



2201 North Capitol Street, NE,
Washington, DC 20002-1103
www.prospecthillcemetery.org
Telephone: (202) 667-0676

Prospect Hill Cemetery

Our Nation's Capital's German-American Cemetery

Holiday Issue

Newsletter

2012

LET'S NOT FORGET OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Since 1858 Prospect Hill Cemetery, the final resting place of our family members and other loved ones, has remained practically untouched in a serenely beautiful setting high on a hill just a few blocks from the Capitol building of the free world.

Surely, all of us want this beautiful legacy to continue for years to come. That's why this annual appeal goes out to you today. As you know, our Prospect Hill Cemetery is privately owned by its lot owners, and heirs of those buried here.

But sadly, that faithful circle of dedicated folks is dwindling day by day mostly by death or relocating somewhere else. And as you also know, our historic cemetery depends primarily on the financial support of those remaining lot owners, family members, heirs and friends.

Much needed voluntary donations, in any form, ensure the continuing existence of our cemetery by helping finance its daily upkeep and growing operating expenses.

It's nearing that time again, the holiday season, when fond memories of our departed loved ones are felt the most. When memories of joyful days gone by keep filling our hearts and minds.

And once again your Board of Trustees invites (and hopes) you will contribute to our annual Year-End Memorial Fundraising Campaign this holiday season. Let's not forget our own departed loved ones during this time. In good times and bad, we are still counting on you to find it in your hearts to continue to support the historic final resting place of our departed loved ones.

All contributions received from your holiday season memorial donations go entirely toward the upkeep, expenses and beautification of our historic cemetery and its old stone house residence.

If you wish to honor your departed loved one(s) with a holiday season memorial donation, and we hope you do, please indicate it on the Order Form in the back of this newsletter. A complete list of contributors and the departed loved one(s) they are honoring will be printed in the Spring 2013 issue. (The amount contributed will not be published.)

If you do not wish to contribute a memorial donation please help us with an "End-of-Year" Financial Support donation, also indicated on the Order Form.

OTHER WAYS TO HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES

Another opportunity for you to honor your loved ones and contribute to the upkeep of the cemetery is to transfer appreciated stocks. You will receive a federal tax deduction for the value of the stock(s), and will not have to pay a capital gains tax calculated on the original basis of the stock(s).

With the uncertain times experienced by the stock market today you might want to depart with a stock(s) or bond(s) you feel is(are) not producing the way you would like. Prospect Hill welcomes such “non-producers” with hopes they will turn around in time.

One share, 10 shares, 100 shares (etc.) may be transferred to our brokerage account and would be a most appreciated end-of-year holiday gift to the cemetery and your departed loved ones.

Still another way you can help ensure the upkeep of our cemetery is to include it in your will (called a bequest). We have received several such bequests in the past and would welcome any in the future.

Consult your attorney for more information on how you can transfer your stocks or honor Prospect Hill with a charitable bequest in your will. Your kindness in respect to these gracious gifts will help secure the future, as stable as the past, at our historic and beautiful Prospect Hill Cemetery.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach the holiday's I find myself reflecting back on the good times with family and friends. I thought of friends and relatives that have died. I also thought about placing flags on the graves of the brave soldiers buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Last year at this time the gate house project was underway, replacing the roof, gutters, the wooden ceilings on the porches and miscellaneous painting. In the spring the cemetery had our annual cleanup day, when the lot owners and friends helped with extra projects at the cemetery. This was followed by the Lot Owners Meeting and Memorial Day Service with the beautiful voices of the Washington Saengerbund.

The earthquakes and hurricanes brought down many trees and large branches everywhere. Our Superintendent Joe Connell is always there, keeping the cemetery in perfect condition.

These memories would not be possible without your generous financial support. We have four historic books about the cemetery for sale. These books would be great in your library and would be nice gifts for friends, relatives also for your local library. (See page 7)

Your Board of Trustees and superintendent extend their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all donors and volunteers who have given their time and generosity during the year.

All of us wish for you a prayerful Thanksgiving along with a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Carol Holler, President
Board of Trustees

YOUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE BEING PUT TO GOOD USE

Your Prospect Hill Board of Trustees has converted financial donations received by the cemetery to good use over the current year. And it plans to continue doing so in the future. Below are lists of major projects completed this year and plans for the near future.

