



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

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

**2201 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-1103 (202) 667-0676**

**Summer - Fall**

**Newsletter**

**2010**

**HUNDREDS OF BURIAL SITES STILL AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE.  
PRICES COMPARABLE WITH OTHER CEMETERIES**

Don't think for one minute that Prospect Hill is "sold out" of burial sites. We're far from it!

Hundreds of sites are still available to purchase. And at a price comparable to other cemeteries in the area.

Large family sites, single and double depth sites, side by side doubles and sites for cremations are all still available. These saleable sites are scattered throughout the cemetery. Many are in Section L, a prime area on the right side as you drive up the hill after entering the cemetery. Others are near the site of the old chapel in the upper center of the cemetery, and also on the far left, the highest point in the cemetery.

If you, your relatives or friends are undecided as to where your final resting place will be give Prospect Hill some serious thought. It has been declared an historic site in a beautiful setting in the capital city of the United States with the capitol building just down the street. What more convincing site could you find?

And the price for each burial site – \$2,000 – is comparable with other area cemeteries. Opening and closing cost is an additional \$1,700. Tombstone installation, engraving, updates, etc., \$150 minimum; interment of cremains, \$550. Disinterment of single or double depth graves to another site, \$3,000 minimum subject to special conditions (weather, landscape, etc.).

If you're interested in purchasing a burial site (or sites) at Prospect Hill call Superintendent Joe Connell at 202-667-0676. He'll be glad to answer any questions, show you the available sites and help you make your final decision.

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

### **REMEMBERING JEAN CRABILL**

I lost a dear friend on June 16, 2010. And Prospect Hill lost one of its most active, devoted and supportive persons. (See story on Page 5)

I met Jean Crabill in the late 1990s as she was finishing her second book, "Families of Prospect Hill Cemetery." (Her first book, "The Immigrants and Their Cemetery – The Story of Prospect Hill," was written earlier.)

When my husband and I came to the cemetery to search for my great grandparents' grave site I asked Dennis (the superintendent then) if there was a burial book at Prospect Hill listing all the interments. He said no, but he knew a lady on the Board of Trustees who wanted to write one.

I contacted her (Jean Crabill) and our wonderful friendship began. We decided to write a burial book together. We walked the cemetery three times in two years checking and rechecking data. I called us the "Brain and Brawn." She was the brain with her papers and pen. I was the brawn with my long handled pole looking for and finding old buried tombstones.

We would stop and have our lunch sitting on the wall or on one of the benches and discuss our findings. We made a good team and became best of friends.

"The Adult Burial Book" was completed in 2005 followed by "The Children's Burial Book" in 2007 which Jean alone researched and composed.

I will always remember the friendly and fun experiences I had working with Jean. I was among her many friends and relatives when she was laid to rest next to her parents in their large family plot at Prospect Hill. It was an honor to have known and worked with Jean over the years both on the book and with the Board of Trustees. She was a lovely lady. I miss her greatly.

### **ANOTHER HONOR CAME MY WAY**

I gratefully accepted and experienced another honor this year when asked to help cut the ribbon dedicating our new Memorial Grove after the Memorial Day service at the cemetery which followed our annual lot owners meeting.

It's been a memorable year for me as president of your Board of Trustees. The next time you visit the cemetery be sure to drive by the Memorial Grove and its fallen angel statue at the top of the hill.

The grove was a special project to honor Prospect Hill by the National Capital Area Garden Clubs Inc. David Healy, District 1 director and Charmaine Truesdell, the Memorial Grove Project Manager, shared the ribbon cutting ceremony with me.

Even though the day was very hot and humid, to me it was a perfect ending to a perfect day.

Carol Holler, President  
Board of Trustees

## **NEW LAWN MOWER PURCHASED TRIMMER AND CHAIN SAW ARE NEXT REPAIRING RAISED, CRACKED SIDEWALKS IS SCHEDULED**

It's an ongoing task for Superintendent Joe Connell to keep our cemetery always looking at its very best. It's also a task to keep the equipment in tip-top shape.

