

Monumental News

An occasional newsletter of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

Spring 2018

Memorial Day Weekend at the Cemetery

On this year's Memorial Day weekend we will pay tribute to all the veterans buried in the cemetery. Designated as "Decoration Day" in 1868, the day was originally intended to honor Union soldiers of the Civil War. Following World War I the day was renamed "Memorial Day" for the purpose of honoring veterans from all wars.

Over one hundred known veterans, from wars ranging from the "Indian wars" in the mid-1800s to the Vietnam War, are buried in the Masonic Cemetery. One-third of these veterans fought in the Civil War, and almost that many participated in World War II. Smaller numbers saw conflict in the Spanish-American War, World War I, and Korea. Four of the veterans are women, including Dawn McClay, a Navy nurse (see picture).

To recognize and commemorate these veterans, flags will fly over their graves. Taps will be played each noon in the Public Square. Sheri Pyron will be the musician on Saturday and Sunday, and Barry Berreau will play on Monday. "Find the Veterans History Hunt," an opportunity for children and families to learn more about the veterans' experiences, will be offered throughout the weekend, with prizes awarded for those completing the hunt.

A guided walking tour of the cemetery will be offered each day following the playing of Taps. Board member Dina Wills will lead a tour of the dying art of gravestone carving on Saturday. On Sunday Board member Caroline Forell will



Dawn McClay

share information on cemetery highlights; and groundskeeper Diego Llewellyn-Jones will provide a landscape tour on Monday. Each tour will begin at the Public Square.

Hope Abbey will feature various displays that will engage visitors. "Before" and "After" pictures of the cemetery and mausoleum will illustrate the progress EMCA has made in improving their appearance and condition. A large floral display of flowers, plants, and nox-

ious weeds from the cemetery will again take center stage. Cemetery maps will also be on display.

Cake and coffee will be served each 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. All events are free and open to the public.

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Take Care of the Cemetery Work Party Saturday, May 19th 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

EMCA will host its spring work party on Saturday, May 19. Please join us to enhance and improve the cemetery's landscape.

Cemetery board members and landscape staff look forward to working with community volunteers. We will meet at Hope Abbey at 10:00 am. Please bring gloves for landscape work. All other equipment will be provided.

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

Meet Our New Groundskeeper

For two years Diego had been biking through the cemetery on his way to classes and his work in LCC's Learning Garden. In need of a second part-time job and preferring something physical and out-of-doors, he was thrilled to see a job listing on Craigslist for a landscape position at the Masonic Cemetery. He immediately applied, and, six months later, he is enjoying all the diverse tasks needed to maintain and enhance the site. Diego says that "Doing landscaping is a great complement to raising LCC vegetables."

Diego spent most of his childhood in Miami, Florida. He returned to his native Sacramento in 2010 and completed a two-year apprenticeship in biodynamics, a spiritual type of farming that began in the 1920s and culminated in what we now know as organic farming. He then moved to Eugene and enrolled at LCC; he is now completing a degree in Agricultural Science at OSU.

Diego enjoys answering cemetery visitors' questions and looks forward to renovating the butterfly garden. He will be working with Wendi and the site management committee in planning the landscape's future. Climate change has already necessitated



Diego Llewellyn-Jones

changes in their approach.

His hobbies are rollerblading and playing the guitar. In Miami he was active in music making. He played, recorded, and composed music for his band, which toured and had its own record label.

What Do Board Members Do All Day?

Dina Wills

Dina Wills, new board member and cemetery archivist, recalls with pleasure Sunday afternoon drives with her grandfather Alvah McVey to visit historic cemeteries in southern Ohio. But marriage and three children took her far

from rural Ohio and brought her to Pullman, Washington, where she earned degrees in English (B.A.) and Theater (M.A.) from Washington State University.

Her love for theater was kindled by opportunities to direct and act in plays,

including Shakespeare plays that the theater department took to local high schools. Attending a theater conference in Eugene, she decided that this was where she wanted to live. She applied for graduate study in the UO's Speech Department and, in 1980, received her Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Communication. In 1977, she married Bjorn Olson.

Dina taught for two years at Central Washington University and then was offered a faculty position at Lehigh University

in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. There she taught Theater, Communication, and Women's Studies. New York City was one hour away, and there she could indulge her passion for theater. Fortunately for us, when Dina retired,

Eugene drew her back (and having a son and one daughter still living here helped). Her husband Bjorn died in 2016.

