Your donation will assist future journalists

By Bridget (Weide) Brooks
OPC Foundation President

Thirty years ago, I was an Omaha Press Club Foundation scholarship recipient. Now, as the president of the OPC Foundation, I’m helping raise funds for the next generation of journalists.

Each year, the foundation awards between 18 and 22 scholarships of $2,500 each. Thanks to the generosity of donors, we were able to give out more than $50,000 in scholarships to students at Creighton University, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2020.

One of the highlights is the annual scholarship banquet held at the Press Club. It was the first time I was ever at the club. Eventually, I became an OPC board member and then president. So you never know where these scholarship recipients will end up! In fact, many past scholarship recipients have ended up in OPC leadership roles.

This year, because of the coronavirus pandemic, the in-person banquet was replaced by a video that includes remarks from a student representative from each campus, a highlight of each scholarship recipient, and a message from longtime Omaha World-Herald journalist Steve Jordon. You can watch the video on the OPC Foundation website, www.opcfscholarships.org.

The OPC Foundation has awarded more than 400 scholarships over the years. The newest scholarship is named for my friend and mentor, Susan Eustice, who died in 2019. With this year’s campaign, mark your calendars for Thursday, Jan. 21, the date of the Omaha Press Club Annual Meeting.

Omaha Press Club Annual Meeting will be Jan. 21

Mark your calendars for Thursday, Jan 21, the date of the Omaha Press Club Annual Meeting.

A 5:30 p.m. social featuring complimentary hors d’oeuvres will precede the 6 o’clock call-to-order. The meeting will include reports from the outgoing president, Tom Shatel, and OPC’s executive director, Steve Villamonte, plus the annual reports from committee chairs.

Also on the agenda is the election of 2021 club officers, including:
President: Roger Humphries, Roger Humphries Photography
President-Elect: Hunter Samuels, Ronald McDonald House
Treasurer: Dale Ervin, First National Bank
Secretary: Bridget (Weide) Brooks, Image Building Communications
Immediate Past President: Tom Shatel, Omaha World-Herald

Board Members:
Angella Arndt, Freelance Writer
Chris Allen: University of Nebraska Omaha
Todd Andrews, The Salvation Army
Allen Beermann, Retired
Woody Bradford, Houghton Bradford
Bridget (Weide) Brooks, Image Building Communications
Liz Hruska, Nebraska Legislative Fiscal Office
Mike McKnight, WOWT
Robert Meyers, retired public school Educator
Gary Willis, NP Dodge Real Estate

For those who wish to vote but are unable to attend the meeting, a proxy ballot is on page 2. Please mail the ballot to the Press Club or email it to opcchristine@gmail.com.

Friday Family Meals offer a tasty takeaway variety

Fabulous fried chicken for four. Melt-in-your-mouth prime rib. Cordon bleu. Lasagna. Meatloaf. The Omaha Press Club’s Friday Family Meals are a delicious way to support the club.

Each meal is hot and ready to eat, and includes an entrée and sides.

Upcoming meals include:
• Friday, Dec. 4: Fried Chicken Friday (serves four) for $25 plus tax. Includes eight pieces of Steve’s famous fried chicken (two breasts, two wings, two thighs and two legs) plus baked beans and Thunderbird pasta salad.
• Friday, Dec. 11: Meatloaf Family Meal – for two or for four people. Includes garlic whipped potatoes, green bean bundle, Thunderbird salad and Rotella’s rolls. Available for two for $30 plus tax, or four servings for $60 plus tax.
• Friday, Dec. 18: Prime Rib For Two includes twice-baked potatoes, brandied carrots, Thunderbird salad and Rotella’s rolls. $40 plus tax.

Meals must be pre-ordered by noon each Friday and are scheduled for pickup between 4:30 and 6 p.m. curbside at 16th and Dodge. Use the club’s online ordering platform to order. For meals for two, you can double your order (order two meals) to feed four. If you’re looking for an additional portion (to feed 3, or 5, or any
Photos take forum audience on Rudy Smith’s journey

By Gary Willis
Communications Committee

Llana Smith, widow of longtime Omaha World-Herald photographer Rudy Smith, and Kristine Gerber, book editor, took the Nov. 19 Noon Forum audience on a journey highlighting the photo book “The Black Experience Through the Lens of Rudy Smith.” They presented a slide show narrated by Smith and Gerber telling the stories behind the photos and how history was captured.