Early last spring one of the mowers gave out. A new one was immediately purchased for \$3,200. Joe says the trimmer, used around the gravestones, and the chain saw to cut up fallen trees and branches will also need to be replaced soon.

Meanwhile, have you ever experienced walking on the raised-cracked sidewalks throughout the cemetery? We're sure you have. They're potential tripping hazards waiting for a fall. Our board has accepted a very reasonable proposal of \$1,600 from the Lanham Construction Co. to remove and repair the most needed areas. Work will begin sometime in the fall.

One area is at the lower end of the sidewalk running between the house and the maintenance shed. Another is along the sidewalk running adjacent to the side of the house.

Lanham Construction estimator Andy Leinemann was on a committee to choose the best location for placement of the fallen angel statue in our new Memorial Grove. Trustee Gerhard Meinzer was also on the committee.

Andy's parents, Manfred and Elisabeth Leinemann, were kind enough to donate the cost of constructing the angel's new foundation.

Many thanks to the Leinemann family for their interest and support of our Prospect Hill Cemetery.

## **THE GUIDING FORCE BEHIND OUR NEW MEMORIAL GROVE, CHRISTINE HAMBACH, RECEIVES AWARD OF HONOR FOR HER EFFORTS**

People who excel in their efforts are usually rewarded. And such is the case of Christine Hambach of Lanham, Md, a frequent visitor to Prospect Hill and, for more than 30 years, president of the Goddard Garden Club of District 1 of the National Capital Area Garden Clubs.

You may remember Christine and her club were the guiding forces to getting a grant from the other area clubs to further beautify Prospect Hill by planting shrubs, trees and other greenery to screen the unsightly maintenance yard across the fence at the northern boundary.

When the project was completed earlier this year it was named the Memorial Grove. And for her efforts Christine received the 2009 District 1 Award of Honor, a most deserving reward.

During the year Christine frequently plants flowers, pulls weeds, waters and generally takes care of the small, circular garden that surrounds the memorial plaque at the center of the circle where the Prospect Hill chapel once stood.

And for many years Christine has cared for and beautified the Prospect Hill graves of four deceased members of the Washington Saengerbund German choral group of which she is also a member. Even though Christine is not a lot owner, she plans to "join our singers" when her time comes. Christine's dedication to Prospect Hill Cemetery is unprecedented.

Your Board of Trustees congratulates Christine on her most deserving award and hopes she and her club members continue to help beautify our beloved cemetery for years to come.

**Recent Events at Prospect Hill Cemetery**  
**Memorial Day Service, Memorial Grove Dedication, and Spring Cleanup Day**



*Carol Holler Welcomes  
Guests at the Memorial Day  
Service*



*David Healy, District 1 Director  
National Capital Area Garden Clubs*



*Gerhard Meinzer, Charmaine  
Truesdell & Pastor Bodo Schwabe with  
Angel*



*Charmane Truesdell, Carol Holler &  
David Healy Cut Ribbon at Memorial  
Grove Dedication*



*Washington Saengerbund  
Performs at the Service*



*2010 Spring Clean-up Day Volunteers*



## **PROSPECT HILL'S HISTORIAN, JEAN CRABILL, AUTHOR OF BOOKS ABOUT OUR CEMETERY, DIES OF CANCER**

The lady who knew more about the history of Prospect Hill than any other person died of pancreatic cancer on June 16, 2010, at a nursing home in Lebanon, Ohio. She was 76.

Jean Bischof Crabill was returned to her beloved cemetery, Prospect Hill, on June 22, 2010, where she was laid to rest in the Bischof family plot among her parents, grandparents and several other relatives. The plot is located in Section A at the top of the hill across from the site of the old chapel and near the newly dedicated Memorial Grove.



