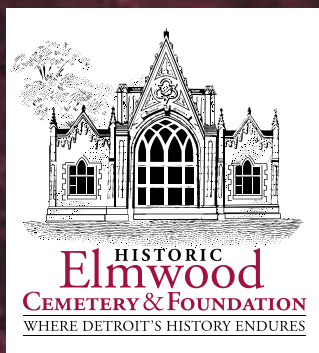


# NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2010



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## Historic Elmwood Foundation Board of Directors

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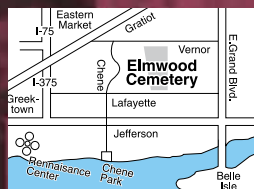
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Joan Frear Capuano  
*Executive Director*



1200 Elmwood Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan 48207  
Phone: 313-567-3453  
Fax: 313-567-8861  
[www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org](http://www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org)

## Office Hours

Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm  
Sat: 9am - noon

**Cemetery Hours (May-Sept.)**  
7am - 7pm, Daily

## Message from Sandy McMillan, *President, Trustees of Elmwood Cemetery*



Dear Families and Friends,

This is a terrific time to be at the Cemetery. The grass is green and the trees and shrubs are in bloom. Our recently renovated pond now has a beautiful Marshall Fredericks' statue of flying geese soaring over the water and a fountain at the opposite end near the new dam. Our knowledgeable staff and grounds crew work hard to create the best possible experience for you at Elmwood Cemetery.

We have all gone through a difficult time economically in Detroit. I am pleased to report that Elmwood Cemetery is doing well. This is supported by the increase in 2009 burials over 2008 and the thousands who visit our grounds or participate in our special programs.

In addition, our endowment fund - that ensures the

Cemetery is well cared for into the future - is recovering nicely from the down turn in the market in the fall 2008.

We have many prime individual as well as large family lots available. I encourage you to contact our staff if you are interested in exploring your options.

Thank you for placing your trust in us.

## LARGE FAMILY LOTS AVAILABLE!

The Cemetery working with the Historic Elmwood Foundation has nine large family lots available. The lots are located throughout the property and range in size from 20' x 20' to 20' x 30'. These special lots are only available through the Foundation and include a donation to the Foundation. They are the perfect size for your family mausoleum or large memorial. Please contact the office staff if you are interested in viewing the lots.



## FLORAL TRIBUTES AVAILABLE

### Begonias!

You may purchase a bed of begonias (24" x 14.5") to be placed in front of your loved one's lawn-level, slant marker or family monument. We will plant, water and remove the begonias. Weather permitting, the begonias will be in place before Memorial Day and until late September. The price is \$60 and must be paid in advance. Forms are available in the office or on the website.

**Floral Arrangements** are available to commemorate that birthday, anniversary, Mother's Day, date of death, or other special occasion. Two sizes are available, \$50 or \$100. The office staff will need at least four business days' notice.

You can choose to purchase a floral arrangement or begonia bed each year or buy them now and have them in place every year for your loved one. More information about perpetual flowers and an order form can be found on our website or by contacting the office staff.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Perennial Splits?

Elmwood is hoping to add beautiful perennials throughout the cemetery. If you are splitting the perennials in your garden, please consider donating your splits to the Cemetery. We will find a spot where they will be appreciated by our many visitors. Please drop your splits off at the Cemetery garage, across from the gatehouse. While you are here, take a moment to say hello to the office staff or drive through the grounds to check our progress! If you are unable to bring your splits to Elmwood, please contact the office and we will make arrangements to pick them up. Thank you!

### Request For Updated Contact Information

It is important that we know how to reach our lot owners and friends. We know you want to be kept informed on rule changes or development issues that affect your lot as well as information about cemetery activities. If you have a new address, phone number or e-mail address, please let us know by phone, mail or e-mail.

## DISCOVER MORE

about Elmwood! Visit  
[www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org](http://www.elmwoodhistoriccemetery.org)



#### • April 15

##### **Summer Floral Beds Available!**

Please order through the website or by contacting the office.

