

SPRING 2019

*Friends of*



**MOUNTAIN VIEW**  
C E M E T E R Y



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*Photo by Jeff Lindeman*

*“You were born a child of light’s wonderful secret—  
you return to the beauty you have always been.”*

—Aberjhani

At Mountain View Cemetery, we take great pride in upholding community traditions. With spring upon us, we’re excited to share a number of activities and events with you and your family, including our annual Tulip Exhibition and our yearly observance of Ching Ming, the ancient Chinese custom of remembering ancestors. We’re also excited to announce our fourth annual “Free Photos with the Easter Bunny,” which includes treats for the kids and a complimentary family photo with the ultimate springtime celebrity.

Come to one of our special events and take part in several of our long-standing traditions...or stop by our office to brainstorm creative ways of honoring important people and milestones in your life. We are constantly inspired by your visions and enjoy working with you to make them a reality.

Family services counselors are available at all of our community events to talk with you about burial estate planning and to answer any questions you may have about our services. If you can’t make it to any of our events, you’re always welcome to call or stop by our office for a chat and a tour of our historic grounds. We hope to see you soon.

*The Friends of Mountain View Cemetery is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization.*

*Your donation is tax-deductible.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

At Mountain View Cemetery, we offer family-friendly events and activities year-round. Each of our free, docent-led tours meets in front of the administrative office and lasts about two hours. Many tours involve walking up steep hills.\*

\*Please note: scheduled tours and events are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information and details, visit our website at [www.mountainviewcemetery.org](http://www.mountainviewcemetery.org).

- Sat., 4/27/19 10 a.m. **Specialty Tour – The Trees of Mountain View Cemetery**  
*A free docent-led tour by Chris Pattillo.*
- Sat., 5/11/19 10 a.m. **Exploring Mountain View Cemetery: Highlighting the people, architecture beauty, and history of Mountain View Cemetery.** *A free docent-led tour by Barbara Smith.*
- Sun., 5/12/19 **Mother's Day**
- Sat., 5/25/19 10 a.m. **Specialty Tour – Comings and Goings.**  
*A free docent-led tour by Ruby Long.*
- Mon., 5/27/19 10 a.m. **98th annual Memorial Day Commemoration Program**  
*Presentation of colors, salute to the fallen, and guest speakers.*

Mon., 5/27/19 **98th annual Memorial Day Commemoration Program**

Presentation of colors, salute to the fallen, and guest speakers.



- Mon., 5/27/19 11:30 a.m. **Memorial Day Civil War Plot Tour (led by Dennis Evanosky).**  
*Dennis, who has also led tours at the Pardee Home and Oakland's Preservation Park, gives a general tour with special emphasis on The Civil War and the role California played in the conflict.*
- Sat., 6/8/19 10 a.m. **Exploring Mountain View Cemetery: Highlighting the people, architecture beauty, and history of Mountain View Cemetery.** *A free docent-led tour by Ron Bachman.*
- Sun., 6/9/19 2 - 4 p.m. **Bay Area Guitar Master Series**  
*Eric Symons*
- Sun., 6/16/19 **Father's Day**
- Sat., 6/22/19 10 a.m. **Specialty Tour – Exploring the California Gold Rush and Transcontinental Railroad at Mountain View Cemetery**  
*A free docent led tour by Dennis Evanosky.*
- Sun., 7/7/19: 2 - 4 p.m. **Bay Area Guitar Master Series**  
*Marc Teicholz*
- Sat., 7/13/19 10 a.m. **Exploring Mountain View Cemetery: Highlighting the people, architecture beauty, and history of Mountain View Cemetery.** *A free docent led-tour by Gia White.*
- Sat., 7/27/19 10 a.m. **Specialty Tour – Transportation.**  
*A docent led tour by Gia White.*
- Sat., 8/10/19 10 a.m. **Exploring Mountain View Cemetery: Highlighting the people, architecture beauty, and history of Mountain View Cemetery.** *A free docent led-tour by Ruby Long.*
- Sun., 8/11/19: 2 - 4 p.m. **Bay Area Guitar Master Series**  
*Yuri Liberzon*

## UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

- Sat., 8/24/19: 10 a.m. **Specialty Tour – Mayor’s Tour**  
*A free docent led-tour by Michael Colbruno.*
- Sat., 9/14/19 10 a.m. **Exploring Mountain View Cemetery:** *Highlighting the people, architecture beauty, and history of Mountain View Cemetery. A free docent led-tour by Ron Bachman.*
- Sat., 9/14/19 7- 9:30 p.m. **Movie Night on the Green –**  
**Fun activities and refreshments before movie time.**
- Sat., 9/28/19 10 a.m. **Specialty Tour – Food Tour**  
*A free docent led-tour by Barbara Gibson and Jane Leroe.*
- Sat., 10/12/19 10 a.m. **Exploring Mountain View Cemetery:** *Highlighting the people, architecture beauty, and history of Mountain View Cemetery. A free docent led-tour by Barbara Gibson.*
- Sat., 10/19/19 10 a.m. **Specialty Tour – Symbolism**  
*A free docent led-tour by Sandy Rauch.*
- Sat., 10/26/19 Noon to 3 p.m. **14th Annual Pumpkin Festival –** *Celebrate Halloween at our fun-filled pumpkin patch, with free pumpkins, activities, food trucks, and treats for the kids!*
- Sat., 11/9/19 10 a.m. **Exploring Mountain View Cemetery:** *Highlighting the people, architecture beauty, and history of Mountain View Cemetery. A free docent led-tour by Jane Leroe.*
- Sat., 11/23/19 10 a.m. **Specialty Tour – Olmsted & Oakland Notables**  
*A free docent led-tour by Chris Pattillo.*

Sun., 12/1/19  
Noon to 3 p.m.

### **Free Photos with Santa!**

Join us at the Tower Chapel for FREE photos with Santa. Children of all ages are welcome. Enjoy arts and crafts and refreshments.



Sun., 12/1/19  
3 - 5 p.m.

### **Annual Holiday Remembrance Tree and Lighting**

Come by and decorate a personal holiday ornament in remembrance of your loved one and hang it on our remembrance tree. The tree lighting ceremony starts promptly at 5 p.m.



- Sat., 12/14/19 10 a.m. **Exploring Mountain View Cemetery:** *Highlighting the people, architecture beauty, and history of Mountain View Cemetery. A free docent led-tour.*
- Sat., 12/28/19 10 a.m. **Specialty Tour –**  
*A free docent led-tour.*

*Interested in becoming a Mountain View Cemetery docent?  
Stop by our office and pick up an application form!*

This Summer free concert series is presented by Friends of Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland, and features Simply the Best Entertainment concert artists. The concerts take place in the beautiful and historic Tower Chapel, which boasts heavenly acoustics. Seating is non-reserved.

## Eric Symons

Sunday, June 9th, 2pm - 4pm

Eric begins a national tour at the Tower Chapel with a program that includes: The Chaconne in d by Bach, “Delirio” by Julian Arcas, who was the mid-nineteenth century virtuoso that was the first to concertize with Torres guitars, and inspire and teach the great Francisco Tarrega as a teacher. Also works by 20th century Mexican pop bolero composers, and classic flamenco will highlight the second half. And as always, new compositions! 🎸



## Marc Teicholz

Sunday, July 7th, 2pm - 4pm

Legendary guitarist Marc Teicholz will perform again great new transcriptions that add to the repertoire of the classical guitar. One of Marc’s newest projects is a transcription from piano to guitar by Juaquin Turina, amongst the gems that always surprises us from his close circuit of colleagues such as Sergio Assad. Marc has been called “The best of the young generation of guitarists...” by Gramophone Magazine, an unprecedented honor. 🎸

## Yuri Liberzon

Sunday, August 18th, 2pm - 4pm

Yuri Liberzon has received amazing critical acclaim in the past year for his new album “Acentuado”... “Yuri’s understated virtuosity is elegant and despite the way it serves the music, it is noticeably impressive...” -Six String Guitar Magazine

Again, this year’s program will unfold yet another new chapter in Yuri’s ever expanding repertoire with new his new transcription for the “Sonata in C” for violin by Bach, and cutting edge new works for guitar from international contemporary artists. “Both technically gifted and musical to the core.” -Los Angeles Times 🎸



## Contact Us

Stop by anytime during regular office hours – we’re happy to help you in any way we can. We’re open weekdays from 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., and weekends and holidays from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. You can also call the cemetery office directly at 510.658.2588 or visit [www.mountainviewcemetery.org](http://www.mountainviewcemetery.org).



