
THE BILLBOARD

MARCH 2023

For The Valley of Billings, Orient of Montana - Serving Eastern Montana Scottish Rite Members

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**To The Celestial
Lodge:**

Robert Repac

Message from the Venerable Master



Fraternal Greetings,

I wish to thank all my officers, elected, and appointed for a great LOP meeting last month. I Appreciate everyone being well prepared. A special thanks to Honorable Brother Dan Jobrack for showing us how to setup the LOP, Brother Bob Donaldson for filling in as the Tyler and Brothers Rick Ingram- Hagenbart, Cody Catlin and Robert Caukwell, for being Greeters, setting up and taking down the LOP.

Special Entertainment.

Thanks to Illustrious Brother Tom Hornung for his humorous presentation. (Just Say No)

And Honorable Brother John Baber for sharing his musical talents.

Remembrance and Renewal Observation.

Years ago, before I became a Mason, I remember My Dad being in charge of the Maundy Thursday observance in his area. I was curious about the Maundy Thursday observance and did some research. In 1994 the nonobligatory "Celebration of Remembrance and Renewal" replaced the traditional Maundy Thursday observance and should be held near the vernal equinox, March 21.

(Continued on page 6)



Message from our Personal Representative

"Remembrance and Renewal"

By Hon Bro Ron Blaisdell

During this ceremony, we hear the names of our departed Brethren. These individuals are our brothers with whom we have shared the beauty and grandeur of Masonry. The reading of these names is reminiscent of an ancient Sanskrit injunction: "Lead us from the unreal to the real, from darkness to light, from death to immortality." As Masons, we are travelling together on a mystic journey, a journey toward greater and greater light. "The Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal" is a celebration of our Masonic bonds, an opportunity to remember our brothers who have journeyed on before us, and a time to reflect upon our own individual quest.

In the course of our life journey, we experience cycles of darkness as well as peak experiences of joy and spiritual growth. Symbolically, at this time, we move our thoughts from the darkness of winter to the renewal of spring and the promise of more light. The very name Lent is taken from the Latin word which means "to lengthen," and it is during the period of Lent that the rays of light begin to lengthen until the advent of the Vernal Equinox where day and night are equal.

The Vernal Equinox has been recognized by cultures and religions in all times as very spiritual. For example, the Christians celebrate this season with Lent, Maundy Thursday and Easter, the Iranians with the celebration of Jamshedji Navroz, and the Jews with the observance Passover.

We might say that the Vernal Equinox is:

- A time of renewal
- A time of more light in our life
- A time of the crossing over from the darkness of winter into the light and renewal of spring
- A time for extending our vision of universal brotherhood
- A time to erase the divisions of race, creed, and religious intolerance
- A time to remember those who have journeyed on to the Celestial Lodge
- A time to thank the Creator for the men and women in our military who are sacrificing their very lives that we may enjoy the blessing of liberty and justice in our democratic society
- A time for reflection upon the spiritual truths exemplified in the lives and ideals of the avatars, saviors, sages, and messengers of light of all ages.

Freemasonry provides us with insights into the assimilation of light. Our Craft has been likened to a deep well out of which each Mason draws according to his own understanding and enlightenment. During the "Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal," we draw from that well.

(Continued on page 7)



THE RITE CORNER

“Hawaiian Lessons”

David L. Nielsen, S.G.I.G. in Montana

In January, my wife and I took a vacation to Hawaii. It was a place we had never visited and had an opportunity that we did not want to miss. We knew Hawaii had pleasant temperatures, especially compared to Montana in January, the beauty of a Pacific Island and glorious skies. Hawaii attracts tourists looking for recreation and relaxation, but for us we like to explore and learn about the place we are visiting and its citizens. The thing we were impressed with was the history of Hawaii and its early settlers. Hawaii consists of the 137 islands that it recognizes. To many of us, we only know of the eight major islands that attracts visitors.

Originally, the Hawaiian Islands were uninhabited, until islanders from other Polynesian islands discovered them in about 300 AD. These travelers came from the southern islands within the Polynesian triangle, including Samoa, Tonga, Tahiti, and Fiji. Later the immigration to Hawaii included people from other Pacific-regions, like Aotearoa (New Zealand), Japan, China, and the Philippines. Captain James Cook, British explorer, landed in Hawaii in 1778 and was the first European to set foot on a Hawaiian island. Hawaii is truly a melting pot of people from differing cultures, religions, races, and ethnicities. With this diverse mixture of peoples, the Hawaiians have a long cultural reputation of being welcoming and hospitable to visitors and strangers to their homeland. We even noticed that Hawaiian drivers had a level of courtesy and patience not found with drivers in other mainland cities. Friendly, patient and accommodating seemed to be ingrained in Hawaii's cultural DNA. Our impression of Hawaiian culture was reemphasized by the native Hawaiian pastor at the church that we attended. His message was to find unity and harmony between people and not be divided in our common humanity. It was a restatement of the generous hospitality and respect the Hawaiians have shown outsiders for generations, regardless of difference in religious practices.

