

Winter 2016-2017

Volume 8 No. 4

## CALENDAR

Nov. 2016 – March 2017

**HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE**  
November 6, 2 pm\*\*\*

**HARVEY GIRLS —**  
*Judy Garland Helps Settle the West*  
Professor Michael Svanevik



**HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE**  
December 4, 2 pm\*\*\*

**IRVING BERLIN —**  
*Broadway, High Society and Uncle Sam*  
Professor Michael Svanevik



**11TH ANNUAL  
HOLIDAY REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**  
December 7, 6-8 pm  
Tiffany Memorial Chapel, Cypress Lawn



**SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE**  
January 15, 2 pm\*\*

**FUNERALS OF DISTINCTION —**  
*Elaborate and Memorable Farewells*  
Professor Michael Svanevik



**HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE**  
February 5, 2 pm\*\*

**KIDNAPPED — Two Crimes that  
Traumatized the Peninsula**  
Professor Michael Svanevik



**SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE**  
February 19, 2 pm\*\*

**SAN FRANCISCO CINEMA RARITIES —**  
*Movie with Historic Shorts Shot in SF*  
Presented by Oddball Films, SF



**WALKING TOUR**

March 4, 1:30 pm\*  
**INTRODUCTION TO CYPRESS LAWN**  
Docent: Terry Hamburg



**HERITAGE SUNDAY LECTURE**  
March 5, 2:00\*\*\*

**DIRIGIBLE DREAMS—**  
*The Saga of Giant Airships*  
Professor Michael Svanevik



**SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURE**  
March 19, 2 pm\*\*

**A FLOATING ART DECO GALLERY—**  
*Elegance Between the Wars*  
Historian: Michael Svanevik



**WALKING TOUR**

March 25, 1:30 pm\*  
**UNEXPECTED MOMUMENTS — The  
Curious, The Offbeat, and The Daring\***  
Docent: Terry Hamburg

**ALL EVENTS ARE FREE**  
*Light Refreshments Served*

**EVENT LOCATIONS:**

\*Meet at Green Tent, East Side,  
Cypress Lawn.

\*\*Reception Room, Cypress Lawn  
\*\*\*Crosby N Gray, Burlingame

## City of Souls

What used to be pastoral farmland, known as the “produce basket” of San Francisco, where goats roamed the hills and pigs took mud baths in pens, quickly transformed into what is arguably the greatest necropolis in America.

All of the land between the San Francisco border and the South San Francisco border, the Pacific Ocean and San Bruno Mountain was known as Colma (unincorporated) until 1911, when the north of the county became Daly City. Today there is still an area that is unincorporated Colma as well as the city of Colma, incorporated.

San Francisco was notoriously inhospitable to cemeteries. In 1901, The City banned all future burials, and then decided in 1912 to do the unthinkable - evict all the dead. Due to court battles and elections that nullified the result, it took until 1937 for this ordinance to become enforceable, but the exodus began years earlier.

The southern end of Colma was chosen as the new necropolis because plenty of land was available and you get there and back from San Francisco in one day by horse and wagon. Soon, the San Francisco #40 trolley provided a special funeral car. The Southern Pacific train charged mourners 50 cents each and caskets were transported in the baggage car for \$1.

*Please turn to page 6*



*Official motto of Colma*

## From the President's Desk

*Kenneth E. Varner*

Cypress Lawn Cemetery Association founded in 1892 is the third cemetery to open its gates in what is now known as Colma—a one of a kind Necropolis with cemeteries to serve all faiths and ancestral backgrounds, which was created to be the burial district for the City and County of San Francisco and surrounding cities and counties. With the accumulated life histories of the below-ground Colma residents, we could say we are a living history of San Francisco and California.

Our lectures are born from the history that is represented at Cypress Lawn and Colma. This coming year we will have three book signing lectures alone plus many other tours and lectures on our calendar. I encourage you to explore our event calendar and the numerous resources that are part of this city of last rites.

*Please turn to page 7*





## 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."



## BACK TO THE FUTURE

Did you ever wonder what an old weathered monument would look like if it were restored to original condition?