Dina has been an active volunteer. She's been chair of OLLI's Curriculum Committee, a docent at the JSMA, on several committees at Eugene Friends Meeting, a member and president of the Eugene Shakespeare Club, and a frequent participant in Insight Seminars. She continues to be an avid reader of British history and literature, the British Isles being her ancestral home. We're delighted that she's here and sharing her talents with EMCA.

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association — 541-684-0949

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www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org

From the President

First, let me thank Crystal Persi for all of her contributions, as she hands over the EMCA presidency to move on with her life. I know that she found her service rewarding, and perhaps I can show you some of the reasons.

Let's start with a basic question. Why do we have cemeteries?

For many people, they're places to be with the departed and honor their memories. A cemetery can provide an atmosphere of support, a culturally sensitive setting for grieving, consistent with a variety of belief systems. A cemetery can also let the departed, themselves, leave their marks and give later generations a tangible sense of history. A historic cemetery can, under the right circumstances, become a welcoming place for visitors who have no relation whatever to the souls at rest, but who simply want to connect with the past.

How does our cemetery support these values?

We're proud of what we've been able to do with the overall appearance. The ten acres of trees, shrubs and flowers create a serene, peaceful shared space for contemplation and remembrance, especially as the plants mark the passing of the seasons. The grave markers, too, contribute in their own respectful way to the overall feeling of peace. Yes, some are broken or crumbling, a reminder of the passage of time. Others, once broken, are being restored as resources permit. Historical signs mark a host of graves. Brochures and walking tour maps give visitors, as well as students on field trips, some sense of what life was like in years gone by. Look! There's where Eugene Skinner is buried. See how young those children were when they died. And look at all those street names—Barger, Kincaid, Chambers, Blair, Friendly. Here are Maude Kerns, Robert Clark, John and Ruth Bascom alongside pioneer farmers and merchants who settled this area. What incredible lives these people lived, and what stories the signs tell us about them!

And then there's Hope Abbey, an outstanding example of Egyptian Revival architecture, open to the public regularly throughout the year and home of the Music To Die For summer concert series. The mausoleum's restoration after decades of neglect and vandalism—see the account by Hallis on page 4—has been a major EMCA priority. Thanks to a number of generous donors, we've made enormous progress, both inside and out, but there's still a lot of work to do, as you'll see when you visit.

Coming back, though, to the question of why we have cemeteries, we believe that by integrating historical memorials with an appropriate landscape we can provide our community with a space that honors and respects the living as well as the departed. The natural beauty and the cultural reminders don't just happen by themselves, of course. We think we're doing a pretty good job, but we can certainly use your support for our continuing efforts.

Charles Wright, EMCA President



The Story of our Mausoleum

Twice as I have volunteered for the last Sunday of the month Hope Abbey open house, I have heard confessions from two separate men about their histories with the mausoleum. One spoke of rappelling down into it from an east facing window, which had been broken out, to find the interior full of mud and debris. The young swain had brought his current girlfriend along, lighting their way by candlelight. How romantic! The other man described his entrance using a log that had been stuck through the large, broken, south facing window, down which he was able to shinny to find the same mud, broken marble, collapsed plaster, and what may have been contents of niches. His justification was "It looked abandoned!" Sometime after their exploits, those windows, plus all the rest that had been broken out, were bricked up by the Masons to prevent further interior trauma.

But then there was that copper cladding on the entrance doors available for ripping and gouging, plus all that blank wall surface to allow for expressions of artistic (or not) ability. But absolutely not by those two men, they declared.

Whence came all that water and mud in the mausoleum? Water just naturally flows downhill and our cemetery is a lovely hill, punctured by many small springs, all of which flowed down hill and seeped into the mausoleum bringing mud and debris, which was confirmed by those, then, young men. The leaking roof didn't help.

Thanks to grants, gifts, and loans, in 1997 (EMCA inherited the building in 1995) we were able to hire an excavator to trench around Hope Abbey and install a new drainage system...there went \$38,000. Then we were able to shovel out the mud and, with patches on the roof, try to dry out the interior.

Two years later we put on a new roof (\$23,000...ouch!) and painted the exterior. With new copper cladding on the doors in 2000

(thank you City of Eugene Neighborhood Matching Grants) the exterior was looking up.

But the interior, even though now dry, still had broken light fixtures and a crumbling ceiling. So, in 2002 we were ready to tackle the ceiling project. Paint and some plaster shouldn't be too costly, now should it? Well it wasn't, but only after we spent \$15,000 for a Portland firm to come down and do lead paint abatement. After that it was \$5,000 for plastering, cement repair and paint-still pricey but cheap by comparison. Being able to see our wonderful improvements through restoration of light fixtures was accomplished the same year.

