

Monumental News

An occasional newsletter of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

Spring 2017

2017 Memorial Day Weekend Features "Bodies of Work"

The Masonic Cemetery has always been a favored place for artists who enjoy painting in the natural world. So it's appropriate that EMCA will celebrate their accomplishments with the Memorial Day theme of "Bodies of Work: Art in the Cemetery."

The Plein Air Painters of Lane County will have paintings displayed in Hope Abbey, and they will also be seen creating their work in the cemetery during the weekend. (See "Plein Air Painting" article on page 2.) All the art works on exhibit will be available for purchase.

Hallis, EMCA board member, painter, and "Bodies of Work" coordinator, has also created a tour of outstanding grave marker art. "The Dying Art of Stone Carving" brochure will enable cemetery visitors to view monuments that are excellent examples. Hallis will also lead a guided tour of these fascinating grave markers and explain their symbols on Monday, Memorial Day.

Another guided walk of the cemetery will take place on Saturday when volunteer Merinda Persi will lead a "Cemetery Highlights" tour. Tours will begin at the Public Square following the playing of Taps at noon.

We are fortunate that Carol Houde has again agreed to exhibit a dress from her vintage dress collection. It will show what a lady from the 1920s would have worn to an "art in the garden" party. According to Carol, "it is a genuine

Philippine hand-embroidered tea frock in apple green cotton gauze with multi-colored smocking and flower/net insets." Carol will be present to explain the history of the dress and how it was made on Sunday and Monday.

Traditional displays and events

will also occur during the weekend. Barry Barreau will play taps at noon each day in the Public Square. Flags will fly over veterans' graves. "Tombstone Tales," a history hunt for children and families, will be available throughout the weekend, with prizes awarded for those completing the hunt. "Before" and "After" pictures, which will provide visual evidence continued on page 8



Golden Gardens by Victoria Biedron

Take Care of the Cemetery Work Party Sunday, May 21st 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

EMCA will host its spring work party and Mitzvah Day on Sunday, May 21. Please join us to enhance and improve the cemetery's land-scape.

Cemetery board members and landscape staff look forward to working with volunteers from Temple Beth Israel, the Amazon neighborhood, and the larger community. We will meet at Hope Abbey at 10:00 am. Please bring gloves for landscape work.

This is a wonderful opportunity to work with others to make lasting landscape improvements and to prepare the cemetery for Memorial Day weekend.

Plein Air Painting

Plein Air is a French term meaning "in the open air." It refers to the practice of painting entire finished pictures out of doors, as opposed to simply making preparatory studies or sketches for painting in the studio. The first documented outdoor painters were Italian. Plein air painting was the hallmark of the French impressionists.

Bringing that tradition forward, the Plein Air Painters of Lane County was started by a small group of artists in 2005 in Eugene. The group is dedicated to the practice of experiencing a direct connection between nature and the artist, the paint, and the canvas. Painting from life is invigorating, yet peaceful and meditative. Being present in and painting from the

observation of the colors, moods, changes in light, dramatic skies and clouds, glistening waterways, and towering trees of nature is a powerful and rewarding experience. The practice is flourishing with artists attending paintout events, workshops, and joining plein air groups worldwide.

The Plein Air Painters of Lane County have much to choose from here in Oregon—ocean to mountains, wetlands to rivers, and an abundance of trees and greenery that make any artist's heart sing! All artists are welcome to join us in the experience of painting "in the open air." facebook.com/groups/pleinpainterslanecounty/

Victoria Biedron, AWAKE ART



Plein Air painters at work

What Do Board Members Do All Day?

Caroline Forell

Caroline Forell describes herself as a "taphophile," i.e., a cemetery

enthusiast (taphos, ancient Greek, meaning a grave, burial, or funeral rites). "I discovered the Masonic Cemetery on my walks and loved its beauty and history," said Caroline. Her mother is buried in the cemetery; her grave

marker reads simply "Born in Tasmania."

Yes, Caroline's family history is as fascinating as the cemetery's history. Her mother's ancestors were British convicts exiled to Tasmania in the 1830s. Her father, a German anti-Nazi refugee in Britain, was also deported to Australia aboard the HMT Dunera ("an overcrowded Hell-hole," according to Wikipedia) in 1940. Her parents met in Hobart, Tasmania, married in Canada, and

emigrated to the United States. Caroline was born in New Jersey;

however, the family returned to Australia in 1964.

