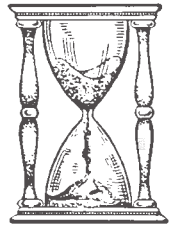


# The Nebraska Masonic Home



*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 117 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)

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This move proved to be a good one. On March 26, 2020 we separated nursing care residents from assisted living residents and stopped communal dining to further promote social distancing. We are proud to say that we have had no confirmed cases of Covid-19 for residents or employees. We are also screening all employees every day before they begin their shift. They must have their temperatures taken and answer a series of health screening questions. If they fail, they are immediately sent home.

Please know that the residents of The Nebraska Masonic Home are our number one priority. Their physical, mental, and spiritual well being is of utmost importance to the employees of The Nebraska Masonic Home and our Board of Trustees.

Just like you, we look forward to the day when all of these restrictions are lifted. In the meantime, we are doing everything we can to keep business as usual here while still following all CDC, federal, state, and local guidelines and restrictions.

This situation is not over, and we are still maneuvering through it. I personally want to thank the residents for their understanding and cooperation; the employees for their dedication and compassion; and the Board of Trustees for their support.

Many thanks are also extended to those volunteers who have donated fabric, elastic, ribbon, and their time to make masks and gowns for use at our facility. We, like all other facilities, do not have enough PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for all employees. Your kindness is amazing, and everyone here thanks you!

We got through the Flood of 2019, and we will get through Covid-19 in 2020. Nebraskans are strong in character, faith, and commitment. Because of these qualities, better days are definitely ahead.

Mary Russell, Executive Director

Long-term care and assisted living facilities nationwide are working hard to protect those in their care. The Nebraska Masonic Home is no exception. We have always said that we are one of the best kept secrets in Nebraska. As far as the corona virus goes, we would like to stay that way.

On March 9, 2020, we voluntarily closed the doors to family members and visitors.

## Meet Denny and Sherry Smith . . .



In 1962 Sherry Smith was in high school in Council Bluffs, Iowa, when she was approached by a Jewish couple that lived next door. They owned a clothing department store and wanted to know if Sherry would like to work for them part-

time. When Sherry told them yes, Mrs. Gershan looked at Sherry and excitedly said with her accent “and have I gotta boy for you!” And that’s how Sherry and Denny met . . . with no small amount of help from their clothing store employer!

As a military brat born in Everett, Washington, Sherry moved many times growing up . . . Japan; El Paso, Texas; and Karlsruhe, Germany; before finally settling down in Council Bluffs. The schools Sherry attended abroad were more academically advanced than in the U.S. so as a senior, Sherry only needed American Government to graduate.

Denny was born in Des Moines, Iowa, where he lived until the family moved to a farm in Griswald, Iowa, and then to Council Bluffs when Denny was in the fifth grade. After high school graduation, Denny attended Omaha University for two years.

After a whirlwind love affair that started at Gershan’s Department Store, Denny and Sherry became engaged during her senior year. They were married February 8, 1964. They were blessed with daughter Christy in 1964 and son David in 1972.

Denny went to work for International Harvester Company shortly before the two of them were married. Unfortunately, after 20 years with International Harvester, Denny was let go in the 1980’s when the American economy took a deep downturn. Denny turned around and found a job with Larson International Truck and Engine, a franchise dealership in Fremont, Nebraska. After 32 years with Larson, Denny retired.

Not only is Denny a committed spouse, father, and provider, he is a devoted Mason. He was a DeMolay in his youth and is now a 52-year member of Fremont Lodge No. 15.

Son David followed in his footsteps in DeMolay while Denny was DeMolay Chapter Dad for 17 years. The Order of Eastern Star seemed to be a good fit for Denny as well. As a member of Arbor Vitae Chapter No. 92 in Fremont, Denny went on to serve the State of Nebraska as Worthy Grand Patron in 2010. During Denny’s years as a Grand Officer, he and Sherry made many wonderful friends through their OES travels.

Sherry spent her teen years as a member of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls and then joined Eastern Star with Denny at Arbor Vitae. There has been a rich family history in Masonry on both sides of the family through the years.

Denny retired and they were just beginning to enjoy those wonderful days of freedom, when Sherry was diagnosed with life-threatening kidney issues. To make life easier during a trying time, they moved to Lincoln to be closer to David and his family. Then last year some other health issues surfaced, and the care of their home seemed to be more than what they wanted to handle.



