



OAK HILL CEMETERY Historic Preservation Foundation

OAK HILL CEMETERY

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Washington, DC 20007
Telephone: 202-337-2835
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Email: info@oakhillcemeterydc.org

Cemetery Hours

Office and Grounds:
M - F 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Saturday 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
(Weekends and holidays walk-in gate only,
no drive-in access. Gates will close, weather
permitting. Please observe visiting tips at
front entrance)

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From the President

Dear Friends of Oak Hill,

On behalf of the Board, staff and crew, we wish to thank you for your ongoing interest and support of Oak Hill. All of us who work here daily or weekly, our staff, volunteers, and board members, strive to make the Oak Hill Cemetery a place of beauty and tranquility by preserving the manicured natural spaces and the beautiful funerary sculpture that defines our grounds. We attempt to preserve the history and the life stories while maintaining an urban garden where families and visitors can grieve, remember and learn.

Our mission is made possible by the purchase of burial plots and by generous gifts that we receive each year from individuals such as you, as well as foundations and other community partners. Please understand that it is deeply appreciated. We had another productive year in 2019, strengthening our finances, improving our grounds, adding new burial options and restoring many monuments. New drainage has been added, and quite a few steps, stairs and paths have been made safer and more attractive. Our social outreach continues to grow on several media platforms. Our next major project remains the restoration of the Historic Bigelow Iron Fence along "R" Street, and we are making good progress learning about technique and financing. Please remember the Oak Hill Cemetery by joining the "Corcoran Society", and do come to visit.

Sincerely,

George G. Hill, President
Oak Hill Cemetery Historic Preservation Foundation



OAK HILL CEMETERY

Historic Preservation Foundation Newsletter

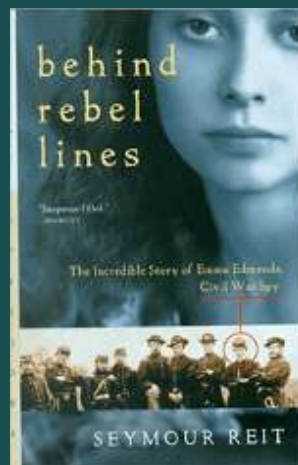
Spring Events by Lois Brown and Liz Mizell

Second Chapel Café Book Club

We are excited to announce that the second Chapel Café Book Club will take place on Wednesday, **March 11th, 2020** at 7:00pm in the historic Renwick Chapel. The book read is *Behind Rebel Lines* by Seymour Reit, the incredible story of Emma Edmonds, a Civil War Spy. Oak Hill Cemetery is the final resting place of many Civil War spies whose stories are rarely told.

In 1861, when war erupted between the States, President Lincoln made an impassioned plea for volunteers. Determined not to remain on the sidelines, Emma Edmonds cropped her hair, donned men's clothing, and enlisted in the Union Army. Posing in turn as a slave, peddler, washerwoman, and fop, Emma became a cunning master of disguise, risking discovery and death at every turn behind Confederate lines.

Judi Cochran, our Foundation Board Member, will lead an interactive discussion with the participants. To sign-up email loisbrown@oakhillcemeterydc.org. Light refreshments will be served compliments of the Foundation.



Oak Hill Cemetery Historic
Preservation Foundation presents

SPRING DOG DAY 2020

Saturday, March 28, 2020 from 8am - 2pm

Bring your pups for a leisurely walk around Oak Hill Cemetery.
Donations are welcome.



OAK HILL CEMETERY

Historic Preservation Foundation Newsletter

Carving is an ART

At the end of April, Clift Seferlis, Board Member of the Oak Hill Cemetery Historic Preservation Foundation and a local well-known professional stone carver, will lead our stone carving workshop. This will be our second stone carving workshop at our Carriage House; last fall's inaugural class was well attended and yielded many beautiful pieces.

The workshop is a relaxed introduction to stone carving and the basic tools and techniques required for three-dimensional carving. Though designed for beginners, individuals who are actively working on their own pieces are encouraged to attend and bring them. Materials and tools will be provided, including power tools and an air compressor.

To read more about this event and how to register, please visit www.oakhillcemeterydc.org/events



NEW! Shred-it Day Coming to Oak Hill – April 11, 2020

Come shred your old documents on our grounds! We are offering a convenient way for residents of the community to come together and shred their confidential documents. This shred-it day helps to raise awareness of the importance of information security and prevents identity theft. Although technology and electronic documents have helped to reduce overall use of paper in the United States, paper is certainly not a thing of the past.

By Oak Hill sponsoring this shred-it day, your home, business and organization reduces your environmental footprint. Lastly, this shred-it day is cost-free to you, however donations are always welcome!

Date: Saturday, April 11, 2020

Time: 9:00a.m. – 11:00a.m.

Location: Oak Hill Cemetery

Look forward to seeing you shred it!





Grounds Report by Scott Staples

It's February as I write this, and while in no way is winter over, spring is coming fast. We are getting excited for the change and the return of our bird and plant friends.

Along with the beauty of the daffodils, magnolias, dogwoods, and cherries, I'd like to mention a beautiful native wildflower here on the grounds, a little spring ephemeral called *Claytonia virginica*, also known as eastern spring beauty. Blooming from March to May, the plant retreats underground during the heat of summer. The pale pink to white flowers are individually quite small but as a mass they're lovely. Named for John Clayton, an early Virginian plant explorer, it is a nice example of myrmecochory, or seed dispersal by ants. There's a small protein and lipid packet on the outside of the seed that they feed to their larvae. The ants take the seed back to their nest and when they're done with it, they put the seed in the colony's trash heap which serves as starter fertilizer for the seed.

