



## A message from GCA President Bob Whear

I am very excited to begin this new year with the first-ever Genoa Cemetery Association newsletter, and to introduce you to our Board of Directors, an amazing group of volunteers who have dedicated themselves to the work of caring for our beautiful Genoa Cemetery. The board has many goals, not the least of which is better communication with all members.



I have been your president only the last 9 months, but have been privileged to serve you as a board member for approximately 16 years. During those years, I've come to more and more appreciate our cemetery. Not only do we have our dear loved ones in a beautiful resting place, but our board throughout all its history has been dedicated to improvement and volunteerism. I so appreciate that aspect of its history.

This message is an opportunity to welcome your ideas and hopefully future volunteerism for the GCA. Our cemetery has a rich history. Local volunteer organizations and board members have provided many hours maintaining and improving the cemetery when it is feasible, thereby cutting overall costs, and adding tender loving personal care.

Please accept my congratulations on your choice of cemeteries, and my sincere wishes for a healthy and happy new year.

*Questions or comments? I'd love to hear from you. Give me a call at 775-230-0733.*



GCA Board members, from left, Roger Falcke, Eric Brink, Elaine Shively, President Bob Whear, Loren Simpson and Erin Pasley. Not shown: Tom Peters.

## Meet the Genoa Cemetery Association board

*Here are bios from the seven GCA Board members in alphabetical order.*

### **Eric Brink (GCA Treasurer)**

I'm originally from Iowa and previously served as Treasurer for a religious non-profit. I'm also a support volunteer for East Fork Fire, serve as a volunteer Douglas County election worker, and donate my time during various Genoa-related events. I'm married to Gayle Vassar, whose family has lived in Genoa since the 1940s. When we retired, we moved to Genoa to be closer to family and community. A number of relatives rest at the cem-

etry and my service to the Genoa Cemetery Association is one way to support this part of the greater Genoa community.

### **Roger Falcke**

I am a fourth generation Genoan who has served on the Cemetery Board not once, but twice. Being on the Cemetery board is one way of honoring the legacy of my parents, Hope and Carl Falcke, who taught me the importance of contributing to the community. Taking care of the cemetery is also personal to me as it is the final resting

**See GCA BOARD, Page 2**

## Save the date! Annual Members meeting set for April 14

Please join the Board and other Genoa Cemetery Association board members for the Annual Members meeting at 2 p.m.

Sunday, April 14 in the Genoa Town Hall. Look for the agenda in a future mailing.



## GCA Board

From Page 1

place for many family members and friends. My goal is to bring my experience as the owner of a construction company (the Genoa Company) to making sure the cemetery is well constructed and maintained now and into the future.

### **Erin Pasley (GCA Secretary)**

I can almost claim to be a Native Nevanadan as I moved here when I was only one year of age. When my husband and I got married in the Genoa Town Church in 2013 we knew we wanted to move here for good and soon after we made that dream come true. Since then, we have participated in many volunteer projects to support Genoa and love being a part of the community. In 2019, we lost my mother, and it is comforting to me that her final resting place is so close to home at the Genoa Cemetery. When the chance became available to participate on the Genoa Cemetery Board, I thought it might be a good fit. It makes me feel closer to my loved one and I wanted to be that for others who aren't geographically close. To be able to give reassurance their loved ones are being taken care of, looked after, and cherished.

### **Tom Peters**

I was born in Northampton Massachusetts as part of the post WWII Generation. My parents moved west after the War following aerospace jobs, settling in Orange County, CA. I was privileged to attend the University of California and Stanford University. I worked for the Anaheim Union High School District for 37 years as a High School Teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent, and interim Superintendent.

My wife Alexandra and I have two adult children. Our son is a Fire Captain in the Reno Fire Department and our daughter is a School Counselor in Tonopah.

We have owned property in Northern Nevada since 1992 and have lived in Genoa since 2005. I have been a member of the Carson Valley Kiwanis Club since 2006 serving the children and families of the Carson Valley.

I am proud of my hometown Genoa and the wonderful people of Douglas County.



**The entrance to the Genoa Cemetery on a peaceful winter day.**

The Genoa Cemetery Association gives me continued opportunities to serve my community.

### **Elaine Shively (GCA Vice President)**

I am a former public-school teacher raised in the Bay Area and joined the Genoa Cemetery board in 2018. I am married to husband Steve and have three children and seven grandchildren.

