

# Monumental News

An occasional newsletter of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

Spring 2019

## Memorial Day Weekend Features 1890s Concert and Picnic

Let your imagination drift back to Eugeneans living in the late 1800s, when a favored weekend activity was getting on the Eugene mule-driven streetcar with family members and a large picnic basket, disembarking at the stop near the northeast corner of the Masonic Cemetery, climbing the hill to the Public Square, and having lunch under the trees. It's possible that families also enjoyed music from a brass band. Although the Oregon Brass Society (see "Brass on the Grass") wasn't formed until 2002, Eugene has a history of brass bands dating back to the 1880s.

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association will attempt to re-create the ambience of those earlier days on Sunday, May 26, of Memorial Day weekend. We invite all of you to join us at noon in the Public Square up the hill from Hope Abbey. The playing of Taps will be followed by an hour-long concert performed by the musicians of the Oregon Brass Society. Bring your picnic lunch and a blanket (or low lawn chairs) and enjoy the music either up in the square or down by Hope Abbey. (The band is plenty loud for that.) Following the concert, continue enjoying your picnic or join board members at Hope Abbey.

On Monday, Taps will again be played at noon in the Public Square. Immediately after Taps, a guided



landscape walking tour, starting in the Public Square, will be offered by groundskeeper Diego Llewellyn-Jones. At 1:30 p.m., board member Caroline Forell will lead a cemetery highlights walking tour starting at Hope Abbey.

Flags will be flying over veterans' graves throughout the weekend. On both days join board members at Hope Abbey for cake and coffee and a chance to

*continued on page 8*

## Take Care of the Cemetery Work Party

***Sunday, May 19 • 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.***

EMCA will host its spring work party on Sunday, May 19th. 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 a.m. 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 Newest Groundskeeper

Yael Gammon joined the cemetery staff in early fall 2018. A life-long member of the Eugene community, Yael is no stranger to the Eugene Masonic Cemetery. She has lived nearby most her life and she and her husband recently purchased a home in the neighborhood—right next to her parents' house where she grew up. This makes it easy for her to walk her daughter, Liliana, back and forth from nearby Temple Beth Israel daycare center on her way to and from working at the cemetery.

A fast learner, Yael is quickly getting to know the ins and outs of taking care of the cemetery's flora. Yael also describes her co-workers as "a really nice group of people." She says that another big plus of

her job is that there are plenty of dogs to pet. When she sees someone with their dog off-leash, she finds that cuddling the dog first and then reminding the owner of our leash rule is very effective.

Yael has an education degree from the Eugene branch of Pacific University. Her work before joining the EMCA team consisted of a combination of education and social work. She was a tutor and advocate for homeless and at-risk youth. More recently Yael was the family advocate at Head Start of Lane County.

The combination of the peace and quiet of working with nature and the convenience of her job's location make this the favorite job Yael has had. The cemetery served

as a perfect place to bring her daughter's class for a spooky walk in October that included a pumpkin patch and cider. What other job offers such great perks?



Yael Gammon

## What Do Board Members Do All Day?

Elizabeth Southworth returned to Eugene last year to enjoy retirement. In June, we coincidentally ended up on a trip across Oregon on our way to raft and kayak the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. I was especially excited to be going with Elizabeth when I learned that she is a skilled kayaker who has been on most of the great American rivers, including paddling the Colorado twice.

On the long drive, we talked about this and that, including what we do in our spare time. When I told her of my position as a board member for the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association Elizabeth stated firmly and with absolute certainty, "I want to be an EMCA board member too." For Elizabeth cemeteries, like kayaking, are a passion; she is a fellow



Elizabeth Southworth

taphophile (cemetery enthusiast).

The EMCA board is pleased that Elizabeth followed up on her initial interest and joined us in late 2018. A graduate of the UO Law School, where she started law school the same year her twins started kindergarten, most of her work career has been in social services. This included sixteen years working for the Oregon Judicial Department's Citizen Review Board where, as the field manager, she recruited, trained and supervised volunteers. Having worked with volunteers throughout much of her career, Elizabeth recognizes the value of the non-paid workforce and is using her position on the board to create a volunteer work force for the cemetery. (See volunteer article on page 6.)

Elizabeth loves old cemeteries and recently purchased her plot in

the Eugene Masonic Cemetery. She likes the idea that someday someone will be looking at her headstone and wondering about her the way she wonders about so many of the folks residing in our cemetery. In the meantime we're delighted to have her on the board.