Between learning of the history of Hawaiian peoples, experiencing the easy-going, accepting manners of Hawaiians, and capped by a timely sermon on the necessity of being united as a people of God and reject divisions among people, I recalled my own Masonic duties. I asked myself if I faithfully walk on the level with other people, and do I keep my actions square with all? Just as in my life, the Hawaiian people have had moments in their history when they slipped from the tradition of being accepting and caring, but they always rebounded back to their ancient cultural habits of hospitality and acceptance. As Masons, we should be aware of our past actions and see if we always walked uprightly before our Deity. Do we give others the same quality of treatment that we would wish for ourselves?

I never expected that visiting Hawaii would go beyond its beautiful beaches, active volcanoes, and astonishing night skies, and would be an inspirational, humbling lesson. Wherever you may travel, I wish you a fulfilling journey—in adventure and experience. Mahalo.



SCOTTISH RITE SPEECH and LANGUAGE CLINIC

Excerpts from the Rite Care Annual Report delivered to the LOP in February 2023 –

In 2022 we served an average of 50 children per month. The funds come from various sources: Scottish Rite Foundation, Fanwood Foundation, Cookie Jar Auction, 365 Club, Donations of stock and other donations and memorials.

The Board has updated its Policies and Procedures regarding acceptance of children into the program. The child visits a speech/language pathologist who makes the prognosis before the parents or guardian are interviewed by a committee with the Board. If approved, the child is then provided with the sponsorship.

Four board members completed their elected terms, three of whom were re-nominated and re-elected to another 3-year term. They were Mary Beth Aasterud, Sean McDuffee and Jered Scherer. The fourth was vacated by Leroy Summers who is retiring. A special thank you to Leroy for his years of service to the board and valuable input.

Please support our Clinic through donations, 365 Club or through a charitable trust in your estate.

Best Regards,
Jered Scherer, Chairman

2023 Valley Information 234 Members

(Remember– you can pay your 2023 dues on line or through the office!)

Active Members with Dues Paid in Full: 126 53.3 %

Members with Current Dues Balance: 26 11.1 %

Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance: 13 5.6 %

Active Members that are Dues Exempt (ALR): 42 17.9%

Active Paid Life Members (E): 27 11.5%



A note about 2023 dues Renewal Notices coming from Supreme Council: Remember your dues must be paid by 01 January to be in good standing.



**Spring is
right around
the corner!**

2023 Officers & General Information

2023 Officers

LODGE OF PERFECTION

Venerable Master	Ron Swenson, 32° KCCH
Senior Warden	John Hugdahl, 32°
Junior Warden	Tom Hanel, 32° KCCH
Orator (all bodies)	Nate Frickel, 32°
Almoner	David Bergeson, 33°
Secretary	Llewellyn Fletcher, 32° KCCH
Treasurer	Dan Jobrack, 32° KCCH
Prelate	Gerald Giebink, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Rick Ingram-Hegenbart, 32°
Expert	Cody Catlin, 32°
Captain of the Host	Robert Cauckwell, 32°
Tyler	Adam Price, 32°
Organist	John Baber, 32° KCCH

ROSE CROIX

Wise Master	David Jobrack, 32°
Senior Warden	Cody Thormahlen, 32°
Junior Warden	Erik Yerger, 32°

COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Commander	Jacob Clos, 32°
1 st Lt. Commander	Michael Wren, 32°
2 nd Lt. Commander	Andrew McCarroll, 32°

CONSISTORY

Master of Kadosh	Jered Scherer, 33°
Prior	Ronny Aasterud, 32° KCCH
Preceptor	Dan Massey, 32° KCCH
Minister of State	Nate Frickel, 32°

2-Month Valley Calendar Snapshot

(Upcoming events on page 10)



Remembrance & Renewal	Mar. 1 st , 2023
Rite Care Board Meeting	Mar. 7 th , 2023
Honormen Luncheon	Mar. 31 st , 2023
Rite Care Board Meeting	Apr. 4 th , 2023
Stated Meeting	Apr. 5 th , 2023

Spring Reunion

Apr. 21-22, 2023

Membership Breakfast

2nd Saturday of each Month

7:30 a.m.

At: **Perkins Restaurant**

765 S 20th Street W., Billings MT 59102



Billings Scottish Rite Office Hours

Wednesday and Thursday
9 a.m. – noon

Coffee Klatch

Every Thursday morning beginning at 7:30 a.m.
in the Temple Dining Room



(Venerable Masters message continued from page 1)

“The Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal, including the Mystic Banquet, is not a religious observation. It is neither the Feast of the Passover nor a Sacrament of Holy Communion, although it commemorates the spirit of both days.” (*Forms And Traditions of The Scottish Rite*)

This is an important issue. When I went through my reunion in Great Falls, I didn't understand how they could give me Holy Communion, it was upsetting for me at the time.