After purchasing my Genoa home in early 2012, I became intrigued with Genoa's history and the residents who inhabited our historic town. My own ancestors, dating back to the 1800's, are buried in nearby Lone Mountain Cemetery. The care of our Genoa Cemetery is and has always been the priority for the Genoa Cemetery Board of Directors. It is a great honor to be entrusted with its care.

### **Loren Patrick Simpson**

I am the son of Kay Simpson and the late Clifford Simpson (Dresslerville), grandson of Evan Wyatt, and Teena Frank Wyatt (Dresslerville) and Marie Simpson Kizer, and Randeau Fillmore Dresserville.

I am an alumnus of Douglas High School (83), University of Nevada Reno (89) and the University of North Dakota School of Medicine (94). I am a Colonel in the US Army Reserve and have dedicated much of my career to the rural and underserved communities in Nevada and North Dakota.

My grandfather Evan worked and spent a significant amount of time in Genoa and

the Western Carson Valley. He arranged for the Wyatt family plot in the lower northeast section of the cemetery. As the Carson Valley continues to grow, I would like to ensure that the cemetery retains its beauty and continues to provide a resting place for our family and the people of this valley for generations to come.

### **Bob Whear (GCA President)**

I have lived in Nevada since 1960 and graduated from Douglas County High School in 62'. I subsequently received a BS degree in horticulture from UNR, married my loving wife, Twyila, and moved back to Carson Valley in 1969 to start a business and raise our three children here. In 1971 I built our first self-storage facility in Gardnerville, and then continued to expand additional facilities throughout northern Nevada. I also owned and operated a cattle ranch. When I sold the ranch, I moved to Genoa Lakes.

I've been very involved in this community all these years, including being elected to the Douglas County School board, and a 40+ year member of the Minden Rotary Club, serving as president in 1979. My heart and soul are in this valley. When I was asked to become a board member of the GCA, I jumped at the chance to volunteer. My parents are buried in the cemetery, and it holds a very special place in my heart. For the last 16 years I have spent countless hours at the cemetery, especially in the capacity of handling landscaping, grading, irrigation and overall maintenance of this beautiful property.



An aerial view of the Genoa Cemetery. The undeveloped portion of the cemetery used for Candy Dance is inside of the yellow line.

## Candy Dance Parking: Questions & Answers

---

**Q. How long has the Genoa Cemetery Association allowed Candy Dance parking at the cemetery?**

A. The first formal agreement between the GCA and the Town to allow Candy Dance parking at the cemetery was in 1998.

**Q. Why does the GCA allow Candy Dance parking at the cemetery?**

A. Candy Dance is the major source of funding for the Town of Genoa's operating budget. Providing a place for patrons to park on the north side of Genoa supports the Town. While it is true that the cemetery lies just outside of the official Town boundaries, its history is entwined with that of the Town (hence the name Genoa Cemetery).

**Q. Is all Candy Dance parking at the Cemetery paid parking by festival goers?**

A. No. Candy Dance volunteers are given special passes that allow them to park at the cemetery for free.

**Q. How much did the Genoa Cemetery Association receive for 2023 Candy Dance Parking?**

A. The GCA received a flat fee of \$1,500 in 2023 and \$1,000 in 2022. These funds help with the maintenance and upkeep of the Cemetery.

**Q. How often is public event parking allowed at the Genoa Cemetery?**

A. Once per year during Candy Dance.

**Q. Is it true that Candy Dance parking is allowed throughout the cemetery?**

A. No. Candy Dance parking is only allowed within the undeveloped part of the cemetery adjacent to Jacks Valley Road. Temporary fencing clearly identifies where parking is allowed (and not allowed).

**Q. What about the claim that tire marks were found on a gravesite after the 2022 Candy Dance?**

A. There is no proof that any graves containing human remains were disturbed by Candy Dance parking. What is known is that some time after Candy Dance, a former GCA Board member mentioned that he saw tire marks on an uncurbed, vacant area of the cemetery on the Sunday of Candy Dance. He assumed the tire marks were the result of Candy Dance parking.

**Q. Can family members and other loved ones visit a grave during Candy Dance?**

A. Absolutely. The parking professionals handling Candy Dance parking will move the temporary fencing to give those visiting loved ones access to the gravesites.