List of major expenditures in 2012

- Grounds keeping – storm damage cleanup, tree trimming and hauling of trees & shrubs - \$ 6,100
- Repair of Mowing & trimming equipment - \$ 1,400
- Gatehouse roof, gutters, woodwork replacement & exterior painting - \$92,500

List of future major expenditures

- Repair of sidewalks - \$5,000
- Scan records - \$1,000
- Pave entrance roadway \$ 20,000

These improvements, plus others, are in addition to the ongoing monthly and annual expenses for utilities, insurance, and upkeep of the old stone gatehouse plus Superintendent Connell's salary and administrative supplies.

All of these project and expenses depend mostly on financial contributions. We receive little outside help. What we need desperately are a few good sponsors or businesses to step forward and add Prospect Hill to their annual charitable donations list for tax purposes. With 2012 closing out and 2013 on the horizon now would be an appropriate time for them to begin the new year or close out the old with their first charitable contribution. And to our lot owners and friends, please be generous with your Year-End Memorial Fund contribution this holiday season.

THREE INTERMENTS SO FAR IN 2012

Superintendent Joe Connell reports three interments at Prospect Hill so far this year.

Because of this low number, the cemetery is depending more and more on donations to keep it the beautiful, historic landmark it is today. So, please be generous with your Year-End Memorial Fund Raising gift this holiday season.

The three interments: Francis Case, 98, and Bonnie Parkhurst, 94, both buried on June 2, 2012 , and Robert Seebold, 83, buried October 13, 2012 .

SPRAYING AND REMOVAL OF POISON IVY REALLY WORKING TO KEEP THE CEMETERY SAFE FOR VISITORS

Superintendent Joe Connell engaged R & R Tree Service of Silver Spring, MD to spray and remove poison ivy in the cemetery. The ivy occurred along the edge of wooded area and was found growing on the trunks of several large trees near the circle at the top of the hill where the old chapel use to stand. This was a hazard to visitors, especially during the annual lot owners meeting and Memorial Day service. The spraying and removal have significantly reduced the hazard and improved cemetery accessibility.

SÄNGERBUND'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT TO BE HELD DECEMBER 16

This year the Washington Sängerbunds traditional German Christmas Concert will be given at the United Church (Die Vereinigte Kirche), 20th and G Streets, NW, in Washington, DC. The concert will begin at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, December 16, 2012, and is for the benefit of the church's activities in helping those in need in the community. A collection will be taken up during the concert.

Following the concert by the German choral group, refreshments will be served in the church social hall downstairs. The Saengerbund has performed at many special events at Prospect Hill.

Both Prospect Hill and the Washington Saengerbund were founded by members of the United Church, in 1858 and 1851 respectively. We have striven to maintain relationships with these two organizations over the years and should continue to do so in the future.

For more information about the Washington Saengerbund, visit its website: www.saengerbund.org. Information about the United Church can be found at its website: www.theunitedchurch.org

CONVERSION OF RECORDS TO ELECTRONIC FORM

The Prospect Hill office contains all the records of the cemetery in large books, some dating back to the early days of the cemetery in the 1850s and 1860s. The books are slowly deteriorating with age, so preservation is badly needed. Most are physically quite large and require special equipment to achieve the conversion. Your Board of Trustees decided to embark on a program to convert them to electronic form.

We found a firm which could handle the work, Crowley Company in Frederick, MD. They have experience with historical books and documents, especially those that have become delicate with age. They suggested utilizing their large format scanners to create large PDF (Portable Document Format) files.

We decided to implement the project in stages, starting with the two books containing ownership information for all lots in the cemetery. Each book measures about 22 inches by 17 inches when opened, and contains 300 pages. Each ownership record spans two pages, so each sheet of records requires a scanner capable of handling the full 22 inch by 17 inch image. Crowley has such equipment.

The books were delivered to and picked up from Crowley by Superintendent Connell to save shipping costs. After about three weeks of work, we received three CD's – two containing PDF images and one containing JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) images. A copy of the CD's was made. Both sets are kept offsite, one with President Holler and the other with Treasurer Becker. The total cost for this first phase was \$920.

The next phase will be the record books containing information on all burials. We plan to complete this early in 2013, and expect the cost be about \$1000.

HURRICANE SANDY - VERY LITTLE DAMAGE; ROOF PERFORMS VERY WELL - NO LEAKS.

The cemetery survived the onslaught of Hurricane Sandy, which stormed the Washington metropolitan area on October 27 – 28, 2012. Beyond many smaller limbs strewn across the cemetery grounds, there were no large branches or fallen trees blocking the roadways. And the new roof on the old gatehouse performed very well – no leaks.