One of the reasons I mention the *Claytonia* is that I'm happy to see it returning to Pettit Circle. After multiple tillings, top-dressings, grading and re-grading, we finally finished the re-contouring and re-seeding of Pettit Circle (also known as Fowler Circle) on North Hill.

Also, on the hillsides of North Hill we experimented with mixing in grass seed while hand-blending a custom soil of LeafGro® compost with topsoil from Merrifield Garden Center. Quality does matter. After a fine misting we then used the moistened

mix of topsoil, compost, and seed like frosting on a layer cake.



On the Ellipse, what started as a simple dethatching and topdressing turned into a full recontouring. Because the Ellipse is not heavily trafficked (and because of various burrowing critters) compaction is rare and coring is not needed. Instead, what was needed was to remove the thick layer of thatch that grass inevitably produces. The soil mix we used to top-dress the Ellipse arrived a bit too heavy for the weather conditions. The right texture and fertility are what we're trying to achieve: neither too rich or lean, nor too heavy or too light.

By the time we were satisfied with our grading of these areas we were quite late putting down grass seed. We did get a good germination rate considering the late seeding and as a crew, we are all agreed that the stage is set for a great lawn this year.



A brief word about vases. Please, no glass vases (or Christmas ornaments) in the cemetery as it is a danger to the grounds crew. As far as plants, I highly recommend peonies for planting. They perform reliably from year to year and are quite long-lived. In old farm and cottage gardens they're often one of the plants still thriving long after planting. Also, recommended are Hellebores, often called the Christmas rose.

Please join us in having a wonderful spring. Drop by and say hello!

Young Trees Come (again) to Oak Hill! by Liz Mizell

We were thrilled to have been selected for a second time as a recipient for a Casey Trees Community Tree Planting Day. After establishing great rapport with Casey Trees from our first community tree-planting day in fall of 2017, this local organization and many volunteers were eager to return to our grounds. On Saturday, November 16, 2019 we hosted over 50 volunteers for this planting! This planting allows us to offer a volunteer opportunity on our grounds; and "volunteer opportunities at Oak Hill" are a frequent question. This opportunity filled very quickly!

Our relationship with Casey Trees has flourished into a great and lasting partnership. We value Casey Trees mission, to restore, enhance and protect the tree canopy of the nation's capital. The story of Washington, D.C.'s trees extends back to our first President, George Washington, a tree-lover and accomplished horticulturalist who chose the city's location and the man who designed it --- Pierre L'Enfant.

We sincerely thank Paul Coraggio (our Casey Trees liaison), our dedicated volunteers, and our entire staff for making this day such a huge success! Because of their tireless efforts --- we have made Mr. Washington very proud!



Contributors to Oak Hill



The Oak Hill Cemetery and the Oak Hill Cemetery Historic Preservation Foundation are honored to recognize all of the individuals, foundations and organizations who generously support our important work. Below is a list of Annual Donors whose gifts were received from January 1 – December 31, 2019.

(Gifts in Honor of* and Gifts in Memory of**)



The Corcoran Society
Our leadership giving society is named for William W. Corcoran, the man whose generous gift of land made the Oak Hill Cemetery possible. The Corcoran Society recognizes those individuals, companies and foundations that demonstrate their commitment and enthusiasm for Oak Hill with an annual gift of \$1,000 or more.

Renwick Circle (\$10,000+)
James Renwick, Jr., architect of the Smithsonian Building and the original Corcoran Gallery (now the

Renwick Gallery) and St. Patrick’s in New York City, also designed the iron enclosure and the Gothic Chapel located on the south end of the cemetery’s ellipse.
Mr. and Mrs. Mario H. Boiardi
Mr. David W. Douglas
Mr. Joseph Kaempfer and Mrs. Georgiana Warner**
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Richert
The Alisann and Terry Collins Foundation**

Planned Gift
Eleanor Johnston Ford Trust

de la Roche Circle (\$5,000+)
Captain George F. de la Roche, a master engineer, was tasked with

supervising the original plotting and grading of Oak Hill as well as the creation of a grand bank along Rock Creek.
Mr. L. Richard Fischer
Mrs. Lillian Peeler
The Reifenberger Family**

Georgetown Garden Club

Rock of Dumbarton Circle (\$2,500+)
Adjacent to the original Parrot’s Woods, the Rock of Dumbarton was another of the original land parcels at the heart of Oak Hill.
Anonymous
Mrs. Judith B. Cochran

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Parrot’s Woods Circle (\$1,000+)
Named for one of the original land parcels comprising Oak Hill.

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Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Krauss-In memory of Theodor Wundt Krauss
Dr. Michelle A. Krowl–In memory of John G. Nicolay
Mrs. Ellen S. Lee–In memory of Stephen F. Lee
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Mrs. Barbara West–In memory of Charles and Christine West, Maurice and Elizabeth Heartfield and The Heartfield Family
Mr. Eric Wolman–In memory of Dr. Sandra Wolman
Ms. Peggy M. Wood–In memory of Dr. Catherine de Nerville

If you notice an omission or oversight, please bring this to the attention of Lois Brown, Director of Development, and she will be happy to work with you to address it.



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