HERITAGE GAZETTO ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY'S PHOTO CONTEST

arlier this year, Grounds Conservation Manager Kymberly Mattern spearheaded an effort to put on Congressional Cemetery's first official



First place in Category: Dogs Photo by: Jessica Hagerman

photo contest. The contest had six categories: built environment, dogs, landscape, people, sunrise/sunset, and a category solely for kids. We ended up receiving over 100 total entries, which made selecting the winners extremely difficult. The reward for winning each category included having the photo featured on our social media accounts, printing and hanging the photos on our walls, and using the photos for HCC "swag." We've printed a few of the winners here, but to see these entries in their full color, please join us for an art show and happy hour on May 23. Check congressionalcemetery.org for more information about this event.

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First place in Category: Built Environment Photo by: Nan Raphael



First place in Category: People Photo by: Jim Havard

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

It's been a cold Spring this year, but watching the cherry trees blossom in Historic Congressional Cemetery (HCC) is a wonderful reminder that warmer weather is right around the corner—and a pleasant distraction while it's still chilly! Despite the cold weather, the K9 Corps has not missed a beat. Many of its members visit HCC nearly every day. As I walk my dog, Penny, not only do I get a chance to see the sun rise in one of Washing-



ton D.C.'s most beautiful places, but I also get to catch up with friends and neighbors. I can't imagine a better way to start the day.

The K9 community brings dozens of people to HCC every day, but there are many other ways to engage with this remarkable and historic institution. One is through the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery (APHCC), the group that oversees HCC. At the APHCC March board meeting, two new members were elected: Kirsten Sloan and Robyn Hinson-Jones. Kirsten is a Capitol Hill resident with many connections to Congressional Cemetery. She has been one of the "Dozen Decent Docents" for the last ten years, and is a K9 Corps member with her dog Bella. She is also a member of the Christ Church Washington Parish where she has served on the vestry and is currently a liturgist. Kirsten is Vice President for Policy for the American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network. Robyn Hinson-Jones, also a resident of Capitol Hill, is retired from a long career at the State Department. While there, among other responsibilities, Robyn traveled the world as an inspector responsible for ensuring embassies' adherence to State Department policies and practices. Robyn is a docent at the Library of Congress and volunteers with the Humane Rescue Alliance. She and her husband are also site owners at HCC. Robyn and Kirsten bring many years of experience and wonderful perspectives to the APHCC board, and we are delighted that they have agreed to join.

Beyond board membership, many people engage with APHCC through its different committees. We're incredibly grateful for those who serve on the K9 Committee, Building and Grounds, Communications and Development. Each of these groups is chaired by an APHCC board member, and participating in them is a wonderful way to help Congressional Cemetery explore new projects, manage the K9 Corps, raise funds and share information about HCC with the community. If you are interested in joining a committee, please reach out to Paul Williams at pwilliams@congressionalcemetery.org.

There also are a wide range of volunteer activities at HCC, everything from adopting a plot and planting a garden on it to becoming a docent and leading free tours for the public or joining us at one of the many events that are held throughout the year. To get an events calendar, download a copy from the Events page on the Congressional Cemetery website or visit our Gatehouse for your own hard copy.

Keep an eye out for APHCC board members at upcoming events in the Cemetery in the coming months. They will have their name tags on, so even if you don't know them, please introduce yourself and say hello. I know they are looking forward to meeting you, answering questions you may have about HCC and learning what brought you to this amazing place. I look forward to seeing you there!

-Susan Urahn



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

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The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are deductible to the extent permitted by federal tax laws. Funding for the preservation and maintenance of Historic Congressional Cemetery is provided in part by the Congressional Cemetery Endowment, which was created with matching funds provided by the U.S. Congress and administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

ith a yearly calendar filled with such events as a dog festival, Soul Strolls, 5k races, and even "Yoga Mortis", these are just a few of the quirky things that make Historic Congressional Cemetery so endearing to our supporters and our larger community. But, the reality is that the annual budget for HCC is now surpassing \$1 million for the second time, and only about half of that budget is covered by traditional revenue sources such as site sales and burial fees, income from our endowment, and donations. The HCC Board works closely with the cemetery's staff to ensure that a robust events calendar, a responsible K9 program, and thoughtful spending close the gap on our budgetary needs. Everything we do stays tied to the deep historic roots of the cemetery and preserving the legacy of the grounds and those interred here.

