



SAVE AUSTIN'S CEMETERIES

Fall 2018 Newsletter

Save Austin's Cemeteries Board Members

Sally Victor, President
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12th Annual Murder, Mayhem and Misadventure Tour by Kay Dunlap Boyd

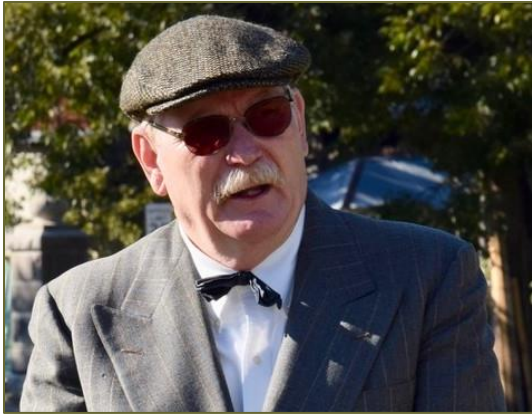
After postponing our original date of October 20th due to wet and cold weather, the sun came out on October 27th for a beautiful autumn day for our 12th annual MMM Tour. About 360 people ventured out to hear the stories and tour the grounds. Thanks to everyone for helping to showcase the wonders of Austin history. Together, we introduced many folks to our efforts to improve the five City of Austin cemeteries. This year's stories focused on murders, murders, and more murders!

Volunteers are the backbone of our group and help make all events and projects successful. Our guides this year were Bobby Cervantes, Dale Flatt, Warren Friedrich, Melissa Rogers, Willie Wonka (Mark Heep), and Terri Mirka. These folks walked the groups along the path to hear the stories of murder.

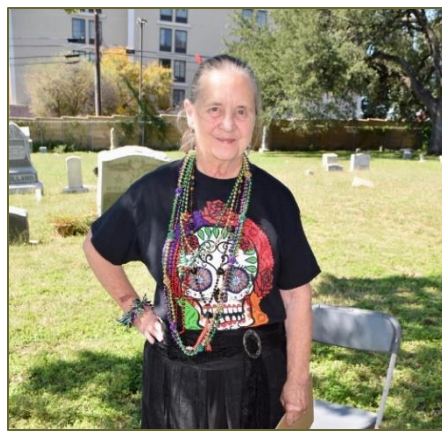
Fourteen people volunteered to tell about the lives and deaths of seven persons buried in Oakwood. These people were much appreciated:

- Jeff Wooley and Harrison Eppright told about Richard Majors, a 40-year-old mail clerk, who was shot by his father-in-law in 1915.
- Leigh Gershman and Sally Victor conveyed the sad story of eleven-year-old Mary Ramey who was the sixth victim of the Servant Girl killer in 1885.
- Lana Davis and Beth Pickett voiced the story of John Gest, a saloon owner, who was killed by cedar chopper John Teague, his brother-in-law in 1911.
- Billy Brookshire and Kevin McKenzie expressed the story of Cornelius L. Fahey, the first Austin police officer killed in line of duty in 1875.
- Scott Meyers and Elizabeth Garzone told of the dreadful deed done by Eugene Burt who was hung for murdering his wife and children in 1896.
- Stephanie Mueller and Joan Mead spoke on Gus Porter who was a fireman killed in an argument with two other young men in 1874.
- Jacquelyn Graham and Elizabeth Reid recalled of German father and son Bormann, who were killed on their way to Austin to sell their cotton in 1872.

As always, we thank to Bob Ward for serving as casting director and helping us fill our actor requirements.



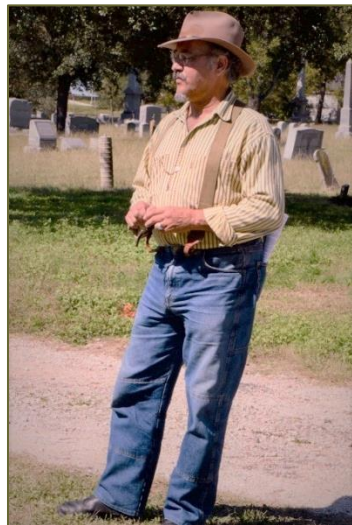
Jeff Wooley (left) and Harrison Eppright (right) at Richard Majors stop.