**CEMETERY GATES WILL BE OPEN ON REGULAR SCHEDULE
DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON**

With Christmas and New Year's Day falling on Sundays this year, there will be no change in the opening and closing of the cemetery gates during the holidays. The gates will be open Thursday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, which means they will also be open Thanksgiving Day

**ALL OF US EXTEND TO ALL OF YOU
OUR GOOD WISHES AND THANKS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

On behalf of your Board of Trustees and Superintendent Connell we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all lot owners, donors, volunteers and friends for your loyal support, generosity and financial assistance during 2012. You are the primary reason Prospect Hill remains the beautiful cemetery it is today.

Cherished memories of loved ones interred in Prospect Hill will be in our hearts and on our minds more than ever this holiday season.

Despite the uncertain situations all over the world today, your Board of Trustees: Carol Holler, Rudy Becker, Henry Fankhauser, Edith Gill, Gerhard Meinzer, Maryanne Probus and Albert Reitz, plus Superintendent Joe Connell wish all of you a prayerful Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

*The Newsletter is produced by the Board of Trustees of Prospect Hill Cemetery, 2201 North Capitol St., NE,
Washington, DC 20002
Henry Fankhauser, Editor*

Prospect Hill Cemetery

Order Form

Please fill out the form below completely so we can accurately account for your donation and purchases in the cemetery's financial records. Separate checks for donations and purchases are NOT required.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

1. I wish to give a Year-End Memorial donation in memory of or in honor of:

_____ Amount of Donation \$ _____

2. I wish to make an end-of-year financial support donation of: \$ _____

3. I would like to order the following books:

_____ copies, The Immigrants and Their Cemetery: The Story of Prospect Hill (\$30) \$ _____

_____ copies, Families of Prospect Hill (\$20) \$ _____

_____ copies, Prospect Hill Cemetery Adult Burial List (\$35) \$ _____

_____ copies, Prospect Hill Cemetery Children's Burial List (\$20) \$ _____

Total number of books _____ times \$5 each for postage \$ _____

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Total amount of donation and book order \$ _____

Make checks payable to **Prospect Hill Cemetery**, and mail this full sheet with your donation and book order to:

Prospect Hill Cemetery

c/o Rudolph Becker, Treasurer

2608 Lakeview Parkway

Locust Grove, VA 22508

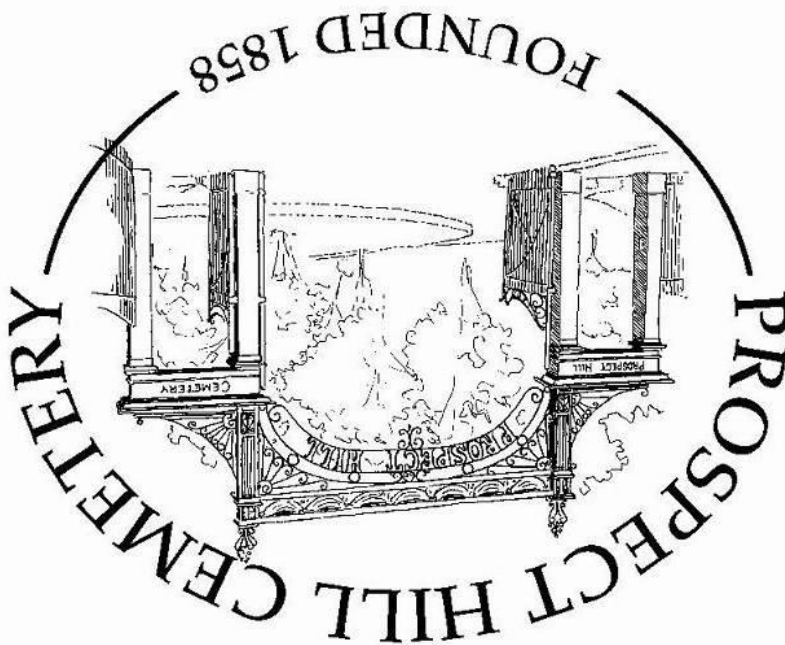
All correspondence should be made to the address above. Thank you for your support of Prospect Hill.

PLEASE CALL FIRST AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

At times, folks have entered the cemetery unannounced seeking help or direction from Superintendent Connell and found no one at home. Since he is our only employee, his duties sometimes take him away from the cemetery. He suggests you call first and make an appointment. This way he can prepare for your visit and give you his undivided attention. He will be glad to help you in any way. The office number is 202-667-0676.

Phone: 202-667-0676

Website: www.prospecthillcemetery.org



PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY

C/o Rudolph H Becker
2608 Lakeview Parkway
Locust Grove, VA 22508