



# Friends of RHINEBECK CEMETERY, INC.

Vol. 5, No. 2  
Summer 2018  
Newsletter

August 15, 2018

Dear Friends,

Interest and enthusiasm for our mission grows as we enter our sixth year. Our established programs are going strong and new ones are taking off.

We've been successful in replacing fifteen of the twenty benches, all through individual sponsorships, and with over 150 trees planted our tree program is making a visual impact. Have you noticed the size of the London Planes along Route 9?

Our *Save-a-Grave* program was officially kicked off this summer. And we're most invigorated by our new connection with The Center for the Performing Arts at Rhinebeck.

For more information on our projects and programs please check out our website at [www.friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org](http://www.friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org).

We are also always looking for volunteers. Please contact us at [friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org](mailto:friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org)

Sincerely,

Michel P. Haggerty  
President

**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.**

## 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be held Tuesday, **September 11<sup>th</sup> at 5PM** at the community room at Starr Library. The meeting is open to the public.

## MEMORIAL BENCH PROGRAM

Five more memorial benches have been sponsored, leaving five benches to sponsor at \$1,250 each. Memorial benches are the same iconic benches of the New York City Parks Department, originally developed for use at the 1939 World's Fair, held in New York. If you are interested in sponsoring a bench please contact Mickey Haggerty at (845) 876-3300.

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

Beverly Kane & Connie Lown attended the Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS) Annual Conference in Danbury, CT in June. They attended workshops on gravestone restoration and preservation, which included hands on experience in resetting and cleaning stones. One important workshop take-away: never use harsh household cleaners, stiff or metal brushes on gravestones as they will cause permanent damage.

We are developing a program to support these activities throughout the cemetery and hope to present a gravestone-cleaning workshop in the future. If you are interested in attending such a workshop, please contact us at [friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org](mailto:friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org).



## NATURAL BURIAL GROUND CLEANUP

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the *Friends* held a successful spring clean up day in the Natural Burial Ground. Thank you to all the volunteers – most especially members of Rhinebeck's Interact Club - who showed up to make brush piles.



TALES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

It's like theater...in the cemetery.

We're thrilled to be partnering with The Center for the Performing Arts at Rhinebeck for four days of historical costumed cemetery tours. Tickets will be on sale through The Center's box office for the dates of October 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. \$15/Adults, \$10/Students, \$8/seniors and children under 12. Post performance reception opening day only.

Please email us if you are interested in volunteering for the event.

SPRING & FALL TREE PLANTING

We planted fourteen trees on April 29<sup>th</sup>, many of them at the entrance to the Natural Burial Ground. A few of the trees were direct donations from *Phantom Gardener*. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help.

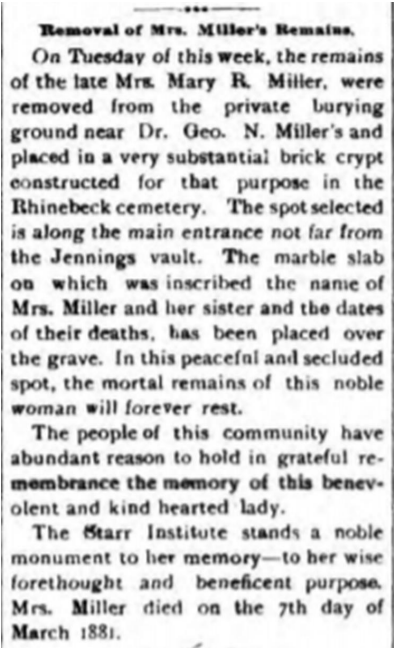
Our next planting will take place on **Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**. Volunteers will gather near the caretaker's office (3 Mill Road) at 10AM. If you're interested in donating to the *Plant-a Tree—Grow an Arboretum* Program please contact Suzanne Kelly at [friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org](mailto:friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org).



SAVE-A-GRAVE PROGRAM

The *Friends* has initiated a *Save-a-Grave* program that will work toward cleaning, resetting and repairing stones in need. We've kicked off the program with the restoration of the gravesite of Mary Regina Miller. Mrs. Miller was the founder and benefactor of the Starr Institute (AKA Starr Library). This restoration was made possible with a generous donation from Rhinebeck resident Mary Olivere.

Mrs. Miller's stone was moved from her family cemetery at The Grove, east of the Village, in 1894. (see article below). After nearly 125 years, the large ledger stone was removed from the crumbling brick foundation, a new brick foundation was constructed and the stone was reset. Brick work was done by local mason, David Mastri.



Rhinebeck Gazette, July 14, 1894

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Newburgh, NY  
12550  
Permit No. 2692

Friends of Rhinebeck Cemetery, Inc.  
PO Box 7  
37 West Market Street  
Rhinebeck, NY 12572