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News & Views is published in March, June, September & December. Comments, facts and opinions expressed herein are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not express agreement of the members. If you would like to contribute information for up coming newsletters, please mail to the ORA - 4270 N. 139th Street, 68164, or CALL (402) 493-4739.



2024 ANNUAL MEETING LET'S DO LUNCH!

(VOTING BALLOT & INSTRUCTIONS ON INSIDE BACK PAGE)

Our first ever Let's Do Lunch Meeting is planned for the 2024 Annual Meeting. Our Build Your Own Bloody Mary, Mimosa & Coffee Bar is available from 11:00-NOON. To be followed by a Lunch, Board Member Inductions and Award Celebration.

Please take a minute today to cast your vote for Restaurateur of the Year, Purveyor of the Year and Employee of the Year (Harold Norman Excellence Award).

Fill in the name of a person you feel goes the extra mile to make our industry better. The Purveyor of the Year can be chosen from five companies that the board of the ORA feels give a tremendous amount of support not only our mission but to their customers. Please choose from these very deserving companies only! The Employee of the Year was created to honor that hard working employee who often goes unthanked. Nominate someone you feel goes above and beyond the call of duty. Let us know via e-mail the reason you would like this person to receive the award and be honored. Please send your email to; JWarren@DineOutOften.com

We hope to see you at Cascio's Steakhouse on January 28th, 2024!

PLEASE NOTE: The past recipients of the Restaurateur of the Year are listed and cannot be nominated and voted for again. Volume 36

Issue 4

December 2023

From Your President

This is a bitter sweet message as my last newsletter as president. I am excited to see the future of ORA led by Natalie Hankins and look forward to continuing to be part of such an amazing organization. A major goal during my term was to make it easier for you to pay dues, make sure to sign up for recurring payments to make your life easier! As we plan for 2024 we hope to have a new event to offer our members, keep a look out for more information coming early next year. To hear more about last years success and forecast for 2024 please join us for that annual meeting Sunday Jan. 28th at Casico's. Thank you to all the hard work done by board members, donations and support from you all keeping the organization growing and thriving. Cheers to you and your business success!

S&V

Dine Out Often Your President, Jessica Keith

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



To Vote Online: https://dineoutomaha.com/annual-dinner-ballot/

OMAHAHOSPITALITY HALL OF FAME 2023 INDUCTEE CELEBRATION



David Friedland



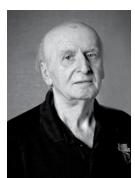
Ted Friedland



Bill "Laki" Sgourakis



Bruce Simon



George Sgourakis



Todd Simon



METROPOLITAN

Carman Johnson



Dario Schicke



Joellen Zuk

The Omaha Hospitality Hall of Fame welcomed nine new members on October 15th, 2023. The newest members are Purveyors-David Friedland and Ted Friedland, Friend of the Industry-Carman Johnson, Chef/Restaurateur-Dario Schicke, Restaurateurs-Bill "Laki" Sgourakis and George Sgourakis, Purveyors-Bruce Simon and Todd Simon, Food Service Director/Educator-Joellen Zuk. The newest members were welcomed into the Hall of Fame with an Induction Ceremony and dinner in their honor at the Institute for the Culinary Arts at Metropolitan Community College (ICA).

The evening began with the honorees and their dinner guests of family, friends and work colleagues greeted by Jim Trebbien, the Chairman of the Hall of Fame Board. The emcee for the evening event was Associate Dean of the ICA, Chef Brian O'Malley. The dinner and dessert courses were planned especially for the inductees by ICA Chefs Michael Combs and Cathy Curtis, assisted by students and team members of the ICA. The dinner meal featured Vegetable, Fish and Meat Courses; each course included a wine pairing presented by Matt Brown of V Mertz. Entertainment featured music by The Beatniks. Each inductee was honored with a video tribute from members of the hospitality community who knew them well, working with them throughout many years of service to the community. After receiving an engraved silver platter each inductee spoke to those gathered in their honor. The dinner meal included an introduction of the volunteering student chefs at the ICA and was concluded with a champagne toast honoring each of the newest inductees. A dessert reception followed in the hallways of the ICA. The school's theory labs and production kitchen were transformed into candle-lit reception areas for the honored guests to mingle and enjoy the specialty cocktails and desserts created in their honor.

