

SAVE AUSTIN'S CEMETERIES

Fall 2013 Newsletter

Save Austin's Cemeteries Board Members

Beth Pickett, President
Kay Boyd, Vice President
Barbara Surlis, Secretary
Leslie Wolfenden, Treasurer
Danny Camacho
Dale Flatt
Megan Spencer
Bob Ward
Sally Victor
Jan Root

Inside this Issue:

4th Annual Photo Contest

Membership Drive 2014

National Museum of Funeral
History-Houston

Founders Day at the Alamo

One Grave at a Time

7th Annual MMM Walking
Tours

Update on Parks & Recreation
Master Cemetery Plan

Happy Holidays from SAC

4th Annual Photo Contest and 2014 Calendar by Leslie Wolfenden

Save Austin's Cemeteries held its 4th annual photo contest in September and received 57 entries. Some 730 votes later, the overall winner was Angela Stipe with her ominous "Storm on the Horizon" photo. The other top eleven entries were won by Harrison Saunders (last year's cover winner), Stephanie Sharif, Katie Cowden, Beth Pickett, Claudia Cobiانchi, Brooke Moody, Cheaven Roberts, and Justin Ruiz. The terrific photos have been compiled into the 2014 SAC calendar, now available through the SAC website for just \$17.99 each. Just go to the SAC website to order one. (<http://www.sachome.org/shop/store.html>). These make great holiday presents for your family and friends, as well as a treat for yourself! Enjoy 2014 with a beautiful scenic shot each month of Austin's historic cemeteries. Proceeds benefit cemetery preservation projects.



Storm on the Horizon (Oakwood Cemetery), Angela Stipe 2013

SAVE AUSTIN'S CEMETERIES 2014

www.sachome.org

Membership Drive for 2014 by Leslie Wolfenden

As the holidays draw near, it's time to start the SAC membership drive for 2014.

The SAC membership year runs from January to December. SAC has several membership levels:

- Regular (\$35)
- Student (with copy of current student ID \$25)
- Family (\$50)
- Seniors (over 60 years of age \$25)
- Lifetime (\$500)

With your support, Save Austin's Cemeteries carries out the projects that help preserve the historic cemeteries in Austin through documentation and education, and promoting historic cemeteries of Austin as cultural resources, such as the one you just read about above for Fannie Harris.

SAC relies on the support of its members to achieve its mission – to preserving historic cemeteries in Austin through documentation and education, and promoting historic cemeteries of Austin as cultural resources.

With Member support during the past year, Save Austin's Cemeteries has actively supported the following programs, among others:

- **Public Education:** Every year, SAC hosts several walking tours that educate the public about Austin's past citizens and cemetery preservation, incorporate our youth by having them actively participate as storytellers, and raise money for cemetery projects. SAC also conducts private walking tours for school groups and scout troops upon request.
- **Cemetery Preservation:** SAC has teamed with the City of Austin and the Texas Historical Commission to have the roof replaced on the small building in Oakwood Cemetery Annex.
- **Advocacy for Local Cemetery Issues:** SAC raises public awareness of Austin's historic cemeteries by attending City meetings relating to cemetery issues, helping other local cemetery groups get started with their own cemetery programs, giving presentations to other organizations about historic cemeteries, keeping the City aware of issues – such as vandalism or storm damage, and letting its members know about the latest cemetery events.
- **Guest Speaker Series:** SAC invites expert speakers to present at SAC's quarterly meetings. Past speakers have talked about symbolism, Jewish burial customs, paranormal investigations, local family histories, and ethnic heritage, to name a few.

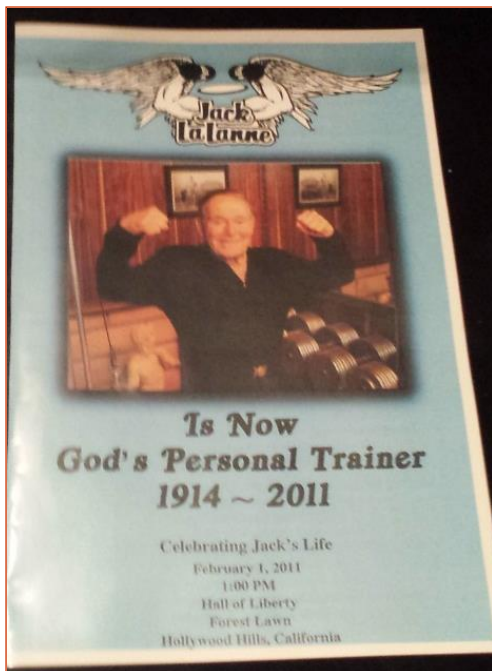
Please help us continue to serve the preservation needs of Austin's historic cemeteries. Let's work together to preserve these important cultural resources. ***Become a member today!!*** Go to the SAC website for more details and to sign up. <http://www.sachome.org/join/join.html>

A Road Trip to the National Museum of Funeral History in Houston by Dale Flatt

On October 4th, Danny Camacho and I loaded up my trusty little red truck and headed to Houston for a museum visit and a cemetery preservation workshop. At the top of the agenda was a visit to the National Museum of Funeral History. Yes, there is a museum for that kind of stuff – some very cool stuff. There were collections of funereal artifacts, relics, and photography from all over the world. Exhibits include the funerals of popes,

presidents, and celebrities, as well as interesting exhibits on mourning traditions and the history of coffins and caskets. There were some pretty funny exhibits as well. We got a kick out of the Jack LaLanne exhibit.

We enjoyed all of the exhibits especially the classic hearses. If you plan a trip to Houston, don't miss the National Museum of Funeral History. Here is a link to the museum's website: www.nmfh.org. The next day we got down to more current things at a cemetery preservation workshop. It was great experience as well.