*Jean Crabill*

It was a bright and sunny day when Jean was buried and, despite the 90+ weather, was one of the most beautiful and well attended graveside services at Prospect Hill in recent memory. In attendance, besides other relative and many friends, were members of the Board of Trustees. The Board, of which Jean had been a member for more than 10 years, had purchased the beautiful funeral spray that adorned her casket.

A native Washingtonian, Jean was born in D.C.'s old Homeopathic Hospital. She lived in Greenbelt many years. Five years ago she moved to Fairfield, Ohio, to be near one of her daughters, Gretchen Rhinehimer.

Before Jean's health problems began, she still "attended" most monthly Board meetings by conference call and returned "home" a couple times to attend the annual lot owners meeting. She was devoted to Prospect Hill Cemetery.

As a trustee Jean served, at various times, as secretary, treasurer, and assistant editor of the Newsletter. As board historian, she was the driving force in getting Prospect Hill classified as an historic landmark by the District of Columbia's Historic Preservation Board.

Jean wrote two books on the history and families of Prospect Hill and co-authored two others with Board president Carol Holler on the cemetery's adult burial list and children's burial list. All books are still available for sale. Call the cemetery office or fill out the order form on page 7.

Jean also researched and composed a list and short biographies of 185 Civil War veterans buried at Prospect Hill. She added, "Most likely there are others buried here whose military status is unknown; this would be particularly true of those buried during the war."

Jean is also survived by another daughter, Wendy McClendon of Waldorf, MD; a son, Bruce Crabill of Bowie, Md; five grandchildren and her beloved pet dogs Molly and Niki.

In Lieu of flowers, Jean had requested memorial donations be made to Prospect Hill Cemetery or The Animal Friends Humane Society, 1820 Princeton Road, Hamilton, OH 45011

## FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

(The following poem was read by Trustee Albert Reitz at the annual lot owners meeting on Memorial Day. It was written in 1988 by a senior high school student in the Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps in Homestead, Florida.)

I watched the flag pass by one day  
It fluttered in the breeze.  
A young Marine saluted it  
And then he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform  
So young, so tall, so proud.  
With hair cut square and eyes alert  
He'd stand out in a crowd.

I thought how many men like him  
Had fallen through the years.  
How many died on foreign soil?  
How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down?  
How many died at sea?  
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?  
**NO, FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.**

I heard the sound of taps one night  
When everything was still.  
I listened to the bugler play  
And felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times  
That "taps" had meant Amen.  
When a flag had draped a coffin  
Of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children  
And their mothers and the wives  
Of fathers, sons and husbands  
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard  
At the bottom of the sea.  
Of unmarked graves in Arlington  
**NO, FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.**

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES REMAINS THE SAME

After indicating their willingness to stay aboard for two more years, the seven members of your Board of Trustees were re-elected during the annual lot owners meeting at the cemetery on May 31, 2010.

The members are: Carol Holler (Springfield VA) president; Rudy Becker (Locust Grove, VA) treasurer; Maryanne Probus (Silver Spring MD) secretary; Henry Fankhauser (Silver Spring MD) Newsletter editor; Albert Reitz (Washington DC); Edith Gill (Clifton VA); and Gerhard Meinzer (Hyattsville MD)

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

# 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 maintenance and operation of the Cemetery \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Books for sale

# of books

\_\_\_\_\_ The Immigrants and Their Cemetery: The Story of Prospect Hill (\$30) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Families of Prospect Hill (\$20) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Prospect Hill Cemetery Adult Burial List (\$35) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\$5 postage times number of books \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount of order and donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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 made to the address above. Thank you for your support of Prospect Hill.

### PLEASE CALL FIRST AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

At times, folks have entered the cemetery unannounced seeking help or direction from Superintendent Connell, and found no one at home. Since he is our only employee, sometimes his duties 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

Phone: 202-667-0676

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



**PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY**  
**c/o Rudolph H Becker**  
**2608 Lakeview Parkway**  
**Locust Grove, VA 22508**