This annual event is planned by the combined boards of the Omaha Restaurant Association, the Omaha Hospitality Hall of Fame, and The Institute for the Culinary Arts. To nominate someone in the community to the Hall of Fame or to learn more about the newest members visit https://www.omahahospitalityhalloffame.com/.

Board Member Bio

My Name is Gary Zoucha, and I am the District Sales Manager for the Chesterman Coca-Cola Food Service and On-Premise team in the Omaha Norfolk area. This is my second

opportunity to be a part of the Omaha Restaurant Association, separated by 20 years, and could not be happier to play a role with this dynamic group of restauranters' and purveyors. The vast knowledge and experience that our members have help create a network for all to support the industry and ensure the health of Omaha's great food experience.

My journey began 27 years ago and my first week I was able to watch the ribbon cutting of our new warehouse not knowing that this would become my career. Over the years the never-ending evolution of the beverage industry and growth of many new categories has taught me that adapting is necessary and most of the times very exciting.

My first role was a merchandiser

Chesterman Coca-Cola Food Service in our grocery channel, and I quickly moved over as a delivery driver and then into On-Premises Sale. Over the following 20 years I moved throughout most of our departments taking on new positions and learning more

GARY ZOUCHA

about what we do and how to take care of our partners. Last year the opportunity to move back as a part of our Food Service team became available and I was lucky enough to be awarded this opportunity. I appreciate my new role as I learn something new everyday from my team and our amazing customers and love the ability to be welcomed back into both groups.

Outside of work I do enjoy as much time as possible with my family and I also escape on our local trails to get in a quick run from time to time.

THANK YOU

to these businesses for their generous support of the 2023 Hall of Fame Event

Chesterman Coca-Cola **Chieftain Distribution** DiTendenza Food Styling & Photography Fortune Fish Gourmet H. Olafsson International Specialty Foods Johnson Brothers of Nebraska La Casa Pizzaria Loffredo Fresh foods Company **Omaha Steaks** Premier Midwest Beverage Co Quality Brands of Omaha **Republic National Distributing Company** Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits Spin Linen Sysco Lincoln, Inc. **Timber Wood Fire Bistro** US Foods



SAVE THE DATE **Tuesday, February 27th**



JOIN US FOR THE **4th ANNUAL**

TOPGOLF Tournament **6 PERSON TEAM SCRAMBLE**

Watch your email for details!

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WITH PASSION AND AN Scholarship Money is available for them!



2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE TO APPLY: MARCH 1, 2024

The Nebraska Restaurant Association Hospitality Educational Foundation provides scholarship opportunities for qualified students and professionals who plan to pursue higher education in the fields of culinary and hospitality and will use those skills in Nebraska. Scholarship(s) will be awarded at the discretion of the scholarship committee. HEF will be awarding 10 scholarships, each with a minimum of \$1,000.

Please attach your resume and fill out Parts A, B, & C to complete the application process

PART A:

Name:			
Cell Phone:			
Email:			
Current Address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code	
Please write "N/A" for	r anything that doe	esn't apply to you	
Current High School or Career Academy:			
GPA			
I have participated in a Nebraska	a ProStart Prograr	n: Yes	No
Current Post Secondary Institution or Er GPA	mployer:		
I have participated in a Nebrask	a ProStart Progra	m: Yes	No
I am applying for Professional Development (I already work in the industry):		Yes	No
In 2024, I will be enrolled at: Post-Seco	ondary Institution o	or Professional De	evelopment Program
Institution Address:			
City:	State:		Zip Code:
Major:			
Degree Objective:			
Associates Bach	nelors	Diploma	Certificate
Area of Emphasis:			
Culinary ArtsBaking and Pastry	Food &	Beverage	
Restaurant Management Entre	preneurship	Lodging	
Other (Name of Emphasis)			
Are you a previous NRAHEF/NRAEF Scho	olarship winner?	Yes	No

INTEREST IN PURSUING A CULINARY EDUCATION? Apply by March 1st, 2024!

PART B:

In the space provided, please tell us:

A. Why did you select the culinary or hospitality field as a career?

B. What are your future goals in the hospitality industry?

C. Describe the most challenging hospitality related experience that you have ever faced. What did you learn from the experience?

