussen**  
Donald & Joann Boldt

**Wayne C. Cleaver**  
Mary J. Cleaver

**Gayle D. Condon**  
Vivian Condon

**Ray Coons**  
Clark C. Trissell

**Clyde Cram**  
Phillip & Loraine Cram

**Lee Chambers**

**Lucille Davies**

**Myrtle Davies**  
Thomas & Marion Davies

**Deceased Members 2004 of Arrow Chapter No. 164**  
Arrow Chapter No. 164

**Frances Dettmer**  
Elizabeth Chapter No. 250

**Bill Dickson**  
Alva & Helen White

**William E. Dugan**  
Doris A. Dugan

**Harold & Edna Eatinger**  
Marvin H. Eatinger

**Polly Englebretsen**  
Charles W. Englebretsen

**Sonny Erskine**  
Palmyra Chapter No. 257

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Paul & Aileen Galda

**Jaculyn J. Garey**  
Everett M. Garey

**Vladimir J. Hamata**  
Gerald & Mignon Hamata

**Myrtle Hansen**  
Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 84  
Phyllis E. Weber

**Ursula (Liz) Hansen**  
Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 84

**Kathryn M. Hasterlo**  
Stanley Hasterlo

**Zela Howard**  
Owen W. Howard

**Clyde H. Johnson**  
Emma Johnson

**Jack Jones**  
Richard & Carol Mauch

**Arlene Kikendall**  
James & Patricia Kikendall

**Pauline Kopp**  
Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 84

**Jean L. Lape**  
Cheryl Lape & Mark White

**Earl J. Lee**  
Jackson & Pamela Lee

**Rita Loria**  
Jim & Sharon Loria

**Katherine Lowe**  
Herman Chapter No. 216

**Ruth Lucke**  
Emil A. Lucke

**O. H. Martin**  
Marvin & Mary Armstrong

**Alta Maston**  
Margaret L. Fitch

**Ann Mavis**  
Eugene & Sharon Winterfeld

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Glenn R. Nabb

**Louis Naeve**  
Fred H. Naeve

**Merril B. Nannen**  
Chuck & Janice Backemeyer  
Ralph & Linda Brockhoff  
Centennial Lodge No. 326  
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Barbara Dahlgren  
Carol Glantz  
Kay Hayen  
Doris Nannen  
The Nannen Family  
Sheral Oehlerking  
Keith & Charlene Patton

Ted & Regina Schirmer  
Frances Stall

**Edith Mae Newhouse**  
Charlene D. Tierney

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**Duane Olson**  
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**L. Robert Pennington**  
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**Eva Petersen**  
Eureka Chapter No. 86

**Gordon Phillips**  
Kent & Gloria Phillips

**Richard B. Pieper, Sr.**  
Lincoln Lodge No. 19

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Norvald & Edith Nielsen

**Helene & Lori Ann Sapp**  
Lee H. Sapp

**Eleanor Schade**  
Home Chapter No. 189

**Gail Schroeder**  
Elton W. Schroeder

**Ruth Schroll**  
Donald & Joann Boldt

**Lester E. Sherfey**  
Ruth A. Sherfey

**Richard M. Simonsen**  
Cotner Lodge No. 297

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Don Smith

**John Stark**  
Oliver Lodge No. 38

**Ernest Svoboda**  
Ron & Camilla Svoboda

**Lois Taylor**  
Vesper Chapter No. 9

**John Trayer**  
Bill & Beverly Kieler

**Donald E. Wiles**  
Marjorie Wiles

**Dr. & Mrs. James M. Woodard, Sr.**  
James M. Woodard, Jr.

**In Honor Of**  
(May 1, '05 – Aug 31, '05)

**Charles Burnett**  
Floyd E. Reynolds

**Leonard F. Corr**  
Bob Winter

**Betty Garwood**  
Gary J. Hanson

**Grand Family 2004-2005**  
Robert O. Rhodes

**Gordon E. Hawley**  
Dorothy H. Hawley

**Betty Kirby**  
Gary J. Hanson

**Billie Mattern**  
Delbert Rogers

**Louise Scolaro**  
Trestle Board Chapt. No. 67

**Harry A. Spencer, Sr.**  
Wendall Lee Rowe

**Maurice O. Stanton**  
Dennis O. Arney

**Barbara Wood**  
Delbert Rogers

**General Gifts**  
(Nov. 1, '04 – Dec. 31, '04)

Richard A. Quintero  
Gary & Sara Radil  
Jerry & Patricia Raikes  
Calvin & Corinne Ramage  
Ross & Glendoris Rash  
Karl & Annette Rasmussen  
Les & Bev Reemts  
Curtis D. Reiber  
Floyd & Ruth Reynolds  
Phil & Sharon Rhynalds  
David K. Rice  
Lois I. Rich  
Floyd & June Richards  
John & Norma Richart  
Reuben & Loretta Rieke  
Mildred R. Ringer  
Kenneth & Bonnie Risk  
Virgil & Martha Rodgers  
Henry & Larue Roether  
Gene & Mary Roncka  
Robert & Ardell Roth  
Kenneth D. Rouch  
Landis A. Rulla Sr.  
Ruth Chapter No. 119  
Rexford & Alice Sala  
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Harold G. Schmitt  
Robert & Carol Schmucker  
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Harry & Frances Seward, Jr.  
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Murray & Helen Shaw  
H. Donald Shelton  
Don & Sandra Sherrill  
Richard & Geraldine Shipman  
Wilford & Helene Shook  
Daniel & Joan Shurtliff  
Hazel E. Sitlington  
Alvin H. Smith  
Kenneth & Thelma Smith

