

# Fairview Cemetery Preservation Association

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www.fairviewcemeterysantafe.org

Winter 2021

## A message from FCPA president Peter Chang



When I became an FCPA board member in 2018, I was interested in the work and inspired by the people. I had no intention of delving too deeply, but within two years I was asked to

step in as board president. It was a steep learning curve but I consider it an honor to serve with a great team and build on the work of my predecessors.

Sadly with the advent of the Covid 19 pandemic, some operations have been hampered, but we are adapting and looking forward to a productive year in 2021. "Zoom" board meetings allow us to meet more frequently and we have goals of clarifying operations and policy to meet current conditions.

One major goal is developing basic membership that will allow people to serve on committees without becoming a board member. With greater e-communication we should be able to communicate more frequently and organize events/work days so more people can participate. As an all-volunteer organization, we need to broaden our resource base.

### Save the Date: Saturday May 8

Join us for the annual Fairview Cemetery spring cleanup (9 a.m.) and general membership meeting (2 p.m.). If possible, the meeting will be held in person but we may have to resort to Zoom. An invitation to join on Zoom will be sent at a later date. Please send your email address to [kcmason@q.com](mailto:kcmason@q.com) if we don't already have it. Committees will be formed and new officers will be elected.

Landscaping and maintenance continues to take up much of our time. We are removing more of the dead trees and hopefully will soon be able to plant new ones. The irrigation system also needs to be addressed, but an irrigation specialist has advised that the "vermin" issue needs to be resolved first. While prairie dogs have become less of a problem, gophers are proliferating and chew on the irrigation lines to get access to water. Leaks are being repaired but major work still needs to be done.

We are buying tools and materials to improve the maintenance of grave markers. This will be a learning process and a committee may be formed to do the research, the work and obtain the knowledge of proper techniques to keep markers upright and above ground.

Another big need for volunteers is to help with research and record keeping. While some records are digitized, most are not and extensive research often is needed to locate old graves, find plots for new sales and burials, or simply answer inquiries whenever there is one.

Overall, it is clear that what is needed most is people power. Please join us on May 8, 9 a.m. to help breathe new life into a historic Santa Fe landmark.

## BURIALS

Fairview Cemetery continues to be an active cemetery with several new burials in recent months, including that of longtime FCPA board secretary **Jo Tice Bloom**, 86, who died June 19, 2019, at her home in Las Cruces, NM, where she and her husband of 51 years, John Porter Bloom, also a former FCPS board member, relocated from Santa Fe.



Jo Tice Bloom



Cynthia Tice

A life-long educator, Jo earned her PhD in American History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1967. Her numerous stints as instructor, associate professor and lecturer included George Mason University, USC-Sacramento and NMSU in Las Cruces. She was a Fulbright Lecturer at Kabul University in Afghanistan in 1977-78. Her advocacy of Girl Scouts and history led to her writing or assisting in the publication of numerous books and journals. Jo's remains were interred in Jan. 10, 2020. The remains of her sister, **Cynthia Tice**, 82, who died in 2014, were interred the same day in the Bloom family plot. According to her obituary, Cynthia had an international career in nursing.

## Other Recent Burials



**Tito Campos (1942-2019)** An educator, Tito taught at Wood Gormley, Carlos Gilbert, Capshaw and Ortiz Middle School in Santa Fe, and LBJ Middle School in Albuquerque. He also served in the Peace Corps in El Salvador. Tito was interred in Fairview on June 7, 2019.

**Donald Gene Dix (1932-2019)** Dix, the husband of former FCPA Board member Lucy Dix, died March 3, 2019, at the Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home in St. Augustine, FL. His remains were returned to Santa Fe for burial at Fairview the following July 12. The Dix's lived in Santa Fe until 2012 when they moved to Jacksonville FL.



**Jody Ellis (1925-2018)** A cello teacher and music coach to many Santa Feans, Jody was buried at Fairview in May 2019. She died on Valentine's Day 2018 at age 92. Jody was a special duty nurse at the old St. Vincent's Hospital in Santa Fe and served in the Air Force during the Korean War. She returned to Santa Fe in 1953 to buy the La Placita Bon Bon Shop in Sena Plaza. She later was a secretary for NM Game in Fish and in 1969, co-founded Ellis Research with her life partner, **Marcia Muth** (also buried at Fairview). They later founded the literary magazines Sunstone Review and Sunstone Press. Jody learned to play the cello in her 50s and played with the Santa Fe Community Orchestra for 30 years.