Leigh Gershman (left) and Sally Victor (right) at little Mary Ramey stop.



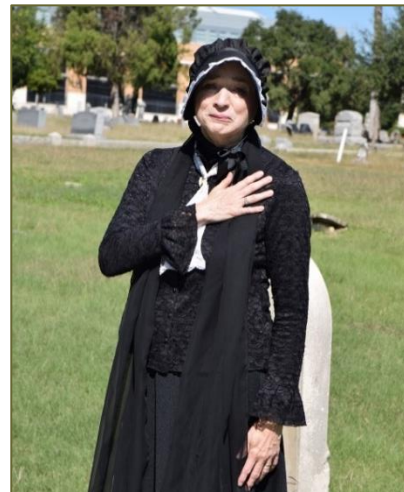
Lana Davis (left) and Beth Pickett (right) at John Gest stop.



Billy Brookshire (left) and Kevin McKenzie (right) at Cornelius L. Fahey stop.



Scott Meyers and Elizabeth Garzone at Eugene Burt stop.



Stephanie Mueller (left) and Joan Mead (right) at Gus Porter stop.



Jacquelyn Graham (left) and Elizabeth Reid (right) at the marker for the Bormanns.

There are many volunteers who operate “behind the scenes” and we truly appreciate them: Cathy Andrews, Susanna Federowicz, Tricia Blakistone, Gwen Rice, Barbara Surlles, Megan Spencer, Nancy Castleberry, Joe Mirka, and our favorite scout J.D. Narvaiz, who helped keep all of the actors comfortable with drinks and snacks. Eva and Hal Mohrlök always document our events with their beautiful photography and video. Leslie Wolfenden shares her knowledge of the chapel with visitors. Carol Castlebury, Hugh Higgins, and Arro Smith assisted at the WWI table, signing up people interested in placing flags at the gravesites of Travis County men and women who served in the “war to end all wars.” Paul Habibi and his friend Jessie came out at the end of the day when we were all exhausted to help clean up and pack items away until our next event.



(left to right): Hugh Higgins, Terri Mirka, Eva Mohrlök, Carol Castlebury, and Arro Smith.



Clean up volunteer crew at the end of long but satisfying day of MMM tours.

While many guests enjoyed the outdoors, others were in the chapel cheering on the O. Henry players as they practiced for their upcoming production of O. Henry's *The Head-Hunter*. They performed again at "Journey into the Beyond," a free celebration of all things supernatural at the O. Henry and Dickinson Museums on Wednesday, October 31st.

Oakwood Cemetery Chapel Rehabilitation is Completed by Leslie Wolfenden

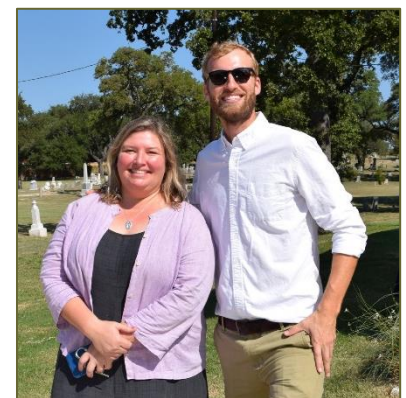
The Oakwood Chapel restoration is a great example of what Save Austin's Cemeteries can initiate. SAC identified the need for the restoration over 11 years ago. SAC raised funds and obtained grants to pay for assessment reports of the building condition, foundation engineering, and soil conditions, as well as materials testing. We led grassroots efforts to let the city know how important this charming building is to the history of Oakwood Cemetery and to the city itself. The Chapel Restoration project was expertly managed by Austin Parks & Recreation Department, and formal work began in October 2016.