Caroline moved back to this country to attend the University of Iowa, where her uncle was a professor. There, she earned a B.A. in political science and English and a law degree. After her graduation in 1978, the UO's School of

Law hired Caroline. She taught full-time until her partial retirement in 2015. Her specialties are torts, trusts and estates, women and the law, and animal law.

Caroline continues to teach part-time, as well as do legal and family history research. Retirement has also allowed Caroline to indulge her passion for travel—to France, Berlin, London, Patagonia, Australia, Israel, and

Washington D.C. Many of her trips have included visits with children and grandchildren.

Since joining the EMCA Board in January 2016, Caroline has handled publicity for all cemetery events, worked on archival and other special projects, and chairs the Events and Outreach Committee. EMCA is the appreciator and beneficiary of her "cemetery enthusiasm."

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association — 541-684-0949

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President's Column Marble Restoration

I wish I had been here 22 years ago when EMCA began the restoration of Hope Abbey. All I know is the present historic landmark, now partially restored to its former beauty. I remember the first time I entered the mausoleum. Its beauty and the feeling of awe that consumed me were mesmerizing. The restoration stories that Denny Hellesvig told me that day were amazing. I asked him about the remaining work needed to complete the restoration. He pointed to the last of the missing windows, the cast stone pillars, the floor, the missing marble, and other deficiencies. I wanted to be a part of returning Hope Abbey to its original state. That was in August 2014.

Fast forward to 2017, when my desire to participate in the next phase of mausoleum restoration became a reality. On January 19, board member Rich Maris, representing Eugene Lodge No. 11 AF & AM, presented the EMCA Board with a check for \$20,000. The donation is for the restoration of Hope Abbey's marble. Our original request to the Masons was for

\$10,000. However, when they realized how much fundraising was needed to complete the project, they chose to double our request. Their donation will cover the complete cost of labor and materials to replace every piece of missing marble and restore all of the crypt shutters to their original honed surface appearance.

But there's more! Rich told us that the Masons wished to continue their support of the cemetery that they deeded to us 22 years ago. They wanted to pledge additional funding of up to \$20,000 a year for three more years, if we were able to generate matching grants or donations, which need to be in addition to our regular contributions used for daily operating expenses. We are anticipating at least another \$100,000 in restoration expenses, and, for the first time, the Masons' pledge will make our goal attainable.

We are very eager to get started on the marble restoration. The first step was to find a match for the marble. The quarry from which the existing marble came was in Alaska, and it shut down in

the 1940s. So we contacted OM Stone in Hillsboro, the company we currently work with for our grave marker sales. They found marble that looks almost identical to the original marble. It comes from China, and we hope to get it by the end of April. Once it arrives, OM Stone will begin the restoration and repair of missing shutters (crypt and niche covers), missing ledges, and other repairs. The company has been involved in several other historic building renovations, so we have confidence in their work. We hope it will be completed by Memorial Day. Be sure to stop by.

We have already begun planning for our next Hope Abbey projects. Our plans include repairing a leaky wall, repairing exterior concrete work, and repairing and replacing the cast stone pillars inside of Hope Abbey. Board members are exploring grant opportunities. Please let us know if you would like to support the restoration projects directly or if you know of something that would help us. And if you know a Mason, please thank him for their generous support of EMCA.

Crystal Persi, Board President



Rich presenting the Masons' check to the EMCA Board

A Major Project Completed

After several years of planning, acquiring funding, and executing the work, the upgraded entrance area and new Memorial Garden

are essentially complete. The newly developed planting beds are mulched and planted with a variety of bedding and blooming



Front gate restoration

plants. The cemetery is now well identified by its new basalt and bronze entrance sign. The regrading has gotten rid of the mud-hole, and now the pedestrian paths are well defined with new clean gravel. The new stelae are complete and ready for memorial plaques. We hope you will enjoy the appearance of the upgraded entrance and memorial gardens.

Many new plants will add to the types of flowering plants in the cemetery. Newsletter photos show some of the existing beauties we have blooming each year, such as columbine, fawn lilies, snow drops, and geranium. New additions include various spireas, rosarugosa, hazel, lilac, potentilla, strawberry tree, daphne, and more. More pleasure for the eye.

continued on page 6

Save the Pieces

What happens to a grave marker when someone or something breaks it? That depends. In the Eugene Masonic Cemetery these days, such damage would be noticed in short order, and trained volunteers would set about repairing the marker. Not so many years ago, though, the cemetery was in such a state that nobody might have noticed the breakage.

