

## Spirits Romp in the Moonlight (The cemetery at night)

Sometimes, when I'm walking in the cemetery late at night, I'll look down the trail and see, maybe fifty to a hundred feet ahead of me, a person, sometimes a man, sometimes a woman, nicely dressed, usually in clothes fashionable in a time long past.

Moonlit summer nights or misty winter nights are best for such sightings. With a certain slant of light, a festive feeling comes over the cemetery and one can imagine that the spirits of those buried here might come out to visit our world again, to dance across the grassy meadow and romp in the moonlight.

Then, I blink. In a heartbeat and without a sound, my visitor disappears. Or maybe I am the visitor. Maybe, as some have suggested, I am gifted in a way that allows me to see into that other world, that world into which we all must pass eventually. I like that theory.

Long ago I lived in Africa, in a mud hut among people who believed—except on Sundays when the Catholic priest came to town—that spirits inhabited the forest around us, and when we died, we weren't banished to the Christian heaven I'd learned about as a child in Episcopal Sunday School. Drums would roll across the big flat plain where we lived. Pombe (beer) and waragi (a violent kind of gin made from bananas) would flow and the party was on.

The spirit of the person who died moved on to a kind of parallel existence. He or she didn't have to go far, as the spirits hung about to keep tabs on the living. If you were walking down a path at night and somehow tripped, it was probably because you'd committed a breach of etiquette during the day and Grampa had reached out from the spirit world and tripped you to remind you not to do it again.

So, that's my belief. The spirits I meet on the cemetery trail at night are there to remind me to be fair and kind while I'm still on top of the grass. Someday I'll be over there on the other side, looking after those of you still on this side.

*Mike Helm*



### Mike Helm

In 1985, Mike Helm and his family moved to their house next to the cemetery and coped with noisy beer parties on Hope Abbey's roof and overgrown, unmaintained grounds that were home to drug dealers and drunks. Before EMCA took over maintenance and operations ten years later, Mike was a one-man, ceaseless advocate and agitator for cemetery restoration. Put another way, he was a John the Baptist figure, a lone voice "crying in the wilderness," who "prepared the way" for EMCA. Author, retired teacher, and a founding EMCA board member, Mike continues to keep watch over the cemetery.

*Karen Seidel, Board Member and Secretary*

# Jennifer Geller, New Board Member

Jennifer Geller, one of the newest Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association (EMCA) Board members, had been thinking a lot about how our culture memorializes death. She helped with the organization of several large memorial services (pre-COVID), which prompted memories of the historical cemetery that was adjacent to the Portland church she attended as a child. She explored this cemetery as a child and teenager, and remembers it as a sacred and peaceful place. As a Girl Scout, Jennifer participated in service projects that focused on cemetery clean-up and became more appreciative of the history contained in an old cemetery.

Timing is everything, as Jennifer will attest. She was familiar with the Eugene Masonic Cemetery (EMC) and was a regular visitor there, walking and running through it. As her thoughts were pulled towards the process of hon-

oring the dead, she was coming to the end of a commitment to another non-profit organization and, as luck would have it, a co-worker at the University of Oregon School of Law was none other than EMCA Board President, Caroline Forell. Caroline asked Jennifer at the exact right time to consider joining our Board and, fortunately for us, she said yes.

Jennifer's background and interests include event planning and creating sustainable funding for non-profit organizations, making her a great addition to the Board. While most of the traditional events sponsored by the EMCA have been suspended due to COVID-19, Jennifer is interested in exploring how social media can be used to engage the community. She



would like to create a wider awareness of all that the EMC has to offer while working to ensure the long-range health of the cemetery.

Jennifer has continued her community service that started when she was a Girl Scout. Her local service work covers a wide range of interests and settings, including schools and libraries. She served for many years on both the Eugene Public Library Foundation Board and the Eugene School Board. Jennifer has also spent time volunteering on local levy and bond efforts for schools and the library.

