



HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE CYPRESS LAWN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

A FOUNDATION DEDICATED TO EDUCATION & PRESERVATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY

Spring 2017

Volume 9 No. 1

CALENDAR

February - May 2017

HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE
February 5, 2:00 pm
Crosby-N. Gray, Burlingame
KIDNAPPED – Two Crimes that Traumatized the Peninsula
Professor Michael Svanevik



SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE
February 26, 2:00 pm**
SAN FRANCISCO CINEMA RARITES – ODDBALL FILMS PRESENT
Historic Shorts Shot in SF



SATURDAY WALKING TOUR
March 4, 1:30 pm*
Introduction to Cypress Lawn
Docent: Terry Hamburg



HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE
March 5, 2:00 pm
Crosby-N. Gray, Burlingame
DIRIGIBLE DREAMS— A Saga of Giant Airships
Professor Michael Svanevik



SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE
March 19, 2:00 pm**
A FLOATING ART DECO GALLERY— Elegance Between the Wars
Professor Michael Svanevik



SATURDAY WALKING TOUR
March 25, 1:30 pm*
UNEXPECTED MOMUMENTS – The Curious, The Offbeat, and The Daring
Docent: Terry Hamburg



CHING MING CHANTING EVENT
April 1 & 2, 11 am -1:30 pm*
West Gardens, Cypress Lawn



HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE
April 2, 2:00 pm
Crosby-N. Gray, Burlingame
FIRST LADY – The Nation's Most Important Unelected Position
Professor Michael Svanevik



SATURDAY WALKING TOUR
April 22, 1:30 pm*
An Afternoon of Horticultural Delights
Docent: Professor Steven Brown

Continued on page 2

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE
Light Refreshments Served

EVENT LOCATIONS:

*Meet at Green Tent, East Side, Cypress Lawn

**Reception Room, Cypress Lawn

CREMATION — A Burning Question

The practice is deeply rooted in human history. Ancient Greeks and Romans believed that burning the deceased purified the soul, thus releasing it from its earthly form. Cremation fell out of favor in Christian dominated Europe during Middle Ages, where the idea of a resurrected body was a central tenet of the religion. In fact, it was only in 1963 that the Catholic Church officially permitted cremation, and in a recent ruling, frowned upon scattering or keeping an urn at home rather than putting the ashes in a “sacred place,” such as a mausoleum or cemetery grounds.



The newly restored 1893 Noble Chapel with its adjoining state-of-the-art crematorium

The modern trend of cremation traces its origins back to Victorian England where an organized cremation movement began when the Queen’s personal surgeon created the Cremation Society of England. Germans built a substantial crematorium in 1878. Two years earlier, Dr. Francis Julius Le Moyne, a noted abolitionist and free thinker, had constructed the first American crematory in Pennsylvania, where its opening became national news. The major impetus for this practice was the increasingly crowded and deteriorating conditions in urban graveyards. Although the rural cemetery movement was gaining momentum and park-like memorial grounds were being built in some cities, there were people who believed that any earth burial presented health hazards for those who lived near cemeteries.

Please turn to page 6

From the President’s Desk

Kenneth E. Varner

Cypress Lawn has a long history of leadership with respect to cremation. In 1893, we were the first cemetery in the United States to have a crematory on its grounds; six months later, Forest Hills Cemetery in Boston was the second. Today most crematories are on the grounds of a cemetery due to the public’s growing preference for cremation and memorialization within a garden environment.



The San Francisco Cremation Company of the 1890’s has turned into the Cypress Lawn Cremation Society of today. We offer all the benefits of a traditional cremation society. In addition, any of the Cypress Lawn family of Funeral homes can provide a simple cremation that could also include a memorial service or family gathering and celebration. The memorial park provides many options and choices in a community of continual support for the living through one of our memorial plans to place the cremated remains in a beautiful garden environment.

