



THE FOUNDATION FOR MONTANA HISTORY

The Butte Cemetery Masterclass Butte-Silver Bow Archives and Mt. Moriah Cemetery, Butte May 18, 2024

AGENDA

- 9am** Welcome and Introductions – Charlene Porsild President/CEO, The Foundation for Montana History, Helena.
- 9:15** Headstone Symbolism in Montana Cemeteries – **Crystal Alegria**, Executive Director, The Extreme History Project, Bozeman.
- 10:15** Break
- 10:30** Ethnic Communities, Cemeteries, and Burial Practices in Butte: **Aubrey Jaap**, Executive Director, Butte-Silver Bow Archives, Butte.
- 11:15** Montana’s Historic Chinese Communities: **Mark Johnson**, Associate Professor, Alliance for Catholic Education, University of Notre Dame/Helena.
- 12:00** Complimentary Lunch for all participants
- 12:45** Carpool to Mt. Moriah Cemetery
- 1:00** Tomb cleaning ceremony (in the Chinese burial section), led by **The Mai Wah Museum**
- 2:00** Walking tour of the cemetery, with attention to cemetery preservation issues and solutions
- 3:00** Symbolism Identification Exercise. Find the symbols, win prizes!!!
- 4:00** Optional Afterlife Party and Mortuary Tour, hosted by **Brianne Mulvaney**, Mt. Moriah Crematorium and Axelsons Funeral Home.

Cemetery Masterclass Presenter Bios

Crystal Alegria is the Director of the Extreme History Project, a nonprofit that makes history relevant. She has worked in the field of public history and archaeology education for last twenty years at a variety of museums and heritage organizations. She co-founded the Extreme History Project and has helped build the organization into an award-winning nonprofit that engages the public in history through walking tours, a lecture series, workshops, oral history, preservation projects, and other unique historical programming. Crystal produces the Dirt on the Past Podcast with co-host, Nancy Mahoney. She recently co-produced a documentary, *The Story of Us: The Women Who Shaped Montana* that premiered on Montana PBS. Alegria has a B. S. in Anthropology and a M.A. in History from Montana State University.

Aubrey Jaap is the Director of the Butte-Silver Bow Archives and has been with the organization since 2007. She heads the Archives digitization programs and oral history collections, as well as manages the non-current government record for Butte-Silver Bow. She collaborated with the University of Montana's Irish Studies Program to curate an exhibit titled "Erin's Exiled Children: Irish America and the Road to the Rising," which traveled throughout Montana's libraries and museums. In 2016, she successfully wrote a grant to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to catalog and preserve the historic C. Owen Smithers Photograph Collection. Aubrey is also a member of the Montana State Historical Records and Advisory Board. She has her B.S. in Public Relations from Montana State University-Billings.

Mark Johnson is an associate professor with the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education. In this role, Johnson partners with Social Studies teachers who serve in Catholic schools across the country. In his history interests, Mark focuses on the Chinese experience in his home state of Montana. Previously working in China, Mark brought students with the necessary language abilities to Montana to translate several collections of documents from the state's historic Chinese residents to work to tell their history in their own words. Born and raised in Great Falls, he now lives in Helena. He is author of the award winning book [The Middle Kingdom Under the Big Sky: A History of the Chinese Experience in Montana](#) (Bison Books, 2022).

Brianne Mulvaney is the owner and funeral director at Axelson Funeral and Cremation Service Butte and the Longfellow, Finnegan, Riddle Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Anaconda. After studying education at Montana State University, Bri started her journey to becoming a mortician when she was 27 years old, graduating from the American Academy McAllister Institute in New York City with a Mortuary Science Degree. She has a passion for helping families in times of need, and is an amazing ambassador for her profession. Bri has been an enthusiastic partner of the Foundation for Montana History and has helped to sponsor past cemetery workshops in Helena and Deer Lodge.

Masterclass Goals:

- Give participants hands-on experience and resources to better understand cemeteries and how different cultures and organizations have used symbols in Montana cemeteries.
- Make history relevant to participants through personal discovery: offering an opportunity to observe and participate in the Chinese practice of tomb cleaning.
- Increase level of historical literacy, understanding and appreciation of Montana's historical cemeteries including the fraternal societies and ethnic communities located there.