MOUNTAIN VIEW
CEMETERY • MORTUARY • CREMATORY

The Stories We Carry: A Season of Memory & Connection





photo & cover photo courtesy of Cyndee Flores

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Autumn Is Our Season of Gathering

Fall is a bustling and meaningful season at Mountain View, bringing together our local community and families in many different ways.

In this issue, we share stories about the people and traditions connected to our grounds, highlight members of our wider community, and look at some of the ways Mountain View continues to serve as both a historic place of remembrance and an active gathering space.

We are also entering the holiday season, a time often associated with both gathering and reflection. As we come together with the people we care about, we may also find ourselves remembering those who are no longer with us. This time of year brings many families and visitors to our grounds, creating a unique atmosphere where solemn remembrance exists alongside celebration, tradition, and togetherness.

Thank you for reading, visiting, and continuing to be part of the Mountain View community.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



photo via ssgaltadena.org

Catherine Cadogan

Board Member of SSGA &
Marketing at Melodia Mariposa

Catherine Cadogan has called Altadena home for 25 years. After a career in the internet sector, she has devoted much of her time to organizations serving the community she came to love for its mountains, sunshine, and feeling of a true town.

Catherine prefers working behind the scenes; helping events come together, supporting fundraising efforts, and creating opportunities for neighbors to gather. She currently serves with SSGA and is involved in marketing and ticketing for Melodia Mariposa, and has served on the boards of Altadena Guild, Altadena Heritage, and Melodia Mariposa.

Her connection to local service also runs through her family. Catherine's eldest daughter participated in the Sheriff's Explorer program at the Altadena Station and is now a trainee detective in London, while her husband serves with the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team.

This fall, Catherine is helping bring several community projects to life, including SSGA's revived Haunted Jail and Melodia Mariposa's upcoming concert programming.

For Catherine, the motivation behind all of it is wonderfully simple: "I like to see everyone get out and have fun with the community."

Whether she is helping organize a major event or welcoming neighbors to something closer to home, Catherine's work reflects the community spirit that made Altadena feel like home in the first place.


ALTADENA
SHERIFF'S STATION
HAUNTED
JAIL
ALTADENA STATION
LASD
OCTOBER 24TH
5:00PM – 9:00PM
TRUNK OR TREAT
CLASSIC HOLLYWOOD HORROR MOVIES
MUSIC AND DANCE PERFORMANCE
FOOD TRUCKS AND SNACKS
780 E. ALTADENA DRIVE, ALTADENA, CA 91001
WWW.SSGALTADENA.ORG

An Interview with Devon Armstrong



photo courtesy of Downtown Repertory

This Halloween season, Downtown Repertory returns to Mountain View Mausoleum with The Madness!, once again transforming the historic space through immersive, site-specific theatre. This year, even the Mausoleum's ongoing restoration becomes part of the story as its corridors take on a new identity as the mysterious Vespera Institute. We spoke with Downtown Repertory's Devon about returning to Mountain View, creating theatre within an ever-changing historic space, and the relationship between the company, the Mausoleum, and the audiences who continue to follow them.

Question: Downtown Repertory is returning to Mountain View while restoration of the Mausoleum is still underway. How has working within a space in transition shaped this production?

Devon: When it comes to site-specific theater, every challenge has a flipside opportunity that can serve as creative inspiration.When we first met with Keith earlier in the year to do a



Devon Armstrong, Founder of Downtown Repertory

walkthrough, we saw the potential for incorporating the ongoing restoration into the world of the play. It was immediately clear there was opportunity to explore the grounds in a way we never had before, and a chance to draw inspiration for plot and even characters. Keith took a great deal of care in going over the entire building with us, introducing us to the restoration team and detailing the immense amount of consideration going into every step of the refurbishment process. Having the shows in the past, Keith knew exactly how we operate and even suggested alternate areas and ways of looking at the space and areas we hadn't explored before.

Question: Rather than hiding the unfinished areas of the Mausoleum, you're incorporating elements of the ongoing construction into the story. What inspired that decision, and how does the building become part of the narrative?

