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# THE BILLBOARD

## JULY 2022

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

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### **To The Celestial Lodge:**

Milton Heiser  
Loren E. Page

### *Message from the Venerable Master*



Greetings Brothers,

Yea!!!! Summer is finally upon us and we have a Bar-B-Que planned for Saturday July 23. Everyone and their families are invited, and it is free for everybody. Please plan on attending as it should be a good time for all! Although the majority of Freemasonry in Montana is shut down and dark for the summer, we are not, and will continue to meet the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be on July 6<sup>th</sup> as scheduled. Be sure to advise the office or the telephone prompter of your intention to attend and your menu choice for the stated dinner (a big thank you goes out to Bro. Mark Sewell for making those calls).

Hon. Brother Ron Swenson continues to work with the Building Association for the upkeep of the grounds and Temple facilities. We are the recipients of a new garage door! Hon. Bro. Ron is a workhorse around our facility and is deserving of our thanks and gratitude!

I hope to see you all at our next meeting and our Bar-B-Que in July.

Bob Donaldson  
Venerable Master  
Valley of Billings A&ASR



## *Message from our Personal Representative*

### **4<sup>th</sup> of July!**

When pondering the history of our July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration I came across this gem and wanted to share it with the craft. (*from Frederick Douglass's 1852 Independence Day Oration posted by J.L. Bell's blog, Boston 1775*).

J.L. Bell, over at his always-interesting blog, *Boston 1775*, puts it well when he writes that one of the reasons that Independence Day is celebrated on the 4<sup>th</sup>, rather than the 2<sup>nd</sup>, of July has a lot to do with the 4<sup>th</sup> being the day that there was a *public* declaration of an event that occurred two days before - the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by Congress on July 2. Bell writes about John Adams's July 3, 1776 letter to Abigail Adams where Adams correctly predicts just about everything about how American independence will be celebrated in the future, except for the date. (Bell also makes a good case for the role that the printed word played in cementing the 4<sup>th</sup> as the date for celebrating Independence Day.)

Public declarations - in the form of speeches - might not leap to mind as one of the elements of how Independence Day is celebrated today, however, orations have been a part of Independence Day celebrations since the 18<sup>th</sup> century - and, in fact, they continue to be a part of the celebration.

While most Independence Day speeches are - and have been - celebratory in nature, many have gone beyond mere celebration - some with political motives in mind, and others reflective, and willing to ask questions about freedom and independence. Some, in certain ways, combined all of these elements.

One well-known example is a speech delivered by Frederick Douglass at the request of the Rochester Anti-Slavery Sewing Society on July 5, 1852. The speech was delivered as part of the Independence Day observances in Rochester, NY. Douglass, of course, was a man who was born into slavery, escaped from slavery, and went on to become one of the foremost abolitionists in the United States. He was also one of the abolitionist movement's greatest speakers.

Who, but Frederick Douglass, might speak better of independence and freedom - and about the troubling hypocrisy many saw at the time, of celebrating independence and freedom while slavery in America persisted - than a man who escaped from slavery? (And just to tie these themes a bit tighter, it's worth remembering that slavery was addressed in a rough draft of the Declaration of Independence, with wording that was not included in the adopted version of the Declaration.)

(Continued on page 8)



## **THE RITE CORNER**

### **“Helping Children”**

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

Several years ago, I had the chance to tour the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, located in Dallas, Texas. It was founded in 1921 with the initial goal of caring for children with polio. Later its mission was changed to including other orthopedic conditions. It especially specializes in making prosthetics for children who are still growing. Several of the employees in the prosthetics’ department received their prosthetics as young patients at the hospital. They are proud members of the hospital staff carrying on the same type of help that they had received.

This first Scottish Rite Hospital was an inspiration for the Shrine to establish of its network of children’s hospitals throughout North America for treatment of children with orthopedic conditions and burns.

Later, Scottish Rite further expanded care to children with speech and language impediments. This was done through its many RiteCare facilities and program located in participating Valleys in the Southern Jurisdiction.

In 2019, the Scottish Rite Hospital opened a second facility in Frisco, Texas, which includes orthopedic and sports medicine care. Both facilities treat patients from all over the United States and parts of Mexico.

The point of this history of various Scottish Rite charities is to show that when Scottish Rite members saw need to help children with various disabling conditions--whether polio, orthopedic problems, speech or language impediments, or from sports-related injuries—they got together and put together a solution that would help at least some.

