

# Fairview Cemetery Preservation Association

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www.fairviewcemeterysantafe.org

Spring 2019

## Change at the Top

The Fairview Cemetery Preservation Association has been undergoing a reorganization of sorts in the past year, with the sudden deaths of two board members and the addition of two new board members.

We welcome **Charles Brunn** and **Peter Chang** to the board of directors.

Charles is the owner of Freestone Construction Company, specializing in residential remodeling projects. He lives in the South Capital District with his wife, Claudette Sutton, and their 20-year-old cat, Misty. He joined the FCPA board out of an abiding love of art and history.

Peter says he was drawn from the hustle of the East Coast to New Mexico's fresh air and wide open spaces. After nearly 30 years, a career in real estate and a loving wife are making sure he's here to stay. He says new friendships with existing board members and a yearning to connect to Santa Fe's rich culture and history attracted him to the FCPA.

Former FCPA President **David Mason** has agreed to serve as acting treasurer in the wake of **Greg Dye's** resignation. We want to thank Greg for his many years of faithful service in keeping the bills paid and our financial records up to date.

Another shoutout to board member **Evelyn McClure** who has initiated several special events to promote interest in Fairview and its "residents" with the Santa Fe Women's Club and the Daughters of the American Revolution. David also has made power-point presentations about Fairview to both groups. Thank you both for diligently spreading the word.

## May 11 workday/lunch/meeting Open to all!

The FCPA continues to be in need of new members and/or volunteers who are willing to invest time and energy into maintaining one of New Mexico's most historic cemeteries. Tell your friends and family of this great need and make plans to attend our annual work day, lunch and general membership meeting (open to all) on **Saturday, May 11**. So bring some gloves, garden tools, scrub brushes or whatever else might be helpful. We will gather at the cemetery at **9 a.m.** and work until lunchtime, then hold a general membership meeting after lunch.

## FCPA Board Member Dies

For the second time in less than a year, the FCPA is mourning the death of a board member. **Rev. Raymond Kersting**, who had served on the board since at least 2011, died Nov. 29, 2018, at the age of 85. He was a third-generation Santa Fean with two generations of ancestors buried in Fairview Cemetery. While unable to contribute to the cemetery's physical maintenance, he was consistent in his attendance at board meetings and a stickler for keeping track of finances.

Raymond was ordained as a Presbyterian Minister in 1960 and served churches in Taos NM, Atkinson NE, and Brighton CO. He held several leadership positions within the church, including moderator of the original Santa Fe Presbytery.

According to his obituary (published Santa Fe New Mexican Dec. 4, 2018)

Raymond believed in equality of all people and the need for social justice. His creative endeavors included stained glass artworks, woodworking and gardening. He was a lover of trains and opera.

Among Raymond's survivors are a son, a daughter and his wife, Betty, who graciously maintained the FCPA mailing list database for many years.

Note: The death of board member Ruth Summers was featured in the Spring 2018 newsletter.



## Recent Fairview Burials

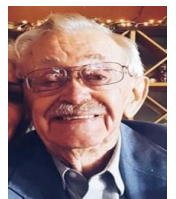
### Herbert L. Davidson

Davidson, 87, died at his home in Eldorado on Aug. 16, 2018. A graduate of the School of the Arts in Chicago, Davidson lived and painted in Europe and Israel before moving to Santa Fe at age 57. He was well known for his portraits of such notables as David Ben Gurion, Hugh Hefner and Janis Joplin. He was interred at Fairview on Aug. 18.



### Joseph Alvan Roberts

Roberts, 85, died Feb. 24, 2018, after a brief illness. A Masonic graveside service was held at Fairview on June 23, 2018. He was born in Santa Fe and practiced law in Santa Fe from 1963 to 1994. Roberts was the grandson of C.J. Roberts, the first Supreme Court Justice of NM, and the son of Alvan White, a former Speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives and the first State School Superintendent.



The cremated remains of **Max Coll**, who died in 2014, were laid to rest at Fairview on July 14, 2018. Max was the long-time chairman of the NM Legislature Finance Committee at the time of his retirement in 2004.

At the time of this writing, burials are pending for **Sandra Jean Taylor**, 76, of Santa Fe, who died April 3; **Nancy Wahl**, 70, of Brookline, MA, who died March 13, 2019; and **Donald Gene Dix**, 86, of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., who died March 3, 2019.

## Family History

Your newsletter editor frequently receives interesting tidbits about some of our Fairview families. Shortly before her sudden death last month, **Nancy Wahl** sent me one such tidbit. She previously had buried her mother, **Mary Wahl**, at Fairview and thought I would be interested in knowing more about her family.

Her parents, Nancy said, were reported to be the first “romance” that budded on “the hill” while both were working in Los Alamos during World War II. They were married in Santa Fe in 1943.

Nancy’s father, **Arthur Charles Wahl**, arrived in Los Alamos with Frank Oppenheimer, fresh from graduate school at the University of California Berkeley where he worked with other scientists to find and isolate what came to be called Plutonium 239. He and Oppenheimer were told to take whatever plutonium existed at the time to Los Alamos. It was packed in orange crates in the back of a pickup truck with California license plates!

Nancy said her mother remembers taking the bus from Santa Fe to the secret city. At night someone had to sit on the front hood of the bus with a flashlight to show the road. No headlights were allowed and there were no guard rails on the windy dirt road.

Nancy’s parents both are buried at Fairview, Nancy’s interment is set for April 29.