One of our ten rules for site-specific theater is "If you can't fix it, feature it" (from one of our first collaborators, Pete Siragusa), and we've always taken it seriously as a principle. Embracing the space you're in and incorporating it is all part of the creative fun! The mausoleum is the extra character in every play we've performed-- it has played a Venetian palazzo, a Romanian castle, the metaphysical interior of Mary Shelley's mind -- and this year, with restoration ongoing, it will be a mysterious asylum in the mountains of Austria where the patients suspect all is not as it seems. Over the course of the play, the plastic sheeting and scaffolding currently serving the space will play a part in revealing the secrets of what's really happening at the "Vespera Institute", and audiences will have the fun of piecing it all together.

Question: Downtown Repertory has a history of creating theatre within historic spaces. How does working with a building's existing architecture and history influence the way you approach storytelling, particularly at Mountain View?

We've performed in a lot of different spaces -- parking lots, city parks, downtown high-rises, historic buildings and museums. Each location brings its own sensibility to a story. Mountain View Mausoleum is particularly exciting as it's astonishingly beautiful, filled with art, stained glass, architecture and history that make every year full of new discoveries. There's nowhere in LA County like it. I remember, growing up, the exterior already playing on my imagination as I'd pass by in the mornings on my way to the Waldorf School. Mountain View has played a part in my life since I was young -- I actually shot one of my first short films there when I was still a high school student, and I have friends who are laid to rest there -- but I didn't see the Mausoleum from the inside for the first time until I was already creating site-specific theater. Needless to say, I was quite taken with the dramatic potential. I could see limitless

stories unfolding across the entire building. Before we started performing at Mountain View, we had done immersive theater, but once we arrived our format for our storytelling took a distinct turn. Our coveted 1x1 scenes (one actor performing for a single audience member), and our multi-storyline plot that ensures audience members have unique experiences, were all brought about by creating immersive plays in the Mausoleum itself. We've been a company since 2009, but it wasn't until our first year at Mountain View that this new narrative technique emerged, and it completely changed the way we tell stories. We have the Mausoleum and the team at Mountain View to thank for that!

Question: For audiences returning to Mountain View, and perhaps entering this part of the Mausoleum for the first time since the Eaton Fire, what do you hope they take away from the experience?

*I*t's amazing how supportive and excited the audience is. We put up tickets and the first two Saturdays sold out almost immediately. Last year, when we had to spend a year away in downtown LA due to the remediation, we were stunned how many of our audience members from the Altadena community came with us to keep the Halloween immersive theater tradition alive. Many of our audience members have been with us since our very first production at the Mausoleum, and have a collection of tokens (if you know, you know) they've collected from each show. We are a small company of family and friends and the shows we've been privileged to perform at the Mausoleum have bonded us deeply with the space and our audience. I hope the audience sees the restoration and all that comes along with it as more than just the story of the play, but the narrative of a site in the middle of its own story of resilience, community and the caring custodianship of the team at Mountain View. The cast, crew and (if I may speak for them) audience are all communally thrilled to be coming back. With the help of Mountain View, the community and the artists in our company, we've found a way to make a Halloween tradition for six years running! It takes a village to create something this special and I'm grateful for the opportunity to return, embrace the restoration and welcome the Mausoleum back as a character in our new production, "The Madness!"

Downtown Repertory's The Madness! runs October 2 through November 7 at Mountain View Mausoleum, with select performances throughout October and early November.

Performances run approximately 7:50–10:15 PM

Tickets are now available at downtownrep.com



photo courtesy of Downtown Repertory



A cemetery in Mexico during Dia de los Muertos

More than a Memorial

Seven Ways to Make Remembrance Personal

Each autumn, Mountain View welcomes generations of families who return to our grounds around Día de los Muertos. Over several days, gravesites become gathering places filled with flowers, photographs, food, stories, music, and the familiar faces of relatives coming together to remember those who came before them.