I am happy to report that 2017 was a terrific year both financially and operationally, building on an excellent prior fiscal year. We exceeded our net income forecast by over \$100,000 and have built our cash reserves back to responsible levels. It was a year that allowed the board to continue to focus on longer-term strategic goals for the cemetery, and contribute a \$50,000 match to our endowment held at the National Trust, so that HCC is well positioned financially for future generations to come. The end of the year also poised the team to have the main gate phase one finished (\$85,000), and phase two (landscaping,



\$54,000) funded and contracted for completion in 2018.

HCC is so fortunate to have thousands of volunteers and I'd like to recognize Ted Bechtol, whose board term ended in 2017. Sadly, Board member Carolyn Cheney lost her battle with cancer and passed away. They both provided great counsel to the board and staff and each contributed beyond what is generally expected of a board member.

The board will continue to focus on enhancing our development strategy in 2018. I look forward to sharing our progress with you and thank you for your continued support.

—Paul K. Williams, President

Information for your estate planning, bequest, stock gift, endowment match, or donation:

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ROUND THE GATEHOUSE

CEMETERY HONORING LGBT VETERANS

By Nancy Russell

ccording to Randy Shilts, in his 1993 book Conduct Unbecoming: Gays and Lesbians in the Military, the first known soldier to be drummed out of the military for homosexuality was Lieutenant Gotthold Enslin in 1778. Over the ensuing 230-plus years, gays and lesbians have volunteered their service and have earned the respect and gratitude of our country. The vast majority of volunteers joined because of their strong desire to serve their country. This was especially true following the attack on the World Trade Center. Congress repealed the discriminatory ban on gays serving openly in the military on September 20, 2011. A new memorial will pay tribute to all LGBT veterans who have proudly served.

Historic Congressional Cemetery (HCC) has long welcomed gay and lesbian burials in which the deceased is free to acknowledge his or her sexual orientation, Leonard Matlovich's grave being one example. So, it was a natural choice that HCC was selected as the site of the proposed National LGBT Veterans



Annual Veterans Day service at HCC honoring LGBT veterans.

Memorial (NLGBTVM). The purposes of the Memorial are (1) to honor the men and women who have served and those who will serve in the future; (2) to and preserve



educate visitors Proposed design of memorial.

the history of LGBT veterans; and (3) to provide a place where the public, family, friends, and significant others may pay their respects.

The estimated cost of the Memorial is between \$200,000 and \$300,000. Fundraising is underway and the NLGBTVM project board would like very much to reach that goal this calendar year so that construction and completion can take place in 2019. As a fundraiser, pavers (bricks) are available in three sizes for purchase which may be engraved with a LGBT veteran's name and service information or the name of the donor. For more information about the pavers write to us at Chair@nlgbtvm.org. We appreciate all donations, big or small.

Please visit our website at www.nlgbtvm.org for more information and to make a tax deductible donation. Donations may also be made by mail at National LGBT Veterans Memorial, PO Box 780514, San Antonio, Texas 78278-0514. NLGBTVM is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.



THE BEST WESTIE

By Crystina Darden

'm almost certain that there is currently only one West Highland Terrier in Congressional Cemetery's K9 Corps and his name is Bradley Superstar Ellis.

Brea Ellis and Bradley's story began the good old-fashioned way: the internet. Bradley was born on a horse farm in Arkansas, explaining why he is mesmerized any time he sees a horse, even if it's only on TV. Along with sharing her birthday, Brea was drawn to Bradley's independent streak. "A bunch of dogs on the farm were wrestling and playing around but Bradley was nonchalantly walking in the opposite direction. I loved that!"



Brea and Bradley have been Hill East residents since 2013. After meeting so many neighbors while on walks, Brea asked around about a good place for off-leash dog walks and was told about Congressional Cemetery. She thought it was unorthodox but gave it a try. Bradley loved it so there was no turning back.



When she's not travelling for work as a relationship manager and brand ambassador, Brea volunteers on Congressional Cemetery's Communication Committee (she wrote the fitting gate sign that reads: "Beware all souls who enter here...Must love dogs") and helps with social media for events like Dead Man's Run. Her favorite time to volunteer is during the K9 Corps renewals. "It's a good excuse to see the inside of the Naval Lodge Building and I love the excitement of the people getting off the waitlist."

"I love that I can get involved with something that's right in my neighborhood. It makes me feel a part of my community. The joy I get from watching my dog run uninhibited around the grounds is worth every penny and I like that my membership money goes to maintaining an historic landmark right where I live. As a fourth-generation native Washingtonian it's so special to have the "Mayor for Life" resting eternally at Congressional Cemetery. It's great that the cemetery is still so active."

