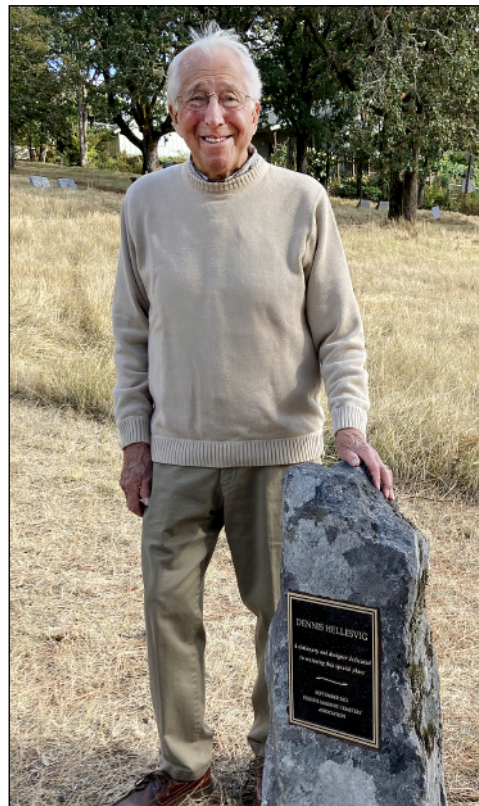


Celebrating Denny and John

On a September afternoon that was unexpectedly sunny and warm, over 60 people gathered to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of John Bredesen and Denny Hellesvig to the restoration of the Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey. Speaking from Hope Abbey's porch, Caroline Forell, EMCA board president, and Alex Brokaw, board member and event organizer, described the many successful projects for which Denny and John have been responsible over the past 20 years. Following John's and Denny's responses, Caroline and Alex then unveiled the new basalt columns between the mausoleum and the camas field that are permanent reminders of



Denny Hellesvig with plaque

their importance to the cemetery's renewal. John's plaque reads: "With his leadership and guidance this cemetery was transformed." Denny's reads: "A visionary and designer dedicated to restoring this special place." Everyone then adjourned to Hope Abbey to toast John and Denny with champagne and admire the beautifully restored building.

Boards of small non-profits such as ours, without full-time executive directors, need to provide certain skills to keep their organizations functioning, such as book-keeping, fund-raising, website maintenance, and marketing. In addition, the needed expertise among board members of an historic cemetery and a 100-year-old mausoleum includes landscape, research, historic preservation, architecture, and engineering. The latter two are the critical, but not the only, roles that John and Denny have brilliantly filled for two decades.

Denny, retired architect and city building official, was a member of the EMCA board of directors from 2001 to 2020 and served in many board positions, including archivist, treasurer, and vice-president. John, retired electrical engineer (most recently KLCC's chief engineer), has been on the Board since 2002, serving as board president for 11 years. In addition, John founded the EMCA's monthly e-newsletter in 2013 and continues to serve as its editor. He also acts as impresario for the annual Music To Die For concerts in Hope



John Bredesen with plaque

Abbey (temporarily suspended by the pandemic), beginning with a trial program by the Alder Street Woodwind Quintet in 2011.

And then there are the capital projects! Beginning in the early 2000s, Denny and/or John were responsible for all the inside and outside improvements to Hope Abbey. Denny designed and supervised the construction of the garden cottage while John oversaw its electrical systems. Denny began the volunteer program to clean and repair monuments. More recently, he was in charge of the development of the new memorial garden, the two new stelae, and the construction of the fence along the cemetery's north boundary. And John supervised recent improvements to the drainage system and electrical upgrades in the

continued on page 4

Welcome, Alex Shumaker

Alex is the newest member of the EMCA landscape crew. He began work on July 1st of this year, and is a committed and valued member of the team. In the thirteen years he has lived in Eugene, Alex has worked in yard maintenance, and also maintained the grounds around the Tamarack Aquatic Center while working there as a lifeguard. He did a stint in bicycle delivery during Eugene's winter months, so is fully equipped and ready for work at the cemetery in the winter.