The first burial took place at this site in 1903. The restoration work on the memorial of the Thomas Broderick family was done at Cypress Lawn by V. Fontana & Company. Through its large endowment fund, Cypress Lawn maintains the grounds of the cemetery but except in rare cases, the restoration of individual memorials is the responsibility of the family. ❖



Can You Identify  
this Spot at  
Cypress Lawn?

Construction for the grand 10,000 niche Lakeside Columbarium 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. A spectacular interior courtyard, rising three stories and topped by a glass roof, was left uncompleted by builders and remains so. The area has never been open to the public. The Art Deco elevator has buttons only for floor 1 and floor 4. Over the years, numerous plans and proposals have been presented to finish this project. Cypress Lawn is currently reviewing a new project to resurrect this charmed spot. Stay tuned.❖







## 2016 Annual Appeal



**T**his is the time of year when we ask those who have enjoyed our educational and cultural programs, Heritage Foundation members, the many who have loved ones resting at Cypress Lawn, and all who cherish and wish to sustain this unique historical landmark for the next generation to give what you can to promote a legacy that belongs to you and the entire Bay Area community.

Your gifts go to preserve the architectural and horticultural beauty of Cypress Lawn as well as underwriting our free community outreach programs, which have significantly expanded recently.

Last year's response was generous and heartwarming, and we thank you. Many will receive our annual appeal in the mail that allows you give by post or online.

You may view the enhanced rewards for this year's donations and contribute now by going to the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation Website ([cypresslawnheritagefoundation.com](http://cypresslawnheritagefoundation.com)) and clicking on the SUPPORT CYPRESS LAWN & BECOME A MEMBER icon in the upper left hand corner.



[About The Foundation](#) [Programs & Events](#) [Blog](#) [Historic Restoration](#) [Links & Associates](#) [Support Cypress Lawn](#) [Online Store](#)

There you will see the "Thank you" rewards for giving at all levels, and you have the convenience of online donation or traditional mail. ❖

*Do your giving while you're living. Then you'll be knowing where it's going.*

*~Ann Landers*

## PAST EVENT

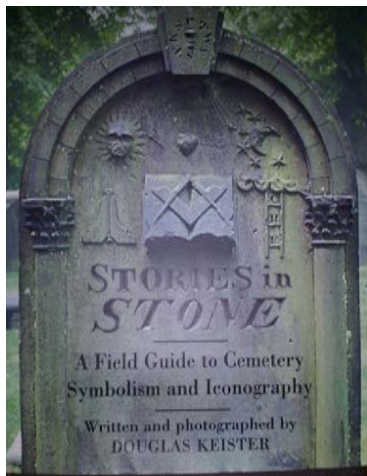
### Photo Seminar & Nighttime Cemetery Tour

Despite a stormy morning, on October 30, Cypress Lawn held a special triple outdoor event beginning under sunny skies in the afternoon. Doug Keister, author of numerous photograph books, including acclaimed works on cemetery architecture, returned for his third photography seminar, where he gave his tips and techniques for taking extraordinary pictures, using the memorials and landscape of Cypress Lawn Memorial Park as his template.



*Picture of whole class*

After the Photo Seminar, Doug gave a lecture on his book, *Stories in Stone*.



Joined by additional enthusiasts we then embarked on the first nighttime Cypress Lawn Tour to investigate some of the most intriguing symbols here in the Park.