Jennifer's household has expanded as her young adult children have returned home because of the pandemic. Now her organizational skills are employed at

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# Meet our new Groundskeeper - Giffin Glastonbury

Giffin told us when we hired him to be the new groundskeeper that he is passionate about landscape management and has experience with a diversity of projects, from gardens to forest properties, farm landscapes and riparian zones.

He has been working since May with Wendi Kuchera, EMCA Landscape Manager, and Sally Dietrich, Cemetery Administrator. Wendi and the cemetery board now know more about Giffin and his abilities and talents. He has many ideas for improving the landscape, some likely to be implemented in the



future. He has a thoughtful and welcome approach to problem solving. He, Wendi and Sally enjoy sharing ideas and plans for the future of the landscape.

Giffin enjoys meeting visitors at the cemetery, and especially the "regular" visitors.

When he is not in the middle of a project—weed whacking, using a chainsaw, pulling invasive plants, repairing equipment or the many other tasks he does—he is happy to share information with visitors. While working, he often wears headphones to listen to audio books about current events or the

music he enjoys. When not wearing headphones, Giffin enjoys listening to the many birds in the cemetery.

*continued on page 3*

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

## Board of Directors

John Bredesen	Elizabeth Southworth
Alex Brokaw	Shawn Walker
Caroline Forell	Charles Wright
Jennifer Geller	Wendi S. Kuchera, <i>Landscape Manager</i>
Hallis	Griffin Glastonbury, <i>Groundskeeper</i>
Catherine K.	Sally Dietrich, <i>Cemetery Administrator</i>
Don Peting	
Sheri Pyron	
Karen Seidel	
Roz Slovic	

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

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

# From the President

I'm writing this in mid-September, finding it hard because I'm reeling along with the rest of Oregon from the toxic smoke and ash from the tragic fires on top of the relentless virus. The words I used to open and close my last column ring even truer now: "We're all in this together."

In a normal year I would be telling you all about the wonderful Music To Die For concerts, the cemetery tours I'd have given, and the enthusiasm of volunteers who had learned how to clean grave markers. Sadly, none of this could happen while we continue to do battle with the virus. With September's extreme dryness, wind and smoke, EMCA decided to close entirely for some days to lower the risk of a fire breaking out in our beautiful wooded cemetery. As always, we plead with people not to smoke or light candles when they visit us. Nevertheless, there are those who continue to engage in both those dangerous activities; it only takes one careless act.

There have been several bright spots, most notably the delightful Brass on the Grass concert by the all-woman Blugene Brass quintet on August 30th. Our

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## Groundskeeper, *from page 2*

Wendi says that Giffin is friendly, fun, easy going and a very hard worker. He is present at the cemetery no matter the weather, always with a smile and ready to work. He wants to improve his knowledge of the many birds that live in the cemetery and learn more about the many native plants that the landscape team works to protect. As he works among the monuments at the cemetery, he has become interested in knowing more about the people who are buried there.

Giffin moved to Eugene from Grants Pass, Oregon, with his wife and now 7-month-old daughter. They own a home not too far from the cemetery, and each day Giffin cycles to work. His family sometimes comes to visit him at the cemetery. When he lived in Grants Pass, he enjoyed floating the Rogue River, fishing, organic farming and helping his family with their well-known retail furniture business. He, his wife and baby now enjoy camping in the many beautiful camp sites in Lane County.

Everyone agrees that Giffin is a valuable addition to the landscape team.

Say "hello" to Giffin, and if he is not engaged in a project, he will be happy to meet you. Do wear a mask. Giffin says working in the cemetery helps him to be safe from COVID-19.

*Roz Slovic, Board Member*

board member and French horn player Sheri Pyron organized this treat and her daughter, chanteuse Madeleine Rowell, was a guest soloist who sang her heart out. See the EMCA Facebook page for one of their jazzy numbers. I regret that I had to miss this special event due to newborn grandchild duties in Washington, D.C. There was talk of another concert but, alas, the events of September scotched any chance of that.