Alex likes working outside and especially likes being at the cemetery. He has a particular interest in

historic cemeteries, as his mother would take him to different old cemeteries. There they enjoyed learning about the residents while learning more about the history of each location. Tours of Civil War era cemeteries were especially memorable for Alex.

Alex has been hard at work these past few months, completing the necessary string-mowing and pruning of shrubs among other things. As the season



changes, he is looking forward to being able to shift from the larger landscape projects and focus on smaller and more specialized projects. This includes tending to historic plots and, hopefully, a bit of historic marker cleaning.

A good soaking by fall rains will help the landscape crew and the entire cemetery, not to mention the entire community.

*Elizabeth Southworth,
Board Member*

Season Changes

Giffin Glastonbury was our former landscape manager. Before he headed off to graduate school in landscape management, we asked him to write a few words about the cemetery. As you can see, he is a poet at heart, and the cemetery was an inspiration for him. We will miss his influence, but welcome Diego Llewellyn-Jones, the new landscape manager, and Alex Shumaker, new groundskeeper.



As I write this, it is mid-August and it's been smokey here in southeast Eugene. The long season of heat and wildfire is soon coming to an end. Yet my own belly can sense the growling of its hunger which will return next year. I only hope we can all welcome the fall season and start to prepare for winter. Please bring the rains.

Every spring and summer the cemetery experiences an abundance of growth. What has been

dormant beneath the earth now gets a time to rise, to stretch, and dance. Flowers bloom and set seed. Canes grow more thorns, grasses grow tall. Summer is a bit wild, but beautiful.

Many of the native birds, which often serenade in the mornings, make the thickets and tall grasses their nurseries. The babies in their nests, which survived the curious dogs and neighborhood cats, have now had a chance to fledge.

Fall is just around the corner. The once insurmountable abundance of green foliage has begun to fade. The fall landscape starts to move slower above ground; there is a preparation now happening—an inward growth. Under foot, roots, bulbs and seed begin to prepare themselves to overwinter.

Now visitors will experience a different feeling walking through the cemetery. There is a calmness after all the grasses have been mown—it's refreshing to be able to see across the site. With markers, paths and vistas less obscured, the

feeling of clarity and timelessness comes to mind for me, especially when I am present amongst the trees overhead.

This place we call the cemetery is cherished by many and tended daily by the landscape crew. I've enjoyed my opportunity to work for this beautiful site, and I hope you enjoy the cemetery and what the change of seasons may bring.

*Giffin Glastonbury, former
Landscape Manager*

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

(541) 684-0949

Board of Directors

John Bredesen	Elizabeth Southworth
Alex Brokaw	Shawn Walker
Caroline Forell	Charles Wright
Jennifer Geller	Diego Llewellyn-Jones, <i>Landscape Manager</i>
Hallis	Alex Shumaker, <i>Groundskeeper</i>
Catherine Kordesch	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

From the President

This issue of *Monumental News* focuses on the cemetery's landscape, a crucial part of what makes us so unique. As a taphophile (lover of cemeteries), I have visited other historic cemeteries in our community, including Pioneer, Mulkey, Gillespie, Oak Hill, Luper and Pleasant Hill. I find each to be fascinating and distinctive. I recommend that you visit them. None of them, however, has the scope, diversity, and richness of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery's landscape. The variety of vegetation at Mount Pisgah is the closest comparison I can think of. Of course, the big difference from Mount Pisgah is that the Eugene Masonic Cemetery is both an historic and an operating cemetery, and therefore we strive to have the land-

scape accommodate and enhance our plots and monuments.

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery consists of ten and a half acres, with 20 zones of vegetation and over 100 species of native plants. From the camas field by Hope Abbey to the forest in the steep northeast corner, there is so much to appreciate, but also so much to tend. We recently revised our Landscape Management Strategies Plan which provides detailed guidance to our grounds crew. It totals 28 pages, and reading it makes one realize that there is always something that needs attention in a landscape as complex as ours. This

complexity is growing as we deal with the effects of climate change.

Over the years we have been fortunate to have a skilled and devoted landscape crew. The newest addition, Alex Shumaker, is featured in this issue.

