



2201 North Capitol Street, NE,
Washington, DC 20002-1103
www.prospecthillcemetery.org
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Prospect Hill Cemetery

Our Nation's Capital's German-American Cemetery

Summer-Fall

Newsletter

2018

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

May 28, 2018 at Prospect Hill began with drizzle & fog, portending a lousy day for an outdoor Memorial Day service. But the spirits of our forebears buried at the cemetery came to the rescue and the rain stopped just before the start of the Lot Owners Meeting at 10:00 AM. Rain did not return for the rest of the day although the clouds remained throughout the service.

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 Nicholas Alexander Brown
with Shuai Wang accompanist

Pastor Cordula Schmid-Wassmuth 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.



Cordula Schmid-Wassmuth

LOT OWNERS MEETING

The 2018 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 Carol Holler opened the meeting and introduced the board members: Edith Gill, Secretary; Rudolph Becker, Treasurer; Eva Brandt, Gerd Halusa, and Albert Rietz, Trustees.

After a recitation of the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States by all in attendance, Secretary Gill read the minutes of the 2017 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 11 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 2017. Donations totaled \$ 30,000. A grant of \$5,000 was received from the Phase Foundation for plot map digitization. Investment income totaled \$ 31,000, and other income totaled \$ 31,000. Expenses were \$ 86,300, including \$20,400 for the water bill. Net proceeds for the year were \$ 10,900.



Lot owners listen to board reports

CLEAN UP DAY AT PROSPECT HILL

Lot owners and friends of Prospect Hill met at the cemetery on Saturday, May 26, 2018 to spruce up the place for the upcoming lot owners meeting and Memorial Day service.

Again, this year the group removed leaves which had accumulated in the rock spillway controlling storm water runoff from adjacent Glenwood Cemetery.

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



Bernd Wenzel



Carol Holler



Christine Hambach under the
angel's supervision



Carol Holler
Eva & Doerthe Brandt



Carol Holler, Jutta Volkman, Charles V,
Charles VI & Charles VII Volkman, Gerd
Halusa, Rudy Becker, Christine Hambach

CEMETERY PLOT MARKERS AVAILABLE



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

WATER BILL

The water and sewer service fees charged by DC Water in 2017 were \$20,400, an increase of \$3,400 or 20% from 2016. They will increase to about \$22,100 in 2018, decrease to \$20,500 in 2019, then increase again to \$22,500 in 2020. We expect them to continue to increase beyond 2020.

The reason for these charges is to pay for the Clean Rivers Project being undertaken by the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Department to comply with federal EPA prohibition of discharges from the city's combined sewer and storm water collection system into area rivers and streams. The discharges result from storm water which falls on impervious areas (roads, sidewalks, parking lots, etc.).

Private, historic cemeteries are particularly hard hit by these charges, called the Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC), due to the large quantity of impervious areas they contain and the fact that most of their income is from donations and cemetery lot sales. The normal usages of these funds are for historic preservation. But, with the ever-increasing water and sewer charges, many cemeteries are having to expend perpetual care funds and/or reduce historic preservation activities.

To find a solution to this problem, several historic cemeteries including Prospect Hill met in early June 2017 to share experiences and map out a plan of attack for fixing the problem. The group successfully lobbied for creation of legislation to be presented to the DC Council exempting DC cemeteries from the CRIAC. In support of passage of the bill, most members of the coalition of non-profit cemeteries, including Prospect Hill, testified at a public hearing before the DC City Council Committee on Transportation & the Environment on November 17, 2017 during which each explained how the CRIAC was affecting their operations. The General Manager of DC Water was present and heard first hand our concerns. A video of that hearing can be viewed at http://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4224

After the November 17, 2017 hearing, Mary Cheh, Chair of the Committee on Transportation & the Environment sent a letter to the Chair of the Board of Directors and to the Interim General Manager of DC Water outlining nine(9) strategies to address the high water bills imposed on non-profits such as cemeteries, churches, parks and other similar organizations. The strategies range from exempting non-profit/charitable organizations on fixed incomes from the CRIAC, providing discounts to customers preserving large amounts of green space, strengthening the incentives for replacing impervious surfaces, exempt private roads open to the public, eliminating the exemption of DC public streets and sidewalks from the CRIAC, to increasing pressure on the federal government to increase funding.

As of this writing, we have seen no evidence that DC Water has adopted any of these strategies. But with a champion like Mary Cheh, we continue to be hopeful that we will eventually find relief.

ONLINE CEMETERY PLOT LOCATION

The locations of all plots in Prospect Hill are on paper plots. We are investigating alternative means of moving the location and other demographic information online. There are several products available. Generally, they are CAD (computer aided drawing) based and can produce on-line pictures by combining satellite photography with data in our burial record database. Some products would be for in-house use and run on a computer located in the cemetery office. Other, more sophisticated systems run offsite "in the cloud." With them, a user, someone seeking to locate a grave, need only to enter minimal information about the deceased on a website to be shown the location of the grave on a map of the cemetery and additional information about the person.

The products we have identified so far have an initial configuration cost of about \$10,000 with annual software license and maintenance fees of \$1200 to \$4000. We have received partial funding thru a grant of \$5000 from the Phase Foundation.

Before proceeding with this program however, we would like your input. Here are some questions. Please provide your answers on the Order Form on Page 7:

1. Would you use such a system?
2. Do you think people doing genealogical searches would use it?
3. Do you think Prospect Hill should have such a resource?

Two other DC area cemeteries have installed this capability. We suggest visiting their websites to get an idea of what their systems offer:

Congressional Cemetery: <http://www.congressionalcemetery.org/search-interment-records.asp>

Rock Creek Cemetery: <https://www.stpaulsrockcreek.org/cemetery>

We look forward to reading your comments.

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
Lot Owners Meeting Photography: Joseph Connell
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 photos on page 4.

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

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. Thank you for your support of Prospect Hill.

Please enter your response to the questions on Page 6 about **Online Cemetery Plot Location** feature:

Would you use such a system? Yes___ No___

Do you think people doing genealogical searches would use it? Yes___ No___

Do you think Prospect Hill should have such a resource? Yes___ No___

Comments _____

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