For members of our community who may be less familiar with the tradition, Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a Mexican tradition centered on remembering and honoring loved ones who have died. Observances are especially associated with November 1 and 2, though customs vary among families and communities. Rather than treating death only as something solemn or distant, Día de los Muertos creates space for memory, family, storytelling, and continued connection with those who are no longer physically present.

One of its most recognizable traditions is the ofrenda, an altar or offering created in remembrance of the dead. Photographs, marigolds, candles, favorite foods and drinks, treasured objects, and other personal details may be included; not simply as decoration, but because each one says something about the person being honored.

For those encountering Día de los Muertos for the first time, it can be easy to first notice its brilliant colors, flowers, and familiar calavera imagery. But beneath those visual traditions is something deeply personal: the idea that remembering someone means remembering who they were and the vibrancy of celebrating life in all its stages.

In a different setting, memorial services often strive for something similar. They are shaped around an individual, the people who loved them, and the stories, traditions, tastes, music, and small details that made that life unique. Whether remembrance takes the form of an ofrenda, a graveside visit, a family gathering, or a personalized memorial service, the most meaningful tributes are often those that feel deeply connected to the person being honored.

There is no single right way to remember someone. Some traditions are inherited through generations. Others begin with one family, one person, or even one small gesture.

Here are seven ways to make remembrance more personal.



Ofrendas are often filled with flowers, candles, pictures of loved ones, and some of the loved one's favorite foods



1. Tell Their Story

Stories tell us who they were.

A memorial can become an opportunity to gather those stories in many forms. An obituary may trace the milestones of a life, while a eulogy can bring forward the personality behind those facts: the habits, humor, relationships, and moments that made someone recognizable to the people who loved them.

Photographs and video can tell that story in another way. A slideshow or video tribute may bring together childhood pictures, family celebrations, friendships, travels, hobbies, and everyday moments that might otherwise be forgotten. Even a single photograph can unlock a room full of memories.

Share the stories that might otherwise disappear: the joke they told at every gathering, how they met their spouse, the trip they never stopped talking about, the recipe everyone asked them to make, or the little habit everyone still remembers.

Write those memories down. Record an older relative talking about them. Pass those stories to children and grandchildren.

Because no life exists entirely on its own. We are shaped by the people we love, and in turn, we become part of their story and legacy.

2. Choose Objects That Mean Something

Flowers have long been part of memorial traditions, but remembrance can include many other meaningful details.

A favorite book, photograph, military keepsake, piece of artwork, or object connected to a hobby or profession can immediately tell us something about the person being remembered.

During Día de los Muertos, ofrendas often incorporate photographs and objects connected to loved ones who have died. These items are not simply decorative. Their importance comes from the memories and relationships attached to them.

The same idea can be carried into memorial services through meaningful colors, favorite flowers, keepsakes, photographs, or symbolic details.

Even something small can quietly say, I remember this about you.





A classic food pairing on Dia de los Muertos is a Pan De Muertos (An orange and Anise sweet bread) with Mexican Hot Chocolate

3. Remember Through the Senses

Memory is not limited to what we see.

Sometimes a scent brings someone back more quickly than a photograph ever could. It might be a particular perfume, flowers that grew outside a family home, coffee brewing in the morning, incense, or a familiar holiday candle.

Music can be just as powerful. A favorite song, hymn, old record, or piece of music associated with a particular moment can immediately return us to another time.

During a memorial service, a carefully chosen song, reading, or moment of silence can evoke memories in a way formal words sometimes cannot.

Think about the sounds, scents, textures, colors, and places that you associate with the person you miss. Those memories are part of their story too.

4. Remember Them Through Food

Food is one of the most enduring ways families pass memory from one generation to another.

Make their favorite meal. Bake the dessert they always requested. Take out a handwritten recipe card. Visit the restaurant they loved. During a holiday gathering, put one of their signature dishes back on the table and tell someone younger why it matters.

Food also holds an important place in Día de los Muertos traditions, where favorite foods and drinks may be placed on an ofrenda in honor of loved ones.