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SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE
 April 23, 2:00 pm**
Antebellum and Civil War San Francisco
 Author Monika Trobits, book signing



SATURDAY WALKING TOUR
 May 6, 1:30 pm*
Introduction to Cypress Lawn Memorial Park
 Docent: Terry Hamburg



HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE
 May 7, 2:00 pm
 Crosby-N. Gray, Burlingame
THE LAST CENTURION — General Douglas MacArthur
 Professor Michael Svanevik



SATURDAY WALKING TOUR
 May 20, 1:30 pm**
SPLendor IN THE GLASS — Stained Glass at Cypress Lawn
 Docent: Terry Hamburg



SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE
 May 21, 2:00 pm**
BATTLE OF LEYTE GULF, 1944 — Greatest Sea Battle of World War II
 Professor Michael Svanevik



MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES
 May 29, 1:00 pm
 Lower Garden, West Side

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE
Light Refreshments Served

EVENT LOCATIONS:

*Meet at Green Tent, East Side, Cypress Lawn

**Reception Room, Cypress Lawn



Cypress Lawn Cemetery Association

Cypress Lawn is a 501 (c)(13) not for profit corporation established in 1892 by a group of prominent and responsible citizens, headed by Hamden Noble, determined to provide a decent cemetery for all creeds and races as well as “an attractive and pleasing place for meditation of the living.” Today, over a hundred years later, Cypress Lawn stands as a testament to the vision of these men when they proclaimed, “... in the fullness of time, the cemetery... will form an extensive park, rich in foliage, flowers, mausoleums, statuary and other works of art ... a handsome gift to posterity.”



Annual Appeal

We thank all our friends who responded to our Annual Appeal. Your invaluable support allows us to continue our education and cultural programs, preserve our historic arboretum and gardens, and maintain our incomparable outdoor “museum.” On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation, we would like to extend our deep gratitude, and hope you will continue to support us as well as encourage your friends to join in these educational and preservation efforts.

Donations can be made at any time of the year and it’s easy to do. You have two options: traditional mail option and online option. Go to our website at www.cypresslawnheritagefoundation.com. Rewards are offered for giving and increase as the donation increases.



- Lorraine Blackburn
- Nancy Borgstrom
- Christina Boyson
- Roy Brakeman, Jr.
- Steven Brown
- Vernon Capps
- John Carmon
- Louis Phillippe Carrier/
Carrier Mausoleums Construction
- Frank Chin
- Ronald Coffey
- Sandy Diggins
- Chita Dulos
- Colma Historical Society
- Therese Dyer
- Thomas Fisher
- Lucky Fung
- Helen & Dennis Fiscaro
- Augusta Garcia
- Marilyn Gould/MKJ Marketing
- Teresa Habeck
- Pat Hatfield
- Judy Hnilo
- Helen Huoh
- David Holt/Holt Graphic Arts
- Mark Hornibrook/Precoa
- Ken Jiang/Sinosource
- Laurel Koepernik, in honor
of Florence Musgrave
- Ralph Kugler
- Stephen Lang/
Homesteaders Life Company

- Sharon Macauley
- Randy Mazzuca
- Eric Montizambert
- Philip Murphy
- Scott Neal/Paradise Pictures
- Mike Pariani/
Interstate Grading and Paving
- Marianne Petroni
- Marilyn Porteous
- Mitch Postel/San Mateo County
Historical Association
- Precious Memories
- Laurie Prescott
- Danny Quinto
- Richard Rocchetta
- Vard Roemer
- Bonnie Rousseau
- Regina Stroud
- Willa Varner
- Mark Whitman
- Joe Woo
- Lisa Zink

Who knew it could be so easy?
Online Cremation Arrangements...

Cypress Lawn
CREMATION SOCIETY
Celebrating Life!

www.cypresslawncremationsociety.com

The **HELLS ANGELS** Connection at Cypress Lawn



Cypress Lawn is the most diverse cemetery in Colma: every religion, race, creed, and nationality is represented, as well as every culture.

Some Hells Angels pass away peacefully in bed of old age. Others can meet an untimely and grim end, such as Harry Flamburis, President of the Daly City chapter, in 1977. The choice of resting place was Cypress Lawn. A newspaper account covered the event: “150 bikers made up a two block funeral cortege. A variety of clubs payed homage to Harry the Horse: The Sons of Hawaii, Unforgivable Sinners, Wheel Lords, The Brothers from Anchorage, and the Oakland Sadistics.” The large turnout of Angels, the *Danville Register* added, “supported evidence that club membership and power is far from declining as was predicted a few years ago...”



