



2201 North Capitol Street, NE,
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Prospect Hill Cemetery

Our Nation's Capitol's German-American Cemetery

Summer-Fall

Newsletter

2013

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Translation of an article by PHC Lot Owner Christine Hambach which appeared in the June 29, 2013 issue of the German-language newspaper New York Staats Zeitung.

They came to the Memorial Day Celebration in 2013 which has become a tradition; a tradition enriched by the alliance of the Washington Saengerbund, the United Church, the Prospect Hill Cemetery Board of Trustees, lot holders and visitors.



Attendees enjoying the service

This cemetery forms a true treasury for visitors interested in nature, history, ethnic customs, and religious tradition. Since 1858 (see: "The Immigrants and Their Cemetery ~The Story of Prospect Hill" by Jean Bischoff Crabill), the mighty oaks seem to stretch over all of Washington, D.C., the agaves bravely survive poor weather conditions while the sun loving plants have a little more difficulty. Often, weeds and tough ivy runners try to take over and sometimes cover nearby bronze and stone markers whose names and data are hard to recognize. The pathways require 100% attention

when walking through the nine sprawling acres of this churchyard area which stands under commemorative

protection. Thanks to Joe Connell for his hard work and caring attention to the grounds.

A mausoleum, marble gravestones, commemorative plaques, crosses and simply held signs of recollection are, often with typically German names, found everywhere. Sufficient stories and facts are available that one can still write books, but Jean Bischoff Crabill (died June 2010) did the main work for us. Anyone wishing to learn about the interesting history of Prospect Hill or about the people resting there (14,500 are interred there), contact Superintendent Connell (202-667-0676), or visit the website at www.prospecthillcemetery.org, for more precise information. Information of available burial plots is also available.

But let's go back to 'Memorial Day' on the 27th May, 2013 where President Carol Holler greeted all persons present warmly. Senior Pastor Bill Federici of the United Church opened the celebration with a prayer. Washington Saengerbund followed with J. S. Bach "Nun danket alle Gott" after which treasurer Rudolph Becker gave an interesting insight into the history of Prospect Hill Cemetery. Pastor Federici excused Tabea Münz's absence due to illness and read the comforting message she had written. This was followed by the choir singing Felix Mendelssohn's "Abschied vom Walde". After the blessing, the voices of the singers rang forth once again with "Lobe den Herren" (Setting: J. S.

Bach). At this point a hearty thank you should go to the Saengerbund's interim conductor, Melissa Carter.



President Holler & Pastor Frederici



Washington Saengerbund Performing

Afterwards, guests enjoyed a delicious buffet with a variety of refreshments kindly prepared and donated by lot owners John and Edith Gill.



The Goodies



Participants and attendees at reception



Saengerbund Conductor Melissa Carter & President Hans Endrikat, Prospect Hill President Carol Holler, Trustee Rudy Becker, Senior Pastor Bill Frederici.

It is also interesting for many of the readers absolutely that the former Concordia Church (now The United Church / Vereinigte Kirche) was the cradle not only of the Washington Saengerbund and the former German Orphan Home, but also of our Prospect Hill Cemetery! If anyone wishes to give this historical cemetery a bit of financial help, any amount is welcome. **Donations are tax deductible.**

LOT OWNERS MEETING

The 2013 lot owners meeting preceded the Memorial Day Service. As was the case at last year's meeting, a quorum of lot owners in attendance was not achieved and no official business could be transacted. The trustees each presented reports, however. President Holler announced that Henry Fankhauser and Maryann Probus were stepping down as trustees, but that they agreed to stay active as consultants to the board. She appointed lot owners Eva Brandt and Gerd Halusa to replace them.

Treasurer Rudy Becker reported on financial activities in 2012. Donations totaled \$34,526, investment income totaled \$24,245, other income totaled \$97,857 primarily from security sales to fund the gatehouse roof project. Net proceeds for the year were (\$8,519).