Also featured in this issue is Barbara Cowan's article on the Landscape Endowment, one of two endowments that have been created through generous donations from the community. Barbara

and her husband, Rick Larson, have been the driving force behind the Landscape Endowment, the income from which is used for landscape projects, such as redoing the drainage around Hope Abbey last year and addressing erosion issues this year. Donating to this endowment helps ensure that we will be able to handle specific problems that inevitably arise. As our revenue stream from the sale of full body burial lots runs out, there will also be a need to fund the day-to-day landscape maintenance of weeding, mowing, pest control, mulching, vegetation disposal and more. The income from our General Endowment will become critical to maintaining all that has been accomplished since EMCA took over the blackberry and poison oak covered cemetery of 1995.

If you appreciate the natural beauty you experience when you visit the cemetery, please consider donating to EMCA and earmarking your donation for either the Landscape Endowment or the General Endowment. Such donations will help ensure that the cemetery's magnificent landscape continues to be cared for into the future.



Caroline Forell



Landscape view of the cemetery

Caroline Forell,
Board President

What Happened to Music To Die For?

(and where did it come from?)

With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, **Music To Die For** concerts were cancelled for the 2020 and 2021 seasons, much to the disappointment of many. During this time, Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association (EMCA) board member Sheri Pyron, a member of the Blugene Brass group, organized three outdoor concerts in the cemetery's Public Square as a way to keep the musical offerings flowing. Masks and

social distancing made the concept feasible and safe. The most recent concert was a performance by the Oregon Brass Society, held on September 26th.

The inspiration for the free concerts came from the countless hours spent inside Hope Abbey working on various renovation projects. Workers noticed that the hard surfaces of the building provided wonderful acoustics conducive to music. The EMCA was

proud of the restored building and thought hosting concerts would be a way of introducing it to the public.

2012 was the formal beginning of the free musical series whimsically named **Music To Die For**. We had four concerts that year and the next. (We are limited to the summer months because there is no way to heat Hope Abbey.) In 2014, the decision was made to add

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Music On The Square September 26th concert featuring the Oregon Brass Society

John and Denny, *from page 1*

garden cottage.

One of Denny and John's more unusual projects was investigating the construction and interior of the Whiteaker crypt, in which Oregon's first governor and family members are interred. Denny figured out that the 17-inch-thick walls were of concrete, stucco, and brick. To "see" into the crypt's interior, John borrowed a video scope and halogen lighting, video monitors, and a generator to enable the sleuths to virtually peer inside and record the results.

When asked about his most satisfying project, Denny said it was restoring the 82 golden glass clerestory windows in Hope Abbey. It took 14 years—from 2001 to 2014. "The project involved all the ele-

ments of innovation, expertise, and grunt work. John Rose and Pete Lavelle provided the expertise and constructed and installed the windows. I prepared the old window openings (which had all been bricked up) and designed the safety windows installed outside the stained glass. John Rose and I designed the two ceiling relict windows for which no record of the previous design existed. Finally, the project almost paid for itself through window donations. Pretty successful, I think."

As the restoration of Hope Abbey progressed, it became obvious that the mop-sink-toilet room needed attention. And it became John's favorite single project. As John recalled, "a new sink, water heater, lights, ventilation, and updating to ADA (American

Disabilities Act) standards were all challenges met with the help of various contractors. We worked with EWEB to install a new sewer line. I learned a lot about installing cove molding and building closets. Denny helped widen the original door for wheelchairs after the marble doorway was widened. A coat of paint and art on the walls yielded a bathroom to be proud of."

Not only did John and Denny have the expertise to accomplish the restoration work, they both have personalities to foster cooperation and enthusiasm in all the other people who helped bring the projects to completion—be they volunteers, board members, neighbors, or contractors. EMCA has been immensely fortunate to have had their services.

Karen Seidel, Board Secretary

Natural History

It is clear that an old cemetery holds memories of human life. But can the land itself in this same old cemetery also hold memories of its natural history? We believe so.