Dennis & Suzanne Smith  
Robert & Bess Smith  
William & Kathy Smith  
Springview Chapter No. 205  
Stanton Chapter No. 146  
Kathryn J. Stapp  
Starcraft Chapter No. 307  
Kensington  
Stacy & Judy Stasenka  
Cleve & Evelyn Stauffer  
Jerry & Jo Anne Stephens  
C. Earl Stewart  
Gerald & Anna Stogdill  
Donald & Ramona Stroh  
Sunset Chapter No. 300  
Richard & Marlene Sutton  
Lloyd & Nola Synovec  
Charles & Barbara Talmadge, Jr.  
Roy L. Talmadge  
Tangier Road Runners Club  
Howard & Patricia Tarleton  
Bernard & Janice Taulborg  
John H. Taulborg  
Dallas & Perihan Teague  
Temple Chapter No. 271  
Terry & Marilyn Theis  
Lawrence E. Thomas  
Martha E. Thomas  
Warren R. Thomas  
Carman Tilford  
Howard E. Tracy  
Trinity Chapter No. 299  
Dewayne & Helen Triplet  
Bernard Urich  
Vesta Chapter No. 6  
Jack & Donna Wagaman  
Paul & Sandra Walgren  
Dale & Mary Walkenhorst  
Ralph & Hazel Walker  
Richard & Doris Walker  
Rex & Denise Waller  
Nile & Ardith Walther  
Grace E. Walvoord  
John & Imogene Waner  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Ward  
Washington Lodge No. 21  
Waterloo Lodge No. 102  
Wausa Lodge No. 251  
Vivian L. Wehrbein  
Hugo & Kathleen Westphal, Jr.  
Alva & Helen White  
Geraldine B. Wilcox  
Donald & Marjorie Wilson  
Hubert & Mary Jo Winter  
Wisner Lodge No. 114  
Thomas & Sally Withers, Sr.  
Richard & Deanna Wolf  
Robert & Velma Wolf  
Wood Lake Chapter No. 224  
Wendell & La Rue Wood  
Robert & Norma Wright  
Barbara E. Yost  
Dennis & Irene Zimmerman

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# MASONIC-EASTERN STAR HOME FOR CHILDREN

*Ben Harvey, Executive Director*

## THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION FOR HOME CHILDREN

Public education is an important part of the life of a child. From the age of five through eighteen education makes up a large part of a child's life: indeed a large percentage of the focal point in a child's life is centered on the school system for educational and extra-curricular activities.

At the Children's Home, we work with children within this age group and endeavor to give them positive reinforcement and encouragement in their educational experience. In many cases, when the children come to live with us they have not had this positive reinforcement nor have they been encouraged to aspire to the educational ideal. As soon as a child enters our program, they begin to receive an understanding of how much importance we place on their education.

The Fremont Public School system is very supportive of the work we do with the children and the Home is very appreciative of the extra time that the school administrators, counselors, and teachers take with our children. Our staff keeps in constant contact with the schools and monitors the academic performance, discipline, and related activities of the children. If at any time we or the schools see that a child needs special attention, we do not hesitate to contact one another to discuss the situation. This one point alone has made for an excellent relationship between the schools and ourselves and, of course, has done a great deal to help our children.

When the children come home from school, the first thing they have on their mind is a snack and some free time to enable them to unwind after the long school day's activities. After dinner and some limited household chores, the children settle down for at least an hour of study time in the evening. Some children require more time and are given a separate area of the cottage with supervision where they can continue studying. Then it is off to bed for a good night's sleep in preparation for another school day.

If the children do not maintain a "C" average in each of their courses, they then enter into a tutoring program, which is made available to them here at the Home after school. The children spend one half hour to an hour studying with Midland College students, who help them with problems in their individual classes. At the present time, we have sophomore and junior college students tutoring the children.

The tutors are not only helping our children, but are gaining valuable educational experience themselves. Our children form good relationships with their tutors, but the goal for most of the children in the program is to be able to raise their grades to a level where they no longer are required to remain in the tutoring program. Once the children reach the proper grade level in their subjects, they are very proud to show you their report card and tell you that they no longer need tutoring. In consideration of the poor educational background some of the children had before they came



to the Home, it is not always possible for them to raise their grades high enough to leave the tutoring program. Since education is so important, the Home Board is continually looking for ways to enhance the educational services for children. As effective as our tutoring program has been, the fact that it takes place within the busy cottage is a detriment to the process. The Board's long range planning committee decided, following much discussion and investigation, that the best answer in meeting the educational needs of the children was to construct a separate building for that purpose. As you can see in the photos, the construction phase has begun.

This new education center will allow children much more private and uninterrupted tutoring, as well as an expanded educational program in several areas. The proposed program plan will permit newly admitted children to be assessed educationally and if they have a need, primary tutoring can begin even prior to admission to public school. Educational sessions for all of the children will be given, especially in the computer area. Several computers with internet access, under supervision and instruction, will be available for the children for educational and personal learning. Many positive possibilities for this new addition abound and new ideas are still forthcoming. The construction plan calls for the building to be completed in May 2006. We plan to have the building in use for the 2006-2007 school year. This is an exciting step in the growth of the Children's Home and the services it offers for children.

One aspect of general education where the child learns a great deal is in the extra-curricular activities following the normal school day. Over the years, children have been involved in many extra-curricular activities including sports, as well as band, speech and drama. This gives the child an opportunity to become more well-rounded socially and have interaction with their classmates. When I talk with local Fremonters who are alumni of the Fremont school system, they often ask me about children they were involved with in school. The involvement they ask about is not whatever happened to so and so who was in a particular Math class or English class, but whatever happened to this particular person with whom they played football, played in the band or went to speech contest. This example shows how much importance is placed upon these extra-curricular activities by the children and where their lasting memories of public school reside.

When children who have been Home residents graduate from high school, they may qualify for a scholarship to enable them to attend a college or trade school for a post secondary education.

Since the Home's inception in the early part of last century, education has played a very important part in its overall program for the betterment of children's lives. This program is being reinforced and will continue to adapt to better meet the needs of the children with whom we continue our work.



## JURISDICTIONS COME TOGETHER FOR 5-STATE EVENT

On August 5, 6, and 7, 2005, Omaha Nebraska was the site for the annual 5-State Celebration for the Grand Jurisdictions of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and South Dakota. All five jurisdictions were represented at the event which was hosted by the Grand Chapter of Nebraska. Headquarters for the event was the Embassy Suites in the historic Old Market area of Omaha. Serving on the committee for the event were Sisters Bev Donham (wife of PGP Mike), Dee Schuetz, PGM and Cyn Norman PGM. With their spouses Mike, Jon and Don, they took care of every detail, and made the whole weekend an enjoyable, fun time for the 162 members and friends who registered their attendance.

The weekend began with a luau at the hotel. Everyone attending was dressed in their colorful muu-muus and Hawaiian shirts. The meal was followed by hula lessons, contests, and some very special and very amusing entertainment by the spouses of the arrangements committee (those who attended will never forget the “fan dance!”). Names were drawn for several door prizes. Following the evening’s entertainment, the guests were free to enjoy a beautiful Nebraska evening walking through this beautiful area of Omaha.

