



# Prospect Hill Cemetery

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

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

Spring

**Newsletter**

2024

## **ANNUAL LOT OWNERS MEETING AND MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024**

**LOT OWNERS MEETING - 10:00 AM**

**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE - 11:30 AM**

MUSIC: Washington Saengerbund

HOMILIST: Pastor of The United Church

REFRESHMENTS: Finger-food refreshments will be served at approximately 12:30 PM.

In the event of severe weather, please contact the Office at 202-667-0676 for information on cancellation.

Please indicate on the Order Form on page 7 whether you plan on attending the Lot Owners meeting.

## **ALL ARE INVITED TO HELP ON CLEAN UP DAY AT THE CEMETERY SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024**

Spring has sprung! And it's time for some spring cleaning at our Prospect Hill Cemetery. Superintendent Joe Connell says there is plenty to do, and he could use a little help.

Your Board of Trustees has designated Saturday, **May 18, at 10:00 a.m. as our annual Clean Up Day** to make sure our historic cemetery will look its best for our annual lot owners' meeting and memorial service on Memorial Day, May 27, 2024.

So, get out your rakes, brooms, clippers, weed-wackers, old shoes, work clothes and gloves in preparation for the big Memorial Day weekend when many relatives and friends of those buried here visit and decorate the graves of their loved ones.

Best of all, refreshments will be available to the volunteers when the work is done. In case of inclement weather, call the cemetery office at 202-667-0676 for a decision on canceling or rescheduling the activity. If rescheduled, the new date will be May 25, 2024.

# SPRING HAS SPRUNG



## RESULTS OF 2023 HOLIDAY MEMORIAL FUND CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHERS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR

Your Board of Trustees deeply appreciates the many contributions made to the end-of-the-year Holiday Memorial Fundraiser campaign and other special monetary gifts received throughout the year. These donations go entirely for the upkeep of your cemetery, our superintendent's salary and the gatehouse residence.

We sincerely thank you and hope you will continue to support our/your cemetery in future donation campaigns.

### **Memorial Gifts**

Adams, Dee Dee  
Alley, Wade & Patrice  
Allingham, Anita Bosley

### **In Memory of**

Walter, Dorothy, & Maria Allen  
Wade H. Alley, Sr, Annie & Wesley Alley  
Anita & Lester Bosley

Becker, Rudolph & Elisabeth  
Brandt, Volker & Eva  
Cornell, Sally Ann  
Daniels, Robert & Dorothy  
Francis, David & Suzanne  
Frazier, Barbara V.  
Gazda, Doris J.  
Gregg, Henry A. & M. S. Soukup  
Haack, Edwin  
Hambach, Christine  
Herold, Isabel  
Kirlin, George & Eleanor Stutz  
Larson, William H. & Mary  
McClinton, Betty D  
Phelps, Michael R  
Qualter, Patricia S.  
Schmeissner, Peter  
Schnabl, Josef H.  
Sheetz, C. Kenneth & Marilyn  
Silanskis, Kathleen G.  
Sladen, Paul  
Strack, Stephen & Suzon  
Tracy, LTC Stephen A. & Linda M.  
Tucker, Christine Stadler  
Upright, Gerald & Mary Anne  
Volkman, Charles & Jutta  
Walls, James & Janet  
Warren, Harry & Helga  
Ziese, Frederick H. & Jeaneese

Johann & Regina Schmid  
Hermann Hambach  
Lena Cornell  
Francis Montgomery; The Guethler family  
Ernst F. Weber & Robert J. Mills  
Nageeb & Minerva Daavid  
Adolph & Nabiha Gazda  
Otto and Barbara Scheytt  
Fred & Dora Haack  
Herman Hambach  
Karl Herold  
George F A & Madeleine Stutz  
Larson and Mostyn family  
Richard & Nellie Dulin, Robert & Mina Saunders  
Louise Coombs  
Hayes & Sheehy lots  
Volker Schmeissner  
Julienne Schnabl & Gerhard Laue  
Charles & Emelia Sheetz  
Sheehy & Hayes Families  
Charles Henry Fox  
William & Caroline Begmen; Henry & Charlotte Boegeholz  
G. Elizabeth Sullivan  
William and Josephine Stadler  
Krautwurst & Breitweiser families  
Volkman & Williams families  
Gilman & Suit families  
Irene Stoess  
Adolph and Henny Ziese

