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August, 2020

## Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



### Last Sunday Open House

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery continues its traditional open house of Hope Abbey Mausoleum on Sunday, August 30th, from 1 to 4 PM. There will be two hosts to answer questions about the historic building and those interred in the mausoleum. All are welcome!

Because of COVID-19 health restrictions, masks and social distancing within the building are required. There will not be lavatory facilities available.



### Brass on the Grass

Later in the day, beginning at 6 PM, we're proud to present a free concert in the Public Square at the top of the hill. Come enjoy an evening of Brass Quintet music featuring a varied program from Mozart to Irving Berlin! We have invited song bird Madeleine Rowell to do a few Jazz standards with us. The program will be about an hour in length.

This event is not a defiance of social safety measures, but an acknowledgement of them. Cemetery associates will have 6' pool noodles to measure required distancing as guests array themselves on the lawn. Bring a low lawn chair or a blanket, even a takeout picnic if you like.

The gates will be open at 5:30 to drop off people at Hope Abbey, but there is then a short uphill walk on the Carriage Road to the Public Square. Sorry, but cars will not be allowed to drive up to the Public Square.

Masks are required except while eating during the concert. There will not be lavatory facilities available.

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Note that for both of these events, there is street parking only. Parking is not available on cemetery grounds, so please park on either Potter or East 25th. Come early to get settled for the concert.

## Women Who Made a Difference

The EMCA is Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote. This is the sixth in a series about some of the women "who made a difference in our community" and who are interred in the historic Masonic cemetery. These entries are compiled by EMCA board member Alex Brokaw.

### Rose Osburn



Rose Blasou (1859-1937), born in Nuremberg, Germany, married William Osburn, a native of Lane County, when they were both working as typographers for *The Oregonian* during the 1890s. In 1900, they moved to Eugene and made a major career change—from the newspaper business to the hospitality industry. After leasing the Hoffman House Hotel, they built and operated the Osburn Hotel, located on the northwest corner of 8th and Pearl. It opened in May 1910. Portland's *Morning Oregonian* announced "Eugene Opens New Hotel: Feast of 300 Inaugurates Handsome

Up-to-Date Hostelry."

In addition to its guest rooms, ladies' and gentlemen's parlors, and a huge dining room, the Osburn Hotel featured the Japanese Tea Room, decorated with furniture that Rose had collected on her trips to Asia. It was the setting for some of Eugene's most elaborate events. On New Year's Day of 1915, one hundred couples gathered at the hotel for Eugene's first dinner dance—a nine-course meal followed by dancing.

The Osburns sold the hotel in 1923. William died a few years later. Rose continued to travel, mainly to Europe where she collected antiques and art objects. In 1930, she shared an apartment with Gertrude Bass Warner, whose Oriental art collection formed the basis of the UO's original art museum collection.

Rose was active in and led a multitude of civic and nonprofit organizations during her life. She served on the executive board of the Oregon Tuberculosis Association, as president of the Fortnightly Club, and as vice-president of the Unitarian Church's Board of Trustees (of which she and William were founding members). She sponsored many university musical events, Eugene Gleemen concerts, and other civic musical groups. She also served as a mentor for young people interested in journalism. She died in 1937, and according to her obituary she was known as "a leader in the civic, cultural and social life of Eugene."

## 19th Amendment August 1920

One hundred years ago this month, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. It had been passed by Congress on June 4th, 1919, and took almost a year for ratification. The 19th amendment guarantees all American women the right to vote. Achieving this milestone required a lengthy and difficult struggle; victory took decades of agitation and protest.

The subject is appropriate to mention here because of the series the eNewsletter has been running on Women Who Made a Difference. It's possible that any of them could have been involved with the successful passing of the amendment had they been born at a different time in history.

**Did You Know:** Over the 25 years of restoring Hope Abbey Mausoleum, the cemetery board of directors has taken special care to make the building friendly and accessible to persons with disabilities? The full story will be in the Fall issue of Monumental News.

John Bredesen, eNewsletter Editor  
Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

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### Mission Statement

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.

The cemetery is operated for the public benefit,  
but it is private property.  
(A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization)



Eugene Masonic Cemetery  
ASSOCIATION

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