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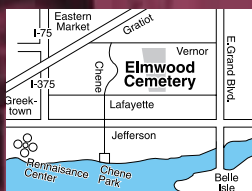
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1200 Elmwood Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48207
Phone: 313-567-3453
Fax: 313-567-8861
www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org

Office Hours

Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm
Sat: 9am - noon

Cemetery Hours (May-Sept.)
7am - 7pm, Daily

NEWSLETTER

2012

Message from Sandy McMillan, *President, Trustees of Elmwood Cemetery*



Dear Families and Friends,

Spring has certainly sprung early in Michigan this year! The mild winter and warmer March has lent a lushness to the grounds – the trees are flowering, migrating birds have returned, spring bulbs have come up and the grass is green and growing fast. I cannot recall the last time we had to cut the Cemetery's grass in March! Please come down to visit us.

I am pleased to report that 2011 was yet another great year for Elmwood. The Cemetery's endowment fund - that ensures the Cemetery is well cared for into the future – is healthy and has recovered from the downturn in the stock

market a few years ago. In addition, the grounds, meticulously cared for by our staff, are a further testament to our success. As a result we are chosen time and time again each year by hundreds seeking a final resting place for themselves or their loved ones. Our staff prides itself on providing knowledgeable and compassionate service to our customers in need of advice.

I encourage you to contact our staff if you are interested in any of our available prime individual or large family lots.

Thank you for your continued trust in us.

So Much to Do and So Much to See...



Spring planting. If you, your friends or garden club are interested in adding to the beauty of the cemetery, there are many areas that are available for flowers. Please call Joan Capuano for more information.

Do you enjoy running, walking or biking with a group of friends?

Please consider using Elmwood's pathways. The office staff would be happy to make arrangements for a time that works best for you.

Bird watching on our grounds provides a natural environment for dozens of different species.

Artists are encouraged to come and sketch or photograph the many sculptures in the cemetery. If you have art of the Cemetery that you would like to share with our visitors, please contact Joan Capuano. We will consider them for posting in our office and on the website.

Tours and Events Please look inside to find out more about what's happening at Elmwood!

Foundation Contributors

We are thankful for the many friends who supported the Historic Elmwood Foundation and Elmwood Cemetery in 2011

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Marilyn Harmon
Mr. Cleodie Houser
Jessie & Sampson Howard
Bessie Ivory
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and Zelda Plater
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Anna L. Wilson & James E. Gaffney, Jr.

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James Finley Sr.
Otto W. Goltz
Robert C. & Robert L. Murray
Fanny Louise Good Stewart
Lillian James

In Kind Contributions

Joan Frear Capuano
David Hessel
Ciara Green Lowe
Robert Schroeder
Michael Shukwit
Bonita Smith

We also wish to thank those who prefer to remain anonymous. We are truly grateful to all our donors and supporters.

ELMWOOD CEMETERY TOURS

Elmwood Cemetery has a lively tour program with guided walking tours. These tours vary from our general tour to specific interest tours honoring the Civil War, African Americans, Art & Architecture, our Landscaping or any particular area requested. Proceeds from all tours are given to the Historic Elmwood Foundation. Members of the Historic Elmwood Foundation receive free tour admission depending upon their level of donation. Non-members incur a charge of \$5 per person for regular tours. Advance reservations are required for all tours. Please contact the office staff to arrange your tour.

General tours start at 10 a.m. and will be available May through October. Advance reservations are required. Our tour guides will share with tour participants the interesting stories of those laid to rest here at Elmwood. Our tours are held in all weather and are walking tours. We do have a small transportation vehicle to assist the elderly or disabled but use of the vehicle must be arranged in advance.

Regular Tours will be held on:

- **Wednesday, May 9**
- **Wednesday, July 11**
- **Wednesday, Sept 12**
- **Saturday, May 19**
- **Saturday, July 21**
- **Saturday, Sept 15**
- **Wednesday, June 13**
- **Wednesday, Aug 8**
- **Saturday, June 23**
- **Saturday, Aug 18**

African American Heritage Tour

Last year Elmwood launched a new special tour highlighting key African Americans buried at the Cemetery. These special guided tours will be held monthly. The tour starts at 10 a.m. and requires advance reservations.

The dates are:

- **May 12, June 19, July 7, Aug 11 and Sept 8**



Halloween Tour

Each Saturday in October Elmwood presents its Halloween Tour. Hear some of the odd tales of those buried at Elmwood. The tour starts at 10 a.m. and advance reservations are required.

- **October 6, 13, 20 and 27**

Special Interest Tours

A minimum of 8 people is requested for a special interest tour. Time and date to be privately arranged with Joan Capuano.

Bus Tours

Bus Tours of forty individuals or less can also be accommodated.

Reservations for all tours can be made by calling (313) 567-3453.



