

Monumental News

An occasional newsletter of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

Spring 2012

Memorial Day Weekend — Roses, Plants and a Wedding Dress

May is National Heritage Month, and the 2012 theme is “Discover America’s Hidden Gems.” The Eugene Masonic Cemetery’s location qualifies it as “hidden.” Moreover, based on its central place in Eugene’s history and the many restoration activities and public events it has hosted over the years, it definitely qualifies as a local “gem.” On this Memorial Day weekend, we will feature both its landscape and its history.

On Saturday at 1:00 pm, cemetery neighbors Bruce Newhouse and Peg Bouley will lead a native plant walk through the cemetery. This walk is the culmination of Bruce’s inventory of the cemetery’s flora (see related article on page 2). If you

wish to participate in the walk, make a reservation and leave your phone number at 541-684-0949. Bruce and Peg will lead a second walk if more than 18 people sign up for the first walk.

On Sunday afternoon, following the playing of taps in the Public Square, Laura King and Kathleen McMullen, rose historians from Portland, will give a presentation in Hope Abbey about Oregon’s heritage roses (see related story on page 3). On display will be True Augusta Morris’s 1890 wedding dress. Read about Morris, who is interred in Hope Abbey, on page 3. Her wedding dress is part of Carol Houde’s collection of historic wedding dresses. Carol will be available to explain

the intricacies of 19th century wedding fashion.

Traditional displays and events will also take place over the weekend. Flags will fly over veterans’ graves. Adrian Vaaler, neighbor and Vietnam veteran, will play taps at noon each day. There will be displays of landscape and other projects in

continued on page 8



True Augusta’s Wedding Dress, story on page 3.

Take Care of the Cemetery Work Party

Sunday, May 20th • 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

EMCA will host its annual work party on Sunday, May 20. This year its purpose will be to complete several physical site improvement projects along with enhancing the cemetery’s landscape for Memorial Day weekend.

The physical projects include the installation of a bike rack, new entryway sign, and shelving in the garden shed. Landscape projects include removing invasive plants, spreading bark on a cemetery path, making improvements outside of Hope Abbey, and mulching the cemetery’s main entrance. Volunteers can choose to help with any of these

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A Plant Grant

Last November, the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries informed EMCA that its grant proposal for a comprehensive inventory of the cemetery's flora had been approved.

The inventory will include native, invasive, and heritage plants and their botanical characteristics. Another product of the project will be recommendations regarding introduction of additional native plants and protection and expansion of uncommon native species.

Bruce Newhouse, professional botanist and cemetery neighbor, is preparing the inventory. According to Bruce, the cemetery "represents a living museum of natural history that is not found anywhere else in

the neighborhood." He is familiar with the site's vegetation as he prepared the first list of its native plants almost 20 years ago. This spring Bruce is inventorying plants and preparing a database. If cemetery visitors come upon someone bent over a plant and taking notes, photographs, and a GPS reading, Bruce encourages them to introduce themselves and tell him about their favorite plants in the cemetery.

Information produced by the project will be used for landscape restoration and for the preparation of brochures and other publications. It will also be posted on the cemetery's web

site for public use. Barbara Cowan, EMCA board member and landscape chair, is serving as project manager. She and David Lynch, site manager, are assisting Bruce in the plant inventory. Barbara stresses the importance of this project because "it will document the cemetery's important collection of native and heritage plants, and it will provide key educational information for naturalists, educators, and those interested in native plant gardening."



(At right) David, Wendi, and Bruce after a plant walk

What do Board Members do all day?

Don Micken joined the EMCA board two years ago, replacing Alex McBirney as the liaison to Eugene Masonic Lodge #11, previous owner of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery. Since joining the Masons while still in college, Don has been an active member all his life. He recently received the Masons' 50-year membership award.



Don Micken

Don was born in Great Falls, Montana, and received his architecture degree from Montana State University in 1961. He then moved to Eugene to do his architectural apprenticeship with Lutes and Amundson and received his license in 1965 while working in Carmel, California. Four years later, he returned to Eugene ("just in time

for the 'Big Snow'). Until his retirement, Don was in business for himself, doing mainly residential and some commercial architecture.

Don also taught at Lane Community College for a number of years. He taught applied architecture, subjects such as drafting, building materials, and other practical skills, to ensure that his students were employable. While at LCC, Don designed an architecture aptitude test to counter the very high dropout rate of students in that field. After he retired from teaching, he designed low-cost housing for St. Vincent de Paul and Habitat for Humanity for 13 years.