D. Describe your employment history in the hospitality industry:

E. How many credits and/or semesters do you have remaining to accomplish your educational goals OR What is your anticipated graduation date?

PART C:

Additional Contact Information (Please list three) Please provide the names and phone numbers of at least three people who will know how to contact you in the next six months or more (e.g., parents, siblings, friends)

Name/Relationship

Cell Phone Number

Please e-mail no later than March 1, 2024 to: zoe.olson@nebraskadining.org

or mail this form postmarked by March 1, 2024 to:

Nebraska Restaurant Association HEF Attn: Zoe Olson 5100 N 27th St, Ste A2 #238 Lincoln, NE 68521

If you are a scholarship finalist, you will be required to attend an interview via Zoom with a panel of industry professionals. Interview times and Zoom information will be included in the interview notification letter.

If you are selected for a scholarship you will be required to give us your social security number. After enrollment verification is determined, scholarships will be mailed to the financial aid office of the recipient's institution or program.

Thank you for applying for a scholarship from the Nebraska Restaurant Association Hospitality Educational Foundation.

FAMILY MEAL 2-4-24

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Join us for a delicious family-style gathering for alumni, family + friends, ICA personnel and industry partners.

Come as you are to share, connect, and discover ways to help current students. Advance tickets are \$15 per person or \$120 for a table of 10. Let us know you will attend this event see MCC's Institute for the Culinary Arts facebook page!

facebook.com/events/1253571298649057/



Metropolitan Community College INSTITUTE FOR THE CULINARY ARTS

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP: Please Read!

ServSafe MANAGEMENT TRAINING



April 24th & 25th | 9 am – 4:30 pm | UNL Extension Office |8015 West Center Road

Many of you are aware it will probably be mandated this year to have a manager on duty at your restaurant that is certified in **ServSafe Management Training**. We have been trying to prepare you for this for the past 3 years and each year we pay for more and more members to get certified. We are happy to see members take advantage of this benefit, however, we are at the point we are going to have to limit this to 2 managers per membership, based on a certain amount of money allotted to this program. We will pay the \$110 for the class and the test and you will still have to purchase the 7th or preferably the 8th edition book for \$85 and we will email you the additions to the book. Cindy Brison has set aside a special date of April 24th and 25th from 9 am – 4:30 pm at the UNL Extension office at 8015 West Center Road. You will call Jennie Warren at 402-690-9706 or e-mail her at jwarren@dineoutoften.com to sign up. This is on a first come first serve basis. We will be taking 30 participants. New this year, we will have to pass on the *no-show* cost of \$110, as it is charged to us, if you do not show up. Last but not least, you must be a current member at the time of registration.

EVENTPHOTOS December 2023





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2023 Inductees David Friedland • Ted Friedland • Carman Johnson Davio Schicke • Bill "Laki" Sgourakis • George Sgourakis Bruce Simon • Todd Simon • Joellen Zuk

Sunday, October 15, 2023

Dinner and Awards begin **Promptly** at 5:00 pm Inductee Dessert & Cocktail Reception Immediately Following Food prepared by The Institute for the Culinary Arts at MCC

The Institute for the Culinary Arts The Pegler Center at 32nd and Sorenson Parkway Community College, Fort Omaha Campus









































EVENTPHOTOS December 2023









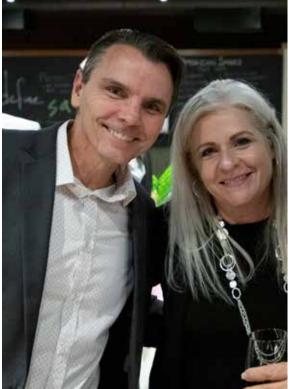
















EVENTPHOTOS December 2023





















OFFICIAL BALLOT





Restaurateur of the Year 2023 | Purveyor of the Year 2023 Harold Norman Excellence Award 2023

Please vote on the ballot below by January 12th, 2024 and return it to:

Omaha Restaurant Association | 4270 N. 139th Street | Omaha, NE 68164 E-Mail: JWarren@DineOutOften.com

Winners will be presented at this year's 2024 Annual Meeting on January 28th, 2024 and will **not** be informed prior to the meeting

RESTURATEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2023 YOU CANNOT SELECT A PAST RECIPIENT

Please choose someone you believe stands out in the industry through providing an outstanding business as well as contributing to the industry through the ORA and other civic causes.

