



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

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

**2201 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-1103 (202) 667-0676**

**Holiday Season**

**2009**

**Newsletter**

## **AREA GARDEN CLUBS COMPLETE MAJOR BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT AT PROSPECT HILL**

**By Rudy Becker  
Prospect Hill Trustee**

As reported in the last newsletter, District 1 of the National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc. (NCAGC) and Prospect Hill Cemetery joined forces to install a Memorial Grove at the northern boundary of the cemetery. The work had been scheduled and completed last month and it looks great.

During an early site inspection it was noted that a water line likely ran through the proposed Memorial Grove. Investigation with the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DCWASA) revealed that the cemetery had given DCWASA an easement to install a 12-inch water main through the cemetery from Lincoln Road to North Capital Street. The main had been installed in 1896 and is still in active service. Needless to say, locating the main became of paramount importance in determining the positions of the new horticulture. Working with the Director of Water Services, Curtis Cochrane, the line was eventually marked.

The landscape plan was developed by Jan Townshend, program manager of the Neighborhood Design Center, Inc. The horticulture (trees, plants, bushes) was purchased from Shemin Landscape Supply Company, located in Burtonsville, MD. Charmane Truesdell was the project manager for NCAGC. As she worked closely with all parties involved, her professionalism and quiet confidence was instrumental in insuring a successful project.

On Thursday, September 17, the horticultural items were delivered. Fearing that the planting work would exceed the capabilities of the volunteers, Ms. Truesdell had arranged for F & F Landscape Company, of

### **CEMETERY GATES WILL BE OPEN THE HOLIDAY WEEKENDS**

With Christmas and New Year's falling on a Friday, the cemetery gates will be open the usual times, 10 am to 4 pm, the entire weekends. Gates ordinarily are open Thursday through Monday but closed on Tuesday and Wednesday. They will also be open on Thanksgiving day.

Brandywine, MD to deliver and plant the horticulture. The firm arrived with the horticulture, mulch, soil amendments and a crew of six at about 10:00 am and by 12:30 pm, the work was complete.

On Saturday, September 19, at 10:00 am, volunteers from NCAGC, Prospect Hill Cemetery and the Washington Saengerbund arrived to complete the project. The volunteers distributed and spread mulch around all the new plants as well as the existing azaleas, that formed the old Memorial Garden, donated by cemetery lot owners over the previous two years.

The landscaping plan has as its final touch the placement of a stone angel which had been knocked off a monument by a large tree felled during a windstorm several years ago. The cemetery will undertake to install a foundation to support the weighty angel in the near future.

### **SPECIAL THANKS ARE DUE THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROJECT**

#### **National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc. (A non-profit organization):**

Capitol Hill Garden Club: Pat Hanrehan & Bill Dean from (the photographer)  
Cheverly Garden Club: Ann & Charles Gardenhour & Helen Stout  
Goddard Garden Club: Arlene & Ted Arkeny  
Montpelier Garden Club: Charmane Truesdell  
Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club: Sonia Johnson, Julie Harrison, Ken Ryland  
Paint Branch Garden Club: Marion Green  
Tanta-Cove Garden Club: Dee Droter, Poss Tarpley  
Woodmoor Garden Club: Danielle Brabazon & John Marino  
NCAGC District 1 Director: David Healy

#### **Neighborhood Design Center:**

Jan T Townshend, Program Manager

#### **Prospect Hill Cemetery:**

Rudy Becker, Edith & John Gill

#### **Washington Saengerbund:**

Eva, Dorthé & Giso Brandt, Gerd & Lars Halusa, Herbert Traxler, Bernhard Wenzel

Photos of the Memorial Grove project appear on Page 3.

### **FOUR INTERMENTS BRING YEARS TOTAL TO ONLY SIX**

Superintendent Joe Connell reports four interments at Prospect Hill since the printing of our last newsletter. That brings the total burials for the year to only six.

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 four interments: Karin A. Halusa, 68, buried on May 26, 2009; Frank A. Peters, 78, and Rosemarie Horn, 52, both buried on September 18, 2009; Lynne B. Davenport, 50, buried on October 18, 2009.

### **MEMORIAL GROVE PHOTOS**



**Before – Memorial Garden**



**Before – north boundary**



**During – workers planting new horticulture**



**The Volunteers**



**Volunteers placing mulch**



**Volunteers hard at work**



**Memorial Grove is complete**



**The Angel**

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

It was like a premature Christmas gift from the member districts of the National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc. to our beloved cemetery.

Because of them, visitors to Prospect Hill will no longer view the unsightly maintenance yard across the fence at the cemetery's northern boundary. As mentioned before, it is now screened with more than 30 shrubs, trees and plants donated by the NCAGC for its annual community beautification project.

In a sense, the project, called Memorial Grove, is also a premature holiday gift to our departed relatives and friends buried at Prospect Hill. If they could visualize what has been going on at their final resting place they would surely be thrilled.

So let's strive to keep this new Memorial Grove, and the entire cemetery, as beautiful as it is today. Caretaker Joe Connell will surely do his best but he needs help from each of us.

With the holiday season fast approaching, it's time for us to also consider giving a "personal" gift to our departed loved ones. It's a time when memories of joyful days gone by keep filling our hearts and minds. How can we honor and express our continuing love for them at this very emotional but happy time of year?

One way, perhaps the best way, is to honor them and prove we still care about them with a financial gift to our annual Year-End Memorial Fundraising Campaign. As mentioned many times before, all contributions go entirely toward the upkeep, expenses and beautification of our cemetery and its old stone gatehouse.

