



HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE CYPRESS LAWN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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

Fall 2021

Volume 11 No. 6

CALENDAR



Dear Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation Followers:

It is with great regret that Cypress Lawn has suspended Heritage Foundation events until further notice. This health crisis has demonstrated how much the Heritage Foundation really means to the Bay Area. Many Cypress Lawn fans have reached

out to tell me that our programs are greatly missed. Thank you for your encouragement and support! We miss you, too!

We will be back — as safely and as soon as possible.

Please find updates on our Facebook page and the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation website.

Sincerely,

Terry Hamburg
Director of the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation



Do We Have Your Email?

Cypress Lawn is trying to go paperless. You can receive most Heritage notifications and information by email instead of post. Send your email address to thamburg@cypresslawn.com.

SPLENDOR IN THE GLASS



It is one of those proverbial “best kept secrets.” Cypress Lawn Cemetery contains more antique stained glass in a single location than any other place in the United States.

How did this happen? Organically. And it has been going on for 130 years. Of course, there was the Grand Plan – a carefully cultivated garden/arboretum cemetery park oasis developed by San Francisco business visionary Hamden Holmes

Noble. But the forms of memorialization were left to individual families at a time when grandiose Victorian design was reaching its apogee in the United States. Wealthy families at rest at Cypress Lawn served as patrons to some of the finest stain glass masters, architects, and sculptors of the era to create magnificent and unique memorials. Over the years, an incomparable outdoor museum evolved.



One-of-a-kind stained-glass art from great craftsmen of the era, including five windows by Tiffany Studios, are tucked into the walls of our nearly 100 private mausoleums. The main public mausoleum contains an even larger array, topped by 36,000 square feet of stunning stained-glass. Cypress Lawn itself commissioned that ceiling art, some of which is showcased on page 7

of this Newsletter.

For years, the most popular tour at Cypress Lawn has been “Splendor in the Glass.” But that tour can hardly reveal the full extent of the treasure located on these sprawling grounds. We have just begun to build a Museum of California History at Cypress Lawn, and as part of that project we will display in the 1370 El Camino Lobby areas dramatic color photography of selected stained-glass pieces. Soon, a section of the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation Website will be devoted to this subject, accented by fresh articles and images on a regular basis. In addition, a variety of stained-glass virtual tours are planned.

There will be an opportunity to purchase on-line high-resolution prints of stained glass and other historical images and artifacts on display in the museum. Stay tuned!

From the President’s Desk



The past year has changed much of the way that we work, but not why we work. Throughout the last eighteen months our team members at Cypress Lawn have held tightly to our mission of helping families celebrate life, heal from loss, and remember those they love. For over 130 years Cypress Lawn associates have suited up and served, and the last year and a half was no different.

The great learning throughout all this disruption and challenge was that our core values of respect, dignity, integrity, honesty, and teamwork for the community and for our team members is critical to remaining who we are and what we do.

As we entered the pandemic, we all wondered how we would be able to keep our promise to the community. We listened, learned, and “pivoted” to new ways to deliver meaningful

Continued on page 2

life celebrations and to connect remotely with the members of the community that called us at their most difficult time. Our team members vowed to not turn one family away and to always be there to help. Our team members helped every family through their uncertainty while facing their own feelings of concern and even fear.

As an association we are emerging from this historical challenge stronger than ever. We have added a new cemetery campus, chapel, four crematories, a casket company and over 12 acres of undeveloped land. We will soon be adding an open-air chapel and a new garden specifically designed for families opting for cremation arrangements.

Our Heritage Foundation has added a second trolley and a classic 1946 Dodge Power Wagon to its arsenal for tours and community events. We are also moving forward with a virtual and physical

museum display to support our goal of becoming a world class learning center. The traditional Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation community outreach will return soon with Trolley Tours, Walking Tours, Arboretum Events, Lectures, Movies Under the Stars, and other special events.

I want to express my deep appreciation to the entire Cypress Lawn family for everything they have done in the past year, and my gratitude to the community that allows us to serve.