#### • April 28

##### **Arbor Day Celebration**

10 a.m., Gatehouse

Join our grounds crew as we plant a witch hazel and weeping willow trees.



Arbor Day tree planting

#### • May – October

##### **Regular Guided Tours Begin**

#### • May 1

##### **Summer Hours Begin**

Extended hours for grounds access through September, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

#### • May 9

##### **Mother's Day**

Remember to contact our office by May 5th to purchase a large floral arrangement or flower bed for your mother's site! Our office also will sell small bouquets for \$10 on Friday and Saturday, May 7 and 8. You may drop in or call and ask us to place the bouquet at your loved one's site. *Quantities are limited.*

#### • May 21

##### **Annual Flower Planting**

11 a.m., Gatehouse, weather permitting. Join our staff and volunteers as we plant flowers in beds throughout the cemetery.

#### • May 28 – 31

##### **Memorial Weekend**

Our office will sell small bouquets for \$10. You may drop in or call and ask us to place the bouquet at your loved one's site. *Quantities are limited.*

#### • May 31

##### **Memorial Day Celebration**

Detroit Firefighters will be honored at 10 a.m. More information will be provided on our website and in local newspapers.

#### • June 14

##### **Flag Day**

11 a.m., Civil War Lot.

#### • June 20

##### **Father's Day**

Our office staff will help you honor your father with a floral arrangement. Our office also will sell small bouquets for \$10 on Friday and Saturday, June 18 and 19. You may drop in or call and ask us to place the bouquet at your loved one's site. *Quantities are limited.*

#### • November 2

##### **All Souls' Day, Chapel**

Please join us in the Chapel for an All Souls' service. Our office also will sell small bouquets for \$10 on Monday and Tuesday, November 1 and 2. You may drop in or call and ask us to place the bouquet at your loved one's site. *Quantities are limited.*

#### • November 11

##### **Veterans' Day**

10 a.m., Civil War Lot

Our veterans will be honored at a ceremony sponsored with the Detroit Historic Sites Commission. Flags for your loved one's grave site are available in the office.



Tree lighting ceremony

#### • December 6

##### **Tree Lighting Ceremony**

6 p.m., Gatehouse

Please join us as we honor those who passed away during 2010 with our tree lighting ceremony.



Memorial Day



# Historic Elmwood Foundation

## Message from Terry Book, *Foundation Chair*



I would like to thank all of you who have made donations to the Historic Elmwood Foundation. We are very grateful for the donated funds that have enabled us to move forward with Elmwood's restoration and outreach to the Metro Detroit community.

We support our community through key ceremonies on Arbor Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans' Day, as well as our annual Tree Lighting. Each year thousands visit Elmwood to take one of our tours or to participate in our special programs. The dates of our upcoming events are noted in this newsletter. Please try to join us!

The Foundation's 2009 primary project was to continue with the pond restoration. Work began on the pond after Memorial Day and included

repair of the Marshall Fredericks' Flying Geese sculpture, rebuilding the dam, adding an aeration system and fountain, landscaping the island and stabilizing the shoreline. Although the pond reopened in late September, we have a bit of work to wrap up this spring. If you have time to stop by the Cemetery, we hope you will agree that the restoration looks wonderful.

As you will learn during our Annual Fund Drive this May, the Foundation Board has chosen to scale back on large multi-year projects and instead this year will focus on furthering the restoration of the Cemetery grounds and our outreach to the Metro Detroit community through our programs and educational materials. It is important to continue the momentum we have achieved. I hope you will consider donating again this year to the Historic Elmwood Foundation. You may donate via this newsletter on the insert page, wait for our Annual Appeal later in May, or at any time that best meets your needs.

Later this year, we will have a celebration of Elmwood showcasing the work accomplished by the Foundation and the Cemetery over the past 5 years. All members of the Foundation will be invited and we hope you will be able to attend. If you are not a member, enrollment information is provided on the insert page.