Oakwood Cemetery Chapel is now beautifully restored, and the City of Austin held a re-dedication ceremony on August 24th complete with ribbon cutting done by Council Member Ora Houston (center) and accompanied by SAC's Leslie Wolfenden (far left), Council Member Kathy Tovo (left), PARD board member Françoise Luca (right) and PARD Acting Director Kimberly McNeely (far right).



The ceremony was led by George Washington Carver Museum's Bamidele Demerson with guest speakers Council Member Ora Houston, PARD Acting Director Kimberly McNeely, and SAC's Leslie Wolfenden. The event was so well attended by the interested public that we had trouble fitting everyone inside the chapel. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces at the event – people who have been involved with SAC for years, descendants, city officials, Texas Historical Commission representatives, the media, and even the original architect's great grandson Charles Page. Many thanks to PARD's Kim McKnight and Kevin Johnson for shepherding this project through from start to finish – so carefully dealing with the stumbling blocks and making all the working pieces mesh together. We are so proud of the outcome of this



enormous undertaking and grateful to everyone who worked so hard on research, documentation, and restoration. (Photos by SAC members Eva and Hal Mohrlök, Leslie Wolfenden, Anne Wheat.)

Following the completion of the chapel project, work began on the restoration of the gates at Oakwood and Oakwood Annex. The original stone entrance on the west side of Oakwood Cemetery had been damaged and displaced slightly by vehicular traffic over the years. It was dismantled and catalogued, and then restacked carefully. The brick entrances on Oakwood's east side and the Annex gates will be cleaned and repaired as needed and the gates will be restored.



The gate project is being done in tandem with replacing the fencing at both Oakwood Cemetery and Oakwood Annex Cemetery. Work began in November and will last approximately twelve weeks. The current chain link fence will be replaced with black spear-point metal fencing. Both gate and fence projects are being funded by the City Council-allocated Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) funding for the fiscal year 2018. Temporary fencing will be in place while new fences are installed. Adjacent sidewalks will be temporarily closed as sections are replaced. There will be no impact to cemetery operating hours. For any questions regarding cemetery access during this period, please contact the Cemetery Operations office at 512-978-2320.

2018 SAC Photo Contest by Leslie Wolfenden

Thank you for all the beautiful entries to this year's photo contest! We received 73 photo entries and the public voted over 1,600 times. The overall winner was "Three Crows" by Maggie Knight. Her photo is featured on the cover of SAC's 2019 Calendar. Congratulations to Maggie and the other eleven winning photos that make up the calendar. The 2019 calendar is available for sale for \$15.99 plus shipping through the SAC website: <https://www.sachome.org/events/photocontestresults.html>

Other 2018 Photo Contest Winners:

- Harrison Saunders with Perchance to Dream
- Tanya Estes with Lorenz through the Gate
- Eva Mohrlök with Austin
- David Hawkins with Angel #35
- Beth Pickett with Not Forgotten
- Sally Baulch with Field of Blue
- Tanya Estes with One Last Thing
- Eva Mohrlök with Oakwood Resident
- Beth Pickett with Mrs. Carrlina Walker
- Maggie Knight with Dec. 26, 1951
- Richard Gaines with We Shall Not Pass this Way Again



Three Crows, Austin Memorial Park Cemetery (Photo by Maggie Knight)

SAVE AUSTIN'S CEMETERIES 2019
www.sachome.org

Honoring WWI Veterans at their Gravesites on the 100th Anniversary by Terri Hoover Mirka

Veterans Day November 11, 2018 marked the 100-year anniversary of the end of World War I conflict, so volunteers honored over 2,300 Travis County WWI soldiers and nurses by placing USA flags at their gravesites in 65 different Travis County cemeteries the week before Veteran's Day.

The WWI gravesites were identified by first recording those with military headstones, however most WWI vets have private headstones, so we uncovered many more by using genealogical and military records over the course of our ten-month research effort. In the city cemeteries, we located approximately 600 WWI veterans in Austin Memorial Park, 200 in Evergreen, 300 in Oakwood, 350 in Oakwood Annex, and 30 in Plummers Cemetery.