*Caroline Forell,  
EMCA Board Member*

**Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association —  
541-684-0949**

### Board of Directors

John Bredesen	Shawn Walker
Alex Brokaw	Dina Wills
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Sheri Pyron	Diego Llewellyn-Jones, Groundskeepers
Karen Seidel	Sally Dietrich, Cemetery Administrator
Roz Slovic	
Elizabeth Southworth	

*The IRS Form 990 is available for inspection upon request.*

[www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org](http://www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org)



## From the President

Friends sometimes ask me, "Why are you on a cemetery board?" My short answer is, "I want to be useful." Okay, but why *this* cemetery?

For starters, our cemetery is truly unique. It's ten acres of open woodland right in town, full of native and heritage plants, shy gray squirrels and birds large and small. Paths everywhere lead to surprising places. Not just a cemetery, it's also a park.

And it's far more than that.

Eugene has kept precious few reminders of its early days, but here we have history in spades. Eugene Skinner and his family are buried here, along with people who had city streets named after them. Signs throughout the cemetery tell us about fascinating early

Lane County residents and more recent prominent citizens. Grave markers give their own hints of lives lived—perhaps cut short—and families left behind. Hope Abbey is a magnificent example of memorial design a century ago.

Cemeteries are for the living, of course. Each gravestone or plaque is a memorial to a real person whose life had—maybe still has—meaning for others. What can we learn from these memorials about ourselves, as well as about our forbears? As we walk through our cemetery, or just stand still and listen to the birds, the past and the present can come together. What's most important to us? What was important to those now resting below us? What will matter most

in the years to come? A serene, wooded setting can help us sort out our thoughts and make sense of our world.

We know that without constant vigilance much of what we take for granted today will vanish before long. All of us on the EMCA board are working to keep our cemetery alive—to preserve this extraordinary treasure for tomorrow and for future generations. With your help, we can do it. Please consider putting a check to EMCA in the envelope attached to this newsletter. And please, if you can, visit the cemetery soon to remind yourself of just how special a place it really is.

We welcome you.

*Charles Wright, EMCA President*

## Brass on the Grass

Have you seen the movie "Brassed Off"? If not, do see it, because it will get you excited about British brass bands. Better yet, also come hear the Oregon Brass Society (OBS) play its first outdoor concert at the Eugene Masonic Cemetery on Sunday, May 26. OBS is Oregon's only ensemble based on the British brass band tradition. It will play at noon in the Public Square.

Conductor Dr. Chris Chapman will lead a group of 30 musicians playing a repertoire of original works, marches, patriotic tunes, arrangements of Broadway and film scores, and popular music. The band practices weekly and performs three or four times a year. OBS was founded by Roger Rush in 2002. Brass and percussion players from the Eugene Symphonic Band formed the initial group, and many musicians continue to play in both groups.

The brass band movement

began in England in the early 1800s as factory, mining, or town ensembles. The local band provided workers pleasant relief from their labor and became a source of pride for the community and its businesses. Brass bands number in the thousands in the United Kingdom. Competitions began in the 1850s and continue to this day. Town bands are organized much like sports leagues, and bands from throughout the UK compete for numerous championship titles.

The instruments in a British

brass band differ significantly from American bands. Not only are no woodwinds included, but the types and sounds of brass instruments are different. With the exception of the trombones, all of the brass instruments have a conical bore design, which produces a darker and more mellow tone quality. The OBS band includes cornets, flugelhorns, tenor horns, baritones, euphoniums, tuba, and percussion.

*Sheri Pryon, EMCA board member and OBS musician*



*Oregon Brass Society will play at the cemetery on Sunday, May 26th.*

## Our Work Never Ends

Our cemetery may be 160 years old, but we don't just rest on our historic laurels. We are continually maintaining our old treasures and adding new improvements to enhance this special place to make it more enticing and safer. Two projects top the list for 2018-19.

The first project was a significant restoration of the Egyptian Revival west front of Hope Abbey that was needed because of deterioration and vandalism over the last century. Thanks to a gift from a generous donor, we were able to use the services of Pioneer Waterproofing, the best restoration contractor we know. Their skilled craftsmanship involved removing and replacing every cast stone masonry joint with appropriate historic materials; patching to replace cast stone corners and details that were vandalized; and cleaning the whole cast stone front and the cavetto molding around the entire building. Take a look at the beautiful effect of removing 100 years of grime and damage.

Our latest project addresses the problems that have existed in the northeast corner of the cemetery for many years. Troubling activities include camping,

confrontation, defecation and drug use. We have found abandoned items ranging from drug paraphernalia to, most recently, a mattress. Addressing these problems is unpleasant and time-consuming.

In 2017 we began considering possible solutions, leading to the board's decision to build a 570-foot ornamental iron fence. While this decision was not universally popular, we determined that it is the only solution that affordably and safely works for us, 24/7. Our city historical alteration permit was approved in 2018 and we are now moving forward with the project.

