
THE BILLBOARD

DECEMBER 2022

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 Brothers,

I hope you all had a great and thankful holiday (Thanksgiving). We here at the Scottish Rite are ever mindful that we all have a lot to be thankful for. This year we were able to bring into our brotherhood at least 10 new Scottish Rite brothers.

I would like to congratulate our new officers elect and wish them every success in the coming year. I am confident that Venerable Master-elect, Honorable Brother Ron Swenson will serve us all well for the coming year. I would also like to thank Illustrious Brother Sean McDuffee and Honorable Brothers Dan Jobrack and Lewie Fletcher for all of their help and guidance over the past year. I know that my success has been totally dependent on the support I received.

Our next meeting, December 7th will be not only a day of infamy, but the night of our Annual Cookie Jar Auction. I would like to encourage everyone to attend this dinner and auction, which is our major fundraiser for the Scottish Rite Language Clinic. The auction is a very vibrant and fun event for everyone and has, in the past generated a considerable amount of money for a cause very dear to the hearts of all Scottish Rite members.

I wish everyone and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Bob Donaldson
Venerable Master,
Valley of Billings, A&ASR



Message from our Personal Representative

Greetings,

There are several noteworthy items this month and certainly no shortage of good news. Your Valley held elections last month and I am very excited with the Crafts choosing.

Hon. Bro. Ron Swenson was unanimously elected to serve as our Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection for the ensuing year. Bro. Ron has held numerous positions in the Valley of Billings over the years. He is our current Senior Warden and President of the Billings Scottish Rite Association. Bro. Ron has a deep adoration for Scottish Rite Masonry and is committed to its success.

Bro. John Hugdahl was elected to the Senior Wardens station, Hon. Bro. Tom Hanel to the Junior Wardens and Bro. Nate Frickel will serve as our Orator for the next year. Our Valley is fortunate to have such fine, solid Masons in the Officer Line to lead the Valley for many years to come.

Bro. David Jobrack was elected as Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix, Bro. Jacob Clos as Commander for the Council of Kadosh and Ill. Brother Jered Scherer as Master of Kadosh for the Consistory. Each of these gentlemen will sit on the Executive Committee for the next year as well. Also, Ill. Bro Tom Hornung and Bro. John Hugdahl were elected to the Executive Committee Board as Members at Large from the craft. Congratulations to each of the afore-mentioned Brethren! I very much look forward to working with you in the future.

Improvements to the Temple and grounds continue to take place with two recently completed projects. Bro. Jacob Clos led the installation of 4 large windows on the West and North side of the building. They are a vast improvement over the single panes that were replaced.

Also, in order to further secure the building, a new keyless entry system was installed. All issued keys to the building will continue to be functional, however will become obsolete effective February 1st. This long-planned project will help in providing more optimum security for our beloved Temple. Please make sure to stop by the office or visit with me to discuss getting your own code to the building. All current Valley members will be able access to the Temple.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Chanukah!

Sean McDuffee



THE RITE CORNER

“Light and Service”

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

As we close in on the Winter Solstice—that day of the year that has more darkness than light—we notice that gradually the daylight hours become shorter, and the night darkness expands with each passing day. In other words, the Winter Solstice is the end of a daily trend with increased darkness and starts a reversed course of increasing daylight in its following days. This annual astronomical phenomenon has been a catalyst of influence in the development of religious traditions and continues even as today. The dichotomy between darkness and light is symbolic of the struggle between the darkness of evil and the light of hope for salvation. For Masons the Winter Solstice is symbolic of going from a period of mental darkness to the new light of knowledge and wisdom. In Masonry, to receive Light is to gain knowledge for a life of love—with charity and compassion for those in distress. The acquisition of the Light of Masonic knowledge and wisdom brings an enhanced awareness of our duty to care for those in need.

Acquiring the Light of Love and Knowledge, which teaches us to provide care for all in need, does not of itself result in a desired outcome. It requires action, work. We learn that we should practice compassionate service, but somehow, we do not always put that lesson into action. In the installation ceremony for Scottish Rite Valleys, the charge to the officers says:

“Simple ideas of a brotherhood which require no sacrifice and of a morality in which there is nothing new, cannot move the world. The Masonry of today cannot be inaction, or fitful, and ill directed action toward no object worthy of great toil and great sacrifice.”

Masonry, and especially Scottish Rite Freemasonry, is more than just acquiring knowledge and wisdom. It is about acting, even when the task is difficult.