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. A complete list of contributors and the departed loved one(s) they are honoring will appear in the Spring 2010 Newsletter. No mention will be made of the amount given.

If you'd rather just donate an "End of Year" financial support gift, fill in where indicated on the Order Form.

### **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 2009

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| • Trimming and hauling of trees & shrubs -                   | \$ 2,400 |
| • Mowing & trimming equipment repair -                       | \$ 2,300 |
| • New iron security bars on 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor windows -  | \$ 1,400 |
| • Removal of asphalt paving to make way for Memorial Grove - | \$ 700   |
| • New stove for gatehouse -                                  | \$ 600   |
| • New iron railings at Section M concrete steps -            | \$ 500   |
| • New maintenance shed door -                                | \$ 500   |

#### List of future major expenditures

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| • New commercial grade string trimmer      | \$ 300    |
| • New air-conditioning units for gatehouse | \$ 750    |
| • New mower                                | \$ 3,500  |
| • Pave entrance roadway                    | \$ 15,000 |
| • New roof, soffits, gutters on gatehouse  | \$ 60,000 |

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 2009 closing out and 2010 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.

### **TOTENSONNTAG SERVICE HELD AT PROSPECT HILL IN SPITE OF THE WEATHER FORECAST**

The weather forecast for Sunday, November 1, 2009, was downright forbidding the Friday before and the trustees wondered whether our annual Totensonntag service should be canceled. But by Saturday morning, the forecast had improved considerably to clear and sunny, but a little cool, and it was decided to hold the service as planned. However, by early Sunday morning, things took a turn for the worse, with rain in the morning and early afternoon and clearing forecast not to occur until well after the service would be over. After consulting with all involved, the trustees decided to take our chances with the weather and proceed with the event.

As members of the Washington Saengerbund choral group began to arrive just after noon on Sunday, a light, but steady rain fell. Discussions were held with its conductor, David Montgomery, about where they would sing if the rain did not stop. The best location was in the cemetery office, as the noise of North Capitol Street traffic would have drowned them out on the front porch.

As the choir warmed up in the office, the sky over the cemetery became noticeably brighter and the sun broke through just in time, at about 1:30 PM.

Prospect Hill Board of Trustees President Carol Holler opened the service at 2:00 PM and welcomed the all present. She enjoined them to think of and honor such well-known people as August Gottlieb Schoenborn, designer of the iron structure supporting the US Capitol dome, Julius Viedt, founder of the Washington Saengerbund, and Friedrich Imhof, founder of the German Orphanage. Concluding her remarks, she introduced Trustee Rudy Becker as master of ceremonies.

Rudy introduced Pastor Bodo Schwabe of The United Church – Die Vereinigte Kirche. Pastor Schwabe led the attendees in the opening prayer.

The Saengerbund offered their first song, Morgengebet (Morning Prayer) by Felix Mendelssohn.

Rudy thanked all who came out for the service despite the foreboding weather forecast. He noted that we had three things to be grateful for on that day.

- The first was the sacrifice of German-Americans who fought for Washington, DC during the Civil War, and he read an article written on the subject by cemetery historian Jean Crabill.
- The second was the generosity of member garden clubs of the National Capital Area Garden Clubs (NCAGC) in donating materials and labor for the new Memorial Grove. Along with volunteers from the cemetery Board of Trustees and the Washington Saengerbund, over 30 plants, shrubs and trees had been planted. He recognized Carol Holler for coming up with the idea for a horticultural screen along the northern boundary and Christine Hambach of the Goddard Garden Club for shepherding the project thru the NCAGC approval process.
- The third thing to be grateful for was the attendance of Mr. Elmar Kohlhofer of the Cultural Department of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Preceded by the singing of Grablied (Grave Song), composed by Carl Maria von Weber, and sung by the Washington Saengerbund, Pastor Schwabe offered his message for the day, that we have one thing in

common and that is that we will all die one day, but should not be afraid, because a great reward has been planned for us.

Following Franz Schubert's Wanderer's Nactlied (Wanderer's Night Song) sung by the Washington Saengerbund, Pastor Schwabe offered his blessing, and the service was concluded.

All participants and attendees were treated to a fine reception prepared and served by trustee Edith Gill and her husband John, in the cemetery office.

Special thanks are due the members of the Washington Saengerbund, their conductor David Montgomery, Pastor Bodo Schwabe of The United Church and the trustees of Prospect Hill for their efforts with another memorable and successful memorial service.

**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 you loyal support, generosity and financial assistance during 2009. You are the main reason Prospect Hill remains the beautiful cemetery it is today.

Thoughts and cherished memories of loved ones interred in Prospect Hill will be in our hearts and on our minds more than ever this Holiday Season. But despite the uncertain situations in the world today we wish all of you a prayerful Thanksgiving, a merry Christmas and a happy 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*



From the October 2009 Issue of The American Legion Magazine

Prospect Hill Cemetery

## Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

1. I wish to give a year-end memorial donation in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

3. I would like to order the following book(s):

\_\_\_ copies, *The Immigrants and Their Cemetery: The Story of Prospect Hill* (\$35 each, including postage) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ copies, *Families of Prospect Hill* (\$25 each, including postage) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ copies, *Prospect Hill Cemetery Adult Burial List* (\$40 each, including postage) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ copies, *Prospect Hill Cemetery Children's Burial List*, (\$25 each, including postage) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Total amount of order and donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay for your book(s) with a separate check, since these purchases are not tax deductible.

Please 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.

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