### **Other donations throughout the year 2023**

Abner, Francis & Jacqueline  
Alt, Robert & Terry  
Altman, Thomas  
Andrews, Kimberly  
Braun, Sharon & Christian  
Brown, Marjorie & Charles  
Burke, Karen E  
Curtis, Christine L.  
Derrick, John & Linda  
Dziobek, Claudia  
Eskite, Susan J.  
Fisher, George H.  
Fricks, Therma, Estate of  
Gazda, Olga  
German Lutheran Church  
Halusa, Eric  
Halusa, Karsten  
Harbin, Joan A.  
Harriman, Robert  
Hesselberth, Robert J.

Higdon, Richard  
Jennings, Edna G. & David  
Johnson, Eric R  
Klopfner, Edwin  
Kneessi, Stewart  
Kubinski, Carryn  
Lampkin, Sharron  
Latterner, Katherine B.  
Mautz, Marilyn  
Meredith, Edwin & Julia  
Meyer, Louise  
Meyers, Victoria  
Muilenburg, Terry L.  
Mueden, George  
Neitzey, Alice D.  
Offutt, Eda Schrader & William  
Opperman, Antony  
Philpot, Linda  
Plitt, Thomas  
Richter, Aleit

Richter, Marcel  
Risinger, Carl H.  
Schenkel, John & Barbara  
Schenkel, Leonard & Maia  
Schroeder, Frederick J.  
Schuster, J. Richard & Margaret  
Seaton, Clifton R.  
Smith-Vanderslice, Paula  
Sumner, June  
The Phase Foundation  
The United Church  
Thewlis, Gary & Dianna  
Tole, John & Judith  
Vogel, Sonja A.  
Walde, Robert & Katherine  
Wenzel, Alwin & Renate  
Wheeler, Patricia & Donald  
White, Katherine

We apologize for any omissions, misspellings, etc. in this listing. Please contact Rudy Becker at [rbecker2004@yahoo.com](mailto:rbecker2004@yahoo.com) with your corrections, questions and comments.

## TREASURER'S REPORT for 2023

Inflows during 2023, including donations, bequests, grants, burials, lot sales, publications sales, and returns on our investment portfolio, were \$238,500. This included a grant of \$8,000 and bequests totaling \$79,800. Outflows were \$110,900 leaving a net surplus of \$125,600. A credit of \$10,000 was received on our water bill from the CRIAC Non-profit Relief Program.

CRIAC fees are gradually being reduced and the CRIAC Non-profit Relief Program has been extended for the coming DC FY 2024. If our application is approved, we expect to receive a credit of about \$10,000.

### EIGHT BURIALS PERFORMED AT PROSPECT HILL LAST YEAR

<b>Name</b>	<b>Burial Date</b>	<b>Age</b>
Hans Martin Sass	May 20	87
Sheila Dare	May 30	76
Mary Whitcomb	August 15	84
Julienne Schnabl	August 20	75
Josef Schnabl	August 20	90
Inge Caldwell	December 14	86
William Caldwell	December 14	86
Elfriede Hubish	December 14	82

#### ***CEMETERY LOTS AVAILABLE***

Prospect Hill still has many prime cemetery lots available. Please contact Superintendent Joe Connell to set up an appointment to view them and learn the details.

### EXCERPT OF ARTICLE FROM THE FAMILIES OF PROSPECT HILL *by Jean Crabil*

#### **Herman Gustave Zoellner Hedwig Marie Grentz Kurtz Zoellner**

In the midst of summer 1860--July, to be more exact--Herman Gustave Zoellner was born in Berlin, Germany. *His* father died while Herman was still quite young, and eventually the boy's family sent him to live with his grandfather, quite close to the Polish border. Under the older man's tutelage, he was to learn the art of cabinetmaking. However, Herman was so near-sighted that it soon became evident that woodworking would not a good livelihood for him. Therefore, he was sent to college, where he studied horticulture. This proved to be a field in which he had great talent.

By 1889 Herman had established a reputation as an excellent horticulturist. That year a Mr. Fortner, who owned a hotel at Thomas Circle in Washington, DC, and an estate in Manassas, Virginia, offered to bring Herman to the Washington area to landscape his Manassas home. Accepting Mr. Fortner's offer, Herman came to America, bringing with him different varieties of trees not grown in America at that time.