Chapters of Rose Croix observe the celebration as a memorial service honoring the Knights of the Chapter who have passed during the preceding year. The observance strengthens the ties of brotherly love, past and present. We meet together to break bread and to make peace with those who we may have offended and drink the wine of refreshment and renewal. We celebrate the lives of our departed Brethren and promise to abide by the Law of Love, with our present Brethren and all mankind.

We also pay tribute to all those who worked to improve mankind and were rewarded with betrayal, punishment, and death. All who seek to elevate humankind may be considered as Brethren. Masonry is duty and its practice, often comes with personal sacrifice, requires the performance of duty for the good of humanity.” (*Forms And Traditions of The Scottish Rite*)

I hope to see you all there on Wednesday, March 1st for a good meal and the presentation of the Remembrance and Renewal observation. We have a great degree team. Brother David Jobrack is in charge and will have his team well-rehearsed for their presentation.

Up Coming Reunion (April 21st and 22nd)

It is important to get the word out, so we have candidates for the Reunion. Make sure your Blue Lodges know the time and dates beforehand.

Fraternally,

Ron Swenson

Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection.

(Personal Representatives message continued from page 2)

The language of Masonry consists of its universal symbols and rituals. A symbol contains the essence of a truth. A universal symbol contains a universal truth. Universal symbols can be viewed on many levels.

For example, the Christian might associate the cross with the crucifixion; the Buddhist with the sacred Bodhi tree under which the Buddha received enlightenment; the psychologist as an archetypical symbol found within the collective unconscious; and the philosopher as a universal metaphor of human perfection to be found within man himself.

The Star of David is also a universal symbol. Culturally, it is synonymous with Judaism. In addition, however, the Star of David is sometimes referred to as the Seal of Solomon. The United States dollar bill has a Star of David etched on one side with 13 points or stars in the form of two intersecting triangles. Symbolically, the triangle is the symbol of Deity found in teachings of Freemasonry as well as in many of the world's religions. For example, in Christianity the Trinity is represented as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In Hinduism, it is represented as Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. And in Freemasonry, it is represented by the three greater and lesser lights.

A deeper interpretation of the Star of David is that the bottom triangle symbolizes God within man while the upper triangle represents the Transcendent Deity. Taken together, the two interlaced triangles reveal the union of man with Deity.

Multiple Volumes of the Sacred Law rest on the Masonic altar. They may include the Holy Bible, the Koran, the Upanishads, the Zend-Avesta, or whatever book or books Masons deem to be their sacred scripture. Scripture is the means by which we regulate our life and discover truth. In Freemasonry, we are taught that scripture is given to us by God for the "rule and guide of our faith."

Freemasons use these universal symbols in the context of their own culture, their own religious preference, and their own self-development. In addition to being universal symbols, the icons noted above are images we individually associate with our respective cultures and personal beliefs. They provide us with insights into ourselves and light for our journey through life.

Accordingly, each of us worships the Creator in our own way, according to the dictates of our own conscience, in our own church, or our own synagogue, or our own mosque, or in our own temple. The ritual exemplified in the "Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal" allows each person, regardless of religious background and belief, to share, in a broader, more universal context, the spiritual significance of this festive season.

As Masons, we strive to exemplify Masonic light. The "Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal" provides a moving experience and a symbolic foundation on which to build an expanded, more universal celebration of the grandeur, the beauty, the harmony, and the mystery of life and our Craft. To cite the final words of the ceremony: "I give to you all the hope of spring renewed with its attendant bounty. May Brotherly Love prevail and may we ever be united in every social and moral virtue, cemented in the mystic and universal bond of Masonic Brotherhood."



Magic City
Chapter

THE
ROAD
BEGINS
HERE

Welcome to March already. It is amazing how fast this year is chugging along. Magic City Chapter continues to have activities and found a couple of prospects that really seem to fit into our small group of guys. We held a game night last month, an open house and a corn hole tournament. We hope to be able to induct these new members in March before we go to Montana DeMolay's Annual Sweet Retreat on March 18 in Fairmont Hot Springs.

As I said before, Montana DeMolay is in the final states of preparation for Sweetheart Ball. We haven't been able to hold it there for the past few years due to covid, so we are looking forward to restarting and enjoying this wonderful event. So far registration is coming in and we are looking at a pretty good turnout.

