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# THE BILLBOARD

## OCTOBER 2024

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

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**To The Celestial  
Lodge:**

NONE

### *Message from the Venerable Master*



Greetings, Brethren!

We first learn about the importance of charity in Blue Lodge where we, as Master Masons, are taught that we should be charitable toward our fellow brethren, their widows and orphans. In the Scottish Rite, we expand on this belief through the 8th, 18th, 26th, 29th, 30th and 32nd Degrees in particular. In fact, Albert Pike has this to say about the importance of charity:

*“That Charity which relieves the necessities and distresses of man, and with open hand gives the suffering and destitute solace and comfort; and which forgives and utters merciful judgment upon the faults and shortcomings of others; believes them better than they seem, and teaches us to judge and to do unto others as we should wish them, and think it right for them to judge and do unto us.” —Albert Pike*

The Billings Valley Scottish Rite’s “Shoes and Barbecues” event on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> successfully fulfilled that goal by relieving the necessities and distresses of children lacking shoes. It was Personal Representative Sean McDuffee’s intention to schedule the shoe fitting before the start of the new school year to ensure Billings children in need would have a new pair of shoes on their first day. Thanks to his vision, 750 children can now proudly walk into school without ridicule or shame wearing a quality pair of shoes and bright smiles on their faces.

(Continued on page 2)

**(V.M. message continued from page 1)**

We knew it was going to be a very busy day when the Billings Valley volunteers arrived an hour early to set up the shoe racks in the lodge room. Families were already lined up out the door at that time to be assured of their first choice of shoes. Eventually, the line continued to grow throughout the day until it wrapped around the entire block. When that occurred, we knew it was going to take a vaunted team to take on this daunting task.

When the Billings Valley team arrived, it turned this intimidating task into an impressive triumph! Bro. Mitch Burns was the first to meet me on the scene, and soon Bros. Sean McDuffee, Bob Hanson, Tom Hanel, Tom Watson, Adam Johnson, Cody Catlin, Robert Cauckwell, Ron Swenson, Danny Massey, David Stroud, Pete Boothroyd and Heath Lakko arrived to properly fit the kids with a good pair of shoes. Bro. Tom Watson was a foot-measuring master, and Bros. Tom Hanel and Robert Cauckwell manned the shoe racks and guaranteed that everyone received their proper size.

Bolstering our team with energy and enthusiasm were the Scouts from Troop 10, the DeMolay boys and the Jobs Daughter girls. Bros. David Bergeson and Wayne Swigart welcomed the families at the doors of the Billings Temple and safely guided them into the lodge. After receiving their shoes, Bro. Anthony Morse and Lady Milissa Hugdahl provided the kids with a fresh pair of socks from the sock station as they happily exited the lodge.

After Bro. Ronny Aasterud's stock of shoes was as exhausted as our volunteers, we were all treated to a bountiful barbecue lunch as a reward. Lunch was skillfully served by Bro. Bob Snow of renowned Red Fez Catering and expertly barbecued by Bro. Robert Cauckwell. Bro. Bob treated us to delicious home-made baked beans and potato salad, chips, watermelon and barbecue fixings while Bro. Robert fried up the hot dogs and hamburgers gratefully provided by Bro. Jason Smith. Lady Milissa provided the ice-cold sodas to wash it all down, and Bro. Jered Sherer topped it off with wonderful Wilcoxon's Ice Cream for dessert.

After serving the cool desserts, Bro. Jered swerved into the parking lot with his hot car, a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1956 Hearse Cadillac, to feature in the mini-Classical Car show. Bro. Cody raced in next with his muscle car, a 2022 Dodge Challenger. Yours truly brought up the rear with my own 1969 Hurst Oldsmobile. Thanks to this impressive start, I'm hoping we can expand this mini-classic car show to a major one during our summer barbecues over the next several years!

And speaking of hot, the temperature that day was in excess of 100°! To beat the heat, Bro. Sean had the inflatable water slide set up on the lawn for the kids to slip down courtesy of Bro. Patrick "Paddy Cakes" Branger. Furthermore, Bro. Sean set up tents to provide us shade from the sun and set out chests of ice water to keep the picknickers refreshed. When the busy day was over, Lady Sally McDuffee selflessly led the way in the dining hall cleanup, following behind the sufficiently satisfied diners.