The following year he married Marie Pauline Fahrenwald. Born November 27, 1863, in Prussia, Marie was a daughter of a nobleman. She and her sisters were trained in all aspects of servants' work so that they could eventually pass on their knowledge

to their own servants. They learned many skills--how to grow grain, raise geese, make feather pillows and featherbeds, and weave flax into cloth which they bleached and dyed. They were taught needlework and made their own trousseaus containing many items which were intricately embroidered and monogrammed.

During the 1890s Herman and Marie had five children. Charles ("Carl") was born in March 1891; Adam Oscar Ernst ("Oscar") was born in March 1893; Marie Auguste Pauline on December 28, 1894; Harry Walter William on March 1, 1896; and Max, probably in 1898. Oscar, Marie and Harry were baptized at Concordia church, all within the first months of their lives. Daughter Marie unfortunately developed epilepsy when she was nine years old. She had to be institutionalized, and died when she was 23 years old.

After completing his work for Mr. Fortner, Herman was hired by Mr. Blount to landscape "The Oaks." (This land eventually became the site of Dumbarton Oaks, the Naval Observatory and Elverson Castle.) While at "The Oaks," he also served as overseer of the property and lived there with his family. For a while he was superintendent at nearby Oak Hill Cemetery. He then returned to "The Oaks."

On August 18, 1900, Pauline and her two-year-old son, Max, were taking a walk near the pond on "The Oaks" property. With the agility that two-year-olds have, Max suddenly darted out of her reach and fell into the pool. Marie jumped in the water to save him. Workmen on a hill above them saw the accident but couldn't get to Marie and Max in time to save them. They both drowned. Marie was 36 years old.

A year later, on June 16, 1901, Herman married Hedwig Marie Greutz Kurtz at Concordia Church. John Bender, Jacob Iseli and the bride's brother, Guido Greutz, served as witnesses.

Hedwig was born May 8, 1861, in Ensheim Forbach, Alsace-Lorraine. She was the daughter of Jacob Greutz and Marianne Adt. Her maternal grandfather, Alexis Adt, was owner of Adtsche Fabricken in Lottringen, Alsace-Lorraine. His company manufactured papier mache articles such as fire buckets and beautifully decorated boxes for handkerchiefs and jewelry. Family members were quite artistically creative, earning their livings as artists or chefs.

Hedwig's father, Jacob Greutz, a professor, spoke nine languages and served as headmaster of a boys' school. It is quite possible that Hedwig was educated by him at home.

Hedwig's mother, Marianne Adt, died when Hedwig was 12 years old. The following year, on July 23, a daughter, Hedwig Georgina, was born.

Herman purchased property at 3151 Linthicum Place, NW (now 3265 S Street, NW, where the Harvard Library is located), and it is here, beginning in 1902, that Hedwig, Herman and their children lived. At a later date they moved to 3510 T Street, NW.

Herman also owned property at 1511 33rd Street NW. When he returned to "The Oaks," he first rented the 33rd Street house to friends and then sold it to someone else. When the purchaser failed to make payments, it was foreclosed before Herman could repurchase it. This house is now included on the Georgetown Garden Club tour.

After leaving "The Oaks" for the second time, Herman accepted a position at the Agriculture Department's Research Laboratory at Ft. Myer, Virginia, raising flowers for government functions. It was at Ft. Myer that he successfully experimented with keeping lights on all night to grow larger plants in less time. He also worked with the Agricultural Experiment Station in Beltsville, Maryland. As one of his duties there, he was sent to Nome, Alaska, for six months to determine which vegetables and flowers would best grow there.

Herman and Hedwig were active members of Concordia Church. Herman served the church as secretary-treasurer, and both he and Hedwig were members of the Turnverein, a social club.

Herman's occupation was also his great love. He enjoyed having a beautiful vegetable garden and raising unusual flowers at each of his northwest homes. He also grew grapes for wine-making. Hedwig too loved gardening; she also liked to crochet. Physically active, she walked up the steps to the top of the Washington Monument at age 75. "One of her best friends was Mrs. Altorfer, who had been a housekeeper for Louis Kurtz Sr. The friendship continued over the years, and their children are now best friends."