The lists of WWI veteran gravesites are on our website along with lists highlighting 130 Travis County soldiers and nurses who died during the war at <https://www.sachome.org/events/TravisWWI-100.html>. We want to ensure we have located as many WWI vets as possible as the centennial celebration continues through June 2019. Email us at TravisWWI@sachome.org with additions or edits to our WWI lists, especially for people with private headstones that we might have missed. Please check our website and SAC Facebook page for volunteer and veteran gravesite photos.

The Travis County WWI Centennial Committee would like to thank the many volunteer groups and individuals who helped with the USA flags: Applied Materials LEAD (Leadership Encouraging Achievement through Diversity), AUSTINRAMP, BSA Troops 28, 395 & 8787, Daughters of the American Revolution (Andrew Carruthers, Austin Colony, Thankful Hubbard* Chapters), Independent Order of Odd Fellows*, Masons, Nurses, Save Austin's Cemeteries friends & members, St. Edward's Student Veterans Association, Cemetery Preservation Supply LLC* (<https://www.gravestonecleaner.com/>), Veterans Suicide Prevention Channel* (<https://www.vspchannel.vet/>), Veterans-Manchaca, and Walnut Baptist Church. (*also a financial sponsor).



Photo: Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Thankful Hubbard Chapter (one of our financial sponsors), enjoying the newly renovated Oakwood Chapel before placing flags at Oakwood Cemetery (Photo by Terri Mirka)



Photo left: Save Austin's Cemeteries volunteers getting ready to place over 300 flags at Oakwood Annex during It's My Park Day. (Photo by Joe Mirka). Photo right: Independent Order of Odd Fellows (one of our financial sponsors) preparing to help place over 600 USA Flags at Austin Memorial Parks with help from St. Edwards Student Veterans Association, AUSTINRAMP, and other great SAC volunteers. (Photo by Terri Mirka)



Photo: Applied Materials LEAD (Leadership Encouraging Achievement through Diversity) team posing for a photo before placing 200 flags at Evergreen Cemetery. (Photo by Terri Mirka)

Notable WWI Veterans Series, Part 1: WWI Nurses by Terri Mirka

In honor of the 100-year anniversary of World War I, we identified as many WWI soldiers and nurses buried in Travis County as possible. We will highlight stories on some of them during the WWI Centennial, which concludes in June 2019, 100 years after the Versailles Treaty formally ended the war. Please submit a story on your WWI ancestor buried in any Austin city cemetery.

Part 1 of our series focuses on nurses with a feature on Paralee Ardith Parrish written by her great-niece, Lynn Forney Young, Honorary President General of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and resident of Rockdale, Texas.

Nurses served during WWI in a variety of ways: American Red Cross, Army Nurse Corps, and Navy Nurse Corps. We have identified six WWI nurses so far in the city cemeteries:

- Minnie Harris (1884-1929), Army Nurse Corps, Oakwood Annex B-255-1
- Arey Wells Calahan (1891-1941), 2nd Lieutenant, Army Nurse Corps, served 1918-1926, Austin Memorial Park (AMP) 1-514-3
- Nell Freund (1881-1944), Navy Nurse Corps, AMP 1-103-5
- Elsie Jarman Neville (1896-1963), WWI Nurse, AMP 1-369-9
- Mary E. Newman (1897-1977), WWI Nurse, AMP 4-8A-7
- Paralee A. Parrish (1888-1962), AMP 4-42-8



Paralee Ardith Parrish (1888-1962) By Lynn Forney Young

“In each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve.” Author Unknown

As a young girl, I loved hearing the stories of the ancestors who came before me. One relative that truly captured my interest was my great-aunt, Paralee Ardith Parrish. Born near Shreveport, Louisiana in late 1888, she was the second of four daughters. Her father abandoned the family when she was a young child, and they struggled to survive.

When World War I began in Europe, she enrolled in the Bellevue School of Nursing in New York City. Established in 1873, Bellevue initiated the enrollment of nurses for Base Hospital No. 1. In April 1917, as the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) began to arrive, a series of hospitals were established throughout Europe to deal with the anticipated casualties. More than 22,000 nurses were recruited by the American Red Cross to serve in the US Army between 1917 and 1919. Over 10,000 served near the Western Front.

