

2201 North Capitol Street, NE,
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Prospect Hill Cemetery

Our Nation's Capital's German-American Cemetery

Summer-Fall

Newsletter

2024

LOT OWNERS MEETING

The 2024 lot owners meeting was held on May 27, 2024. 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.

President Gerd Halusa opened the meeting at 10:05 AM and introduced the board members present: Rudolph Becker, Treasurer, Elisabeth Herold, Secretary, Eva Brandt and Edith Gill, as Trustees. He commented on the outstanding job of Superintendent Joe Connell and his dedicated service.

He reviewed a major project underway to revitalize the wrought iron fencing which surrounds the cemetery by sandblasting to remove old paint and rust and to apply new Rustoleum primer and finish coat paint. Additional fencing was installed at the corner of North Capitol and V Streets for full enclosure of the cemetery.

He reported on the visit by the former German Ambassador Emily Habor prior to her retirement in June 2023 and the Smithsonian Associates tour entitled "Everything German" which included a tour of Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Secretary Herold read the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting. Treasurer Becker reported on financial activities in 2023.

Superintendent Connell reported on his activities during the past year including grass cutting and trimming around headstones, removing trash and debris from the exterior locations around the cemetery, escorting vagrants off the property, 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.

He noted the importance of preventative maintenance of the trees on the cemetery property. He reported that the monument restoration project has been delayed due to staffing shortages at Tegeler Monuments, Inc.

Unfinished business centered on the headstone restoration project and new business focused on removal and replacement of trees. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am. The next lot owners meeting will be on May 26, 2025.

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 or accountant 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.

PHC AWARDED RELIEF BY DOEE OF THE CRIAC FEE FOR 2022-2023

PHC applied to the DC Department of Energy and Environmental (DC DOEE) for relief from the Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC) fee on its water bill for the period from October 1, 2022, until September 30, 2023. Criteria for approval is net income for the previous year is greater than 1%. PHC was awarded \$10,026 in relief applied as a monthly credit of \$835. This is the fifth consecutive year PHC has received this relief.

CEMETERY TREES NEED REPLACEMENT

In 1859 when the cemetery began operations, about 100 small and large cedar trees and willow trees were planted. The life expectancy of cedar trees is 500 years and longer, depending on the species. That of willow trees is much less, in the range of 65 to 100 years. At PHC, the cedar trees seem to be doing fine, but with a few exceptions, most of the willows have died out.

In 1867, more trees were planted: 12 willows and 150 other trees. During the ensuing 150 years, most of these are likely gone as well.

Over the last several years, many of the larger trees have died, succumbing to old age or the effects of ivy growing on their trunks and starving them. A plan is being developed to replace these trees with new trees such as dogwood and other trees native to the Washington Metropolitan area.

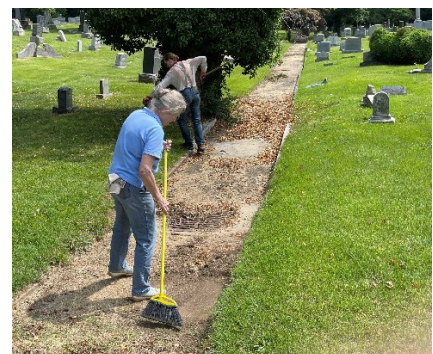
CLEANUP DAY 2024

Cleanup Day was held on Saturday, May 25, 2024. Ten volunteers were on hand. They removed the leaves from the stone riprap in the Memorial Garden, swept the sidewalks leading to and around the Circle. This was in preparation for the Lot Owners Meeting and Memorial Day Service held on Labor Day, May 27, 2024.



Volunteers

Back Row L to R: Bernd Wenzel, Parker Nash, Leighton Stradley, Josh Schultze, Mary Jo Clark
Front Row L to R: Eva Brandt, Christine Hambach, Eva Santorini



Volunteers at work

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

The annual Memorial Day service was held on Monday, May 27, 2024 at 11:00 am. The weather was overcast, but it didn't rain.

Music was provided by the Washington Saengerbund. Rev. Katja Albrecht, German pastor of the United Church of Washington was the homilist and gave the blessing.



Historic Perspective

From The Families of Prospect Hill Cemetery

The William Stadler Family Willibald (William) Stadler Josefa (Josephine) Buchberger Stadler

In the small Bavarian village of Bohmfeld, not far from Eichstatt, Germany, Josefa (Josephine) Buchberger was born on February 13, 1907. Her parents were Simon and Josefa Wittman Buchberger.

Four years previously, on July 4, 1903, in the neighboring village of Workerszell, Willibald (William) Stadler had been born. His mother, Walburga Langscheid Stadler, was also a Workerszell native, born there on November 10, 1871, to Josef Langscheid and Walburga Schopfl Langscheid. A native of Emsing, William's father, Wendelin Stadler, was born on October 22, 1866.

Grandfather Josef Langscheid was born on February 24, 1833; his wife's date of birth was January 15, 1835. William's paternal grandparents were Simon Stadler, born in Emsing on May 18, 1835, and Franziska Bauernfeind Stadler, born January 15, 1834, in Erkertshofen, Germany.

Both William and Josephine received their elementary education in Germany. William then completed an apprenticeship which prepared him to be a machinist.

It was in the fall of 1927 that William came to America, entering through the port of New York City. Since doctors in Germany had already given him the required health check, he did not have to pass through Ellis Island. He established himself in New York, finding work in machine shops.

About 18 months later, Josephine also immigrated to the United States, arriving in New York in February 1929. Also able to bypass Ellis Island, she too settled in New York City.