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LITHOGRAPHS

BY PAUL K. WILLIAMS

JAMES DELANEY CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY LITHOGRAPH SERIES

HCC is honored to have a new limited number series of stunning lithographs produced by well-known artist James Delaney of South Africa. He visited the cemetery and was unexpectedly inspired by the history, dogs, and the sense of community. He has produced the set of six limited edition prints (20 each) at no cost to HCC, to be solely used as a fundraiser.

By putting the dogs first, Delaney reflects what the cemetery has become – a living place in the center of a busy city, where people walk their dogs. He stated that "he sought to raise the subject matter to the level of metaphor; the dog represents the most honest form of loyalty, against the backdrop of a place where people come to honor and show loyalty to ancestors and family."

Through his treatment of the gravestones they become monumentalized in the way of Greek and Roman temples, layering time back to the ancients and their representations of death, burial and different worlds. By raising the headstones from the landscape and reimagining them, Delaney creates new landscapes. The backgrounds are muted, all in a similar monochromatic scale, which both softens the idea of death and draws the viewer in to make out the details they contain.

Throughout the series, the charcoal drawings of the dog remain the focus, keeping the viewer in the present tense. The variety of representations of the dog builds a sense of evolution from puppy to adulthood, and connects each piece in the series.

Friends of HCC can purchase each print at a discounted price of \$750 until May 7th, when they will then retail for the artist's suggested price of \$900. They measure 15x22, and further discounts are available for a set of two, four, or six prints. DC locals can also obtain a discount for framing at a Capitol Hill framing business. Contact 202-543-0539 or visit the gatehouse to view the prints.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

James Delaney is a contemporary painter and printmaker who lives in Johannesburg, South Africa. He was born in Cape Town in 1971. He travels often to the USA and has worked extensively in New York City. He visited Washington DC for the first time in late 2016, where he took the photographs used in this series of lithographs.

He has held eight solo exhibitions and participated in many group shows in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Philadelphia and New York. His work is in collections including those of Bank of America and the City of Johannesburg. His interest in printmaking has led him to collaborations with various printmakers, including The Artists Press, Artists Proof Studio and LL Editions (all top rated print studios in South Africa), and Robert Blackburn Print Workshop in New York.

1 Grandness of Rome

Lithograph on Rives Paper, edition of 20, 2016, 15" x 22"

The softness of the puppy combines with the gravestones, raised to monumental level through their grandness, raising them also to a monumental level in terms of histo-



ry – the grandness of ancient Rome. The gravestones are clear but their muted color softens them, alluding to figures in the background who are no longer with us. This speaks of transition from the body to spirit — the dog being the free spirit, in the present tense.

2 Crossing the River Styx

Lithograph on Rives Paper, edition of 20, 2016, 15" x 22"

In Greek mythology, Cerverus the dog stands at the River Styx, guarding the gates to the underworld. However, in this image the dog is not menacing, but inviting. If the map of



the cemetery and river behind refers to the passage from one world to the next – the dog is leading the viewer like Orpheus, into a place termed the underworld but actually a place very much light and alive, where people walk their dogs.

3 Library of Alexandria

Lithograph on Rives Paper, edition of 20, 2016, 15" x 22"

The shapes in these details taken from the gravestones represent a myriad religious philosophies and tribal identities — like a library of beliefs that apply to this world, each



carrying its own history. Reference can be made again to ancient times and the great Library of Alexandria. The viewer observes inquisitively like the puppy, but the background images represent a kind of hubris, which befell heroes of classic Greek tragedies. Ultimately, the puppy lives in the present tense - and just moves on.

4 Lines of Pedigree

Lithograph on Rives Paper, edition of 20, 2016, 15" x 22"

The majestic dog stands like a monumental figure, exquisitely drawn. In contrast, the muted background fades with the feeling of a mirage — drawing the viewer in to iden-



tify the clues to the past contained in the details taken from headstones in the cemetery – clues to lines of pedigree. All the time, the pedigreed dog brings the viewer back to the present tense.

5 Three worlds

Lithograph on Rives Paper, edition of 20, 2016, 15" x 22"

At first glance, the looming gravestones appear to be reflecting in water, but the horizon is merely imagined, raising questions as to what the viewer is observing. The



monumentality again alludes to ancient times, when humans believed in 3 worlds — above ground, below ground where the dead are buried, and the spirit world — which the dog here seem to represent here, moving weightlessly through the air with lines echoing those of the stones.

6 Opulence and apocalypse

Lithograph on Rives Paper, edition of 20, 2016, 15" x 22"

The apparent simplicity of this piece belies its impact. The dog stands very alert, observing what appears from the color and softness of the background to be a flash, perhaps



apocalyptic, in the moment of silence before noise and wind. The grandness of the headstones and the opulence of the images on them come to nothing now; in the end, death remains, no matter how it is dressed. The dog stands between us and the event, untouched, looking at history, observing like the viewer.



