



March, 2022

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



Last Sunday Open House



We will be hosting our regular Last Sunday Open House this coming Sunday. It's an opportunity to visit the inside of the beautifully restored 1914 Hope Abbey Mausoleum. The doors will be open from 1 to 4 PM, Sunday, March 27, 2022.

There will be two knowledgeable people on hand to answer questions you might have about the historic building, as well as the cemetery itself. Masks will be optional in the building. Please park on city streets because there is no parking on the cemetery grounds.

Music To Die For—2022



Music to Die For is a free, all-acoustic summer concert series in Hope Abbey. The hour-long concerts are held at 2 pm on the last Sunday of each month, from June through October. Although MTDf was cancelled for two years, we're planning a full schedule beginning in June, but with reduced attendance. Details will be available in this eNewsletter and our Facebook page when available.

Monument Restoration Contractor



Over 20 years ago, a University class project, led by Sally Donovan, a Preservation Program adjunct faculty member whose professional work largely focused on cemetery preservation, taught a class that did a fairly comprehensive study of the location and condition of many of the grave markers in the Eugene Masonic Cemetery.

More recently, David Pinyerd and Bernadette Niederer, both outstanding graduates of the UO Masters Preservation Program, have been on contract with the EMCA as Preservation Northwest from Albany, for the purpose of reviewing that initial study. They have been documenting the changes over time, finding missing or erroneous information and logging all significant

information electronically.

Before Sally Donovan retired due to illness, she and her husband, Bruce Howard, trained Pinyerd and Niederer to insure the continuation of this much neglected cemetery preservation work. Besides passing on their vast knowledge, they gave Preservation Northwest their unique tools and supplies. "Sally and Bruce were good friends, and we are honored to carry on their preservation legacy," said Pinyerd.

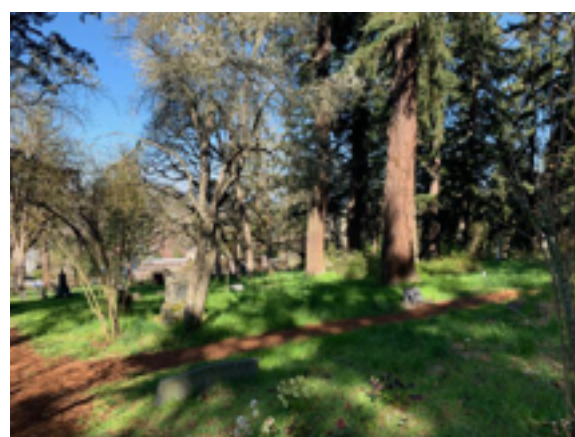
While this is a relatively new aspect to Preservation Northwest's traditional work of building assessments and National Register Nominations, they see substantial need of cemetery preservation around the Pacific Northwest. They are pleased to have this opportunity to work in the remarkable Eugene Masonic Cemetery. "Working on 150-year-old headstones, tangible pieces of Eugene's history, is so humbling. The support of visitors and the cemetery board is extremely gratifying," said Pinyerd.

The computerized study is still only partly finished because, equally important to the plot study and condition assessment, Pinyerd and Niederer are carefully excavating around burial plots as they repair broken headstones and bases that have suffered during the decades of minimal care or neglect. As they level stones and bases (some are 300 or 400 lbs, see photo), they are also excavating around the graves to find missing pieces and footstones, and making important discoveries for the comprehensive site study. They have mastered many of the most effective repair techniques, while correcting previously done repair work that has proved to be ineffective over time.

You may see them working during normally sunny days when the weather permits the use of bonding materials and subsurface excavation. They might even ask you to get them a few wheelbarrows of gravel!

By Don Peting, Board Member

Climate Change Implications



If you take a walk through the cemetery sometime this year, the landscape you'll see is very different than it was when it officially became Eugene's first incorporated cemetery in 1859. In particular, the Douglas-fir canopy did not exist 160 years ago. Similar to Skinner Butte, the hilltop was once an open meadow.

One hundred sixty years from now, will the cemetery's hilltop still be covered with Douglas-fir trees, or will palm trees, suited for a vastly warmer climate, be growing there instead? And what about the cemetery's mid-story? Will cholla cactus take the place of vine maple? And will bougainvillea take the place of wild honeysuckle?

In the immediate future, a natural disaster, such as a violent storm, a major earthquake, or perhaps even a fire, is likely to have a greater impact on the landscape. The dry conditions that have now existed for over a decade have affected the survival rate of the Douglas-fir trees more than Butt Rot, though the combination of the two is clearly making it even more difficult for them to survive. Due to their present weakened state, a severe weather pattern could easily cause many of them to fall. Several years ago, a strong windstorm unexpectedly brought down one of the mature trees.

Climate change will impact all living things. We can make predictions about the cemetery landscape, but we don't know for sure about future changes. One thing we can promise you is that the EMCA is dedicated to caring for our beautiful 10 acres. Our project of obtaining certification as an arboretum is one example of our dedication.

From an article by Barbara Cowen, former board member
Originally printed in the Monumental News.

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 map.
- 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.
- Archives issues of both newsletters.

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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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