By all accounts, pioneers arriving in the 1840s found a land that was rich in lakes, rivers, forests and grasses—more than a million acres of grasses in western Oregon alone. The Masonic Cemetery in 1859 was a grassy knoll with a few oak trees and dozens of wildflowers. Within the next several generations, Douglas-firs gained a foothold in the cemetery, as did other oaks, maples, madrone and ponderosa pine. Settlers brought plants to the cemetery—holly, lilacs, ivy, vinca and roses that had crossed the plains with them. Uninvited guests such as blackberry, scotch broom and sweet cherry arrived.

Through neglect and over time, the cemetery became a jungle so dense in places that at one time a junked car was found buried in the underbrush. During the 1990s, a thicket of blackberries was cleared away, uncovering a neatly tended patch of marijuana.

As part of the cemetery's restoration in the 1990s, two important things were accomplished. One was an inventory of the more than 100 species of native plants on the site, a task that revealed the cemetery as an oasis of native plants, the beneficiary of generations of neglect. The second—and ongoing—task was the removal of masses of unwanted invasive plants such as blackberry, ivy and scotch broom, thus revealing a valuable antique landscape obscured through the years.

It would be impossible to recapture the landscape of the cemetery as it existed in 1859. But it is possible, and important, to interpret and to manage the landscape as an

historic cemetery with a unique asset—the native plants that have survived on site through the generations since 1859. These grasses, flowers and trees are a memory of

pioneer times, mixing now with the traditional cemetery plants added by settlers.

Kay Holbo, founder of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

Past, Present, and Future

Today the cemetery's landscape looks very different than it did when it was established in 1859. In particular, the Douglas-fir trees were not present 160 years ago. Similar to Skinner Butte, the hilltop was once an open meadow. One hundred and sixty years from now, will the hilltop still be covered with Douglas-fir trees or with trees suited for a warmer climate?

In 2010, two local experts, botanist Bruce Newhouse and horticulturist Whitey Lueck, discussed the potential impact of global climate change. Bruce explained, "The winters will more than likely get wetter for longer, and the summers drier for longer." We have definitely seen the drier summers, and we hope for the wetter winters.

The warming trend will cause the cemetery's oak savannah to gradually expand uphill, increasing its area. This will also increase

the range of the cemetery's existing upland prairie along with native plants such as mule's ears and rose checker mallow.

Bruce and Whitey both thought a natural disaster such as a strong south wind, a major earthquake or perhaps even a fire would have a greater impact on the cemetery's landscape. They predicted this because most of the cemetery's Douglas-fir trees are showing visible signs of stress caused by damaged leaders and by a debilitating fungal disease called butt rot. Due to their weakened state, any severe weather pattern could easily cause many of them to fall. The recent pruning of some of these trees was in response to this problem.

In spite of the changes over time, the cemetery has small vestiges of landscape that once existed in the valley, which are valued by botanists. It is truly a piece of landscape history.



Open meadow with oak savanna in the background

Landscape Endowment Fund

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery was established by Eugene's founding families on a picturesque 10-acre knoll overlooking the valley floor south of the city's center in 1859.

This once treeless hillside is now home to a mature fir forest and over 100 different native plant species. A well-maintained mile long path system is used by visitors from dawn to dusk seven days a week. The cemetery's landscape staff works to manage the forest and its understory so that it is safe, and welcoming to plot owners as well as the larger Eugene community.

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association (EMCA) was deeded the cemetery by the Masonic Lodge # 11 in 1995 after the Masons struggled for decades to care for the cemetery. At that time, the landscape was largely covered in Himalayan blackberries and poison oak, the minimal path system looked more like deer trails, and the extensive tree canopy required

a team of volunteer arborists to prune out truck-loads of dead wood.

I was invited to join the cemetery board in 1997 with the intent that I would lead the cemetery's landscape restoration. After 10 years of consistent work by the cemetery's Site Manager David Lynch and scores of volunteers, the landscape once again began to attract visitors. Gradually plot sales resumed, and the descendants of pioneer families appreciated the care that the landscape was receiving.

In the following years, a desire grew to establish a landscape endowment in order to ensure the landscape would continue to be well maintained. With this in mind, my husband Richard Larson and I, along with the Larson Foundation, received Board approval to establish a Landscape Endowment fund at the Oregon Community Foundation. Over the years we have continued to contribute to the Foundation. These gifts, com-

bined with others, have grown the Landscape Endowment to \$90,500, making it possible for annual distributions of approximately \$3,000 to be made for specific cemetery projects.

