



OAK HILL CEMETERY

Historic Preservation
Foundation

OAK HILL CEMETERY

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Washington, DC 20007
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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 walk-in gate only and no drive-in
access on holidays either) weather permitting.
Please observe rules posted at gate.

Oak Hill Cemetery Historic Preservation Foundation Board of Directors

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Clift A. Seferlis
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and Foundation Operations
Elizabeth Mizell, Director of Development,
Communications and Individual Giving

Oak Hill Cemetery Board of Managers

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David C. de Vicq, Vice President
Loretta Castaldi, Treasurer
Patricia Berl, Secretary
David W. Jackson, Superintendent



Bigelow Iron Fence Update

As we reported in the last newsletter, the 28th Street Gate was painted a yellow-green that corresponds with the color found in the microscopic paint analysis done on the fence to determine its original color. We received lots of feedback about the color choice, some more strongly opinionated than others (as you might imagine), but all who participated were fairly direct in their opinions. The result of the feedback was exactly 50% green vs. 50% black. At the end of the day the comments were exactly the same number favoring the green as there were favoring the black.

Later on, in the September Old Georgetown Board meeting the members of that board directed us to paint the fence the original yellow-green. Their reasoning was that if we are restoring the fence to its original condition, that restoration should include the original paint color, yellow-green. So, the fence will be painted green, most likely as the sections are done. We are determining in what sequence the fence will be restored as of now. A final iron contractor has yet to be engaged but we have four under consideration and are awaiting final proposals from them.

Due to safety considerations and the condition of the fence, the Oak Hill Cemetery Historic Preservation Foundation Board of Directors has approved the continuation of restoring the Bigelow Iron Fence. Continuing past the first segment of the restoration will depend on funding. Please consider our fence project in your year-end giving, even if you have already given to the cemetery this year. This large project will require additional pledges beyond the level of our current donations. Once an iron contractor is selected, we will move out with the first segment. We will keep you posted on the project. In the meantime, help turn our fence green with your donation. This is a project that will result in extending the life of the fence for another 150+ years!





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Fall Featured Events by Lois Brown and Liz Mizell

NEW! Carving is an ART

The Carriage House Stone Carving Class was held the week of September 23. The class was a relaxed introduction to stone carving and the basic techniques of three-dimensional carving were taught by well-known professional stone carver, Cliff Seferlis. Cliff is a board member of our Oak Hill Cemetery Historic Preservation Foundation. The class (which we hope to offer again in the spring) was designed for beginners. However, individuals who were actively working on their own pieces of stone were encouraged to attend and bring their works of art to get Cliff's expert advice. At the end of the course, participants left with their finished pieces. He is an independent stone restoration sculptor who has spent over 30 years in the greater Washington metropolitan area and in Maine restoring stonework. We are thankful to have such a talented board member and appreciated the time he took to teach this class.



David Bell and other architects from Bell Architects at the stone carving class in September

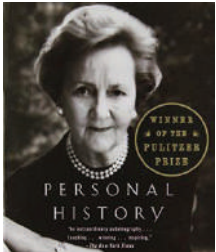
Dog Day in October

Our annual Fall Dog Day was Sunday, October 6. Dog Day is always a special day at Oak Hill because we do not usually allow dogs on our grounds. This dog day was different from last year because we honored Saint Francis of Assisi. St. Francis of Assisi is known as the Patron Saint of Animals. On October 4, people all over the world celebrated the feast day of the St. Francis of Assisi. It is customary that in remembrance of St. Francis' love for all creatures, animals are led to churches for a special ceremony called the "Blessing of the Animals", however, in our case we offered this blessing on our grounds. We had close to 100 dogs attend. Bark, bark!



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NEW! Chapel Café Book Club

Our Chapel Café Book Club had on Wednesday, November 13th in the Historic Renwick Chapel was a huge success! The book club discussed Katharine Graham's *Personal History* published in 1997, a Pulitzer Prize winner. Judi Cochran, Historic Preservation Foundation Board Member, led the discussion as participants enjoyed refreshments, compliments of the Preservation Foundation.

Community Tree Planting, Casey Trees Returns!!

November is a beautiful month at Oak Hill. We are thrilled to have been chosen for one of Casey Trees Community Tree Plantings. This will be the second time we have hosted Casey Trees and are thankful for this partnership. The first planting was held in November 2017, and we can happily report that those trees are thriving! This year we were very fortunate to have 60 volunteers sign-up to plant trees on November 16th—this opportunity filled very quickly, we look forward to hosting them.





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Smithsonian Libraries Advisory Board Visit

On Tuesday, November 5 we had the pleasure of hosting the Smithsonian Libraries Advisory Board. Board members were led on a tour throughout the cemetery by Smithsonian Libraries Advisory Board Alumnus and Oak Hill President, George Hill and Superintendent, Dave Jackson. It was a beautiful fall day and guests enjoyed learning about the cemetery's historical figures, including numerous Smithsonian-related notables.



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