PRIOR WINNERS

1989 Mac Thompson 1990 Rick Fox 1991 Linda Anania 1992 Ron Samuelson 1993 David Hayes 1994 John Chisholm 1995 Bill McKenna 1996 R. Tim Peffer 1997 Mark Hoch 1998 Denis Hall 1999 Matt Warren 2000 Brian Magee 2001 Sally Kawa 2002 Vince Fletcher 2003 Ann Mellen 2004 Nicole Jesse 2005 Chuck Caniglia 2006 Cedric Fichepain 2007 Katie O'Connor 2008 Tony Fucinaro, Jr. 2009 Cory Guyer 2010 John Wade

2023

2011 Yves Menard 2012 Greg Lindberg 2012 Don & Marie Losole 2013 Brad Marr 2014 Glenn Wheeler 2015 Jared Clarke 2016 Jennifer Coco 2017 Darwin Hanssen 2018 Dave Mainelli 2019 Greg Cutchall 2020 MitchTempus 2021 Bob & Amy Freshman 2022 Alfie Cascio

PURVEYOR OF THE YEAR 2023

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FIVE PURVEYORS All outstanding companies, who promote the mission of the ORA by sponsoring and attending the events and have a strong

ORA by sponsoring and attending the events and have a strong desire to improve the hospitality industry.

VOTE FOR ONE

- Hospitality Management Systems
 - Johnson Brothers of NE
 - Premier Midwest Beer and Beverage
 -) Quail Distribution
- US Foods

PRIOR WINNERS

- 2011 RNDC Falcon Division
- 2012 Rotella's Italian Bakery
- 2013 Omaha Steaks 2014 Quality Brands of
- Omaha
- 2015 Reinhart Food Service 2016 Loffredo's Fresh
- Produce
- 2017 Southern Glazers Wine & Spirits
- 2018 H. Olafsson InternationalSpecialty Foods
- 2019 Spin Linen
- 2020 TriMark Hockenberg's
- 2021 Chesterman
- Coca-Cola
- 2022 Glenn Valley Foods

HAROLD NORMAN EXCELLENCE AWARD 2023

Choose any employee who shows strong leadership, works hard, is dedicated, loyal and wants to see improvement in the industry.

*Include a short story of why you choose this person. Please email to: JWarren@DineOutOften.com

Prior WINNERS 2014 Katie Vap 2015 Kevin Caniglia 2016 Brian Young 2017 Bobby Mekiney

2018 Pedro "Pete" Garcia 2019 Linda Faye Austin 2020 Zac Triemert 2021 Danny Dominguez 2022 Dave Warren

2023_

Please fill in your choice for HAROLD NORMAN EXCELLENCE AWARD (EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR)

Please fill in your choice for RESTAURATEUR OF THE YEAR

WE ARE THE HOSPITALITY EXPERTS.

Since 1982, HMS has served as the premier supplier of up-to-the-minute point-of-sale technology and world-class service for the Hospitality industry. Put the power of our unrivaled experience and expertise to work for you with customized solutions.

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The premier cloud and mobile-based hospitality management platform, Simphony provides enterprise-level point-of-sale and back-office functionality to support a wide range of food and beverage operations. A truly comprehensive management platform, Simphony also offers gift and loyalty card acceptance, inventory and labor management, loss prevention, and much more.

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The single platform for all your restaurant operations.

Whether you're running a full-service, casual, upscale casual, or fine-dining establishment, SALIDO will unify all your restaurant operations under one convenient interface. All while serving as the comprehensive hospitality payments and back-office solution.



Introducing the preferred all-in-one restaurant point of sale solution for both enterprise-level businesses and independent restaurateurs. Best of all, with a convenient monthly software as a service (SaaS) subscription, you can experience all that Brink has to offer risk free!