~ Robert A. Gordon Jr.
President and CEO

“Cypress Lawn has proudly been a partner and sponsor of the San Mateo County Historical Association since 2009. During that time, we have been particularly interested in helping with its educational programs for adults. Besides annual contributions, we participate in the Historical Association’ yearly Victorian Days walking tour program and with its monthly Courthouse Docket lecture series. While we support a wide variety of nonprofit organizations, we do not typically fund capital improvements, unless they are on our own properties! However, when we learned that this interpretive center project would allow the Historical Association to double up on its popular program for the schools, we felt we wanted to be a part of it. Being involved with an effort that will help enrich the public’s understanding of local and California History for many years to come gives our Cypress Lawn team an added sense of pride of our involvement with our community.”

Robert A. Gordon Jr., President and CEO



The view of Rancho Adobe from the new "Cypress Lawn" classroom.



Dancers on Rancho Day

SAN MATEO COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES NEW INTERPRETIVE CENTER AT SANCHEZ ADOBE

On Saturday, September 18 from noon until 4 p.m., the San Mateo County Historical Association presented its annual Rancho Day Fiesta at the Sánchez Adobe Historic Site (1000 Linda Mar Blvd. in Pacifica), with an important addition. The Historical Association will also be opening its new interpretive center's exhibition galleries. The new 3,000-square foot Interpretive Center will include two classrooms, 1,000-square feet of exhibit space, an office, kitchen, and gift shop.

Few places in California feature the first three periods of the state's history better than San Mateo County's Sánchez Adobe Historic Site. Indigenous people had a village here. During the Spanish period an important agricultural outpost was built at the site. After California passed from Spanish to Mexican rule, the Site was owned by one of the most influential families of central California.



New Interpretive Learning Center



Children learning crafts on annual Rancho Day

Contact the San Mateo County Historical Association for more information about school and adult tours.



NICHOLAS WOODWORTH

Artist Profile

The people at Cypress Lawn who have worked with Nicholas Woodworth would be the first to tell you that he doesn't do just one thing or work primarily in one medium. No, Nicholas Woodworth does everything, and he will work in any medium that you'll let him.

If you've ever seen the Cypress Lawn trolleys or the classic Dodge Power Wagon parked in front of the main building — he designed the graphics you see emblazoned across them.

The vintage framed image of early Cypress Lawn on display in the lobby, and the museum graphics propped underneath it — that's his work as well.

The short films highlighting the impressive collection of specimen trees in Cypress Lawn's Arboretum, the film detailing Samuel Burris' history, or the one describing the scandalous clashes between the DeYoung and Spreckels families, called **Murder, Museums, and Mayhem** — he made all of those, and so much more.

His work has become so ubiquitous throughout Cypress Lawn that it can sometimes go unnoticed. And though he occasionally requests credit for his

more significant work, he doesn't really mind when this happens. Because what he does for Cypress Lawn is much more than the finished product he turns in.

The best example of what he actually does for Cypress Lawn can be found hanging in the hallway between the lofty domed rotunda of the Cypress Lawn lobby, and the narrow, more focused corridor leading to their arrangement rooms. A series of intricate and detailed renderings of notable Cypress Lawn locations — initially created for the Cypress Lawn Holiday Cards — they are unlike any other artwork in the building, and likely the most recognizable work Nicholas has done for them so far.

They are not brightly colored or abstract impressions of captured feelings. There are no extraneous set pieces, like traffic signs or passing vehicles in the composition to distract from their timelessness. Made using only pencil and paper, they are literal depictions of each location — straightforward in their composition — intentionally void of sentimentality, to allow space for the viewer to apply their own.

This is what Cypress Lawn does. They don't tell you how to feel. They simply make a virtue of necessity.

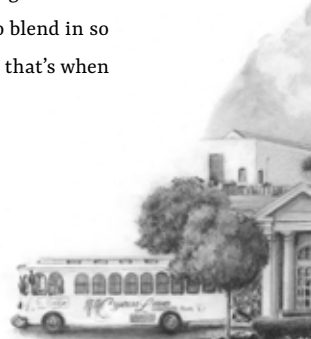
Showing people the importance of Cypress Lawn's work is what Nicholas does.