Over generations, society's values around end of life have evolved and continue to evolve. A generation or two ago, a majority of people looked to clergy for funerary and spiritual guidance and to the Cemetery for a place to pay homage to their ancestors. Today, a majority of people opt for cremation and increasingly favor non-traditional memorials or "celebration of life" services. Many prefer an informal family gathering to a church service. Yet, people still find meaning by getting together to honor the passage of friends

and family. Increasingly, our community looks to hotels, restaurants and recreation destinations for cremation and scattering services. We believe there continues to be an important role for the Cemetery to provide a spiritual, welcoming, neutral and unencumbered place for people to pay homage to their friends and family and, yet, to do so in a way that is both approachable and honors the importance of the gathering. Our strategic plan includes building the Water Pavilion chapel and reception center, which is designed to host and enhance "celebration of life" activities as well as new plot developments.

For the Water Pavilion project, we have not met the pace of development we wanted. As most of us are aware, the Bay Area has experienced a building boom during the past few years, causing dramatic inflation among the trades and suppliers fit for the Water Pavilion project. The high demand among contractors, in our experience, has also diminished the kind of purchasing transparency that we, as a not-for-profit historical organization, desire with our contractor relationships. The Cemetery is self-supporting and receives no tax sourced funding. After disappointing experiences with the general contractor paradigm, we have shifted to what may be called a multiple prime approach. Essentially, this means we are working with a project manager to facilitate builders, but we are retaining control over purchasing and scheduling. To that end, we have broken ground on the Water Pavilion project. The initial phase includes improvements to underground drainage and electrical, which are needed to modernize facilities in preparation for building improvements. You may find disruptions in and around the Cemetery entrance circle while we make these improvements.

Similarly, we shifted the new plot development project, Plot 82, to a multiple prime contractor approach. After many delays due to appeals and negotiations with the City of Oakland, we broke ground on Plot 82 last September. Much of mass grading work was completed by January, although there is still some to do, which has been delayed by heavy rains this winter. In the interim, work toward improvements, such as roads, drainage and walls, continues.

The Cemetery recognizes that to remain vital and relevant to the community, the Cemetery should diversify its services concurrent with making the best use of the Cemetery's unique landscape, architectural and urban attributes. The Cemetery has taken great care that the new development projects enhance the Cemetery in ways that respond to cultural changes, yet also enhance the beauty of the Cemetery and its long-term relevance to the surrounding communities.



By appending our historic Cemetery with additional services, facilities and programs, we hope to broaden our range of services to meet evolving community needs. 🙏



*Please visit our website for periodic development projects updates, including architectural renderings and graphics.*

### FREE CEMETERY TOURS EVERY SECOND SATURDAY

Want to learn more about the legendary leaders of industry, government, education, and art at Mountain View Cemetery? Join one of our free, docent-led, Mountain View Cemetery overview tours. They begin at 10 a.m. on the *second Saturday of every month*.

### FREE SPECIAL TOPIC TOURS EVERY FOURTH SATURDAY

Every fourth Saturday of the month, we'll be featuring a free tour that focuses in on more specialized topics. Join our enthusiastic and knowledgeable docent tour leaders for a closer look at the fascinating people of Mountain View Cemetery, as well as other intriguing aspects of the cemetery.

*Each of our tours lasts approximately two hours. No RSVP is necessary; simply meet in front of the administrative office and wear comfortable walking shoes. For more information about our docent-led tours, or to arrange a special group tour (including wheelchair-accessible tours), visit [www.mountainviewcemetery.org](http://www.mountainviewcemetery.org) or contact the cemetery office at 510.658.2588.*



### FREE, SELF-GUIDED CEMETERY TOUR MAP

A free map showing plots, listing points of interest, and identifying graves of notable persons is available at the cemetery office or online at [www.mountainviewcemetery.org](http://www.mountainviewcemetery.org).



*“If you feel the urge, don't be afraid to go on a wild goose chase. What do you think wild geese are for anyway?”*

—Will Rodgers



The sound is all too familiar. Loud, constant honking as they enter the cemetery in an orderly fashion. Their destination set to one of the many plots on the grounds. All clad in black, white, and brown. No, I'm not talking about a funeral procession, I'm talking about the morning arrival of our good friends from up north, the Canadian geese.

In the spring the cemetery grounds experience a bountiful show of color, through tulip and oxalis blooms, as well as other perennials, but spring also brings with it the arrival of the Canadian geese. These migrating birds annually find Mountain View Cemetery a favorite spot on their journey home. That's not to say that they all leave when they are supposed to. The cemetery is home to about 20 geese year round, but in late spring those numbers can be multiplied by as much as three. They are referred to as “tourists” birds, and have become a big nuisance at the cemetery.