Thanks, in part, to a gift from Masonic Lodge #11 A.F. & A.M. and a challenge grant from neighbors, Hugh Prichard and Kevin Shanley, construction of the fence began in April. The fence will allow restoration of

this area and thereby expand our rigorous maintenance standards to the entire cemetery. It will also make this portion of the cemetery more inviting to cemetery visitors and allow us to recover several grave sites for future sales. Overall, we are confident that this project will greatly improve the cemetery.

*Denny Hellesvig, Board Member*



*Hope Abbey*

## Ellis Lawrence Mausoleums

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery's Hope Abbey mausoleum is one of six mausoleums in the state designed by Ellis Lawrence and built by the Portland Mausoleum Company.

The mausoleums were all built between 1913 and 1918. The vogue for mausoleums grew in the period of pre-war optimism, when science and technology were advancing rapidly. They became popular as an alternative to below-ground burial.

These mausoleums share the characteristics of single-story

masonry exteriors and flat roofs with an upper roof ringed by clerestory windows. The interiors feature walls and crypts and floors of veined white marble or terrazzo. Each mausoleum has some version of "family rooms" with their own decorative bronze grillwork gates. The windows share the same golden glass.

The footprint of each mausoleum is similar, but the size can vary greatly. The smallest can be found in Astoria (Warrenton) and Baker City. The larger ones are

located in Salem, Portland and Pendleton.

Though the interiors are similar, each mausoleum has a unique facade. Lawrence was known to work in many styles throughout his career, and the mausoleums are no exception. Eugene's Hope Abbey mausoleum is the only one built in the Egyptian Revival style. The connection between Freemasonry and Egyptian symbolism has been theorized as a reason for the style, but as

*continue on page 5*



# Mary Boise Spiller: The First Woman To Teach at the University of Oregon

Mary Boise was born in 1831 near Blandford, Massachusetts. She graduated in 1850 from Mount Holyoke Female Seminary, the first women's institution in the United States to have a curriculum equivalent to the many men's colleges that women were not allowed to attend. After graduation, Mary married Levi Spiller, owner of a Louisiana plantation and an officer in the Confederate Army. They had two children.

Levi died soon after the Civil War ended. As a widow with young children, Mary decided to join her brother Reuben, who had moved to Oregon and become a prominent Salem judge. She and her children moved into a boarding house in Eugene at 13th and Ferry Streets. In 1876 she became a principal of



*Mary Spiller's daughter, Reubena, UO Class of 1882*

the Preparatory Department of the University of Oregon. This department prepared prospective students for university level coursework. In short, she chaired the remedial education department. Though not a faculty member, Mary Boise Spiller taught English and elocution, and was the physical education director for female students. Mary was described as "a well poised and attractive woman with a charming and radiant personality."

Since women did not live on campus as the male students did, Mrs. Spiller traveled to them individually, as a "monitor, adviser, supporter and mentor for her students." Mrs. Spiller also developed literary societies for both women and men at the university. UO Professor Frederic Dunn wrote,

"Mrs. Spiller had such a unique way of making you feel a real pride when you had accomplished your task with credit."

Sadly, Mary's two children died young. Levi died at 18, in 1884. Reubena (pictured here) graduated from the University of Oregon in 1882 but died in 1885. Mary stopped her teaching and mentoring work at the university in 1887, fourteen years before she died in 1901. She and her children are buried in a family plot in the southeast corner of the cemetery.

When the first women's dormitory at the university, opened in 1908, it was named for Mary Boise Spiller. In 1951, this dilapidated wooden building was razed. Today a brick "Mary Spiller Hall" is part of the UO's co-ed Hamilton Complex dormitories at 13th and Agate. Students know it simply as "Spiller."

*Dina Wills, Board Member and Board Archivist*

## Mausoleums, from page 4

Lawrence didn't document his reasoning we may never know definitively.

In 1914, Lawrence became the co-founder and first dean of the University of Oregon's School of Architecture and Allied Arts, a position he held until his death. He concurrently served as campus architect for the University of Oregon and designed many campus buildings, including Knight Library and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. He lived in Portland and commuted to his work in Eugene, producing a body of work of over 500 projects in his lifetime.

*Sally Dietrich, EMCA Sexton*



*Ellis Lawrence Mausoleum in Baker City, OR*



## New Focus on Volunteers

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association has relied on community volunteers for many years to help fulfill our mission of restoring, rehabilitating and maintaining the Eugene Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum "as a cultural and natural resource for the community." While volunteers have been an integral part of reaching our goals, we have not had a formal process to encourage, support and coordinate their efforts.

