



Friends of RHINEBECK CEMETERY, INC.

Vol. 7, No. 1
Winter 2020
Newsletter

March 15, 2020

Dear Friends,

Seven years ago three neighbors ---Beverly Kane, Suzanne Kelly and I--- came together with the desire to raise money for conservation, restoration and preservation projects at Rhinebeck Cemetery, and the *Friends* was founded.

At the end of last year Beverly Kane retired from the board. I want to let all of you know how important Beverly's work has been to this organization. In that time she served as Treasurer, managed the sponsorship database, headed up a gravestone inventory in the historic section of the cemetery and worked to develop our nascent Save a Grave program. Her unyielding dedication to all of the *Friends* programs is evidenced today in the strength of this not-for-profit now seven years in. Thank you Beverly and hope to see you around the cemetery!

Last November we welcomed William Harwood to the board, succeeding Beverly as our new Treasurer. Bill has been a Rhinebeck resident for over thirty-six years and is a retired professor of Business, having taught at Dutchess Community College since 1979. Bill currently serves as a member of the College's Business Administration Curriculum Advisory Council, is a local history enthusiast and has been an active *Friends* volunteer for many years. We're thrilled to have him.

Spring is fast approaching and we're gearing up for our 2020 season of events. You'll find the dates for our annual living history tour, our tree planting day and natural burial ground cleanup in this spring newsletter. We hope you will come out and join us. As always, feel free to email us with any questions you may have: friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org or find us on Facebook at Friends of Rhinebeck Cemetery.

Sincerely,

Michel P. Haggerty
President

TALES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

We'll once again be partnering with *Theatre on the Road, Inc.* for two weekends of living history tours. Advanced tickets will be on sale through our website for the weekends of **October 10th & 11th, 24th & 25th**. We'll also be offering an additional accessible tour again at 1:30PM on October 10th. \$15/Adults, \$10/Students, \$8/Seniors and Children under 12. **Post-performance reception LAST DAY ONLY.** Please email us if you're interested in volunteering for the event.

GRAVESTONE CLEANING



Thank you to everyone who came out last September for a day of gravestone cleaning. A very enthusiastic bunch! We hope to schedule another one for later this year.

For some inspiration --- on **Friday, April 17th at 7:00PM** --- *Friends'* volunteer Connie Lown will be giving a talk on **Gravestone Cleaning at Rhinebeck Cemetery** at the Starr Library. Come and hear about some of the oldest gravestones in the cemetery that have recently been cleaned and repaired. Learn about the proper methods of gravestone cleaning without damaging stones and how to reset small stones.

**We are a New York Not-for-Profit and Federal
501(c) 3 Organization.
All of Your Donations are fully Tax Deductible.**

**Does Your Employer have a Matching Grant
Program? Please let us know.**

PLANT-A-TREE: GROW AN ARBORETUM

What a great turnout at our fall tree planting last November! Thank you to all the volunteers. Our next tree planting will be over Arbor Day weekend., **Sunday, April 26th**. Volunteers will gather in front of the cemetery office (3 Mill Road) at **10AM**.

If you're interested in learning more about the *Plant-a Tree: Grow an Arboretum* program or volunteering please contact Suzanne at friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org.

NATURAL BURIAL GROUND CLEANUP

Our next Natural Burial Ground cleanup will be the same day as the tree planting, **Sunday, April 26th** . Show up and decide if you want to plant trees or walk around the burial ground gathering downed sticks and limbs and making brush piles. Meet up at the entrance to the Natural Burial Ground at **10AM**.



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE TENT

For the past three years, the Friends has sponsored a tent at the cemetery for the Memorial Day parade ceremonies. For those of you who come out for the parade consider continuing onto the cemetery. It's always a very moving service. We've got a nice place for you out of the glare of the sun, and a comfortable folding chair if you need one.

NATURAL BURIAL GROUND SIGN

If you've passed by the Natural Burial Ground lately or taken a stroll down the carriage trail, you may have noticed the sign is sporting a new post. Thank you to Todd Young, who several years ago generously handcrafted and donated the sign to the burial ground. Thanks once again to Todd for coming back and rehanging it on this beautiful locust post. We love it!



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