In my Masonic journey, I have learned of the need to care for those in distress, but just learning of a need is not the same as providing actual comfort. Admittedly, I have found that writing a check to a body that will provide the service is easier and quicker. Though charities need money to function, sometimes that is not as effective as plain old hands-on help. There is a satisfaction in providing service in person, rather than paying for others to do it.

My new service this year has been helping provide showers to homeless persons in Helena, through a partnership between Helena United Way and St. Paul’s United Methodist Church. I thought about it before hand for a while but had to overcome my discomfort in helping homeless persons face-to-face. Even with my background as a criminal defense lawyer, I did not know if my experiences would help me deal with the social dynamics of homelessness. I had read about homelessness and its challenges to local government, but I had never worked directly with a homeless person. I know homeless persons are stereotyped as all being violent, criminal, chemically dependent, lazy, beggars and unskilled. I confess that before I started helping to serve homeless persons, I would quickly pass by them, avoiding eye contact for fear they would speak to me.

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SCOTTISH RITE SPEECH and LANGUAGE CLINIC

The clinic is providing sponsorships to 49 children at this time. There are two children that are being interviewed to receive therapy at one of the clinics.

The cookie jar auction will be held on Wed., Dec. 7. The auctioneer will be Mark Steffes. There will be some special items to be auctioned. Patti Murphy is coordinating this function and it will be a fun night for all who attend. Please bring family members and friends as this is one of the fundraisers for this philanthropy of the Scottish Rite. Please call the office for reservations.

I mention the 365 Club as coming to the close of the year. Any money you donate is tax exempt.

On behalf of the Board, best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a good New Year!

Best Regards,

Jered Scherer, Chairman

2022 Valley Information 245 Members

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

Active Members with Dues Paid in Full: 87 35.5 %

Members with Current Dues Balance: 67 27.3 %

Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance: 21 8.6 %

Active Members that are Dues Exempt (ALR): 44 18.0%

Active Paid Life Members (E): 26 10.6%



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.



**May your
Holiday
Season be
blessed!**

2022 Officers & General Information

2022 Officers

LODGE OF PERFECTION

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Venerable Master | Bob Donaldson, 32° |
| Senior Warden | Ron Swenson, 32° KCCH |
| Junior Warden | John Hugdahl, 32° |
| Orator (all bodies) | Tom Hanel, 32° KCCH |
| Almoner | David Bergeson, 33° |
| Secretary | Llewellyn Fletcher, 32° KCCH |
| Treasurer | Dan Jobrack, 32° KCCH |
| Prelate | Nate Frickel, 32° |
| Master of Ceremonies | David Jobrack, 32° |
| Expert | Tom Watson, 32° |
| Captain of the Host | Tracy Dinkel, 32° |
| Tyler | Bob Hanson, 33° GC |
| Organist | John Baber, 32° KCCH |

ROSE CROIX

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Wise Master | Nate Frickel, 32° |
| Senior Warden | Cody Thormahlen, 32° |
| Junior Warden | Adam Price, 32° |

COUNCIL OF KADOSH

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Commander | Gerald Giebink, 32° |
| 1 st Lt. Commander | Rick Hagenbart, 32° |
| 2 nd Lt. Commander | Cody Catlin, 32° |

CONSISTORY

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Master of Kadosh | Jeffrey Dresch, 33° |
| Prior | Jacob Clos, 32° |
| Preceptor | TBD |
| Minister of State | Tom Hanel, 32° KCCH |



Beartooth District Calendar



As a continuing reminder, this calendar was created as a planning tool to avoid scheduling conflicts when setting event dates. This works best if you let us know of any events you would like to include.

Corrections are also welcome.

Please go to:

<http://www.montanafreemasons.org/>

Click on Beartooth District, scroll down to middle of page and click on "Scheduled Events Calendar." Please check for entries that may be of specific interest to you.

Membership Breakfast ****NEW LOCATION!**

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





Patricia "Pat" Rehberg (née Cooley) passed away on October 25th due to complications associated with an aggressive form of thyroid cancer. She was comforted by the many blessings that accompany a full, well-lived life.

Pat was born on November 15, 1933, on a ranch outside of Lame Deer, Montana to Ray and Dorothy (Herman) Cooley. She attended kindergarten in Hardin and received the rest of her education in Billings. She fondly remembered her time at Rimrock Elementary, where she spent recess and lunch breaks exploring the Rims and wading in the High Ditch. She attended Lincoln Junior High and graduated from Billings Senior High School in 1951. Following graduation, she enrolled at Eastern Montana College (EMC) and to her family's surprise, became a member of the cheerleading squad.