Rudy had long planned to release a photo book but kept putting it off. After securing sponsorship for the book, his dream was beginning to come to life. After his death a year ago, World-Herald staff and Smith’s family completed the book.

One of Rudy’s memorable quotes was, “For some reason, I always knew whatever I shot was for historical purposes. When it’s history, that moment will never be revisited again. Words can describe it, but images live on forever, just like freedom marches on.”

By Gary Willis
Communications Committee

we are working to finish endowing this scholarship.

The inaugural recipient of the scholarship, UNL student Nickol Payne, posted this on her Facebook page: "I am so honored and humbled to have been awarded the Susan Eustice Scholarship by the Omaha Press Club Foundation. From the things I’ve heard and read about Susan, she was a passionate woman whose zest for life centered around her family and community. Being awarded this scholarship in honor of this remarkable woman inspires me to continue on in a career path where I am able to improve the lives of those around me each day.”

I’ve said it before, and it remains true: As important as the scholarship money is to the recipients, equally vital is knowing that there is a community of people out there encouraging and supporting them.

If you would like to help future journalists and provide funding for next year’s scholarships supporting students pursuing careers in radio, television, print, public relations and new media, you can make your donation online at www.opcfscholarships.org.

Future Journalists, continued from Page 1

Family Meals, continued from Page 1

other odd amount), you can call the club at 402-345-8008 to custom order.

Omaha Press Club board members have been volunteering their time to help with order delivery curbside (and answering the phone for Family Friday pickups).

To order, visit the Omaha Press Club online ordering platform, Toast: https://www.toasttab.com/omahapress-club/v3

Select the “Family Meal Friday” tab.
Many holiday parties have been postponed or canceled this year due to COVID-19. We have the space to entertain while following distancing and dining guidelines, so if you want to do a special occasion for the holidays, we can most likely accommodate you.

This year our Santa Brunch on Sunday, Dec. 20, will be plated and served by service staff and not a buffet as usual. We will have a custom menu served in succession like a wine dinner.

Keep an eye on our website for our holiday offerings for pick up, and check out this month’s selections for Family Deal Friday in the story on Page 1. For our Takeout, Delivery, Curbside or Family Deal Friday online ordering: https://www.toasstab.com/omahapressclub/v3 or log on to our website: https://omahapressclub.com/

The Omaha Press Club restaurant is unique in comparison with many other facilities. We require reservations and can accommodate social distancing with ease due to the layout of the restaurant. This is a value for dining out with regards to your health and safety.

Even if you are not taking advantage of our dine-in or takeout opportunities, we appreciate you continuing to support the club by paying your dues. Due to the type of club we are, we have not been eligible for the government’s Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) programs that many Omaha restaurants have taken advantage of. Therefore, our dues revenue is especially vital to our survival during these difficult times.

We want to be here for you in 2021 to celebrate our 50th anniversary of the club . . . and we need your help to do so.

To contact me best during this time: opcdirector@gmail.com

Thank you and see you at the club.

Steve L Villamonte Sr. CEC, BS
Executive Director
Omaha Press Club
402-345-8008

Note: It is important to make reservations as we are scheduling staff according to the number of RSVPs!

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**Santa Brunch**

**Sunday, Dec. 20**

Two Seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Adults $25 • Children 3-10 $15

For Reservations, Call 402-345-8008

**Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the Salvation Army.**

**Menu Served Plated**

**One**

- Eggs Benedict, with Fresh Fruit,
- Pancakes, Breakfast Potatoes

**Two**

- House Salad, Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad

**Three**

- Bacon Cheddar Cheese Fluffy Omelet,
- Smoked Salmon

**Four**

- Prime Rib Chantilly, Sliced Ham
- with Pineapple Glaze,
- Tilapia Beurre Blanc, Green Bean Bacon Bundle

