



2201 North Capitol Street, NE,
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Prospect Hill Cemetery

Our Nation's Capital's German-American Cemetery

Summer-Fall

Newsletter

2019

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

May 27, 2019 at Prospect Hill was a fine day for an outdoor Memorial Day service, with sunny weather and temperatures in the low 80s.

Many lot owners and both old and new friends of PHC were in attendance, and the Washington Saengerbund's music spread throughout the cemetery grounds and surrounding environs.



The Washington Saengerbund under the direction of Stephen Ackert

Reverend Katja Albrecht of the United Church was the homilist. She reminded us of why we honor the fallen soldiers buried at PHC as well as our relatives and friends who have gone before us.



President Gerd Halusa & Reverend Katja Albrecht

Choral works performed by the Washington Saengerbund were “Engel des Friedens” by Matthias Keller, after the Oliver Wendel Holmes poem “Angel of Peace,” “Auf, Seele, Gott zu loben!” by Johann Steurlein, text from Psalm 104, and “Freiheit, die ich meine,” by Karl Groos with text by Max v. Schenkendorf.

Alwin Wenzel, Archivist of the Washington Saengerbund and Webmaster of Prospect Hill presented an historical perspective on the 150th anniversary of the Washington Saengerbund singing at Memorial Day services. He noted that the first occasion was at Arlington Cemetery on May 30, 1869 when they sang “Engel des Friedens.” Over the years since, the Saengerbund has sung on Memorial Day at both Prospect Hill and Arlington Cemetery many times. Al’s presentation can be found on Prospect Hill’s website: www.prospecthillcemetery.org under the Historical Perspectives section.

After the service, attendees and performers enjoyed refreshments provided by John & Edith Gill at the Stone House.

LOT OWNERS MEETING

The 2019 lot owners meeting preceded the Memorial Day Service. As in the last several years, there were an insufficient number of lot owners in attendance to satisfy the quorum requirement of 15, and no official business could be transacted. The trustees each presented reports, however.

President Gerd Halusa opened the meeting and introduced the board members: Edith Gill, Secretary; Rudolph Becker, Treasurer; Eva Brandt, Carol Holler, and Albert Rietz, Trustees.

Secretary Gill read the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Superintendent Connell reported on his activities during the past year including grass cutting and trimming around headstones, cleanup of fallen trees and branches after storms, meeting with lot owners seeking to locate the graves of their relatives, showing available cemetery lots to prospective owners, and supervising contractors working in the cemetery on clean up, burials and monument installations. As has been the case over the 12 ½ years that Joe has been on the job, the cemetery is always maintained in tip-top shape as a resource for lot owners and local resident visitors.

Treasurer Rudy Becker reported on financial activities in 2018. Donations and bequests totaled \$ 38,800. A grant of \$8,000 was received from the Phase Foundation. Investment income totaled \$ 30,200, and other income totaled \$ 27,200. Expenses were \$ 95,900, including \$ 22,000 for the water bill. Net proceeds for the year were \$ 8,300.

CLEAN UP DAY AT PROSPECT HILL

Lot owners and friends of Prospect Hill met at the cemetery on Saturday, May 18, 2019 to spruce up the place for the upcoming lot owners meeting and Memorial Day service. The weather was sunny, in the high 70s. Twelve volunteers were in attendance.

Again, this year the group removed leaves which had accumulated in the rock spillway controlling storm water runoff from adjacent Glenwood Cemetery. They also swept the long walkway running between Sections E & I, and spruced up the circle patio where the Memorial Day service would be held.

Refreshments and snacks were provided by John & Edith Gill for all to enjoy. The weather was perfect for working at the cemetery.



Gerd Halusa surveying the job at hand



John Gill preparing to scoop leaves



Bernd Wenzel applying finishing touches



Three generations of Volkman



The Cleanup Gang

NEW PAVING AT THE CEMETERY ENTRANCE

Thanks to generous grants from The Phase Foundation and a bequest from the estate of Elizabeth Aman, we were able to repave the roadway at the entrance to Prospect Hill. The contractor for the project was Chamberlain Contractors, Inc. of Laurel, MD. The work involved milling about 550 square yards of old pavement down to the original concrete base and installing a 3-inch thick surface course of bituminous asphalt, which was rolled to a smooth and compact finish. The work was completed in May 2019 at a cost of \$ 26,900. The photos below provide before and after views.



