

A Grant Moves Us Forward

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association gratefully thanks the **Eugene Lodge #11 AM & FM** for their recent grant of \$10,000. This grant moves us toward sustainability as we seek to better secure our future income stream and operations. As we deplete our supply of burial lots, we are developing new sales resources. We have planned three projects to accomplish this, and the Eugene Lodge grant enables us to carry them out. It also provides matching support as we seek additional grants.

Our first project will be the **construction of a “stele”**—an upright stone slab bearing an inscription and serving as a monument, very often for funerary or commemorative purposes, and widely used in ancient times—for the installation of bronze plaques honoring family members whose ashes are interred in the Scatter Garden or elsewhere. Currently plaques are mounted on the concrete wall of the Scatter Garden overlook. However, we are almost out of space for new plaques. The stele will be constructed adjacent to the existing Scatter Garden and will provide the much needed space. The photo at right, thanks to Fran Ross and Photoshop, illustrates its style and location. \$5,000 of the grant is dedicated to this project.

\$3,500 of the grant is dedicated to support our Administrator/Sexton, Sally Dietrich, in assuming more administrative functions. Her first new function is the development of the **program for the sale and installation of tombstones**. We plan to offer tombstones that fit with the character of our historic cemetery and to simplify the whole process of design and installation.

The remaining \$1,500 is dedicated to historic **restoration of existing tombstones and Hope Abbey Mausoleum**. A project in this area has already begun. Cemetery volunteers interested in this outdoor work are cleaning and restoring a group



Planned location of the stele next to the scatter garden.

of sixteen exceptional monuments in the area of the Public Square. Our landscape crew is also removing some of the understory of native plants that have grown up to obscure them. The tombstones memorialize some of our earliest citizens, including:

- Barger family members, one stone with the image of a 1900s steam engine and the inscription “S.P. Fireman,”
- the Lane County Sheriff who was murdered in the line of duty, and
- pioneers from the early wagon trains, one of whom was in the Lost Wagon Train of 1852.

All of these projects will enhance the quality of the cemetery and help assure our financial future. There are more projects planned too. If we are successful in securing additional funding, we will be able to develop a second Scatter Garden site with its own stele. We also plan to enhance the landscape of the main entrance area to make the cemetery a more inviting place for visitors.

The grant from **Eugene Lodge #11 AM & FM** has given us a great start. Additional grant funding will take us to the next step. We are dedicated to achieving a secure future for this wonderful cultural and historic resource.

Denny Hellesvig, Treasurer

If you are interested in helping with these projects by volunteering or contributing, let us know. We will be happy to discuss our needs with you.
(541) 684-0949 emca1859@gmail.com
eugenemasoniccemetery.org

New Cemetery Policies

Hello again! Your cemetery administrator Sally here, to update you on some changes we're making in the upkeep of the cemetery.

This fall, as part of a new **"editing plan"** that our site manager Wendi has started, the mowing is more extensive, and the weed whacking is more comprehensive. More of the understory is getting thinned, and low branches on trees are being limbed up. Thickets are being cleared out of certain areas, revealing grave markers that have been hidden for years. Areas are being opened up, providing new sightlines without sacrificing the variety of native plant life. Our grounds crew only works part time, so this is all being done on a very tight budget.

In tandem with this approach,

we have been updating some policies to be more clear and consistent.

Because we have an **overall plan for cemetery maintenance**, we ask that you do not come in to mow, use pesticides, or plant. We do not intentionally neglect any particular area. If you have a concern about your family plot, please contact me so that we can take care of it.

If you are thinking about purchasing a cemetery lot, we now allow the burial of one casket and two urns, or three urns. A half lot will accommodate two urns. We therefore allow up to three grave markers on one lot, while a half lot may have two. Our policies now give details on what size and type the markers can be.

Most important, we want to

accommodate how you **memorialize family members**. For the first year after burial, families may leave mementos on the grave, excluding glass, ceramic, candles, or artificial flowers. After the first year we ask that remembrances be contained within 12 inches of the grave marker. If you'd like to leave photos or other small items, that is now allowed. If you leave fresh flowers, cemetery staff will collect them when they have faded. As usual, we will use our discretion to remove anything that is unsightly or inappropriate.

All of us concerned with the cemetery recognize its value as a native landscape, a historical resource, a community asset, and, of course, a final resting place for loved ones. We constantly strive to be true to all of these. Thank you for your support.

What Do Board Members Do All Day?

What motivates people to join the EMCA board? In the case of **Crystal Persi** it was a combination of a love of hiking, a love of stories, and a passion for old cemeteries—a passion she shares with her wife Merinda and their young daughters, Payton (age 9) and Ellie (age 7). When Crystal and Merinda discovered the Masonic Cemetery's web site, they knew the cemetery was going to be their special place. They now spend quality time there, enjoying the history and the stories of early Eugene settlers.



Crystal Persi

Crystal moved to Klamath Falls from San Jose, California, when she was 11. Six years later she moved to Portland to attend and receive a degree in Education from Warner Pacific College. She taught elementary school in the Portland area, was a bank teller in Rochester, New

York, for three years, and then returned to Oregon to teach in the Medford area. In 2001, she came to

Eugene to teach and coordinate the teen parent and child development programs at Willamette High School. At the same time she completed her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership at the University of Oregon.

Crystal now works as an independent contractor with the Oregon Department of Education. She supports Oregon's 38 high school-based Teen Parent programs and 11 Alcohol and Drug Parent/Child Residential treatment facilities, which provide high quality care for children while their parents are completing their education or treatment programs. As Crystal puts it, **"we empower individuals of all ages to be the most they can be."**

Soon after joining the EMCA

board, Crystal agreed to serve as **volunteer coordinator**, a position the board had attempted to fill for many years. She has already designed an online volunteer signup form that can be used to contact potential volunteers for specific cemetery projects (see related article by Crystal on p. 4). She has also created an online calendar of EMCA events. We are delighted to have Crystal as a new board member.