Christy, David, and their spouses decided it was time to help Mom and Dad to make some difficult life choices. They contacted Chris Abbott, Admissions Coordinator at The Home, for admission information and a tour. The visit went well, the children were duly impressed, and now Denny and Sherry are living a happy and blessed life at The Nebraska Masonic Home without the worries of a house. Their 2-bedroom apartment here affords them all the luxuries of their previous home but with fewer worries. Here, they are served home-cooked meals three times a day, have weekly housekeeping services, cable TV, WiFi, caring medical staff, and definitely no snow removal . . . the best of both worlds all wrapped up in one neat little package called The Nebraska Masonic Home.

We are so happy and delighted to have this fun-loving couple as part of our Masonic Home family! You can make that same call too . . . you will be glad you did!



### The Nebraska Masonic Home

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<i>Philip A. Lorenzen, President</i>	<i>Jeffrey Coleman</i>
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<i>Russell A. Clark</i>	

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<i>Russell A. Clark</i>	<i>Dwight E. Smith</i>
<i>Robert A. Carhart</i>	



Dear Friends,

I am truly excited about the changes I see happening at your Nebraska Masonic Home. In today's fast-paced world the need for on-the-spot accurate medical information is important. The Nebraska Masonic Home has always

tried to keep on the cutting edge of care for our residents in both the medical and technological arenas. In order to maintain the quality of care our residents are accustomed to and improve the quality of care we want them to have, we want to install five electronic charting stations in the hallways of our 24-hour Long-Term Nursing Care and Alzheimer's/Dementia Special Care Unit.

With the charting stations strategically placed in the halls outside the resident rooms, charting will be done as nursing staff enters and exits the resident's room rather than at the end of the shift. With all this information being recorded on a computer, nursing staff will be able to better track ADLs (Activities of Daily Living) and compose reports to evaluate the ADLs for each resident.

Charting would be done as cares happen, not at the end of the shift. The CNAs (Certified Nursing Assistants) take down ADL's just once then they are in the system – no transferring from paper to computers at the end of the shift. This timely and accurate system would improve the efficiency of our staff, increase the level of care we are able to give, and give our staff and residents more time for the personal side of care in our facility.

These charting stations would be secure so only qualified staff could access them. They would be equipped with touchscreen computers paired with a keyboard and mouse to make entering information quick and easy for our staff. This would be a fantastic addition to our home and the services we provide for our residents.

Having resident information readily available can have a huge impact on the nursing care community. This system will also help identify the changing needs of our residents in a timelier manner.

Nobody enters care giving with the hopes of being mired down in paperwork; however that is the reality a lot of CNAs and nurses have to deal with. When our care givers can spend less time documenting the care they give, they will have more time to actually provide the quality care we want to offer at The Nebraska Masonic Home, and that is the whole point.

We are looking to raise \$30,000 for this worthy project. I am sure you can see the need for this, and we hope that you will be supportive of this project like you have been for so many others. Your support means the world to us, and we appreciate all you do for The Nebraska Masonic Home.

And finally, we wanted to take this opportunity to let you know we are concerned for every one of you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family. Stay well and do what you can to be a good neighbor, good friend and a positive influence on your community.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Barchus  
Foundation Director



Electronic Charting Station

## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2019



From left to right: Dawn Peters, Director of Nursing, Dawn Alexen, Nursing Coordinator, and Mary Russell, Executive Director

Dawn Alexen started at The Masonic Home as a CNA in 2011 and became a CMA in 2012. In August 2018 Dawn took on the challenge of Nursing Coordinator. She handles the huge commitment of the work schedule for the entire Nursing Department, and she continues to work on the floor as both CNA and CMA whenever necessary. Dawn is never in one spot very long. She is always there to help out whenever and wherever necessary. She is definitely not afraid of hard work!

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT



We are multi-operationally Masonic on both sides of the family and take our heritage seriously. It is rare that we can find institutions to support that have the reach and exceptional quality as The Nebraska Masonic Home.

Pat and Ken Beebe  
North Bend, NE



### Up-date on Opal our therapy dog!

As you can see Opal, is very much at home. She is a ray of sunshine and friend to the residents and staff.

## HAPPENINGS AT THE HOME



### Address Changes

Please call or email  
The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation  
402-296-7336  
ldavis@nemh.net

### The Nebraska Masonic Home Pin!

Show pride in your Home!  
Cost is \$10.00  
Contact Foundation Director  
Steve Barchus 402-296-7334.



Mary Russell  
Executive Director  
mrussell@nemh.net  
(402) 296-7303



Chris Abbott  
Administrative Assistant  
Admissions Coordinator  
cabbott@nemh.net  
(402) 296-7302



Steven R. Barchus  
Foundation Director  
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Lisa Davis  
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