



August, 2021

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



Last Sunday Open House

We will be hosting our regular Last Sunday Open House on August 29th. It's an opportunity to visit inside the beautifully restored 1914 Hope Abbey Mausoleum. The doors will be open from 1 to 4 PM, Sunday, August 29th.

There will be two cemetery board members on hand to answer questions you might have about the historic building, as well as the cemetery itself. **Masking WILL be required because of growing concern about the Delta variant.**

The President's Corner

As the days grow shorter and the nights cooler, I have been reflecting on how much EMCA has to be grateful for this summer.

We said goodbye to Giffin Glastonbury in mid-August as he headed off to graduate school in landscape architecture. We are grateful for his short, but very productive tenure as landscape manager. We are fortunate that our new landscape manager, Diego Llewelyn-Jones, is no stranger to the cemetery and that the transition, despite Diego's almost healed broken ankle, was seamless. Giffin and Diego, along with our new groundskeeper, Alex Shumaker, have transformed the cemetery by mowing the entire area. Now the markers, many of which have been recently repaired, are once again visible. The landscape team also supervised the removal of diseased trees and ladder fuels to reduce fire risk.

Regarding fire risk, we are very grateful that a neighbor spotted smoke and flames coming from a wood chip pile early on the morning of July 30th, and called the fire department. They quickly put out the fire which hadn't spread. It was arson, something we must all be vigilant about. Officials tell us there have been a spate of arson incidents in Eugene this summer. Fortunately, there have been no further ones in the cemetery.

Finally, we are especially grateful to generous board members and friends who have funded several internal Hope Abbey projects. As a result, the inside of the abbey is complete and looks wonderful. However, an historic building like Hope Abbey has hidden issues as well, as we recently discovered. An inspection revealed that exterior concrete is weathering and that there is a need for extensive repairs to prevent serious moisture damage. Please see the following article for more information.

Our employees, friends, neighbors, and present and former board members continue to help make the cemetery and abbey better and better. Thank you, all.

By Caroline Forell, Board President

Hope Abbey External Repairs



Don't be surprised if you see a man in a cherry picker working on the outside of Hope Abbey. It's all part of a project to help the historic mausoleum live at least another century.

Hope Abbey, a nearly 2,000-square-foot mausoleum, was designed by Ellis Lawrence and dedicated in 1914. It's a splendid example of "Egyptian" architecture—an early 20th century period style frequently used for funerary architecture elsewhere, but only rarely seen in Oregon. It may also be the oldest concrete bearing wall structure in Eugene.

The mausoleum's exterior details feature traditional Egyptian funerary symbols, such as papyrus bundles, lotus-blossom urns and, above its magnificent entrance, a solar disc with snakes and outstretched wings on each side. (See photo at top of this eNewsletter.) Along the entire exterior wall is a cavetto molding, fluted and curved out, adding to the building's character.

These details, and others, are now weathering, and in need of attention. If you've been inside Hope Abbey in the past few years—for example at a *Music To Die For* concert—you'll have seen how restoration projects have brought out the beauty of the marble. This spring's interior work, besides repairing the results of severe past vandalism, dealt with water damage on the structure.

The focus this fall is on how water affects the outside of the building. There are still a few roof leaks where earlier repairs have failed. There are places where moisture—it does sometimes rain in Oregon—has caused wall faces to spall and need repair. The major part of the project, in worker time and cost, is the re-pointing of the joints between the cast stone blocks, especially those cavetto pieces in the decorative band around the building.

This is not the first time those joints have been re-pointed. Mortar doesn't last forever. One of the first projects when the EMCA took over the cemetery in the late 90s was to replace mortar that had weathered and was subjecting the 1913 cast stone to water damage. Unfortunately, the masons used inappropriate modern mortar. Newer isn't always better, and the mismatch in moisture response between the old blocks and the new mortar has led to damage from freezing, among other things.

Something had to be done. Thanks to a couple of generous donors, this time we've been able to hire experts in historic rehab work, the same folks who did such a great job inside the building. When you see people on the roof or riding in an elevated bucket, chiseling out and replacing mortar, you can be sure they know exactly what they're doing. When they're finished, Hope Abbey will be set to withstand the elements for another hundred years.

By Don Peting and Charley Wright, EMCA Board Members

Music On The Square—Oregon Brass Society

It's still too early to return to the traditional *Music To Die For* setting inside Hope Abbey because of the continuing spread of the Delta variant. However, fellow EMCA Board member Sheri Pyron has recently presented two delightful musical programs outdoors in the public square. We intend to build on this success.

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association will present a concert next month as part of the continuing efforts to present live and free music in a setting that's appropriate for all who are vaccinated. It's called *Music On The Square*.

You'll hear more about it next month, but I can tell you it's an old-fashioned British Brass Band, also known as the Oregon Brass Society. The concert will be Sunday, September 26, 5:30 to 7 PM on the public square at the top of the hill. And we're also working on a program for the end of October.

REMEMBER THAT THE MASONIC CEMETERY

- Is privately owned, but opens its grounds to the public, subject to COVID-19 safeguards.
- Is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is not subsidized by the city of Eugene.
- Is eligible for the Oregon Cultural Trust match.
- Has a website, eugenemasoniccemetery.org, with lots of information about the cemetery.
- Has free informational brochures available at the Garden Cottage, including a walking tour.
- Has burial rights and cremains space for sale. Contact Sally Dietrich at (541) 684-0949 or [by email](mailto:sally@eugenemasoniccemetery.org).
- Uses PayPal for on-line donations. Please [click here](#) to donate.

John Bredesen, eNewsletter Editor
Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association

Please Donate

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

Visit our website