Saturday morning began with breakfast and then members had their choice of visiting several interesting places in Omaha, including the Sac Museum, Joslyn Art Museum, Durham Museum, Botanical Gardens, Shoreline Golf Course, or the favorite—the Henry Doorly Zoo. The time was also open for shopping and eating in the Old Market area or relaxing and visiting with their Eastern Star Sisters and Brothers. Many commented that they enjoyed the relaxed schedule with everyone being able to enjoy the day as they wished. The arrangements committee graciously provided transportation to all of the locations.

Buses took the participants Saturday evening to the riverboat landing where all enjoyed dinner before boarding for a starlight cruise and dessert. This too proved to be a very relaxing evening with plenty of time for the Sisters and Brothers to visit with their counterparts from the other Jurisdictions and to spend some

quality time with their own Grand Families. Nebraska was honored to have the Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska, Brother Ivan Vrtiska and his wife Karen, join the group for the dinner and riverboat cruise. Brother Ivan is now proud to say he took Sister Karen on a cruise for their anniversary!

Sunday morning following breakfast, the group joined together on the hotel patio for a brief inspirational service and farewell. Music was led by Sister Betty Garwood, Grand Conductress of Nebraska, and a brief inspirational address was given by Sister Cathy Wagner, Grand Secretary of Nebraska. A donation will be sent to each of the five jurisdictions for their ESTARL program.

Rest assured that the 5-State event will continue, as the Grand Chapter of Kansas has already volunteered to host the event next year. The jurisdictions attending hope to increase attendance each year by making sure that their members know that this is an event for ALL members of the Order, not just for Grand Officers. So, put the date on your calendar—Kansas will host the next 5-State Celebration on the first weekend in August 2006.



The five Worthy Grand Matrons of the Five-State Celebration (who have just completed their hula lessons at the Friday night luau) left to right: Retha Felkner, Missouri; Paula Gettles, Kansas; JoAnn Bergeson, Iowa; Janice Hadrick, South Dakota; and Jan Thoman, Nebraska

### **Brownville OES Recognizes 50-year Members**

Brownville Chapter No. 263 recently recognized their 50-year plus members by honoring them with a special visit. Worthy Matron Elaine Knapp and Worthy Patron Don Mathews (shown in the back row) were in charge of this special recognition activity held on June 11. Each member honored was presented a corsage. Pictured are those recognized at Longs Creek Village. Pictured left to right: Elnora Darling (56) years; Mabel Holliday (81) years; Ruth Smith (76) years; and Evelyn Niebrugge (57) years. Later that same day the members of Brownville Chapter also visited at Nemaha County Good Samaritan Center where they recognized and presented corsages to Alvin Thomas, Margaret McIninch, Mary Blankenship, Lois Smith and Ruth Bath. Sixteen Star members enjoyed fellowship together in honoring these special members.



### **Noah's Canine Assistance Project**



This year the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron, Order of the Eastern Star of Nebraska, have chosen to support Noah's Assistance Dogs of Crete as their special project for the 2005-06 year. Noah's will use the money in the training of dogs to assist physically disabled people, to train guide dogs, and to provide social/therapy dogs for homes or care giving facilities. The goal of the Grand Chapter is to assist financially and to increase awareness of the work done at Noah's.

To assist Noah's financially, the Eastern Star Grand Officers participated in Noah's “Dog ‘N Jog” held at the city park in

Crete on September 11. **These Grand Officers would like to thank the members of our Masonic Family who supported them by sponsoring one or more of them in this walk.** Lodges or individuals may send their donations to the Eastern Star Grand Chapter office, PO Box 156, Fremont, NE 68026-0156. The Grand Officers will accept your donations in support of their walk even after the day of the event, as this project will continue throughout the year. The Grand Chapter office will acknowledge receipt of your gift. Together as a Masonic Family – we can make a difference at Noah's and for many disabled people in Nebraska.

## Words from Rainbow

by Courtney Fasnacht, Grand Worthy Advisor



Grand Assembly Installation was held on June 12, 2005. I am Courtney Fasnacht and was installed as Grand Worthy Advisor. My projects include: the Mom Schuerich Educational Loan Fund, the Shrine Hospitals, and the Friendship Home in Lincoln.

This summer I traveled to two out-of-state jurisdictions; went on Grand Travels; and had the distinct pleasure of traveling to the Shrine Hospital in Chicago. It was an amazing trip! We flew in the morning and took a tour

of the Hospital. The Hospital is so beautiful and has the best staff and technology to help the children. After the tour, we ate lunch and then played with some of the children. It was a rewarding experience, and I thank everyone involved for allowing me the opportunity to go and see the Hospital.

After the Shrine Hospital visit, there is always a game, a parade, a picnic, and a dance. This year was no exception. There were 17 members of the Rainbow Grand Family riding in the cars during the Shrine Bowl parade and many local Assemblies joined in the parade on foot. Everyone enjoyed the picnic at Havelock Park, where the three youth organizations got to bond a little more. The weather was hot for the game, but, as usual – a great game! The Rainbow girls were happy to go to the Sesostriis Temple for a cool place to dance and eat pizza. This event is a great way to cap the day, and is greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

In August, the Rainbow Grand Family was on the move again, this time to World's of Fun. It was a Rushee party with the Grand Family and we had a successful turn out.

In my travels, I have been promoting the Masonic Youth Conference. When I am finished explaining it, I always take a poll to see who is excited to attend. I am always overwhelmed with the show of hands before me. It looks to be a great time, and all the Rainbow Girls are looking forward to it.

### State Senior Councilor Raised as Master Mason



Tyler McCabe, State Senior Councilor, Nebraska DeMolay, receives a Bible from Fremont Lodge No. 15. Tyler was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in July 2005.

## JOB'S DAUGHTERS OF NEBRASKA

Judy Wehrbein and Chuck McElfresh  
Grand Guardian & Associate Grand Guardian

Welcome to a new Job's Daughter Year ... the "*Jungle Jobie Fever.....Reaching New Heights*" Grand Year!! It's the beginning of a new "safari," the Jungle is coming alive and we have caught the fever. And you are all invited to join us as we travel through the jungle adventures!!

