



April, 2023

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



Music at the Eugene Masonic Cemetery



We're ready with a full schedule of live music at the Eugene Masonic Cemetery. Your favorites: *Music to Die For* and the outdoor *Music On the Square*. You'll find full information on both programs below.

"Last Sunday" Open House

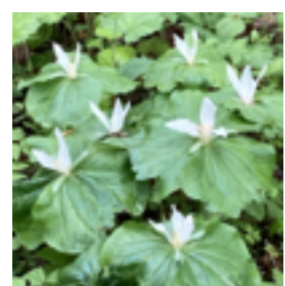


We'll be hosting our monthly "Last Sunday" Open House this coming Sunday, April 30, in Hope Abbey Mausoleum. The doors will be open for visitors from 1 to 4 p.m., and there will be two knowledgeable Board members present to answer questions about the mausoleum and the cemetery grounds.

Please park on city streets because there is no general public parking on the cemetery grounds. Hope Abbey is the large concrete structure at the end of E. 26th.

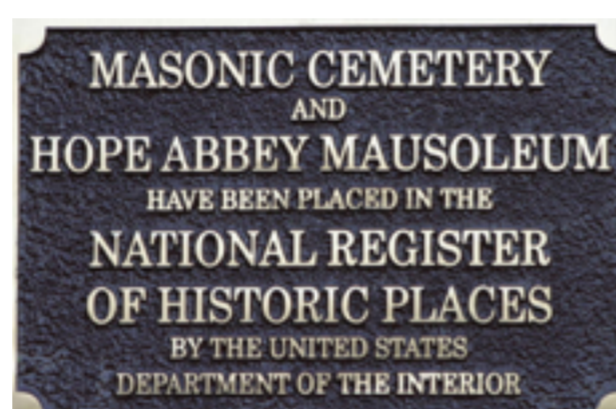
It will be light out after the open house, so read on for another attraction in the cemetery.

Time for a Walk in the Cemetery



If you can find some time to get outside in between the rain showers, this is a good time to visit the cemetery. In addition to the cultivated flowers that are blooming such as daffodils, and hellebores, the native plants are starting their flowering season. A recent walk revealed large plots of fawn lilies with their mottled leaves. The trilliums are about at their peak, their three-part leaves and flowers easy to recognize. The camas field near Hope Abbey will soon be at its prime. And others such as candy flower, larkspur and Oregon grape are just waiting for a little more warmth and sun before they burst into bloom. We invite you to come and enjoy the natural beauty of the cemetery.

A Brief History & the Future



When created by Masonic Lodge #11 A.F. & A.M. in 1859 (the same year that Oregon became a state), the cemetery was two and one-half miles from Eugene City. It's doubtful that the cemetery's founders could have foreseen the building of Hope Abbey Mausoleum in 1913, the extensive Douglas-fir canopy that graces the site today, or the encirclement of the cemetery by dense residential development and busy city streets. The natural, social, and economic forces that brought all this about would have been just as difficult to forecast in 1859 as it is for us now to crystal-ball the conditions that will shape the cemetery in the future.

Presently, in 2023, the cemetery and Hope Abbey are in a healthy state, both physically and financially. The grounds are well maintained, and Hope Abbey is once again a place of serenity and beauty with stained glass windows created and installed by local artist John Rose. Since the formation of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association (EMCA), which assumed ownership of the cemetery in 1994, a lot of hard work has successfully returned the site to what it was meant to be: a dignified final resting place for those who have passed on. The space also gives the feeling of a peaceful city park for the many people who walk the manicured paths, enjoy the wildflowers, and contemplate nature.

So what is the future? What needs to be done to continue maintaining the landscape, Hope Abbey, and the cemetery's historic significance? Many, if not most, of the problems prior to assuming ownership in 1994 resulted from neglect caused by lack of funds, lack of manpower, and lack of leadership. Today, EMCA's two part-time groundskeepers, an administrator/sexton, and dedicated board of directors have shown that the buildings and grounds can be satisfactorily maintained. The challenge for us is to assure that the cemetery continues in this fashion far into the future. The Board of Directors is well aware of this and is developing plans.

Contemporary attitudes about appropriate burial are moving more and more towards cremation, especially on the West Coast and in some New England states. Cremation rates in Oregon are forecast to rise from 57 percent in 2009 to as much as 65 percent by 2025. Hope Abbey still has a number of niches available for cremains, and our policies allow for ground burial as well. We can add more space for cremains both inside and outside Hope Abbey, but ground space for full casket burials is depleting rapidly. You can find more information [here](#).

Oregon's Commission on Historic Cemeteries has called EMCA "a good example of how to run a historic cemetery." If you've visited recently, you know how important an asset the Masonic Cemetery is to the surrounding neighborhood and the city. Our task is to carry on and sustain the work that has been accomplished in the past 29 years. There is a sealed cavity inside Hope Abbey that's not supposed to be opened until 2914. When that year arrives, we want Eugene to still be proud of the historic cemetery at 25th and University streets.

Music To Die For



Music To Die For Concert Series 2023

June 11: Linda Danielson, fiddle, and Janet Naylor, Celtic harp
July 9: Clefs of Insanity: an a cappella ensemble
August 13: David Gross: guitar and vocal, with featured guests
September 10: vocalist, horn, violin, and piano
October 15: The Ineffable Bassoon Trio (enough said)

This first concert of 2023 will feature Linda Danielson and Janet Naylor. Janet will bring her Celtic harp, with Linda featured on the fiddle. That's June 11th.

Concerts begin at 2 p.m. and finish about 3 p.m. Hope Abbey will remain open for visitors until 4 p.m., so plan on staying after the concert if you wish.

Music on the Square



The musical offerings by the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association are expanding. We've experimented with presenting live music in the Public Square at the top of the hill in past summer seasons. These worked so well that we've programmed a full season of outdoor music. Thanks to Board Member Sheri Pyron, we have a delightful summer series of *Music on the Square*. Please note that these outdoor programs are separate

from the *Music To Die For* performances held in Hope Abbey. These outdoor concerts will begin at 6 p.m.

As always, both *Music On The Square* and *Music To Die For* are free, but donations are gladly accepted for cemetery maintenance.

Here's what's coming up.

Music on The Square Concert Series 2023

May 28: (Memorial Day) Blugene Brass with Shirley Adress, vocalist
June 4: Oregon Brass Society
July 2: Swing Shift
August 6: Kef Balkan Band
September: 24 Blugene Brass
All Concerts begin at 6 PM

John Bredesen, eNewsletter Editor
Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

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Mission Statement

To restore, rehabilitate, maintain, interpret and operate the historic Eugene Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum as a cultural and natural resource for the community.

The cemetery is operated for the public benefit,
but it is private property.
(A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization)



Eugene Masonic Cemetery
ASSOCIATION

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