Thank you again.  
Terry Book

Statue foundation



Marshall Fredericks' statue installation



Pond aeration



Island restoration



Pond and dam



## Meet Joan Frear Capuano, *Executive Director*



Joan Frear Capuano, Executive Director of the Historic Elmwood Foundation, is in her 5th year here at Elmwood. She directs all Foundation projects, community outreach, and programs. In addition she is responsible for communications, grant seeking, and the Annual Fund Drive.

*Mission: To preserve the history and educational significance of Elmwood Cemetery and those laid to rest in the cemetery; and to develop social, cultural, and educational programs to benefit the community.*

## GET TO KNOW OUR STAFF!

We invite you to contact our experienced staff whenever the need arises! Please call (313) 567-3453 and we will direct you to the appropriate staff member.



*Michael Shukwit*



*Bonita Smith*



*Allen Barksdale*



*Ciara Green-Lowe*

Michael Shukwit, Director of Operations, has 18 years of experience in the cemetery business. Mr. Shukwit is responsible for managing the outside operations, buildings, capital improvements, grounds, memorial/monument cleaning, arboretum, gardens, and working with the Foundation on its restoration and education plans.

Bonita Smith, Director of Administration, has 20 years of experience in the industry. Her responsibilities include managing the overall administration of Elmwood including record keeping, banking, and accounts receivable and payable. In addition, Ms. Smith consults with our customers concerning mausoleum and family and individual lot purchases.

Allen Barksdale, Director of Customer Service, has 45 years industry experience, with the last 15 years here at Elmwood. Mr. Barksdale counsels customers on all burial matters. In addition, he handles genealogy requests and provides tours. Mr. Barksdale also represents the cemetery before community and special interest groups.

Ciara Green-Lowe, Memorial Advisor, joined Elmwood two years ago and has 9 years prior customer service and sales experience. Ms. Lowe advises customers on selection of lots and niches, memorials, and tributes as well as preplanning needs.

## Memorial Art & Symbolism

The mausoleum is a distinct form of burial architecture that became popular in the late 19th century. Elmwood has 27 private mausoleums. The oldest was built in the 1870s.

There are two community mausoleums in the cemetery. The oldest, built between 1890 and 1895, was designed in the Classical Style with massive granite columns and an interior of white Italian marble and sandstone. The new mausoleum, completed in 1994, stands next to the original. It was designed to compliment the older mausoleum but to be distinctive, using elements and materials found in other buildings on the grounds. The exterior is of ashlar limestone with doorways and lintels in fine-honed limestone. The interior is clad in a carmel-rose colored marble and complimented with honed limestone and glass.

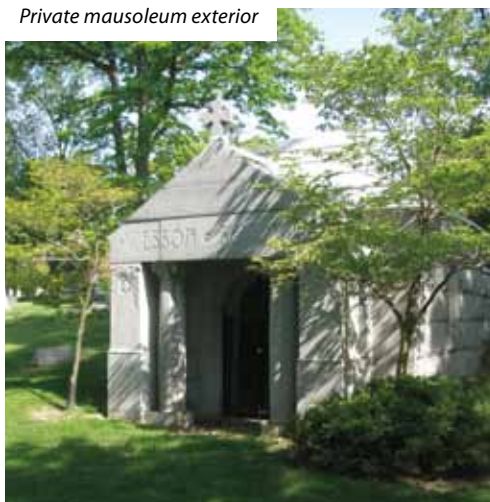
*New mausoleum exterior*



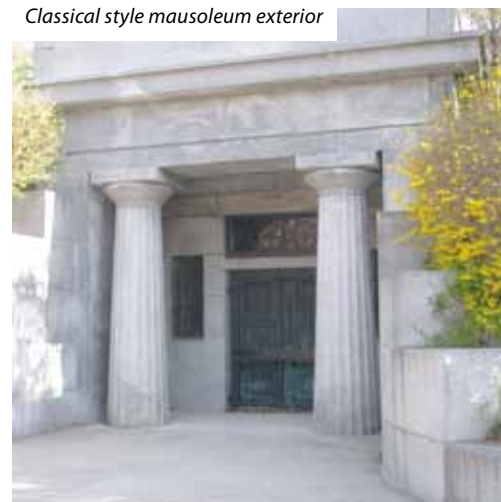
*New mausoleum interior*



*Private mausoleum exterior*



*Classical style mausoleum exterior*





## CEMETERY TOURS

Regular guided tours start at 10 a.m. and will be available May through October. Advance reservations are required. Our tour guides will regale tour participants with the interesting stories of those laid to rest at Elmwood. Typically, our tours are held in all weather and are walking tours. We do have a small transportation vehicle to assist the elderly or disabled but use of the vehicle must be arranged in advance.