He knows that experiencing art is rarely about the artist, the same way visiting Cypress Lawn Memorial Park is rarely about the people who keep it running. He knows that unless someone is willing to apply meaningfulness to those who are also in the business of applying meaningfulness, their work is at risk of being taken for granted. And the significance of its loss is only realized after it's gone.

So like Cypress Lawn, he too makes a virtue of necessity. He removes himself from the work he makes for them, and he uses their storied past to inform every opportunity they give him to apply meaningfulness to their future. And when his work begins to blend in so well, it feels as if it has always been there; that's when he knows he's done his job right.

Clockwise from Top Left:

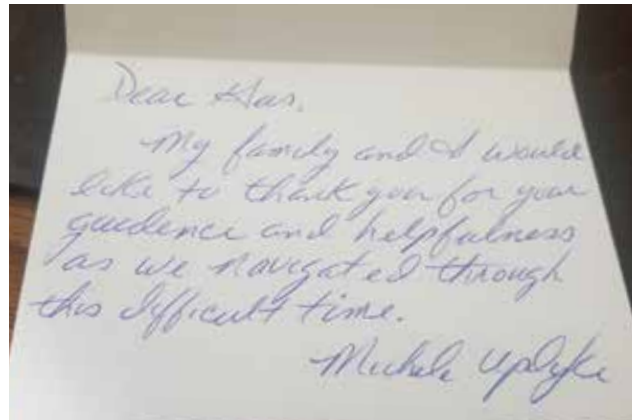
Noble Chapel, Hillside Gardens, Eastside Gardens Archway, Sneider & Sullivan & O'Connell's Funeral Home, Cypress Lawn Funeral Home, Miller-Dutra Coastside Chapel, Crosby-N. Gray & Co. Funeral Home





CYPRESS LAWN'S MISSION

- ✦ Deliver Best In Class Service
- ✦ Embrace and Drive Innovation
- ✦ Celebrate Life And Help Others Do The Same



Virtual Tours

are available on the Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation website
cypresslawnheritagefoundation.org