NORMAL OR OBSESSIVE? THE CASE OF CHARLES LARNER

BY LAUREN MALOY

eath is making a comeback. Granted, it never left, but awareness and acceptance of death, mourning, and cemeteries is certainly on the rise. Congressional Cemetery staff are generally more aware of this since we're in the "business" (said in an ominous voice), but all you have to do is attend one of our programs to see this public interest firsthand. It's especially apparent at our more macabre-themed programs, such as Rebecca Roberts' lecture on graverobbing, or our Tombs and Tomes book club meetings. People are curious about death and the topic itself is becoming less taboo.

This culture shift is heralded most notably by an organization called The Order of the Good Death, founded by Caitlin Doughty. The Order promotes what they have termed as the "death positive" movement, which is exactly what it sounds like. Being death

positive doesn't mean that you're not scared of death. Instead, being death positive holds to certain tenets, such as "by hiding death and dying behind closed doors we do more harm than good to our society," and "the culture of silence and death around death should be broken through discussion, gatherings, art, innovation, and scholarship." The Order of the Good Death hosts an annual event called Death Salon which brings together people to - you guessed it - learn and talk about death.

Historically, an interest or even fascination with death is nothing new. Victorians were famously obsessed with death and all things macabre. This obsession as a society lives on in the material culture, from iconography on headstones to mourning jewelry and postmortem photography. It's no coincidence that Congressional Cemetery's heyday (other than right

now, of course!) was the Victorian era, when visitors made cemeteries everyday destinations rather than forgotten landscapes designated solely for funerals. Fear, or more aptly, avoidance of death has more modern roots as death has slowly been sanitized and monetized in the twentieth century.



Hearse in front of Congressional Cemetery Chapel, 1913.

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While it may be incorrect to say that the Victorians embraced death, they acknowledged the omnipresence of mortality with a curiosity and creativity that puts their 21st-century counterparts to shame. Given this general acceptance, the case of one Charles Larner is all the more notable. Congressional Cemetery's 2017 Programming, Writing, and Research Intern Katelyn Belz came across Larner's file during a perusal of our archives and flagged it for future exploration. Unfortunately, the contents of his file are slim: they contain a simple obituary and a single Washington Post article from August 29, 1896. But the article speaks volumes about an unusual man absolutely obsessed with funerals.

In present day, Charles Larner would be labeled as having an intellectual disability; the 1890 article instead described Larner as "a child mentally up to the day of his death." But the most interesting thing about Charles Larner is that he absolutely loved attending funerals, and was noted throughout Washington, D.C. for his fascination with the "obsequies of the dead." The headlines for the article about Larner read:

His Fad Was Funerals

"Poor Charlie" Larner Will Go from the Next in a Hearse

All the Undertakers Knew Him

For Years He Delighted in Attending Obsequies of the Dead,

and When Young and Active Would Follow the Body to Its Last Resting Place -

Preference for Funerals When There Was Music - -Much Funeral Display Always Pleased Him

Nineteenth-century newspaper articles didn't mince words, and it's understandable why this particular file caught Katelyn's eye. The article goes on to paint a vivid picture of a man obsessed with attending funerals. He even went so far as to frequent undertakers' businesses to inquire as to when funerals were scheduled, a practice often met with irritation and sometimes hostility. He loved walking in funeral proces-

sions, although later in life his "stout" figure prohibited extensive walking. Charles favored funerals which featured music or grand displays.

The most admirable aspect of Charles Larner, or at least as much as we can glean from a century-old article, is that he didn't go to funerals to bear witness to tragedy or grief: "There was no morbid curiosity about him, and he seemed not to be impressed with the mournful side of such affairs. Apparently he found a genuine pleasure in being present at a funeral, and when the entire ceremony was over he appeared as much satisfied as if he had achieved something of great benefit to the community at large." The last line of the article - and a dramatic one at that - speaks to his uncomplicated viewpoint on mortality: "Charlie has said a hundred times to Undertaker Gawler: 'You'll bury me when I die.' And so he will."

Let it be known (disclaimer here!) that no one is advocating that people pop in to funerals at any cemetery unless specifically invited. But a less literal interpretation of Charles Larner's approach might be encouraged. Perhaps we can learn from the Victorians and their attitudes towards death, particularly Larner's straightforward approach to the inevitability of his own demise. Regardless of personal interest in diving into this uncomfortable topic, at the very least this might temper any judgement about someone interested in learning about death. And if you are interested? Know that you're not alone, and that there's precedence for and now solidarity with your curiosity about the inevitable.