Don's avocation is history. He is presently completing biographies of

the six statewide Grand Master Masons (including Silas Yoran, who is interred in Hope Abbey). When he finishes this project, he plans to work on histories of local prominent Masons, such as Sam Friendly and Charnel Mulligan.

Did I mention that Don also has a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Oregon? This degree, according to Don, was for "entertainment."

**Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association —
541-684-0949**

Board of Directors

Libby Bottero	Karen Seidel
John Bredesen	Roz Slovic
Barbara Cowan	Charles R.B. Wright
Denise Fearn	
Dale Forrest	David Lynch, Site Manager
Denny Hellesvig	Wendi Bondeson, Site Assistant
Kay Holbo	
Donald Micken	Mary Ellen Rodgers, Cemetery Administrator
Jenny Peterson	
Lynette Saul	

www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org

True Augusta and Her Wedding Dress

In 1905, True Augusta Pierpont Morris (1867-1949) arrived in Eugene with James, her husband of 15 years, and three children. The details of her life are few, perhaps over-shadowed by the accomplishments of her immediate family. James served as treasurer and principal lecturer at what we know today as Northwest Christian University. He was also an occasional preacher at the Fairmount and Pleasant Hill Christian churches. An energetic businessman, he operated a small grocery store at the corner of 19th and Pearl Street and founded the Red Star Real Estate Company in downtown Eugene. True and James raised three very talented children: Victor, Theresa, and James.

Dr. Victor Pierpont Morris (1891-1974) served as dean of the University of Oregon's School of Business and acting president of Northwest Christian University. James Morris Jr. (1904-1995) settled in Corvallis and became known as the "Father of Educational Radio and Television" in the state of Oregon. After receiving a Master's

degree in music from the Julliard School of Music and a second degree in library science from Columbia University, Theresa Morris (1894-1957?) was employed by the University of Oregon as its music librarian. She also studied German, French, and Chinese, in addition to her many years of classical piano study.

True was very close to her sister, Jessie May. The sisters were from a prosperous Illinois family; both married ministers and traveled west to Oregon. The engraving on Jessie May's crypt in Hope Abbey reads "Mrs. David Husband." A relative recalled a family story:

"My grandmother (True Augusta) was very unhappy that David Husband erased his wife's identity by referring to her forever in death as "Mrs. David Husband." By all accounts, he was considered an "odd duck" and somewhat pious...unlike his children."

Recently, Carol Houde,



True Augusta Morris

Springfield author and wedding historian, came into possession of True Augusta's late 19th century wedding dress. Carol had no information about its original owner, but she knew the dress was special because it was made of expensive cream merino wool. The fine, silky textured, light-weight material was a favorite of brides in the 1890s. An internet search revealed that True and her husband were entombed in Hope Abbey. Carol included True's dress in a recent exhibit of historical wedding dresses at the Springfield Museum.

We still don't know much about True, but Carol feels her painstaking work in restoring her wedding dress, "gave back shape to another life we haven't touched on yet." The dress will be on display in Hope Abbey on Sunday, May 27. Carol will be present to describe and answer questions about the dress. She will also sign copies of her book, *The Pleasure of Your Company*, which will be available for purchase.

Mary Ellen Rodgers
Cemetery Administrator

Heritage Rose Preservationists

Oregon's earliest settlers arrived by wagon train in the mid to late 1800's and brought with them only a few precious personal possessions. Often included with the family Bible, quilts, and china were carefully packed slips of favorite roses. Once planted, these roses ornamented their new pioneer homes and provided a living memory of their former lives.

The roses that have survived are

now well over 100 years old, and are considered historic. They are often referred to as *heritage roses* and can still be seen in gardens of well-maintained century farms, or by an abandoned house where a homestead once existed. They can also be found in pioneer cemeteries, where they were planted to ornament a loved one's grave.

Heritage roses provide a link to the lives of the pioneers and help tell

the story of the individual families who brought them here. In 2010, a group called the Northwest Rose Historians was formed, dedicated to the preservation of the region's oldest roses. Since their formation the Northwest Rose Historians have worked on several projects, including the restoration of the "Roses of Old Oregon" garden in Portland's Lone Fir Cemetery; the creation of the *Northwest Heritage Rose Registry*, a listing of old roses and the pioneers

continued on page 5

President's Column – Our Financial Picture

Since taking over the cemetery almost twenty years ago, the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association has made enormous progress. We've turned a vandalized, unappreciated disaster area into an attractive, park-like setting. Well-maintained paths, interpretive signage, thoughtful landscaping, and restoration of monuments and Hope Abbey have produced a community resource we can all be proud of.

