

Prospect Hill Cemetery

Our Nation's Capital's German American Cemetery

2201 North Capitol Street, NE,
Washington, DC 20002 – 1103
www.prospecthillcemetery.org
Telephone: (202) 667-0676

HOLIDAY ISSUE NEWSLETTER 2023

President's Message

We had an important visitor on May 31, 2023, at Prospect Hill Cemetery: Dr. Emily Haber, the German ambassador to the United States stopped by to find out what the German cemetery is all about. The ambassador was ending her assignment she held from June 2018 to July 2023 and was retiring from the foreign service she had been part of for many years. It should be noted that she was the first female ever to be ambassador to the United States from Germany. She had heard from Katja Albrecht, the pastor of the United Church, that there is a German American cemetery in the Washington area and expressed interest in visiting.

We met at the circle where the chapel used to be years ago. The small group assembled was the ambassador and her husband, Katja Albrecht and Claudia Dziobek from the United Church, an aide to the ambassador, and Gerd Halusa, president of PHC.

After reading a small part from the history of the cemetery from our web site we mentioned and discussed that when you buy a burial plot you own the land forever unlike most cemeteries in Germany. It was also mentioned that the cemetery has been designated as a historic landmark. Then we walked past several older plots and the part of children's burials down to the gate house where supervisor Joe Connell was waiting. He informed the group that he is the only full-time occupant of the building and explained the layout of the cemetery, showed maps and pointed out numerous pictures on the walls of the room used for board meetings and official business.

After that we took several pictures of the group at the flag at the entrance and thanked the ambassador for making this a memorable occasion.



*From left: Aide to the Ambassador, Hans Joerg Haber (Husband of Ambassador Haber),
Claudia Dziobek (United Church), Ambassador Emily Habor, Rev. Katja Albrecht (United Church)
Gerd Halusa (President of Prospect Hill Cemetery)*

SUPPORT PROSPECT HILL WITH A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION

You can gift up to a maximum of \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as Prospect Hill Cemetery without having to pay income taxes on the funds.

Gifts of any value of \$100,000 or less are eligible for this benefit and you can feel good knowing that you are supporting and making a difference. This popular gift option is commonly called an IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short. Charitable gifts can be made year-round from your IRA account. To proceed, contact your IRA administrator (Fidelity, Schwab, Vanguard, Morgan Stanley, TD Ameritrade, etc.) to help get you started.

Please have the check made out to "Prospect Hill Cemetery" and have it mailed to Prospect Hill Cemetery, c/o Rudolph Becker, 12751 Sudley Manor Drive, Apt 243, Bristow, VA 20136. Ask your IRA administrator to include your name and address for acknowledgement purposes.

Alternatively, you can have your IRA administrator transfer the funds directly to Prospect Hill's Wells Fargo Advisors account. Just contact our treasurer, Rudy Becker at 540-308-5965 or email rbecker2004@yahoo.com.

Please note, we must receive your gift by December 31st for your donation to qualify for the 2023 calendar year.

In advance, we greatly appreciate your support!

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

Since 1858 Prospect Hill Cemetery, the final resting place of our family members and other loved ones, has remained practically untouched in a serenely beautiful setting high on a hill just a few blocks from the Capitol building of the free world.

Surely, all of us want this beautiful legacy to continue for years to come. That's why this annual appeal goes out to you today. As you know, our Prospect Hill Cemetery is privately owned by its lot owners, and heirs of those buried here.

Much needed voluntary donations, in any form, ensure the continuing existence of our cemetery by helping finance its daily upkeep and growing operating expenses.

It's nearing that time again, the holiday season, when fond memories of our departed loved ones are felt the most. When memories of joyful days gone by keep filling our hearts and minds.

And once again your Board of Trustees invites you to contribute to our annual Year-End Memorial Fundraising Campaign this holiday season. Let's not forget our own departed loved ones during this time. In good times and bad, we are still counting on you to find it in your hearts to continue to support the historic final resting place of our departed loved ones.

All contributions received from your holiday season memorial donations go entirely toward the upkeep, expenses and beautification of our historic cemetery and its old stone house residence.

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 in the back of this newsletter. A complete list of contributors and the departed loved one(s) they are honoring will be printed in the Spring 2022 issue. (The amount contributed will not be published.)

If you do not wish to contribute a memorial donation, please help us with an “End-of-Year” Financial Support donation, also indicated on the Order Form.

FIVE INTERMENTS SO FAR IN 2023

May 20	Hans Martin Sass	87	Cremation
May 30	Sheila Dare	76	Full Body
August 15	Mary Whitcomb	84	Full Body
August 20	Julienne Schnabl	75	Cremation
August 20	Josef Schnabl	90	Cremation

MONUMENT RESTORATION PROJECT

So far this year, 7 monuments have been restored:

Section E - 1

Section I - 4

Section L – 2

At your service

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Johnny staring at a large plaque mounted in the church foyer. After a while, the pastor walked over to the boy.