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was created in 1881 by the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) to continue its work. Today it is a national patriotic and public service organization dedicated to 1) patriotic education in schools and communities; 2) honoring union veterans; and 3) preserving and perpetuating the GAR.

CIVIL WAR VETERAN MARKER DEDICATION

In June, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War held a dedication ceremony at Elmwood Cemetery to install a marker at the grave of Private Julius Rhaesa. Rhaesa was born in Luxemburg in 1836 and immigrated to the United States prior to 1861. He served with the German Unit of Co. A 1st Battalion Light Artillery, later known as the 29th NY Battery, from 1861 – 1862. He took part in the Washington defenses, Army of the Potomac. Rhaesa received a medical discharge “from over lifting whilst loading cannon and from exposure incident to the service contracted a disease of lungs, kidneys and rheumatism.” He married Louisa Fleck in Reading Pennsylvania in 1863 and by 1865 they were raising a family in Detroit.

Rhaesa was a cigar maker and operated a store on Michigan Avenue. He was very civic minded and a believer in what makes our country special. He was a founder of the Improved Order of Red Men and the first Great Chief of Records of the Great Council of Michigan, chartered 1872, the oldest fraternal organization in America devoted to inspiring a greater love for the United States of America and the principles of American liberty.

Rhaesa died January 8, 1881. His marker is located in Strangers Ground, immediately across from the sign post for Section 8.

Elmwood would like to thank the members of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for their tireless effort to identify and mark the grave sites of Civil War Veterans throughout the Detroit area and Ms. Judy Sheldon, a descendant of Julius Rhaesa.



Historic Elmwood Foundation

Message from Terry P. Book, *Foundation Chair*



Thank you to all who have donated to the Historic Elmwood Foundation. Your donations have enabled us to move forward with our mission. I hope you will consider donating this year by returning the enclosed envelope. Information on making a bequest can be found on the website, elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org.

The Foundation's 2011 primary restoration project was the complete rebuild of the bridge between the pond and the new mausoleum. This roadway is a main artery as it leads from the gatehouse area up to the chapel and adjacent sections. As the pictures demonstrate, the bridge's foundation began to crumble and immediate attention was required. If you visit the grounds, you will notice its beautiful craftsmanship. The restoration of the surrounding landscape will be completed this spring.

This year the Foundation Board has designated continued support of our community events and restoring two – three sections of roadway along the eastern side of the grounds. You may have noticed that last year's heavy rains caused some flooding in the northeastern section. The Cemetery has utilized a hydrojet cleaning process in these drain lines, removing decades of tree roots. We certainly hope our summer is a bit dryer than last year but if it is not, it will be easier for you to move around the grounds.

The Foundation supports our Elmwood community through ceremonies on Arbor Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans' Day, as well as through our annual Tree Lighting in December. In 2011, we also held a special dedication ceremony for a Civil War veteran. (*Article on page 3*)

Each year school children, special interest groups, and individuals visit Elmwood to take one of our tours or to participate in our special programs. The tours are one way we share the lives of those laid to rest here, and discuss Detroit's history, art, architecture and environment. The dates of our tours and upcoming events are noted in this newsletter. Please try to join us! We will send notices of special events via an email blast. If you have not yet supplied the office with your email address, please do so.

Please keep in mind that membership in the Foundation is achieved by making a donation. In addition to knowing that all donations go directly toward community events and restoring this gem that is Elmwood, you also receive free admission to a tour. If you are not yet a member, enrollment information is provided in the enclosed membership envelope. Please considering making a tax deductible donation and joining the Foundation today.

Thank you again.



Bridge Before



Bridge Restoration



Bridge After

Mission: To preserve the history and educational significance of Elmwood Cemetery and those laid to rest in the cemetery; and to develop social, cultural, and educational programs to benefit the community.



Before



After

MONUMENT AND MARKER MEMORIAL CLEANING SERVICE

Elmwood Cemetery is pleased to offer memorial cleaning.

- **Individual markers** **\$120 each**
- **Companion markers** **\$200 each**
- **Monuments** **\$100 per linear foot of base**

Large monuments or family mausoleums need to be quoted individually. Please contact Mike Shukwit to make arrangements or download the memorial cleaning form from our website.



ELMWOOD CEMETERY UPCOMING EVENTS



DID YOU KNOW?

Memorial art is used to honor a loved one and create a lasting legacy. There are hundreds of variations in memorial design. Those at the Cemetery that signify a military career include the eagle, sword, shield, stars, a laurel wreath, roping, and crossed swords indicating death in battle.

- **April 15**
Summer Floral Beds Available!
Please return the enclosed order form, visit our website or contact the office.
- **April 27**
Arbor Day Celebration
10 a.m., Gatehouse
Join our grounds crew as we plant a weeping willow tree along the creek.