**Sandra Jean Taylor (1943-2019)** Sandra moved to New Mexico with her family at age 7 and lived most of her life in Santa Fe. She became a professional educator and was living in Durango CO at the time of her death. She is survived by one son and two grandchildren. Sandra was interred May 9, 2019, near her parents in the Taylor family plot at Fairview Cemetery

**Mary Margaret "Sissy" Elias Medrano (1931-2019)** She was buried in Fairview near her parents, Joseph and Mary Elias. At the request of the family, no other obituary information was given—only the note: "We will miss you, Mom, Grandma, and Gramita."



Recent Burials Con't Page 2

## Burials (Con't from Page 1)

**Leon Sander Morrison (1950-1970)** Leon and his wife, Caldwell, retired to Santa Fe in 1999 after a business career, much of it as a merchandise manager Neiman Marcus in Dallas TX. Upon arrival in Santa Fe, the Morrisons immersed themselves in the arts and culture of the City Different. His friends knew him as an intellectual, a humanitarian and advocate for the underdog. Leon was interred in Fairview on Oct. 4, 2020.



**Calletano "C.B." Romero (1927-2020).** C.B. was a lifelong resident of Espanola who died on May 6, 2020. He was interred in Fairview a week later. According to his family, C.B. for more than 50 years was well known for his business sense at the car dealership, Angelo's Auto Sales, and was invested in helping others thrive.

Among his survivors are five children and multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

### **Christopher Mather Young (1946-2020)**

Chris, who lived most of his life in Santa Fe, died peacefully in his sleep on January 13, 2020, in Westminster CA. Chris retired from full-time employment at Christus St. Vincent Hospital after 30 years, but continued on as a full-time volunteer for eight more years. He moved in 2019 to California to live near his family and immediately started volunteering at the retirement home where he lived. His many friends in Santa Fe remember him for his gentleness, kindness and good humor. Chris was interred in Fairview on Feb. 5, 2020.

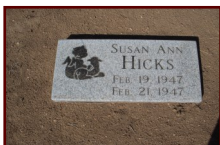


**David Marc Oswald (1957-2019)** David, 62, died September 14, 2019 at Christus St. Vincent Hospital in Santa Fe following a brief illness. A 25-year employee of the Los Alamos National Laboratories, David worked as a research technologist with expertise in explosive science and diagnostics. Los Alamos High School lifelong friends remember him as a caring, big hearted friend who loved to dance. Dave was preceded in death by his wife, Carla Rodman Oswald, and his parents, Donald and Virginia of Los Alamos. Survivors include two children, four brothers and two sisters. David was interred in Fairview Nov. 23, 2019, next to the remains of his wife, Carla, who died 2014.

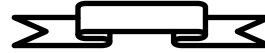
**Thelma Arlene Boddy (1929-2020)** Arlene, her preferred name, was born in Santa Fe, graduated from Santa Fe High School in 1946 and married William Boddy their same year. Arlene lived the last 49 years in Albuquerque. She was interred in Fairview on Aug. 10, 2020, next to an infant son who died in 1948. She is survived by one sister, two daughters, one son, seven grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren.

### **Missing 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. Please contact us through the website at [www.fairviewcemeterysantafe.org](http://www.fairviewcemeterysantafe.org) if you wish to locate and mark a known grave in Fairview.



Contributions to the FCPA are an important source of income to manage and maintain Fairview Cemetery. We are grateful for all of them.



### *In memory of Erik Mason*

David Mason (2)

### *In memory of Paul & Clara Walter and John & Edna Walter families*

Janet Guarini

### *In memory of John Eddy*

Jean Eddy

### *In memory of Don Dix*

Lucy Dix

### *In memory of Erik Mason*

Lucy Dix

### *In memory of Erik Mason*

Karen Mason Hilgenkamp

### *In memory of Mary Cook*

Tark Cook (2)

### *Others*

Johnny & Nancy Anderson

Ron & Jean Ball

Robert Bodell

George Broom (2)

Mrs. Harris Barber

Barker Properties

Grethen Frank Trust (tree fund)

Taylor McConnell (2)

Sharon Mason

Lynn Miller

James Mayer

Maria Naranjo (3)

Carl Walter

Stephen Wassner

Montezuma Lodge (2)

John & Gloria Silver

Marian Silver

## Ways to Give

To contribute, send checks 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.



Santa Fe's Fairview Cemetery probably never would have come into being—let alone be placed on the national, state and local registries of historic places—had it not been for the **Santa Fe Women's Board of Trade**. In 1899, this group of women stepped in to manage the property when it became too much for the businessmen who founded it 15 years earlier as the first cemetery for burial of non-Catholics in New Mexico.



