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Prospect Hill Cemetery

Our Nation's Capitol's German-American Cemetery

Summer-Fall

Newsletter

2012

THE OLD GATEHOUSE GETS A NEW ROOF

By Rudy Becker, Trustee



Gatehouse with new Roof

Over a year ago, planning for replacement of the roof on the Old Gatehouse at the entrance of Prospect Hill was started. As described in the 2011 Holiday Issue of our newsletter, the process involved many steps which ultimately resulted in the awarding of a contract to Wagner Roofing Co. of Hyattsville, MD, to remove and reinstall the existing tiles, remove and replace the underlayment and flashing, damaged sheathing and rafters, all wood soffits and fascia boards, and all gutters and downspouts. Thanks to generous lot owners, painting of all the remaining woodwork and all security grilles and iron railings on the building at windows and doors was added to the scope of work to provide a complete refreshing of the building.

Although initial testing of the old tiles had indicated that their overall condition was satisfactory for reinstallation, individual tiles were expected to fail more intense scrutiny. As each tile was removed, it was tested to determine its individual condition. Each tile was suspended and rapped with a hammer. If a ringing tone was heard, the tile was deemed good. If a dull thud was heard, the tile was bad. Anticipating from experience that a portion of the tile would fail this final testing, Wagner had located used tile similar in manufacture, type and color and purchased a sufficient number to make up for existing tiles not passing muster.

Work commenced on November 11, 2011 with removal of the old tiles and underlayment on the front porch and installation of new underlayment. This step was completed first to provide a solid platform for scaffolding needed to reach the main roof at the front of the building. Main roof work started with the north (rear) section, followed by the east, south and west sections.

The sequence followed for each section comprised removal of tile, tonal(ring/thud) testing and stacking of tile to be reused, removal of underlayment and flashing, inspection of sheathing and rafters, installation of new sheathing and rafters as necessary, including reinforcement to remove sagging and misalignment of rafters, hip and ridge beams. Concurrently, old gutters, downspouts, soffits and fascia boards were removed. This was followed by installation of new underlayment and flashing, followed by installation of old and replacement tiles. Care was taken during tile installation to insure that the best appearing tiles were installed on the sides (north, east and south) affording the

best views of the building. New soffits and fascia board were installed as well as new wood covering on front porch beams and new asphalt shingles on the small roof at the rear entrance to the building. Inspection of the chimney found loose and missing mortar joints. These and the “wash” at the top were repaired. Final steps were painting of all new and existing woodwork, security bars and railings, and installation of new gutters and downspouts. The work was completed on January 16, 2012

The final cost of this project was \$129,500. It was funded by generous donations and bequests from lot owners and liquidation of investment assets.

Special Thank You’s are due to Superintendent Connell for his outstanding work in coordinating daily with the contractor’s workers and to his family for their patience and understanding during the noise and disruption of the construction process

MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES FEATURE LOT OWNER MEETING AND DEDICATION OF NEW MONUMENT AT GRAVESITE OF JULIUS VIEDT

The weather was glorious on Memorial Day this year (Monday, May 28) at Prospect Hill. The three events that day were all held at the top of the hill where the old chapel once stood. The events were held in the morning to take advantage of cooler temperatures.

Board of Trustees president Carol Holler opened the day’s activities by conducting our annual lot owners meeting during which all committee chairpersons gave their annual reports. Attendance was lower than in past years and a quorum of 15 lot owners was not present. This meant that no official resolutions, such as election of trustees, could be taken up. As a result, the current trustees will continue to serve. The meeting was followed by a delicious lunch and snacks.

Next came the dedication of a monument memorializing Julius Viedt as the first president of the German choral group, Washington Saengerbund, which was established in 1851. Donald Christian, current president of the Saengerbund, remarked about Viedt’s founding activities and Pastor Tabea Muenz of The United Church consecrated the monument. The Saengerbund gathered around the gravesite and sang the renowned folksong “Im schönsten Wiesengrunde” by Wilhelm Steinheuser. Nearly a dozen people representing several generations of descendants of Julius Viedt were present for the dedication.



New Viedt monument



Viedt descendants with Saengerbund President Don Christian

That led into the day's final main event, the annual Memorial Day service. President Holler welcomed everyone, and then invited Pastor Muenz to deliver the opening prayer. She was followed by the Saengerbund's singing of "Die Ehre Gottes in der Natur" by Ludwig van Beethoven.

President Holler presented an Award of Achievement to Alwin Wenzel for his long time support of Prospect Hill through his service as Webmaster. He developed the current format of the website and keeps it current with new and updated material, making it one of the most informative sites on the web. The website can be seen at www.prospecthillcemetery.org.

Trustee Rudy Becker, our treasurer, gave a historical perspective of Prospect Hill about Brevet Brigadier General Joseph Gerhardt, after which the Saengerbund sang, "Wer nur den lieben Gott laest waffen" by J. S. Bach. Their presentation of "Der Lindenbaum", by Franz Schubert, followed Pastor Meunz's inspiring Memorial Day message. and "Introit" from the "Mass in F" by Franz Schubert brought the service to a close.