In closing, Albert Pike said that *"charity flows in all directions like the light."* Thanks to the Billings Valley's Shoes and Barbecues charitable event in August, approximately 750 children are going to be running in all directions in a brand-new pair of shoes. And hopefully, the bright smiles put on their faces by these shoes will shine like the light for everyone watching to be guided by it.

With Masonic Regards!  
Bro. John Hugdahl, 32°  
Venerable Master  
Billings Valley Scottish Rite



## **THE RITE CORNER**

### **“Portable Chamber of Reflection, Part Two”**

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

Last month’s article outlined my plans to travel to Australia to find the places where my father had been stationed from 1943-1944 in the Northern Territory of Australia. I am pleased to report that quest was successful, and I found all three airfields where his unit, the 529th Squadron, had been based. I heard him tell of visiting a Masonic lodge in Australia. I found a lodge in Darwin, Darwin Lodge of Remembrance, No. 182 that was meeting on the one night in Darwin that we did not have other plans. So off I went to join in the brotherhood with Australian Masons. It was a wonderful time. I learned that my father could not have visited any lodge in Darwin during the war because the civilian population, except for a few essential persons, were forced to leave Darwin just before its being bombed on 19 February 1942 and not allowed to return until 1946. It was essentially a ghost town except for military defense units.

The second part of our journey was to visit Kakadu National Park located east of Darwin. Kakadu National Park is the original homeland of several clans of the Aboriginal people, who have inhabited this area for more than 65,000 years. The Park is jointly managed by a board consisting of members representing the Aboriginal clans and the Commonwealth. The Aboriginal culture has a strong spiritual connection to the land, which is based upon the belief that the first people created all features and landforms, plants, animals, and generations of people living there today, which means the land and all its features must be protected and used respectfully. The ancestors of the Aboriginals gave to future generations a cultural obligation to look after and clean up the land by burning small patches during the times when minimal harm would be done, but huge benefits would be gained. Burning the grass in cooler times reduces fuel loads that, if unabated, cause wildfires. This controlled burning does not damage the trees and allows the flora and fauna to recover in abundance. This ancient tradition, based upon spiritual obligation to respect and care for the land, continues to this day and has been adopted by the non-aboriginals as a very prudent practice.

The Aboriginals are a welcoming and peaceful people but expect respect for their cultural values. They share the beauty of their lands, even their homeland in Arnhem, which can only be visited by non-aboriginals by council permit. Arnhem is adjacent to Kakadu but independently owned and operated by the clans living there. All visitors must comply with their customs, such as no visiting of certain designated sacred sites by non-aboriginals, no taking pictures of some sacred rock art features, no pictures of bones at burial sites, and no abuse of the land and its features. These were easy and reasonable rules to follow.

The Aboriginals for centuries only allowed marriage between persons from different clans, and the appropriate clans are determined by a complex method based upon skin tones of other clans. The object is to have dissimilar skin tones between the bride and the groom. Mixed marriage between clans is the rule. This creates an attitude of cooperation for the hundreds of Aboriginal clans living in peace and harmony with each other for centuries.

**(Continued on page 5)**



## *Message from our Personal Representative*

We are one week away from our 194<sup>th</sup> Reunion as I write this. With practices nearly every night, it is inspiring to see the growth of the Valley of Billings through dedication. We have 11 candidates joining us, with only 3 from Billings. Five candidates are traveling from Glendive, thanks to the leadership of Brothers Tom Green and Sandy Stinnett, who are also participating in the 18th and 22nd Degrees.

As noted in last month's communication, this Reunion is dedicated to Brother Leroy Summers 32° KCCH, a Past Master of Rimrock Lodge No. 114, known for his exceptional ritual proficiency. He was a 50-year member of both his Blue Lodge and the Scottish Rite. Brother Leroy played a vital role in establishing the Billings Right Care Language Clinic, serving as a board member and assisting with fundraising and record-keeping. He attended Eastern Montana College and the University of Denver for his accounting degrees while serving in the Army Reserve. He owned several businesses in the area and was always a pleasure to converse with at Coffee Klatch on Thursdays. He truly deserves this honor, and I look forward to reporting on the Reunion next month.

