

# The Epitaph

Volume 3, Issue 2

June 2005

*Have you renewed your membership?  
See page 5*

**Don't forget the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on June 10.**

**RSVP to 264-7072**

The barbecue will start at 6:00 p.m. next to the Fireman's Plot (not at the Archives)

**Inside this issue:**

Editorial—Many Changes	2
New Board Members	2
Victorian Tea Is Big Success	3
Tours & Events—Upcoming Activities	4
Volunteer News	5
Membership	5
Cemetery Fence	6

## April Open Gardens Event Brings Many Visitors to the Cemetery

*By Anita Clevenger*

Organizers of the 2005 Open Garden nervously watched this spring's weather. Hail, thunderstorms, tornadoes, above-average rainfall and below-average temperatures – what would April 16<sup>th</sup> bring? Fortunately, it brought sunny skies, beautiful flowers, and well over 200 visitors.



Three gardens were featured. The Native Plant Society provided a display for the welcome table, and visitors were directed to their demonstration garden. Ham-

ilton Square information was also available, and Sharon Patrician was on hand to lead a tour and answer questions.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Annual Meeting Update

*By Judy Eitzen, Acting President*

Saturday, June 25 is the date of the annual membership meeting of the Old City Cemetery Committee. It will be held at 10:30 near the Fireman's Plot.'

Members in good standing (i.e. paid their dues) will elect Board members, revise the by-laws and share our successes since last year's meeting and discuss plans for the future.

Please plan to be there, hear what's happening and join in the discussion about upcoming events. The Board is taking an active role in bringing events to the Cemetery and finding ways to support restoration and Cemetery improvements.

Please plan to attend. The munchies will be good and it's a great time to meet your fellow Committee members.

## Spring Brings Changes—editorial

*Judy Eitzen, Acting President*

In late March, Board President Lou Demas reluctantly elected to resign for personal reasons. His wife Marilyn has resigned as well. As Vice President, I became Acting President effective at the April Board Meeting. Elections to the Board are held at the annual Committee meeting in June, and Board officers are elected in July. I will fill the office until that time.

Both as your Acting President, and on a personal level, I very much regret the loss of two enthusiastic Cemetery supporters and am very aware of the amount of effort each put into Cemetery activities. Lou and Marilyn gave generously of their time and energy, conducting school and public tours, and producing this newsletter as well as support to other projects. They will be missed.



Board members have met severally and officers have met with Jim Henley, the manager on City staff who carries responsibility for the Cemetery.

We have determined priorities for activities, restoration and repair, fund-raisers, and public events. In addition, we have been successful in recruiting four new Board members and we're looking forward to their participation.

I know you will all join me, and other members of the Board, in projects that are planned over the next few months. The Board has a

limited number of members and we could not conduct our successful activities (Open Gardens, Victorian Tea, etc.) without the support of enthusiastic Committee members such as yourselves. Please accept my thanks for many jobs very well done.

*Judy Eitzen*

## Four New Members Fill OCCC Board

*By Sharon Patrician, Secretary OCCC*

On May 19, 2005, the Board of Directors of the Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc., nominated and unanimously elected the following persons to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors:

**Jane Howell:** Jane returns to the Board after a brief hiatus. She has been a loyal volunteer since 1994 and has contributed countless hours to history tours; adopt-a-plot and volunteer management. Jane says, "I'm really looking forward to working on new cemetery projects."



**Sabrina Okamura-Johnson:** Sabrina has been associated with the Native Plants Demonstration Garden in the cemetery since 1997. She brings many new ideas to the Board about fund rais-

ing, and garden tours and supports the Committee in its goals and objectives.

**Lonnie Ratzlaff:** Lonnie works with Barbara Oliva in the Historic Rose Garden and has helped with several of the Committee's fund-raising events, most recently the Victorian Tea. She brings energy, interest and commitment to achieving the many projects the Committee is instituting.

**Lynda Walls:** Lynda is a relatively new volunteer, and has proven her talents and abilities in a short time. She is our Webmaster, and has photographed events. She brings graphic and writing skills, a background in marketing and publicity and works for a cemetery association. She is eager to become more involved with the Committee and has many new ideas to help us achieve our goals.