Arbor Day tree planting and tour

- **May – October**
Regular Guided Tours Begin
- **May 1**
Summer Hours Begin
Extended hours for grounds access through September, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- **May 6**
Mother's Day
Remember to contact our office by May 2nd to purchase a large floral arrangement or flower bed for your mother's site! Our office also will sell small bouquets for \$10 on Friday and Saturday, May 4 and 5. You may drop in or call and ask us to place the bouquet at your loved one's site. *Quantities are limited.*
- **May 22**
Annual Flower Planting
9 a.m., Gatehouse, weather permitting. Join our staff and volunteers as we plant flowers in beds throughout the cemetery.
- **May 25 – 28**
Memorial Weekend
Our office will sell small red, white and blue bouquets for \$10. You may drop in or call and ask us to place the bouquet at your loved one's site. *Quantities are limited.*
- **May 28**
Memorial Day Celebration
Detroit Firefighters will be honored at 10 a.m. More information will be provided on our website and in local newspapers.

- **June 14**
Flag Day
10 a.m., Civil War Lot.
- **June 17**
Father's Day
Our office staff will help you honor your father with a floral arrangement, if ordered by June 13th. Our office also will sell small bouquets for \$10 on Friday and Saturday, June 15 and 16. You may come into the office or call and ask us to place the bouquet at your loved one's site. *Quantities are limited.*
- **October – April**
Grounds access from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily.
- **November 2**
All Souls' Day, Chapel
Please join us in the Chapel for an All Souls' service. Our office also will sell small bouquets for \$10 on November 1 and 2. You may drop in or call and ask us to place the bouquet at your loved one's site. *Quantities are limited.*
- **November 11**
Veterans' Day
10 a.m., Civil War Lot
Our veterans will be honored at a ceremony sponsored with the Detroit Historic Civil War Society. Our office will sell small red, white and blue bouquets for \$10. You may drop in or call and ask us to place the bouquet at your loved one's site. *Quantities are limited.*

Veterans' Day

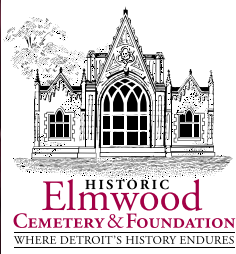


- **December 3**
Tree Lighting Ceremony
6 p.m., Gatehouse
Please join us as we honor those who passed away during 2012 with our tree lighting ceremony. Refreshments and holiday cookies are served.

DISCOVER MORE

about Elmwood! Visit
www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org





INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY LOTS AVAILABLE!

Elmwood Cemetery has prime lots available for individuals and families. In addition, the Cemetery working with the Historic Elmwood Foundation has designated nine large family lots available for purchase. The lots are located throughout the property and range in size from 20' x 20' to 20' x 30'. They are the perfect size for your family mausoleum or large memorial. These special lots are only available through the Foundation and include a donation to the Foundation. Please contact the office staff if you are interested in viewing any of our prime individual or family lots.



Perennial Splits?

Elmwood is hoping to add beautiful perennials throughout the cemetery. If you are splitting the perennials in your garden, please consider donating your splits to the Cemetery. We will find a spot where they will be appreciated by our many visitors. Please drop your splits off at the Cemetery garage, across from the gatehouse. While you are here, take a moment to say hello to the office staff or drive through the grounds to check our progress! If you are unable to bring your splits to Elmwood, please contact the office and we will make arrangements to pick them up. Thank you!

Request For Updated Contact Information

It is important that we know how to reach our lot owners and friends. We know you want to be kept informed on rule changes or development issues that affect your lot as well as information about cemetery activities. If you have a new address, phone number or e-mail address, please let us know by phone, mail or e-mail.

OUR EXPERIENCED STAFF



*Michael Shukwit,
Director of Operations*



*Bonita Smith,
Director of
Administration*



*Ciara Green-Lowe,
Memorial Advisor*



*Joan Frear Capuano,
Executive Director*

Michael Shukwit, Elmwood Cemetery Director of Operations, has over 20 years of experience in the cemetery business. Mr. Shukwit is responsible for managing the outside operations, buildings, capital improvements, grounds, memorial/monument cleaning, arboretum, gardens, and working with the Foundation on its restoration and education plans.

Bonita Smith, Director of Administration, has 20 years of experience in the industry. Her responsibilities include managing the overall administration of Elmwood including record keeping, banking, and accounts receivable and payable. In addition, Ms. Smith provides guidance to customers on lot selection, mausoleums, and all other burial matters.

Ciara Green-Lowe, Elmwood Cemetery Memorial Advisor, has over 10 years customer service and sales experience. She counsels customers on all burial matters including selection of lots and niches, memorials, and tributes as well as preplanning needs.

Joan Frear Capuano, Historic Elmwood Foundation Executive Director. She directs all Foundation projects, community outreach, tours, events and programs. In addition, she is responsible for communications, grant seeking, and the Annual Fund Drive.

Please contact our staff whenever the need arises by calling (313) 567-3453.