Leading our safaris are Hillary Melvin Grand Bethel Honored Queen from Bethel #8 Hastings, 16 years old and a Junior at Hastings High School; Kimberly Rieken Miss Nebraska Job's Daughter from Bethel #14 Nebraska City, 19 years old and a freshman at Wesleyan University; Ashley Abramson Miss Nebraska Congeniality, from Bethel #28 Gothenburg, 18 years old and a freshman at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Judy Wehrbein Grand Guardian, Bethel #24 Plattsmouth; and Charles McElfresh Associate Grand Guardian from Bethel #14 Nebraska City.

"Kids helping kids" continues to be our focus through our Community Service projects. Through HIKE (Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment) Fund Inc eleven Presentations were made last year to hearing impaired children totaling \$24,400.00. Three Presentations have been made this year and 2 others will be presented soon. GBHQ Hillary has for her Project the Children's Miracle Network in conjunction with the Children's Hospital in Omaha. Donations are always welcome to both of these funds and can be made by contacting your Bethel or a member of the Grand Guardian Council.

Remember – You are always welcome and encouraged to attend our Visitations, Bethel meetings and area activities. Our young people are our future, and they do appreciate your support and encouragement. This year our emphasis is to "reach" out to our Masonic Family to stay connected and communicate. Please check our web site for information about upcoming events that may be happening near you, or better yet, contact the Bethel in your area.

We look forward to see you during the coming year in our Jobie Jungle!!

For more information contact: Judy Wehrbein, Grand Guardian, 8817 Church Rd, Louisville, NE 68037 (402) 298-8192 [jwehrbein@alltel.net](mailto:jwehrbein@alltel.net). Nebraska Job's Daughters website: [www.nejd.org](http://www.nejd.org).



Pictured left to right are Charles McElfresh, Associate Grand Guardian, Kim Rieken, Miss Nebraska Job's Daughter, Hillary Melvin, Grand Bethel Honored Queen, Ashley Abramson, Miss Nebraska Congeniality, and Judy Wehrbein, Grand Guardian.

# DeMolay Nebraska

Bruce Wood, Executive Officer

This year Conclave was held at Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska. **For those who have not experienced Conclave as a DeMolay, or an Adult, Conclave is truly an experience!** The first day saw registration, followed by ritual competition. After ritual competition, a group picture was taken before everyone left for a picnic dinner at the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children. The wonderful picnic food was provided by Fremont Lodge No. 15 and Arbor Vitae Chapter No. 92 OES. Afterwards, the DeMolays played a fun game of kick ball.

It seems that Keene Chapter, out of the goodness of their hearts and seeing that the heat and humidity was almost intolerable, had purchased red and blue Gatorade for the bunch. Or did they? The advisors knew something was up when all of a sudden there was an unplanned Sweetheart meeting off to the side, before they busted out the cool drinks. Keene Chapter busted out something; it wasn't the cold drinks, but rather water balloons. Almost everyone got hit (advisors and Sweethearts, well almost all of the Sweethearts excluded).

After the picnic, everyone went ice skating. Yes, ice skating in July. Some DeMolays and Sweethearts really burnt up the rink, but most of the advisors are not quite ready for the Winter Olympics tryouts.

The evening ended with ice cream and other fun events, including hula hooping, pie eating, bubble blowing, and other Olympic events, leading all the way up to midnight.

On Saturday morning, the group made a quick trip back to the YMCA for swimming, basketball, racquet ball, and about every other sport you could imagine. After lunch it was the business meeting (Sweetheart candidate interviews, and voting) and then time for conferring of the Chevalier degree on Rush Storz and Tyler McCabe.

Rush Storz was installed as the Nebraska DeMolay State Master Councilor. Rush is a Past Master Councilor of Lincoln Chapter and a freshman at Wesleyan University. Tyler McCabe

was installed as the State Senior Councilor. Tyler is a Past Master Councilor of Lewis M. Keene Chapter in Fremont and attends the University of Nebraska in Kearney. Bryan Kehler was installed as the State Junior Councilor. Bryan is a Past Master Councilor of Dr. Frederick Eiche Chapter in Lincoln and a senior at Lincoln Northeast High School.

Josh Kehler received the Nebraska DeMolay "DeMolay of the Year" award during the banquet. Josh is currently Junior Councilor of Dr. Frederick Eiche Chapter in Lincoln, as well as a sophomore at Lincoln Northeast High School. Congratulations Josh!

After the Banquet, it was time to walk over to the student center to meet the Job's and Rainbows who had come up for the dance and the crowning of the new Nebraska DeMolay State Sweetheart. Everyone present enjoyed the dance, and anticipation was in the air about who would become the next State Sweetheart. Finally the time came for the selection. Current State Sweetheart Caryn Stuhr crowned Katie Taff as the new State Sweetheart for 2005-2006. Katie Taff is a Past Honored Queen of Lincoln Job's Daughters Bethel No. 63, Chapter Sweetheart of Dr. Frederick Eiche and a sophomore at Lincoln Southwest High School.

Sunday morning brought breakfast and the awarding of the trophies for the ritual competition. After the trophy presentations, the DeMolays were dismissed until we all meet again next year.

Nebraska DeMolay received two membership awards during the Supreme Council Session at Orlando, FL in June. One was the Franks S. Land Membership Award for initiating more members than reached majority and the other was the Gorman McBride Membership Award for initiating more members in 2004 than initiated in 2003. Additionally, Bruce Wood, Executive Officer in Nebraska, received the Grand Masters Eagle Award for the most improved jurisdiction.

## JOB'S MASONIC YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP



M.W. Ivan Vrtiska presented Ashley Andrews with the 2005 Grand Lodge Job's Daughters Masonic Youth Scholarship. The \$1000.00 scholarship was presented to Ashley on June 24 at Grand Bethel in Kearney. Ashley is an active member of Job's Daughters Bethel No. 17 of Norfolk. She is a 2005 graduate of Norfolk Senior High School. Ashley is now attending Nebraska Wesleyan University preparing for a career in pharmacy. She is the daughter of Colin and Carol Andrews of Norfolk.

## PART 2 - 101 THINGS YOU AND YOUR LODGE CAN DO FOR MASONIC YOUTH GROUPS

11. Offer to buy a meeting suit or gown for a youth who can't afford it.
12. Visit a regular meeting, degree conferral, or installation of officers, and report on it to your lodge.
13. Sign as a Masonic Sponsor on a petition for membership.
14. Serve as your lodge's youth representative.
15. Ask your lodge's youth representative for information about the local groups and their meetings/needs.
16. Serve on an Advisory Council, Board, or Guardian Council.
17. Help a youth member learn a ritual part (their ritual is written, so you needn't know the part beforehand.)
18. Provide help with costuming, makeup, floorwork or rehearsal for degree conferrals.
19. Don't just wait for "problems" to communicate with your local group...send them a note when they do something right ("Thanks for leaving the kitchen so clean after your spaghetti dinner.")