The course of nature derailed her studies when she (not so reluctantly) agreed to wed the neighborhood boy who was hell bent on marrying her. On June 27, 1952, Pat and Jack Rehberg were married at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, a union that lasted 68 years, and would have lasted at least 68 more if given the chance.

Following her marriage to Jack, they moved into a trailer at the Midland Guernsey Dairy. While Jack and his brother Wally ran the daily operations of the dairy, Pat spent her time putting the final touches (tarring the walls and installing a proper kitchen) on the cabin atop the Rims that would become the home where they would raise their children. While raising their two children on the family ranch, Pat helped Jack when needed by baking pies (from scratch) that were a staple at the Milky Way Drive-In, a local diner owned and operated by Jack and his mother.

When their children finished grade school, Pat re-enrolled at EMC, earning her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. She spent the next eight years teaching 1st grade at Miles Avenue Elementary before becoming a traveling reading specialist guiding new teachers on the fundamentals of reading for grade school students. During these years she enjoyed spending her summers camping and boating with her family in Yellowstone Park and Yellowtail.

Despite her claims that she was the "country side" of the marriage, as opposed to her more "sophisticated" husband, Pat will forever be remembered by friends and family for her consummate poise and grace. She enjoyed and took pride in many of life's simple pleasures, reading, knitting, cooking, and providing boundless love to her family and friends. She was an active member of P.E.O., Chapter E, a member of multiple book clubs, an accomplished hand and machine knitter, and the person who could effortlessly throw together a proper feast for a party of twenty at a moment's notice. She hosted Sunday family dinners well into her eighties, an event that was opt-out as opposed to opt-in, thus bestowing upon those who would not attend the unfortunate duty of personally notifying her ahead of time.

Throughout her life, Pat took the time to remind the people around her how much she cared for them. There was no gift received, nor kind gesture offered, that did not receive a hand-written thank-you card. During the first night of a NILE rodeo, one of the cowboy's shirts was torn, so he removed it and tossed it to Pat who was seated in the first row. That night, she washed and mended the shirt, folded it neatly, and returned it to the young man the following night with a hand written note expressing her gratitude and offering some kind words of advice.

(Continued on page 8)



Magic City
Chapter

THE
ROAD
BEGINS
HERE

Happy Holidays!! Magic City Chapter continues to work on finding new members. An older member from another chapter has moved to Billings to attend college and has really stepped up and helped the Chapter. We have a movie pizza night scheduled here in early December as a fun activity.

Brotherhood is defined as an association, society, or community of people linked by a common interest, religion, or trade.

DeMolay is based on BROTHERHOOD. Masonry is based on BROTHERHOOD. Almost every group organization for men is based around one thing, brotherhood. But what happens when that brotherhood is lost? When friendships end, relationships end, everything crumbles like dominoes one by one. For example, the trials of Jacques DeMolay, and his three Preceptors, two of which, stuck together until being burned at the stake while the other two turned on their organization. Maybe if they hadn't then things wouldn't have happened the same. If we stick together then our bond and strength are unbreakable.

Masonry is the oldest fraternity in the world because of the sacred brotherhood they share. Everybody works together to set aside their differences for the best of the group. That's what DeMolay was founded on. We should accept each other.

The more we all work together, the more we can accomplish and catch the attention of the world. Make sure you're following the guidance of our 4th preceptor, Comradeship. To be a friend tried and true is to display a virtue which adorns our humanity. History is glorified by the friendships of David and Jonathan, of Damon and Pythias, and other historic comrades, but history has not volumes large enough to record the names of the unknown millions of friends who were true and faithful unto death. Their heroic loyalty glorifies our human nature and sets an example worthy of our emulation. No man, young or old, can enjoy a higher honor than to be valued as a friend and trusted as a brother.

The Road to Brotherhood Begins Here. Now is the time to bring your son, grandson, nephew, stepson, or neighbor kid into an organization like this. The road to bigger dream begins with DeMolay. The road to brotherhood begins with DeMolay. The road to success begins with DeMolay.