Did you hear about last month's shoe giveaway and Venerable Master's BBQ? It was a tremendous success! I could not be prouder of all the brethren and youth groups that assisted. Much credit goes to our Venerable Master, John Hugdahl. Without his dedication and communication with School District 2, we wouldn't have had such a great turnout. Well done, Brother John!

And speaking of accolades of well done, I want to take this space to both recognize and thank the tireless and dedicated efforts of Ronny, MaryBeth, Marco and Emma Aasterud for the many hours and elbow grease that these superstars put in to lead and support the Shoes for Kids program! Two truckloads of shoes were needed to restock the successful depletion of the existing inventory and it was Clan Aasterud to the rescue! Thank you to all 3 of you!

Lastly, you may not receive this until after the Reunion, but I hope you supported the younger men dedicating their time to keeping our Valley open and growing by attending. With over 200 members, we see only a portion at Reunions. Remember, these gatherings are meant for Brethren to reconnect, with the added benefit of welcoming new Scottish Rite Masons.

Fraternally yours,  
Sean

(pictures on page 5)

**(S.G.I.G. message continued from page 3)**

Influenced by the Scottish Rite lessons that discuss different religions, and the history of the ancient ones, I enjoy learning about other cultures' spiritual beliefs and comparing their basic tenets to ones that I follow. Discovering the similarities with other spiritual practices teaches me more about my personal religious beliefs, and, importantly, I have learned to be respectful of spiritual beliefs that may differ from mine. Learning about the Aboriginal beliefs that the Creator and the land are one and how to live in peace with different groups were worth adapting into my own beliefs.

In summary here is what I learned from this trip and want to pass on to my brothers:

1. If you have an opportunity to visit a Masonic lodge in another country, I recommend that you do it. I have found it to be an enjoyable and rewarding experience to meet Masons in other counties.
2. When you can learn about other religions or spiritual practices, do it. It will strengthen the basis of your own beliefs. Comparing different practices is looking for similarities and for differences. Finding similarities builds respect for other practices, and finding differences will be rewarding in the maturing of one's own beliefs.

Enjoy the opportunities to gain new light and learn things that will enhance your Masonic knowledge. Masonry is a starting point for learning more about life but not necessarily the end all be all. I am looking forward to sharing with you on the trail to the light of knowledge.

**(Personal Representatives pictures continued from page 4)**



The Language Clinic is providing sponsorships for 67 children at this time. There are no pending applications.

The Clinic received \$8,000 from the Fanwood Foundation. Pam Stevens, one of our board members, belongs to the family that established the foundation. Many thanks to the Fanwood Foundation!

Conoco-Phillips sponsored a gathering of many non-profit organizations at South Park in September. Scottish Rite Language Clinic participated and handed out informational brochures to many people who stopped by our booth. Our thanks to volunteers Ron Swenson, Tom Hanel, TC Chatman, and Jered Scherer for taking time to be at the booth.

As a reminder, the annual Cookie Jar Auction is on December 4<sup>th</sup>. We're looking forward to a fun evening, and it's one of our major fundraisers of the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jered Scherer

## 2025 Valley Information 219 Members

**(Remember– you can pay your 2025 dues on-line or through the office!)**

Active Members with Dues Paid in Full: 49 22.4 %

**Members with Current Dues Balance: 86 39.3 %** ←

Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance: 12 5.5 %

Active Members that are Dues Exempt (ALR): 47 21.5%

Active Paid Life Members (E): 25 11.4%

**A note about 2025 dues Renewal Notices coming from Supreme Council: Remember your dues must be paid by 01 January to be in good standing.**



**Welcome colorful  
October! Cooling  
off time in  
Montana!**

# 2024 Officers & General Information

## 2024 Officers

### LODGE OF PERFECTION

Venerable Master	John Hugdahl, 32°
Senior Warden	Tom Hanel, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden	Nate Frickel, 32°
Orator (all bodies)	Gerald Giebink, 32°
Almoner	TC Chatman, 32° KCCH
Secretary	Llewellyn Fletcher, 33°
Treasurer	Dan Jobrack, 32° KCCH
Prelate	David Jobrack, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Cody Catlin, 32°
Expert	Robert Cauckwell, 32°
Captain of the Host	Michael Ebert, 32°
Tyler	Anthony Morse, 32°
Organist	John Baber, 32° KCCH

