



# HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE CYPRESS LAWN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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

Summer 2019

Volume 10 No. 9

## CALENDAR

June – August 2019



### SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE\*

June 16, 1 pm

*Taming of the Outside Lands –  
History of the Richmond and Sunset District*  
Author: Lorri Ungaretti, Book signing



### MONTHLY TROLLEY TOUR\*\*

July 13, 11 am

*Financial Wizards & Miscellaneous Millionaires*  
1370 El Camino Real, Colma  
Professor: Michael Svanevik



### SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE\*

July 21, 1 pm

*Disaster at Sea – Tragedy of the Luxury Liner  
S.S. Central America*  
Professor: Michael Svanevik



### HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE

August 4, 2 pm

*The Queen and Mr. Brown –  
A Dangerous Liaison*  
Crosby-N Gray, 2 Park Blvd., Burlingame  
Professor: Michael Svanevik



### MONTHLY TROLLEY TOUR\*\*

August 10, 11 am

*General Excursion of The  
East, Westside, and Hillside*  
1370 El Camino Real, Colma  
Docent: Terry Hamburg



### SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE\*

August 18, 1 pm

*The Magic of the 19th Century Stereopticon –*  
Audience participation with  
original equipment and slides  
Docent: David Hansen



*Continued on page 2*

### EVENT LOCATIONS:

\*Cypress Lawn Reception Room, 2nd floor,  
1370 El Camino Real

\*\*1370 El Camino Real, Colma, meet at Main Lobby

All Events Are Free • Light Refreshments

## Earth Angels at Cypress Lawn

*You are my special angel  
Through eternity  
I'll have my special angel  
Here to watch over me*

Bobby Vinton, Special Angel (1963)



More prolific than obelisks or even crosses, these intermediaries between humankind and heaven dominate the grounds of Cypress Lawn. No other cemetery in Colma has anywhere near the number and varieties of angels.

Angels do not need to have wings. They are, all after, spirits unbound by the laws of nature. Both the Old and New Testaments often present angels appearing as human beings. In fact, Hebrews 13:2 admonishes: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

Although winged angels have dominated Christian art from its earliest days, they are largely an embellishment to give more drama and spirituality to the form. Many of these angels seem to the modern eye to be either male or female by their dress, body shape, or poses, but for almost two millennia they were generally regarded as genderless.

This perception and depiction changed in the nineteenth century, especially in countries influenced by English Victorian styles, and most notably in cemetery memorials. The Victorians turned mourning into an art form, and they wanted the experience to be intimate. The East campus of Cypress Lawn and the early sections of the public mausoleum represent this classic genre. The angels you see (with a few exceptions) are intended to be female, and some are wingless creatures, appearing very human.

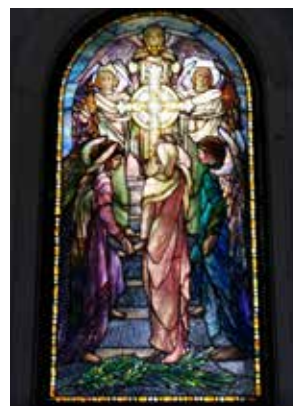
Imagine Cypress Lawn without its angels. It would be a less inviting and comforting space. Angels are our connection here to a higher being and our lost loved ones. These creatures are us, expressing facial emotions and body language, guiding the mourner or observer with a familiar and sympathetic presence.

Every angel at Cypress Lawn — statuary or stained glass — is a unique, one-of-a-kind work. The artistic origins of many remain unknown. All were commissioned, but relatively few are signed. The records of purchase, if they still exist, are in the hands of individual families.

*Continued on page 4*



*Angel dropping flower as symbol of the end of life.*



*There are both wing and unwinged angels in this Tiffany stained glass*



*Angel watching the lamp of life burn*

CALENDAR *Continued from page 1*



HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE

September 1, 2 pm

*Lord Louis Mountbatten – Chameleon on Plaid*  
Crosby-N Gray, 2 Park Blvd., Burlingame  
Professor: Michael Svanevik



MONTHLY TROLLEY TOUR\*\*

September 14, 11 am

*Magnificent Stained Glass of the  
Private Mausoleums*  
1370 El Camino Real, Colma  
Docent: Terry Hamburg



SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE\*

September 15, 1 pm

*Annual Cypress Lawn  
Antiques Roadshow Appraisal Event*  
Appraiser: Terry Hamburg



EVENT LOCATIONS:

\*Cypress Lawn Reception Room, 2nd floor,  
1370 El Camino Real

\*\*1370 El Camino Real, Colma, meet at Main Lobby

All Events Are Free • Light Refreshments

Cypress Lawn  
Cemetery Association

Cypress Lawn is a 501 (c)(3) 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."