Founders Day Program at the Alamo by Sally Victor

On Saturday, September 28th Sally Victor, Dale Flatt, and Danny Camacho gave a lecture about cemetery iconography and symbolism as part of the annual Founders Day Program at the Alamo. The lecture was open to school teachers who wanted to integrate the history of San Antonio and famous folks buried at cemeteries into their public school classrooms. The iconography presentation focused on statuary, art, and symbolism. Two other members of SAC came along and we had a great time! There were many questions and personal recollections from the participants. The participants then loaded up on a bus to visit several cemeteries on the east side and on the west side of San Antonio. We all learned something new and met very interesting folks.



One Grave at a Time - An Update by Kay Boyd and Beth Pickett

SAC began the “One Grave at a Time” project in October with the A. J. Zilker monument on Main Street. We started cleaning the large stone using brushes, water, and a little elbow grease. We are not quite finished yet, but if you drive by you will notice the difference in appearance.

In November, we tackled the Townsend plot with the marble balustrade, cross, steps and markers. Since this is such a large area, an entire lot, it will be an ongoing project. It is amazing what a little gentle rubbing with a soft brush will do.

This project and the photo documenting projects are ongoing and we would love to have more volunteers. Join SAC volunteers the first Saturday of each month when the weather permits for an hour or so to get some hands on cemetery preservation experience!



7th Annual Murder, Mayhem and Misadventure Walking Tours by Barbara Surles

Success! MMM VII had over 400 visitors this year, and SAC received over \$1,000 in donations. We could not have asked for better weather, and we received tons of positive feedback about the tour itself, as well as about our fabulous actors and tour guides. The SAC tour committee chose to highlight Oakwood’s Section 3 this year, and tour guides led visitors to several stops on the route where costumed actors recounted the stories of those buried at each grave. This year’s chosen residents (and their actors) included:

Henry Pfannekuche: Cat McGrath-Farmer and Billy Brookshire

Mrs. Cornelius Fahey: Sally Victor and Laura Luna

Herr Duesterhoft: Ester Van Hout and Mary Pawlowski

Julius Hanson: Leslie and Austin Covington

John Rankin: Jason Crouch and Bob Ward

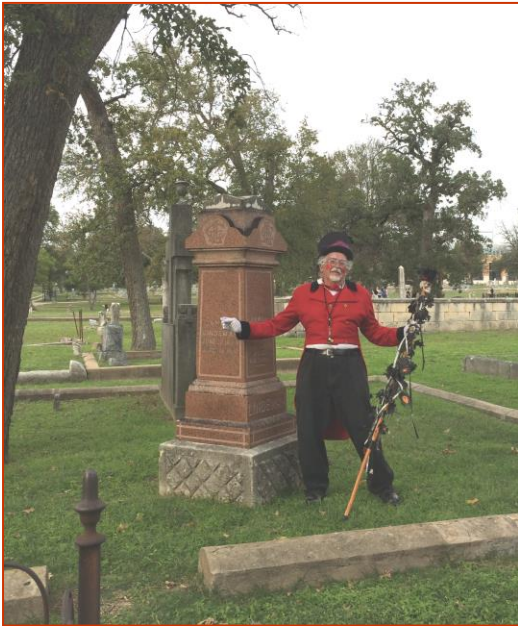
Myrtle Pursley: Beth Pickett and Elizabeth Garzone

Gus Porter: Scott Meyer and Kate Baldwin

Mrs. Heine: Nancy Korzillus and Lana Davis

Many thanks to our tour guides, Danny Camacho, Dale Flatt, Bob Ward, Beth Pickett and Sally Victor! Tours began at 10 a.m., and our guides tirelessly worked until the last tour given at 4 p.m. that afternoon. Our signature event, MMM, gets better every year, and we are always delighted to bring awareness to new faces with open ears willing to hear about preservation efforts our five City of Austin cemeteries need. As always, Mr. Skelly was very popular with guests and volunteers alike.

Our 2014 MMM Tour will showcase residents in Section 4, and our tour committee is already hard at work with research and script-writing. Thanks again to everyone who volunteered to make the 7th Annual Murder, Mayhem, and Misadventure Walking Tours a fantastic success! Be on the lookout for next year’s MMM!



Update on Parks & Recreation and a Cemetery Master Plan by Megan Spencer

Austin Parks and Recreation Department has compiled all the input from the public meetings over the past several months and is seeking a professional consultant via the Request for Proposal process who will head up the creation of a Cemetery Master Plan. A consultant may be chosen as early as January 2014. The plan will provide a framework for the preservation of our five city cemeteries based on cemetery stakeholder input.

Happy Holidays from SAC

As 2013 draws to a close, SAC wishes you all happy holidays, best wishes for the coming new year, and safe travels. Season Greetings, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Festivus, Ramadan Kareem.

Submit an Article to the SAC E-newsletter

If you would like to submit an article to the SAC e-newsletter, please send your article or idea to info@sachome.org.

Calendar

Please join us for these upcoming events!

Jan. 4	Photo Documentation Session at Oakwood Cemetery
Jan. 11	Guest speaker session: Ann Dolce Johnson at North Village Library on Steck Ave at 10:30
Feb. 1	Photo Documentation Session at Oakwood Cemetery
Mar. 1	It's My Park Day
Apr. 5	Photo Documentation Session at Oakwood Cemetery
Apr. 12	Guest speaker session: R.G. Ratcliffe on "A House Divided: The Holland Family in Black and White" at Oakwood Cemetery at 10:00

If you would like to stop receiving SAC emails, or if you have updated contact information, please send an email to info@sachome.org.