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March, 2021

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



Last Sunday Open House



March 28th, 1 to 4 PM

With the improving Covid-19 situation, and following State & CDC guidelines, we've determined that we can resume the open house event that we call the Last Sunday. It's an opportunity to visit inside the beautifully restored 1914 Hope Abbey Mausoleum.

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. We'll require the normal Covid-19 safety precautions such as wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing. The lavatory, unfortunately, will NOT be open for the public.

There are no scheduled indoor *Music To Die For* concerts yet, but soon we will have news of an outdoor concert. It will be held on the Public Square on the Sunday before Memorial Day, May 30th. Details next month.

Influences of the Rural Cemetery Movement in the Eugene Masonic Cemetery

By Elizabeth Southworth

In her introduction to the booklet *Full of Life, the History and Character of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery*, Kay Holbo writes: "It started with ideas the

settlers brought with them from the East. In 1859, leaders of Eugene Lodge #11 A.F. and A.M. laid out the new cemetery in the fashion of what was then known as the Rural Cemetery Movement—an orderly grid of plots with wide paths for leisurely strolling, and with a square in the center of the site to be used for public gatherings. The emphasis was upon providing a space where the beauty of nature became a part of the memorial for the dead.” This grid is used as a map of our cemetery today and can be seen, with the additions of roadways and structures, on the entrance signs to the cemetery.

Much has been written about the Rural Cemetery Movement which flourished in the mid to late 19th century. The movement was influenced by changing attitudes about death and the afterlife, as well as by English landscape styles seen in 18th century landscape architect Capability Brown’s work. These, and other trends of the times, play out in the use of natural and classical imagery in the elaborately carved grave markers and monuments, many of which can be found in the Eugene Masonic Cemetery. Carved flowers, trees and lambs adorn many of the old markers. Large obelisks with images of classical forms such draped urns can also be found. The cost of these monuments was prohibitive, and only the very well-to-do could afford them. Those who could not afford marble or granite monuments used wooden markers, which rotted over time. There are many interments in the Eugene Masonic Cemetery with no marker at all because of this very natural phenomenon.

Times change, tastes change, and public opinion changes as well. The Rural Cemetery Movement faded away as cemeteries all over the country, including ours, confronted the reality of declining interest in private upkeep of each plot. What are known as ‘lawn cemeteries’ emerged as the dominant type of cemetery in the mid-twentieth century because of the ease of maintenance, in addition to shifts in attitudes towards death. The mausoleum at the Eugene Masonic Cemetery represents a major shift in local burial style.

An application for inclusion of both the cemetery and Hope Abbey mausoleum in the National Register of Historic Places was filed and granted in 1980. The application itself describes the grid and stylized markers, although the terminology used was that of a “Victorian” cemetery rather than a Rural Cemetery. Some sources use the two terms interchangeably. In 1999, Oregon legislation defined a “Pioneer Cemetery” as one having at least one person who died before 1909. The Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries was created by the same Act, but now uses the term “Historic Cemetery” as a more inclusive term. The Eugene Masonic Cemetery is registered with the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries as a Historic Cemetery.

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery is an active cemetery, and is anything but a lawn cemetery. New monuments and markers reflect the personality and character of those who have chosen the cemetery as their final resting place and who have embraced the earlier relationship with death. The landscape has undergone a transformation from Oak Savannah to the primarily forested

site you see today. The pathways run through the living monument of nature, past historic and modern markers. The sense of peace and closeness to those who are interred in the cemetery remains.

Landscape Crew



We have been fortunate to have had the cemetery's beautiful landscape lovingly tended by Wendi Kuchera for thirteen years. Wendi left us at the end of February, but not before training our former groundskeeper, and now new landscape manager, Giffin Glastonbury (on right). His work with Wendi, and previous experience managing diverse landscapes, has enabled Giffin to confidently step into Wendi's giant shoes.

Replacing him as groundskeeper is Diego Llewellyn-Jones (on left) who is also no stranger to the cemetery. Diego worked for us previously as a groundskeeper before he spent some time overseas. We are thrilled to have Giffin and Diego as our landscape dynamic duo!

Amazon Smile

Many of you have an account with Amazon. But did you know they have a program to help support charitable organizations? It's called Amazon Smile.

Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Eugene Masonic Cemetery every time you shop at Amazon, at no cost to you. When you purchase at Amazon Smile, you'll find the exact same prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon, with the bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the EMCA if you so designate us as the recipient charity.

To use Amazon Smile, go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at Amazon Smile. You use the same account on Amazon.com and Amazon Smile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

More information about the program can be found by [clicking here](#).

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 and cremains space for sale. Contact Sally Dietrich at (541) 684-0949 or by email clicking [here](#).
- 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

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