



# Friends of Rhinebeck Cemetery, Inc.

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Newsletter

March 15, 2018

Dear Friends,

As we move into our seventh year, we couldn't be more grateful for your consistent support.

Our *Plant-a-Tree: Grow an Arboretum* and *Memorial Bench* programs are both growing strong. And the number of volunteers coming out for cleanup and planting days and tours continues to invigorate us. If you'd like to help out at any of our events please contact us at [friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org](mailto:friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org)

This year, we're looking forward to continuing our work on those programs. We're also excited about teaming up with *Theatre on the Road, Inc.* to bring back *Tales from the Underground* and launching our newest endeavor --a two-day grave preservation workshop focused on the historic areas of the cemetery.

We hope this newsletter catches you up on our projects and programs. Of course, more information can always be found on our website at [www.friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org](http://www.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.**

## MEMORIAL BENCH PROGRAM

Only five benches remain to be sponsored, with most locations in the historic parts of the cemetery. Sponsorship is \$1,250. 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.

## NATURAL BURIAL GROUND CLEANUP

Our next Natural Burial Ground cleanup is scheduled for **April 7<sup>th</sup>**. Meet up at entrance to the Natural Burial Ground at 10AM.

## TALES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

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



We're thrilled to once again be partnering with *Theatre on the Road, Inc.* for four days of historical costumed cemetery tours. Advanced tickets will be on sale through our website 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 LAST DAY ONLY.

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

## COMMUNITY PRESERVATION WORKDAY

**Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>/Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> (rain date)**

All ages are welcome for a full day outdoors to help restore grave markers in Rhinebeck Cemetery. The workshop will be led by Francis Miller, principal conservator of Conserve ART, LLC.

With the first burials dating to 1832, this historic site contains headstones, footstones and monuments that chronicle over a 165 year history of the Town of Rhinebeck; Dutchess County; the State of New York; and, the nation. Please join us to learn more about cemetery history, the grave marker types, various stone types, marker conditions and fundamental, hands-on, preservation measures.

Be prepared to get dirty: work pants, work boots and work gloves are recommended! All tools and materials will be provided. Please let us know if you are interested in participating by emailing us at [friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org](mailto:friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org). Participation will be limited.

**PLANT-A-TREE: GROW AN ARBORETUM**

Our tree planting program endures, with six trees planted on November 4<sup>th</sup>, one of which was generously donated by the Rhinebeck Garden Club. We also had two fourteen foot Norway spruces planted last fall, one in the natural burial ground and one in the old section. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help.

Our next planting will take place **Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10AM**. Volunteers will gather near the caretaker’s office (3 Mill Road).

If you’re interested in learning more about the *Plant-a Tree: Grow an Arboretum* Program please contact Suzanne Kelly for a brochure at [friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org](mailto:friends@friendsofrhinebeckcemetery.org).



**SUSAN ELIZABETH FRAZIER DEDICATION**

On Saturday, November 10, 2018 there was a dedication of new gravestone for a remarkable woman, Susan Elizabeth Frazier.

In 1896 Susan became the first black (woman or man) allowed to teach white students in New York City.

In June 1919 as President of the Women’s Auxiliary of the “Harlem Hellfighters,” she hosted 1,200 people at the Lenox Casino in Harlem. The Harlem Hellfighters were an African-American infantry unit in WWI who spent more time in combat than any other American unit. Despite their courage, sacrifice and dedication to their country, they returned home to face racism and segregation from their fellow countrymen. At the event she received a letter addressed to her personally from former President Theodore Roosevelt and a gift from Roosevelt of a large silk, American flag.

In November 1919, she was the winner of city newspaper “Evening Telegram” contest to send the most popular teachers in New York City to see the battlefields of France; Frazier resisted efforts to stop her from going and resisted efforts to have her sit at segregated dining in Paris.

Upon her death in February, 1924 she receives full military honors at the 369th Regimental Armory. Her coffin is draped with the American Flag, taps are played, and commanding officers deliver powerful eulogies.

Bill Jeffway spearheaded the effort to install this stone on her previously unmarked grave.