*Cypress Lawn,  
the one place for all your  
arrangements...*



Cypress Lawn  
Matters

From the President's Desk

Cypress Lawn Becomes Official Level I Arboretum

Trees have always been a centerpiece here at Cypress Lawn, dating back to our beginnings in 1892, when Founder Hamden Holmes Noble brought in plant materials from around the world to create a stunning, park-like setting along the Bay Area peninsula. More than a century later, Cypress Lawn is widely known for its breathtaking views, historic chapels, and expertly craft statuary – and now we are thrilled to add a new accreditation: Global network ArbNet has officially recognized Cypress Lawn as a Level 1-certified arboretum!

To be considered for ArbNet's Level 1 accreditation, Cypress Lawn has to have a publicly accessible site with a minimum number of 25 species of trees or woody plants, along with a governing body, an arboretum plan, and staff or volunteers to ensure fulfillment of the plan.

This accreditation is an important milestone for Cypress Lawn, reflecting the uniqueness of our historic 200-acre property, and our mission to provide a beautiful place of rest for those families interred – as well as a peaceful sanctuary for their descendants.

Our Arboretum uniquely includes trees indigenous to the Northeast right here in Northern California, including the live oak, scrub oak, and a variety of pines. These are in addition mature trees from all parts of the world, with a wide array of North American, European, and Australian species. Many plants, trees, and shrubs were selected for their conveyance of love, grief, happiness, or religious meaning, much like the use of plant materials in art and architecture.

At Cypress Lawn, we observe tree planting throughout the year, and offer free trolley tours as a community service and educational experience through the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation. There are also opportunities for families to memorialize their loved ones through the Foundation's Horticultural Remembrance Program, part of our Living Legacy Society.

We take great pride in preserving and promoting our 125-year history, and our timeless arboretum is at the heart of it. We make every effort to meet the needs of each person in our community, ensuring that all our friends and neighbors can take in the spectacular beauty of Cypress Lawn. To that end, we offer our docent-led public trolley tours of Cypress Lawn, featuring information about our history, famous people who rest here, and the many treasures that live at Cypress Lawn. We also provide detailed maps for self-guided tours, lectures on a variety of topics, and even a mobile app allowing you to search for loved ones and navigate to any gravesite.

Join us in celebrating our Level I Accreditation by visiting us and viewing one of the most beautiful natural areas in the world. We like to say that Cypress Lawn offers a glimpse of heaven on earth; it's one you'll want to see for yourself.

Robert A. Gordon Jr., President and CEO



Cypress Lawn

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 18 • 1pm

*Stereopticon Party!*



This device was a wildly popular form of Victorian parlor entertainment and education before the advent of motion pictures. A stereopticon is hand-held, manual instrument that turns into a 3-D "projector" when a special photo card super-imposing two images is inserted - an early version of the 1950s View Master.

We will have plenty of stereopticon viewers and an array of great of images available for full audience participation.

Hosted by Richard Hansen, San Francisco historian and author.

Cypress Lawn Reception Center, 1370 El Camino Real, Colma. This a free event with refreshments.



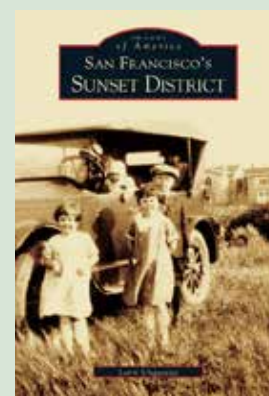
Sunday, June 16 • 1pm  
Lecture

*The Sunset District: From Sand Dunes to Popular Neighborhood.*

Renowned local historian **Lorri Ungaretti** will give a Power Point lecture on *The Sunset District: From Sand Dunes to Popular Neighborhood.*

Cypress Lawn Reception Room, 2nd Floor  
1370 El Camino Real, Colma

Booksigning/complimentary refreshments



At Rest in Cypress Lawn

WHO AM I ?

I was a Superstar in my day. But many think my greatest achievement was to marry three of the most beautiful, sought-after ladies in Hollywood.

I crooned one hit record after another. I had two TV shows of my own and made so many guest appearances it was hard to turn on the tube without seeing my curly locks.

By the late 1970s, I was falling out of style. I attempted an unsuccessful comeback tour in 1983.

When I published my autobiography, I revealed new details of my personal dalliances. When my daughter, a famous actress, read the book, she declared: "That's it. I'm having my DNA fumigated."

Sure I had five wives, but the fifth one was the charm — lovely dancer and choreographer Betty Lin who passed away in 2001, eight years after we were married. I placed her in a niche at Cypress Lawn and joined her in 2010.

*Answer on page 6*

Earth Angels at Cypress Lawn *Continued from page 1*

There are three general types of angels: *the triumphant*, looking to heaven as a better place; *the mourning*, grieving over the loss of a loved one; and *the pensive/stoic*.

