

# The Nebraska Masonic Home



*Sands through*

# The Hour-Glass



## About

### THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME

We are a continuing care retirement community located near historical downtown Plattsmouth.

Our Home has been successfully serving Masons and their wives, widows, mothers, sisters, daughters, grandmothers and granddaughters for 116 years.

*Independent Living*  
*Assisted Living*  
**24 - Hour Nursing Care**  
**and Alzheimer's/  
Dementia Care**

### *We invite*

you to come for a personal visit of our beautiful Home. All Lodges and Chapters are welcome to come for a tour and a visit with the residents. Please contact Chris Abbott Admissions Coordinator at 402-296-7302 or [cabbott@nemh.net](mailto:cabbott@nemh.net)

The Nebraska Masonic Home  
1300 Avenue D  
Plattsmouth, NE 68048  
Phone: 402-296-7300  
1-800-245-5812  
Fax: 402-296-3855  
[www.thenebraskamasonichome.org](http://www.thenebraskamasonichome.org)



## The Heart of The Home . . .



Residents experience life at the fullest surrounded by a park-like setting complete with outdoor patios and walking paths, delicious and nutritious home cooked meals, plentiful on-campus performances and activities, year-round celebrations and parties, group excursions to museums, shopping, and more. Our Home is alive with energy and activity that is promoted by a philosophy of successful aging. Through the ideals of Freemasonry . . . brotherly love, relief, and truth . . . we are devoted to providing the very best resident quality of life. Family, friends, and volunteers complete The Heart of The Home. Come for a visit and see why The Nebraska Masonic Home is an ideal place to call home.



*Do you know what porte-cochere is? See page 3 for the answer.*

## Meet Meredith Dietl . . .



Long-time Cass County resident Meredith Dietl was born in Grand Island, Nebraska, to parents Ed and Emma Heneger. Shortly after her birth, the family moved to Weeping Water, Nebraska, where Meredith and brother James attended school. Several years ago Meredith attended her alumni banquet and was honored for graduating 80 years ago. Not too many folks can say that, but after all Meredith is 101 years young.

Two years after graduation Meredith met and married John Dietl who was a farmer from Plattsmouth. John was one of seven children of German immigrants. They made their home on a farm in Nehawka. The depression was in full swing in 1938 when they married and farming was extremely difficult. John and Meredith sold the farm equipment and cash rented the land. They were then off to Sterling, Nebraska, and the restaurant business. After two years they were able to sell the restaurant and go back to farming as the cash rent had almost paid for the land.

The Dietl's purchased and sold several more farms over the years . . . Meredith agreed that an old house or barn could be torn down but always insisted that the windmills must stay standing. This was an ongoing discussion between Meredith and John each time he had to drive the tractor or combine around yet another windmill! John threatened to paint one of them red, white, and blue for her. Today the family farm has a windmill in the logo as a tribute to Meredith's love of windmills.

Meredith was an independent family-oriented farm wife . . . she kept an immaculate home, provided for her family with a smile on her face, canned everything imaginable (the beef was the best), was a caring mother and neighbor, and was the official parts runner. She loved learning to cook all the German cuisine and recipes handed down through John's German family. Throughout the years she acquired the skills, by necessity, to fix anything as there was no sense in buying new when the item could be repaired. She even had her own tool box that was off limits to anyone else. She could wall paper like a pro and pack up a house for a move like none other.

There is no better confidant to be had—gossiping is just not done and Meredith spoke well of everyone.

Meredith and husband, John, raised three daughters – Jane, Connie, and Diana. During their youth the girls were very active in school and with 4-H activities. Meredith was right there to encourage them as well as make their school clothes. Jane is deceased, Connie visits often from Texas, and Diana lives in Plattsmouth. Meredith has 3 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren all of whom love her dearly. Meredith fondly remembers family vacations to Minnesota and Canada with her grandchildren.

Meredith and John spent their retirement years living part of the year in Texas with friends and the rest of the year in Nebraska with family. A highlight of those years was going to Bermuda, the Bahamas, and Acapulco with a friend who had a plane.



When the time came seven years ago for Meredith to consider making the move from her own home in Weeping Water to assisted living, she was so very pleased that grandson John Meredith had become a Mason. His membership in Euclid Lodge No. 97 in Weeping Water allowed Meredith to apply for admission to The Nebraska Masonic Home. Meredith was thrilled that she could continue to live in Cass County close to friends and family. We are glad that Meredith made the choice she did!