Canadian geese like large, open grassy areas with access to nearby water, and Mountain View Cemetery fits that requirement too perfectly. Many people enjoy the geese, especially during the breeding season, when pairs can be seen leading their flock of goslings. Unfortunately, there is a thing as one goose to many. Due to Federal protections, lack of natural predators, and an obliviousness to cars, people, and dogs the geese problem continues to grow.

The cemetery has taken several non-harmful approaches to combat the geese problem. From non-toxic spray repellent on certain turf areas, firecrackers, and even the use of my Australian Shepard, Beau, on weekends. Unfortunately, due to the total acreage of the cemetery, these methods have had very little success. The birds simply move to another plot. I have often felt that the more I go on a wild goose chase, I literally find myself running in circles. Recently, two coyotes have been sighted roaming the upper cemetery grounds. These natural predators have caused the geese to move to the lower portion of the cemetery at times. Moving forward, the cemetery staff urge the general public to not partake in feeding of the geese. This may be the most effective way of discouraging more flocks at the cemetery.

With the Canadian geese taking advantage of the lack of predators, abundance of food, both naturally and human aided, and ideal nesting habitats, it's not difficult to see why the cemetery isn't wild about having these not-so-wild birds around. 🦌

### STAY SAFE – FOLLOW PARK RULES

Mountain View Cemetery is an incomparable place to walk, meditate, or enjoy a picnic with friends. Please help us maintain the beauty of our historic grounds and safety of our guests by staying on designated trails and disposing of garbage appropriately.

#### FOR OUR GUESTS WHO ARE PET OWNERS:

- Pets will be allowed on cemetery grounds provided they are on a leash at all times. Only service animals are allowed in buildings.
- Owners shall keep their pets on the roadways or sidewalks at all times and shall not trespass on any plot or gravesite. Owners shall not allow their pets to cause disturbance due to noise.
- Pet debris must be picked up by its owner and placed in a trash container or removed from the cemetery.
- Management reserves the right to evict any dog and its owner that, in the judgment of management, do not comply with cemetery rules.





*Photo of Alexis W. von Schmidt*

## Pioneer Engineer A.W. Von Schmidt Rests at Mountain View Cemetery

By Dennis Evanosky, Docent

Not one, but two lines define the border between California and Nevada. One is the official boundary that the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (USGS) laid out in 1893. Mountain View denizen Alexis W. Von Schmidt had surveyed that “other” boundary, appropriately called the “Von Schmidt line” twenty years earlier.

Much like sailors of his day, von Schmidt used the stars to define his position while surveying his version of the boundary. Twenty years later, USGS used more accurate information about longitude not available to von Schmidt. Historian John Southworth writes that von Schmidt “was an old hand at running land surveys.” For example, in 1855, as deputy U.S. Land Surveyor, he took on the difficult task of extending the Mount Diablo Base Line from the San Joaquin Valley over the Sierra Nevada into Nevada.

Before working as a surveyor, von Schmidt had already used his engineering skills, designing and building water channels called flumes, as well as ditch systems and pumping plants for mining companies in both California and Nevada. Spring Valley Water Company hired him at its first engineer. George Ensign, who had incorporated the water company in 1860, employed von Schmidt to redirect Pilarcitas Creek in San Mateo County through tunnels and flumes and onto San Francisco. Thanks in large part to von Schmidt’s skills, the company became the first to deliver water to San Francisco in 1862.

The history website Found SF ([www.foundsf.org](http://www.foundsf.org)) relates that three years later, von Schmidt tried to break Spring Valley Water Company’s monopoly. He founded the Lake Tahoe and San Francisco Water Works Company, hoping to build an aqueduct from Lake Tahoe to the mines in the Mother Lode and on to San Francisco. “It backfired,” Found SF states.

**Movie Night  
on the Green**  
Saturday, September 14

**FREE EVENT**  
7:00 pm: Event starts.  
Event starts at dusk.  
Face painting  
and Arts & Crafts  
Bring your own blanket,  
fold-up chairs, and your  
picnic basket!  
Come, have fun and enjoy  
the movie with your family.

The graphic features a dark purple background with a city skyline at night. A large movie screen shows a colorful scene of children playing. In the foreground, there are tables with various items, including a red and white striped awning and a small stand.