Everyone in attendance strolled down to the gatehouse for more refreshments and conversation.



Pastor Tabea Muenz delivers pastoral message



Webmaster Alwin Wenzel receives Award of Achievement from President Carol Holler



Rudy Becker reads historical perspective



Saengerbund performs during service



Guests enjoy Saengerbund performance

CLEAN UP DAY AT PROSPECT HILL

Over a dozen lot owners, children, grandchildren and friends of Prospect Hill met at the cemetery on Saturday, May 12, 2011 to spruce up the place for the upcoming lot owners meeting and Memorial Day service. It was truly a family affair.

As in past years, the volunteers raked leaves along the walkway running from the house to the Memorial Grove, trimmed tree branches overhanging walkways in the cemetery, raked leaves in the Memorial Garden, and weeded gardens and gravesites near the circle at the top of the hill. The ladies restroom was given a thorough cleaning and a new coat of paint.

Refreshments and snacks were provided for all to enjoy. The weather was perfect for working at the cemetery.



Young volunteer lending a helping hand



Cleaning up the Memorial Garden



Volunteer joyfully painting a restroom wall

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Earlier this year a major project was completed at Prospect Hill – the new roof on the old gatehouse. This major capital expense could not have been undertaken without the generosity of you, the lot owners of Prospect Hill. Your contributions over the years and at the time the work was done enabled your board of trustees to undertake the project.

As reported on elsewhere in this newsletter, there is still more to be done at Prospect Hill. Repair of sidewalks is necessary for the safety of visitors to the cemetery and recovery from storm damage is a frequent need. These special needs will be difficult to undertake without your continued support of Prospect Hill.

I'd like to close by thanking Superintendent Joe Connell for all of his hard work in keeping our cemetery in beautiful condition throughout the year.

Carol Holler, President
Board of Trustees

SEVERAL WAYS YOU CAN HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES AND HELP MAINTAIN THE CEMETERY AND GATEHOUSE

There are several ways during the year you can honor your loved ones buried at Prospect Hill and at the same time help maintain the grounds and the old stone gatehouse.

The first, and most productive over the years, is contributing to the Year-End Holiday Memorial Fundraising Campaign. But contributions will be gladly accepted anytime throughout the year.

Another way is to transfer appreciated stocks and bonds to our Prospect Hill brokerage account. You'll receive a federal tax deduction for the value of the stock(s), and will not have to pay a capital gains tax calculated on the original basis of the stock(s).

Still another way is to include Prospect Hill in your will (called a bequest). We have received several such bequests in the past and would welcome any in the future.

Consult your attorney, accountant or broker for more information on how you can transfer your stocks, bonds or charitable bequest to Prospect Hill.

PROSPECT HILL SUFFERS DAMAGE DURING SEVERE WINDSTORM

Early in the morning of June 30, 2012, Superintendent Joe Connell was awakened to howling winds, crashing thunder, flashing lightning, thrashing trees, and tree limbs falling everywhere. The severe storms that swept across the eastern seaboard that night had struck Prospect Hill too. Power was out for the entire next day, fortunately not as long as in many other parts of the country. Connell contacted R & R Tree Service of Silver Spring, MD and they arrived within a few hours. They worked all day on June 30 and July 1 cutting up the fallen limbs and cleaning up debris, at a cost of \$3,500. Remarkably, no tombstones were damaged and the new roof performed as designed.



Storm damage in Section D



Storm damage in Section D



Fallen Tree in Section L
above V Street

PROJECTS IN THE PLANNING STAGE

There is always something to fix at the cemetery. Last year the lower end of the concrete sidewalk leading from the house to the Memorial Garden was reworked. That same sidewalk needs additional work. A section about halfway along it has been lifted by large tree roots, creating a dangerous tripping hazard. And the steps at the top of the sidewalk have irregular step heights, making climbing them somewhat tricky. Finally, the sidewalk leading across the cemetery from the aforementioned steps to the center roadway also has several sections which have been lifted by tree roots.



Sidewalk between Sections E & I
damaged by tree roots



Sidewalk in Section E
damaged by tree roots

The cost to rework and repair these areas is estimated to be \$3,500. We hope to accomplish the work this year.

HAVE A STORY TO TELL? LET'S HEAR FROM YOU

Do you have an interesting story related to a loved one buried at Prospect Hill you'd like to share with our readers – like Mrs. Little's article in a recent issue of the Newsletter on her grandfather's experiences in the Civil War? If so, we'd like to hear from you. Jot down your story and send it to us. We'd be glad to consider it for a future Newsletter.

Or if you have any ideas or suggestions (or complaints) concerning the upkeep, expenses, marketing or beautification of our cemetery we'd like to hear from you, too. Write us at the cemetery's address or email us at rbecker2004@yahoo.com

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* (\$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 _____

\$5 postage for each book purchased \$ _____

Total amount of book order 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. 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, 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.

Phone: 202-667-0676

Website: www.prospecthillcemetery.org



PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY

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