A recipe can become much more than a list of ingredients. It can preserve a family story. Sometimes remembrance is solemn.

Sometimes it is everyone around the table arguing about whether Grandma really used two tablespoons of something or simply poured until it “looked right.”
Both are remembrance.



Some wear face paint as a celebration of life, the honoring of deceased loved ones, and the cycle of human existence rather than mourning or fear

5. Give Loved Ones a Role

Someone does not have to disappear from family traditions simply because they are no longer physically present.

Toast them at a wedding. Tell one of their stories during the holidays. Play their favorite music while decorating the house. Use their recipe every Thanksgiving. Carry on the annual trip they started.

Memorial services can create that same sense of continued presence. A eulogy does not have to read like a formal biography; often the most memorable ones are built from the stories, habits, sayings, and moments that made someone recognizable to the people who loved them. Readings, photographs, music, or a favorite poem can serve the same purpose.

These gestures do not always have to be solemn. Sometimes remembrance looks like laughter because everyone knows exactly what Dad would have said in that moment, which dessert they would have chosen first, or who would have been the last person to leave the party.

Continuing to remember someone's personality gives them an ongoing place within family life.

6. Make Space to Gather

Cemeteries are places of remembrance, but they are also places where people come together.

Families may gather at a gravesite, walk the grounds together, bring flowers, share memories, sit quietly, or mark an anniversary. Others may choose a more structured memorial service or gathering.

And often, the moments that happen after the formal service matter just as much.

A reception gives family and friends space to continue talking, sharing stories, eating together, and reconnecting after the more



solemn parts of the day. Sometimes those informal conversations are where the most vivid memories surface.

At Mountain View, we consider those gatherings an important part of memorial planning as well. Our grounds include spaces where families can come together before or after a service, allowing the day to feel more complete rather than ending abruptly after the burial or ceremony.

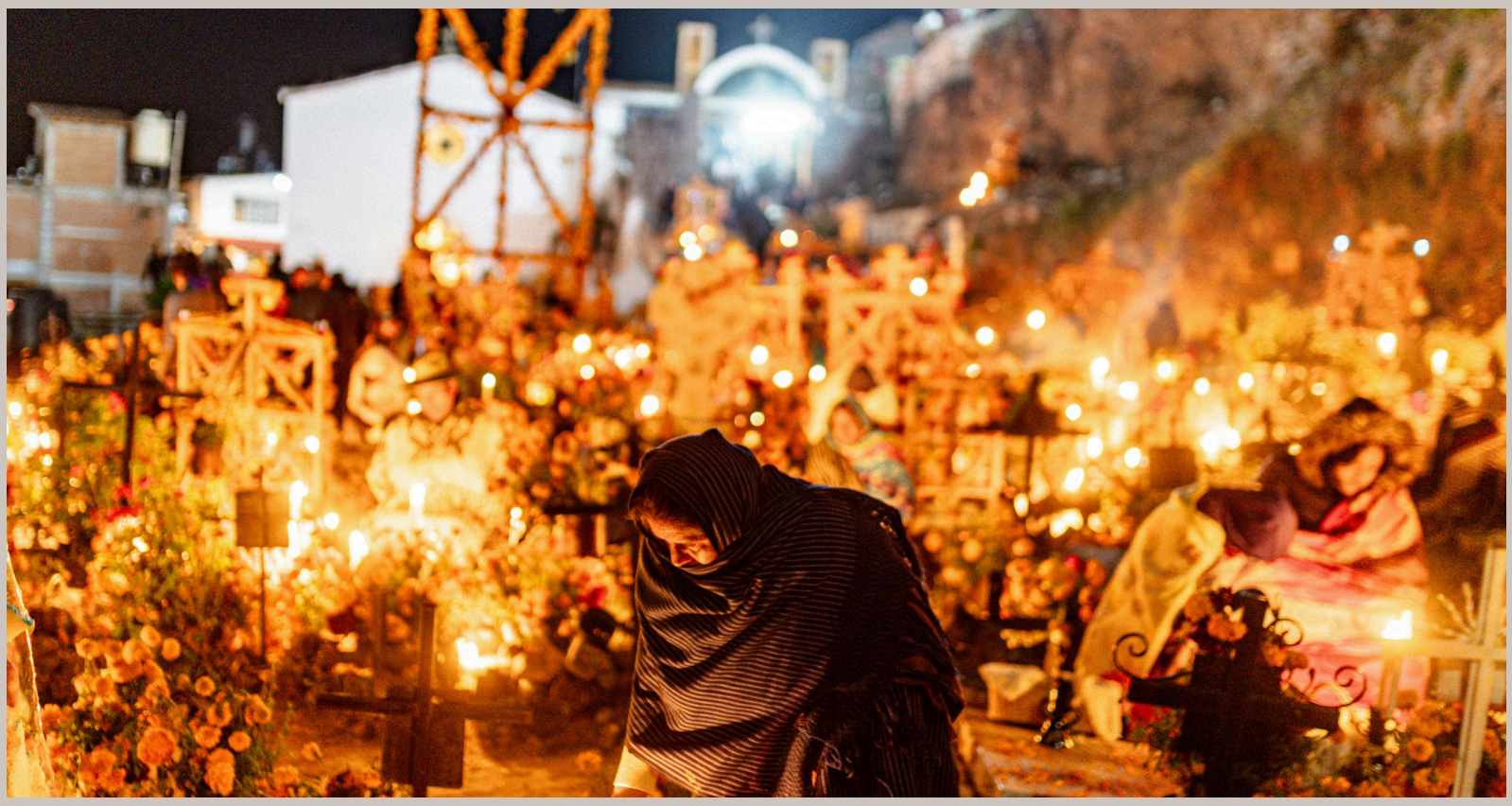
Whether a family prefers quiet reflection, a formal service, or a reception filled with stories and conversation, our role is not to determine what remembrance should look like. It is to help create space for families to honor someone in a way that feels meaningful to them.