EMCA has raised the money not only to pay the bills but also to increase the value of our property by nearly \$300,000 through major restorations and new construction. We also have about \$175,000 in restricted endowments, as well as a wealth of experience. And we have no debt.

So what's the problem? Let me show you this year's budget.

First, let's look at our expenses.

Preserve: \$35,600 (48 percent) Site management, including tree care, contract mowing, and general maintenance.

Operate: \$25,700 (34 percent) Administration costs, insurance, utilities, state and legal fees, and a state-mandated sequestered payment.

Interpret: \$7,000 (9 percent) Includes newsletters, site signage, school tours, brochures, website, and matching money for grant-funded interpretive projects.

Restore: \$4,000 (5 percent) Includes continuing work in Hope Abbey and monument repair.

Raise funds: \$2,200 (3 percent) Donor appeal letters and a share of newsletter costs.

Where do we expect to find almost \$75,000 to pay for this? We don't have many choices.

Earned Income: \$31,800 (43 percent) Primarily plot, crypt, and scatter rights sales, as well as administrative fees.

Donations: \$30,000 (40 percent) From individuals and families, board members, businesses and organizations.

Other Income: \$6,100 (8 percent) Grant income and interest on invested funds.

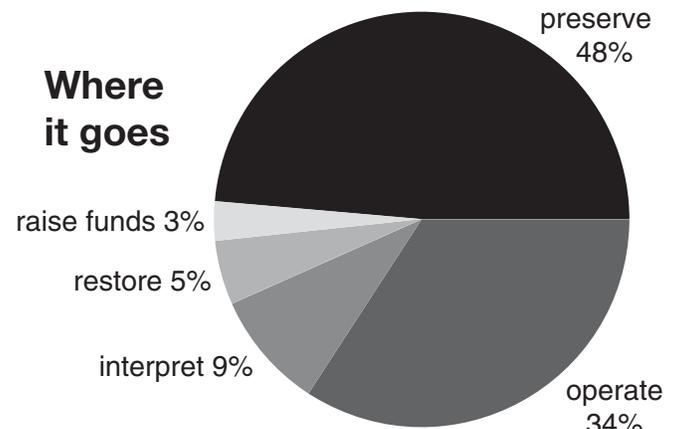
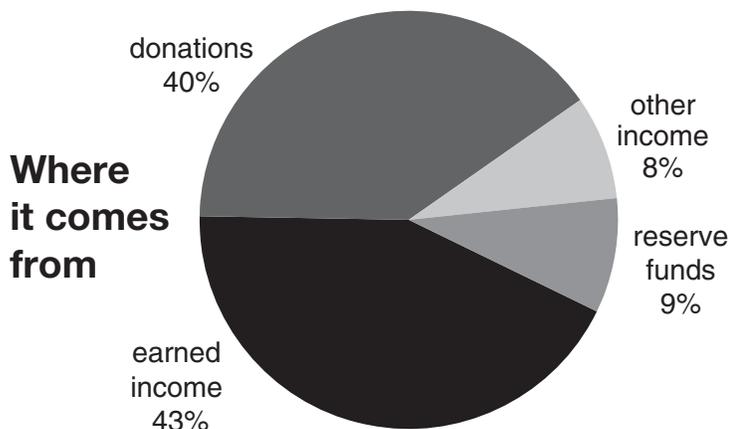
Reserve Funds: \$6,600 (9 percent) From our "Rainy Day Fund."

That use of reserves to balance our budget should be a wake-up call. We have to do it this year because our income isn't keeping pace with gradual increases in salaries and other major maintenance costs. On top of that, we need to look ahead, since every year we have fewer burial plots to offer for sale. Clearly, for us to carry out our mission "to restore, rehabilitate, maintain, interpret and operate the historic Eugene Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum as a cultural and natural resource for the community," contributed income has to increase—and increase substantially.

We have established an endowment fund, administered by the Oregon Community Foundation, but we'll have to build this fund up significantly to generate enough interest to offset reduced sales revenue. To do that, we're starting to explore other fundraising possibilities, such as encouraging donors to name EMCA in their wills and to donate appreciated stock, as one family has recently done. We also need to expand our donor base. You can help here. Pass this newsletter on and tell others about our valuable work in preserving Eugene history and our beautiful cemetery.

For now, we continue to rely heavily on contributions from our generous supporters to help us maintain our shared community treasure. Please keep this in mind as you visit the cemetery, which we hope you will do often.