## Victorian Tea Becomes Popular Event

By Sharon Patrician

With much fretting over the weather and whether guests would sit in too much sun, the Second Annual Victorian Tea at the Historic City Cemetery got underway on May 7, 2005 at 3 p.m. with the arrival of her Most Gracious Imperial Majesty, Queen Victoria (portrayed with uncanny accuracy by Fran Pendleton).

Guests, many dressed in appropriate Victorian afternoon costumes, were seated at 16 tables decorated with unique tea cups, tea pots with centerpieces of lavender growing in decoratively painted pots by cemetery volunteers. The Queen and her daughter, Princess Helena (Verna Ellis), the Queen's escort Mr. Brown, (Don Burns), and the Princess' escort Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein (Richard Sanchez), made their way through the tables to their dining pavilion, nodding and smiling.

With the seating of the Queen, guests were served by charming young servers (Anne Browne, Barbara Browne, Rose Browne, Amber Burnside, Kathy Fisher, Lauren Mackey, Anna Meier, Barbara Turner and Sasha Zazzi) dressed in black and white who brought tea, sandwiches, scones, tea breads, cookies and fresh strawberries to waiting guests. A local manservant (Scott Griffith) attended the Queen and saw that her "healthy" appetite was amply served. As guests dined on the savories and sweets prepared



by Cemetery volunteers, live music was provided by Madeline Biddle (the granddaughter of volunteers Chris and Ken Pappenheim) and Danielle Camardo.

After a two-hour repast amid much visiting and gaiety, guests were invited to tour the Cemetery's gardens and enjoy the early evening air. More than 120 guests enjoyed the ambiance of taking tea under old elm trees, listening to classical music and having the rare privilege of the Queen herself presiding over the event. The ladies and gentlemen in

Victorian costume added a festive and appropriate note to the occasion, and comments were generally lavish about the food, appointments and service.

In addition to the above volunteers, others who toiled behind the scenes were: Connie Bettencourt, Judy Eitzen, Barbara Oliva, Chris and Ken Pappenheim, Lonnie Ratzlaff, Suzanne Sanchez, Lois Dove, Philip Frumberg, Marilyn Fuqua, Amy Griffith, Dorothy Mills, Sharon Patrician, Becky Porter, and Lynda Walls. Lynda took many photos of the event that have been posted on our website ([www.oldcitycemetery.com](http://www.oldcitycemetery.com).)

And all that concern about the weather? Seems we timed it just right – it rained the following day!

## Open Gardens, cont.

By Anita Clevenger

(Continued from page 1)

In the Historic Rose Garden, Barbara Oliva led a tour on the history of the roses. Judy Eitzen conducted a workshop on photographing roses. Anita Clevenger offered a tour on her favorite roses. Rooted cuttings and larger plants of old roses, many of them unidentified "found" roses, were offered for sale. Rose memorabilia, including t-shirts, polo shirts, aprons and a catalog of the collection, were available. The Open Garden netted about \$750 for the Rose Garden operations.

Among people attending were members of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club and the Auburn Garden Club. A contingent of old rose enthusiasts, members of Gold Coast Heritage Rose Group, traveled from Ventura County, San Jose, Reno and Mill Valley. Many of them are already planning their visit to the 2006 Open Garden.

Thanks to the many volunteers who care for these gardens, and who organized an outstanding day in the Old City Cemetery.

## Tours and Events

### Schedule of Events & Activities

- Friday, June 10 6 p.m.—Volunteer dinner—Fireman's Plot. Sponsored by City Staff. All Cemetery volunteers are invited (RSVP, please)
- Saturday June 11 10 a.m. What's Blooming in the Cemetery—public tour led by Sharon Patricia
- Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m., Sacramento & California history—public tour led by Bill Mahan.
- Saturday, June 25 10:30 a.m.—OCCC annual meeting—Fireman's plot. All members welcome. **RSVP 448-0811**
- Friday, July 8, 7 p.m. Public Evening Tour (Theme TBA) \$5.00 fee, RSVP
- Saturday July 9 1:00 pm. Tour Training Meeting with Living History group.
- Saturday, July 16 10 am, Sacramento & California History—public tour led by Bill Mahan.
- Saturday, August 13 10 am-Plants and Plantmen; a Horticulture Tour—public tour led by Barbara Oliva and Anita Clevenger
- Friday, August 26 7 p.m. Heroes of Sacramento—public fundraiser to support the Fireman's Plot Fence. (NOTE: volunteers are needed for this event. Should be fun—fire trucks, ice-cream, etc.) \$10 to public.
- Sept 2-5—Gold Rush Days, Old Sacramento. Vacant lot cemetery.

