



Cornerstones

A Newsletter From Oak Grove Cemetery

Spring ♦ 2002 ♦ Vol I ♦ No. I



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Everything you ever wanted to know about cremation

Cremation is selected for many reasons ranging from religious beliefs or ethnic customs to cost. Many people select the process simply because of personal preference.

Some people are surprised to learn that cremation does not preclude a funeral with all the traditional aspects of the ceremony. Visitation or viewing with a funeral ceremony and church or memorial services are options to be considered. In Wisconsin, funeral homes are permitted to rent caskets for viewing and services.

The Cremation Process

The body is contained in an appropriate casket or other acceptably rigid container. The containerized body is placed in a furnace or retort. The cremation process exposes the body to open flame, intense heat and evaporation, reducing it to bone fragments in two to three hours. Cremated remains are primarily bone fragments. Cremation usually results in three to nine pounds of remains.

Depending upon arrangements made by the family, cremated remains are placed in a temporary container for transport or in a more permanent container, such as an urn, and returned to the funeral director or a family member.

After Cremation

There are a variety of options for the final disposition of cremated remains. Urns or other containers may be placed in a niche at a cemetery. Oak Grove has niches available in the Garden Mausoleum. Families may elect to bury the urn in a family plot or cemetery or keep it in another place of personal significance, such as the home. Oak Grove Cemetery provides an area for scattering.



Most people find consolation knowing there is a specific place to visit when they wish to remember and feel close to the person they have lost, regardless of whether or not the deceased person's remains are actually located at that place. That's why it's often a good idea to select some 'place' where people can go to remember the deceased person. Each family must make those important decisions for themselves.

If you have additional questions about cremation or would like to discuss other pre-arrangement options, please call us at (608) 782-6956.

Information adapted from the National Funeral Directors Association

in
this
issue:

Welcome to the first issue of the Oak Grove Cemetery's newsletter. We hope this publication will:

- ♦ Provide you with general information about pre-arrangement planning and counseling (e.g., the story on cremation on this page) and specific information about Oak Grove and our resources.
- ♦ Let you know about special events such as the Light to Remember Christmas Ceremony (page 4) and our plans for Memorial Day and rededication of the Losey Arch (page 3).
- ♦ Keep you up-to-date on seasonal, annual and special care flower packages that are available through Oak Grove Cemetery (page 2).
- ♦ Tell you a little more about the fascinating history and the people buried at Oak Grove, as in the story on Gottlieb Heileman (page 2).

We'd like to hear from you! If you have a suggestion for a topic for the newsletter, please let me know. And as always, we are here to answer any of your questions about end-of-life plans, just give us a call, (608) 782-6956.

Sincerely,

Valerie O. Reinke

Valerie O. Reinke
Executive Director

Spring Flowers

It's time to think spring at Oak Grove Cemetery

This year's grave site spring flower vase includes dracaena, geraniums, petunias and vinca vines, planted in premium soil that includes a slow release fertilizer and water crystals. We take care of everything. The flowers receive adequate watering and we carefully remove spent flowers (deadhead) to encourage additional blossoms. If there's a problem with insects, we'll spray and monitor the plants. At the end of the season, we'll clean, disinfect and store the vase for you for next year.

Interested? Tell us which flower vase you prefer, the Annual Flower Vase: \$46.95, or the Special Care Flowers; \$2,400 (tax included, financing available).

Flowers will be placed on the site before Memorial Day for both Annual and Special Care Flowers. Special Care Flowers are placed automatically year after year.

We'll also need to know your name, name of deceased, section and lot number, if available, and your address, city/state/zip, and your e-mail.

Thank You!



Interesting Information on the Web

The web is an extremely valuable resource for finding information about obituaries and funeral planning. Check out these sites:

www.cremationassociation.org

This site has more detailed information about cremation, including a helpful consumer information that can be downloaded.

www.lacrossetribune.com

The La Crosse Tribune's web site has searchable database of obituary information for 2001 and 2002.

www.arrangeonline.com

This site for the national obituary archive allows you to look up an obituary anywhere in the nation.

www.schumacherkish.com

The web site for the local funeral homes of Schumacher Kish.

www.funeralplan.com

This page bills itself as "everything you need to know about funerals and grief support."

term

Of The Issue:

What is a niche?

