

THANK YOU SO MUCH, FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS!
[Contributors' names removed for internet privacy]



Fall Asters photo: Gresham Lang, 2012

N.B. After 15 years as The Office, next spring Anne Brown is going to surrender the mailing list, her newsletter responsibilities, and some other duties. Please think what you can do to help fill the gap and let Caroline know (info@marblecemetery.org). Being in NYC is helpful, but not essential. Anne will continue her long-distance research projects.

Postmaster: Address service requested

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



Weeding the pumpkin patch, October, 2012

ANNUAL RECEPTION
& OWNERS' MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2013
1-4 PM

NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY

SECOND AVENUE ABOVE EAST SECOND STREET

www.marblecemetery.org

November 2012

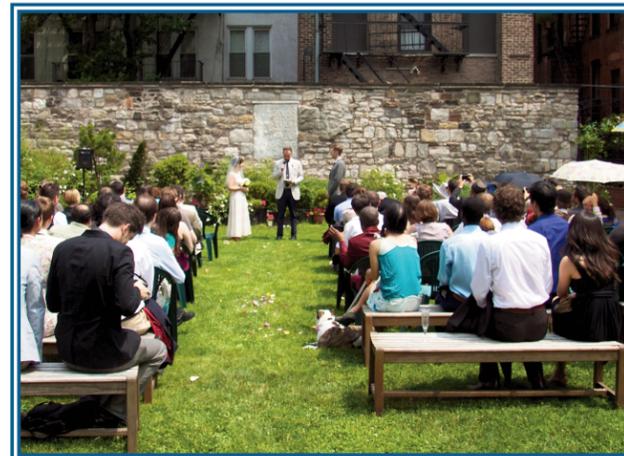
© New York Marble Cemetery, Inc.

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

This spring and summer the Cemetery hosted some wonderful events, helping us to attract new visitors to our park-like setting. Our primary mission is to be a burial ground and to help owners appreciate their heritage, but at this time donations alone do not suffice to pay for grounds maintenance and costly, needed wall repair and restoration.

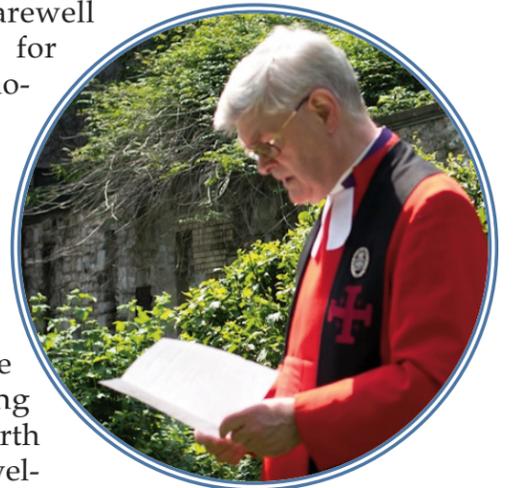
Our engineers and stone masons have been working in close cooperation with the Landmarks Preservation Commission to stabilize the North Wall, which is leaning outward and is in danger of collapse. Braces erected 15 years ago have not stopped the laws of gravity from working.

In order to help with our finances, we select appropriate renters who will respect our strict guidelines (nothing at night, no loud music, only 150 guests) and appreciate the unique spirit of our historic site. These rentals now include our third and fourth weddings (with one father of the bride blessing the unconsecrated grounds), a fashion show by dress designer Stella McCartney - daughter of the Beatles singer, a Vogue Magazine photo shoot,



and a farewell barbecue for friends moving away.

During our monthly "Fourth Sunday" Open Gate Days (one in pouring rain on Earth Day), we welcomed our neighbors for eight afternoons of quiet enjoyment. On Columbus Day weekend, we participated in the 10th Annual Open House New York by selling our "compost heap" pumpkins and giving history lessons to the 1,100 who streamed through the gates. We've participated in all ten years of OHNY.



The Rev. Robertson blessing the Cemetery before his daughter's wedding, below left.

Our innovative outreach was featured in a flattering article in the New York Times on July 30, 2012, "In the East Village, Fun and Fashion amid Old Tombs," which praised our efforts to make the Cemetery help pay for itself.

We are aided by Gresham Lang and his dedicated grounds crew, who have established a master plan with benches and trees, reclaimed more of the rear lawn from rubble, and nurtured a variety of bulbs and low-maintenance plants.

