



September, 2022

Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association eNewsletter



Last Sunday Open House



We will be hosting both of September's Last Sunday events this weekend on September 25. They're both an opportunity to visit the inside of the beautifully restored 1914 Hope Abbey Mausoleum.

The doors are open at 1 PM for the musical concert *Music To Die For*. The performance begins at 1:30. The featured artists this month are husband/wife team Mike & Carleen McCormack, with the talented Dale Bradley accompanying them on cello. The concert will last about an hour. Seating is limited, so

come early to enjoy this free concert.

The Open House portion of the Last Sunday will be immediately after the concert, and the building will be open until 4 PM. Feel free to wander around and ask questions. There will be two knowledgeable people on hand to answer questions you might have about the historic building, as well as the cemetery itself. **Masking is optional.**

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

Music To Die For



The doors will open at 1 PM. Performance time for this year is 1:30 PM. Because of the continuing spread of COVID-19 and its variants, we're following the advice of the CDC. **Masking is optional.** This applies for both the *Music To Die For* program (1:30 PM to 2:30 PM), and for the Last Sunday open house following from 2:30 to 4 PM.

The rest of the series, held on the last Sunday of the month through October in Hope Abbey Mausoleum, promises to be equally entertaining. Below is a list of performers booked for the rest of the year.

September 25

Mike and Carleen McCormack, singer-songwriters
With Dale Bradley, cello



Mike and Carleen have been delighting audiences for over 40 years with an engaging musical style that blends clear, expressive, harmonious vocals with sparkling acoustic instrumental accompaniment. They are equally at home performing for families who know them from their award-winning children's recordings, as well as for adults who appreciate their musical depth and off-center humor.

Mike and Carleen have appeared before in Hope Abbey. This time they will be accompanied by cellist Dale Bradley. Dale has performed with the Eugene Symphony and many other ensembles. Together they are terrific!

October 30

The Porch Band
Mandolin, harmonica, guitar and upright bass



The Porch Band was formed in 2008 by friends Dan Bilderback, Scoop McGuire and Rich Spence.

Dan was the producer and played guitar with the NW bands Epiphany Road and Late For The Train. Rich has three CDs to his credit. Scoop played bass professionally in the Bay area, including stints with Roy Rogers & Delta Rhythm Kings and Shana Morrison.

They were a house band for KLCC's Front Porch Revue for several years, and they have a monthly gig at Territorial Vineyards. This is a return visit for them at Hope Abbey.

The Site Committee

By Elizabeth Southworth



The Site Committee is responsible for planning and initiating projects involving all physical aspects of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery. Members of this committee include the EMCA Landscape Manager and three members of the Board of Directors. Interests and expertise among the members vary widely but historic preservation, heritage landscaping and safety concerns are among the top priorities.

You have probably noticed some big changes in the cemetery in the past three or four years. Many of these changes started as ideas that were discussed and shaped by the Site Committee. Recent historic marker repairs (close to 200), new paths, an overhaul of the invaluable Landscape Strategies document, an extensive drainage improvement/erosion control project (see photo), dead and dying tree removal, clearing of overgrown shrubs and new plantings are examples of some of the projects.

Don Peting, Site Committee member and historic preservation expert, was actively involved in these projects including work on Hope Abbey. The new directional, historic and entry signs were initiated by the Site Committee, and the project was completed by the EMCA Administrator, Sally Dietrich, with help from board member and able historian, Karen Seidel.

Special mention goes to committee member Sheri Pyron. She designed the beautiful memorial bench which will be dedicated to Roz Slovic. (See the following article.)

None of these projects and activities could be done without you, the community members who support the cemetery in so many ways. Your comments and compliments regarding the improvements at the site are valued and will help guide us in our future endeavors.

Roz Slovic Memorial



Many people knew EMCA board member Roz Slovic because of her involvement in many causes and organizations in our community. The EMCA was blessed to have her as an active member since 2010 until her death from pancreatic cancer on March 5th, 2022.

EMCA board member Sheri Pyron designed a one-of-a-kind custom bench made from two large redwood slabs. The simplicity of the design and the minimal structural pieces let the beauty of the two simple slabs and their natural live edges be the central focus.

Tony Archer, a Eugene based custom furniture maker sanded and assembled the slabs and base, translating the design concept into a beautiful finished work.

The bench is tucked under a mature native vine maple tree overlooking the Public Square. Roz's final resting place is just visible from this shady spot.

Arboretum Application Status



We have learned very recently that our application to become an accredited arboretum has been accepted.

With that accomplished, thanks primarily to board member Shawn Walker, the EMCA Board of Directors will oversee the details of operation. Visitors will benefit from identification of, and information related to, trees and woody plants in the cemetery.

There are many cemeteries throughout the world that are accredited arboreta, not the least of which is Arlington National Cemetery. As an accredited arboretum, the Eugene Masonic Cemetery will be included in the Morton Register of Arboreta.

Becoming an accredited arboretum is certainly a badge of honor that lets visitors know that we, as the cemetery's stewards, will continue to care for the trees and plants in this urban setting.

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.

Find past copies of this eNewsletter [here](#).

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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 is private property.
(A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization)



Eugene Masonic Cemetery
ASSOCIATION

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