

# THE HISTORIC REDWOOD CITY, CA

## Spring Newsletter

**We did it!!** We managed to get all 305 rose bushes pruned. It took lots of people and lots of hours, but we finished them in a timely manner. We'd like to thank members of the Redwood City Woman's Club, Gaspar De Portola DAR, the YMSL, local Master Gardeners and all our individual friends who helped with the pruning. Now we hope you'll come and enjoy the beautiful roses as they bloom.

 **THANK YOU** 

Speaking of beautiful things at the cemetery it's **PHOTO CONTEST** time!

This year we have opened the contest up to everyone. There are 2 categories - 18 and under and over 18. I've attached a flier at the end of this newsletter that outlines the rules and you can use the QR Code to enter.

Winners will receive cash prizes and have their photos displayed at our annual Memorial Day event on May 27th.

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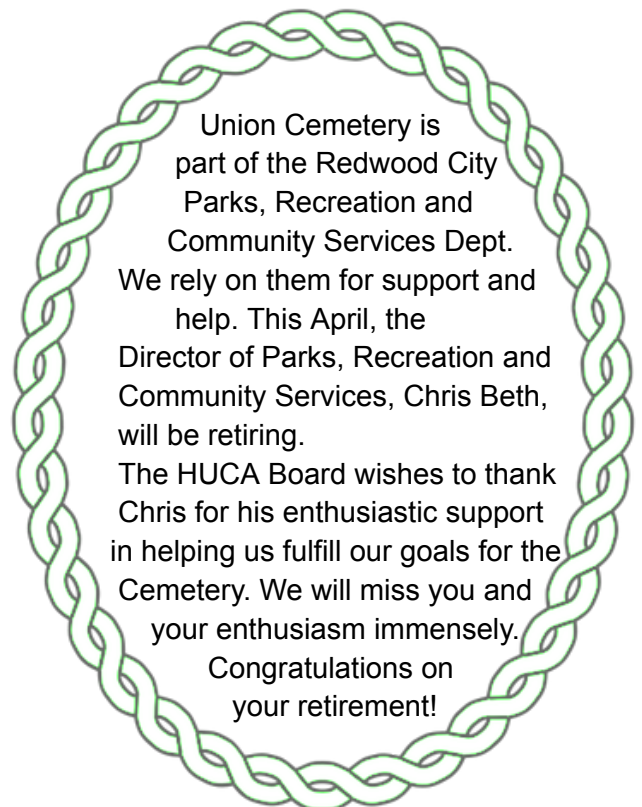
Here's a bit of cemetery trivia/history that I recently learned. Some people have their favorite recipes written on their headstones. We do not have any of these at Union Cemetery, but here's a link to the website to discover headstone recipes!

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/gravestone-recipes>

Be sure to save May 27th to attend our annual Commemoration of Memorial Day. We honor fallen veterans who gave their lives in the service of our country. There will be patriotic songs, speeches, decoration of the graves and the ever popular anvil firing! Please join us at 10 am.

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**Cemetery Tour Dates for 2024 - Saturdays at 10**  
**April 13 \* May 11 \* June 15 \* July 20 \***  
**Aug. 17 \* Sept 14 \* Oct 26 \* Nov 23 \***



I realized that last quarter that I neglected to include a bio of one of our “residents” in the Winter Newsletter. Since some people have said that they like this feature, I have included 2 people this month!

Eugene Walker and his wife Nancy, who were from the Woodside area, lived in Arroyo Grande on a small farm with their 1 year old daughter. Their neighbors, the Hemmis, disputed the boundaries of their property and had harassed the Walkers in the past. But on the morning of March 21, 1886 a terrible tragedy took place at the Walker farm. These neighbors approached the Walker's home and shot Eugene and the family dog dead and seriously wounded Nancy. The shooting appears to have been done by Julius Hemmi under the direction of his father, and that George Geise, a nephew, was in the company also. Peter Hemmi had previously threatened the life of Walker, and had been placed under bonds to keep the peace.