New Board member Elizabeth Southworth has stepped forward to develop and maintain a new volunteer program. Her professional background includes many years as a volunteer coordinator, and she is beginning the process of establishing the program with the goal of encouraging and supporting volunteer efforts. Maintaining a data base of active volunteers is a first step, and community members participating in recent projects at the cemetery, including the Grave Marker Rehabilitation workshop and the February Storm Work Party, are inaugural members.

Preparation for our annual Memorial Day weekend events includes the annual work party on



*Storm cleanup*

Sunday, May 19 at 10 a.m., which we encourage you to join. Other potential areas to volunteer for include cleaning monuments, weed and ivy pulling, general office work, historic research on various residents of the cemetery grounds and Hope Abbey, and help with the monthly "Last Sunday" open houses at Hope Abbey. In addition, the EMCA board is

always looking for new and energetic members!

Those of you who want to start volunteering or have volunteered in the past and are interested in doing so again are encouraged to contact Elizabeth Southworth at [volunteeremca@gmail.com](mailto:volunteeremca@gmail.com)

*Elizabeth Southworth,  
Board Member and  
Volunteer Coordinator*

## Free Summer Concerts

Music to Die For returns on Sunday, June 30, with  
***Clefs of Insanity.***

This will be the first of five concerts in Hope Abbey Mausoleum.

The following four concerts will be on the last Sundays of the months July through October. Concerts begin at 2:00 p.m. ***Because there is usually standing room only, plan to arrive early.***

This will be the ninth 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 coordinator, at [jarthurbredesen@gmail.com](mailto:jarthurbredesen@gmail.com).

## Consider your place in history...

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery has burial rights to sell. We can accommodate cremated remains and caskets. 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](mailto:emca1859@gmail.com).**

## Recent Contributions

The following individuals and organizations contributed gifts between October 1, 2018 and April 1, 2019. We thank you all.

### Monumental Giver (\$2,500+)

Eugene Masonic Lodge No. 11  
AF&AM  
Caroline Forell and Richard Hildreth  
Ruth Nill

### Monument Rebuilder (\$500-\$2499)

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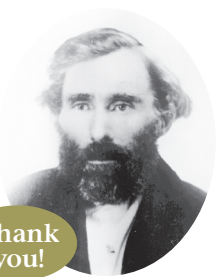
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## Gifts in Honor and in Memory

Between October 1, 2018 and April 1, 2019 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+)

Richard Larson and Barbara Cowan in memory of Charles and Deborah Larson  
A-J Roslyn Gaines  
Foundation in memory of Carolyn Spector

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

Bob and Alex Brokaw in memory of Barbara and Harold Butler and Olivia Helene Brokaw  
Marvin and Joan Cypress in memory of Mandell and Frances Cypress and Paul and Shirley Gold  
Fuki Hisama in memory of Toshi Hisama, Ph.D.  
Stan Stewart in memory of Cathy C. Stewart  
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### Preserver (\$250-\$499)

Kathleen Doty in memory of Robert and Margaret Leonetti  
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Shirley Wiley in memory of Don Wiley  
Tom and Carol Williams in honor of John Bredesen and Betsy Halpern

### Supporter (less than \$100)

Jerry and Vikki Chrostek in memory of their dogs  
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Eshkie Zachai in honor of Lisa Ponder

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## Recent In-kind Contributions

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

Dorothy Anderson  
Bosworth Landscaping  
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## Eugene Masonic Cemetery ASSOCIATION

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*Newsletter by Caroline Forell  
and Beneda Design*

### Memorial Day, from page 1

view a turn-of-the-century lady's dress, likely worn to a picnic, on loan from Carol Houde's extensive vintage dress collection. Hope Abbey will also feature various displays that will engage visitors. A large floral display of flowers, plants, and noxious weeds from the cemetery will take center stage in the mausoleum. Two history hunts will provide opportunities for children and families to learn more about the veterans and other historical figures buried in the cemetery. Prizes will be given to those completing a history hunt.

### Memorial Day Weekend Events

***Note: While the cemetery will be open to visitors on Saturday, no events are planned for that day and Hope Abbey will be closed.***

Board member Alex Brokaw is coordinating the weekend events which are all free and open to the public.

- **Sunday, May 26: Cemetery gates and Hope Abbey open from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 pm.** Taps at noon in the Public Square followed by Oregon Brass Society band concert and picnic.
- **Monday, May 27: Cemetery gates and Hope Abbey open from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Taps at noon in the Public Square and two guided walks: one focusing on landscape features at 12:10 p.m., starting at the Public Square; the other featuring cemetery highlights, starting at 1:30pm at Hope Abbey.

### 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](mailto: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.eugene-masoniccemetery.org](http://www.eugene-masoniccemetery.org).

And if you then would like to unsubscribe from the printed version, contact board member and webmaster Charley Wright at [wright@uoregon.edu](mailto:wright@uoregon.edu).