As Paul Harvey would say: Now, now here's the *rest* of the story.

Two months later a contingent of Hells Angels turned up to bury the motorcycle of their beloved leader. A member admitted that they don't usually bury their machines, but added, “We're doing it just in this case because the bike is a special kind of bike and we don't want anyone else ever to have it.”



Urban legend has it that Harry was buried riding his bike. I heard that story just last week from my manicurist. This practice is against cemetery regulations and is not true. The bike was placed on top of the coffin in a double depth grave.

President of the Frisco Hells Angels, Mark Papa Guardado, was dispatched by a member of the arch rival Mongols in 2008. The choice of cemetery was again Cypress Lawn. The *San Francisco Chronicle* described the event: “Amid a sea of leather and the roar of nearly 2000 mufflers, a caravan escorting Guardado's coffin to Colma's Cypress Lawn Cemetery on Monday morning went by way of San Francisco's Mission District, a river of thunder that flowed through the urban canyons for more than an hour. The caravan didn't stop for signals; it set its own speed limit. Some onlookers waved, some took pictures, some pressed hands to ears and waited for the end. And for a brief period on Interstate 280, as police halted all other freeway traffic, the mourners took over the roads.”



They buried Papa not too far from where Flamburis rests. The Frisco Hells Angels and a sea of red-and-white-clad others formed a close group around Guardado's grave. A few words were spoken as a biker on the outskirts cranked Metallica's somber ode “Nothing Else Matters.” The ceremony over, the Angels picked up shovels and buried their leader.



The site is located near other Hells Angels including Mark Perry and “Little Bill.” ❖

Terry Hamburg, Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation



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WEBSITE www.cypresslawnheritagefoundation.org/

BLOG (on website) www.cypresslawnheritagefoundation.org/blog/

TWITTER [//twitter.com/cypressheritage](https://twitter.com/cypressheritage)

UNDERSTANDING CREMATION



Mary Ann Cruz has been a funeral professional for 20 years.

Join Mary Ann Cruz at Cypress Lawn's Noble Chapel for a free, informative talk where she will answer any questions you have on cremation procedures and disposition, as well as costs. If possible, we will visit Noble Chapel to see the results of a two years, \$5.2 million dollar restoration of the historic structure and explore our new state-of-the-art crematorium. As an added feature, our docent will take you on a tour of the latest trend in the placement of cremated remains — glass front niches that contain, in addition to an urn, memorabilia and artifacts from the person's life. See how varied and creative these tributes can be.

There will be a lottery drawing and winners will receive a free \$35 membership in the Cypress Lawn Cremation Society

Date & Time: Saturday, April 8 at 1:30 pm *Refreshments served*

Location: Cypress Lawn Reception Center, 1370 El Camino Real, Colma

Free ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

A Loving Gift to Family and Friends: How to Create a Comprehensive Estate Plan

Learn how to use estate-planning tools and other strategies that protect you during life, and at death, and support those you love. We spend hours planning life-changing events but often leave the details of the one inevitable event to grieving relatives.

This seminar will:

- ✓ Explain ways of seamlessly transferring what you own at death to those you love
- ✓ Give you practical tools for financial management if you suffer disability
- ✓ Allow you to control your future health care
- ✓ Help you guide and support your loved ones at a time of great stress

An Estate Planning attorney will discuss essential documents that control your future: wills, living trusts, powers of attorney, and advance health care directives. One-on-one with speakers is available after the Seminar.

The event is for educational purposes only. No financial instruments or services will be offered.

All participants will receive a complimentary estate planning guide. The seminar is free but reservations are requested. For reservations, please call 650.755-0580 or for additional information, email Director of Development Terry Hamburg at thamburg@cypresslawn.com.