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association —
541-684-0949

Board of Directors

John Bredesen	Roz Slovic
Alex Brokaw	Charles Wright
Dale Forrest	
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Hallis	Steve Kuchera,
Sandra Ludeman	<i>Groundskeeper</i>
Rich Maris	Sally Dietrich,
Crystal Persi	<i>Cemetery</i>
Karen Seidel	<i>Administrator</i>

www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org

Recent Contributions

The following individuals and organizations contributed gifts between April 1, 2015 and October 1, 2015. We thank you all.

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-\$2,499)

Richard and Lucinda Anderson
Marvin Cypress
Kay and Paul Holbo
Hundredth Monkey Foundation
Larson Family Foundation
Harold Busby and Lindsay Clegg Pierce
Karen Seidel

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Richard Larson and Barbara Cowan
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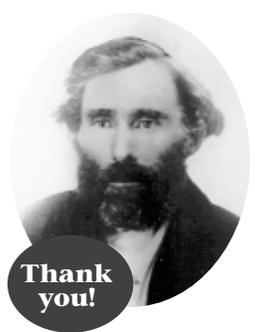
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Charles and Virgene Roffe
Peter Steelquist
Cathy Verret
Robert and Robbie Wright
Richard, Helen and Eric Zuelow

Gifts in Honor and in Memory

Between April 1, 2015 and October 1, 2015 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-\$2,499)

Richard and Lucinda Anderson in memory of Ruth and John Bascom

Preserver (\$250-\$499)

Richard Larson and Barbara Cowan in memory of Jim Luckey
Fuki Hisama in memory of Toshi Hisama

Gregory Brokaw and Elaine Lawson in memory of Olivia Helene, Barbara and Harold Butler

Sponsor (\$100-\$249)

Friedl and Robert Bell in memory of Kathy Austin and Connor Ausland
Norman and Patricia Bishop in memory of James and Jimmy Bishop
Joel Devore in memory of Holly Weston
Katherine Eaton in memory of Burt E.

Eaton
Volker Engelbert and Sheryl Engelbert-Scott in memory of Leslie Marsh
Joan Rudd and Joe Felsenstein in memory of Jacob Felsenstein
Caroline Forell in memory of Judy Forell
Betty Fuller in memory of Elroy Fuller
Nancy Galik in memory of Joseph Wesley and Jane Louise Galik
Donald and Sarah

Klinghammer in memory of Daniel Klinghammer
Daniel and Kathryn Kremer in memory of William and Sally Wood
Rebecca Weedon Lacy in memory of Bob, Jonnie and Sam Lacy
Paul and Roslyn Slovic in memory of Dan Slovic
Barbara Truax in memory of Donald Truax and Mary Johnson
Jan Vitus in memory of

C. James Vitus and Robbie Vitus
Dan and Maureen Williams in memory of Patrick Williams
Warren Wong in memory of Bella

Supporter (\$50-\$99)

Mitchell and Jacqueline Booth in memory of the Booth family
Don Dumond in memory of Carol Dumond
Joakima K. Erickson in memory of Elida Erickson
Brigid Flannery in memory of Dan

Slovic
Samuel Fryefield in memory of Betty Jean Fryefield
Julia Heydon in memory of Phyllis Davies
Judy Wood Lyons in memory of John Lowell Wood
Jill and Gary McKenney in memory of Gladys Pound
Jennifer Peterson in memory of Kent Peterson
Chris and Laura Ramey in memory of Calvin the dog
Eric and Kelli Rosen in memory of Eileen Binenkorb
Lyndal Stella in memory of Thomas B. Anderson
Honey Vizer in

memory of Birdie
Kathy and Bob Welsh in memory of the Hamptons
Dorothea Yellott in memory of Arthur M. Geary and Martha Dorman Geary Smith
Friend (up to \$49)
Flo Alvergue in memory of George Alvergue
Christina Armstrong in memory of Martin Waechter



Steam engine monument

CONSIDER YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY...

Burial Space for Sale

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery has burial lots to sell. We can accommodate earthen burials, cremation/urn, and ashes. Your purchase provides a beautiful and meaningful place for your family to visit and helps support the cemetery. For more information, please contact Sally at emca1859@gmail.com.



Eugene Masonic Cemetery
ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 5934 ♦ Eugene, OR 97405

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*Newsletter by Karen Seidel
and Beneda Design*

Would you like to Contribute to the Cemetery?

The first time I walked through the Eugene Masonic Cemetery I was awestruck by how much time had been invested in its care and restoration. And this was before I saw the magnificent interior of Hope Abbey! My awe grew when I discovered that such a small number of people had performed this work as a non-profit association. I immediately wanted to help them.

Do you share my amazement? If so, **we need you** to help continue this high level of excellence. The EMCA sponsors work parties and projects from time to time and also needs help with regular upkeep. Tasks you can help with range from pulling invasive weeds to cleaning monuments, from writing grants to addressing fundraising envelopes. Our beloved Hope Abbey also needs occasional

sweeping and mopping.

In order to help develop a pool of volunteers, I have created an online form. Rest assured that only EMCA board members and staff will have access to the database that is generated from this form. We will not give your information to anyone else.

If you would like to be on our volunteer list, please go to: <http://goo.gl/forms/f99HA3EG9P>. If you don't have Internet access or would rather not do the online process, you can contact me at crystal.persi@gmail.com or (541) 510-5704. I will take care of gathering the needed information and entering it into our volunteer list. We will be in touch when a project in which you have indicated an interest is scheduled.

*Crystal Persi,
Volunteer Coordinator*



Monument cleaning work party.