Paralee departed for Europe as a trained nurse on April 14, 1917 at the age of 27. She began a diary on the day she sailed, and it is one of my most treasured possessions.

Paralee was assigned to the French military hospital V-R 76, Ris Orangis. The hospital moved to Juilly, northeast of Paris, in June of 1918 due to the advance of the Germans. The staff was reduced and Paralee was sent to the Red Cross headquarters in Paris. In August 1918, she was decorated by the French government for distinguished service. An excerpt of the letter from the French ministry of war follows:

By reason of the lengthy and diligent care administered by you to our wounded or sick soldiers and for the constant devotion which you have given them during the war, I have decided to award you the special insignia (in bronze) instituted by my order of the 1st of May, 1917 in favor of the nurses who particularly distinguish themselves by their merit.



By October 1, 1918 she was headed to a new assignment at Toul. Located near the Western Front, Paralee's diary has page after page of her entries treating the mustard gas patients. The following day, she wrote:

“Arrived at BH 82 formerly ARC No #114, here at 4:30 yesterday. Found them in desperate need of help. Over eleven hundred gassed and wounded and only twenty nurses!”

Wednesday October 3rd – *“Unpacked, dressed, to duty at 6 pm, night duty – in Section D. Medical, Surgical, gassed... “175 badly gassed, horribly burned and cruelly maimed, and among them four wounded German prisoners under guard. I did not have time to give even a glance at the Germans all night – our own boys were in such need and suffered so horribly. Am so tired my body aches but my mind refuses to sleep until this is done.”*



During WWI, over 200 army and 36 navy nurses died while in service and nearly three hundred Red Cross nurses also lost their lives.

Friday, November 8th. *“Tired all day. Took charge of Section E today. Oh Heaven give me strength!”*

A whole squad of 19 FA (forward advanced) gassed, horribly so, and dying. All gassed Tuesday, the 6th. This gas seems to have been the most awful invention of the world. For every crown, medal or any glory a wounded soldier gets, the gassed ones deserve two. If he dies, he dies he death of all horrors; and if lives he lives on far less than any human being should be expected to do in the way of respiratory equipment.”

Monday, November 11th - *“Sgt. Von Sprecken died at 9:15 last night. That name may have come from Germany but it came in this person from America to fight Germany.”*

Monday, November 11th - *“The Armistice is signed!”*

Following the Armistice, she was awarded the Cross of Lorraine.

Sunday, December 22nd – *“Walked, I'm sure, 1700 miles yesterday to the Russian Prison Camp. Took them bread, jam, cigarettes, tobacco and they were like a crowd of hungry wolves. Got many souvenirs.”*

Paralee returned to New York on February 6, 1918, and her diary ends there. She was a frequent speaker in the Shreveport area about her experiences as she appealed for support for the Victory Loan drive. The *Shreveport Times* quoted her as saying

For our boys did suffer. I could relate instance after instance of the most harrowing kind of suffering, of men broken, shattered and wounded battling for their country. Yet through all their suffering they were brave. There were no braver men in all the armies fighting for freedom than the men of America.

Paralee began genealogy research and joined the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1934. She eventually settled in Austin and ran a boarding house on San Antonio Street for female students at the University of Texas. She was a professional genealogist and organized the Austin Colony Chapter DAR in 1952. Following her death in August 1962 at the age of 73, her grave at Austin Memorial Park was marked by the Austin Colony Chapter.



Paralee's diary, pin, and ID bracelet are currently on exhibit at the Capitol Visitors Center until January 9, 2019. A copy of her diary is at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.

I became a member of DAR over 40 years ago, thanks to Paralee's research, and it has been my passion ever since. I hope when I get to Heaven I can meet her and thank her for preserving our family history. It is a privilege to be the chosen one.

Thank you for being such good stewards of historic cemeteries and preserving the memories of the ones interred.

