



November, 2022

## Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



### Last Sunday Open House



We'll be hosting the Last Sunday Open House this coming Sunday, November 27. It will be the **last** open house for 2022. We do not have an open house in December.

The doors will be open for visitors from 1 PM to 4 PM, and there will be two knowledgeable Board member present to answer questions about the mausoleum and the cemetery grounds.

*Music To Die For* has completed its musical run for 2022. It will return next year on June 11 at 2 PM. You can mark your calendar.

Please park on city streets because there is no parking on the cemetery grounds.

### Thanksgiving by the Numbers The President's Corner



It's Thanksgiving and the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association has so much to be thankful for.

EMCA is thankful that Eugene Skinner, along with his wife Mary, founded Eugene; both are cemetery residents. Eugene Skinner was the **first** Mason in Eugene and in **1859**, the same year Oregon became a state, helped obtain the **ten** acres that form the Eugene Masonic Cemetery. Members of the Masonic

Lodge **#11** purchased the property for **\$336** from Fielding McMurry.

EMCA is thankful the Masons paid the Portland Mausoleum Company **\$40,000** and hired Ellis F. Lawrence to design the **250**-crypt, Egyptian-Revival-style Hope Abbey Mausoleum. The building was dedicated in **1914**. EMCA hosts **Last** Sunday open houses in Hope Abbey from **1 p.m. to 4 p.m.** every month of the year except in December. Thanks in large part to the efforts of our board member and past president, John Bredesen, EMCA also hosts **five, one-hour, Music To Die For** concerts in the abbey from **2 to 3 p.m.** on the **second** Sunday of the months of June through October. Next year, thanks to board member Sheri Pyron, EMCA plans to also host **four Concerts on the Square**.

EMCA is thankful for its founding mother, Kay Holbo, who, along with **eight** other board members, assumed ownership of the cemetery and abbey from the Masons in **1994**. Our current treasurer, Hallis, the great-great-granddaughter of Fielding McMurry, was **one** of those founding board members. EMCA continues to be thankful for its hard-working board of directors, currently **15** people strong. We are also thankful for our **three** amazing part-time employees: Administrator Sally Dietrich, Landscape Manager Diego Llewellyn-Jones, and Groundskeeper, Alex Shumaker, who, sadly, is soon to be leaving us. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in the groundskeeper position, contact Diego at [landscape1emca@gmail.com](mailto:landscape1emca@gmail.com).

There are more numbers we are thankful for. Thanks to another volunteer, we send you **12** eNewsletters a year. Thanks to volunteer Betsy Halpern, we publish **two, six-page Monumental News** newsletters a year. Thanks especially to the efforts of board member Shawn Walker, we are now the **second** accredited arboretum in the Eugene-Springfield area (Mount Pisgah is the **first**). So far this year, we have cataloged **260** trees with many more to be added. We are also thankful to Dave Pinyard and Bernadette Niederer for repairing **96** markers this year.

Last, but not least, we thank our donors. We **count** on you to keep our financial numbers in the black, especially now that the number of full-body burial plots for sale will soon be **zero**.

By Caroline Forell

### Hope Abbey Time Capsule



One frequently asked question during our monthly Last Sunday Open House events relates to the 1914 time capsule inside Hope Abbey Mausoleum. Check it out the next time you're in there. Below is an article originally published in the Fall 2014 edition of the *Monumental News*.

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The 100th anniversary of the dedication of Hope Abbey was celebrated last Memorial Day weekend. As part of the mausoleum's re-dedication, visitors were invited to suggest additional materials, representative of life in present-day Eugene, to place in the original 1914 time capsule, i.e., the cremains crypt that contains photographs and historical documents portraying local life in that day. (The current exercise was hypothetical, as the sealed crypt specifies that it is not to be opened until 2914.)

Responses from Memorial Day guests clearly represented a cross-section of today's community. Replies from civic minded individuals captured our major public policy issues. They suggested articles about climate change and global warming, NSA surveillance tapes, a sign from the GMO labeling rally, a newspaper from the day Obama was elected president, records about the condition of American prisons, and a copy of Eugene's first same-sex marriage certificate.

Eugene technophiles listed iPhones and iPods, although they didn't address how batteries would still function 900 years from now. Bibliophiles wanted Oregon authors to be represented—Barry Lopez, William Stafford, and "Frog"—as well as the "Twilight" books and the APUSH review books (covering U.S. history for the Advanced Placement exams). Additional "only in Eugene" suggestions were a pair of Nike running shoes, a tie-dye T-shirt, and UO campus pictures.

Many responses focused on the cemetery itself. They included photos of the site and "all the beautiful trees that have grown there," a Register-Guard article about the restoration of the cemetery, a copy of the Hope Abbey re-dedication program, and a "photograph of the individuals who have worked so tirelessly to recover and restore this cemetery and mausoleum."

The editor's favorite response came from Soren (age 5), who suggested "the U.S. flag picture I drew."

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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