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HAWAII'S BACKYARD

Lecture series focuses on preserving cemeteries

By Cheryl Chee Tsutsumi

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Scott Pawlowski, chief of cultural and natural resources at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, will deliver a talk titled “The Arizona Memorial: Maintaining a War Grave” on Feb. 5.

Stones speak to Nanette Napoleon. A tombstone, she points out, can be a revealing snapshot of the deceased's life, sometimes providing information that's not documented elsewhere.

"Besides the date and place of birth and death, you may find the person's occupation, talents, accomplishments, family relationships, military service, cause of death, and religious and group affiliations," said Napoleon, founder and director of the Hawaii Cemetery Research Project, which underscores the importance of cemeteries not just as repositories for the dead, but as valuable
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Cheryl Chee Tsutsumi is a Honolulu-based freelance writer whose travel features for the Star-Advertiser have won several Society of American Travel Writers awards.
IF YOU GO ...

EXPERTS AT HISAM

» Place: Hawaii State Art Museum, No. 1 Capitol Building, 250 S. Hotel St., downtown Honolulu

» Days: Thursdays, beginning this week through March 5

» Time: 12 to 1 p.m.

» Admission: Free

» Phone: 523-2900

» Email: outreach@historichawaii.org

» Website: historichawaii.org/2014/12/19/jan-mar-2015-annual-experts-series-showcases-historic-cemeteries

» Notes: The series is best suited for those age 16 and older. First-come, first-served seating is limited to 60 guests.

Related offerings include a free workshop on "Historic Cemetery Preservation and Community Capacity Building" from June 1 to 5, a free public presentation on June 6 about the needs of historic cemeteries and a three-credit field school June 8-12 through the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Outreach College. Call 956-8570 for details.

THIS WEEK:

THURSDAY

"Gravestones and History: Cemeteries as Genealogical Resources"
Nanette Napoleon, founder and director, Hawaii Cemetery Research Project

For a full schedule of speakers, visit historichawaii.org/2014/12/19/jan-mar-2015-annual-experts-series-showcases-historic-cemeteries.

STORY BEHIND THE STONE

The words on the stone monument marking the grave of Myles Fukunaga translate as "Heap of Misfortune." In 1928, Fukunaga kidnapped 10-year-old George Gill Jamieson, the son of the Hawaiian Trust Co. executive who was going to evict the Fukunagas from the house he was renting to them for failure to pay rent. Fukunaga demanded a $10,000 ransom and received $4,000, but he had bludgeoned the boy to death earlier anyway. Fukunaga was hanged at Oahu Prison on Nov. 19, 1929, and buried in Section A of what was then the outskirts of the cemetery.
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