**Five**

(Choose one or all)

- Coffee Cake, Chocolate Dipped Strawberry,
- Sticky Buns, Cheesecake

Brandyied French Vanilla Ice Cream,
- Spiked French Vanilla Eggnog

**All children 10 and under receive a special holiday gift with reservation**

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**OPC New Year’s Eve**

**Thursday, Dec. 31**

Two Seatings: 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

$65 per Person, Tax and Gratuity Included

All Courses Will Be Plated and Served

**Hors d’oeuvres**

- Continental Cheese & Fruit Display

**Salad, Soup**

- OPC Famous Thunderbird Salad
- with Sauté Toppings
- Peruvian Clam Chowder

**Entrees**

- Prime Rib of Beef
- au Jus & Chantilly
- Chicken Marsala

Sautéed in a Sweet Marsala wine
- with Mushrooms and Bordelaise
- Blackened Tilapia

Topped with a Black Bean & Corn
- Salsa and Lemon Buere Blanc
- Dauphine Potatoes &
- Asparagus Citron

**Dessert Choices**

- Cherries Jubilee, Brownie a la Mode,
- Blackstone Cheesecake

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As the old year bows out and the new one arrives, it may be a good time to remind OPC members and guests of the current parking and entrance policies.

All validated parking is at the Central City Garage directly east and across 17th Street from the First National Bank building and club.

Bring your parking ticket to the club, and we will dispose of the original and give you a ticket stamped PAID to use at the gate before exiting the garage gate. If you leave your ticket in your vehicle, no problem; we will still give you a PAID ticket.

For security purposes, the bank building entrance from the Central City tunnel under 17th street and the 16th and Dodge Streets entrance are locked.

Getting in is simple: Push the button on the black box near the bank entrance doors and say, “Omaha Press Club.”
### OPC Foundation

- Bridget (Weide) Brooks (President)
- Josh Busc (Vice President)
- Henry Cordes (2nd Vice President)
- Steve Jordan (Treasurer)

### OPC Board of Directors

#### 2019-2021
- Chris Allen
- Kristyn Engdalh
- Mike McKnight
- Liz Hruska
- Hunter Samuels

#### 2020-2021
- Allen Beermann
- Woody Bradford
- Bridget (Weide) Brooks
- Roger Humphries
- Gary Willis

- Retired
- Houghton Bradford Whitted
- Image Building Communications
- Roger Humphries Photography
- NP Dodge Real Estate

### Communications Committee

- Cindy Workman • Don Summerside
- Gary Willis • Jennifer Bull • Karen Way
- Tom O’Connor • Anne Walsh • Sandra Tursi
- Bridget (Weide) Brooks • Hunter Samuels
- Lauren Robinson • Todd Andrews • Jon Brooks
- Angella Arndt

### Executive Committee

- Tom Shatel
- Roger Humphries
- Bridget (Weide) Brooks
- Jeremy Masket

### OPC Staff

- Executive Director: Steve Villamonte (opcdirector@gmail.com)
- Restaurant and Events Manager: Christine Villamonte (opcchristine@gmail.com)
- Office: 402-345-8587
- Website: omahapressclub.com

### OPC Awards

- Excellence in Journalism Awards
- Professional Development
- Marketing/Membership
- OPC Foundation
- Hall of Fame
- “Face on the Barroom Floor”

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- Executive Director: Steve Villamonte (opcdirector@gmail.com)
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### OPC Newsletters

- OPC Newsletter - opcdirector@gmail.com

### OPC Hours of Operation

- **LUNCH**
  - Monday - Friday
  - 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- **Prime Rib Night**
  - Dec. 3, 10, 17
  - 5:30 p.m. to close

### OPC Office Hours

- **Monday - Friday**
  - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### OPC Website

- [OMAHAPRESSCLUB.COM](http://OMAHAPRESSCLUB.COM)

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**CANCELLATION POLICY:** All reservations must be cancelled **48 HOURS** in advance.

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**Are you looking for a perfect party setting? A lunch surrounded by brilliance? A dinner your guests will always remember? Keep the OPC in mind.**