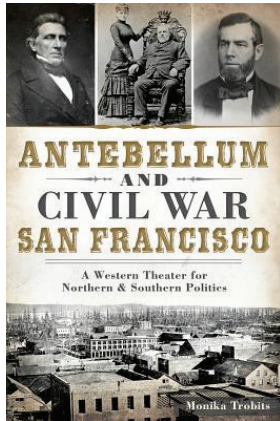




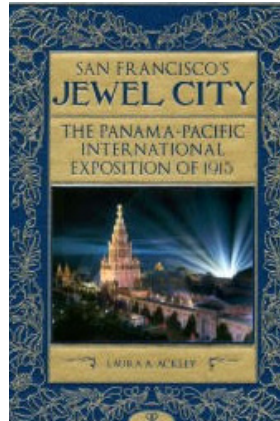
# Upcoming Events

## 2017 LECTURE SCHEDULE

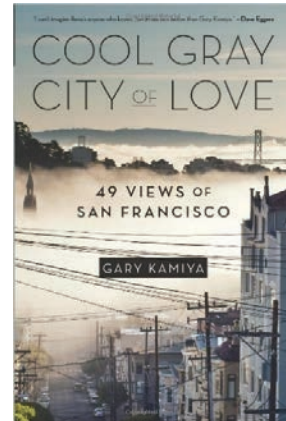
Cypress Lawn has another stimulating lecture season planned for 2017. The events take place January through October on the third Sunday of each month at 2 pm in our Reception Room at 1370 El Camino Real, Colma. The authors of these books will give a talk and conduct a book signing.



April 16



June 18



August 20

*Cypress Lawn Cemetery Association  
cordially invites you and your family for a special evening at our*

### *11th Annual Holiday Remembrance Service*

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

*6pm–8pm at the Tiffany Chapel*

*1370 El Camino Real, Colma, California 94014*

*Each family will be presented with a small personalized ornament.*

*If you would like a photograph of your loved one included in our Memorial Slideshow,  
please email your loved one's name and photo to: [photo@cypresslawn.com](mailto:photo@cypresslawn.com)  
or drop off the photo to be scanned no later December 1, 2016*

*R.S.V.P no later than December 1, 2016 by calling the  
Cemetery Events line at (650) 550-8884 with the  
total number of people who will be attending.*



## City of Souls

continued from page 1



In 1887, the Catholic archbishop decided to set up a cemetery in Colma, safely apart from San Francisco jurisdiction. Holy Cross was quickly followed by three Jewish congregations in 1889 and then by entrepreneur Hamden Holmes Noble, who in 1892 opened a grand non-denominational "rural" or park cemetery he named Cypress Lawn. In 1924, the city was incorporated as Lawndale to insure its security and protection from the reach of other local governments. City fathers were eventually informed by the U.S. Post Office that there was an established Lawndale in Southern California, and if residents wanted home or business deliveries rather than a Colma postal box address, it would have to change its name, so the city of Colma was born in 1941.

New burials began immediately in the late 1880s but a small number of graves and mausoleums from the existing four large San Francisco cemeteries (Calvary, Oddfellows, Masonic, and Laurel Hill) were also gradually transferred to the new ones in Colma. For example, the first mausoleum in Cypress Lawn was that of lumber baron Andrew Jackson Pope, who died and was placed in a Laurel Hill mausoleum twenty-two years before Cypress Lawn opened. Mausoleum moving became a cottage industry.



*Pope Mausoleum at Cypress Lawn*

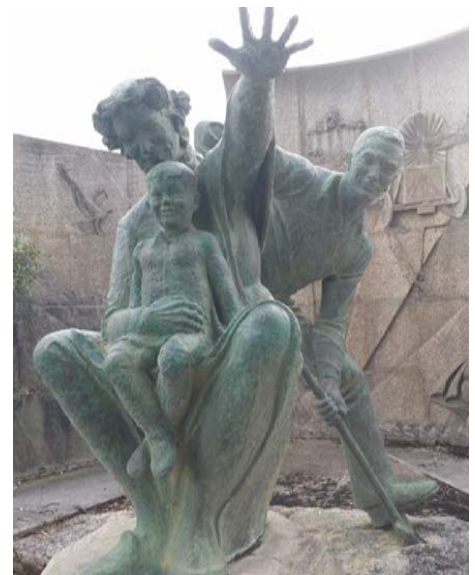
Between 1920 and 1941, the big four cemeteries moved over 150,000 souls to Colma. The Catholic Archdiocese ended its opposition to the removal of the remains from Calvary in 1937. Extensive records were kept regarding the relocation to Holy Cross Cemetery, where some 55,000 bodies, in various states of decay, were transferred one by one with a priest in attendance and screens erected for privacy. Cypress Lawn arranged to accept approximately 35,000 from Laurel Hill; they are currently buried in separate containers but without individual memorials in a large lawn area dedicated as Pioneer Mound. It took six years to transfer 26,000 Oddfellows remains to Greenlawn Memorial Park in Colma, and more than 40,000 bodies were removed from Masonic Cemetery to Woodlawn.



