



September, 2021

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



Last Sunday Open House

We will be hosting our regular Last Sunday Open House on September 26th. It's an opportunity to visit inside the beautifully restored 1914 Hope Abbey Mausoleum. The doors will be open from 1 to 4 PM, Sunday, September 26th.

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. **Masking WILL be required because of growing concern about the Delta variant.**

Don't forget the *Music On The Square* concert at 5:30 later in the afternoon up the hill in the cemetery's Public Square. Details are below.

Music On The Square—Oregon Brass Society Sunday, September 26th at 5:30



It's still too early to return to the traditional *Music To Die For* setting inside Hope Abbey because of the continuing spread of the Delta variant virus. However, EMCA Board member Sheri Pyron has presented two very delightful musical programs outdoors on the public square. We intend to build on this success.

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association will present a concert this month as part of the continuing efforts to present live and free music in a setting that's appropriate for all who are vaccinated. It's called *Music On The Square*. The concert will be Sunday, September 26, 5:30 to 7 PM on the cemetery's Public Square at the top of the hill.

The Oregon Brass Society (OBS) was formed in 2003 by three local musicians and is Oregon's only British-style brass band. The brass band movement began in England in the early 1800s as factory, mining, or town ensembles. The instruments in a British-style brass band differ significantly from American bands, not only for the absence of woodwinds, but also for the types and sounds of brass instruments used. With the exception of the trombones, all of the brass have a conical bore design, producing a darker and more mellow tone quality. More information on British Brass Bands can be found [here](#).

The Society's primary purposes are to provide opportunities for the public's enjoyment and appreciation of, and education in, instrumental brass band music, and to provide musicians in the community the means, equipment, and facilities to enhance their musical abilities. Over the last 15 years, OBS has performed throughout Western Oregon in a variety of venues, including a performance at the Oregon Bach Festival in collaboration with the internationally known Canadian Brass.

Bring a blanket or portable chair, and be ready to settle into some musical enthusiasm. Heck, bring a picnic lunch too if you wish. The weather people are predicting good weather too!

Please honor social distancing as you find your own spot.

Honoring Denny and John



On a September afternoon that was unexpectedly sunny and warm, over 60 people gathered to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of Denny Hellesvig and John Bredesen to the restoration of the Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey. Speaking from Hope Abbey's porch, Caroline Forell, EMCA board president, and Alex Brokaw, board member and event organizer, described the many successful projects for which Denny and John have been responsible over the past 20 years. Following John's and Denny's responses, Caroline and Alex then unveiled the new basalt columns between the mausoleum and the camas field that are permanent reminders of their importance to the cemetery's renewal. John's plaque reads: "With his leadership and guidance the cemetery was transformed." Denny's reads: "A visionary and designer dedicated to restoring this special place." Everyone then adjourned to Hope Abbey

to toast John and Denny with champagne and admire the beautifully restored building.

Boards of small non-profits, such as ours, without full-time executive directors and with limited budgets, need to find certain skills such as bookkeeping, fund-raising, website maintenance, and marketing, within the board membership. In addition, the needed expertise among board members of an historic cemetery and a 100-year-old mausoleum includes landscape, research, historic preservation, architecture, and engineering. The latter two are the critical, but not the only, roles that John and Denny have brilliantly filled for two decades. [More here](#)

By Karen Seidel, Board Member

Welcome to Alex Shumaker



Last month, this publication said goodbye to our Landscape Manager, Giffin Glastonbury, as he heads off to Graduate School, and welcomed Diego Llewellyn-Jones as the new manager. This left an opening, and so we'd like to introduce our new Groundskeeper, Alex Shumaker.

Alex started with the EMCA on July 1st, and already is proving he's up to the job. He likes working outside, and has a particular interest in historic cemeteries. As cooler and wetter weather approaches, and the heavier work of mowing and pruning diminishes, he's looking forward to more specialized work like tending to historic plots.

The cemetery's upcoming biannual news letter, *The Monumental News*, will feature a more in depth article about Alex. This is just a quick introduction. Be sure to say "Hi" if you see him at work.

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