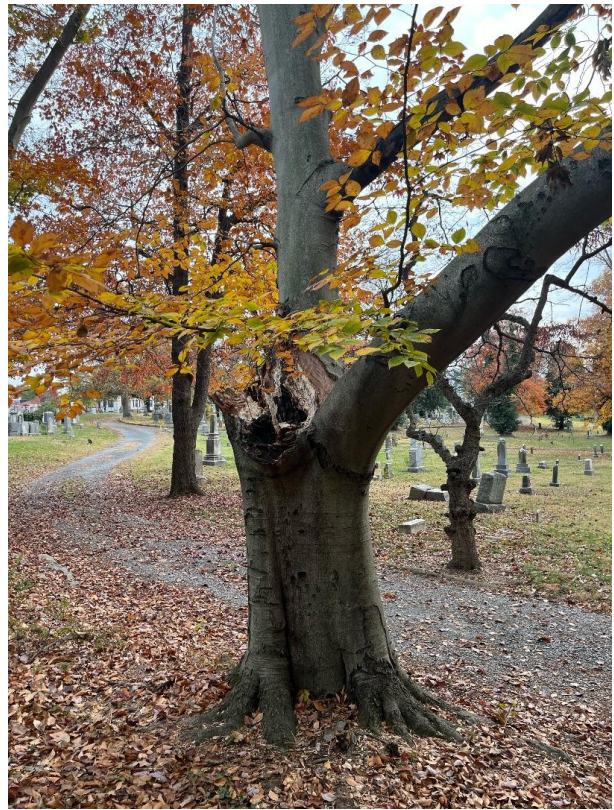
“Johnny, do you know why all those names are on the plaque,” asked the pastor.

“No, sir, I don’t,” Johnny replied.

“These are all the people who have died in the service,” said the pastor. Soberly they stood together staring at the plaque. After a few minutes, Johnny’s voice broke the thoughtful silence.

“Which one, sir – the 8:30 or the 10:30?”

BEECH TREE DAMAGED DURING WINDSTORM IN AUGUST 2023



The beech tree is known as the queen of the forest. Prospect Hill is blessed with two large beeches, located in the Memorial Garden. This year, during a windstorm in August, one of our beeches suffered major damage. The cleanup produced a nice pile of beech logs. Fortunately, the angel was not damaged as the tree fell behind it.

A number of trees on the cemetery grounds were given major maintenance. A large tree on the right side of the entrance had died almost completely and was removed. Other trees, which were succumbing to damage from ivy growing on their bark, were trimmed back to removing dying branches which, if they fell, could damage monuments, block roads, or worse, cause injury to people working in or visiting the cemetery grounds. Efforts have been made to curtail the growth of ivy by removing ivy vines where they emerge from the ground.

UPDATE ON THE WATER BILL ISSUE aka CRIAC-

Continued Good News – CRIAC relief program renewed for FY 2023

DC Water and Sewer Authority (DCWASA) renewed the amendment to its Customer Assistance Program which provides a significant one-year discount of the CRIAC fee for FY 2022 (October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023) to cemeteries and other non-profits. Organizations need to provide proof of nonprofit status and demonstrate the need by proving that the CRIAC fee is at least 1 % of revenue after expenses. In addition, organizations would be required to install and maintain stormwater mitigation onsite or implement an alternative stormwater mitigation measure in the district, or in lieu accept a reduction in the discount to 72% if onsite mitigation is not possible. PHC applied and was approved for the program. It received a credit to its account of \$10,026 for FY 2022. We hope that the program for non-profits will continue to be renewed in future years.



SUNSET AT PROSPECT HILL

COMING CONCERT AT THE UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, December 17 at 4:00 PM

The Washington Saengerbund, our sister society which emanated from The United Church, will perform the traditional annual German Christmas Concert at the United Church/Vereinigte Kirche, 1920 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006.

Who is the Washington Saengerbund? *by Christine Hambach*

The Prospect Hill Cemetery on North Capital, N.E. in Washington, DC, is the resting place for hundreds of friends and family going back to its founding in 1858. In addition to the many visitors who walk through this park-like and peaceful place, it also is well known among the German Organizations in DC such as the Washington Sangerbund. This over 172 years old choir does not just participate in events like the Memorial Day Celebration, but also takes care of the grave sites of many singers who were buried on and around the "Founder's Circle".

As a bit of "Heimat", the choir tries to keep flowers in their memory and gets a group of singers together every year for a day of "clean-up". Many of those beautiful trees at the cemetery proudly have their own songs, i.e., "Dort unter der Linde", and the Sangerbund can offer a selection of those for funerals of their members who will be carried to rest at the PHC.

Should you be interested in joining this not-for-profit organization, you will be more than welcome. It is not necessary to speak German. For further information you can click on www.saengerbund.org. We would love to meet you at a rehearsal evening on Monday nights, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, above the Old Europe Restaurant on 2434 Wisconsin Ave., NW. Washington, D.C. 20007.



Your Board of Trustees wishes you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

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### **PLEASE CALL FIRST AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**

At times, folks enter 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.

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

*Rudolph Becker, Editor
Joseph Connell, Photography*

Prospect Hill Cemetery

Order Form

Please fill out the form below completely so we can accurately account for your donation and purchases in the cemetery's financial records. Use return address label for your convenience. Separate checks for donations and purchases are NOT required.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email address: _____

1. I wish to give a Year-End Memorial donation in memory of or in honor of:

_____ Amount of Donation \$ _____

2. I wish to make an end-of-year financial support donation \$ _____

3. I would like to order the following books:

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

_____ copies, Families of Prospect Hill (\$20) \$ _____

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

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

Total number of books _____ times \$5 each for postage \$ _____

Plot Markers for sale – indicate the name as it is to appear on the marker – one name per marker. See photo sample at our website <http://www.prospecthillcemetery.org>

# of markers	Name	Name	Name	@ \$35 ea.	\$
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
					=====

Total amount of book order, plot markers and donation \$ _____

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
12751 Sudley Manor Drive, Apt 243
Bristow, VA 20136



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



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