*Caroline Forell*

Another bright spot is less obvious and was more disruptive. We engaged in a massive drainage and regrading project which led to piles of gravel and loud machinery during the month of August. It is now complete and will help assure the cemetery functions smoothly for years to come. Thanks go to our landscape crew, Wendi Kuchera and Giffin Glastonbury, and our sexton, Sally Dietrich, for their help and endurance through this worthy, but messy, undertaking and to Don Peting and John Bredesen for providing board oversight.

The other project that is still in progress is the design and installation of all new signage. Much is now complete, but we eagerly await the final aspect of the project, all new biographical signs for historically noteworthy residents of the cemetery. I look forward to working with these wonderful stories when I next give a cemetery tour, most likely in early 2021.

Our cemetery is a work in progress as well as a business. We plan to continue improving the care of the historic monuments while fostering the natural beauty that makes our cemetery so unique. And we still have some full-body burial lots available, as well spaces at both the Memorial Overlook and Memorial Garden for burying cremains. If interested, contact our Cemetery Administrator, Sally Dietrich, at 541-515-0536.

In this time of hardship and sadness, the cemetery provides a welcome respite. I therefore ask for your assistance in keeping our cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum the gems we have worked so hard to restore. We passionately believe that the Eugene Masonic Cemetery is worth preserving for all of our community. I hope you agree. If you do, I welcome whatever financial support you can offer.

Come see us soon and stay safe and well.

*Caroline Forell, EMCA Board President*

# Brass on the Grass

Third time is the charm! After being rained out in 2019 and canceled last May due to COVID-19, the Blugene Brass quintet was finally able to present its concert. And what a concert it was!

On a sunny Sunday afternoon, more than eighty people enjoyed a delightful concert at the Public Square of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery. Board members of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association (EMCA) ushered audience members to socially distanced places on the grass. All were wearing masks. Some people brought picnic lunches to eat during the concert, and many even chose to sit among the vegetation rather than in the open area.

Blugene Brass, Eugene's only all-woman brass quintet, was formed

in 2017 from players in the Eugene Symphonic Band and the Oregon Brass Society. Members include Shira Fadeley, trombone; Carla Lamb, trumpet; Kalin Marks, tuba; Sheri Pyron, French horn; and Molly Robertson, trumpet.

Blugene has concentrated its sound and clarified its vision as a group that likes to play fun music. No genre is off limits—jazz, pop, Latin and classical fill their folders. Members enjoy weekly two-hour rehearsals, which always include plenty of laughter.

The program included familiar tunes such as “Amazing Grace” and “Danny Boy,” as well as the medley “Just A Closer Walk with the Saints,” and classical works by Mozart and Gustav Holst. Special guests included vocalist Madeleine

Rowell and percussionist Jack McGaughey, who arranged several of the works.

Even the audience members seated quite far from the performers easily heard the music. Afterwards many stayed to enjoy the nice weather and the grounds of the cemetery.

Because of the pandemic, the 2020 Music To Die For monthly summer series had to be canceled. Normally, these concerts are held in Hope Abbey Mausoleum, but the need for social distancing made it impossible to continue the tradition this year. The success of the BluGene Brass concert in the Public Square suggests a possible future alternative venue. Stay tuned for future announcements of concerts.



