



2201 North Capitol Street, NE,  
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# Prospect Hill Cemetery

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

**Summer-Fall**

**Newsletter**

**2021**

## **CLEANUP DAY**

Lot owners and friends of Prospect Hill met at the cemetery on Saturday, May 22, 2021 to spruce up the place for the upcoming lot owners meeting. Thirteen volunteers and friends participated.

Again, this year the group removed leaves which had accumulated in the rock spillway in the Memorial Garden controlling storm water runoff from adjacent Glenwood Cemetery. They also swept the long walkway running between Sections E & I, removed wild ivy growing in large holly trees near the circle and spruced up the circle patio.

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



P Schmeissner, C Volkman & The Warrens



Christine Hambach & Elisabeth Herold



Isabel Herold & Jutta Volkman



Giso, Eva & Dörthe Brandt

## LOT OWNERS MEETING

The 2021 lot owners meeting was held on May 31, 2021. Again this year, 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 present: Rudolph Becker, Treasurer; Eva Brandt, Secretary pro tem and Edith Gill, Trustee.

Secretary Brandt read the minutes of the 2020 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 14 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 Becker reported on financial activities in 2020. Donations and bequests totaled \$281,200. A grant of \$8,000 was received from the Phase Foundation. Investment income totaled \$29,500, and other income totaled \$19,800. Expenses were \$87,100. Net proceeds for the year were \$251,400.

A lengthy discussion about what to do about fallen historic tombstones was held. Several options were suggested, with use of a cemetery tombstone provider to do the work being the most favored.



Lot owners listen to Treasurer Becker's Report



President Halusa opens the meeting

## FALLEN TOMBSTONES

Tombstones can be subject to many forces during their lifetime which result in them being dislodged from their original position. Older tombstones, dating before 1900, often fall over due to ground subsidence. In the old days, concrete grave liners were not used, and coffins were buried directly in the earth. Eventually, the coffin decayed and collapsed. The earth above also settled creating a depression at the surface into which the tombstone's base foundation settled and tilted, resulting in destabilization of the tombstone, which fell over.

Up-righting of fallen tombstones requires resetting and/or rebuilding the base foundation to provide a level surface and lifting of the fallen tombstone onto the new base. Steel pins are often used to connect the tombstone to its base. The tombstone may also be cemented to its base. This requires an in-depth knowledge of how various types of cements effect each type of tombstone material. Rigging of foundation bases and tombstones into position requires the use of heavy equipment with skilled operators familiar with working in a cemetery, to avoid damage to existing graves and tombstones. Tombstones and their bases can weigh hundreds or even thousands of pounds, so it is best to utilize the services of tombstone suppliers and installers familiar with working in cemeteries.

As can be seen in the following photos, tombstones come in a variety of base arranges. Some are simple, some have multiple intermediate bases or spacers. Some are pinned, some not. Each requires attention to its individual characteristics.



Multiple bases



Effect of subsidence



Effect of subsidence



Effect of subsidence

## STORMY WEATHER

The large trees on the grounds of the cemetery have been battered during the several wind storms occurring so far this year. Damaged tree branch removal has cost nearly \$7,000 so far this year. Hopefully the storm season is nearly over.



Large branch broke off and engulfed tombstones. Fortunately, none were damaged.

## OTHER WAYS TO HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES

When we gathered at Prospect Hill 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**



Use form on page 7  
to order

### **A historical perspective**

#### **Memorial Day Services at Prospect Hill Cemetery in the old days.**

Published by National Republican, Washington City, on Friday Morning, May 30, 1873

The following is the programme to be observed at Prospect Hill Cemetery by our German fellow citizens:

Memorial celebration of the German Veteran Union in honor of their deceased comrades of war – Prospect Hill Cemetery, May 30, 1873; at 4 o'clock p.m. – Under and with the co-operation of the Washington Saengerbund, the Arion Quartette Club, the pupils of the Columbia Turn Verein, as well as of the schools and Sunday schools of the St. Joseph church, and Reverends Messrs. E. Henkel, G. L. Rietz, F. Mengert and R. Reitzel, also of Professors P. A. Mattern, W. Prussmann and Miss Dengler.

“How they rest so softly” – German poem.

First Part - Organization of the procession near city Hall at 2:30 p.m.; march to the Prospect Hill Cemetery to commence at 4 p.m.; arrival at the cemetery; arrangement in its western section and opening address of the president of the Veteran Union Comrade Trdziack; prayer by Rev. G. L. Rietz; “It pervades your peace,” etc.; chorus, Arion Quartette Club, prayer by Jul. Otto; Misserere (Trovatore, Verdi.) Donch’s orchestra.

Second Part – “Even the Flowers on the Grave,” chorus, Saengerbund; “The Grave Flower,” by C. Lenshow. Oration, E. F. M. Faehts. “Father, I Call Thee,” (F. H. Himmel,) grand chorus, by the Saengerbund, Arion Quartette Club and Donch’s orchestra, “How They Rest so softly,” by the children. Symphony, (Beethoven,) Donch’s orchestra; (during the music, formation of the procession to the graves and their decoration.) Departure of the procession and dismissal at the corner of First street and New York avenue.

## A PERFECT DAY AT PROSPECT HILL



ERRATA: The 2021 Spring Newsletter should have included a reference to a donation from Eda Offutt in 2020. Our apologies for the omission.

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

*Rudolph Becker, Editor*

*Lot owners Meeting Photography: Elisabeth Becker & Joe Connell*

*Cleanup Day Photography: Rudolph Becker*

*Stormy Weather & Tombstone Photography: Joe Connell*

# 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 5.

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$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](mailto:rbecker2004@yahoo.com)

Thank you for your support of Prospect Hill.

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**PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY**

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