On May 24th, there was a horrific intentional mass murdering of 19 children and two teachers at a school in Uvalde, Texas by a lone gunman. This tragic event, coupled with a recent increase in other random deaths of innocent people from guns, has raised the question of what society can do to protect students who are seen as soft targets by shooters wanting to inflict catastrophic death and injury. Unfortunately, this latest school shooting is not the first, nor will it be the last. Coupled with these intentional acts of violence, children are also increasingly the victims of accidental shootings, even in the home—a place of security and safety.

So far, there does not seem to be any guaranteed solutions to stop or at least reverse the trends in increased injury and death to children caused by abuse or misuse of guns. Our society seems numb and paralyzed to do anything. We hope that society is not content in believing that having our children gunned down while attending elementary school is just one of those events that we will just have to “put up with,” or that accidental shootings are a normal risk of a child’s life.

(Continued on page 8)



## SCOTTISH RITE SPEECH and LANGUAGE CLINIC

This past month the Clinic has provided 60 sponsorships to children. There are one or two applications to be processed.

There is a Rite Care conference to be held in St. Louis in September and the Clinic is planning to send some representatives that will provide new ideas on how our Clinic operates.

We are looking into fund raising through an organization that will be discussed at our next meeting. There will be more information regarding this in the next Billboard.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jered Scherer

## 2022 Valley Information 256 Members

Active Members with Dues Paid in Full: 151 60.2 %

**Members with Current Dues Balance: 16 6.4 %** 

Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance: 10 4.0 %

Active Members that are Dues Exempt (ALR): 44 17.5%

Active Paid Life Members (E): 30 12.0%

A note about 2022 dues Renewal Notices coming from Supreme Council: Remember your dues must be paid by 01 January to be in good standing.



**Patriotism on  
full display in  
Montana -  
Happy 4<sup>th</sup>  
America!**

# 2022 Officers & General Information

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## 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 Frickle, 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 Frickle, 32°
Senior Warden	Cody Thormahlen, 32°
Junior Warden	Adam Price, 32°

### COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Commander	Gerald Giebink, 32°
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander	Ryker Hagenbart, 32°
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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.

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### Membership Breakfast

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

7:30 a.m.

At: Western Emporium

3141 King Avenue, Billings MT 59102



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### Billings Scottish Rite Office Hours

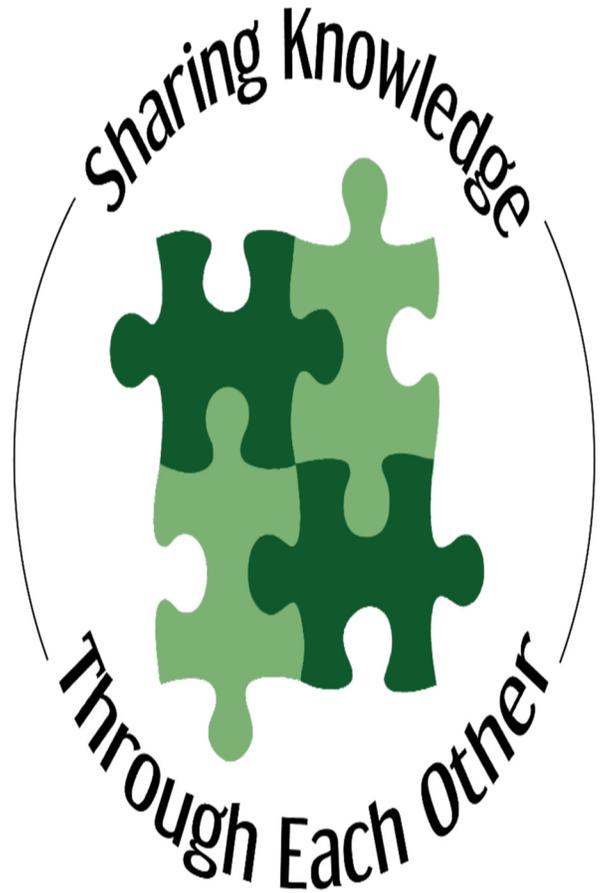
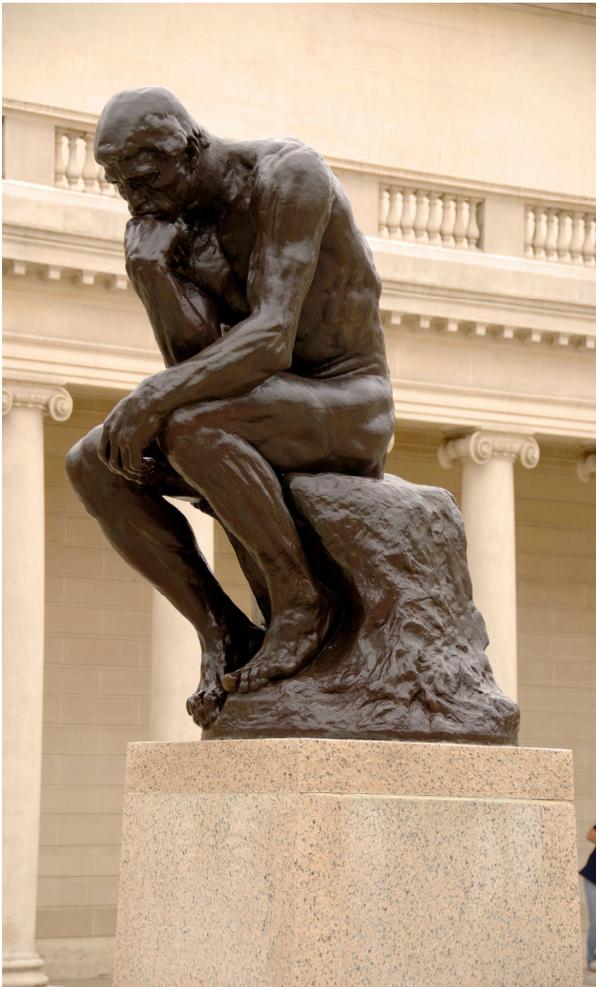
Wednesday and Thursday  
9 a.m. – noon