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# Year Pin Presentations

## 50-Year Pins

Earl D. Ackerson, Covert No. 11  
 Donald Dwain Adam, Zion No. 234  
 Wallace B. Adam, Zion No. 234  
 Christian R. Andersen, Sr., Covert No. 11  
 Jack F. Archer, Bellevue No. 325  
 Dennis O. Arney, Platte Valley No. 32  
 Richard H. Austin, Franklin No. 264  
 William C. Baker, College View No. 320  
 Lyle L. Bare, Wisner No. 114  
 Howard L. Barrett, James L. Eatmon No. 294  
 S. Bruce Barton, East Lincoln No. 210  
 Max D. Biggs, Union No. 287  
 Charles L. Bissell, Corinthian No. 83  
 Ervin R. Boardman, Victory No. 310  
 Charles Boettcher, Springfield No. 112  
 John W. Bowers, East Lincoln No. 210  
 Donald E. Buettgenbach, East Lincoln No. 210  
 Gene L. Burgen, Euclid No. 97  
 Robert S. Byrnes, York No. 56  
 Dale R. Cole, Covert No. 11  
 Richard L. Cordell, Lincoln No. 19  
 Fred Philip Curtiss, Frank Welch No. 75  
 Charles R. Cutler, Wallace No. 279  
 Alton Detmer, Liberty No. 300  
 Cole E. Dobberstein, Platte Valley No. 32  
 Lloyd E. Dove, East Lincoln No. 210  
 Neal H. Dusenberry, East Lincoln No. 210  
 Harold G. Froman, Platte Valley No. 32  
 John W. Fusselman, Springfield No. 112  
 Lawrence B. Gallion, Albion No. 78  
 Gerald E. Gerdes, Lancaster No. 54  
 Kenneth M. Goff, Pomegranate No. 110  
 Virgil J. Haggert, Jr., George W. Lininger No. 268  
 Maurice F. Hall, Bellevue No. 325  
 Richard F. Hanak, Covert No. 11  
 Howard C. Haythorn, Platte Valley No. 32  
 Robert Heimbeck, Frank Welch No. 75  
 Bernard Keith Heuermann, Keystone No. 62  
 John E. Henry, Platte Valley No. 32  
 James F. Hinman, Frank Welch No. 75  
 Harry E. Hoffman, Oliver No. 38  
 James V. Hovendick, Landmark No. 222  
 Gordon G. Jamison, Cotner No. 297  
 Ernest H. Johnson, Platte Valley No. 32  
 Raymond L. Johnson, Pomegranate No. 110  
 Maurice Jones, Hay Springs No. 177  
 Donald Kehn, Atkinson No. 164  
 Harry A. Koch, Jr., George W. Lininger No. 268  
 George E. Lang, Garfield No. 95  
 Harold D. Lang, Hay Springs No. 177  
 Joseph Langpaul, Covert No. 11  
 Gilbert D. Larsen, Jr., Lone Tree No. 36  
 J. Dewey Lewis, Lancaster No. 54  
 Edward H. Lightner, Mid-West No. 317  
 Joseph B. Logan, Alliance No. 183  
 Robert L. Long, Cotner No. 297  
 Frederick H. Longacre, Acacia No. 34  
 Donald E. Lyon, Frank Welch No. 75  
 Wilbert F. Malcolm, Liberty No. 300  
 Billie G. Marcellus, Garfield No. 95  
 Kenneth C. McAninch, Ashlar No. 33  
 Richard L. McCall, Hay Springs No. 177  
 Merle S. Metcalf, Hay Springs No. 177  
 Neamon D. Metcalf, Hay Springs No. 177  
 Henry Misle, Crete No. 37

Billy R. Mueksch, Hay Springs No. 177  
 Alexander Murray, Covert No. 11  
 H. David Neely, Sr., George W. Lininger No. 268  
 Gary A. Nelson, Garfield No. 95  
 Wynne E. Norsworthy, Platte Valley No. 32  
 V. Keith Olson, Cedar River No. 89  
 Kenneth D. Peed, Bloomfield No. 218  
 Edward "Ted" D. Phelps, Covert No. 11  
 Theodore F. Randolph, Lincoln No. 19  
 Gene Charles Rhynalds, Crete No. 37  
 Stanley Richards, Tekamah No. 31  
 James A. Ronni, Bellevue No. 325  
 James M. Rosekrans, Blue River No. 30  
 William K. Ryan, George W. Lininger No. 268  
 Kenneth F. Schenck, Covert No. 11  
 Victor H. Siedow, Frank Welch No. 75  
 Norman L. Sothan, Wahoo No. 59  
 Robert J. Stalcup, Lincoln No. 19  
 James H. Stoll, Covert No. 11  
 Robert M. Stone, East Lincoln No. 210  
 Donald R. Swanson, Lancaster No. 54  
 Carl A. Swearingen, Mid-West No. 317  
 Cecil M. Tuenge, Platte Valley No. 32  
 James Vahrenkamp, Hay Springs No. 177  
 W. Eugene Wilkie, Covert No. 11  
 Reginald R. Yates, Pomegranate No. 110

## 60-Year Pins

Paul Bentley, Albion No. 78  
 Kenneth C. Bentz, Acacia No. 34  
 William A. Buehler, Lincoln No. 19  
 Robert A. Burdick, Crete No. 37  
 George A. Campbell, Covert No. 11  
 Donald E. Davis, Lone Tree No. 36  
 Clarence A. Dickey, Covert No. 11  
 William A. Doering, Franklin No. 264  
 William H. Ebert, Evening Star No. 49  
 Robert L. Entrekin, Scotts Bluff No. 201  
 Barton H. Greenberg, Covert No. 11  
 Edward L. Hahn, Pawnee No. 23  
 Gordon E. Hawley, Omadi No. 5  
 Donald H. Jones, York No. 56  
 Richard P. Jones, Garfield No. 95  
 Avery Glenn Lett, Western Star No. 2  
 R. Stanley Lowe, Landmark No. 222  
 Edward M. Malashock, Covert No. 11  
 Bill H. Moranville, Camp Clarke No. 285  
 Kenneth M. Morgan, Frank Welch No. 75  
 Glen K. Oberst, Cement No. 211  
 George E. O'Halloran, Hay Springs No. 177  
 Franklin E. Oman, Platte Valley No. 32  
 Louis C. Newkirk, Camp Clarke No. 285  
 Alva W. Peterson, Frank Welch No. 75  
 Dale E. Pistole, Covert No. 11  
 R. Willard Scott, North Bend No. 119  
 Robert R. Sexson, Ogalalla No. 159  
 Siegfried Shattil, Harvard No. 44  
 George E. Shoemaker, Miloma No. 328  
 Charles I. Slagle, Humboldt No. 40  
 Wayne H. Towne, Platte Valley No. 32  
 Maurice C. Widick, Platte Valley No. 32