There is something for everyone in DeMolay. They will find their place here. It is a safe, fun, learning experience 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

(Continued from page 6)

In spite of her reluctance towards air travel, Pat and Jack travelled the world extensively, often following their mutual admiration of figure skating. They attended multiple World Figure Skating Championships where they befriended many of the skater's family members through their conversations in the stands. Pat enjoyed the laid-back lifestyle aboard a cruise ship. She and Jack shared their love of cruising with their family, taking all of their grandchildren on a cruise for their eighteenth birthdays. It was on these cruises that most of them learned the true depth of their Granny's love and patience. Granny was, after all, equal parts Mary Poppins and Ms. Manners, with a dash of Calamity Jane.

Pat is survived by her children Shanna (David) Henry and Dennis (Janice) Rehberg, her brother Robert (Sheri) Cooley, her five grandchildren, Jaclyn, Ryan, AJ, Katie, and Elsie, and seven great-grandchildren.

While the service will be private for family, all are invited to attend a reception November 25, at 12:30 at Pat's home. Memorials in Pat's name can be made to the Eugene Herman Language Clinic of the Scottish Rite, 514 14th St. W, 59102.

Memorial Donations received in Pat's memory: Jerry Jones, Judy Northam, Gareld Krieg, Daniel & Kay Berry, Frances McDermott, James & Barbara Sites, Phoebe Gligorea, Margaret Rehberg, Dahl Family Trust, Tom & Pam Dimich, Jered Scherer, Eric & Roseanne Woodward, Partick & Joyce Phillips, Bob Hanson.

(S.G.I.G. Message Continued from page 3)

Since I started in this new duty, I found the homeless persons that I met did not meet the stereotyping. They were people entitled to respect, who enjoyed conversing with people, did not seek handouts, and appreciated that others cared for them. In listening to their stories, I met a homeless person with a college degree in engineering, a Canadian Cree Indian who was taken from his family at age 3 and placed in numerous foster homes while attending government schools to eradicate his ethnicity and Native language, a man who lives in a tent and mines for gold, a woman who handstitched her own clothing, a woman who is physically disabled while her husband is in state prison, and a young man who understood that his addiction to alcohol was his downfall. The few homeless persons I serve are human beings who have hopes, resourcefulness and wish for a warmer life.

In talking to Mark, who works for a charitable program to help homeless persons, he explained that programs like providing showers was more beneficial to the homeless than just a shower. It created an environment where homeless persons can socially interact with people who are not homeless. As a person who had been homeless for 20 plus years, Mark said having opportunities to meet and visit with people who are not in distress can be therapeutic in their rehabilitation. Even small opportunities for homeless persons to experience interaction with "normalcy" can add up to great results.

As we enjoy gaining the added daily light after the Winter Solstice, learning the Masonic Light we experience, and gaining knowledge and wisdom on making our world a better, healthier place for everyone, please remember to take the second step of acting on it.



CONTRIBUTIONS

365 CLUB

Patricia Rehberg

Ronny & Mary Beth Aasterud

LANGUAGE CLINIC OPERATIONS

None

Building Fund/Association

None

TRANSPORTATION VAN

Marsha Prince

Rebekah Donaldson

Karen Ellingson

Michael Rudy

IN MEMORIAM

See page 8

Member Meeting Attire-Casual



DINNER

DINNER RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH THE SECRETARY (**259-6683 NLT 12/05/22 @ 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 Raven's

Main Dish and Sides (choice) - \$15.00

Salad w/Bread

1. Roast Beef, Roast Potato Medley & Asparagus
2. Baked Turkey w/gravy, Apple & Potato Bake & Squash Medley

DESSERT

Seasonal Dessert Assortment

Billings Scottish Rite Bodies

514 14th Street West
Billings, MT 59102-5216

Personal Rep: Sean P. McDuffee, 33^o
Secretary: Lewie Fletcher, 32^o KCCH
Email: secretary@billingscottishrite.com
Website: www.billingscottishrite.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
Bob Donaldson, 32^o

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master
Nate Frickel 32^o

Council Knights Kadosh

Commander
Gerald Giebink, 32^o

Consistory

Master of Kadosh
Jeffrey Dresch, 33^o



Upcoming Events



MEETINGS

Coffee Klatch

Every Thursday 7:30 a.m.-
9:00 a.m.

Exec. Board Mtg.

Dec. 7th, 2022 6:00 p.m.
Conference Room

Stated Dinner

Dec. 7th, 2022 6:30 p.m.
Dining Hall

Annual Cookie Jar Fundraising Event

Dining Hall 7:30

Stated Meeting

No Upstairs Meeting