On July 5, 1929, one day after his 26th birthday, William married Josephine. For the next five years the couple lived in New York. During this time, with the country in the midst of the Great Depression, finding adequate work was very difficult. In 1934, believing job opportunities would be better in the Nation's Capital, the young couple moved to Washington, DC. Here William found permanent employment as a machinist in Washington's Navy Yard.

It was not until 1941, on November 2, that William's and Josephine's first child was born, a daughter whom they named Christine Wallis. The following year, on December 19, her sister, Louise Josephine, arrived.

William remained at the Navy Yard until 1948. At that time, he accepted a position at the National Bureau of Standards, where he remained until he retired in 1962.

When the couple first came to Washington, they lived at 254 15th Street, SE, and 239 17th Street, SE, for short periods of time. By the time their first child was born, they had settled into 1608 C Street, NE. In 1950 they moved to suburban Bethesda, Maryland. In 1986 they moved to a retirement home in Olney, Maryland. William and Josephine were originally members of the Roman Catholic Church.

Both had been baptized as children in Germany, he in Rupertsbuch, and she in Bohmfeld. As a child, William served as an altar boy; he learned the Mass in Latin and would remember it throughout adulthood. In Washington, he and his family attended first Holy Comforter Church and then St. Columba's Church. Later in life they attended and were active in Holy Redeemer and St. Dunstan's Episcopal churches in Montgomery County, Maryland. According to daughter Christine, the family "partook of all things the Nation's Capital had to offer-the museums, art galleries, parades, concerts at Watergate and on the Capitol steps, the cherry blossoms, monuments, the C & O Canal, Great Falls Park, and the Botanical Gardens." This enjoyment of the city enabled William to conduct many impromptu tours of Washington for numerous out-of-town guests from elsewhere in the States or from Germany.

Josephine and William enjoyed the many German-American organizations in Washington. William was a member of the Arminius Masonic Lodge No. 25, the German-speaking lodge of the city. He also belonged to AGAS (Association of German-American Societies of Greater Washington, DC) and Schlaraffia (German Poetry Society). Both he and Josephine participated in the Arminius Social Club, the Schuhplattler und Gebirgstrachten Verein "Washingtonia," Inc. (German dance and costume organization), the Washington Saengerbund (German singing club), and the Concord Club of Washington, D.C. (named after the ship that brought the first large group of German immigrants to the United States in 1683).

William had many other interests. In addition to dancing and singing, he liked to work in his garden and tinker in his workshop. A mostly self-taught man, he could often be found with a book in his hand. Travel always interested him. He loved life and had many friends. An extremely energetic, upbeat person, he found pleasure in ice skating, swimming, hiking and walking.

It was while William, 89, was taking his daily walk that he fell into a ravine. Suffering multiple traumas, he developed pneumonia, which brought his life to an end on October 31, 1992, exactly 65 years from the day he arrived in the United States. He had hoped to live to see his 90th birthday, but this was not to be.

In addition to the interests she shared with her husband-gardening, singing and dancing, swimming, ice skating, traveling, walking and hiking-Josephine liked home-based activities such as sewing, cooking and baking, and participating in her Kaffeeklatsch Klub. She always maintained a clean, neat home in which she liked to entertain their friends. "She was a soft-spoken person who showed her love more by her actions than by her talk," says her daughter.

Josephine died of a stroke on September 9, 1995. She was 88 years old.

-Christine Stadler Tucker; respondent

*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 & Memorial Day Service 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		
	<i>The Immigrants and Their Cemetery: The Story of Prospect Hill (\$35)</i>	\$
	<i>Families of Prospect Hill (\$20)</i>	\$
	<i>Prospect Hill Cemetery Adult Burial List – 1858 thru 2003 (\$35)</i>	\$
	<i>Prospect Hill Cemetery Children's Burial List – 1858 thru 2003 (\$20)</i>	\$
Postage	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!

_____ @ \$35 ea. \$ _____
 # Of markers Name Name Name

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

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Address _____

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Email address: _____

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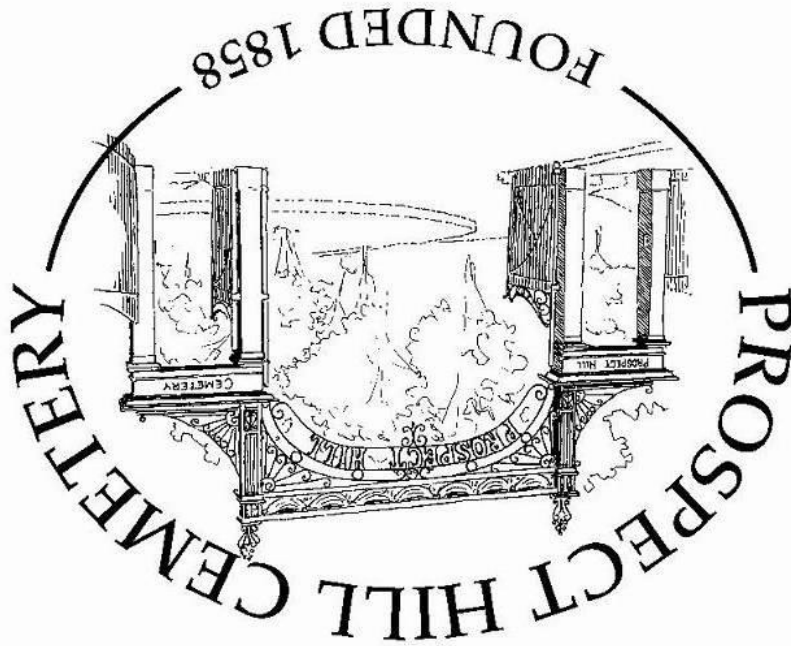
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Thank you for your support of Prospect Hill.

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