## 80-Year Pins

Harry A. Spencer, PGM, Bee Hive Lodge No. 184 & North Star Lodge No. 227

## M.W. Harry Spencer Receives 80-year Pin



On July 26, Judge Harry A. Spencer, Past Grand Master, was honored for 80 years in the Fraternity. A pin presentation and reception were held at The Nebraska Masonic Home. Harry's daughter Lee Harlan sits with Harry as W.M. Dennis Mundt of North Star Lodge No. 227 in Lincoln makes the presentation.



C. Frederick Kuehl, Jr. received the Bronze Jordan Medal from W.M. Robert Rolfs at the June meeting of Waterloo Lodge No. 102.



W.M. Lee Graham (right) and Senior Warden Brian Smith (left) present the Bronze Jordan Medal for Pomegranate Lodge No. 110 to Lamar Converse.



Oliver Lodge No. 38 in Seward awarded a 50-year pin to Harry E. Hoffman on August 18, 2005. Past Master Ben F. Hughes presented the pin and a clock with a Masonic emblem face, which was made by a Lodge member.

## BRONZE JORDAN MEDAL HOLDERS

Nemaha Valley Lodge No. 4 in Brownville awarded their Bronze Jordan Medal to Dean Walker, Jr. on July 10, 2005. Grand Master Ivan Vrtiska made the presentation at a special meeting held at the Whiskey Creek Winery.

Tekamah Lodge No. 31 awarded their Bronze Jordan Medal to John W. MacDonald of Omaha, on May 25. Deputy Grand Custodian Ronald Grass when attending a meeting of the Masonic Sojourners organization made the presentation.

Platte Valley Lodge No. 32 in North Platte awarded their Bronze Jordan Medal to Cecil A. Axthelm on August 16, 2005. Worshipful Master Roland Coker made the presentation prior to the lodge's stated meeting.

Waterloo Lodge No. 102 awarded their Bronze Jordan Medal to C. Frederick Kuehl, Jr. of Omaha, at their stated June meeting. Worshipful Master Robert Rolfs made this presentation.

Pomegranate Lodge No. 110 in Ashland, awarded their Bronze Jordan Medal to Lamar Converse, a resident of the Ashland Care Center. Worshipful Master Lee Graham and Senior Warden Brian Smith made the presentation on September 8.

Friendship Lodge No. 239, Chapman, awarded their Bronze Jordan Medal to Marlin Wells of Central City on August 22, 2005. Worshipful Master Edwin C. Weber made the presentation during the lodge meeting.

George Washington Lodge No. 250, Lincoln, had their Bronze Jordan Medal presented to Jack C. Marlow of North Platte, on June 6, 2005. Grand Master Ivan Vrtiska made the presentation while in North Platte for the laying of a cornerstone.

Union Lodge No. 287 in Palmyra awarded their Bronze Jordan Medal to Landis A. Rulla, Sr. in May 2005. Brother Wayne Johnson, who also had the honor of presenting Rulla with his 50- and 60-year pins, made the presentation.



Landis Rulla was honored to receive the Bronze Jordan Medal from Union Lodge No. 287 of Palmyra. Brother Landis is pictured with his great granddaughter Savannah Heusman.



John McDonald received the Bronze Jordan Medal for Tekamah Lodge No. 31 at a Sojourners meeting in May. Back row: PGM James Brown, Jr., Grand Custodian Jerry Verbeek, Grand Junior Deacon John Parsons, Deputy Grand Master Scott Krieger, PGM Ken Beebe, PGM Phil Lorenzen, and DGC Ronald Grass. Front row: PGM V. Kaye Ramsey, John MacDonald, Mrs. Anna Belle MacDonald, Grand Master Ivan Vrtiska, PGM Don Rasmussen and PGM Paul Eveland.

## BELLEVUE MASONIC LODGE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

by John A. Sheffield

Bellevue Lodge No. 325 celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005. To honor this occasion, members of the Lodge and their guests enjoyed dinner and fellowship in the Lodge Dining Room, hosted by Worshipful Master Horace H. Reynolds, IV.

Most Worshipful Ivan A. Vrtiska awarded 50-year pins to Brothers Maurice F. Hall and James A. Ronni. Brother Jack F. Archer, also a 50-year Mason, who currently resides in Louisiana, was presented with his pin by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana.

Also recognized were the surviving Charter members of the Lodge: Brothers William V. Brooks, Herbert G. Chandler, Orville W. Henderson, H. Lewis Miller, Eugene G. Pillard, Leo L. Shuman, and Almon Tibbetts, Jr. Brother Leo currently holds the Bronze Jordan Medal for Bellevue Lodge No. 325.

Those Past Masters of the Lodge who were present were also recognized, and Worshipful Brother Harold W. Noble, Deputy Grand Custodian, presented Individual Proficiency Certificates to Worshipful Brothers H. Lewis Miller, Robert M. Carter, and John A. Sheffield.

Highlights of the evening were a verbal history of the beginnings of the Lodge presented by Worshipful Brother H. Lewis Miller, a 58-year member of the Fraternity, followed by a film showing the construction of the Lodge building by enormous amounts of volunteer labor, funded through many voluntary donations and fundraisers. The Lodge building was completed in 1959 and remains in continuous use by the Fraternity today.

## Grandson Raised 100 Years to the Day After Grandfather

by Steve Fouse, Secretary, Zion Lodge No. 234

On July 12, 1905, William H. Rothwell was raised to a Master Mason in Zion Lodge No. 234, Hyannis, Nebraska. One hundred years later, on July 12, 2005, the grandson of William Rothwell, Robert D. Rothwell, was raised to a Master Mason in Zion Lodge.