### Regular Tours will be held on:

- **Wednesday, May 5**
- **Saturday, May 15**
- **Wednesday, June 9**
- **Saturday, June 19**
- **Wednesday, July 7**
- **Saturday, July 17**
- **Wednesday, Aug. 4**
- **Saturday, Aug. 21**
- **Wednesday, Sept. 1**
- **Saturday, Sept. 18**
- **Wednesday, Oct. 6**



### African American Heritage Tour

Elmwood is excited to announce it launched a new special tour highlighting key African Americans buried at the Cemetery. These special guided tours will be held monthly. The tour starts at 10 a.m. and requires advance reservations.

### The African American Heritage Tour dates are:

- **May 19**
- **June 23**
- **July 21**
- **Aug 25**
- **Sept 22**



William Lambert



William Nathaniel  
"Sunnie" Wilson



George DeBaptiste

### Halloween Tours

Each Saturday in October Elmwood presents its Halloween Tour. Hear some of the odd tales of those buried at Elmwood. The tour starts at 10 a.m. and advance reservations are required.

**October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30**

### Bus Tours

Bus tours of forty individuals or less can also be accommodated. Advance reservations are required for all tours. Please contact the office staff to arrange your tour.

### Tour Admission

Members of the Historic Elmwood Foundation receive free tour admission depending upon their level of donation. Non-members incur a charge of \$5 per person for regular tours. Special tours are priced separately. Proceeds from all tours are given to the Historic Elmwood Foundation.



## So Much to See...

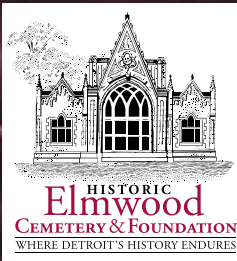
**Spring planting.** If you, your friends or garden club are interested in adding to the beauty of the cemetery, there are many areas that will be available for flowers. Please call Joan Capuano for more information.

**Do you enjoy running, walking, biking, or rollerblading** with a group of friends? Please consider using Elmwood's pathways. The office staff would be happy to make arrangements for a time that works best for you.

**Artists** are encouraged to come and sketch the many sculptures in the cemetery. The office staff can help you identify where you might pursue either of these endeavors. If you have sketches or paintings of the Cemetery that you would like to share with our visitors, please contact Joan Capuano.

**Bird watchers** will find a bevy of different breeds to follow in the Cemetery.

The peacefulness of the Cemetery is a wonderful spot to sit and watch the birds. Due to a generous donation by the Mary Thompson Foundation, we have benches positioned in various locations. Bring your binoculars and bird watching guide. If you are interested in helping us develop a bird watching guide, please contact Joan Capuano.



Elmwood Cemetery  
1200 Elmwood Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan 48207-3897  
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## DID YOU KNOW?

Every culture and civilization attends to the proper care of their deceased loved ones. They have three things in common relating to death:

- Some type of funeral rites, rituals, and ceremonies
- A sacred place for the deceased
- Memorialization of the deceased

Researchers found burial grounds of Neanderthal man dating to 60,000 BC with animal antlers on the body and flower fragments next to the corpse indicating some type of ritual and gifts of remembrance.



Before



After

## MONUMENT AND MARKER MEMORIAL CLEANING SERVICE

Elmwood Cemetery is pleased to offer memorial cleaning.

- **Individual markers** **\$120 each**
- **Companion markers** **\$200 each**
- **Monuments** **\$100 per linear foot of base**

Large monuments or family mausoleums need to be quoted individually. Please contact Mike Shukwit to make arrangements or download the memorial cleaning form from our website.