### Regularly Scheduled Activities

- Wednesdays 9 a.m.—Rose Garden maintenance. Meet in Rose Garden.
- Saturday's 9 a.m.—garden maintenance. Meet in working area.
- OCCC Board Meetings are held evenings on the second Thursday of each month. Members are welcome. Please contact Archives for time & place if you wish to attend.

*By Jane Howell & Connie Bettencourt,  
Tour & Event Co-Chairs.*

This Spring, Committee members and volunteers conducted a number of successful events, tours and ceremonies in the Cemetery. These included a bus trip to the Colma Cemeteries, an Open Garden in April, a Victorian Tea in May and Memorial Day Ceremonies.

School tours were conducted throughout the Spring for more than 800 students. Tours included students from local schools and many who traveled from elsewhere, including southern California.

### WHAT'S NEXT

A number of tours and events are planned for upcoming months. Several members have volunteered to participate and MANY more are needed.

On July 9 we've set up a **Tour Training meeting** with the Old Sacramento *Living History* folks who have volunteered to work with our volunteers. All members are welcome to come. Join us at 1:00 on the Fireman's Green. We will discuss scripts, acting parts, and whatever it will take to entertain our October visitors.

In September We plan to participate in **Old Sacramento's Gold Rush Days** event over the Labor Day Weekend. We'll set up a small Cemetery in a vacant lot and tell visitors about the real Cemetery. We need two volunteers, 2-3 shifts per day for four days. Costumes will be provided by *Living History* for volunteers who don't have costumes suitable for 1848-1880.

This year's **October tours** will include a re-visitation by psychic Nancy Matz and Lantern tours will be held in conjunction with *Living History*. Dates for these tours:

- Oct 15 Psychic
- Oct 17 Psychic
- Oct 21 Psychic
- Oct 22 Psychic
- Oct 28 Living History—for kids
- Oct 29 Living History
- Oct 30 Living History

We'll do one Psychic tour each night and three Living History Tours each night. Costumes are available from *Living History*. We'll need several guides, participants, escorts, etc. for each event.

**Call the Archives and leave your name to join in the fun and volunteer for upcoming tours and events. (448-0811).**

## Volunteer News

*Sharon Patrician, Volunteer Coordinator*

### VOLUNTEER HOURS

Don't forget! I need all volunteer hours to report to the City! Please call or email me (455 8166 or patrician@midtown.net) with your monthly hours.

### WEST NILE VIRUS

The State has made it official. West Nile Virus is indeed in California, and dead birds with the virus have been found in Sacramento County. Since the cemetery has a good population of resident crows, please let Victor Esparza or Curtis Clark know if you find dead birds. Other birds also affected by this virus are scrub jays, magpies, hawks and house finches. Do not handle the birds yourself.

### WHITE TARPS FOR GARDEN REFUSE

You may have seen white tarps with weeds and cuttings along side the roads in the cemetery. We are trying to ease the burden on Curtis Clark who must drive the truck and collect this refuse. Ask Victor or Curtis for a tarp when you come to the cemetery to weed or prune. Pull the tarp to the roadside or have the weekend crew move it for you.

### DONATIONS OF POWER MOWERS

If you have a power mower in decent shape, consider donating it to the City crew. More mowers are needed and not in the budget. Call Sharon (455 8166) to make a donation. Such donations are to a non-profit group and may be claimed as a deduction on your tax return.