These women made the financially-troubled entity self supporting in a very short time. They negotiated with surveyors, plumbers and merchants to landscape and put in an irrigation system. They got delinquent taxes annulled and water bills cancelled. Eventually, Fairview became known as one of the most beautiful "God's Acre" in New Mexico.

**Ellen Palen (1844-1927)**, whose marker is shown above left, served as treasurer on the first Cemetery Committee, then chaired the committee from 1902 until her death in 1927. In June of 2019, a group of women from the Daughters of the American Revolution toured Fairview and were treated with stories of several DAR women buried there. Pictured left is **Emma Meyer**, a Santa Fe High School student who read Ellen Palen's history while standing at the marker of her daughter, Caryl Palen Moulton.



The event provided another link between Fairview, the DAR and the Santa Fe Women's Club, the eventual successor to the Women's Board of Trade. **FCPA Secretary Evelyn McClure** is the current president of the women's club and ardent in her efforts to preserve the history of Fairview for generations to come. Thank you Evelyn for organizing this fabulous event!



This plaque is one of six identical markers in the Spitz family plot, one of oldest in Fairview dating to the burial of an infant in 1893.

The above bit of Fairview history was prompted by recent correspondence from **Michael Lay of Boston, MA** with a document signed by **May Spitz (1885-1974)** who chaired the Women's Board of Trade's cemetery committee for the next 30 years after Palen's death. Documents from one of the original patronesses of the cemetery are rare. The Spitz letter dated 1956 informed Lay's mother, Eleanor Lay, that it was unlikely an unused family plot in the cemetery could ever be sold. Since Lay still had the deed, he decided after further correspondence with **FCPA treasurer David Mason** that the unused plot would be deeded back to the FCPA and resold. Such transfers, good for a tax deduction of up to \$2,000, are another way of donating to Fairview to raise funds for maintenance. Thank you to the Lay family.



While a maintenance contract is issued for mowing weeds and watering bushes and trees along the lanes, much of the management of the 5-acre cemetery is done by one or another of the FCPA volunteers. The picture of the tree (above right) was taken right after a heavy gust of wind toppled it while volunteers were nearby. Because the interior of the cemetery no longer has grass to water, these older trees are dying and must be removed. Future plans call for planting more new trees along the lanes where there is irrigation. Another job of board members is preparing grave sites for burials. In the picture (above left) **FCPA vice president Michael Mulligan and treasurer David Mason** pause while preparing for a cremains burial last summer. Significant time also is spent researching Fairview records to verify ownership and location of every gravesite.

## Fairview Cemetery Burial Policy

Fairview Cemetery in Santa Fe New Mexico is a not-for-profit organization solely operated and maintained by volunteers associated with the **Fairview Cemetery Preservation Association (FCPA)**. Plots are available for sale both for full size coffins and cremains burials. A full-sized plot, approximately 11 feet by 3.5 feet, depending on location, is \$2,000. A cremains plot, slightly less than three-feet square, is \$600. Sale of a plot is for the **ground only**. Opening and closing of a grave is \$650 for a full-coffin site and \$300 for a cremains burial. The site will be prepared by one of the volunteers, but all other arrangements for chairs, awnings, lifts, etc, must be made separately through a funeral home, family or friends. All burials **require a marker** other than a temporary tin plate. No wood, sandstone, flagstone or other material that deteriorates is allowed. A marker or proof of purchase of one must be shown at the time of burial. Arrangements for placement on a concrete base must be done separately at the owner's expense under the supervision of a FCPA board member or volunteer. For further information, please contract the FCPA through our website at [www.fairviewcemeterysantafe.org](http://www.fairviewcemeterysantafe.org).



## 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@q.com](mailto:kcmason@q.com).** Otherwise, you will continue to receive a hard copy of the newsletter via snail mail.

### Where Can You Help?

#### FCPA Board Members

President: Peter Chang  
Vice president: Michael Mulligan  
Treasurer: David Mason  
Secretary: Evelyn McClure  
Members:  
Blair Cooper  
Scott Jaquith  
K.C. Mason  
Leveo Sanchez  
Carrie Summers

The FCPA Board is in the process of developing specific committees that can be filled with non-board members who can be called upon to help on occasion.

Among the committees being considered:

- ◆ Maintenance/Cleanup
- ◆ Burials
- ◆ Research/Correspondence
- ◆ Record Keeping

A general membership meeting at 2 pm on May 8 is open to everyone. Election of officers and new board members will be held at that time. Please consider serving on the board for a 3-year term or volunteering for a committee.

**FAIRVIEW CEMETERY PRESERVATION ASSN.  
P.O. Box 5958  
SANTA FE, NM 87502**