On seeing her husband dead, Mrs. Walker, mangled and bleeding, pretended to be dead also. After they left, with her child in her arms, she dragged herself to the nearest residence, a mile away. The Hemmis were arrested based on her account of the incident and the murderers jailed. Later that night vigilantes broke into the jail and lynched the Hemmis from the Arroyo Grande bridge.

Mrs. Walker, her baby and the dead body of her husband were brought to Woodside, their old home, where the heroine of that awful experience lingered in great pain till her death.

Newspaper account from November 13, 1886

Nancy Walker died this morning at Woodside, near this town, at the home of her brother-in-law, Thomas Shine. The death of Mrs. Walker is the final ending of the awful tragedy which took place in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo County, earlier this year, the details of which are still fresh in the minds of the people. Young Eugene Walker was shot down at his doorstep by the Hemmis, neighboring farmers, and his wife severely wounded. On seeing her husband dead, Mrs. Walker, mangled and bleeding, with her child in her arms, dragged herself to the nearest residence, a mile away. The murderers were afterward lynched. Mrs. Walker and the dead body of her husband were brought to this town, their old home, where the heroine of that awful experience lingered in great pain till her death.

As Charles Reade truly tells us, "Not a day passes over the world but men and women of no note do great deeds, speak great words, and suffer noble sorrows." Not all of us may do great deeds or speak great words. It is not given to all of us to suffer noble sorrows. But to poor Eugene Walker's brave little wife was given the suffering of the noblest type of sorrow, to which was added physical pain so poignant that one winces even to think of it. And she bore it all with unshaken fortitude, patient, unselfish, brave to the last. Seven long months, two hundred and twenty seven days of pain and dread and doubt! Yet not one complaining, fretful, self indulgent murmur lingers in the thoughts of those who so carefully and tenderly watched and waited on her. Her sister, Mrs. Thomas Shine, and her brother, Mr. Malcolm Boyd, her father-in-law, Mr. Silvester Walker, and all the members of the Shine family devoted themselves unwearied to the care and comfort which was all they might do for her. Surgical and medical skill did what might be done to supplement the strong vital force of her delicate

yet strangely enduring physique. She lived much longer than her friends ever dared hope. Her last hours were comparatively painless, and she went to her long sleep with a smile.

The funeral was attended by a large concourse of neighbors and friends; and by many friends of her husband and her father. No service was held at the house, but at the grave, in the Walker plot in Union Cemetery, Mr. Fackenthall spoke impressively and appropriately and read over the coffin the solemn service of the church.

Little May Walker, two years old, the survivor of the double tragedy which has shadowed her baby life, will remain with her aunt's family, where a pleasant and healthful life is assured. Mr. Sylvester Walker will be her guardian and hold for her the little property left her.

They are buried in Plot 16



PHOTO CONTEST FLYER - NEXT PAGE



# PHOTO CONTEST

## HISTORIC UNION CEMETERY REDWOOD CITY

### *Contest Rules*

Name of Contest: Spring Time in Union Cemetery

Submissions are due by: May 5

Winners' Photographs Displayed: Memorial Day, May 27, 2024

Two Categories: 18+ and Under 18

Rules: 1 entry per person

Judging will be conducted by the board of the Historic Union Cemetery. All Judging decisions are final.

#### Prizes:

**18 and under: First (\$100), Second (\$35), Third (\$25), Honorable Mentions**

**18+: First (\$100), Second (\$35), Third (\$25), Honorable Mentions**

#### HOW TO ENTER:

All images must be submitted through our photo submission website (QR code below), including all required fields:



Entries are to be submitted in any format so long as they are submitted electronically in a .JPEG .jpg or .PHG format. Entries should include metadata if at all possible.

All Photos should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization (removing dust, cropping reasonable adjustments to exposure, color, and contrast, etc.) will be disqualified. All entries must have been taken during the contest time frame: Spring 2024

Photos will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition, overall impact, artistic merit, and subject matter.

**TAKE YOUR  
PHOTO TODAY!**



Historic Union Cemetery

316 Woodside Road

Redwood City, CA 94063