Virtual History Tour of Famous Personalities at Cypress Lawn

Video Tour: Murder, Mayhem & Museums

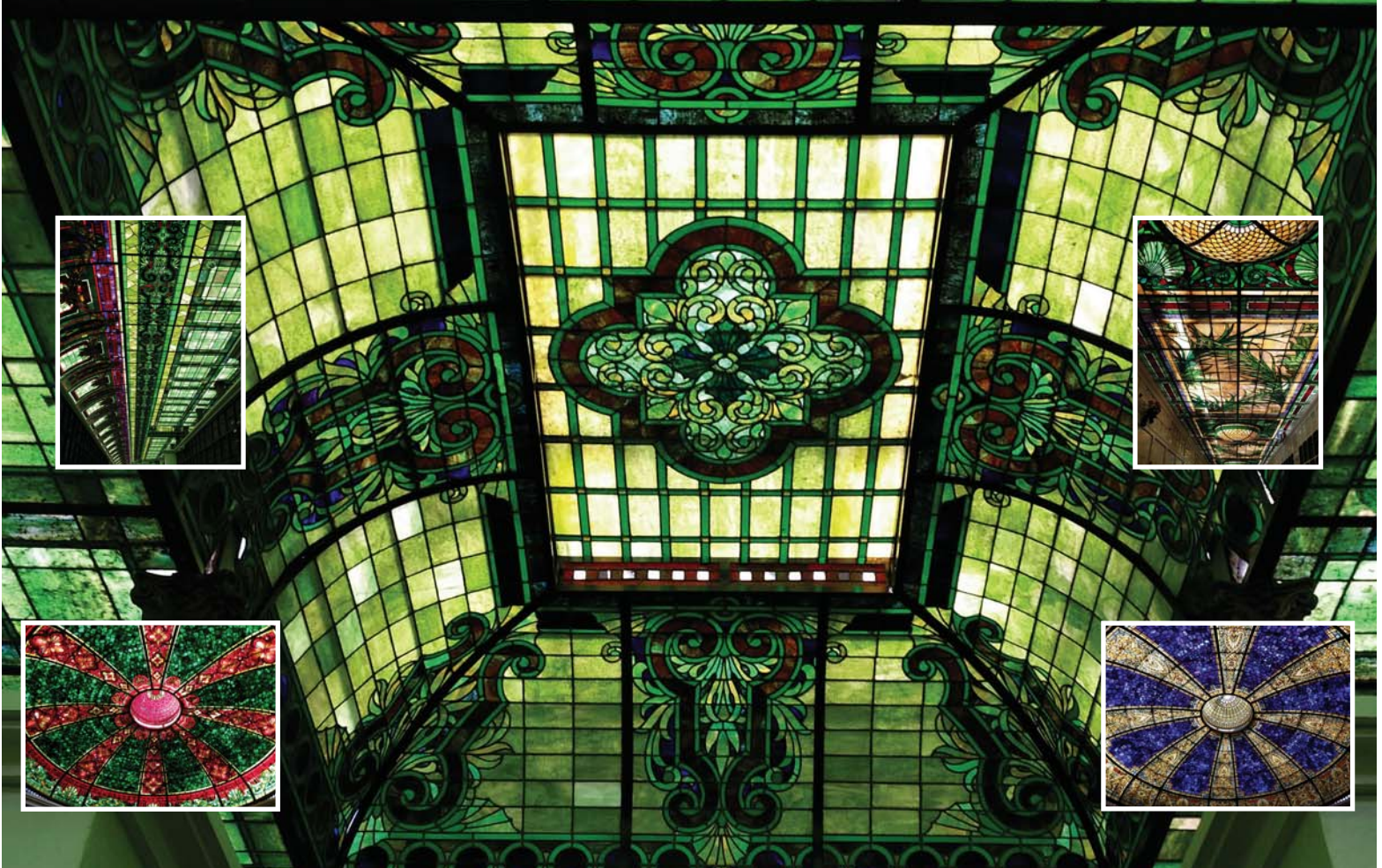
Video Tour: Inaugural Arboretum Day

Virtual Tree Tour

Coming Soon: "Wine Hill" Video Tour:

A history of California wines told through the lives of great vintners at rest at Cypress Lawn.

SPLENDOR IN THE GLASS

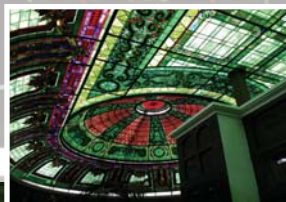


When the original Cypress Lawn Cemetery offices in San Francisco were destroyed in the earthquake of 1906, founder Hamden Holmes Nobles hired eminent architect Bernard Cahill, a specialist in mausoleum design and mortuary architecture, whose body of work includes the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (San Francisco), Evergreen Cemetery Memorial Building (Oakland), the St. Mary's Cemetery mausoleum (Sacramento), and the Diamond Head Memorial Park in Honolulu.

For Cypress Lawn, Cahill designed a Mediterranean, single-story, smooth stucco-covered columned office in Colma and, continuing the architectural scheme, a public mausoleum and catacombs on the knoll behind. That mausoleum was acclaimed, especially for its elaborate ceilings, planned by Cahill to be composed of colored glass set in artistic patterns that

would allow natural light to penetrate and filter through the ceiling. Cahill believed that the antidote to the darkness of death should be an abundance of light and color. Notably, not one of the four acres of catacomb ceilings is ecclesiastical in nature.

The most dramatic of these works are in the earliest catacombs, completed prior to World War I when further export of the valuable stained glass from England and Germany was forbidden. The opalescent ceilings were constructed by West Coast artists, most prominently brothers Harry and Bert Hopps of San Francisco's United Glass Company. Other stained glass masterpieces from the company are the dome at the City of Paris Department Store (preserved by Nieman-Marcus) and domes at the Hibernia Bank, the Palace Hotel, and San Francisco City Hall.



**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

Richard H. Peterson, Jr.
Morris H. Noble, Jr.
Charles C. Crocker
Michael R. V. Whitman
Charles R. Casey
Margaret "Marge" Power
Stephen H. Sutro

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

Stained Glass at Cypress Lawn