Board members are: Carol Holler, President; Edith Gill, Secretary; Rudolph Becker, Treasurer; Eva Brandt, Gerd Halusa, Gerhard Meinzer and Albert Rietz, Trustees.

CLEAN UP DAY AT PROSPECT HILL

Nearly a dozen lot owners, children, and friends of Prospect Hill met at the cemetery on Saturday, May 18, 2013 to spruce up the place for the upcoming lot owners meeting and Memorial Day service. It was truly a family affair.

As in past years, the volunteers raked leaves along the walkway running from the house to the Memorial Grove, trimmed tree branches overhanging walkways in the cemetery, raked leaves in the Memorial Garden, and weeded gardens and gravesites near the circle at the top of the hill. The ladies restroom was given a thorough cleaning and a new coat of paint.

A new flag was raised to replace the old one which had become quite tattered from battering in many severe windstorms of the past few years.

Refreshments and snacks were provided for all to enjoy. The weather was perfect for working at the cemetery.



Preparing front gate for new paint



New plants for the circle



Volunteers under new flag

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank everyone for attending this year's Annual Meeting. It was another beautiful day and it was great to catch up with everyone.

Welcome and congratulations to the two newly appointed trustees, Eva Brandt and Gerd Halusa. We'll be expecting many new ideas from them in the future on the upkeep, fund raising and beautification of our historic cemetery. But let's not forget their predecessors, Henry Fankhauser and Mary Ann Probus, whose contributions and devotion to the betterment of our cemetery were outstanding. Both have agreed to stay involved as consultants to the board.

The Memorial Day Service presented by the Saengerbund Singers and the United Church was all inspiring with the Pastors message and beautiful voices. It was wonderful to meet Senior Pastor Frederici.

Kudos also to our superintendent-caretaker Joe Connell. He outdid himself in getting the cemetery looking in tip-top shape for the annual meeting. The cemetery always looks wonderful so come and visit anytime when the Cemetery is open: Thursdays thru Mondays, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Carol Holler, President
Board of Trustees

WATER & SEWER FEES INCREASING SIGNIFICANTLY

By Rudy Becker, Treasurer

Over the past several years since 2009, the water and sewer charges paid by Prospect Hill to DC Water, the local water and sewer utility, have increased from an average of \$40/month to \$650/month this year. These costs are expected to increase annually by about \$150/month for the foreseeable future.

What's going on here?

About one-third of the area of the District of Columbia is served by a combined wastewater-stormwater collection piping system (combined sewer) which delivers these effluents to the wastewater treatment facility at Blue Plains, MD. This means that during wet weather, water landing on streets or flowing into streets from adjacent properties is combined with wastewater flows from residences and industrial, governmental, & commercial buildings. If the total combined volume exceeds the capacity of the combined sewer and/or the treatment facility, the excess amount is discharged directly into the Anacostia, Potomac and Rock Creek rivers, contributing to the pollution of these rivers. This violates provisions of the Clean Water Act.

In July 2002, the DC Water and Sewer Authority established a Combined Sewer System Long Term Control Plan. This plan, known as the Clean Rivers Project, involves primarily the construction of several large underground tunnels to collect excess combined sewer flows during wet weather and store it until system loading is reduced during dry periods. Then the sewage/stormwater will be released for treatment at Blue Plains.

The current estimated cost for these tunnels is \$2.6 billion. The project will be paid for by DC property owners, based on the area of impervious surfaces on their property, such as rooftops, paved roadways, sidewalks, parking lots, etc. Each property's impervious surface area is measured in ERU's (Equivalent Residential Unit), equal to 1000 SF of impervious surface area. Prospect Hill is rated at 51.9 ERUs. The current Clean Rivers Project monthly assessment is \$9.57/ERU for a total monthly cost of \$497. The rate will increase to \$12.77/ERU on October 1, 2013, for a total monthly cost to PHC of \$663.