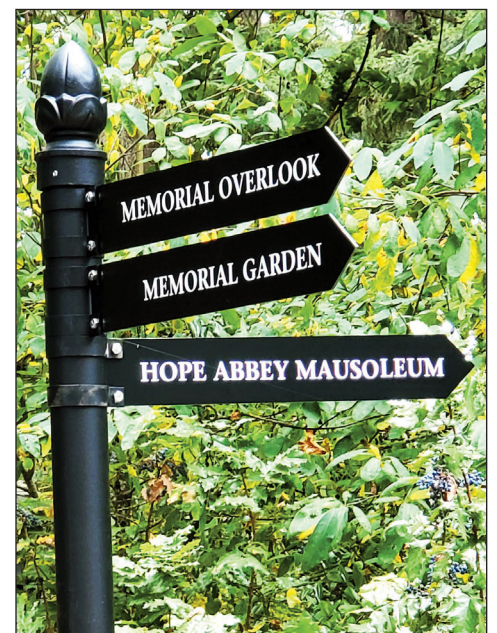
## Finding Your Way

You're visiting the Eugene Masonic Cemetery from out of state because you know your favorite Uncle Fred has a memorializing plaque that's located in the “Memorial Overlook,” whatever that is. As you walk into the cemetery through the main gate to find the overlook, you suddenly realize it might not be as easy as you thought. At first glance, all you can see are trees, hills and some miscellaneous walking paths that go—where? Suddenly you spot a metal post with some directional

arrows. Walking over to it, you see that one of the destinations listed is the Memorial Outlook. Ah, problem solved!

As you come up the hill, you notice a small, but interesting, shrub you can't identify, but there is a small sign identifying it as an Oregon Grape. As you continue your trek, several more small signs along the way identify not only flora, but gravesites of persons of interest. Soon you arrive at the Memorial Overlook, clearly

*continue on page 8*



# Americans with Disabilities Act and the Hope Abbey Mausoleum

There have been numerous articles in this publication about the extensive restoration work done inside and outside of Hope Abbey Mausoleum. But we don't think anything has been written about our commitment to visitors with disabilities.

Most cemeteries, including the Eugene Masonic Cemetery's Hope Abbey Mausoleum, welcome visitors for Memorial Day. As restoration continued and Hope Abbey became a useful venue for public events, we became aware of the problems of access, convenience and safety it presented. Three deteriorated and unsafe steps blocked entry into the building, which usually meant manually lifting a wheelchair in and out. We found a portable wheelchair ramp we could borrow, but a better solution was needed.

Also, we had no permanent restroom facilities. The former 1914 restroom/janitor's closet was in a state of extreme disrepair with no functioning water, power or sewer. Remodeling this space was necessary for the convenience and accessibility for our guests and staff. Portable toilets were not an acceptable remedy.

In 2006, we developed a solution for both problems. We applied for two grants from the Oregon State Parks Department, which offers grants to historic cemeteries. One grant was for the replacement of the Hope Abbey entrance porch with new steps and accessible ramps. This would address the safety and building accessibility issues. The other grant was for the repair of the interior marble wall covering, but was also designed to include remodeling the lavatory entrance

to accommodate a wider door. The grants were approved, and the Board of Directors gave a green light for the total rebuilding of the front concrete entrance porch and the marble renovation.

Hope Abbey is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which places strict criteria on renovation of structures on that list. Any significant changes we wanted to make had to have the approval of the Eugene Historic Review Board. We were very fortunate to have architect Denny Hellesvig on the Board of Directors. He drew up plans for a graceful design that met two important requirements: 1) it met the requirements of the Eugene Historic Review Board, and 2) it included code-compliant access. Denny's plans were approved.

The result was a beautiful and functional entrance porch that provides easy access to all. The marble renovation gave us the proper wheelchair opening for the future lavatory. These projects formed the basis for completing the accessibility corrections for Hope Abbey.

When additional funds became

available, the renovation of the lavatory began. Contractors made sewer and fresh water connections in the lavatory. A false ceiling was installed that gave us usable storage space above, and made the room feel less industrial. We rebuilt the entire room with a sink and plumbing that met standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and included proper handrails around the toilet. We also added a very modern, but concealed, water heater.

With historic preservation in mind, dark stained wood trim was used to soften the feel of the room. The original 1914 toilet was replumbed so it could still function as intended. We retained the restored original bronze clad door with its stained-glass window, which was accomplished by simply adding eight inches of solid wood along one edge to make it the required 36 inches wide. We now have a modern, safe, functional, visitor friendly lavatory for all, which looks much like a private restroom of 100 years ago might have looked.

