



March, 2024

## Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



### "Last Sunday" Open House



We'll be hosting our monthly "Last Sunday" Open House this coming Sunday, March 31, 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.

### 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 165 years ago. Similar to Skinner Butte, the hilltop was once an open meadow. One hundred sixty five 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 ten acres. Our 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.

### Music To Die For



#### Music To Die For Concert Series 2024

June 9: Carleen & Mike McCornack with Dale Bradley  
July 14: TBA  
August 11: Wild Hog in the Woods  
September 8: Violin Ensemble  
October 13: Recorder Orchestra

The free concerts begin at 2 p.m. and finish about an hour later.

### Music on the Square



The Riverside Chamber Symphony, led by Philip Bayles, will kick off the *Music On The Square* music series for 2024. The 30-piece ensemble is made up of advanced non-professional players from around the region.

They will play at the Eugene Masonic Cemetery on the Public Square on Memorial Day weekend at 6 p.m. Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. More information on the concert will be forthcoming in this newsletter next month.

Information on both of these free concert series will be listed here and on our Facebook page as we get closer to the performance date.

### Some Cemetery Thoughts

A cemetery shouldn't be a place of sorrow, but a place of remembrance, filled with stories whispered by the wind and celebrated with colorful stones of love. It is a happy reminder that even though people are gone, the joy, the sorrow and love they brought to the world lives on.

In any cemetery, including ours, most headstones tell us names and dates. Some are more creative and go beyond the basics, such as heartbreaking stories of children who have succumbed to cancer, or young soldiers who have not made it home from war. Other inscriptions lean in another direction and give a clue to the thinking of those whose lives are thereby commemorated.

How could you not share in the joy of the couple who designed their own headstone reading, "Come Join Us In Our New Place!"  
Or the tombstone which reads, "I Told You I Was Sick."

For more insight about some tombstones in the Masonic Cemetery, I invite you to [click here](#). This will open the front page of the Spring 2021 issue of *Monumental News*, our semiannual paper newsletter, and an article by deceased board member, Karen Seidel.

I also invite you to explore the extensive website hosted by the Eugene Masonic Cemetery, which is kept up to date by our webmaster, board member Charley Wright. You can get to the site by [clicking here](#),

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

[Visit our website](#)

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