Sometimes simply gathering in the same place and saying a person's name is enough.

7. Keep the Remembrance Going

Perhaps the most meaningful memorial is one that continues beyond a single service, holiday, or anniversary.

Plant something in their honor. Support a cause they cared about. Teach someone the skill they taught you. Preserve old photographs and write



the names on the back. Record family history. Continue a tradition, or create a new one because of them.

Legacy is not only what someone leaves behind in objects or accomplishments. It can also be found in the people they influenced, the traditions they began, the lessons they taught, and the stories others continue to tell because they were here.

Remembrance can also change over time. A child who once attended a memorial without fully understanding it may grow up and want to hear the stories again. New generations may inherit recipes, photographs, traditions, and memories belonging to someone they never had the opportunity to meet.

In this way, remembrance does not remain fixed in the past. It continues to evolve alongside the family itself.

There is no formula for the perfect memorial. What feels meaningful to one family may look completely different to another.

But when remembrance reflects the stories, traditions, personality, relationships, and connections that made a person who they were, it becomes something more than a marker of loss.

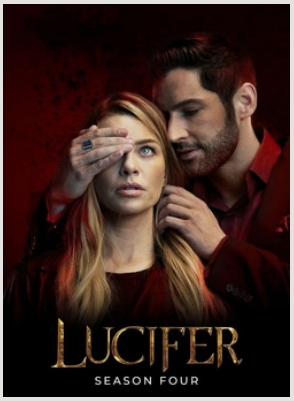
A memorial can mark the end of a life. Remembrance tells us who that life belonged to.



Spooky Sightings: A Mountain View Halloween Watch List

Looking for something spooky to watch this Halloween season? You may have already seen Mountain View Mausoleum & Cemetery on screen without realizing it. Over the years, its historic corridors, sweeping lawns and distinctive architecture have appeared in horror films, supernatural dramas and even one of television's most acclaimed dark comedies.

Here are six to add to your Halloween watch list and a few Mountain View landmarks to keep an eye out for.