Take the case of the marble stone that marked the grave of Martha Tindall, who died in 1869, shortly before her 22nd birthday. Not long after EMCA took over the cemetery, David Lynch, the site manager, found a large piece of Martha's headstone. Our records don't show whether he discovered it lying on the surface or as a result of his probing for buried stones with a pitchfork. In any case, he brought the piece to Hope Abbey, where it's been sitting with other found bits of stone for many years.

But where was the rest of Martha's headstone? As volunteers were regrading part of the new Memorial Garden, they came upon several scattered pieces of stone a few inches below the surface, not far from a large rock that seemed to be the base of a grave marker. It turned out that the chunks of stone were the missing pieces of Martha's headstone, absent a few chips. Not surprisingly, they look a lot dirtier than the larger piece, but once volunteers have cleaned and restored all of the parts it should be possible to reconstitute Martha's headstone and perhaps even reattach it to its base.

The regrading project also unearthed hundreds of bricks, laid in unmortared rows and forming a rough rectangle three or four bricks high and buried under several inches of soil. Perhaps some day we'll learn the reason for such

an apparently unusual feature. It seems clear, though, that we won't find out how or when Martha's marker came to be broken and scattered. We can only guess that it happened a long time ago.

Charles Wright, Board Member



Martha Tindall's headstone "Remember friends as you pass by Where I am now you must shortly ly (sic)"

Music to Die for Returns

The free concert series sponsored by EMCA will soon enter its seventh season on the last Sunday of summer months.

We have been asked why we

provide free programs. One answer is that it's our way of saying "thank you" to the many people who have supported our real job of restoring and operating a historic



Concert in Hope Abbey

cemetery. Another reason is seeing the joy and smiles on visitors' faces during and after the programs. Still another is to make community members aware of the beauty and amazing acoustics of Hope Abbey.

Because admission is free, we have no budget to pay the musicians. This has not been a problem. We are often approached by musical groups asking if they can be scheduled. Eugene is blessed with much musical talent, and many groups are looking for a venue in which to perform, particularly one with superb acoustics.

Sneak Preview

Linda Danielson and Janet Naylor will be featured in the first Music to Die For concert on June 25. Linda (on fiddle) and Janet

continued on page 6

Cutting Back on Memorial Day Mowing

During the past two years we have experimented with mowing a large portion of the cemetery in May. This was done so the grounds would look well tended for Memorial Day weekend visitors. However, this experiment has had a substantial downside. By mowing we gave the weeds an environment with lots of light and no obstruction from tall grass. They grew vigorously and set and scattered lots of seeds. By the time we did the late summer mowing, the new weeds were a major detriment to the native grasses and vinca.

After dealing with an invasion of weeds for two years, landscape manager Wendi Propst recommended and EMCA's Site Management Committee agreed that we need to postpone spring mowing until June to decrease weed propagation and to enhance the quality of the cemetery's landscape. As Wendi put it, "We need to work with nature's rhythms, rather than the holiday."

Sally Donovan 1956–2016

The first question asked by EMCA when it took over the Masonic Cemetery in 1995 was "Who's here?" The question was answered by Donovan and Associates. The historic preservation consulting firm produced "The Masonic Cemetery Cultural Resources Inventory," a four-volume documentation of every plot in the cemetery, including photographs of each monument and its inscription, plus a description of its size, condition, and landscape features. The inventory has been in continual use by cemetery staff and volunteers to the present time.

Sally Donovan received a Master's degree in historic preservation from the University of Oregon in 1987 and formed her consulting firm the following year. Her cultural resources work included Oregon lighthouses, historic districts, public buildings, and residences, but she specialized in the preservation of pioneer cemeteries. In addition to her inventory, Sally gave workshops at the Masonic Cemetery on the preservation and restoration of deteriorating monuments.

In 2016, Sally received the Oregon Heritage Excellence Award and the George McMath Historic Preservation Award, the latter given to an individual who has raised awareness and advocacy for historic preservation in Oregon.



EMCA needs your contribution to keep this historic cemetery alive and well!

Your financial support is valued and can be made through one or more of these ways:

- Cash or checks (envelope attached)
- Paypal
- Monthly giving (\$10 \$100)
- Pledge
- Planned giving (investments, estates)
- IRA Direct charitable contribution (counts towards your Required Minimum Distribution)

Contact Alex Brokaw, Development and Fundraising Committee chair, through EMCA for more information.

Email: emca1859@gmail.com Phone: 541-684-0949





Project, from page 4

There were major surprises when we went to work in the new Memorial Garden. During some earthmoving we discovered the grave markers for two previously unknown graves. For details of one dating from 1869, see "Save the Pieces." In the near future these markers will be repaired and restored to their original locations, making a new and interesting addition to the two grave markers that are already part of the Memorial Garden site.