Undaunted, von Schmidt built a dry dock at Hunter’s Point in 1868 to service the ships that regularly visited California from east coast ports by way of Cape Horn. Von Schmidt’s sturdy creation saw regular use until a larger facility replaced it during World War I.

On August 23, 1870, von Schmidt dynamited an impediment that had long plagued ship navigators in San Francisco Bay. His fete destroyed Blossom Rock, sending it to a depth of some forty feet below low tide. All that remains on the surface today is a green buoy afloat in the bay off Coit Tower, appropriately marked “BR.”

In order to send Blossom Rock to a safer distance below the surface of the bay, von Schmidt’s workers excavated “an irregular cavern some 50 by 140 feet within Blossom Rock, filled it with 43,000 pounds of black powder in sealed casks and connected those casks to a single, distant power switch. “The explosion went off without a hitch to the great delight of thousands of people gathered to personally experience the spectacle,” Southworth tells us.



Three years after defining the California-Nevada border, von Schmidt joined his brother and fellow engineer Julius to design what Southworth calls “a giant floating suction dredge.” The brothers first put their creation into operation along the river levees above Antioch. The federal government then hired the von Schmidts to operate a much-improved version of the dredge on the Oakland Estuary. Southworth tells us that this was the “first suction dredge on the Pacific Coast.” He also relates that it may have the first successful dredge of its type ever built.

Alexis von Schmidt died at his home in Alameda on May 26, 1906. He was laid to rest in his large family plot at Laurel Hill Cemetery in San Francisco. The family later moved its place of burial to Mountain View Cemetery. 🔥

## 14th Annual Pumpkin Festival

Saturday, October 26, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Celebrate Halloween at our fun-filled pumpkin patch meadow, with free pumpkins, fun activities, and treats for the kids. Our long-standing Halloween tradition continues this year and immediately follows the Piedmont Avenue Merchants Association’s annual Halloween parade, which is a daylong celebration that includes trick-or-treating at participating stores on the avenue. To join in the fun, head down to the end of Piedmont Avenue after the parade and proceed into the cemetery to the pumpkin patch meadow. Children can choose a free pumpkin (one per child and quantities are limited) and enjoy lots of other activities, including: five bouncy funhouses to jump around in, hay-bale tunnel, balloon artist, face painting, animal show, and a craft area to decorate pumpkins, masks, and treat bags. Food truck vendors will be available on site for your family eats. Live music from “Shades of Gray” will be here to entertain everyone. Put on your dancing shoes and enjoy the afternoon at the cemetery. *Parents must accompany their children to this event* 🔥



*Mountain View Cemetery’s annual pumpkin festival is one of our most popular events—come see why over 1,000 people attend every year! Photo by Lynn Chung-Tran.*

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**YES**, I'd like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Friends of Mountain View Cemetery to help restore, preserve, and enhance the beauty of the Mountain View Cemetery grounds.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Please accept my donation in the amount of:

\$10    \$50    \$100    \$250    \$500    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Form of payment (check one):

Check enclosed (please make your check payable to  
*Friends of Mountain View Cemetery*)

Credit card:    Visa®    MasterCard®

Credit card no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_



Tax-deductible donations may be mailed to:



**MOUNTAIN VIEW**  
C E M E T E R Y

5000 Piedmont Avenue • Oakland, CA 94611

*Thanks to Our Contributors:*

*Our special thanks to those who have recently contributed \$50 or more to support our ongoing preservation and restoration efforts:*

*Wayne & Kathy Chong • Debbie Cohen • Richard & Sherry Dumke  
• Kathie Long • Helen Nieber • Quyen Trinh • Sophia Wong*

*The Mountain View Cemetery Association, established in 1863, is a nonsectarian, community nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing comfort to families in a setting of great beauty. We are a private organization and receive no public funding. While most areas of the cemetery grounds are maintained through an endowment fund, there remain a number of significant projects that are important to the preservation and restoration of this extraordinary cemetery. It is through your generous, tax-deductible support that we can continue completing this historically critical work.*

Phone: 510.658.2588 • Fax: 510.652.2726 • [www.mountainviewcemetery.org](http://www.mountainviewcemetery.org)

**Grounds open:** 7 a.m.–sunset daily (entrance gates close a half hour before sunset)

**Office hours:** Weekdays 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., weekends and holidays 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

**Mausoleum hours:** Weekdays 8 a.m.–4 p.m., weekends and holidays 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

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5000 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA 94611  
founded 1863 • a not-for-profit association