Resources:

The Order of the Good Death: theorderofthegooddeath.com

Full article about Charles Larner: http:// bytesofhistory.org/Cemeteries/DC_Congressional/ Obits/L/Obits_Larner.pdf



WOODMEN OF THE WORLD

By Kymberly Mattern

uring your treks through Congressional Cemetery, you may have come across a gravestone that resembled a tree stump. This style of gravestone is associated with the Woodmen of the World.

On June 6, 1890, John Cullen Root founded Woodmen of the World in a hotel room in Omaha, Nebraska. Woodmen of the World used to be a fraternal organization that advocated for affordable life insurance for everyone. The organization does still exist, however it is no longer exclusively for men. From 1890 until circa 1900, the policy also included a gravestone. Under the policy, the design of children's gravestones included a stack of three logs, and adult's stones resembled a tree stump. Members could choose from a selection of stones, all of which were provided by the organization. The stumps are typically decorated with Woodmen of the World symbols including axes, mauls, other woodworking tools, a dove with an olive branch, and/or the Woodmen of the World motto "Dum Tacet Clamet" (though silent he speaks) engraved on a medallion.

The first claim was paid in 1891 to the mother of a 19-year-old drowning victim who lived in Niles, Michigan. From 1900 until 1920, members had to add \$100 to their policy in order to receive a stone. This was due to the increasing costs of productions. It has been estimated that in the 1910s, one-third of white American men belonged to the organization. By the 1920s, the stones were discontinued because the costs of production continued to climb. For a brief period after the tombstones were discontinued, members could

get \$100 to go towards the cost of a tombstone if the Woodmen of the World logo was displayed somewhere on the stone, but, again, this became too costly. Today, members of Woodmen of the World do not have a stone due to the high costs of production and the amount of skilled hand labor required to make the stones. Nevertheless, there are bronze plaques that members can use in conjunction with a gravestone that they purchase privately.

The Supreme Forest Woodmen Circle, which was founded in 1892, served as a sister organization to Woodmen of the World. Additionally, Women of Woodcraft, which was founded in 1897, was another sister organization that served seven western states. Both organizations have been incorporated into Woodmen of the World. Keep in mind that not every stone with a tree stump or logs on it belongs to Woodmen of the World because the organization did not invent or create the symbol for gravestones. Instead, the organization merely enhanced and embraced the design.





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A TALE OF DISINTERMENT: EASTERN METHODIST CEMETERY

By Dayle Dooley

n December 2, 1824, trustees of the Methodist Society at the Ebenezer Station purchased 4.5 acres for \$150.00, forming the Eastern Methodist Cemetery directly north of Congressional Cemetery.

The main entrance was on Georgia (now Potomac) Avenue near the corner of 17th Street. For those familiar with the area surrounding the HCC, this is probably where the park is now at Potomac and 17th. The cemetery ultimately had 32 ranges consisting of 3,495 sites.

Around 1890, proprietors of Ebenezer decided to halt burials at the cemetery. The exact reasoning behind this decision isunknown, but it's entirely possible that the popularity of adjacent Congressional Cemetery contributed to this decision. Whatever the reason, the church got approval from Congress releasing Ebenezer Church from the obligation to continue as a cemetery, and allowing all burials to be relocated to Congressional Cemetery. Most of the re-interments commenced in October 1892, and a few families decided to also move the headstones.

After attempted notification of all family members



the final disinterments took place in December 1892, with the vast majority of bodies moved to Congressional Cemetery. The mass disinterment of over 1,300 people caused quite the stir, and the spectacle was covered in the Washington Post in October 1892. An excerpt from that article reveals that the public

Interment records showing 1892 re-interments

was extremely interested in the preservation of the remains:

"Yesterday the ancient enclosure was piled high with pine boxes and other receptacles for the dead. A striking peculiarity is the fact that many bodies of



young people buried in recent years when taken up consist only of a few blackened bones and shreds of grave clothes, while the remains of many older people buried long before the war are found in an excellent state of preservation...

When the body of a young girl supposed to be between twelve and thirteen years of age, was taken up it was found that her hair had grown until it extended from her crown to her feet. The resurrections were witnessed by quite a large crowd of curious persons."

One has to remember many of these people had been buried more than 50 years prior, long before embalming. Congressional Cemetery has a partial list of these individuals, but unfortunately some of the records have been lost. In our Daily Interment records (see picture) they are referred to by range and site, not by name. Today there is a single monument in the center of the square to mark the burials in the east end of the cemetery.

Information gathered from:

Bury Me Deep, Burial Places Past and Present In and Nearby Washington, DC by Paul E. Sluby, Sr.

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