Our success was marred by a

recent event. Someone liked our plantings so much they felt compelled to steal three of the plants. It was not a case of pure vandalism. Plants were not pulled up. Rather, they were dug up with a shovel and the holes filled in to conceal the theft. One Ponderosa Pine was actually planted several years ago. It is sad to have our efforts to beautify the cemetery rewarded by such actions. We hope these thefts will not continue.

Denny Hellesvig, Board Member





Music, from page 5

(Celtic harp) will again delight audiences with their program of traditional Celtic music. The August 27 program will feature DK Stewart and Friends playing light jazz and blues. And on September 24, Ensemble Primo Seicento will perform music of the early Baroque on period instruments.

You can learn about remaining programs, on July 30 and October 29, in the monthly e-Newsletter published by EMCA. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please email John Bredesen, MTDF Coordinator, at jarthurbredesen@gmail.com. Your address will not be sold or shared.

We hope to see you at the concerts!

Recent Contributions

The following individuals and organizations contributed gifts between October 1, 2016 and April 1, 2017. We thank you all.

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-\$2499)

Victoria DeRose Kay and Paul Holbo Allan Kluber Roger and Sandra Ludeman Rowell Brokaw Architects Holiana Sapinsley Karen Seidel

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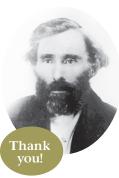
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Gifts in Honor and in Memory

Between October 1, 2016 and April 1, 2017 the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association received gifts from the following. We wish to thank all who contributed and regret any errors or omissions.

Monumental Giver (\$2,500+)

The A-J Roslyn Gaines Foundation *in memory* of Carolyn Spector

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

John Bredesen in memory of Fran Ross

Bob and Sandra Brokaw in honor of John Bredesen and Denny Hellesvig and in memory of Olivia Helene Brokaw and Barbara & Harold Butler Caroline Forell in

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Recent In-kind Contributions

We happily acknowledge the in-kind services and discounts afforded to us by the following.

Alex and Bob Brokaw
Better Lawns and
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Bob Weir Tree Service
Sally Dietrich
David Gross and Friends
David Helfand and
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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 541-684-0949 or emca1859@gmail.com.



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What's Inside:

Memorial Day Weekend1
Plein Air Painting2
Board Members2
President's Column3
Major Project Completed 4
Save the Pieces4
Music to Die for Returns5
Memorial Day Mowing5
Sally Donovan5
Adrian Vaaler8

Newsletter by Karen Seidel and Beneda Design

Memorial Day, from page 1

of the progress EMCA has made in improving the appearance and condition of the cemetery, will be displayed in Hope Abbey.

Cake and coffee will be served every afternoon. The cakes will again be designed and prepared by student chefs in South Eugene High's "South Fork Pantry."

Board member Alex Brokaw is coordinating the weekend events. Both cemetery gates will be open from 12:00 to 5:00 pm. All events are free and open to the public.

May 27-29: Memorial Day Weekend

 New Open Hours – 12:00 to 5:00 pm: Cemetery gates and Hope Abbey will be open to the public. "Bodies of Work" on display in Hope Abbey and artists demonstrating Plein Air painting in the cemetery.

- NOON: Taps will be played at noon every day in the Public Square.
- Saturday and Monday following Taps: Guided walks, starting in the Public Square, will focus on cemetery highlights and tombstone art.
- Sunday and Monday, 12:00 to 5:00 pm: Carol Houde will be present to interpret her 1920's "art in the garden" dress.

Thursday, June 1: 7:00 pm

• Sacred Harp Singers will present its 15th annual performance of folk hymn singing in the "shape note" tradition. All are welcome to participate or listen to this joyful music making in Hope Abbey.

Adrian Vaaler 1944–2016

For over a decade Adrian Vaaler, in full military uniform, played Taps every noon in the Public Square during Memorial Day weekend. His powerful rendition of this simple melody deeply affected the many listeners who came year after year for this ceremony. A Vietnam veteran himself, earning both the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart, Adrian and his bugle commemorated all veterans buried in the Masonic Cemetery and elsewhere.

Adrian was born in Eugene and graduated from both the University of Oregon and Oregon State University. He was a champion of veterans' issues, including the dedication of a Vietnam memorial to fallen heroes at South Eugene High School. He was a friend and neighbor of the cemetery and is greatly missed.