Last year, the fund's interest earnings contributed \$2,856 towards improving the drainage for the Carriage Road. The Site committee's current project is a plan for erosion control on the east and north sides of the cemetery. The plan involves purchasing and planting bushes, ferns and small trees.

The landscape's restoration is truly a wonderful success story, achieved by years of effort by dedicated landscape staff, volunteers and a supportive EMCA Board. To ensure the cemetery's landscape continues to be well maintained for future generations, you can donate to EMCA, noting that your gift is intended for the cemetery's Landscape Endowment fund.

*Barbara Cowan,
former Board Member
and Landscape Chair*



Walkers enjoying the cemetery's paths

Music to Die For, *from page 4*

a concert in October. We've offered these free concerts every year since then until the pandemic hit.

Music To Die For is planned to return next year. To differentiate the outdoor concerts from those held indoors in Hope Abbey, we're calling them **Music On The Square**, and plan to intersperse indoor with outdoor concerts next year. As usual, information about the performances will appear in the cemetery's monthly eNewsletter and on our Facebook page. We hope to see you there.

John Bredesen, Board Member

Recent Contributions

The following individuals and organizations contributed gifts between April 1, 2021 through October 1, 2021. We thank you all.

Monumental Giver (\$2,500+)

Catherine Kordesch
Don Peting
Charles and Leslie Wright

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

Virginia Anderson
John Bredesen and Betsy Halpern
Bob and Alex Brokaw
Marvin and Joan Cypress
Brigid Flannery
Fuki Hisama
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Larson Family Foundation
Eric C. Nill Fund of the OCF

James Northrop
Karen Offen
Karen Seidel
Sue Thompson

Preserver (\$250-\$499)

Martha and William Hall
John Hammer
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Camilla Pratt
Gary Rayer
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Roslyn Slovic
Warren Wong

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Julie V.B. Daniel
Ted and Diane Dearborn
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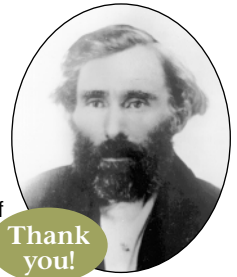
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Gwen Kephart and Herald Kelly
Jane King
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Susan Little
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Joseph and Lauri Vaccher
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Dennis and Rain Westfall

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Doreen Kilen
Sandra Larsen
Debra Monsive
Sara Nagler
Jennifer Peterson
Suzanne Peterson
Helmut Plant
Stephen Ramey



Thank you!

Eugene Skinner

Christopher and Laura Ramey
Ginny Reich
Gregory and Diane Retallack
Charles Ruiz
Peter Saraceno
Tomoko Sekiguchi
Marjorie Smith
Robert B. Stein
Lyndal Stella
Sherrie Taylor
Esther Jacobson Tepfer and Gary Tepfer
Honey Vizer
Chris Waugh
Curtis Willcox
Betty Williamson
Eshkie Zachai
Mark Zorn

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



Gifts in Honor and in Memory

Between April 1, 2021 and October 1, 2021, 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-\$2499)

Bob and Alex Brokaw in memory of Barbara and Harold Butler and Olivia Helene Brokaw
Marvin and Joan Cypress in honor of Wendi Kuchera
Brigid Flannery in memory of Dan Slovic for the landscape
Fuki Hisama in memory of Toshiaki Hisama, Ph.D.