John A. Bredesen, President



Music to Die For – 2012

Following two popular concerts in Hope Abbey last summer, EMCA will present a series of four concerts on the last Sunday of each month, June through September. The following ensembles will perform:

June 24: The Alder Street Quintet. These musicians played to a SRO house in Hope Abbey last summer. Members of Eugene's longest-lived woodwind quintet play chamber music with a light touch. Music will include a suite from *Porgy and Bess*, some favorites from *Carmen*, a couple of blues, a shanty or three, and perhaps even variations on *Chopsticks*. Players include Pamela Ferree, flute; Kitty Steetle, oboe; Dan Cathey, clarinet; Marian Sparks, horn; and Charley Wright, bassoon.

July 29: The Uncalled Four Bassoon Quartet. The quartet will play a program ranging from seri-

ously solemn to slightly silly, including visits to Coney Island and England, along with a couple of fripperies and some recognizable tunes. Bassoonists are Richard Essenberg, Pat Moore, Liz Thorin, and Charley Wright.

August 26: David Helfand and Justin Lader. David, Celtic harp and composer, and Justin, viola, will feature music from their new CD "After the Rain," plus pieces from David's other recordings, including "Callings from the Quiet Grove," which was inspired by the Masonic Cemetery. David's music ranges from deeply meditative to majestic soundscapes inspired by magical sunsets and his journeys to Israel and Britain.

September 30: Linda Danielson and Janet Naylor. Linda, fiddle, and Janet, Celtic harp, will perform traditional Celtic music



David Helfand and Justin Lader perform August 26

for fiddle, harp, and voice. Some of their music is very old, passed down orally through the ages in Britain and Scandinavia before it was ever written down and published. Other music is more recent, but composed within a traditional community and in a traditional style.

All four concerts will begin at 2:00 pm and are free and open to the public. We invite you to join us this summer for some delightful music making.

Roses, from page 3

who brought them; and the ceremonial planting of historic roses in various Oregon locations, such as the Pioneer Courthouse in Portland and Pacific University in Forest Grove.

Laura King and Kathleen McMullen of the Northwest Rose Historians are currently working with Barbara Cowan to research the cemetery's pioneer roses. Relatives with information about older roses planted on their family's pioneer plot are encouraged to leave contact information with EMCA administrator, Mary Ellen Rodgers, at (541) 684-0949 or email EMCA@comcast.net.

Laura and Kathleen will present a

program, entitled "Historic Cemetery Roses," on Sunday, May 27, at 1:00 pm in Hope Abbey. To learn more about the Northwest Rose Historians, log onto their website at www.nwrosehistorians.com.

*Barbara Cowan
EMCA Landscape Committee Chair*



Rose historians Kathleen and Laura

Work Party, from page 1

projects, or they can place flags on veterans' graves.

The cemetery board and site staff will direct the work party. They look forward to working with volunteers from Temple Beth Israel, the Amazon neighborhood, the University of Oregon, and the larger community. Volunteers will meet at Hope Abbey at 10:00 am or, for a later start, at 11:30 am. Please bring gloves for all tasks, and tools, such as shovels and pruning tools, for landscape work. Refreshments and some tools will be provided.

This is a wonderful opportunity to work with others making lasting improvements while preparing the cemetery for an important holiday.

U. S. Navy Lands at the Masonic Cemetery

Led by Equipment Operator First Class Terrence Graves, an awesome number of men and women of Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 18 (NMCB 18) developed a major path and repaired tombstones during their active duty weekend in April at the cemetery.

This branch of the Navy, known as the "Seabees," can trace its history back to World War II when construction men began military training to defend themselves and their project sites in the Pacific Theater of War. They deployed with the U.S. Marine Corps, building airfields, roads, and bases at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, and Tinian. Amidst extreme rainstorms, tropical heat, and continuing air raids, this group was critical to the war effort. In 1990, 30 Seabees from this unit were mobilized in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf.

NMCB 18 is headquartered in

Fort Lewis, Washington. The battalion consists of 12 detachments scattered throughout the Pacific Northwest. Graves, whose detachment is based here in Eugene, said: "I'm pretty stoked about this project. Part of my job in the Seabees is to expose the public to the Navy in a positive light. I hope this project does just that." Graves became interested in the cemetery because of its Masonic heritage. He is a Shriner and performs as a clown for the children at Shriners Hospital in Portland.