Although there are exceptions to the following rule, Catholics prefer triumphant angels, pointing upward to the glory of eternal life while ignoring or downplaying the grief of a human passing. Protestants place more emphasis on the loss of a life on earth, and the pain and sorrow it causes the living. Pensive Angels can range from mourning to stoic

— TRIUMPHANT —



— MOURNING —



— PENSIVE/STOIC —



For those who believe that angels can come in any form or species, I offer this Cypress Lawn memorial.

Our outdoor museum is open to the public and free. Take a stroll through heaven.

*Terry Hamburg,  
Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation*



WHY CYPRESS LAWN?

William Gladstone said: “Show me the Manner in which a nation or community cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender sympathies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals.”

Every human being is faced with stressful events. The most stressful is the death of a spouse or loved one. The many decisions to be made and items to be paid can be overwhelming. Since 1892, the licensed trained associates at Cypress Lawn have guided our community through difficult times ensuring they are able to celebrate life, heal from their loss, and really have time to remember those they love. Families selecting Cypress Lawn and its affiliates report the value exceeded the cost, the staff was incredibly caring and they are happy they trusted us. When you have one chance to tell your loved one’s story — choose Cypress Lawn.



*Eyes to heaven, holding anchor. Christians adopted the anchor as a symbol of hope in future existence because it was regarded as a symbol of safety in ancient times.*



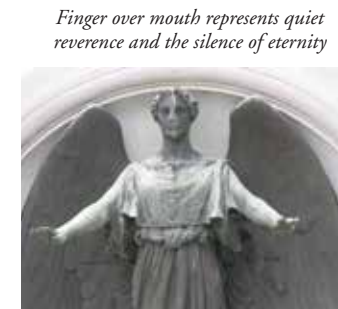
*In this depiction, the angel is transporting a deceased child to heaven.*



*Angel of Death, head down and solemn, guarding the door to the tomb*



*Grief over the loss a child*



*Finger over mouth represents quiet reverence and the silence of eternity*



*Cypress Lawn Habitat*

Follow Us!

THE CYPRESS LAWN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/CypressLawnHeritageFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/CypressLawnHeritageFoundation)

WEBSITE

[www.cypresslawnheritagefoundation.org/](http://www.cypresslawnheritagefoundation.org/)

BLOG (on website)

[www.cypresslawnheritagefoundation.org/blog/](http://www.cypresslawnheritagefoundation.org/blog/)

TWITTER

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

# Trolley Tales



We have special Trolley Tours for community groups that offer them a unique funding-raising opportunity through a Cypress Lawn donation for taking the tour. To get more details, please contact the Director of the Heritage Foundation, Terry Hamburg at [thamburg@cypresslawn.com](mailto:thamburg@cypresslawn.com) or call 650.550.8812.



Our traditional monthly walking tours have been replaced by docent-led tours on the Cypress Lawn Trolley. The free tours are the second Saturday of every month at 11 am, and include disembarking to look at various monuments. Trolley capacity is 24. RSVPs are requested. Call 650.755.0580 to make a reservation. Trolley tour topics appear on the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation website under Programs & Events.

## Answer to Who Am I (page 4)



Eddie Fisher with his most famous wives



Eddie with Betty  
You're not my first love but you are my last



Daughter Carrie Fisher. Her mother is Debbie Reynolds.

# WOODSMEN OF THE WORLD AT REST IN CYPRESS LAWN

Tucked away in Section F on the East Side of Cypress Lawn lay more than a dozen Woodsmen of the World monuments, products of a "fraternal benefit society" that administers a privately held insurance fund, a major part of which is funeral coverage.

Beginning in 1882, it has undergone many mergers and transformations and still operates today. The original inspiration came from the founder, who upon hearing a sermon about "pioneer woodsmen clearing away the forest to provide for their families," wanted to start a society that "would clear away problems of financial security for its members." There are currently about 800,000 participants.

States are called either "Jurisdictions" or "Head Camps." Local groups were organized into "coves" or "groves", but today are known as "chapters." Fraternalists pledge to "help others and promote patriotism and civic responsibility."

The Cypress Lawn examples shown here are all prior to 1940, when the distinctive stumps and emblems were in vogue. By the late 1920s, these kinds of tributes were growing too expensive and more traditional memorials began to be used.

*Terry Hamburg,  
Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation*



The two pictures above were taken by night photographer Troy Paiva.

**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.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Charles Casey*  
*Charles Crocker*  
*James C. Flood*  
*Peter M. Folger*  
*Morris Noble Jr.*  
*Richard H. Peterson Jr.*

*Robert A. Gordon Jr.*  
*President & CEO*

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

*Terry Hamburg*  
Director of Development/Managing Editor  
650.550.8812  
1370 El Camino Real, Colma, CA 94014-3239



**Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation**  
**1370 El Camino Real**  
**Colma, California 94014-3239**

NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S.POSTAGE PAID  
SAN BRUNO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 34

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## The Arboretum at Cypress Lawn