To help us celebrate this occasion and to witness the raising of Robert D. Rothwell were the Brothers from our lodge, as well as from five other lodges. Max Rothwell and Robert L. Rothwell, who are uncles to Robert D. Rothwell, served as the Worshipful Master and Senior Warden, respectively. Other Brothers from Zion Lodge who were present: John Rothwell, Steve Neilson, Jason Simpson, M.D. Shepherd, John D. Streiff, Josh Streiff, Leroy Evans, Robert Cole, Cliff Macomber, Harry Bishop, Bernard T. Spencer, Bernard R. Spencer, Harry Bishop, Travis Wenzel, and Steve Fouse. The others in attendance were Jack Nichols of Scottsbluff, Grand Custodian and Personal Representative of the Grand Master, Dale Anderson of Chadron, Personal Representative of the Grand Master, Laurence Schufeldt, North Platte, Bob Moreland and Randy Snyder of Martin, South Dakota, Les Evert of Gordon, and John Luce of Scottsbluff. This was the third raising that Zion Lodge has performed in 2005.

## MULHOLLAND RECEIVES COMMISSION

Worshipful Brother Glenn R. Mulholland received his commission as Deputy Custodian on June 5, 2005 at Platte Valley Lodge No. 32 from Worshipful Brother Jerry Verbeek, Grand Custodian. The commissioning took place right after the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Ivan Vrtiska, had addressed the members and guests of Platte Valley Lodge in open lodge just prior to the laying of the cornerstone for The Fred and Rachael Shrake Masonic Fellowship Hall addition to the Masonic Temple in North Platte.

As Deputy Custodian Worshipful Brother Mulholland is responsible for overseeing the accuracy of the ritualistic work in Platte Valley, Wallace and Ogallala Lodges.



Front row: Bruce Watkins, Grand Secretary; Glenn Mulholland, Deputy Grand Custodian; Jerry Verbeek, Grand Custodian; Jack Nichols, Personal Representative of the Grand Master. Back row: Bill Lichtenberger, Deputy Grand Custodian; Ivan Vrtiska, Grand Master; Scott Krieger, Deputy Grand Master; and Wayne Lueningborg, Past Grand Master

## Annual Centennial Lodge Corn Feed

On July 31 Centennial Lodge No. 326 and Fontenelle Chapter No. 249, Order of the Eastern Star held their annual Corn Feed. For the past several years a Brother Mason from Yutan has raised the corn. A true Mason, he lets his nieces sell the corn to pay their college expenses. Centennial Lodge and Fontenelle Chapter support that effort by purchasing the corn from them and then hosting the Annual Corn Feed where the proceeds are used to support Masonic and Eastern Star projects.

The corn-on-the cob was cooked outdoors in a tub. Again this year, the food was delicious and the Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star Chapter have had another successful fundraiser showing the advantages of working together as a Masonic Family.



## The winner is...

Kevin Brenneis, Worshipful Master of Tekamah's Masonic Lodge, holds the winning ticket to a recent drawing for a 24-inch flat screen television. Juli Stone was the winner of the drawing, used as a fund-raiser for a lodge project. A spokesman said the money will be used for an electronic message board to be used by the lodge and local churches.



## EUREKA CHAPTER KEEPS THE SPIRIT OF OES ALIVE

Working together as a Masonic Family—making your Chapter visible in the community—these are some of the goals of the Order of the Eastern Star in Nebraska this year. Eureka Chapter No. 86 gave their love and support to their Sister Patty Hecox, a thirty-five year member and dual member with Dorcas Chapter No. 144 in Bartley, as she coped with pancreatic cancer. Sister Patty is a past Grand Officer and past District Grand Supervisor for the Grand Chapter of Nebraska.

With no insurance and no income since her illness forced her to give up her job, the situation was critical, and members of Eureka Chapter were up to the challenge. They joined together with the Memorial United Methodist Church and the First Congregational Church of McCook, to organize a benefit spaghetti dinner on Sunday August 7, 2005. Worthy Matron, Darlene Cole says that two hundred fifty bright "Pink Posters for Patty" were distributed throughout the area to promote the event. It was an overwhelming success. Patty greeted over 200 people who had come to support her in her battle.

Members of the Order throughout the state have been updated on her condition by Sister Darlene and her wonderful officers in Eureka Chapter. The "Patty Watch" kept members throughout the state informed and praying for Patty, as they received and forwarded the email updates to other Sisters and Brothers. Sister Patty will soon have a new address and will begin chemotherapy as soon as she is strong enough. She expresses her thanks to everyone for their love and support through her illness.



## Nine Keys To Better Brotherhood

1. Speak to your Brothers. There is nothing as heartwarming as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile. It takes 72 muscles to frown - only 14 to smile.
3. Call your Brothers by name. The sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of his own name.
4. Be friendly. If you would have friends, you must be friendly.
5. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do were a genuine pleasure.
6. Be interested in people. You can like everybody if you try.
7. Be generous with praise and cautious with criticism. Be considerate of the feelings of others. It will be appreciated.
8. Be thoughtful of the opinions of others. There are three sides to a controversy - yours, the other fellow's, and the right one.
9. Be ever ready to serve. What counts most in life is what we do for others.

*The New Zealand Freemason, 1995*

## 'Bring Your Son to Work' Day

April 28 was "Bring Your Son or Daughter to Work" Day. Casey Speck went to work with his grandfather, Jay Speck, who is the Grand Secretary/Recorder of Grand York Rite of Nebraska, a fraternal, non-profit organization.

"I always enjoy being with my grandkids," said Jay. "Having Casey help me at the office today has been a real treat. He's my buddy."

Casey is very close to his grandfather and loves doing things with him. He thinks he has the "coolest grandpa in the world." Casey put out a mailing, collated pages, got the mail and kept his grandfather's coffee cup full.

Reprinted with permission from The Plattsmouth Journal.



The above article was sent to Grand Lodge by Jay's daughter Benne Jo, along with a letter that stated "My oldest is in DeMolay and my youngest (pictured in the article) will be joining in November of this year. I wanted to send this to all of you for publication because Jay Speck is the type of man who does so much for so many that I felt it is time for people to know what a spectacular man he truly is."

## Cornerstone Ceremony Held in North Platte



On June 5, a cornerstone ceremony was performed in North Platte for the Masonic Temple. Deputy Grand Master Scott Krieger (right) is shown applying the square to the cornerstone.