Four years later we were back outside - restoration never ends. Board member Denny Helleswig designed handicap accessible side ramps, seamlessly integrating them with the original entrance steps.

Now we had a dry, cleaned up and accessible building....in deep gloom. Unless the doors were open, we had no outside light into the interior. Sometimes a special person steps forward and lights up, literally, one's life. For us that was John Rose. Over many years, as memorial donations received, the bricks covering the window openings were removed and John recreated our beautiful windows. During those same years we renovated the bathroom, (I wonder if those young men tried to use the truly decrepit old one), replaced broken concrete petals on our entrance urns, and removed and replaced all the marble wall surfaces on the north end of the mausoleum.

During 2017 we were able to replace all the broken and missing



Hope Abbey exterior improvements

continued on page 6

Batteries and Fuel Cells and Electric Cars

They were the life work of Karl Kordesch. But they were more than that. His daughter Catherine states "Theoretical and applied electrochemistry was his life."

Born in 1922 in Vienna, Austria, Karl Kordesch was drafted into the German Army following the Anschluss in 1938. He was wounded on the Russian front. and this allowed him to return to Vienna to pursue studies in chemistry and physics at the University of Vienna. He received his Ph.D. in 1948 and, for five

years, worked at the university's chemical institute.

Karl Kordesch

In 1953, Dr. Kordesch and his family relocated to the United States under the auspices of Operation Paperclip. the secret program that brought Europe's leading scientists to this country. He spent two years with the U.S. Signal Corps leading its efforts in battery research at **Fort** Monmouth. From there the Kordesches moved to Cleveland, where Dr. Kordesch joined Union Carbide and worked on the development of batteries and fuel cells. This work resulted in a patent for the alkaline dry cell battery (which became the D-sized Eveready Energizer battery) and the creation of the thin carbon fuel cell electrode.

His vision was for mass production of electric cars. Electric vehicles had first been developed in the late 1800s. In the United States, over one-third of the automobiles sold were powered by electricity at the turn of the century, and sales peaked in the early 1910s. However, they fell out of favor, owing to

price and severe limitations on speed and distance. In 1967, Dr. Kordesch built a fuel cell/batterypowered hybrid electric motorcycle, which was featured in televi-

> sion commercials for Walter Cronkite's program "21st

Century." A few years later he replaced the gas engine of his own Austin A40 with a hydrogen fuel cell and used the renovated vehicle as his personal transportation. It had a driving range of 180 miles.

Dr. Kordesch spent 22 years with Union Carbide improving

rechargeable batteries for electric vehicles. He then took early retirement and returned to Austria as director of the Institute for Inorganic Technology at the Graz University of Technology. He served as general secretary of the International Society of Electrochemistry. Throughout his career he consulted with government agencies, including NASA, the U.S. Army, Canada's National

Research Council, and the European Space Agency Program (developing fuel cells for manned space vehicles). In 1997, he joined Apollo Energy Systems in Florida, as vice president in charge of fuel cell development.

In total Dr. Kordesch filed 120 patents and wrote four books and more than 200 papers. He won numerous awards, including the Wilhelm Exner Medal in 1967 and the Technology Award of the U.S. Electrochemical Society in 1986. He and his wife "retired" to Eugene in 2008, where Catherine and her husband, both medical doctors, had moved in 1984. But Dr. Kordesch continued to consult, visiting Global Energy Systems of Portland, Oregon, to verify the efficiency of their hydrogen production system in 2009.

He died in 2011, age 88, and his wife, a botanist, wanted burial in a natural setting. Catherine decided the Masonic Cemetery was perfect. Both her parents are now buried there. Her father's papers are part of the Oregon State University archives.



Karl Kordesch Monument

Endowments for our Future

If you looked at the overall financial record of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association, you would find an organization that has always been in the black, has no debt, and has invested over \$360,000 in capital improvements. It begs the question: "With that track record why does the organization need an endowment too?

Over the years our income has come from contributions, gifts, grants, and the sale of cemetery services. Of these, the sale of burial lots has been the most significant income source. Now we are running out of burial lots to sell. In a few short years all our remaining lots will be sold, and meeting our income needs will become more difficult. We will continue to have

earnings from sale of scatter rights, crypts and niches in Hope Abbey, memorial plaques, and grave markers. But a major source of our income will end.