### DONATED PLANTS AND FLATS

We frequently get donations of plants from nurseries which often come in four inch pots, in flats of 16 pots each. Please save the four inch pots and all the flats and bring them back to the brick building for recycling. These items are made from petroleum products and should not go into garbage cans. Thanks!

### NATIVE PLANT GARDEN COORDINATOR

The new Native Plant garden coordinator is Mitchell Alford, and she comes to us as a volunteer with extensive study and experience with native and other plants. With the help of a few volunteers and the weekend Sheriff's crew, she has whipped that section into beautiful shape. It was a hit at our recent Open Garden with all visitors who saw it. For those of you who don't know where our Native Plant Demonstration Garden is, just turn left onto Magnolia inside the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Gate entrance, turn right onto Riverside and follow it down until you see the sign "Native

Plant Demonstration Garden". Walk south and look for signs near plants stating what they are. Spring is an especially wonderful time to visit this garden. Welcome, Mitchell.

### WEEKLY CITY MEETINGS

If you are an Adopt A Plot volunteer and have questions, concerns or solutions, please attend our semi-monthly Tuesday morning meetings (first and third Tuesdays) with Victor Esparza and Curtis Clark. 10 a.m. at the cemetery office at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street gate. It's a terrific opportunity to learn more about cemetery business and problem solving. Call Sharon Patrician at 455-8166 if you have any questions.

## Membership

*If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2005, please do so using the form below. In addition to knowing that you belong to a great group of people, you know that you are supporting an important historical resource in Sacramento.*

**Membership forms should be sent to Historic City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway, Sacramento, Ca 95818, in care of Verna Ellis, Membership Chair.**

### Membership Application

Annual Dues:

- Individual: \$15.00
- Family \$20.00 (One voting member per family)
- Business \$35.00 (One voting member per business)
- Sponsor: \$1,000
- Gold Sponsor: \$250 - \$999
- Patron: \$200-\$299
- Donation. Amount & designation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Include all names if family membership)

Voting member's name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (day): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (eves): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

Prefer to receive **Epitaph** newsletter mail or email (circle one)

**(cut out form and mail w/check made out to "OCCC, Inc.")**

1000 Broadway, Sacramento, CA, 95818-2105

**OLD CITY CEMETERY  
COMMITTEE, INC.**

Phone: 916-448-0811  
Email: [oldcitycemetery.com/info\\_contact.htm](http://oldcitycemetery.com/info_contact.htm)



*Check us out at:  
[Www.oldcitycemetery.com](http://www.oldcitycemetery.com)*

## Cemetery Fence Completion

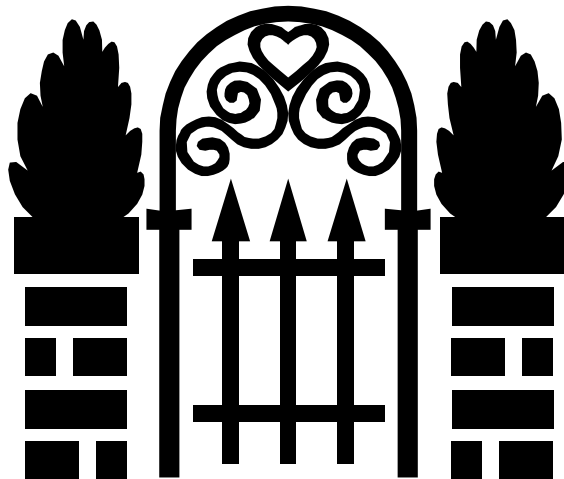
*By Judy Eitzen*

As many of you have observed, the new fence around the Historic City Cemetery and the Masonic and Odd Fellows Cemeteries has been completed.

Jim Henley of the City's Culture & Leisure Department is working on a plan for a formal dedication of the fence sometime this summer.

This project, some years in the making, has taken several months to complete and has drawn many positive comments from those who have seen it. Though a modern fabrication,

the new fence is true to 19th century cemetery design while still affording safety and security for the grounds. Take the time to look at the detailed design on the main gates.



The fence dedication will undoubtedly be a large event, well publicized in newspaper and local media. City dignitaries and many of the public will attend. We may be participants, offering tours to

those interested, etc. Watch for the announcement and plan to be there.