The DC Water and Sewer Authority has also added an impervious area surcharge to the way it collect for sewage treatment. The traditional method is to charge based on metered amount of water used on a property. However, with a combined sewer, stormwater is also treated, but the cost of treated the additional quantity is not captured by the traditional method. Therefore, the Authority has added a charge based on the property's ERU value. The current charge is \$2.67/ERU, or \$139/mo for PHC.

In order to control the eventual size and cost of the Clean Rivers Project and to provide an opportunity for property owners to reduce their impact, they can receive a discount when they manage stormwater on their properties using eligible Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as rain gardens, rain barrels, pervious paving, green roofs, bioretention practices, and stormwater harvest/reuse systems. The current discount is up to 55% on the Stormwater Fee and up to 4% on the Clean Rivers Fee.

Due to the complex nature of these programs, your board is considering engaging a local stormwater management consultant to assist it in determining what opportunities are available to reduce the impact of PHC's operating expenses. A proposal is being evaluated which will verify the current ERU value, identify opportunities for reducing the ERU value and participating in the discount programs, and cost/benefit analyses on the most promising alternatives.

Extensive information on this topic is available at DC Water & Sewer's website:
http://www.dewater.com/about/current_projects_intro.cfm

CEMETERY RECORD BOOKS HAVE BEEN SCANNED



Over the past two years, records of lot ownership and burials have been converted to electronic media. These records are contained in three large-format books. The electronic versions are contained on three CD's. Copies of the CD's are kept off-site in possession of President Holler and Treasurer Becker. The work is not complete and will continue over the next several years. Total cost to date is about \$2,000.

The photo on the left shows the two books containing lot ownership information and the two CD's on which the scanning results are stored.

THE ANGEL IS WHOLE AGAIN

Several years ago during a particularly severe windstorm, a large branch from the beech tree in the Memorial Grove crashed down onto the angel, toppling it over and breaking its head and a wing. Recently, R & R Tree Service, Inc. restored the angel to its original condition when it was installed in the Memorial Garden.



HENRY FANKHAUSER RETIRES AS EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER

Carol Holler, president of our board of trustees, has accepted the semi-retirement of Henry Fankhauser, editor of our Prospect Hill newsletter and board member. “It was a surprise request, but Henry agreed to stay on as an advisor to the new editor. She asked our treasurer, Rudy Becker, if he could add to his duties as treasurer taking over Henry’s position. Rudy agreed. He had helped Henry put out the last three editions and proved very capable.

Henry and the late Jean Crabill, former Prospect Hill historian, organized the newsletter twelve years ago when both were elected to the board. Henry is credited for starting the year-end Holiday Memorial Fundraiser campaign which has brought in thousands of dollars annually for the upkeep of the cemetery and old stone house.

Henry is a native Washingtonian. His parents, both sets of grandparents are all buried in Prospect Hill plus the ashes of his sister. Henry has been awarded Editor Emeritus by the board, but has agreed to remain on it in an advisory capacity

CORRECTIONS AND AMPLIFICATIONS

Acknowledgement of a donation from the Louise T. Baker Trust in 2012 was omitted from the list of donors in the Holiday 2012 Issue of this newsletter.

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

Your gifts are very important to the operation of the cemetery. Each donation, no matter how large or small, makes a difference. We will work to keep expenses down, and with your help we'll continue to have a beautiful Historic cemetery. One of the nicest things you can give to your ancestors is a donation to Prospect Hill Cemetery for the maintenance and upkeep of their final resting place. Thank you for your love and concern.

My donation for the maintenance and operation of the cemetery \$ _____

Books for sale

of books:

_____ *The Immigrants and Their Cemetery: The Story of Prospect Hill* (\$35) \$ _____

_____ *Families of Prospect Hill* (\$20) \$ _____

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

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

Total number of books _____

\$5 postage for each book purchased \$ _____

Total amount of book order and/or donation \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email address: _____

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 sent 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
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Locust Grove, VA 22508