(nich)n.

A niche is a space in a cemetery or mausoleum set aside for cremated remains. It's a good idea for people who choose cremation to still provide a "place" for others to visit and celebrate the life of the deceased person. Some people select this option because it is smaller than the space occupied by a casket and it is less expensive.

Famous people

In The Cemetery: Gottlieb Heileman

While beer production flourished under many names in this city over the years, the "beer that made La Crosse famous" was undoubtedly Heileman's Old Style – star product of the G. Heileman Brewing Company. The firm's namesake and founder, Gottlieb Heileman, emigrated from Germany in the early 1850s. After settling for a time in Milwaukee, Heileman and his wife, Johanna, moved across the state to La Crosse, where he found employment in the growing local brewing industry. Heileman became a partner with John Gund Sr.

In 1872, Gund withdrew from the firm they shared, leaving Heileman the sole owner, a post he filled until his untimely death six years later at the age of fifty-four. After Gottlieb's death, his widow, Johanna, took charge

of brewery operations. In fact, it was Johanna who guided the firm through its formative years and ushered it into the 20th century. When the G. Heileman Brewing Company incorporated in 1890, she joined the relative handful of contemporary women who held the title of corporate president in the United States. Johanna Heileman remained as the company's head until her own death in 1917.



The La Crosse County Historical Society hosts a Silent City tour each autumn. Gottlieb Heileman was featured in the 2001 walk. Thanks to the Society for providing this information. Photo courtesy of Murphy Library - University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

The Losey Arch Celebrating 100 Years

Oak Grove Cemetery is preparing to celebrate the 100-year birthday of the Losey Memorial Arch. The impressive triple arched stone entry will be rededicated at a Memorial Day ceremony Monday, May 27 at 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

The arch was built in 1901 as a memorial to La Crosse attorney and civic leader Joseph W. Losey. He was elected District Attorney in 1859 and City Attorney in 1860. He also had a private law practice. Losey was a long time member of the City Council where he helped establish a water system for fire protection and supported the development of Myrick Park. He is probably best known advocating the creation of a European style pleasure drive or boulevard on the eastern edge of the city; known today as Losey Boulevard.

According to Barbara Kooiman, chair of the La Crosse's

Historic Preservation Commission, the refurbishment of Oak Grove Cemetery was one of his many achievements. She says, "The cemetery had fallen into disrepair and had become something of an eyesore. Joseph Losey had a personal interest in gardening and landscaping, so he used his own money to hire an architect/landscaper in the 1880s to transform the environment. He turned the cemetery into something of a Victorian garden or park, a place where people could

stroll or picnic. Features of the new cemetery included a fountain, winding drives and tree plantings." Losey's efforts to restore and beautify the cemetery led to the naming of the entry arch in his honor after his death in 1901.



Local architects Hugo Schick and Andrew Roth designed the Losey Memorial Arch in the Classical Revival/Beaux Arts Style. The classically influenced Beaux Arts style was very popular for public buildings and memorials in the first decade of the 20th century. The triple Palladian style arch has four Corinthian capped pilasters, projecting cornice with decorative modillions and brass nameplate with dedication to Joseph W. Losey. The foundation is Lake Superior red sandstone and the decorative arch is most likely Bedford limestone. The arch was erected by the Crosby and Hynne Granite Company of La Crosse and dedicated with a public celebration on Memorial Day in 1902. It will be rededicated exactly 100 years later.



Losey Memorial Arch Rededication Ceremony

Memorial Day
Monday, May 27, 2002
2 p.m.

Oak Grove Cemetery
Everyone is welcome!



Want To Know More?

Please Send Me This Information

- General information on Oak Grove Cemetery
- General information on cremation
- A price list for Oak Grove Cemetery

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

- Please have someone call me about pre-arrangements

Phone number: _____



Trust ♦ Compassion ♦ Respect

Candlelight Ceremony “A Light To Remember”



Oak Grove Cemetery helped people remember their loved ones in a special holiday event. “A Light to Remember” was held December 23, 2001. More than 80 individuals braved the windy,

snowy weather to create an ornament for their loved one and hang it on a Christmas tree. This year’s event is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 15.



1407 La Crosse Street
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