### The Nebraska Masonic Home

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Dear Friends,

**I want to thank everyone for the outstanding support you have given to the residents of The Nebraska Masonic Home the first half of 2019.** The new transport van has arrived and is traveling the roadways with the residents for appointments. The new nurse call system is up and running. The outdoor patio is being thoroughly enjoyed by residents, staff, and visitors. The final landscaping is being added at this time. Come for a visit and spend some time relaxing and taking in the beautiful landscape.

**So, who has the answer to the question on Page 1?** Here is the answer to the question:

A porte-cochère (/ˌpɔːrt kooˈʃɛr/), coach gate or carriage porch is a covered porch-like structure at a main or secondary entrance to a building through which originally a horse and carriage and today a motor vehicle can pass to provide arriving and departing occupants protection from the elements.

Over 15 years ago one of our residents saw a need and provided for his vision through his estate for a permanent vehicle canopy for the Spencer Wing entrance. **Bob Keckler's vision was to build a protective canopy (a porte-cochère) for residents to be out of the elements when entering or exiting the transport van or resident bus for appointments or activities.** This permanent structure will tie into the grand structure of The Home and keep our residents out of the weather. We are excited about starting a project inspired by one of our residents.

**After receiving additional funds from the estate of another resident and former employee, Martha McQuin, L.P.N., we are closer to making this vision become a reality.** We need your outstanding support to raise \$100,000 as we hope to get started on the project this fall.

As you can see from the architectural sketch, the canopy will be a drive-thru structure with an attached glassed-in breezeway that will protect our residents from the elements while waiting to load and unload from the resident bus or transport van. I just love when a vision comes together and becomes a reality.

We hope you will be as passionate about this project as the man who was inspired and determined enough to put his estate plan in place to benefit other residents of The Home. ***Your gift no matter how big or small will make a noted difference in the lives of the residents and our staff.***

**Thank you again for all you do to support The Nebraska Masonic Home and the residents.**

Steven R. Barchus  
Foundation Director



## Caring Club

### 2019 Caring Club Opportunity

Looking for a way to make a difference?  
Become a donor to the Caring Club!

Caring Club funds are used to help defray the cost of the excellent care given to our residents.

With your help we can make sure members of The Masonic Family and those who follow are well taken care of.

Yearly Caring Club memberships are available at two levels of giving:

- 1) Caring Club Gifts of \$250 or more will be acknowledged with a recognition plaque with yearly date plates for each consecutive year of membership.
- 2) Caring Club Gifts of \$500 or more will be acknowledged with a recognition plaque and an invitation to the annual Donor Recognition Event which will be held on Sunday, September 25th.

2019 Caring Club Recognition includes those gifts received Sept. 1, 2018 thru Aug. 31, 2019.

*We hope you will join us this year!*

Resident and quilter Grace Sullivan Grazier made and donated a beautiful poppy quilt. There are only 100 tickets in this quilt raffle that will directly benefit The Masonic Home residents. Grace has requested that all proceeds go to the Activity Department here at The Home. Call Foundation Director Steve Barchus (402) 296-7334 to get your ticket for only \$10.



*You may be the lucky winner!*

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT



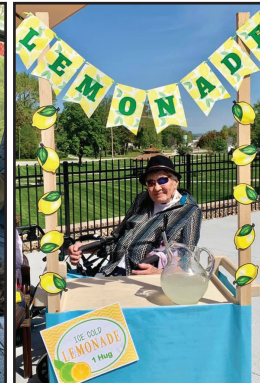
I am a Master Mason. I joined the Arcana Lodge No. 195 on November 24, 1950. I give to The Nebraska Masonic Home in appreciation of the guidance, support, and example of how to live, that I have experienced as I grew. I also wanted to help others who have Alzheimer's and appreciate that The Home has an Alzheimer's Unit.

— Ross Rash  
*Udall, Kansas*



Show pride in your Home!  
**Wear The Nebraska Masonic Home pin!**  
Cost is \$10.00/Contact Foundation Director  
Steve Barchus 402-296-7334

## HAPPENINGS AT THE HOME



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