Date & Time: Saturday, March 18 from 10am to noon
Refreshments served

Location: Cypress Lawn Memorial Park, Conference Room
1370 El Camino Real, Colma

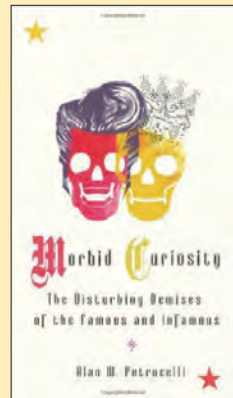


CYPRESS LAWN BOOK CLUB

We continue to turn the page on a new book every month and have a lively time talking about it. Join us. You'll love the company.

Thursday, Feb. 16
11:00 am

Cypress Lawn
Reception Room
1370 El Camino
Real, Colma



February Selection

For more information contact Terry Hamburg at thamburg@cypresslawn.com

SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURES

ODDBALL FILMS presents San Francisco Cinema Rarities — Historic shorts shot in San Francisco



SOME OF THE NARRATED HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Playland at the Beach Demolition 1972
- Bridging the Gate & Opening of Golden Gate Bridge 1933-1937
- Farewell to the Fox Theatre, demolition and final address by Hedda Hopper
- Pan Pacific Fair 1915
- San Francisco Fashion 1960s
- Summer of Love 1968

Date & Time: Sunday, February 26 at 2:00 pm *Popcorn served*

Location: Cypress Lawn Reception Center, 1370 El Camino Real, Colma

A Floating Art Deco Gallery—Elegance Between the Wars

Professor Michael Svanevik

Date & Time: Sunday, March 19 at 2:00 pm *Refreshments served*

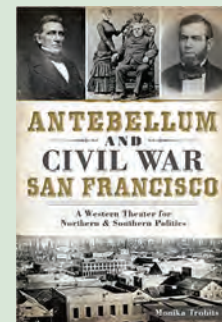
Location: Cypress Lawn Reception Center, 1370 El Camino Real, Colma

San Francisco before and during the Civil War

Author Monika Trobits will speak on her recent book. Booksigning to follow.

Date & Time: Sunday, April 23 at 2:00 pm *Refreshments served*

Location: Cypress Lawn Reception Center, 1370 El Camino Real, Colma



Battle of Leyte Gulf, 1444—Greatest Sea Battle of World War II

Professor Michael Svanevik

Date & Time: Sunday, May 21 at 2:00 pm *Refreshments served*

Location: Cypress Lawn Reception Center, 1370 El Camino Real, Colma

www.cypresslawnheritagefoundation.org | [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) | [Twitter.com](https://twitter.com)



Original crematory, 1893

First crematory in Northern California came with a chapel



NEW CREMATORY CYPRESS LAWN MEMORIAL PARK SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Soon a new portico was added to the crematory front



INTERIOR CREMATORY CHAPEL CYPRESS LAWN MEMORIAL PARK SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Interior of the first crematory chapel



The original Columbarium at Cypress Lawn dates from 1895, and still stands



Original Columbarium in time-exposure/color spectrum night photograph, Doug Keister

CREMATION — A Burning Question *continued from page 1*

Always a forward looking place, many San Franciscans were promoting the idea of cremation as early as the 1870s. Resistance came mainly from homeowners who opposed any incineration within the city limits. At the time, the closest crematory was in Los Angeles.

With the opening of Cypress Lawn Cemetery in 1892, a group of leading city residents formed the San Francisco Cremation Company and contracted with the cemetery - located in Colma, outside San Francisco's jurisdiction - to erect the first crematory in Northern California. Designed by a leading architectural firm, it was constructed in the form of a Grecian temple surmounted by a dome and ornamented with classic pillars. It remained virtually untouched in the great 1906 earthquake, but succumbed to serious damage in a 1957 trembler and was subsequently torn down.

The building contained a large chapel so that a cremation and memorial service could be held seamlessly in one location at the same time.

In 1937 a crematory was installed behind and adjoining Noble Chapel, replicating the chapel-crematory funeral ensemble. When that 1893 Chapel underwent a full restoration in 2013, the crematory, damaged in a fire, was completely reconstructed with the latest, state-of-the-art equipment and a modern witness room.

The original Columbarium at Cypress Lawn dates from 1895, and still stands. There was room for 1,000 crematory receptacles.