*John Bredesen, Board Member & Denny Hellesvig, volunteer*



*Hope Abbey lavatory*

# The 100th Anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment

This year is the 100th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment, finally ratified in August, 1920, which gave 26,000,000 American women the right to vote, in time for the 1920 presidential election. In commemoration, the EMCA's eNewsletter is featuring a series, "Women Who Made a Difference."

Sandra Morgen, a woman "who made a difference in our commu-

nity," is interred in the historic Masonic Cemetery. You can read highlights of her life below as described by the cemetery's President, Caroline Forell.

Although thousands of African-American women were active in the suffrage movement, even after ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, racism and discrimination still limited voting ability for them, as well as for Asian-

American, Hispanic-American and Native-American women.

Whereas white women sought the vote to gain equal voice in the political process, African-American women sought it also as a means of racial uplift and a way to effect change in the post-Reconstruction era.

Shortly after the Nineteenth Amendment's adoption, Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party began work on the Equal Rights Amendment, which they believed to be a necessary additional step to ensure equality for all women.

## Dr. Sandi Morgen 1950-2016

University of Oregon  
Feminist Anthropology Professor

Sandra Morgen (Sandi) was my dear friend, whose tireless work at the University of Oregon on behalf of women inspired me throughout my years of knowing her. As an influential and beloved professor and a pioneer in feminist anthropology, she mentored many graduate students who later became professors themselves. As a member of her board, I worked closely with Sandi in her role as long-time Director of the UO's Center for the Study of Women in Society. She shaped this unique space for women students and professors to exchange ideas and learn from influential nationally renowned scholars. A highly respected scholar herself, Sandi received in 2015 the UO *Outstanding Career Award*, which goes to faculty for distinguished scholarship.

Sandi wrote widely about women's health, social welfare,

and tax policy. She published several books on gender and inequality, including *Into Our Own Hands: The Women's Health Movement in the U.S. 1969-1990*, for which she won the Basker Prize from the Society for Medical Anthropology in 2004.

Sandi was active on the national scene as well as at the University of Oregon. She served as president of both the Association for Feminist Anthropology and the Society for the Anthropology of North America. In 2004, the National Council for Research on Women honored Morgen with its *Women Who Make a Difference* award. At the university, she served as Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Associate Dean of the Graduate School.

Personal remembrances from colleagues and friends included the following: Women in academia benefited from her trailblaz-



ing efforts and unceasing support; She created pathways and networks at a moment in time when they didn't exist; Her life was very purposeful—she was so encouraging, not only to peers but also to students, the quintessential mentor; Her mantra was love, generosity, courage; Sandra was one of the most influential scholars the College of Arts and Sciences has ever seen.

I am sure that had Sandi been alive at the time of the women's suffrage movement, she would have been at its forefront. She was a fearless and tireless fighter for justice and women's rightful place at the table. The Eugene Masonic Cemetery is fortunate to provide a final resting place for Sandra and other women of such passion, integrity, and grace.

Caroline Forell, Board President

# Recent Contributions

The following individuals and organizations contributed gifts between April 1, 2020 through October 1, 2020. We thank you all.

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

John Bredesen and Betsy Halpern  
Eugene Masonic Lodge No. 11  
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William Buskirk  
John and Kyung Gregor  
Martha and William Hall

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

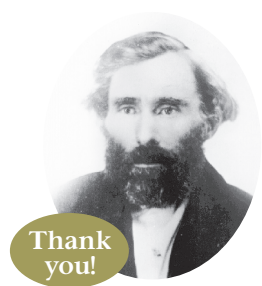
Bob and Sandra Brokaw  
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Thank you!

