

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



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Did You Know?

Hope Abbey Mausoleum is one of the best examples of Egyptian Revival architecture in Oregon. When you visit, note the Egyptian symbols above the entrance archway. The circular disc represents the sun. The twin cobras denote death, while the vulture wings symbolize protection and maternal care.

Burial Space

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery has available space for burials and cremations. Email Sally Dietrich [by clicking here](#) for more information. Or call 541 684-0949

CONTRIBUTIONS

Our maintenance and restoration work takes planning and it takes money. A significant portion of our revenue comes from the sale of plots and crypts, but that's not enough. We try to obtain volunteer and grant support as much as possible, but we need additional revenue to carry on this important work. For that, we have to rely on friends such as you to help.

We thank you for all your past support, and we ask you to be as generous as possible in supporting us now. [Click here to donate.](#)

Volunteer Info

There will be a Marker Cleaning Work Party on February 20th from Noon to 2 PM, rain or shine. Meet at the Garden Cottage and bring waterproof work gloves. For more information, click below.

Interested in volunteering with the Eugene Masonic Cemetery?

Contact Elizabeth by [clicking here.](#)

Cemetery Tours



Caroline leading tour of cemetery

Caroline Forell, the Masonic Cemetery's Board President and newly retired Law School Professor, has been giving historic tours of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery. These have been quite successful, and plans are to keep offering them in the future. There have been three tours since October

2019, each with a slightly different emphasis. The most recent tour was given on Martin Luther King Jr. Day with an emphasis on Oregon's history of codified racism and the lasting impact that has for today. The tour participants engaged in a lively discussion of this while standing at the crypt of John Whitaker, the state's first governor, who had a hand in crafting the Oregon State Constitution that prohibited African Americans from living in Oregon. Scattered throughout the cemetery, side by side, are the headstones of participants on both sides of the Civil War. The cemetery is a perfect place to stop, contemplate and understand issues such as these.

Caroline loves giving the tours. One time, while speaking of a notable person, a participant volunteered her relationship to this family, and added a piece of information not previously known to Caroline. Others have asked interesting questions for which she had no ready answer (but quickly found out!) "No, Mary's Peak was not named after Mary Skinner, wife of Eugene Skinner. But Mary Skinner is the one responsible for our city's name. Without her we might all be living in Skinnerville."

Caroline, and other Board members, will give tours over the Memorial Day Weekend. Caroline will be hosting a tour on the 21st of March. (Tour details below.) When a regular schedule has been established, this eNewsletter will post a calendar. In past years tours have been conducted for children, but this has fallen by the wayside due to the lack of tour guides.

Anyone who might be interested in learning how to give tours can either contact Caroline through our Facebook page or contact the author of this article by clicking [here.](#)

The tour focus will be on history and spring blooms. Meet at Hope Abbey by 10:30 AM. Tour goes to noon, and is limited to 20 people. Sign-up will be available on our Facebook page after March 6th, or contact Caroline by email by clicking [here.](#)

Elizabeth Southworth, Volunteer Coordinator and Board Member

Cemetery Sign Grant Award



At the February annual meeting of the Lane County Historical Society board, the Masonic Cemetery was presented with a "kick off" check to help fund a series of new, permanent signs throughout the grounds.

Shown above are EMCA board members (L to R), Caroline Forrell, Hallis, Elizabeth Southworth and John Bredesen. Presenting is Bob Hart, Executive Director of the Lane County Historical Society.

Last Sunday Hope Abbey Open Houses



Hope Abbey Mausoleum is a historic building on the grounds of the cemetery. It has been beautifully restored to the same golden glory that existed when it was built in 1914.

We invite you to visit. It is open to the public on the last Sunday of each month of the year (except December). The doors are open from 1 to 4 PM, and there are always volunteers present to answer questions. (For the February 23rd Open House, hellebore plants will be for sale at \$12 each.)

Beginning in June, *Music To Die For* will return during the open houses.

John Bredesen, eNewsletter Editor
Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

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 is private property.
(A 501(c)(3) Non Profit Organization)