

SNIPPETS FROM
"A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM"

PYRAMUS: *And thou, O wall, O sweet, O lovely wall ...*

O wicked wall ... cursèd be thy stones for thus deceiving me!

THISBE: *O wall, full oft hast thou heard my moans ...*

WALL: *Thus have I, Wall, my part discharged so
And, being done, thus Wall away doth go.
[Exit Wall]*

NEW YORK
CITY
LANDMARK



NATIONAL
REGISTER OF
HISTORIC
PLACES

The first privately-owned, nonsectarian cemetery in New York City was built in 1830.

Its 156 vaults have accommodated over 2,000 burials in an arrangement designed, during an era of frequent epidemics, to safeguard public health from the little-understood ravages of infectious disease.

The vaults form a grid of 26 rows of six vaults each below ground, and the walls bear numbered tablets naming the original family vault purchasers and indicating the vaults' positions.

Each vault belongs to the heirs of its 19th-century owner and all descendants have the right to burial.

NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY

SECOND AVENUE ABOVE EAST SECOND STREET

www.marblecemetery.org

November 2010

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LANDSCAPER EXTRAORDINAIRE, GRESHAM LANG

The continuing transformation of the Marble Cemetery into a true secret garden is due to the talent, vision, and hard work of Gresham Lang of Lang Garden Design. With his friendly crew, Gresham has done a remarkable job of not only preserving this historic site, but improving it. Cemetery descendants now live in 49 states and 18 foreign countries, so for the many who cannot admire the changes in person, here are some highlights of Gresham's recent accomplishments.



has offered the use of his water. Gresham over-seeded the lawn with perennial grasses and we look forward to seeing results next summer.

As he sifts through the soil, Gresham has the eye of an archeologist. Of particular interest to him is his work in the far southwest corner of the Cemetery, exposing the footings of

the old Receiving Vault, or Dead House. It was built in 1832 and demolished in 1955. Several dumpsters have been required to remove 20th-century debris, and beautification of that area is in progress.

The restored East Wall is the backdrop for a number of new plantings. They replace a mulberry tree which was removed to create more light and lessen weight on the vaults. Eventually, smaller trees will be planted there. Gresham is an expert at collecting materials for the Cemetery's benefit. Plants, containers, and

topsoil have all come our way from other landscape projects in the city. For example, two mature boxwood now frame the inner entrance of the cemetery.

The lawn, which the summer drought put to sleep, has been resurrected by fall rains and the generosity of our good neighbor, Garth Johnston, who



Sadie Nash party, photo by D.Hartley



We are thankful that Gresham decided to leave his earlier tech career for landscaping. Where would we be without his immense interest in the Cemetery and the rôle he plays in its maintenance, conservation, and beauty? As we host more gatherings, it is critical to offer a welcoming venue, and Gresham has done that for us. The New York Marble Cemetery is indeed fortunate to be his client.

Postmaster: Address service requested

NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY
P. O. Box 315 NEW YORK, NY 10159



McEnroe Organic Farm display for the New Amsterdam Market

ANNUAL RECEPTION
& OWNERS' MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2011
1-4 PM

EVENTS IN THE GARDEN

Following the growing trend of adapting urban burial grounds for non-traditional uses, NYMC rented its garden for a variety of public and private events during the past year. This not only helps to increase public awareness, but also raises funds to help pay for maintenance. Activities included a wedding, a fund raiser for the Sadie Nash Leadership Project, a graduation picnic, a birthday party, two poetry readings, a ballet based on Greek legend, and a Buddhist play!

One notable event was a client reception by a green developer honoring former Mayor Ed Koch (right) for his efforts in historic preservation in the East Village. Hizzoner, who had never visited the Cemetery despite living his whole life in Greenwich Village, paid tribute to another former mayor (1837-1839), Aaron Clark, who is buried in Vault 89 along with his wife, a daughter, and grandchildren.

The New Amsterdam Market, with its headquarters in the South Street Seaport's former Fulton Fish Market, held a "farmers' market tastings" fundraiser in May, with individual booths recreating a 19th-century market place. Artisans such as bakers, butchers, and greengrocers provided produce from local farms. Among the temptations were wild herbs, homemade ice cream, and goat cheese sandwiches.

Public tour groups included the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation and the Municipal Art Society. We continued the annual summer solstice celebration with Make Music New York, joining with musicians giving free concerts all over the city. We always participate in Open



House New York, now in its eighth year, which features hundreds of architectural sites throughout the five boroughs which are rarely open to visitors. OHNY's October weekend is usually the busiest of our year.

We of course continue our tradition of monthly Open Gate days when we allow the general public to simply come in, relax, and enjoy the bluest sky in Manhattan.



Poetry draws a crowd

NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY, INC.

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WHY I GIVE TO THE MARBLE CEMETERY

I grew up in Boston, but my family has had ties to New York City for generations. I moved to Manhattan after I graduated from college in 2005. My parents had been receiving the newsletter for years and mentioned that I might check out the Marble Cemetery. When I came to an Open Gate day in May five years ago, I was delighted at the warm way I was welcomed. Since then, I have met many other descendants. One time I was talking with someone who said "You're Vault 34? So am I. We must be cousins." I immediately felt connected to New York and wanted to be a part of this small piece of history.



We are constantly facing new challenges and always looking for people to be involved. As the East Village is changing rapidly, it is even more important to preserve this rare historic site. Each dollar or hour of time has a real impact. I give to the Marble Cemetery to honor and remember my ancestors, relatives, and future generations. I give to the Marble Cemetery to help preserve one of New York's most unique landmarks. Now that I am a trustee and have graduated from law school, I look forward to continuing to give both time and financial support. I hope you will join me!

-- Lydia L. Potter

THANKS TO OUR DONORS,
 WHOSE NAMES HAVE BEEN REMOVED
 FOR INTERNET PRIVACY



"All The World's A Grave" presented by the Playah Theatre Group of Shakespeare in the Valley

GO TO WWW.MARBLECEMETERY.ORG TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION ON LINE VIA OR SEND A CHECK TO:

E. Brooks Robbins, Treasurer
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For information on gifts of appreciated stock or for a financial statement, call 781-749-1312 or email treasurer@marblecemetery.org. New York Marble Cemetery is a Sec. 501 (c) (13) registered charity.