We first started to address this problem in March 2008 when we received a gift of over \$100,000 to start our first endowment fund with the Oregon Community Foundation. Since then we have added two specific purpose endowment funds. We've had reasonable growth in all three funds, which have a current value of about \$330,000. To meet our future needs for the maintenance of the cemetery, in addition to our regular annual contributions, we will need to grow our endowment

to at least \$1,000,000. That sounds like a huge task, but through positive return on our investments and additional contributions we believe we can achieve that goal.

We expect a \$1,000,000 endowment to return about \$50,000 per year. That is about half of our current operating budget. Therefore, we will need to continue selling our other services and relying heavily on contributions and grants. The Masonic Cemetery is a community asset that needs community support. We are required by law to maintain the cemetery in perpetuity, and we are planning now to live up to that requirement.

Denny Hellesvig, Board Member

Memorials Available

Many families provide memorials to honor their deceased loved ones. If you would like to do this. EMCA has various memorials available for purchase. We still have stained glass windows in the three window sizes that can serve as memorials. Names of those honored are recorded on the plaques next to Hope Abbey's entrance or on the wall below the larger windows. We also have a special memorial bench available. It is planned as part of the new Memorial Garden, where cremated remains can be interred or commemorative plaques can be placed. The bench can be engraved as a personal memorial. If you are interested, call the cemetery at (541) 684-0949.

Mausoleum, from page 4

marble shutters that face our crypts and niches and refinish our cracked and stained terrazzo floor, thanks to the Masons and a generous donor.

Those young men were totally amazed at the transformation of the mausoleum, and rightfully so. It has taken 22 years and \$264,421 to bring our beautiful Egyptian Revival building to its present state.

The story doesn't end here. There are still the broken marble ledges to replace, the pilasters to refurbish, the exterior to be repointed, and the header beam cracks to repair. Oh yes, and a new roof to plan for in three to four years. With our track record and the generous support of individuals and organizations we know it will happen.

As for the restoration and enhancement of the cemetery grounds, well, that is a whole other story.

Hallis, Treasurer

Free Summer Concerts

Music to Die For returns on Sunday, June 24, the first of five concerts in Hope Abbey Mausoleum. The following four concerts will be on the last Sunday of each month, July through October. Concerts begin at 2:00 pm. Because there is usually standing room only, plan to arrive early.

This will be the eighth season of Music to Die For concerts sponsored by EMCA. You can learn about the programs in Register-Guard notices or in EMCA's monthly e-Newsletter. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please email John Bredesen, MTDF ccordinator, at jarthurbredesen@gmail.com.

Recent Contributions

The following individuals and organizations contributed gifts between October 1, 2017 and April 1, 2018. We thank you all..

Monumental Giver (\$2,500+)

Charles and Leslie Wright

Monument Rebuilder (\$500-\$2499)

Bob and Alex Brokaw Richard Larson and Barbara Cowan for the landscape endowment Victoria DeRose Maram Epstein Caroline Forell Hallis Betsy Halpern Allan Kluber Tony and Eleanor Mulder Crystal and Merinda Persi

Don Peting

Rowell Brokaw

Marlene Sapinsley

Architects

Karen Seidel

Susan Thompson

Preserver (\$250-\$499)

Susan Engbretson Mary Lefevre and Spencer Krueger Lewis and Sharon Luchs Roger and Sandra Ludeman Marjorie Ross

Sponsor (\$100-\$249)

Sharon and Esawey Abo Amasha Hilary Anthony George Baker Marti Berger Beth Bridges Brian Caughey Henry and Lynn Corbett Jerry and Diane Diethelm Bryna Goodman and **Peter Edberg**

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Joyce Griffith Mary Globus and Gary Harris Dennis and Lynne

Hellesvig Carol Houde John and Janet Jacobsen Gregory Brokaw and

Elaine Lawson Jody Miller and Kip Leonard

Melinda Grier and Jerry Lidz Susan and Laurence

Lowenkron Margot McDonnell Letty Morgan Irwin Noparstak Nicolas and Kari Porter Michael and Sharon Posner

Hope Pressman Tom and Linda Roe Rick Minor and Kathryn Toepel Susan Whitney Tom and Carol Williams

Supporter (less than \$100)

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Gifts in Honor and in Memory

Between October 1, 2017 and April 1, 2018 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-I Roslyn Gaines Foundation in memory of Carolyn Spector James Northrop in honor of Kay and Paul Holbo