### Coffee Klatch

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



**This spot is STILL for YOU!** Have you always read through the Billboard and thought, “I would like to submit an article or share something intellectually valuable with my Scottish Rite Brothers?” A recent suggestion that came to the Executive Committee was to add a section to our current Billboard where a Brother of our Valley can share a lesson or message of value to the entire Billings Valley. Now is your chance!





Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Where has the year gone? It feels like the year just started, but we are halfway through. Speaking of the Fourth of July, did you know that in 1870, the U.S. Congress made July 4<sup>th</sup> a federal Holiday? However, before that John Adams believed that July 2<sup>nd</sup> was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American Independence, and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4<sup>th</sup> events in protest. Wow, what a guy.

Magic City Chapter has held a few events. We had a video game night, with 2 prospective members attending. We had a bunch of fun playing video games and eating pizza and snacks. It's amazing how much those young men can eat. We will have to get more next time. We are working hard to find new members and grow our organization. We are planning an open house event for early August.

June brought DeMolay International's Annual Session, this year to Orlando Florida. Montana DeMolay is being represented by State Master Councilor Joe St. John and Deputy State Master Councilor Brayden Peck both from Bozeman. Additionally, State Chapter Dad JD Olsen and I will be in attendance. We are excited for many of the new programs that are being released this year. I am sure you will see them implemented in the near future.

Finally, as we just had Father's Day, I thought I would talk a little about both the unbelievable influence my father and all my surrogate fathers have had and continue to have on me. DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Masonry have allowed me to meet and have many wonderful additional Dads. I have always felt they were a wealth of knowledge and energy to draw from to help solve the world's problems. A dad is the person who gets there early and stays late to make sure everything goes right. They are someone who wants to keep you from making mistakes but lets you find your own way. A dad is the person who holds you when you cry, scolds you when you break the rules, shines with pride when you succeed, and has faith in you even when you fail. Without their tireless efforts, I wouldn't be where I am today. I hope that I am doing the same for others.

Now is the time to bring your son, grandson, nephew, stepson, or neighbor kid into an organization like this. We all have an opportunity to help shape and mold the future generation. 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](mailto:dan.massey@mtdemolay.org) or 402-681-7763.

Thanks,  
Dan Massey

### **Volunteers Needed!!!**

The Valley is looking for a very special individual to assume the responsibilities of maintaining the scheduling needs for the patient Courtesy Transportation Van. You don't have to be a Brother, or even a member of the Valley for this volunteer position. If you have a little time and are good at scheduling then please consider this honorable and invaluable position. Contact the Secretary or Personal Rep if this is you at [secretary@billingsscottishrite.com](mailto:secretary@billingsscottishrite.com) or call (406) 259-6683. **Drivers are needed as well. Same Criteria!**



Thank you!

