Annual Membership Drive

It’s time once again to send in your tax exempt contribution to our annual membership drive. These funds are the major funding source for the work we do throughout the year at Oakland Cemetery. Please use the membership renewal/signup coupon on the following page and give generously.

2010 Progress

The 2010 year was very productive for the Oakland Cemetery Preservation Society (OCPS.)

Utilizing the data and recommendations of the consultants who performed their work in 2008 and 2009, OCPS has produced a Master Development Plan for the Cemetery. The plan outlines the work to be accomplished, the priorities for the work, and the estimated cost of each project. The plan was updated as the year went along and is now ready for funding and implementation.

Also last year, the City of Shreveport appointed a committee to look into the needs of the city that could be addressed by a bond issue. Oakland Cemetery was included for an amount of $150,000. This issue was passed by the City Council and by voters in a bond election held on April 2nd.

In October, OCPS, in conjunction with Holy Cross Episcopal Church, hosted its annual All Saints Sunday. The turnout was very good, and many visitors to the cemetery complimented the effort and joined the Friends of Greenwood organization.

Board member Gary Joiner and his students continue to map the cemetery with a GIS mapping system. They have completed the eastern half of the cemetery. Gary also has acquired sophisticated ground radar equipment that allows them to locate forgotten graves.

Also, in 2010, Ms. Shelley Sass of Shelley Sass Conservation, Inc. completed her study and
submitted recommendations regarding emergency work and top priority sites in the cemetery as they relate to monuments, headstones, etc. The resulting document develops conservation programs for each site accompanied with cost estimates. This work provides OCPS with the conservation needs of specific sites, a more in-depth treatment development, and will be used as a basis for future fund drives and bid documents.

Cemetery Plot Restored

The Oakland Cemetery plot shown at the left is the final resting place of the Land family. Thomas T. and Alfred D. Land were father and son and both sat on the Louisiana Supreme Court bench.

The plot suffered much damage over the years. During 2010, the plot was restored to its original condition by descendants.

OCPS will use this plot as an example of what can be done to restore the cemetery.

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF OAKLAND

YES, I want to help by joining or renewing my membership to the “Friends of Oakland” organization to further the Oakland Cemetery Preservation Society’s efforts to restore and preserve the cemetery.

NAME_______________________________________________

ADDRESS ___________________________________________

CITY  _____________________________________ STATE _ ___________ ZIP__________

□ Individual $25  □ Family $40  □ Friend $100
□ Patron $250  □ Benefactor $500  □ Founder $1000  □ Student $10

Memorial/Honorarium Contribution $____________________

In honor/memory of: __________________________________________________________

Please Notify (name and address) ______________________________________________

□ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities in the area of ____________________

Make checks payable to Oakland Cemetery Preservation Society. Mail to:

OCPS, P.O. Box 5221, Shreveport, LA 71135-5221
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hines Vaughan

Things have gone very well for OCPS during 2010 thanks to our many supporters.

After three years, we have finally completed the necessary studies and analyses to allow us to thoroughly understand what needs to be done in the cemetery, both in the long and short time frames. The formation of the Master Development Plan was the result of those endeavors. Now it is time to look forward and to make the plan become reality.

In February of this year, the OCPS board held a brainstorming session facilitated by Judy Williams, President of Williams Creative Group. The results of that session gave the board the necessary planning tools to allow it to approach the community and various governmental entities to raise the capital funds needed to accomplish our goals. The plan calls for a three-year effort by OCPS to raise approximately $442,000.

We realize that this endeavor will require creative methods of raising funds due to the needs of many competing non-profits and other organizations during these times, but we are confident that it can be done. We will need your support.

OCPS was recently invited by Mayor Glover to be a member of the Shreveport Commons Advisory Committee. The goal of this committee is to create a Design/Plan that will rejuvenate the nine-block area that surrounds the Central Fire Station. The planning process, funded by a $100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, will include a master plan to include space use, public art, programming, retail, and future development for the area.

Oakland Cemetery is an integral part of this area of our city, and OCPS is thrilled to be a part of this effort. We believe that it will be a boon to this portion of our city and the cemetery. We look forward to participating in this exciting project.

As noted last year, Oakland Cemetery has been working with the city to acquire and renovate an historic house on Sprague Street. After many delays, I am pleased to announce that the way has been cleared on this important project, and the house should be renovated this year. I would also like to thank Slack/Alost Architects, Inc. for volunteering to help OCPS define the specifications for the renovation and produce construction drawings for the project.

In conclusion, OCPS is poised to begin work this year toward accomplishing our ultimate goals. I would like to thank those of you who have generously donated funds to the OCPS. Your support has allowed us to approach our task in a professional, well conceived manner that will guarantee success. Please join/renew your membership this month.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Many persons have expressed an interest in volunteering their services to help the cemetery. While the board was very thankful for these offers, it was difficult to take advantage of their services until a thorough plan was in place.

We now we have that plan in place and need volunteers! Specifically, we need help in the form of monument inventory and restoration; advertising and public relations; tour guides; website development; tour documentation, design and implementation; visitor’s center planning and operation; events planning and operation; family history documentation; civic event speakers, and more.

Please use the form on page 2 to indicate that you would like to help us and, if appropriate, indicate in which area(s). We need your help to restore and preserve this grand old cemetery!