Herman died on August 7, 1921, a victim of cancer. He was 61 years of age. One of his grandchildren remembers that he was laid out in the living room of his 3510 T Street home.

His descendants feel that "Herman Zoellner was a very fine man." He was kindly to the extent of taking in to live with his family Hedwig's former father-in-law, Louis Kurtz, Sr. Louis lived with the Herman Zoellner family from the time his wife died until he himself passed away around 1903.

The landscaping of Dumbarton Oaks and the Naval Observatory remained as testimony to the work Herman Zoellner did to beautify the Nation's Capital.

# FLAGS WILL FLY AGAIN OVER GRAVES OF U. S. MILITARY VETERANS

Memorial Day weekend is always a valuable time of the year to our United States military veterans buried at Prospect Hill.

That's when Superintendent Connell and members of your Board of Trustees place American flags on the military veterans' graves like the annual ritual performed at Arlington and all national cemeteries. To make certain we do not miss your ancestors or family members who served in the U. S. military please no charge for this service.

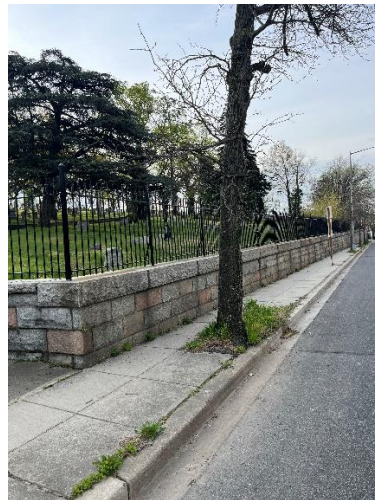
## - X - - - X - - THE FENCES - - X - - - X - -

When I joined the board of trustees at Prospect Hill in 2001, I recall that one of the major projects the board considered undertaking was painting the wrought iron fences along North Capitol Street and Lincoln Road. Several options were considered including hiring a painter or seeking volunteers among the board members and lot owners. Several board members attempted the job along Lincoln Road and soon found out that the job was a monumental task and too much to undertake. The board during those years was very conservative and felt that the cost of having the work done by a professional painter would be more than the cemetery could afford, and so the project was relegated to the bottom of the list of projects where it languished until this year.

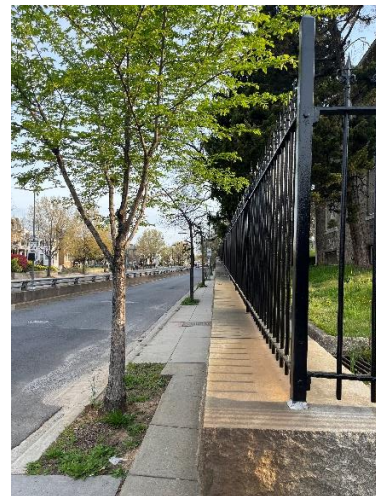
In the fall of 2023 the cemetery received two bequests totaling nearly \$80,000. The board asked superintendent Connell to obtain pricing on painting the fence along North Capitol Street, which is about 1,000 feet long. The specifications called for sand blasting the wrought iron fence down to bare metal, and applying primer and finish coats using Rustoleum products. The proposed cost was \$15,000 which the board approved. The work was done in April 2024 by R & R Tree Services. The following pictures show the result.



Looking South from Bryant Street Street



Looking South from Bryant Street



Looking north from V

*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, Photographs*

# Prospect Hill Cemetery

## Order Form

Your gifts are especially 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 maintenance and operation of the cemetery \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/we plan on attending the Annual Meeting on **May 27, 2024 at 10:00 am**: YES / NO

I would like American flags placed on the following grave sites (no charge):

\_\_\_\_\_

### 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* (\$35) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Prospect Hill Cemetery Children's Burial List*, (\$20) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of books \_\_\_\_\_

Add **\$7** postage for each book purchased **Note New Postage Amount** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Plot Markers for sale** – indicate the name as it is to appear on the marker – one name per marker.

.  
\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 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  
12751 Sudley Manor Dr., Apt 243  
Bristow, VA 20136

Phone: 202-667-0676

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



**PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY**  
c/o Rudolph H Becker  
12751 Sudley Manor Dr., Apt 142  
Bristow, VA 20136