Steve McQuiddy  
Kari Parsons  
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Linda Pentz  
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Elizabeth Potter  
Tom and Linda Roe  
Robert B. Stein  
Xanthe Trewe  
Dennis and Rain Westfall  
Dorothea Yellott  
Maggie Yokum

# Gifts in Honor and in Memory

Between April 1, 2020 and October 1, 2020, 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)

Bob and Sandra Brokaw in memory of Barbara and Harold Butler and Olivia Helene Brokaw  
Brigid Flannery in memory of Dan Slovic  
Fuki Hisama in memory of Toshiaki Hisama, Ph.D.  
Don Peting in memory of Betty Peting

## Preserver (\$250-\$499)

John and Kyung Gregor in memory of Stanley Gregor  
Martha and William Hall in memory of the Benner family  
Rebecca Weedon Lacy in memory of Bob, Jonnie and Sam Lacy

Warren Wong in memory of Bella

## Sponsor (\$100-\$249)

Jerry and Vikki Chrostek in memory of Buddy, Guy, Jack and Tucker  
Heather Graham in memory of Charlotte Louise Graham  
Doreen Kilen in memory of Bruce Kilen  
Sarah Klinghammer in memory of Dan Klinghammer  
Lucile McKenzie in memory of A. D. McKenzie  
Camilla Pratt in memory of Adrian Vaaler  
Paul Sakamoto in memory of the Eastland family  
Paul and Roslyn Slovic in memory of Dan Slovic

Rene Speer in memory of Noel Wicks

Jean Tate in memory of Wayne Tate

## Supporter (up to \$99)

Shirley Bolles in memory of the Addisons  
Joakima K. Erickson in memory of Elida Erickson  
Pam Fields in honor of George Newton, Sr. and Ella Frazer  
Robert B. Stein in memory of Bernhardt and Lee Stein  
Xanthe Trewe in memory of Linus Trewe  
Dorothea Yellott in memory of Martha Geary Smith and Arthur M. Geary  
Maggie Yokum in memory of Sarah Baumgartner

## Geller, from page 2

home as well as in her job as the Public Law and Policy Program Managing Director at the Law School.

Jennifer denies having any special skills such as juggling or yodeling, but does admit to being an avid ice-skater and skier. She enjoys travel and is looking forward to a time when she can resume this. As busy as she is, Jennifer does manage to have fun.

The EMCA Board welcomes Jennifer to its ranks. We are truly fortunate that she chose to join us.

*Elizabeth Southworth,  
Board Member*

If you wish to donate, please use the enclosed remittance envelope or PayPal.

## Recent In-kind Contributions

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

Historic Preservation Northwest  
Lane Forest Products  
QSL Printing  
Sanipac  
WOW Painting



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.**

Donate with



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Newsletter by Betsy Halpern  
and Beneda Design

## Finding Your Way, *from page 4*

marked by a tasteful sign.

The Masonic Cemetery is a ten acre, heavily wooded site, with over two miles of well-maintained walking trails. Unless you're an habitual visitor, it's easy to get lost or confused about which path to take if you're looking for a specific gravesite or location. The Board of Directors realized that years ago and acknowledged that directional signs would be a great addition. At the time, sufficient funds to have such signs done professionally were not available, so began a modest program of homemade signs constructed and installed by volunteers. Plywood, wooden stakes, signs printed at home and covered by protective sheets yielded a workable network of directional signs. Unfortunately, weather and

vandalism made for short lives, and they required constant restoring or rebuilding.

A year ago, a grant from the Lane County Historical Society provided funds to begin the task of replacing these homemade signs with rugged and attractive commercially fabricated signage permanently installed in concrete. Constructed of heavy gauge aluminum and weatherproof plastic laminate, they will provide visitors with the guidance needed to make the visit to Eugene's oldest cemetery a pleasant one.

We invite you to visit the cemetery some fine day. The main gate is located at East 25th and University in southeast Eugene, but since it is largely unfenced, there are several other entrances. Please remember to keep appropriate social distancing.

*John Bredesen, Board Member*



**To Our Readers**  
If you would like to receive  
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