John Bredeesen, EMCA president, was also enthusiastic about the Seabees' efforts. "The construction of the new walking path is especially important because it opens a little used area of the cemetery for easier access to the public and increases our inventory of plots that can be sold. We couldn't have afforded this project without major outside help."

We are all extremely grateful for the hard work and commitment the Seabees demonstrated during their volunteer weekend at the cemetery.



Seabee Battalion

Many Thanks

EMCA is able to maintain and restore its "hidden gem" of a cemetery due to the dedicated efforts of staff, board members, and volunteers. The following volunteers provided invaluable assistance during the past year: Maram Epstein, Scott Rosenfeld, Nate Rosenfeld, Jonathon Seidel, Brigid Flannery, Oriana Hurwit, Sarah Praskievez, Ed Peara, Marvin Cypress, Erik Muller, Mary Breiter, Adrian Vaaler, Dawn Susiuco, Roy Susiuco, Anne Burrowes, Sarah Harnsonkram, Thelma Soderquist, Riley Grannan, Rick Larson, Fran Ross, Tomoko

Sekiguchi, David Rodgers, Chris Rodgers, Jonathan Larson, and Eva Sands. Thanks also for the hard work of the young people involved with Northwest Youth Corp High School and the Lane Metro Youth Corp.

Special acknowledgement is due Katie DeZeeuw, who has faithfully assisted with maintaining the landscape, cleaning Hope Abbey, and greeting visitors and tour groups over the past two years.

Historical research assistance has been generously provided by Jessica Dowell, Carol Houde, the Oregon

Genealogical Society, Lane County Historical Museum, and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Members of the Sacred Harp Singers, Alder Street Quintet, and Greater Eugene Chorus contributed their musical talents to outstanding programs in Hope Abbey.

We are also grateful for the in-kind contributions of Lane Forest Products and Eugene True Value Hardware.

Finally, thanks to our many contributors listed on page 7. A special thank you to Nancy and Pat Picconi, who made a gift of stock to our Endowment Fund.

Recent Contributions

The following individuals and organizations contributed gifts between October 1, 2011 and April 1, 2012. We thank you all.

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-\$2499)

Fran Ross and John Bredeesen
Richard Larson and Barbara Cowan
Kay and Paul Holbo
Hundredth Monkey Foundation
Jim and Ann Luckey
Pat and Nancy Piccioni
Oren and Susan Posner

Karen Seidel
Victoria DeRose and Paul Wallace
Charles and Leslie Wright

Preserver (\$250-\$499)

Erik and Ann Muller
Don Peting
Lynette Saul

Sponsor (\$100-\$249)

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Jane Beeghly
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Cameron, McCarthy, Gilbert and Scheibe
Jerry and Diane Diethelm
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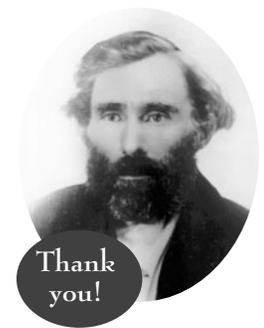
Dale and Linda Forrest
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Allan Kluber
Jon LaBranch
Jody Miller and Kip Leonard
Lisa and John Manotti
Marcela Ramirez and Nancy Moody
Kimberlysus Morton
Marjorie Ross
Elaine Bernat and Roger Saydack
Kent Kullby and Tim Smith
Joanne Taylor

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Bob and Pat Siegmund
Douglas Spencer
Esther Jacobson Tepfer and Gary Tepfer
J and Carol Thibeau
Jan Vitus
Mary Ellen West
Shirley Wiley



Thank you!

J. Richard and Theda Heinzkill
Dorlon Hember
Molly Wilson and Jay Janin
Teri and Robert J. Jones
Barbara Keller
Debbie and Shlomo Libeskind
Lance and Amy Long
Eugene and Sandra Luks
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Linda Rifkin
Thelma Soderquist and Larry Robidoux
Charles and Virgene Roffe
Donna Rose
Donald Sanford
Sally and Ev Smith
David and Anne Smith
Jean and Wayne Tate
Nathaniel Teich

Friend (up to \$49)

Alice Anderson
Janet Anderson and Evelyn Anderton
Christina Armstrong
Marti Berger
Elizabeth Churchill
Ruth Clark Conley
Bazil Freedman, M.D.

Gifts in Honor and in Memory

Between October 1, 2011 and April 1, 2012 the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association received gifts from the following. We wish to thank all who contributed and regret any errors or omissions.