## Hastings Lodges Award Scholarships

The annual Masonic Scholarship Awards dinner was in May at the Masonic Center in Hastings.

Area students who received scholarships and the high schools they attend are:

### Academic Scholarships

- ◆ Mid-West Lodge No. 317: Tegan Woodbury of Clay Center; Amanda Wadman of Blue Hill; Jake Fisher of Sandy Creek; Matthew Douglas of Kenesaw; Christie Murman of St. Cecilia; Karissa Bohlen of Adams Central
- ◆ Hastings Lodge No. 50: Samantha Malouf of Hastings
- ◆ Eastern Star Grand Chapter: Jason Hinze and Brittany Davidson, Both of Hastings
- ◆ Eastern Star Campbell Estate: Courtney Beach and Garret Larsen, both of Hastings

### Masonic All-Star Marching Band Scholarships

- ◆ Mid-West Lodge No. 317: Randi Pohlmeier of Glenvil; Dallas Owen of Kenesaw; Jaycie Thompson, Kevin Smith and Tracy Harrenstein, all of Adams Central; Aaron Moser of Blue Hill
- ◆ Hastings Lodge No. 50: Chad Dalrymple and Brad Dalrymple, both of Hastings; Brett Hodgen of St. Cecilia
- ◆ Acacia Chapter Eastern Star: Calla Lomax and Neal Sunderman, both of Hastings
- ◆ York Rite: Tracy Harrington of Adams Central

**Tehama Shrine Football:** Pat Smith of Adams Central; Jeff Hoch of St. Cecilia; Mark Schmeackle of Hastings

**Tehama Shrine Soccer:** Matt Witt and Courtney Beach, both of Hastings



## Sixth Generation Mason

Marion K Schroeder, Past Master and 50 year member of Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 57 in Syracuse is shown with his Grandson, Patrick Schroeder, the sixth generation Master Mason to be a member of Mt. Moriah Lodge.

## Needed for the Masonic Library/Museum...

Please check your attics, home libraries, boxes, bookshelves, etc. for these books:

1. *Fine Art Catalogue, First Interstate Exposition, 1886 Omaha, J.S. Briggs*
2. *Lininger Estate Sale Catalogue, July 17-20, 1927, Omaha* - This catalogue documents the items listed for sale in the Lininger Art Gallery.
3. No exact title but - The ladies of Trinity Church in 1879 formed a temporary association for the purpose of presenting an art loan exhibition with Mrs. Bishop Clarkson as president and Mrs. Charles F. Catlin as superintendent of the gallery.

If by chance you have one or any of these, please consider donating them to the Nebraska Masonic Foundation Library/Museum. Call Jeannie at 1-800-558-8029 toll free; or 402-475-4640.

# Silent Auction

## TO BENEFIT YOUTH

The Grand Lodge will once again sponsor a Silent Auction to generate enthusiasm, have fun, and support our Youth. To make the Auction a success, each Masonic appendant body is asked to donate an item or items for the Auction. Items will be on display at the Holiday Inn in Kearney during Grand Lodge on Thursday and Friday, February 2nd and 3rd, and everyone will have an opportunity to bid during that time. Friday night, following the banquet, the bidding will close. All money collected will be divided between our DeMolay, Rainbow and Job's Daughters organizations.

Please support this very worthwhile activity with your donations and your participation in bidding. For questions contact Gene and Judy Wehrbein (402) 298-8192 or gwehrbein@alltel.net. Those attending Grand Lodge can bring their items with them at that time, or they can be delivered to the Grand Lodge Office in Lincoln by January 31st.

See you all in Kearney at Grand Lodge, February 2nd and 3rd and be ready to shop and bid, and shop and bid!!!

### Fraternal Relations Opportunity

Are you interested in communicating with other jurisdictions recognized by the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, learning what they do and sharing with them actions and activities of our Grand Lodge? Communication with these jurisdictions may be written, oral and/or by actual visitations to and with them. You will have an opportunity to develop friendships and an awareness of how other jurisdictions function. A program of "Representatives" exchange exists with most of the "Recognized Jurisdictions." A process was implemented last year to update the current list of Representatives. We wish to continue the process of updating the program and to make the proper appointments. If you are interested in learning more about the program and/or in being a participating member of the program, please contact the Grand Lodge Office.

# REMINDER

## MASONIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Have you mailed your registration for the Youth Conference to be held October 15-16 in Kearney? Registration forms can be found on the Grand Lodge website at [www.glne.org](http://www.glne.org).

### GRAND LODGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct 15	CHIP Event, Alegent Clinic, Schuyler
Oct 15	One-day Conferral, Omaha
Oct 15	Cornerstone, Superior Hospital
Oct 15-16	Masonic Youth Leadership Conference, Kearney
Oct 16	Air Show, Kearney Airport
Oct 22	CHIP Event, Albion School
Oct 22	One-day Conferral, Hastings
Oct 24	Education Symposium, Seward
Oct 25	Education Symposium, Papillion & Hastings
Oct 29	Lodge of Military Tribute, Chadron
Nov 5	CHIP Event, Conestoga School
Nov 5	One-day Conferral, Lincoln
Nov 6	Vacant Chair Ceremony, York
Nov 11	Vacant Chair Ceremony, Lincoln
Nov 12	CHIP Event, Kearney
Nov 12	CHIP Event, Chappell
Nov 12	Veteran's Celebration, Hastings
Nov 19	Masonic Lodge Leadership School, Lincoln
Dec 3	CHIP Event, Gothenburg
Dec 3	Masonic Lodge Leadership School, Sidney
Jan 7	CHIP Event, Columbus
Jan 28	One-day Conferral, Omaha
Feb 2-4	Annual Communication, Holiday Inn-Kearney
Feb 11	Grand Lodge Officers Installation, Hastings

The Nebraska Mason is produced quarterly and distributed to more than 25,000 members of the Masonic Family. Copy for articles is due at the Grand Lodge Office on or before the following dates. Articles received after these deadlines will be held for possible inclusion in future issues:

March 1, 2005  
 June 1, 2005  
 September 1, 2005  
 December 1, 2005

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Produced, edited, and proofed by Michelle Fulmer, Jean Holt and Carol Schroeder



### THE NEBRASKA MASON

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
 GRAND LODGE A.:F.: & A.:M.: OF NEBRASKA  
 PO BOX 81852  
 LINCOLN, NE 68501-1852

Non-Profit Org.  
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