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# Prospect Hill Cemetery

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

**HOLIDAY ISSUE**

**NEWSLETTER**

**2018**

*Generosity*  
changes everything

## **NO INCENTIVE GIFTS GIVEN! YOUR YEAR-END MEMORIAL DONATIONS HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES AND HELP PRESERVE OUR CEMETERY**

Times are tough, we know. The financial situation nationwide has been unstable for several years. All of us have been cautious about how we spend and donate our money.

Mail boxes get stuffed with pleas and holiday incentive gifts (address labels, calendars, wrapping paper, cards, note pads, etc.) from charities of all kinds seeking donations of all amounts. You wonder where they received your name and where the money really goes. Some charities repeat their pleas week after week.

But here at Prospect Hill the formula is different. We give no incentive holiday gifts and know exactly how and where our donations are spent.

As we have mentioned many times before, all contributions to our Year-End Holiday Memorial Fundraising Campaign go entirely toward the upkeep, expenses and beautification of our historic cemetery and the old stone house residence of Superintendent Joe Connell.

So, we are appealing to you on a more personal basis. Let's not forget our own departed loved ones during this joyous holiday season when memories of happier days gone by keep filling our hearts and minds. Your donation to Prospect Hill is actually like a personal holiday present to your departed loved one.

Contributions have fallen in recent years partly because the list of faithful contributors continues to shrink. We continue to operate under financial pressure. Let's not let that continue!

If you wish to honor your departed loved one with a Year-End memorial donation, which we hope you do, please indicate it on the Order Form on page 7. A complete list of contributors and departed loved one(s) they are honoring will be printed in the Spring 2019 Newsletter. (The amount contributed will not be mentioned.)

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.

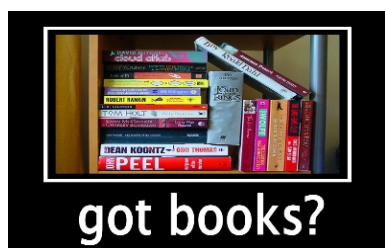
Thanks to all for your continued support of Prospect Hill.

## OTHER WAYS TO HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES

Another opportunity for you to honor your deceased loved ones and contribute to the 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.

Still another way you can help ensure the future of our cemetery is to include 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. Several bequests enabled replacement of the Gatehouse roof.

Consult your attorney 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.



## CEMETERY PUBLICATIONS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Prospect Hill publications provide interesting and valuable information about people buried at the cemetery as well as historical information about how they contributed to the growth of Washington, DC, especially during its formative years. It is important for the future preservation of Prospect Hill that we inform our children and grandchildren about the cemetery so

that they may support it after we have departed.

*Prospect Hill Cemetery Adult Burial List*, compiled by president Carol Holler and our former cemetery historian the late Jean Crabill, may rouse your curiosity and make you want to know more. Nearly 300 pages, the book lists all burials of persons 14 years of age or older through year 2003. It has been a "best seller," having already been reprinted once, and is available for \$35 (plus \$5 postage).

*Prospect Hill Cemetery Children's Burial List*, a companion to the Adult Burial List, records all burials of persons younger than 14 years of age, and is available for \$20 plus \$5.

And if you'd like to read many interesting mini-biographies of persons interred in Prospect Hill, another book, *The Families of Prospect Hill*, is also available. Written in collaboration with about 160 lot owners and descendants, the book contains 496 pages with many photographs, and is priced at \$20 plus \$5.

Perhaps the most historic of Crabill's books about our cemetery is her first one, *The Immigrants and Their Cemetery: The Story of Prospect Hill*. This book contains the original history written around 1949 by Catholic University German Professor Dr. Paul Gleis (who worked from the original cemetery's Board minutes, written in German until about 1920), then from 1950 to the present time, and tells about the early German-American immigrant history in Washington, DC. It contains 194 pages and costs \$30 plus \$5. All books may be purchased by using the Order Form on page 7.

## UNITED CHURCH HOLDS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE



This year the Annual Christmas Service at The United Church/Die Vereinigte Kirche will be held on Sunday, December 16, 2018 at 3:00 PM. As in years past, the Washington Saengerbund German choral group will perform during the

The church is located at 1920 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006

After the service, refreshments will be served in the church social hall downstairs.

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



## UPDATE ON THE WATER BILL ISSUE aka CRIAC

Good News!

The Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC) for FY 2019 (Effective 10/1/2018) has been reduced to \$23.00 from \$25.18 in FY 2018. This will result in a \$1,650 savings. The rate will increase again in FY 2020 to 25.58.

More Good News!

DC Water and Sewer Authority (DCWASA) has developed an amendment to its Customer Assistance Program which will provide a significant one-year discount of 90 percent of the CRIAC fee for FY 2019 (October 1, 2018 thru September 31, 2019) to cemeteries and other non-profits. Organizations would need to provide proof of nonprofit status and demonstrate need by proving that the CRIAC fee is at least 0.75% 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. If the amendment is approved and Prospect Hill's request is approved, the savings for the one year would be about \$14,000.

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Carol Holler has stepped down as President but will continue as a Trustee. Gerd Halusa has been elected as President.

