

# NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY

SECOND AVENUE ABOVE EAST SECOND STREET

[www.marblecemetery.org](http://www.marblecemetery.org)

November 2013

©New York Marble Cemetery, Inc.

## THE NORTH WALL IS BACK



Before

The North Wall is going up again after many years of decline. The new section is now over 8' tall and 107' long and well on its way to achieving its full 12' height, thanks to our master masons and generous donors.

One winter's night many years ago, the center section of the North Wall suffered a major backwards tumble into the adjacent 10'-deep areaway. Even though the remaining sections were reinforced by emergency steel braces, the wall gradually leaned farther and farther backward over the areaway and the rubble heap became a stairway for unwelcome night-time intruders.

Last year, with the encouragement of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and guided by historic preservation consultants, our

engineers recommended that the entire wall be dismantled and rebuilt in sections. The permits and drawings have been obtained, the strongest marble blocks have been harvested, and the wall has been gradually rebuilt using internal reinforcing rods and concealed modern masonry units.

The expert stone masons from More Restoration are following the original Greek Revival design envisioned in 1830, with niches for the plaques which indicate placement of the 156 below ground family-owned burial vaults. Many plaques have been rescued and are carefully stored on site, waiting for the day when they can be rehung.



After

With our privacy regained by rebuilding the North Wall, we look forward to the day when all the walls are equally strong.

### We are doing the job the right way

Careful planning has gone into the wall repairs. In 1996, Managing Trustee Peter Luquer contracted with Robert Silman Associates, structural engineers, to deliver a Survey of Conditions Report. One of Silman's consultants, Joan Berkowitz, later became our historic preservation adviser. Since 1998, following their step by step plan, we have spent almost \$700,000 on restoration and stabilization of endangered areas in the perimeter walls. The report recommended detailed priorities in each section to prevent imminent deterioration. Their suggestions are being followed, resulting in long term durability of the walls and ensuring that the Cemetery will remain secure for a long time to come.



## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

89 names removed for internet privacy

This is the mortar formula, simplified, recommended by the Cemetery's historic preservation advisor and conservator, Joan Berkowitz. The masons have used it to repair the walls for the last ten years.

1 part Cement  
1 part Hydrated Lime  
5 parts Schofield Sand  
1/64 part Burnt Umber Color



## NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY, INC.

a 501(c)(13) registered charity

[www.marblecemetery.org](http://www.marblecemetery.org)

Contact: [office@marblecemetery.org](mailto:office@marblecemetery.org)

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### TRUSTEES

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Peter C. Luquer,  
*Emeritus*

Newsletter Editor: Ellen Schofield, Vault Owner

**YOU CAN BECOME A PERMANENT NEW YORKER  
YES, WHEN THE TIME COMES, YOU MAY USE YOUR FAMILY VAULT**



Marble Cemetery vault owners are among the very few people who may still be buried on Manhattan below 86th Street.

All that is required is an affidavit of descendency from a vault owner of record and payment of a burial fee to cover the work, all of which must be done carefully by hand. Filing an affidavit in advance does not commit you to burial, it just makes things a lot simpler for your family.

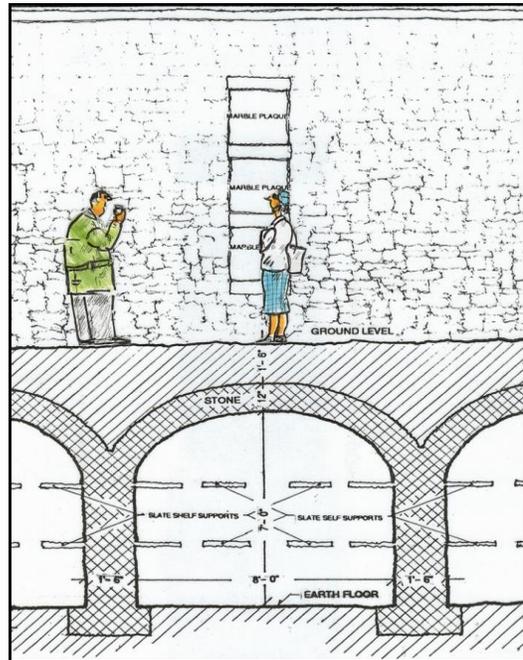
Most burials would cost about \$5,000, not including any charges by funeral homes handling traditional burial preparations. In addition, there are two empty vaults for sale by the cemetery for potential new owners.

There are a few caveats. Ashes cannot be scattered above ground, since they will not be recorded in our registers as a legitimate burial. Individual memorials, other than temporary flower arrangements, may not be placed on the grounds. The original family plaques will help visitors identify the locations of the vaults.

We encourage green burials with biodegradable materials such as narrow wooden caskets, willow baskets or better yet, simple containers of ashes.

There should be space in every vault room for countless generations to come.

For an explanation of the procedures, detailed fee schedule, and affidavit form, please call Anne Brown at 410-586-1321, or email her: [office@marblecemetery.org](mailto:office@marblecemetery.org).



With apologies to cartoonist Barbara Smaller

GO TO [WWW.MARBLECEMETERY.ORG](http://WWW.MARBLECEMETERY.ORG) TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION ONLINE VIA



OR SEND A CHECK TO:

*Lynn K. Rollins, Treasurer*  
*New York Marble Cemetery, Inc.*  
*P.O. Box 315, New York, NY 10159*

ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the applicable boxes:

I am an owner

I prefer to receive the newsletter

by e-mail

by postal mail

For information on gifts of appreciated stock or for a financial statement,  
phone 646-734-9667, or email [treasurer@marblecemetery.org](mailto:treasurer@marblecemetery.org)  
The New York Marble Cemetery is a 501(c)(13) registered charity

## SCAVENGER HUNT BRINGS MIDNIGHT VISITORS

While we encourage joyful daytime weddings and family reunions to rent the garden, we reject most night time frolics and ghoulish requests such as Halloween parties or Ghost Hunting TV shows. However, one unique event topped all our previous rental requests.

This fall, we participated, as one of 36 destinations, in "Midnight Madness," a citywide puzzle hunt sponsored by Goldman Sachs to benefit the Good Shepherd Services, a youth development charity.



During an all-night vigil around a crackling fire pit, cemetery volunteers welcomed nearly 300 gamers.

Racing against the clock to explore the city, solve clues and earn bragging rights as problem solvers, they rushed past our gate, guarded by an off duty policeman, tapped song rhythms on fake tombstones to light up a digital display of poetry, and then translated the resulting anagrams to locate their next destination in Chinatown.

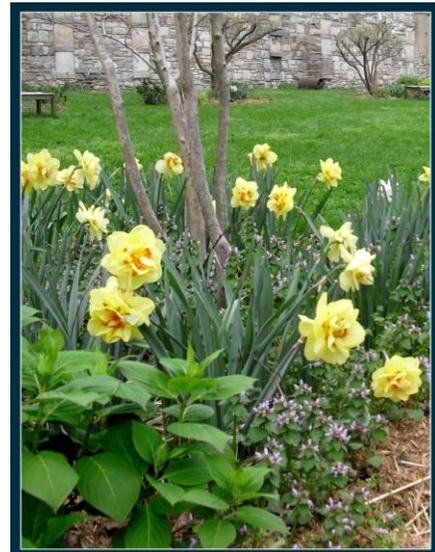
Read the full story in the *New York Times*, Sunday October 13, 2013, "One Long Night in Puzzle City."



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



Artist Patricia Melvin at the 2013 Annual Meeting



**ANNUAL RECEPTION  
& OWNERS' MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2014**  
**1-4 PM**