Keep Austin Beautiful Achievement Award by Karen Eshliman and Leslie Wolfenden

"I am thrilled to be honored by Keep Austin Beautiful as the recipient of the **Dennis Hobbs Individual Achievement Award** for my work as a Lake Leader. It is my privilege to contribute to the care of our city with so many dedicated hard-working people," said Karen Eshlimann.

Keep Austin Beautiful announced its 2018 Annual Award Winners who were recognized at Beautify Bash on November 15. Per KAB's website,

These inspiring awardees have gone above and beyond in their work to engage community members, neighbors, family, and friends in protecting and improving Austin's environment. They have spearheaded recycling initiatives, raised awareness about the negative impacts of litter and single-use plastic, coordinated the removal of materials from illegal dumpsites, and led by example as volunteers dedicated to cleaning up public spaces and enhancing shared community resources. Each has engaged with Keep Austin Beautiful's programming and resources to amplify their efforts.

KAB's announcement for Karen was as follows:

Karen Eshliman is a true volunteer leader, in every sense of the word. She began volunteering with Keep Austin Beautiful's Clean Lady Bird Lake program in 2011, and her love of volunteering motivated her to become a Lake Leader the very next year. In the past seven years, she has led some 40 lake cleanups (missing only three events in her tenure), coordinating hundreds of volunteers and picking up more than 3,000 pounds of trash. Volunteers are sure to have a great experience and learn a lot about the impact of cleaning up litter from Austin waterways when they volunteer at Karen's site on the lake. Karen also shows a knack for getting people out to participate in a cleanup. She is the first to strike up a conversation with a

neighbor or friend about Clean Lady Bird Lake, and this dedication ensures that new people are always learning about the program and how they can help solve the problem of litter in Austin.

Congratulations, Karen, on receiving the award, and we are proud to have you as part of our SAC team!

SAC Loses One of Its Own: Glen Roen by Leslie Wolfenden

SAC unexpectedly lost one of its members on September 13. Glen Roen was an active member of SAC and loved to participate in our annual Murder, Mayhem & Misadventure walking tours. Born and raised in Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey in 1965, he enlisted in the United States Army in 1987 after attending Paul Smiths College in New York State; he served 20 years, operating in Desert Storm and two tours in Iraq before retiring from the Army in 2007. Glen was honored for his military service with many commendations, including the Bronze Star for distinguished service while deployed in Iraq. He earned his Marketing degree at Texas State University and worked for the US Postal Service. In his spare time, he volunteered for Save Austin’s Cemeteries, the Austin Visitors Center, and Keep Austin Beautiful as Lake Leader. He conducted tours of Austin with his business partner, Karen Eshliman, for Austin’s Violet Crown Tours. He has been praised for his knowledge of and passion for the city of Austin and its history. In lieu of flowers, Glen’s family requests that donations be made in his honor to any of these organizations. He is survived by his twin children, Eric Roen and Leeann Roen, and his siblings, Todd Roen and Dawn Perkins.



In keeping with his joy of history and his connection with SAC, his memorial service was held at the newly restored Oakwood Cemetery Chapel – the first event held there since its reopening. The event was well attended by family members, friends, military personnel, and SAC members. Full military honors included the playing of Taps, flag ceremony and presentation of arms.

Docent and Volunteer Program: SAC and PARD Partnership by Dale Flatt

Fourteen years have passed since Save Austin’s Cemeteries was created and we have made good progress. We have made many new friends and we have lost some old friends. Today, we are happy to say that the Cemetery Master plan is in place and is being implemented across all five cemeteries as time and finances allow. The chapel at Oakwood has been restored and will be staffed in 2019. The Oakwood Cemetery gates

are being repaired and new fencing is being installed. We are becoming what was envisioned: an outdoor museum that tells the story of Austin, Texas.