Carol joined the board in 2000 as a trustee. She had been a volunteer supporter for several years before. She assisted former cemetery historian Jean Crabill in compiling the Adult and Children's Burial Lists, spending countless hours traversing the cemetery grounds visiting each grave to capture information not in the record books. She was elected president in 2001 and has served in that role ever since except for two years when she served as Treasurer. She led the search for a new superintendent in 2007, selecting Joseph Connell who was approved by the board. Joe has proven to be an excellent choice as evidenced by his dedication to the cemetery and the families of those buried there. The cemetery grounds have never looked better. During Carol's tenure, several major projects have been completed including replacement of the roof on the Stone House, replacement of crumbling concrete sidewalks, and renovation of the main bathroom in the Stone House among others. She reestablished the annual Clean Up Day and Memorial Day Service. We are thankful for her leadership over the last seventeen years.

Gerd Halusa has been a trustee on the Prospect Hill board since 2013. He has fulfilled the comptroller role as well occasional secretary. He has also served as comptroller and secretary on the boards of other non-profits in the Washington, DC area. We look forward to his leadership in the future.

### A Message from Gerd

My name is Gerd Halusa. I was born in Germany, immigrated to the United States in 1964, and became aware of the Prospect Hill Cemetery when my wife attended the Memorial Day meetings singing with the Washington Saengerbund of which she was a member.

I have followed the events at the cemetery for years and finally became active in its operation as a board member. During this time Carol Holler was the president of the organization and has recently expressed the wish to step back from that responsibility but to remain as a board member.

Carol Holler has been the president of Prospect Hill Cemetery for many years and my impression during the time I have been able to observe her handling of the position was always positive. I hope I can be at least half as good in taking over from her.

Gerd Halusa

# CEMETERY PLOTS DIGITIZATION PROJECT SURVEY RESULTS

Twenty-two people have responded so far to the survey, with the following results:

	Yes	No	Unsure	No response
Would you use such a system?	9	11	2	0
Do you think people doing genealogical searches would use it?	17	1	2	2
Do you think Prospect Hill should have such a resource?	14	2	1	5

## Comments

- Has anybody looked into “find a grave.com” to see if they offer this service. The system should be offsite, so anyone can locate a grave.
- Does the cemetery have the resources available for such a project – Ed.: We have received a grant which partially funds it and will ask for more.
- I use the Congressional Cemetery website a great deal. I would be happy to support the installation of this system. If there is a gap in money raised, please contact me.
- I have been doing genealogy research and this would be another great source. I was expecting a map, though, actually locating the grave. Not just Plot # and such. It looks similar to Find-a-Grave, but you could ensure that all graves are documented.
- I do not need it. However, it is excellent for those who do. I am in favor of getting it.
- How many calls does the Superintendent receive in a year” Can we afford this cost with water bills being so costly? I would like to know how we do this service now to make an informed response.
- Please, Please, Please Do Not do this! Save the money. Unless you can show profit two time the cost, it is not needed. We have almost no sales or new lot usage. Please, Please, Please!
- YES!! Besides myself, I know of 2 other cousins who have been trying to research our family there. It is very difficult getting any answers/responses from this cemetery!
- Seems too expensive for yearly fees to maintain it.
- I think the cemetery should purchase this system to keep up with the times.
- Probably should get it because we are a very old cemetery. However, I believe there are programs which can achieve the same results, at less cost.
- Without personal need I question the cost. Perhaps genealogical search-for-profit companies might pay all or part?

The board will consider these results and comments before making a final decision.

## LET’S MAKE OUR INTERESTING WEBSITE EVEN MORE INTERESTING

Have you checked out our Website recently? New items are added periodically. Learn about some of the interesting people buried in Prospect Hill. Or read about our cemetery and the Civil War. There’s a list of more than 100 Civil War soldiers buried there.

If you missed a recent issue of our Newsletter, archives of back issues can also be found along with a list of area German-American organizations.

If during visits to our beloved cemetery you’ve taken photos or snapshots of the grounds, tomb stones, or during special occasions such as the annual meeting, why not share them for display on our Website. Please send all items to Rudy Becker, 2608 Lakeview Parkway, Locust Grove, VA 22508. Or email him at [rbecker2004@yahoo.com](mailto:rbecker2004@yahoo.com).

Any historic document such as old sales slips for tombstones or grave sites would also be interesting items. Let’s make our Website as informative and interesting as possible.

## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND MANY THANKS FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND SUPERINTENDENT CONNELL

As we approach the upcoming holidays our thoughts naturally turn to memories of the good times spent with loved ones who have passed on. We'll also be thinking about the good times we anticipate celebrating with our current loved ones, families and friends

Let the good times roll, but let's not forget the true meaning of these joyous times: to be thankful to our Creator who gave us our life to live.

If you're thinking of something different to give as a gift, I have a suggestion. For folks who may not be familiar with our historic cemetery, or those who'd like to find out more about it, the four books about Prospect Hill mentioned on page 2 are available to purchase.

But what might be your most significant gift of all, one that honors your loved one(s) interred in our cemetery, is a contribution to our Year-End Holiday Memorial Fundraising Campaign. These contributions are like a personal gift to your deceased loved ones to keep their final resting place beautiful and preserved.

Your Board of Trustees and Superintendent Connell extend their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all donors and volunteers who have given their time and generosity during the year to help in the upkeep and preservation of our beloved cemetery.

All of us wish all of you a prayerful Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Gerd Halusa, President  
Board of Trustees

#### **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.

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

*Rudolph Becker, Editor*

# 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 of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 photos on page 5.

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 # of markers      Name      Name      Name

**Total amount of book order, plot markers and/or 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  
 2608 Lakeview Parkway  
 Locust Grove, VA 22508

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



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