



January, 2023

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



Last Sunday Open House



We'll be hosting the Last Sunday Open House this coming Sunday, January 29. 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 parking on the cemetery grounds.

Music To Die For



Music To Die For will return on June 11, at 2 PM. You can mark your calendar!

This first concert of 2023 will feature Linda Danielson and Janet Naylor. Janet will bring her celtic Harp with Linda featured on the fiddle.

The duo have played together in a wide variety of settings over many years, including in the English-Scottish dance band Flying Haggis, and as The Celtic Tradition at the Winston, Oregon, Celtic Highland Games. They have appeared at the Eugene Scottish Festival, Irish Festival, Saturday Market and Holiday Market. Their music ranges widely through the songs and tunes of Ireland, Scotland and England, with excursions into the Scandinavian countries and northern Spain. They last performed in the Music to Die For series in 2017.

Further performances for the summer will be listed here and on our Facebook page as they become available. Concerts will finish at about 3 p.m., but Hope Abbey will remain open for visiting for an hour after the concert, so plan on staying after the concert if you wish.

New EMCA Members

At the last EMCA board meeting, we had the privilege of welcoming two new and talented people to the cemetery roster.



Beatrice McKenzie is joining us as the newest member in the organization. Beatrice is a retired professor of history, and joins us a new board member. She recently retired from Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin, but has her Ph.D. from the University of Oregon. With her background in history, we're looking forward to her help with our archive collection.



Jackson Kopka comes to us from Michigan where he earned a BS in environmental science from the University of Michigan. He has years of experience in farming, grounds-keeping and landscaping. He joins with our Landscape Manager Diego Llewellyn-Jones, to continue the task of maintaining and enhancing the cemetery grounds, an activity with increasing importance now that we are a registered arboretum. Diego is on the left in the photo, with Jackson on the right. Please say

"hello" to them if you see them on the grounds.

Groundhog Day



The goal of the Eugene Obsidians is to educate the general public about the physical, biological and cultural features of the mountains, forests, waterways and trails of the Northwest. One of their annual hiking traditions is to visit the Masonic Cemetery on Groundhog day to check out the results of the animal's west coast appearance. This will happen, naturally, on February 2nd. Here's a short report from the 2020 hike.

Yes! We spotted the groundhog on a low tree branch in the Masonic Cemetery. Quietly we watched and took photos. Grandson Henry and I approached for a closer look. When Henry realized the true nature of the groundhog, he held it up and shouted, "It's a puppet!" Bamboozled expressions and laughter best describe this wildlife sighting. There were so many flowers blooming in the Masonic Cemetery that it was hard to believe that the groundhog's shadow predicated a late spring, but it did snow the next morning.

If you're interested in a fun walk, you should contact Janet Jacobson at (541) 206-1251. You must be registered to participate. And since the critter is becoming increasingly difficult to spot, a special member of the cemetery staff will accompany the tour.

Hope Abbey Memorial Windows for Sale

By Denny Hellesvig, EMCA Board Member



Back in 2001, the EMCA embarked on a long range project, the replacement of all the vandalized stained windows in Hope Abbey. We started by reopening all the bricked up openings and installing security windows to prevent future vandalism. Our intent is to sell all the windows as memorials to fund the project. When all the windows are sold, those sales will fully fund the project, and free up the original investment for use in other mausoleum projects.

About seven years ago we finished the last window. Since 2001, when the project began, most of the windows had been sold as memorials as they were completed, as can be seen on the two donor recognition boards flanking the entrance doors. John Rose, our stained glass expert, designed and constructed the donor boards and with the help of Pete LaVelle fabricated and installed all the windows.

You still have a chance to provide a lasting window memorial for a relative or friend.

Of the original 62 clerestory windows, there are a few unsold. We sell these for \$500, and the names of the donor and the person honored or memorialized are placed on the south donor board.

Of the original 10 lower tier medium-sized windows, there are 4 left. We sell these for \$1,000, and the names of the donor and the person honored or memorialized are placed on the north donor board, and an individual plaque is mounted on the wall under the window.

Of the original 2 lower-tier, large-sized windows, there is one left. These sell for \$2,000, and the names of the donor and the person honored or memorialized are placed on the north donor board and an individual plaque is mounted on the wall under the window.

When these are gone there will be no new window memorials, but there will be several places for memorial plaques throughout the cemetery. Please help us finish funding this project by contacting me, Denny Hellesvig. I can be reached at (541) 485-6124.

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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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