**From the editor: Other family stories are welcome. I can’t guarantee they will get in in the newsletter but I will try. Submit to [kcmason@q.com](mailto:kcmason@q.com).**

### Burial Policy since 2014

We continue to get requests for burials of cremated remains atop existing coffins of family members. The FCPA voted in November 2014 to no longer allow this practice. We make every effort to locate new burial sites near other family members but for the full price of \$500 for a cremains burial plot. Full coffin burial plots are \$2,000. We also now require markers on all new burials.

### New Markers

Thank you to those who have worked to place headstones on unmarked graves, which continue to be problematic in the maintenance of the cemetery. Markers have recently been placed on the graves of **Phyllis Adams, Emmanuel (Mike) Ntantis, Baby Murrell, Aaron Owens, Adrienne Diamond, James Shiplett and Edna Shiplett**. Please contact us if you wish to locate and mark a known grave in Fairview.

## The FCPA gratefully acknowledges contributions that help us maintain and manage Fairview Cemetery (April 2018-March 2019)

### *In memory of John & Lydia Stump*

James L. Stump

### *In memory of McBride, Strawn families*

Key Lewis Trust

### *In memory of Erik Mason*

David Mason

### *In memory of Rev. Raymond Kersting*

Ron & Jean Ball

William Kersting

### *In memory of Britta Wetzel*

Benjamin and Mia-Lucia Wetzel Manifold

### *In memory of Paul A.F. and John K..S. Water*

Janet Guarini

### *Others*

*Venus A. Stafford*

*Barker Properties*

*Carrie (Summers) Baikie*

*Taylor McConnell*

*Moeita Bauer*

*Joseph Petranto*

*Samuel A. Carswell*

*Catherine Coll*

*Sharon Mason*

*Stephen Wassner*

*Carl M. Walter*

*Jean Eddy*

*Martha Wilson*

*Col. Thomas L. Moses*

*Maria Naranjo*

*Grethen Frank Trust (tree fund)*

## Ways to Give

There are two ways to contribute financially to Fairview.

—First, we continue to need your donations to our

**We have finally allowed Margaret Brunk to “retire” after at least a dozen years of acknowledging contributions from our donors. Her years of service to the FPCA have been invaluable. Thank you, Margaret.**

maintenance efforts. Checks may be sent to PO Box 5958, made out to “Fairview Cemetery Preservation Association.”

—Donations also may be made to our endowment by sending checks written to the “Santa Fe Community Foundation” annotated “Fairview Cemetery Endowment” and mailed to:

Santa Fe Community Foundation

PO Box 1827

Santa Fe NM 87504

Stocks and securities may also be sent to our endowment at the Community Foundation. Interest from the endowment also helps to fund maintenance expenses when necessary.



# Maintenance

Much of the maintenance of Fairview Cemetery is supervised by **FCPA President Mike Mulligan**. There are dead trees to be removed, irrigation lines to be maintained, gopher holes to be filled, landscaping crews to be overseen, burials to supervise, and security to be maintained. The job can be overwhelming, which is another reason why more volunteer help is desperately needed. Please consider attending our work day and general meeting on Saturday, May 11, to see how you can get involved.

Above: Masonic Lodge members work to restore an historic fence separating graves from a driveway leading to the caretaker's residence. The goal is to eventually replace coyote fencing.

Below: All the windows of the caretaker's residence, which also is historically protected, were repaired and restored at significant expense to the FCPA. The residence is now used as a rental to help defray maintenance costs.



Below: FCPA Secretary and newsletter editor K.C. Mason (yes, that's me) is researching burial and property records to complete an inventory of empty gravesites available for sale. It's so easy to get off on rabbit trails but the history is fascinating.

Below: The Hanna Mausoleum, built in 1929, got a bit of sprucing up in 2018, thanks to descendants of its original occupant, Belle Hall Hanna, her husband, Isaac Bird Hanna, and her sons, Thomas and Richard Hanna. Fairview records indicate the mausoleum also contains the remains of Thomas's wife, Willetta. Belle Hanna was an officer in the Women's Board of Trade, which took over maintenance of Fairview Cemetery in 1898.

Above: FCPA President Mike Mulligan (standing far right) enlisted several of his buddies from the Masonic Lodge to help in the cleanup day last May. They are posed by the headstone of Maximilian Frost, former editor/publisher of the Santa Fe New Mexican and one of the original founders of Fairview Cemetery in 1884. One area of Fairview Cemetery is dedicated to Masonic burials.



# History



Left: The FCPA board of directors meets three times a year to conduct its business. Pictured from left and continuing clockwise are: Ray Kersting, now deceased; Mike Mulligan, president; Blair Cooper, member; Leveo Sanchez, member; David Mason, acting treasurer; Peter Chang, future member; Evelyn McClure, member; John Adams, financial advisor; and Dee Brunk with her mother, Margaret Brunk, who brought business before the board. Picture taken by K.C. (Kathy) Mason, secretary.

# Administration

**Help us go green!!**

While we still are willing to send a hard copy of the newsletter to those who specifically ask for it, we want to transition many of our faithful supporters to the internet. Therefore, each newsletter will now be available in electronic format. We hope also to soon have a website that will provide other valuable information about Fairview.

**If you would like to receive the newsletter via email please send your email address to: [kcmason@g.com](mailto:kcmason@g.com). Otherwise, you will continue to receive a hard copy of the newsletter via snail mail.**

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