The Parks Department has many divisions, one of which works with museum-type settings that help to tell Austin's story. Included in these places are:

- the Susanna Dickinson/Joseph Hannig Museum, as well as the O. Henry home site, are located on Brush Square at 5th and Neches streets,
- the Lundberg Old Bakery and Emporium on Congress Avenue just south of the Capitol,
- the Elizabeth Ney museum in Hyde Park, and
- the Umlauf Sculpture Gardens just outside Zilker Park.

The city is in the process of hiring a Museum Site Coordinator for Oakwood Cemetery. This position is to provide cemetery tours and programming that meet community standards for dignity and respect while providing Austin's citizens and visitors with an appreciation for the art, history, nature, and architecture that the cemetery provides. For more information on the position, see the city's website posting at https://www.austincityjobs.org/postings/71697?fbclid=IwAR1xE0U8zXcPUQ3QckoLkG4w4yS8OKtx_TJcXGMEmyWcB5ScAtsRh15p2Dw.

SAC has entered into an agreement with the Parks Department to start a Docent and Volunteer Program at the city cemeteries. We will be working with the city to create content for educational and public programming. Docents will be trained on each site's history, as well as general City of Austin history. The docents will work with city staff on conducting tours. PARD's cemetery improvement funding is partially paid for through Austin's Hotel Occupancy Tax that is set aside for tourism.

While we have several successful volunteer programs, such as Photo Documentation and Headstone Cleaning that are regularly scheduled group efforts, we also see the need to provide other options on a more flexible basis, whether it is for trash cleanups, providing tours, or burial lookups. We plan to start training volunteers early next year. If you are interested in becoming a docent or a volunteer who would work with the incoming staff at the chapel, please contact Dale Flatt at daleflatt@aol.com or sign up with Save Austin's Cemeteries email list at info@sachome.org to receive updates on this and other volunteer opportunities.

It's My Park Day Fall 2018 by Megan Spencer

SAC thanks the forty-five volunteers who joined us at Oakwood Cemetery November 3rd for a fun and productive morning of work during "It's My Park Day Fall 2018!" We couldn't have done it without you! It was a great day to be outside.

The Austin Parks Foundation holds a city-wide "It's My Park Day" volunteer event in the Spring and Fall each year. On this day, volunteers work to improve parks and greenbelts throughout the city. Since Austin's five city cemeteries are part of the Parks and Recreation Department, volunteers with SAC work on cemetery projects and do annual clean-up and brush removal.

This fall, we split into three groups: one group did photo documentation (ongoing); another did clean-up/brush pick-up in Oakwood; a third group worked on WWI flag placement. Flag placement became part of IMPD because we are honoring those who served in WWI and are interred in one of Austin's five city cemeteries. During IMPD, volunteers placed American flags at 350 WWI veteran plots in Oakwood Annex. For more

about the WWI flag placement project, please refer to the article above entitled, “Honoring Veterans at Their Gravesites on the 100th Anniversary.”

It was a wonderful turnout for a special “It’s My Park Day!” Please plan to join us and bring your friends for the next IMPD, which will be the first Saturday of March 2019. It is great exercise and you get a very cool (and free) t-shirt! We will announce the opening of registration for It’s My Park Day in February.



2019 SAC Membership Drive Time - Please Join or Renew Today! By Terri Hoover Mirka

It is time again to renew your annual SAC membership to help support our programs and preservation efforts! Members receive the SAC quarterly e-newsletter, may vote in officer elections, and may hold office. SAC offers individual annual (\$35), senior and student (\$25), family (\$50), and individual lifetime (\$500) membership levels for the January through December timeframe. The SAC Membership form is located on our website at <http://www.sachome.org/join/member.html>. You can submit your membership fee online or send in a check to Save Austin’s Cemeteries, PO Box 16411, Austin, Texas 78761.

Here’s a summary of what SAC focuses on with your membership support.

