



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

# Prospect Hill Cemetery

*Our Nation's Capital's German-American Cemetery*

Holiday Issue

**Newsletter**

2013

## **IT'S TIME AGAIN TO HONOR DEPARTED LOVED ONES WITH A MEMORIAL FINANCIAL GIFT 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 2014 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 (The amount contributed will not be published.)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.

## **CONSIDER THESE OTHER WAYS TO HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES**

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

## **OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As we approach the holidays 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.

In the spring we had our annual Cleanup Day, when 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.

Wind and thunder storms brought down several trees and many large branches everywhere. Our superintendent Joe Connell is always there, keeping the cemetery in wonderful condition.

These memories would not be possible without your generous financial support. We also 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, and 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 2013

- Grounds keeping – storm damage cleanup, tree trimming and hauling of trees & shrubs - \$ 3,100
- Sidewalk repair - \$ 2,700
- Gatehouse main bathroom renovation - \$7,000
  - Note: This expense was funded by a generous donation from a lot owner.
- Water & sewer fees - \$ 6,900

### List of future major expenditures

- Scan records - \$1,000
- Pave entrance roadway \$ 20,000
- Water & sewer fees - \$ 10,000

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 projects 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 2013 closing out and 2014 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.

## **EIGHT INTERMENTS SO FAR IN 2013**

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

Although this is a higher number than in recent years, the cemetery still depends 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 eight interments: Charlotte Curtis 91 cremains, Margaret Gilkes, 95, cremains; Milton Lemons, 91, cremains; Dorothy Lemons, 94, cremains; Eleanor Emch, 81, full body; Henry Goping, 89, cremains; John Goping, 44, cremains; John Childs, 61, cremains.

## **DONATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

IRS rules require us to acknowledge donations of \$250 or greater. We will mail these out in January of the year following the year the donation is made. For 2013, these letters will be mailed by January 31, 2014. If you need or desire a receipt in any case, please indicate that on the donation form attached to this newsletter.

# THE PHASE FOUNDATION

By Catherine Hekimian

Administrator, Trustee

*Earlier this year, the Phase Foundation made a substantial donation to Prospect Hill. We asked Foundation Trustee Catherine Hekimian to tell us about the foundation. The following is her article*

6/13/13

Joan (Betty) Scovell married Albert J. Knechtel in 1949 in Washington, DC. Knechtel was a lieutenant in the U.S. Army when he was killed in action in the Korean War in 1950. Betty and Albert had one child, a son they named Allen Mark Knechtel.

Lt. Knechtel is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Lt. Knechtel's mother and father, Katarina and Albert, are buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery. Two of the elder Albert's brothers, Leo and Willem Knechtel, are buried at Prospect Hill. Leo's wife Irma Knechtel and her sister Mildred Kloepfinger are also interred at Prospect Hill.

After she had been a widow for five years, Betty Scovell Knechtel married Norris Hekimian. They had three children of their own, plus Allen Mark from Betty's first marriage.

Norris was an electrical engineer and started his own business, Hekimian Laboratories Inc., in 1968. Norris held dozens of patents in the electronics field, and his company grew steadily. Norris sold his company in 1983.

With proceeds from the sale of Hekimian Laboratories, Betty and Norris started The Phase Foundation in 1989. The charitable foundation gives to medical, social, educational, environmental and animal welfare causes. The couple and the four children made up the grants committee.

Since Norris passed away in 2010, the foundation has been run by Betty and the children, who now range in age from 49 to 63.

Norris's parents -- Louise and Nejib Hekimian -- are interred in nearby Glenwood Cemetery.

Betty Hekimian has been a regular donor to Prospect Hill, to help honor her first husband's parents (her first in-laws and her first son's grandparents) and family. The Phase Foundation gave a donation of \$20,000 in January to help with the cemetery's maintenance and preservation efforts.

We are very grateful that the Phase Foundation granted PHC such a generous donation.

## **SÄNGERBUND'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT TO BE HELD DECEMBER 15**

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 15, 2013, and is for the benefit of the church's activities in helping those in need in the community. A collection will be taken 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 Sangerbund 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 Sangerbund, visit its website: [www.saengerbund.org](http://www.saengerbund.org). Information about the United Church can be found at its website: [www.theunitedchurch.org](http://www.theunitedchurch.org)

## **IS IT "CAPITAL" OR "CAPITOL?"**

We utilize Microsoft Word to prepare the newsletters on the computer. To save time, we start with a previous issue and edit it as required to incorporate new stories. Sometimes, the older version has the incorrect usage for the word "capital" or "capitol," and in our haste we sometimes forget to update for the correct usage.

For the record, here is the correct usage, according to [www.grammarist.com](http://www.grammarist.com):

As a noun, *capital* refers to (1) a city that serves as a center of government, (2) wealth in the form of money or property, and (3) a capital letter. As an adjective, it means (1) *principal*, (2) *involving financial assets*, and (3) *deserving of the death penalty*. There are other definitions of *capital*, but these are the most commonly used ones.

*Capitol* has two very specific definitions (outside ancient Rome): (1) a U.S. state legislature building, and (2) the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C. State capitols are located in the capital cities of U.S. states, and the Capitol is located in the capital city of the U.S. If you're not talking about any of these capitol buildings, then the word you want is probably *capital*.

The Capitol building located in Washington, D.C. is spelled with a capital C, but state capitol buildings ordinarily don't have the capital C (which is not to say that some writers don't capitalize them anyway).

We will do our very best to insure that the proper usage is used in our newsletters. We appreciate it that you notice when we don't.

## **STORMWATER FEES CONSULTANT REPORT**

The report by our consultant, Stormwater Maintenance and Consulting of Hunt Valley, MD has been received. The result of their investigation and analysis is that no significant upgrades are available to PHC which are both cost effective and acceptable to the District of Columbia Water Department. Therefore, PHC will continue to incur very high monthly water and sewer fees for the foreseeable future. For fiscal year 2014, these will amount to about \$800/mo.

## **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.

A MINISTER visiting a large city spoke at a banquet on the night of his arrival, and told several anecdotes that he expected to repeat at meetings the next day. He asked reporters to kindly omit the anecdotes from their stories.

A new reporter's coverage included the line, "The minister told a number of stories that cannot be published here."

From American Legion Magazine, July 2013

**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 2013. 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, Eva Brandt and Gerd Halusa, plus Superintendent Joe Connell wish all of you a prayerful Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.



Satellite View of Prospect Hill Cemetery

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

# 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** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a donation acknowledgement letter

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](http://www.prospecthillcemetery.org)



**PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY**

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