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

John Bredesen in memory of Carolyn Spector and Fran Ross Rebecca Weedon Lacy in memory of Bob, Jonnie and Sam Lacv Ruth Nill in memory of Herbert N. Nill

Carol and Samuel

Williams in memory of the Luckeys and the Leasures

Preserver (\$250-\$499)

Kathleen Doty in memory of Robert and Margaret Leonetti Lexa Most and Martin Mieger in honor of Alex and Bob Brokaw Dan and Maureen Williams in memory of Patrick Williams

Sponsor (\$100-\$249)

Alice Adams in memory of Murray Adams

Mark and Regina Agerter in memory of Joan Herbranson Agerter

Mitchell and Jacqueline Booth in memory of the Booth family

Judith Lein Brower in memory of Toivo and Marion Lein

Kathleen Wiley and Bob Carolan in memory of Don Wiley

Julie V.B. Daniel in memory of Maisie Daniel Joan Rudd and Joe Felsenstein in memory

of Iacob Felsenstein Gale Fiszman in memory of Rachele and Joseph Fiszman Betty Fuller in memory of

Elroy Fuller Nancy Galik in memory of Joseph and Jane Galik Saman and Sarah

Harnsongkram in memory of Jack Harnsongkram and Sheila Jones

Lane Hoxworth in memory of Thomas Emmens Jane King in memory of Don King

Tamara L. and Guy Lutz in memory of Carl and Dolly Plant

Paul and Roslyn Slovic in memory of Daniel Slovic Carol Stroud in memory

of Jim Stroud Mary Tanner in memory

of Gloria Semon The Manley Taylor Trust in memory of the James Oscar Taylor family Barbara Truax in memory of Donald Truax and Mary Truax Johnson Jan Vitus in memory of Cosima and Robert Rankin Shirley Wiley in memory of Don Wiley

Supporter (less than \$100)

Flo Alvergue in memory of George R. Alvergue Alan and Sue Dickman in memory of Nathan Dickman Stephen and Lynn

Greenwood in memory of Dan Slovic E. Kirsten and Adam

Hughes in memory of Christine Monnet Jean Johns in honor of

Kay and Paul Holbo Teri and Robert Jones in memory of Mike Heil Sherry Kirkpatrick in memory of Joan Wise Ginny and Roger Reich in memory of Robert and Opal Clark and Laurie Guttormsen Richard Romm in memory of Robert Gault Lyndal Stella *in memory* of John and Mary Ewing Cornelia Taggart in memorv of Bob Dritz Marily Walker in memory of Heather and Bill

Walker Dorothea Yellott in memory of Arthur and Martha

Maggie Yokum in memory of Sarah Elina Windsong

Let Us Tell **Your Story**

Consider a purchase of burial space in the historic Eugene Masonic Cemetery. Our native and heritage landscape is environmentally welcoming for urn



and ash burial. Your purchase will provide a beautiful and meaningful place for your family and friends to visit, and it will support the cemetery into the future. For more information, please contact Sally at 541-684-0949 or emca1859@gmail.com.

Recent In-kind Contributions

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

Allan Kluber Bob Weir Tree Service Bruce Newhouse **Buffalo Gals** Charles Wright The Copy Shop Doak Creek Nursery ESYO Ambassador Musicians Lane Forest Products Linda Danielson & Janet

Naylor

Oregon Dan Man Orin Tipton's Tree Service Oveissi & Company **OSL** Printing Ron Sprague Sally Dietrich Sanipac Steve Lemma Western Tanagers Wild Hog in the Woods



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Newsletter by Karen Seidel and Beneda Design

Memorial Day, from page 1

May 26-28: Memorial Day Weekend

- New Open Hours 12:00 to 5:00 pm: Cemetery gates and Hope Abbey will be open to the public.
- NOON: Taps will be played at noon every day in the Public Square.
- Following Taps: Guided walks, starting in the Public Square, will focus on cemetery highlights, tombstone art, and landscape features.

Thursday, May 31: 7:00 pm

• **Sacred Harp Singers** will present its 16th 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.



Fence building work party

To Our Readers

If you would like to receive EMCA's monthly e-newsletter, contact John Bredesen, board member and publisher, at jarthurbredesen@gmail.com. This newsletter keeps you up to date on Music to Die For concerts, work parties, and special events at the cemetery.

If you would prefer reading the twice-a-year print newsletter online, it is available at EMCA's web site, www.eugenemasonic-cemetery.org. And if you then would like to unsubscribe from the printed version, contact board member and webmaster Charley Wright at wright@uoregon.edu.