Lucifer

Perhaps Mountain View's most impressive disguise appears in "Somebody's Been Reading Dante's Inferno." The Mausoleum interior transforms into a church library in Rome, where Chloe researches biblical accounts of the devil. Production designers concealed crypts and marble walls behind towering bookshelves, desks and curtains. Mountain View's cemetery grounds also appear elsewhere in the series.



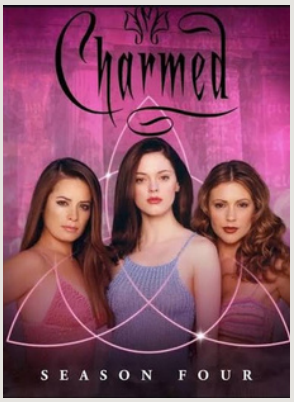
American Horror Story: Hotel

Mountain View stands in for another famous Los Angeles cemetery when the Countess visits the tomb of silent-film star Rudolph Valentino. Look beyond the drama and you may recognize the Mausoleum's vaulted corridors and stained glass.



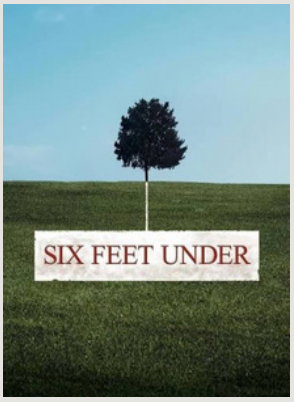
Halloween 2007

Dr. Loomis walks Mountain View's cemetery grounds while searching for the grave of Judith Myers. The sequence also features horror favorite Sid Haig as the cemetery caretaker, who reveals that Judith's grave has been disturbed and her headstone stolen.



Charmed

In Season 4's "Marry-Go-Round," the Halliwell sisters arrive at a cemetery to bury the Lazarus Demon. Mountain View's outdoor burial grounds provide the setting, with its exterior mausoleum architecture visible behind the action.



Six Feet Under

A fitting location for a series centered around a family-run funeral home, Mountain View was used for recurring burial sequences in Six Feet Under. Eagle-eyed viewers can spot the property's outdoor mausoleum area and even a reinforced "empty grave" created for filming.



Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story

More recently, Mountain View's lawns and outdoor mausoleum structures appeared in Monsters, providing the setting for the graveside funeral and burial of José and Kitty Menendez during the series' early episodes.

So this Halloween, dim the lights, grab the popcorn and keep your eyes on the background. You might discover that Mountain View has been hiding in your watch list all along.

Calendar

Enjoy these Community Events!

October 2nd - 4th

Mountain View Mausoleum
7:45pm - 10:30pm

The Madness

Produced by the Downtown Repertory
Tickets available at : downtownrep.com

October 9th - 11th

Mountain View Mausoleum
7:45pm - 10:30pm

The Madness

Produced by the Downtown Repertory
Tickets available at : downtownrep.com

October 11th

Cemetery Grounds
6:30 am - 8:00 am

Cemetery Wildlife Walk

Sponsored by the Pasadena Humane Society
Reserve your tickets on their Eventbrite page