Don't let your age dictate what you accomplish in life! That's one of the reasons I enjoy doing things with our Youth Groups. It shouldn't be why won't it work; it's always let's make it happen. My 14-year-old daughter just reminded me of this. She just completed the first round of Her Two Roads Project for her school, she was given the opportunity to build a program that helps and supports the community. The program that she devised revolved around setting up sunscreen stations in her school. She built the researched needs, built a plan, went out and presented the plan, found sponsors to cover the costs, bought and built the stations and deployed them to her schools. Her goal for next year is to get them into more schools. She was scared at first but took on the challenge and blew it out of the water. And that is the mindset I hope to instill in all our youth. Knowing that you are capable of anything and almost everything. They are the next generation of leaders, planners, and executors. I want them to take this world by storm and I know they will do it. I am exploring the opportunity to implementing a similar program in Montana DeMolay

The Road to Service Begins Here. Now is the time to bring your son, grandson, nephew, stepson, or neighbor kid into this organization. The road to bigger Leadership begins with DeMolay. The road to Brotherhood begins with DeMolay. The road to Success begins with DeMolay. There is something for everyone here. They will find their path here. It is a safe, fun, learning environment and we are looking for them. If you have someone in mind, please let me know at dan.massey@mtdemolay.org or 402-681-7763.

Thanks, Dan Massey

Van Coordinator

We are still looking for someone to fill the position as Coordinator for the Courtesy/Cancer Van.

It takes approximately 30 - 90 minutes a week to manage the drivers and coordinate with the Cancer Center liaison.

The position is for the management of eight drivers/shifts weekly (2-per day, one morning, one afternoon). Most drivers have a favorite time to drive and normally stay in that position/shift, which makes it much easier to coordinate.

Our former coordinator put the bi-weekly list format and drivers on a thumb drive making it easy to coordinate the list.

Currently we are staffed with a minimum number of drivers to “keep the doors open.” However, should a driver fall ill or have an unforeseen conflict, we begin to have to scramble. So stated, **we still need a few more drivers!**

Please contact the Valley Secretary, Office 406-259-6683, Cell 406-208-7580.





CONTRIBUTIONS

365 CLUB

Ronny & Mary Beth Aasterud

Tom & Laurie Hornung

LANGUAGE CLINIC OPERATIONS

Corinthian Lodge #72

Courtesy Transportation Van

Michael V.

Anonymous Donations

In Memory of Pat Rehberg

Will & Carla Alexander

In memory of Marilyn Sewell

Bob & Marilee Hanson

Business attire for Brothers /Tuxedo for R&R Team



DINNER

DINNER RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.
PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH
THE SECRETARY **(259-6683 NLT 2/27/23 @
11:00 a.m.)**, OR REQUEST THE
SECRETARY ADD YOU TO THE CALL LIST.
THOSE ON THE CALL LIST WILL RECEIVE
A REMINDER CALL 2-3 DAYS BEFORE
STATED DINNER.

MEAL MENU by Cody

Main Dish and Sides (choice) - \$15.00

Salad (with Ranch or Honey Mustard)

1. Seared Herb Chicken with Gravy, Corn, and Baked Potato
2. Salisbury Steak with Gravy, Corn, and a Baked Potato
3. Impossible Salisbury Steak with Vegetarian Gravy, Corn, and a Baked Potato

Butter and Sour Cream at Tables

DESSERT

Chocolate Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting

Spring Reunion is right around the corner. Is it on your calendar? Do you have an upcoming practice? Come join your Brothers, and re-live the Runion experience!



Billings Scottish Rite Bodies

514 14th Street West
Billings, MT 59102-5216

Personal Rep: Sean P. McDuffee, 33[°]
Secretary: Lewie Fletcher, 32[°] KCCH
Email: secretary@billingscscottishrite.com
Website: www.billingsscottishrite.com
Phone: (406) 259-6683

Office Hours Wednesday & Thursday
9:00 a.m. – noon

Email the Secretary to be added to
our Email list for an electronic
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Billings Scottish Rite



Orient of Montana
Freemasons of Montana

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master

Ron Swenson, 32[°] KCCH

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master

David Jobrack, 32[°]

Council Knights Kadosh

Commander

Jacob Clos, 32[°]

Consistory

Master of Kadosh

Jered Scherer, 33[°]



Upcoming Events



MEETINGS/EVENTS

Coffee Klatch	Every Thursday 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Exec. Board Mtg.	Mar. 1 st , 2023 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
Stated Dinner	Mar. 1 st , 2023 6:30 p.m. Dining Hall
Remembrance & Renewal	Mar. 1 st , 2023 7:30 p.m. Lodge Room
Exec. Board Mtg.	Apr. 5 th , 2023 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
Stated Dinner	Apr. 5 th , 2023 6:30 p.m. Dining Hall
Stated Meeting	Apr. 5 th , 2023 7:30 p.m. Lodge Room