Karen Offen in memory of Samantha Almira Cornell McAlister

Preserver (\$250-\$499)

Martha and William Hall in memory of the Benner family
John Hammer in memory of Wyman and Mary Hammer
Rebecca Weedon Lacy in memory of Bob, Jonnie and Sam Lacy

Camilla Pratt in memory of Flo Alvergue
Gary Rayer in memory of Sam Rayer
Roslyn Slovic in memory of Daniel Slovic
Warren Wong in memory of Bella

Sponsor (\$100-\$249)

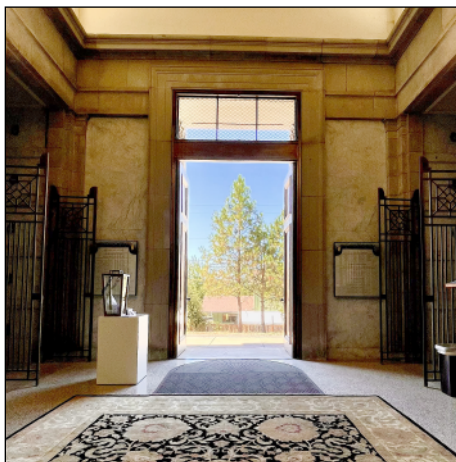
Sandra Austin in memory of Fred Austin

George Baker in memory of Elma Baker
Jerry and Vikki Chrostek in memory of Buddy, Guy, Jack and Tucker
Deborah Cordell in memory of Andrew Piercy
John Delay in memory of Brigitte Rachel Foster in memory of Fred Austin
Sarah Klinghammer in memory of Dan Klinghammer
Judy Wood Lyons in memory of William and Sally Wood and John Lowell Wood
Margie Myska in memory of Steve Christianson
Stanley and Cathy Paine in honor of Denny Hellesvig
Linda Pentz in honor of Denny Hellesvig
Lisa Ponder in memory of Roberta Bishop Johnson, Esq.
Paul Sakamoto in memory of the Eastland family
Sharon Schuman in memory of David Schuman
Jacqueline Manley and Dale Taylor in memory of John and Lorraine Taylor
Jan Vitus in honor of C. James Vitus
Barbara West in memory of the Bargers

Newton Frazer, Sr.
Carol Highland-Fritz in memory of Richard Highland
Doreen Kilen in memory of Bruce Kilen
Sandra Larsen in memory of Keith Christensen
Sara Nagler in memory of Elliot J. Nagler
Helmut Plant in memory of Carol Hamrick Plant
Stephen Ramey in memory of Paul Ramey
Christopher and Laura Ramey in memory of Calvin, the dog
Ginny Reich in memory of the Robert Clark family
Marjorie Smith in memory of Edwin R. Smith
Robert B. Stein in memory of Muriel and Michael Weyl
Lyndal Stella in honor of Thomas B. Anderson
Sherrie Taylor in memory of Linda McClellan
Betty Williamson in memory of Doug Williamson



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.

Recent In-kind Contributions

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

Dale Forrest
Historic Preservation Northwest
Lane Forest Products
QSL Printing
Sanipac

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*Newsletter by Betsy Halpern
and Beneda Design*

Donate with



Now's Your Chance

Opportunity is knocking.

Here's the story.

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association (EMCA) was set up to operate a cemetery and also to preserve a community treasure. We're a small operation, and we can't afford an Executive Director, so much of what an ED would do falls to the volunteer board. That actually makes being on the board more fun, because we know we make a real difference.

Our current board members are a congenial bunch, with a variety of personal and professional backgrounds and skills. Our reasons for serving include having relatives buried in the cemetery, loving its landscape, valuing its historic qualities, and simply wanting to be useful in this world. Collectively, we've made enormous progress in the past 25 years, but some of us are now getting old.

The board needs new blood and an energy boost to build for the future, and to fill some key roles. We could use a new treasurer and historian now and probably a webmaster and a secretary in the coming years, as well as some younger board members to create continuity and bring new ideas. How young is

young? I remember having lots of energy in my 60s.

There's no fixed financial cost associated with board membership—just some time and energy, rewarded by a good feeling. If this sort of meaningful activity appeals to you, we'd like to get to know you better. We'll even buy you coffee or a glass of something. If interested, please send an email to cforell@uoregon.edu or wright@uoregon.edu. If you already know a board member, just give that person a call. We look forward to getting together with you to discuss where your talents and interests fit with our organization. — *Charley Wright, Board Member*

To Our Readers

If you would like to receive EMCA's monthly eNewsletter, go to the EMCA's website. On the pull down menu, click **About Us** and then **EMCA publications**. At the bottom of the page is a link to sign up.

The digital version of this newsletter is at
www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org