October 15th

Cemetery Grounds
6:00pm - 8:00pm

A Night Among the Monuments: Mountain View Cemetery Tour

Hosted by the Pasadena Heritage
Tickets available at: pasadenaheritage.org

October 15th - 18th

Mountain View Mausoleum
7:45pm - 10:30pm

The Madness

Produced by the Downtown Repertory
Tickets available at : downtownrep.com

Calendar

October 22nd - 25th

Mountain View Mausoleum
7:45pm - 10:30pm

The Madness

Produced by the Downtown Repertory
Tickets available at : downtownrep.com

October 24th

Altadena Sheriff Station
5:00pm - 9:00pm

Haunted Jail

Produced by SSGA
Tickets available at : ssgaltadena.org

October 28th - 31st

Mountain View Mausoleum
7:45pm - 10:30pm

The Madness

Produced by the Downtown Repertory
Tickets available at : downtownrep.com

November 1st

Pasadena Mausoleum
7:00pm

Music In The Shadows

Hosted by the Melodia Mariposa
Tickets available at: melodiamariposa.org

November 1st

Mountain View Mausoleum
7:45pm - 10:30pm

The Madness

Produced by the Downtown Repertory
Tickets available at : downtownrep.com

Calendar

November 6th - 7th

Mountain View Mausoleum
7:45pm - 10:30pm

The Madness

Produced by the Downtown Repertory
Tickets available at : downtownrep.com

November 8th

Pasadena Mausoleum
1:00pm - 3:30pm

Steeping Hour: Black Teas & The Art of Breakfast Blends

Hosted by Tea Spectral
Tickets available at : steepinghour.com

November 22nd

Cemetery Grounds
6:30 am - 8:00 am

Cemetery Wildlife Walk

Sponsored by the Pasadena Humane Society
Reserve your tickets on their Eventbrite page

HISTORY LIVES HERE



photo via dvidshub.net

George Vernon ‘Verne’ Orr Jr.

