

THE HISTORIC **Union Cemetery** REDWOOD CITY, CA

Autumn 2025

Even though things look pretty quiet at the cemetery, the HUCA Board members and friends have been very busy behind the scenes.

For example, we have 6 Bird Boxes scattered around Union Cemetery. The boxes are attended by the San Mateo County Bird Alliance with some support from the RWC Teen Advisory Council. Pictured here are some residents; a batch of chestnut backed chickadees and a female bluebird incubating her eggs.



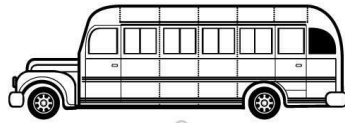
We also placed an owl box in the Cemetery on 11/23, but it is still unoccupied.

If you know any owls, please send them our way for free housing!

SPECIAL INVITE: San Mateo County Bird Alliance will be leading a one hour bird walk 10-11AM at the cemetery on Tuesday November 11th, Veterans Day.

ALL ARE WELCOME

ON OUR WAY!



We've had some great news regarding our fledgling school program! After our last newsletter went out, we received a donation of \$300 from Valerie and Greg Matonis specifically for the bus transportation. Additionally, we were awarded a \$600 grant from the Redwood City Parks and Arts Foundation!

As the school year starts, we will be in communication with 4th grade teachers to share our plan for field trips to Union Cemetery and we hope we're very busy showing the students around and sharing local history with them.



Originally, John Quinn had a nice GAR headstone. Over the years it has deteriorated and is now in many pieces. We discovered that all service personnel are entitled to a free replacement headstone from the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs. As with most government issues, it requires a fair amount of paperwork. As of this writing, the paperwork is submitted and the new headstone should be here in a few months.



Part of the reason for headstone deterioration is that moss, lichen and dirt build up on the surface. The biologics can etch the stone and hold moisture on the marble or granite which causes degradation and crumbling (also called sugaring). So if you see someone at the Cemetery cleaning headstones, that is part of the reason. Also, they are nicer looking and easier to read.



The original Obituary of John Laughlin Quinn - Feb 10, 1899

The funeral of Judge John L. Quinn was held at the family residence, on Forest avenue, at 1:30 yesterday afternoon and the interment was in Union cemetery at Redwood City, under the auspices of the G. A. R. of which he was an honored member. Judge Quinn was seventy-five years old and had been in failing health for several years past so that an attack of la grippe was followed by death after a few days sickness. Deceased was born in Ireland and came to California in 1867, since which time he has lived at Pescadero and Mayfield, thus being one of the early pioneers of this section, and was able to give most interesting account of the development of this peninsula. At the expiration of his term of office as justice of the peace he removed from Mayfield to Palo Alto, where he built a handsome residence about three years ago. He leaves a widow and a family of grown children, several of whom are married. His daughter Elizabeth, wife of Prof. Maxwell Adams of the Chico State Normal School, came down to attend the funeral.



We have another invitation for those of you who are members of the Historic Union Cemetery Association. On *October 11th at 10am* our friends from the Institute for

Canine Forensics will be at Union Cemetery to show and tell us what Forensic dogs can do and to train their younger dogs. They've been very busy lately, but made some time for us. This is a **MEMBERS ONLY** event, but you can join anytime if you aren't a member for \$25 and you can bring guests to see the dogs work!



We are looking forward to two special group tours in October; the Menlo Park Historical Assn. and the staff of the online magazine Pulse. We are delighted to share our enthusiasm with others and invite groups to [contact us](#) to arrange tours at your convenience.

The scheduled tours for the remainder of the year are:

Sept. 20 - 10am

October 25 - **two tours on HALLOWEEN 10am & 1pm**

Nov. 11 - 10am(focusing on Veterans)

Dec. 13 - 10am

We hope you will consider becoming a member of the Historic Union Cemetery Assn if you are not already. Please check the website under Contribute/Membership to join online or by mail. www.historicunioncemetery.org