Before



After

Your board intends to repave other areas of roadway in the cemetery as funds become available.

WATER BILL - FINALLY SOME RELIEF

The efforts of the DC Historic Cemetery Coalition to promote relief from the District of Columbia Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC) have borne fruit. In 2018, the DC Department of Energy & Environment established the CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program.

The Program provides financial relief, for one year during DC's fiscal year 2019, to local nonprofits, particularly religious institutions, charitable organizations, and cemeteries which meet certain criteria. Organizations must be a registered DC nonprofit with a real property tax exemption as a religious house of worship, cemetery or charitable organization, demonstrate financial hardship in paying the CRIAC defined as exceeding 1% of annual revenue after expenses, and agree to reduce the harmful effects of stormwater runoff through a DOEE approved mitigation method.

Prospect Hill met all three criteria. It is exempt from DC real property tax, its CRIAC charge is 9.8% of annual revenue after expenses, and it agreed to implement an approved stormwater mitigation method.

The relief program provides several options for complying with the stormwater effects mitigation requirement if the nonprofit cannot implement a project on its own property, each with a reduction in the relief amount. These are (a) to do nothing on site and take an 82.6% credit with the balance used to fund stormwater mitigation elsewhere in the District, (b) purchase Stormwater Retention Credits to support green infrastructure in the District for a 90% credit, or (c) plant one tree per 1000 square feet of impervious area and/or install green infrastructure to reduce runoff by at least 10% for a 90% credit.

Given that Prospect Hill has no space to plant trees or green infrastructure, it elected the option to do nothing and take the 82.6% credit. This will result in a credit in DC FY 2019 of \$14,362. Our account is credited \$1,197 monthly through September 2019.

DC Water reduced the CRIAC fee in FY 2019 to lower the effect of the one-year relief program and will raise it again in 2020 and beyond.

OTHER WAYS TO HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES

When we gathered at Prospect Hill on Memorial Day to honor our loved ones, we did so out of love and remembrance. We enjoyed the cemetery grounds with well-manicured lawns trimmed close to each headstone. The new paving at the entrance provided a smooth ride onto the property.

Over the years, your donations have enabled the day-to-day operation of the cemetery to keep it in tip-top shape for you and local citizens. But, major projects such as replacement of

the roof on the stone house and the recent paving project required major donations. These projects were funded by grants and especially bequests.

And so, you can help ensure the future of our cemetery by including it in your will (called a bequest). We have received several such bequests in the past and would welcome any in the future. It is best that a bequest is “unrestricted”, so the cemetery can use the funds to fulfill any of its needs.

Also, another opportunity for you to honor your deceased loved ones and contribute to the upgrade and upkeep of the cemetery is to transfer appreciated securities (stocks, bonds, etc.). You’ll receive a federal tax deduction for the value of the security, and not have to pay a capital gains tax calculated on the original value of the security.

Consult your attorney for more information on how you can transfer your securities or honor our cemetery with a bequest. Your Board of Trustees appreciates any such contributions that will help secure the future of our historic Prospect Hill Cemetery.

CEMETERY PLOT MARKERS AVAILABLE



Plot markers can be ordered on the Order Form
on page 7. Price is \$25.00 each, installed.

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

*Rudolph Becker, Editor
Memorial Day Photography: Jeanne Endrikat
Cleanup Day Photography: Rudolph Becker*

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 preservation, 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 – 1858 thru 2003* (\$35) \$_____

_____ *Prospect Hill Cemetery Children's Burial List – 1858 thru 2003* (\$20) \$_____

Total number of books _____

\$5 postage for each book purchased \$_____

Plot Markers for sale – indicate the name as it is to appear on the marker – one name per marker
See photo on page 6.

_____ @ \$25 ea. \$_____
of markers Name Name Name

Total amount of book order, plot markers 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 or by email to rbecker2004@yahoo.com

Thank you for your support of Prospect Hill.

Phone: 202-667-0676

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PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY

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