- SAC has worked hard for over a decade with Austin city officials to help craft the adopted Cemetery Master Plan and will continue to monitor and assist with its implementation.
- SAC initiated the Oakwood Cemetery Chapel Rehabilitation project when we recognized the need to restore the 1914 chapel. SAC paid for the initial, comprehensive studies and led grassroots efforts to get the project underway. The chapel project was completed this past August.
- With our free walking tours, guest speakers, and research, we help share the city cemeteries with the public, tell family stories, and highlight that our cemeteries are an important part of Austin’s heritage.
- We have compiled an extensive repository of information about the city cemeteries, burial and gravestone records, bibliographies, and resources on our website.
- SAC documents and monitors the conditions of the gravestones, lots, and surroundings, and works to help preserve our historic monuments with the incredible help of our volunteers.
- We are a point of contact for families who need help with photos and research.

2018 SAC Accomplishments

- *Celebrated the opening of PARD's newly restored Oakwood Chapel in August after initiating the project 11 years ago.*
- *Sponsored two "It's My Park Day" sessions at Oakwood, "Murder, Mayhem & Misadventure" Tours, Museum Day tours, developed extensive materials for the rained-out Texas Independence (available for self-guided tours), and hosted the SAC Speaker Series: Robin Grace Thompson-Soto of Flower Hill Foundation.*
- *Continued the Oakwood photo documentation project that started over eleven years ago, which is now over 85% complete with over 13,000 monuments documented. Volunteers are working on Section 4 of Oakwood during monthly sessions October-May. It takes about 2.5 years to document a section; Section 4 is approximately half completed.*
- *Coordinated the annual SAC photo contest and SAC calendar that help to raise awareness of our historic city cemeteries.*
- *Researched WWI veterans for the 100-year anniversary of war's end and identified over 1,500 WWI veterans in the five city cemeteries and over 800 in other Travis County cemeteries; led the American flag placement project to honor over 2,300 local WWI veterans on Veterans Day (WWI project as part of the Travis County WWI Centennial Committee) (See article.)*
- *Continued our gravestone cleaning project using D2 Biological Solution and cleaned over 1,000 gravestones so far with a focus on veterans in early 2018. (program placed on hold by the City Cemetery Division in July)*
- *Developed a docent and volunteer program with the Parks & Recreation Department (See article.)*

SAC Board Member Recruitment by Sally Victor, SAC Board President

The SAC board is comprised of people who meet every two months to plan and promote the activities of the organization. We are always looking for fresh ideas and energy to keep the group moving forward. If you are a member of SAC and think you might want to get more involved by becoming a board member, please contact SAC President, Sally Victor at info@sachome.org. We all enjoy working together to highlight the amazing history and the lives of early residents at five City of Austin Cemeteries. Being a member of the Board is enjoyable and fun! We welcome new board members.

Current board members are Bobby Cervantes-Vice President, Terri Mirka-Secretary, Kay Boyd-Treasurer, and Board Members Karen Eshliman, Cynthia Evans, Dale Flatt, and Jan Root.

One of our members posted this comment on Facebook. It is a good description of what SAC does:

Oakwood is a big, historic cemetery in Austin whose residents include a virtual Who's Who of Austin and Texas history. Save Austin's Cemeteries is staffed with a team of amazing volunteers who work tirelessly doing historical research and working with the city for funding and other needs. They also placed flags on WWI veterans' graves for Veterans Day this year. It predates perpetual care and, therefore, depends on city funds for maintenance.

SAC on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

You can follow Save Austin's Cemeteries on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. These links will take you to Save Austin's Cemeteries.

Facebook (link to: <https://www.facebook.com/SaveAustinsCemeteries/>)

Instagram (link to: <https://www.instagram.com/save.atx.cemeteries/>)

Twitter (link to: <https://twitter.com/SaveATXCemetery/>)

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!

Dec. 1	Photo documentation session at Oakwood Cemetery, 1:00 to 3:00
Jan. 5	Photo documentation session at Oakwood Cemetery, 1:00 to 3:00
Feb. 2	Photo documentation session at Oakwood Cemetery, 1:00 to 3:00

Stay connected to SAC! www.sachome.org Facebook [Save Austin's Cemeteries](#) [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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

As a non-profit organization, Save Austin's Cemeteries is a tax-exempt organization.
Your contributions may be tax-deductible. **Tax ID:** 43-2052034