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-\$2499)

Mary Risebrough in memory of Marion and Toivo Lein
Barbara Rose in memory of Bruce A. Rose

Preserver (\$250-\$499)

Bob and Sandra Brokaw in memory of Olivia Lawson
Brokaw and Harold A. Butler

Sponsor (\$100-\$249)

George Baker in memory of Elma Baker
Marvin and Joan Cypress in memory of Ruben Solonsky
Julie V.B. Daniel in memory of Maisie Daniel
Joan Rudd and Joe Felsenstein in memory of Jake Felsenstein
David Gilbert in memory of Donna Humphrey Gilbert
Rene Hammarback-Speer in memory of Noel Wicks
Robert and Debbie Laney in memory of Marian Trummer
Carol Stroud in memory of James Stroud
Susan Whitney in memory of Amelia Davis

Carol and Samuel Williams in memory of the Luckeys and the Leasures
Dan and Maureen Williams in memory of Patrick Williams
Warren Wong in memory of Carol Calkins

Supporter (\$50-\$99)

Joseph and Libby Bottero in memory of Joe and Gladys Bottero
Scott Pratt and Mary Breiter in memory of Roger and Barbara Nichols
Bonnie Gale and Alan Cohn in memory of Mark Jackson
Jane Dubeck in memory of Dickson - Murphy
Susan Engbretson in memory of Ricky
Jean and Larry Johns in honor of Kay and Paul Holbo
Daniel and Kathryn Kremer in memory of William and Sally Wood
Judy Wood Lyons in memory of William and Sally Wood
Shirley Scott in memory of Lyle Scott
Ann Skelton in memory of Ellen Skelton
Helen and Caleb Southworth in memory of Phred

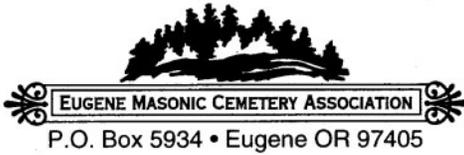
Miriam Starlin in memory of Robert Clark
Cornelia Taggart in memory of Bob and Jonnie Lacy
Betty Williamson in memory of Doug Williamson
Maggie Yokum in memory of Sarah Baumgartner

Friend (up to \$49)

Joan Herbranson Agerter in memory of Howard F. Herbranson
Joel Devore in memory of Holly Weston
Melvyn Foltz in memory of Mary Jane Foltz
Thomas and Janet Heinonen in honor of Doug, Ethan and Lois Newman
Lois Johnson in memory of Jim Saul
Maurice and Mary Landman in memory of Marshall Landman
B J Novitski in memory of Esther and Edward Novitski
Joycelyn Proust in memory of J.W. Morgan and Alice Georgianna Morgan
Barbara Thomas in memory of Charles H. Huntington



Unidentified Heritage Rose



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*Newsletter by Karen Seidel
and Beneda Design*

Memorial Day, from page 1

Hope Abbey. Our cake will again be designed and prepared by student chefs in South Eugene High School's "South Fork Pantry."

Mary Ellen Rodgers, cemetery administrator, is again coordinating the weekend events. For families wishing to visit the cemetery, both gates will be open on Saturday and Sunday, May 19 and 20, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. During the week, May 21 through May 25, the front gate, at 25th and University, will be open from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Both gates will again be open on Memorial Day weekend from 10:00 to 4:00 pm. Please

be respectful if a funeral or memorial service is in progress during your visit.

All Memorial Day weekend events are free and open to the public. We especially invite you to join us for the cake cutting and rose historians' talk following taps on Sunday.

May 26-28: Memorial Day Weekend

- **10:00 am to 4:00 pm:** Cemetery gates and Hope Abbey open to the public. Fresh-cut flowers will be available for placement on graves.
- **On Display:** Morris wedding dress (on Sunday only); "Cemetery Scenes" slide show; "History in Hope Abbey" plaques, landscape and project exhibits; genealogy information available.
- **Taps will be played** at noon in the Public Square.
- **Saturday, 1:00 pm:** Guided native plant walk.
- **Refreshments** will be served on Sunday afternoon.
- **Sunday, 1:00 pm:** "Historic Cemetery Roses" talk.

Consider your place in history. . .

Burial Space for Sale

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery offers a variety of options for memorials, cremains, and earthen burials. Your purchase would provide a beautiful and meaningful space for your family to visit for generations to come. *For more information, phone Mary Ellen Rodgers at 684-0949.*

Thursday, May 31: 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Sacred Harp Singers' tenth annual performance of folk hymn singing in the "shape note" tradition. All are welcome to participate in or listen to this joyful music making in Hope Abbey.