*Tina Turner's beloved pooch rests here dressed in a fur coat*

There are currently 16 cemeteries (plus one for pets) within the city's 2 square miles, which account for 73% of the total acreage.

The underground population is around 1.5 million; the living census of



*Pioneer Mound Dedication at Cypress Lawn: "Their Visions And Their Dreams Came True"*

2010 counted 1792. In the early years, the population consisted mainly of those connected to the cemetery and funeral business, including numerous stone makers who met the endless demand for memorials. Since the cemeteries were non-profit, they could not be taxed, but in the 1970s Colma began attracting car dealerships and strip malls and even a casino on its western edge near Interstate 280. This tax revenue has made Colma one of the most prosperous local governments in America.

The history of the city is wonderfully preserved in the Colma Historical Museum located at 1500 Hillside Boulevard. Spread out over four buildings—the main museum, the old Colma Railroad Station Depot, which opened in 1864, the Freight Shed, and the Blacksmith's Shed—the facilities include not only information and guides to Colma's cemeteries.

The museum also houses historical embalming equipment; a portable undertaker's table; a collection of hair jewelry; displays of period household furniture and decor; a collection of artifacts from San Francisco's flower child generation, including a collection of historical political buttons; vintage typewriters; railway and blacksmithing equipment; and an array of local guides available to assist with research about Colma and to give customized tours. The experienced staff, led by Pat Hatfield, is very knowledgeable and friendly. ♦





## Colma Historical Museum



COLMA TRAIN DEPARTURES			
NORTHBOUND			
NO	TO	DEPARTS	REMARKS
6	SAN FRANCISCO	6:00 A.M.	DAILY
8	"	7:32 A.M.	EXC. SUN.
18	"	1:59 P.M.	DAILY
20	"	3:23 P.M.	"
22	"	4:45 P.M.	"
26	"	7:03 P.M.	SAT. ONLY
SOUTHBOUND			
NO	TO	DEPARTS	REMARKS
27	MENLO PARK	12:10 A.M.	SUN. ONLY
3	NEW ALMADEN	7:46 A.M.	DAILY
9	SAN JOSE	11:00 A.M.	"
11	MENLO PARK	12:41 P.M.	"
19	SAN JOSE	5:47 P.M.	"
21	MENLO PARK	7:03 P.M.	"
June 7, 1891			

1891 schedule



### From the President's Desk

*continued from page 1*

As mentioned in our newsletters, Cypress Lawn is a treasure trove of palettes for the avid photographer with respect to our beautiful gardens, arboretum, stain glass, statuary and architecture. Recently, we held a class in taking photos at night within the cemetery using color spectrum light sources and time exposure settings to make the venues stand out and be quite striking. Our annual calendar, Facebook and Twitter sites are repositories for some of these unique photos, which are one of a kind in a place that is truly unique.

The Heritage Foundation is always looking for new and past members to join us in the mission of maintaining and presenting this special place as a sacred site for years and decades to come. To that end we are preparing for our Annual Appeal, which is the outreach to others that believe in this mission to help support our efforts through an annual gift. We also are in the process of expanding our "Living Legacy Society" to those rare few or many that want to have a unique place in the heart of our Heritage Foundation through a planned gift, which requires understanding the many advantages such a gift provides for your family and Cypress Lawn. Terry Hamburg of the Heritage Foundation can answer questions and explain the numerous ways to become a member of the "Living Legacy Society."

On behalf of our Board of Directors and Staff I want to thank you for your interest and commitment to Cypress Lawn, Guardians of California's Heritage. ❖

**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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*Mosaic cremated remains niche panel located in the  
Garden of Light section at Cypress Lawn*



*Cypress Lawn Habitat*

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