Provide a personalized dining experience with the mobile-first hospitality platform. Allow your customers to submit allergy info and preferences, make online reservations, and more all while keeping your staff in the loop on how many specials remain, providing easier upsell opportunities, and more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT JOEL PRIEST, OMAHA HOSPITALITY CONSULTANT. 402.250.1804 | JPRIEST@HMSKC.COM



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- Increase Revenue
- Robust Reporting



Greg Hanson Vice President. **Payment Processing Officer** 402.905.9936

ghanson@access-processing.com

FOR REC

FD (O

YOUR ORA MEMBER BENEFIT

SCAN

Go to https://dineoutomaha.com/

At the top of the home page, you will see PAY DUES HERE

You will select the **Membership Package** from the drop-down.

- Lounge Dues
- Restaurant Dues
- Multi Concept Dues
- Triad Dues
- Purveyor Dues



Select the Payment Type, Every Year on January 1st

Enter in Transaction Details: Customer First Name, Last Name, Business Name & Email.

Under Card Details select either Credit Card or Check

Click accept terms & conditions then hit the **process** button.

** PLEASE NOTE THAT SETTING UP A RECURRING PAYMENT WILL NOT CHARGE YOU UNTIL THE FIRST OF THE YEAR ON THE FOLLOWING YEAR. TO MAKE A PAYMENT FOR THIS YEARS DUES, YOU WILL NEED TO RUN A ONE TIME TRANSACTION UNDER THE "PAYMENT TYPE" **



2710 South 140th Street Omaha, NE 68144 402.502.7269 www.access-processing.com

G PAYMENTS OF

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

IN 2024



*Any ORA member is welcome to share in any meeting at any time. If you would like to speak at a meeting, please call Jennie Warren at 402-493-4739 and schedule a time.

JANUARY 28th	Annual Meeting-Brunch Cascio's Steakhouse - 11 a.m. 1620 South 10th Street
FEBRUARY 6th	Monthy Board Meeting DJ's Dugout - 3:30 p.m. 10th & Capitol
FEBRUARY 27th	TOP GOLF TOURNAMENT 908 N. 102nd Street
MARCH 7th	Monthy Board Meeting Corkscrew- 3:30 p.m. 3908 Farnam

Photos in this issue were graciously provided by Sheri Potter & Beverly Nelligan at TENDENZA FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY AND DESIGN. EMAIL; SheriPotter@me.com

Omaha Restaurant Association Board of Directors

PRESIDENT **JESSICA KEITH** Corkscrew Wine & Cheese VICE PRESIDENT NATALIE HANKINS DJ's Dugout SECRETARY MAURA CAROLAN Performance Food Group TREASURER JOEL PRIEST Hospitality

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SHAWN LAHOOD Monarch

> **GAVIN PINO** Stokes

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Old Market

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SARAH WALLACE Fleming's Steakhouse

DAN WATTS Main Street Theatres

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MICHAEL RHOADES Sysco

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> GARY ZOUCHA Chesterman Coca-Cola

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BRIAN BARKS Food Bank for the Heartland **ZOE OLSON** Nebraska Hospitality Association, HEFF & ProStart BRIAN O'MALLEY Institute for the Culinary Arts @ MCC SHERI POTTER DiTendenza Food Photography and Design

EMBERSHIP APPLICA OMAHA RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION | NEBRASKA HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATION | NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION





2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES INVESTMENT

Are you looking for something more for your membership? If you are a restaurateur we have a deal for you. For an additional \$225 you can receive the benefits of the Nebraska Hospitality Association and the National Restaurant Associaiton. For additional information please visit www.NebraskaDining.org to see what they can do for you!

SINGLE RESTAURANT MEMBER\$225	
MULTI-UNIT RESTAURANT MEMBER \$375	
PURVEYOR MEMBER\$275	
BAR(NOT SERVING FOOD) MEMBER\$175	
TRIAD MEMBER*\$450	

* This membership is only available for new or current ORA members of single concept restaurants. TOTAL S

To pay by check: Make out to Omaha Restaurant Association and mail to: Omaha Restaurant Association, 4270 North 139th Street, Omaha NE 68164. To make your payment online: Visit our website www.DineOutOmaha.com



NEBRASKARESTAURANT ASSOCIATION



HOSPITALITY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

PLEASE FILL OUT ALL INFORMATION BELOW

Name of Company___ Name of Representative Title of Representative_____ Work Phone Cell Phone_ Mailing Address_ Email _____ Company Website Type of Business_

REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

DATE