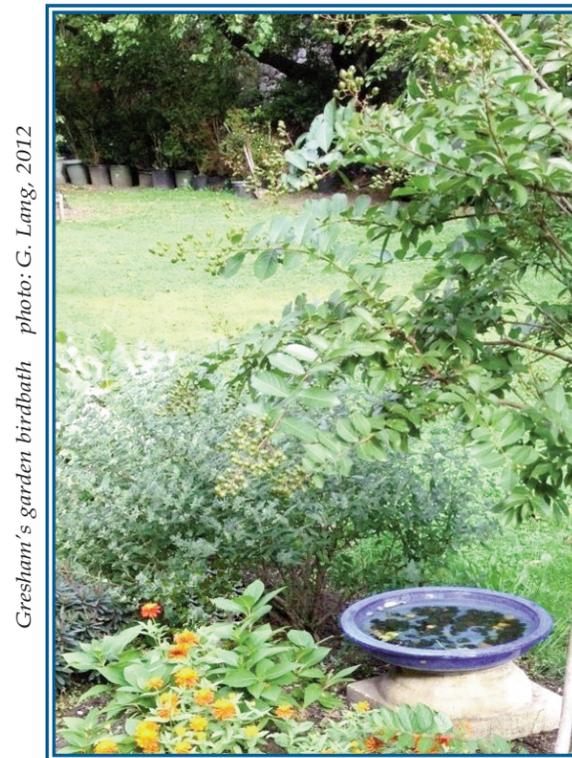
As we become ever more beautiful, we will become increasingly desirable as both a garden party destination and a burial place, thereby keeping our site available for future generations - a new meaning to the circle of life.

AFTER 180 YEARS, THE CEMETERY HAS A VAULT FOR SALE

To help the public, which is in need of burial space, and old cemeteries, which are in need of income, reacquisition of unused burial lots began in London many years ago. Since 2004, New York has allowed empty lots to be reclaimed after several requirements have been met which ensure that there are no descendants of the owners of record still alive.

Only one of the 156 vaults in the NY Marble Cemetery is empty because it was never used, but at least 16 had all their remains removed when the Cemetery fell out of favor in the late 19th century. There are 28 vaults with either no lineal descendants possible or with no descendants yet found. Two of these are among the 17 empty ones. There were no great grandchildren for either purchaser: Robert McJimsey had no children who married; Frederick Sheldon had two married grandchildren, but neither of them had children. All the McJimsey burials were removed to Woodlawn in 1878 and the sole burial in the Sheldon vault was taken to Sleepy Hollow in 1905. The New York State reacquisition process for both vaults was completed in July, 2012.

The steps taken to satisfy the Cemetery Board included identification of owners, will and death certificate searches, legal advertising, posting notices in the Cemetery, and sending certified letters to the last known addresses. Though not required by law, notices were also posted on our Facebook page, Twitter, and the Cemetery's own website. Additionally, some East Village blogs had quite a bit to say when the announcement first appeared on the Second Avenue gates.



Gresham's garden birdbath photo: G. Lang, 2012

USING YOUR VAULT

Several people will definitely be using their vaults, though no time soon, we hope. Many others are considering it. If you are among them, please contact the office. It is necessary to have an affidavit of right to burial completed before a burial can proceed. Filing one in advance does not commit you to ever using your vault.

The reclaimed vaults will be held by the Cemetery until qualified buyers appear, to be used for research or other purposes in the interim. We will not advertise because there is no established market. Perhaps knowledge that this unique opportunity is available will spread among those dyed-in-the-wool New Yorkers who are interested and able. Please help by quietly passing the word. A.W.B.

NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY, INC.

office@marblecemetery.org
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TRUSTEES

Anne W. Brown	Lynn K. Rollins
Caroline S. DuBois	Daphne Jay Bell
Lydia L. Potter	Peter C. Luquer,
E. Brooks Robbins	Emeritus

THE MAY BLESSING

by the Reverend Charles Robertson, LVO, Minister-Emeritus of Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh 26 May 2012, New York City

INTRODUCTION

Over the past 180 years, these old marble walls have witnessed the burials of more than 2,000 people.

This is a lovely and much loved place, with its flowers, butterflies, bushes, trees, and lawns.

As a place of repose for the dead and of refreshment for the living, it stands as an urban oasis, a secret garden in the heart of this busy city.

What was sown as perishable in this place, will be raised imperishable; what was sown in humiliation will be raised in glory; what was sown in weakness, will be raised in power.

PRAYER

Eternal Lord, our heavenly Father, you are the God not of the dead but of the living. We ask your blessing on this resting place, which guards our beloved dead,

both those who long have lain here and those who in the days to come will be brought here to rest in peace. May it always be held in honour, respected with reverence, and cared for with love.

Grant that those who have fallen asleep may wake to your love, and that the gates of this place may be for them the gates of eternal life.

Comfort those who will come here in sorrow for their loved ones. Wipe all tears from their eyes, and fill them with your peace.

Bless, we pray, the work of those who labour to make and keep this place a place of peace and love and joy: the stone-masons who give new life to its crumbling walls; the gardeners who nurture the earth and fill it with gladness and beauty; the trustees whose care and faithful service make this place a continuing delight.

Assure us all that the souls of loved ones who lie here buried in peace are safe with you for ever. Amen.

GO TO WWW.MARBLECEMETERY.ORG TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION ON LINE VIA



OR SEND A CHECK TO:

Lydia L. P. Snyder, Treasurer
New York Marble Cemetery, Inc.
P. O. Box 315
New York NY 10159

ENCLOSED \$

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

For information on gifts of appreciated stock or for a financial statement, phone 401-864-0557 or email treasurer@marblecemetery.org. The New York Marble Cemetery is a Sec. 501 (c)(13) registered charity.