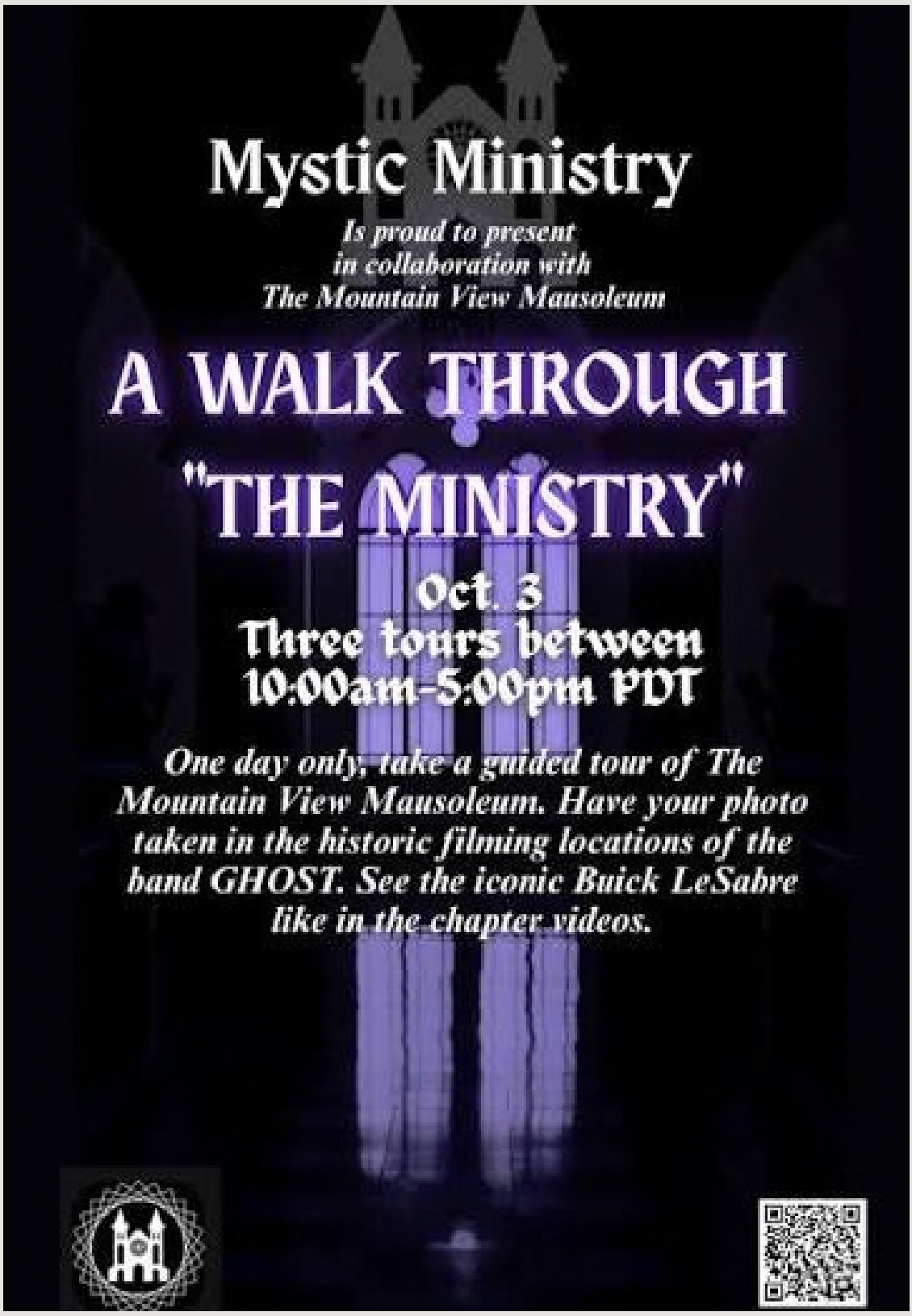
1916 - 2008

From California public service to the highest levels of national defense, George Vernon “Verne” Orr Jr. built a career that spanned business, education and government.

Born in 1916, Orr attended Pomona College and later earned an MBA from Stanford University. During World War II, he served in the United States Navy before returning to Pasadena, where he worked in his father’s automobile dealership. His career would eventually lead him into banking, education and public administration. Orr’s career in public service began in California state government. In 1966, Governor Ronald Reagan appointed him California’s Director of Motor Vehicles, and in 1970 Orr became the state’s Director of Finance. He later joined Reagan’s 1980 presidential campaign and served as deputy director of the president-elect’s transition team.

In 1981, President Reagan appointed Orr Secretary of the Air Force, a position he held until 1985. During his tenure, Orr advocated for greater competition in military contracting as a means of reducing costs and addressing waste and fraud. He also oversaw the final development of the B-1 bomber.

Orr later returned to California and continued working in consulting and education. He served as dean at the University of La Verne and earned a doctorate from Claremont Graduate University, where his dissertation examined the development of the B-1 bomber.
Orr died at his Pasadena home in 2008 at the age of 92. A World War II veteran, educator and public servant, his life represents another chapter of local and national history remembered at Mountain View.


Mystic Ministry
Is proud to present
in collaboration with
The Mountain View Mausoleum
A WALK THROUGH
"THE MINISTRY"
Oct. 3
Three tours between
10:00am-5:00pm PDT
One day only, take a guided tour of The Mountain View Mausoleum. Have your photo taken in the historic filming locations of the band GHOST. See the iconic Buick LeSabre like in the chapter videos.

Steeping Hour collective

A GUIDED TEA TASTING & BLENDING EXPERIENCE

BLACK TEAS & THE ART OF BREAKFAST BLENDS



SUNDAY AFTERNOON 11.8.2026

1:00PM-3:30 PM | PASADENA MAUSOLEUM
LOCATED IN MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY ALTADENA
ENTRANCE THROUGH FRONT GATE ON FAIR OAKS AVENUE

Exploring the depth, character, and diversity of black tea.

During this guided tasting, guests will explore a curated selection of black teas, focusing on origin, processing, aroma, body, and the distinctive character each tea brings to the cup.

Guests will then use what they've learned to create their own breakfast blend from a selection of teas.

No prior tea knowledge is required. Just curiosity and a willingness to slow down and taste with intention.

MORE INFORMTION PLEASE REACH OUT: STEEPINGHOUR@GMAIL.COM


HELP RESTORE
THE STAINED GLASS OF
MOUNTAIN VIEW MAUSOLEUM
Scan the QR code
or click the link to learn more and give.
Mountain View Cemetery
2400 Fair Oaks Avenue, Altadena CA, 91001
• 626/794-7133 • FD1020

Givebutter

The Mountain View Mausoleum is one of Altadena's most historic and beautiful landmarks, renowned for its stunning stained glass and timeless architecture. Over nearly a century, these treasured windows have faced natural wear and tear; and more recently, the Eaton Fire caused additional damage, putting the integrity of the glass and frames at serious risk.