**Q. What precautions were taken to preserve the integrity of the cemetery during Candy Dance?**

A. In 2023, the following precautions were implemented:

- \* The Town installed temporary barriers in the Cemetery that separated the unused portion from the occupied portion (including a buffer).
- \* The Town Manager contracted with Marines stationed at the Marine Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport to manage parking at the Cemetery.
- \* Portable toilets were not allowed on Cemetery property.

**Q. What issues arose in 2023 regarding Candy Dance parking?**

A. Minimal amounts of litter were found and immediately picked up by the Marines and Board members who frequently inspected the parking area on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday of Candy Dance weekend. An external contractor also staged a porta potty (locked and on a trailer) for a short period of time on the Monday after Candy Dance while removing the temporary fencing.

**Q. Who can I contact if I have additional questions about parking?**

A. Please call GCA Board President Bob Whear at 775-230-0733..



# Candy Dance Parking Survey

Share your thoughts about Candy Dance parking at the Cemetery by filling out this survey and mailing it to: Genoa Cemetery Association, PO Box 971, Genoa NV 89411. Prefer to communicate by email? Reach us at [genoacemeterynv@gmail.com](mailto:genoacemeterynv@gmail.com) (please include your name, address and plot number).

<b>Name:</b> _____	<b>Plot #:</b> _____
<b>Best Phone:</b> _____	<b>Address:</b> _____
<b>Email:</b> _____	_____

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Maybe</b>	<b>No</b>
--	------------	--------------	-----------

Do you support allowing Candy Dance parking in the undeveloped portion of the Genoa Cemetery property under the conditions outlined in the Q&A on Page 3?

Would you like to be contacted by a Board member to discuss cemetery parking?

Is there anything else you want us to know regarding parking at the cemetery or any other cemetery issue?

**Thank you for your valuable feedback!**



# We appreciate our volunteers!



The Snowshoe Thompson chapter of E Clampus Vitus gathers following their annual maintenance of the Thompson family plot. John "Snowshoe" Thompson was the legendary "Postman of the Sierra" who braved snowdrifts and blizzards to carry mail over the mountains to Placerville.



Eagle Scout Nik Dzyak (on ladder) beautifying and maintaining the Genoa Cemetery.



Above, Eagle Scout Nik Dzyak and friends painting the Genoa Cemetery tractor shed.



The Lillian Virgin Finnegan (founder of Candy Dance) family plot after being cleaned up by Eagle Scouts.





---

## Caring for our cemetery

Making sure the cemetery grounds are properly maintained is a key responsibility of the Board. In some cases, the Board hires contractors, but Board members personally take care of the irrigation system and did the roadway work themselves. Here are some of the components that make up caring for our cemetery:

**Weed Control** The entire cemetery must be sprayed, sometimes twice a season. A pre-emergent is applied before the last Spring snow/rain. For general weeds that have germinated, we apply another foliar treatment. Some years, we may need intermittent spot spraying and hand hoeing.

**Pest control** To prevent infestation of Elm beetles, the Elm trees need to have a chemical applied to the soil in the Spring. Like the rest of Northern Nevada, we have the pesty ground squirrels and gophers. Man has not come up with an effective method of controlling these critters. Our front rock wall has vines planted along the length of the landscaping that are susceptible to spider mites. To control their infestation, a dormant spray must be applied early as the new growth starts to appear.

**Water system** The water system, including the well, pressure system and irrigation, must be drained and winterized in the Fall and recharged in the Spring. The drip system on the trees and shrubs needs constant repair and maintenance.

**Streets and Erosion** Every year storm runoff causes havoc with the roadways in the cemetery. Last year, we went to a coarser aggregate and spread it generously on the road surface. So far, we think it will help the erosion issue. The road bed is smoother, cleaner, and more stable.



The Genoa Cemetery Memorial Tree provides a way of remembering lost loved ones during the holidays. While the initial decorating is done by the families and friends who started the tradition (shown here), all are welcome to hang an ornament.

---

## What's in store in 2024

In 2024, the Board will be working on a number of projects, including:

- \* a new, user-friendly website that could accommodate a password protected members-only section with agendas and minutes
- \* conversion of paper documents to electronic files
- \* more detailed mapping

The Board is in the process of completing an update of the Association Bylaws; the revised bylaws will be posted on the website.