By the 1920s, cremation was an option for an increasing number of California families. The last great project of Bernard Cahill was the proposed 20,000-square-foot Lakeside Columbarium just south of the grand entrance gateway. Construction began

in 1927. Then came the Depression and work on the Mediterranean style building abruptly stopped in 1930. Fortunately, the ground floor was finished. It featured twenty-nine varieties of imported marble, elaborate copper fitted closed and open faced niches, opalescent glass skylights, and a dozen private rooms facing the lake. A small fourth floor, containing rows of more modest niches, was also ready to be populated. The Lakeside original master plan had called for 10,000 niches, which would have made it the world's largest columbarium.

The growing popularity of cremation quickly spurred additional columbarium space, which was provided in the West Campus Mausoleum begun by renowned architect Bernard S. Cahill in 1906. Expansion on that sprawling mausoleum complex continued into the 1960s and contains cremated remains window front niches, many of which were added after 2000. In addition, cremated remains can be placed in full body crypts.

In 2010, Cypress Lawn launched the Cremation Society. Cypress Lawn Cemetery Association President and CEO Ken Varner envisions it as a restoration of the original early twentieth century Cremation Company of San Francisco with which Cypress Lawn had entered into partnership. In the intervening years, the range of choice for cremated remains has greatly expanded. From scattering at sea or air to placement in niches and in the ground, plus other alternatives, the Cypress Lawn Cremation Society offers unlimited options for a final resting place as well as the assurance to all members that their final wishes are faithfully carried out in our own crematory facilities and by our own staff. ❖



Interior of Noble Chapel today



The Crematory Witness Room at Noble Chapel

**Examples of modern open face niches
for cremated remains in the main Cypress Lawn mausoleum**



These niches allow for personalized and changeable memorialization.

Examples of individually memorialized cremated remains burials in dedicated islands at Cypress Lawn



From the President's Desk *continued from page 1*

New to our expanding cremation services, any family that chooses to memorialize a member at Cypress Lawn receives a free "family website" that records your digital memories in the form of pictures, videos or the written or recorded word preserved in our archives for generations to come. Imagine being able to leave a message for your grandchildren and great grandchildren at Cypress Lawn. Our computer systems will always be up to date due to our Endowment Care Fund.

We continue to look for ways to add more value to the services and the property at Cypress Lawn with one goal in mind: to be your family cemetery for generations to come.

At the Foundation each year we search for unique stories, people, events and periods in history to keep alive the history of those who are at rest here. We also look to present the changing times that families have experienced in San Francisco and the greater community of California. We do that with lectures, book presentations, a book club and now movies that describe our shared history. By doing this we keep alive the unique flavor of our community. Please review the calendar of events we have planned for you.

To all who have donated to our annual appeal, we are truly honored by your vote of confidence in our mission to keep our shared history alive. If we can be of any service or you would like more information about Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation, please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Development, Terry Hamburg.

**CYPRESS LAWN
HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

A non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation promoting Cypress Lawn Cemetery as a historical and educational resource for the Bay Area community

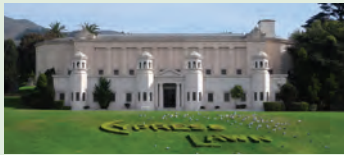
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The *Heritage Newsletter* is published by the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation, a subsidiary corporation of Cypress Lawn Cemetery Association

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Director of Development/Managing Editor
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**Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation
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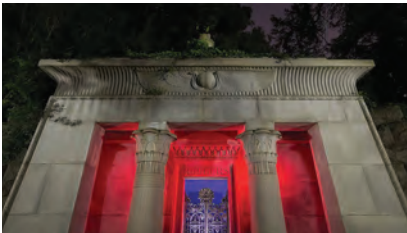
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2017 Winners of our Calendar Photography Contest



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Photograph by Troy Paiva



Photograph by Herb Lum



Photograph by David Evans



Photograph by Robert O'Donn



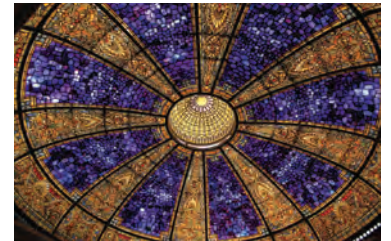
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