### ROSE CROIX

Wise Master	Jacob Clos, 32°
Senior Warden	Rick Ingram-Hegenbart, 32°
Junior Warden	Mitch Burns, 32°

### COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Commander	Tom Watson, 32°
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander	Cody Thormahlen, 32°
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander	Anthony Morse, 32°

### CONSISTORY

Master of Kadosh	Tom Hornung, 33°
Prior	Tracy Dinkel, 32°
Preceptor	Marc Sewell, 32°
Minister of State	TBD

## 2-Month Valley Calendar Snapshot

(Detailed upcoming events on page 10)



Rite Care Board Meeting	Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2024
<b>Feast of Tishri</b>	<b>Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024</b>
KSA Meeting	Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2024
Rite Care Board Meeting	Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Exec. Board Mtg.	Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Stated Dinner	Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Stated Meeting	Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
KSA Meeting	Nov. 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
<b>Cookie Jar Event</b>	<b>Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>,</b>

### Membership Breakfast

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each Month

7:30 a.m.

At: **Perkins Restaurant**

765 S 20<sup>th</sup> 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



# A special message to all!

The family of Jered Scherer invites his Scottish Rite brothers and their ladies to an 85<sup>th</sup> birthday luncheon and celebration in honor of Jered on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at noon at First Baptist Church, 218 N 34<sup>th</sup> Street. Please RSVP to Karen Harlan, 406-670-5408, by October 1<sup>st</sup>.







**365 CLUB**

Ronny & Mary Beth Aasterud

James Salisbury III

**LANGUAGE CLINIC OPERATIONS**

Blake Mackin, Joseph Moore, Maxwell Knodel & John Stewart

**COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VAN**

Levi Bollinger, Maxwell Knodel, John Stewart

In memory of Miriam Oswalt –

Judy Frank

In memory of Florence Massee –

Dennis and David Massey

**Business Attire**



**DINNER**

**DINNER RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.** PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH THE SECRETARY (**259-6683 NLT 9/30/24 @ NOON**) 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**

**Relish Trays with Deviled Eggs**

**Rolls & Butter**

**Salad w/croutons, Ranch and Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressings**

- 1. Beef Meatloaf with Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes w/Brown Gravy, Roasted Carrots**
- 2. Impossible Meatloaf with Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes w/Brown Gravy, Roasted Carrots**

**Dessert**

**Spice Sheet Cake w/Cream Cheese Frosting**

## Billings Scottish Rite Bodies

514 14<sup>th</sup> Street West  
Billings, MT 59102-5216

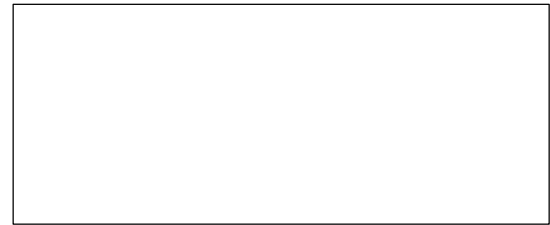
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Phone: (406) 259-6683

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

**Email the Secretary to be added to  
our Email list for an electronic  
Billboard**



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*Billings Scottish Rite*



*Orient of Montana  
Freemasons of Montana*

### **Lodge of Perfection**

**Venerable Master**  
John J. Hugdahl, 32°

### **Chapter Rose Croix**

**Wise Master**  
Jacob Clos, 32°

### **Council Knights Kadosh**

**Commander**  
Tom Watson, 32°

### **Consistory**

**Master of Kadosh**  
Tom Hornung, 33°

## *Upcoming Events*

### **MEETINGS/EVENTS**

<b>Rite Care Board Meeting</b>	Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2024 noon Conference Room
<b>Exec. Board Mtg.</b>	Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2024 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
<b>Feast of Tishri</b>	Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2024 6:30 p.m. Dining Room
<b>No Stated Meeting</b>	
<b>KSA Meeting</b>	Oct. 16 <sup>th</sup> 2024 6:30 p.m. Lodge Room
<b>Rite Care Board Meeting</b>	Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 noon Conference Room
<b>Exec. Board Mtg.</b>	Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
<b>Stated Dinner</b>	Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 6:30 p.m. Dining Room
<b>Stated Meeting</b>	Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 7:30 p.m. Lodge Room
<b>KSA Meeting</b>	Nov. 20 <sup>th</sup> 2024 6:30 p.m. Lodge Room