## Personal Representatives Message (continued from page 2)

In this now-famous July 5, 1852 speech, Douglass looks to the past first, and speaks with admiration of the founders:

*“Fellow Citizens, I am not wanting in respect for the fathers of this republic. The signers of the Declaration of Independence were brave men. They were great men too — great enough to give fame to a great age. It does not often happen to a nation to raise, at one time, such a number of truly great men. The point from which I am compelled to view them is not, certainly, the most favorable; and yet I cannot contemplate their great deeds with less than admiration. They were statesmen, patriots and heroes, and for the good they did, and the principles they contended for, I will unite with you to honor their memory.”*

Later in the speech, he gets to his subject, and he speaks of the situation in America at the time, speaking directly about the celebration of Independence Day and slavery. The text gives a great sense of the fiery oratory of Douglass:

*“What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciations of tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade, and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy — a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices, more shocking and bloody, than are the people of these United States, at this very hour.”*

May your celebration be grand!

Humbly,  
Sean McDuffee

## June Message from our S.G.I.G. (continued from page 3) –

If the Scottish Rite members in Texas in 1921 had said, “there is no cure for polio—it is beyond our control--we will do nothing and just hope children do not contract the virus,” there would not have been the establishment of a hospital to do the best that it can to treat polio, there would not have been expansion into orthopedic care for children, there would not have been speech pathology for speech defects, and there would not have been treatment for sports injuries. The final cure for polio was the Salk vaccine in 1954, but that did not prevent the Scottish Rite from doing the best that they could for the previous 31 years before that discovery.

I, like others, do not know what can be done to protect children from being harmed or killed from guns. I believe in safe and responsible use and ownership of guns, but individually and collectively we can force a change that will help stem the tide of needless death and suffering from deliberate and reckless use and possession of firearms. All that is needed is our commitment, as in 1921, to take this issue on.

The history of Scottish Rite Freemasonry is that when we see a need, we mobilize and work towards a solution. Preventing the murder of students in a classroom and protecting children from an accidental shooting is a dire need. The Texas Children’s Hospital has a plaque at its entryway that says, “Dedicated to the health and happiness of all children.” This mission statement sets the tone for our goal. With our trust being in God, our faith is well founded, and nothing is beyond our potential.



## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **365 CLUB**

Ronny & Mary Beth Aasterud

### **LANGUAGE CLINIC OPERATIONS**

In memory of  
Anna Mae Hanel

### **Building Fund/Association**

#### **TRANSPORTATION VAN**

Ray Klein (in memorium)  
Milton Heiser (in memorium)  
Kathy (Donation)

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### **Member Meeting** **Attire-Casual**



## **DINNER**

**DINNER RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.** PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH THE SECRETARY (**259-6683 NLT 7/4/22 @ 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 CODY**

#### **Main Dish and Sides (choice) - \$15.00**

**Relish Tray**

**Garden Salad**

**(With Cilantro Lime Dressing or Ranch)**

1. Seared Mild Chimichurri Chicken served with a Garlic Rosemary Sliced Sweet potato Bake
2. Baked Mild Chimichurri Cod Fillet served with a Garlic Rosemary Sliced Sweet potato Bake
3. Roasted Mild Chimichurri Cauliflower served with a Garlic Rosemary Sliced Sweet potato Bake

### **DESSERT**

Lemon Bars

U.S. Postage Paid  
Non Profit Org  
Billings, MT  
Permit No. 724

## Billings Scottish Rite Bodies

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

Personal Rep: Sean P. McDuffee, 33°  
Secretary: Lewie Fletcher, 32° KCCH  
Email: [secretary@billingscottishrite.com](mailto:secretary@billingscottishrite.com)  
Website: [www.billingscottishrite.com](http://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  
Billboard**



*Billings Scottish Rite*



*Orient of Montana  
Freemasons of Montana*

### **Lodge of Perfection**

**Venerable Master**  
Bob Donaldson, 32°

### **Chapter Rose Croix**

**Wise Master**  
Nate Frickle 32°

### **Council Knights Kadosh**

**Commander**  
Gerald Giebink, 32°

### **Consistory**

**Master of Kadosh**  
Jeffrey Dresch, 33°



## *Upcoming Events*



### **MEETINGS**

<b>Coffee Klatch</b>	Every Thursday 7:30 a.m.- 9:00 a.m.
<b>Exec. Board Mtg.</b>	July 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2022 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
<b>Stated Dinner</b>	July 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2022 6:30 p.m. Dining Hall
<b>Stated Meeting</b>	Meeting in the Lodge Room 7:30 p.m.
<b>Honorman Lunch</b>	June 30 <sup>th</sup> in the Dining Hall at noon