

The Evergreens Cemetery

Quarterly Newsletter



Notable Resident

This article continues our series highlighting important people buried at The Evergreens Cemetery.



McCay in 1906

Winsor McCay (1866-71* to 1934)

Winsor McCay was a pioneering cartoonist and animated filmmaker. According to the creator of Bugs Bunny and Road Runner, Chuck Jones, “the two most important people in animation are Winsor McCay and Walt Disney.”

McCay was born in Spring Lake, Michigan, and started drawing as a young boy. As a teenager he worked in an amusement park’s quick-sketch sideshow, and also painted signs. After spending time in Chicago he moved to Cincinnati, where he worked for the *Cincinnati Commercial Tribune* and *The Cincinnati Enquirer*. He moved to New York City in 1903 with his wife, Maude Leonore Dufour, and joined the staff of the *New York Herald* as a cartoonist. One of his first comic strips for that newspaper was the popular *Little Sammy Sneeze* (1904-1906). McCay’s drawing style was detailed and highly accurate, and he had a particular talent for rendering vigorous action in a static drawing. In 1908 he also worked as a vaudeville show “chalk artist,” where he drew cartoons quickly on blackboards.

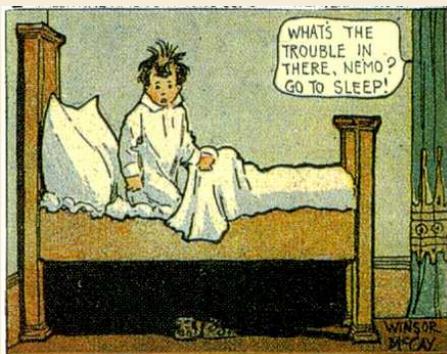
At this time he also began to experiment with a new medium called moving comics -- what is today known as film animation. Although moving comics had been invented a few years earlier, it was McCay’s innovative development of the technology that paved the way for the animated films we know today. His films include *Little Nemo* (1911), *How a Mosquito Operates* (1912), *Gertie the Dinosaur* (1914) and *The Sinking of the Lusitania* (1918). He continued to make animated shorts and do vaudeville into the 1920s.

McCay’s role as America’s first master cartoonist and film animator was long forgotten, except for recognition by fellow cartoonists and animators. In the 1970s his films were salvaged from a garage and restored, ensuring the continuation of his legacy.

*Exact birth date unknown



Strip from *Little Sammy Sneeze*
(September 18, 1904)



Strip from *Little Nemo in Slumberland*
(February 11, 1906)



Grave of McCay

Upcoming Events at The Evergreens



Letterform CHARACTERS: Incised Gravestones of Colonial New England and the British Isles

This exhibition is created by Lynne Baggett, a graphic design professor at Louisiana State University. It features a selection of photographic images of gravestone lettering from the British Isles and colonial New England c.16th-18th centuries, and celebrates the innovative hand carved lettering styles of the early stonemason.

Exhibition: October 1 – 31, 2018

The exhibition is located in the office building; follow the signs from the main gate at 1629 Bushwick Avenue. The office is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Evergreens Cemetery
1629 Bushwick Avenue,
Brooklyn, NY 11207



Presented by The Evergreens Cemetery.
Free and open to the public.

For more information about the artist and her work:
<http://design.lsu.edu/faculty/baggett-lynn>
<http://ligs2lichen.wordpress.com>

Exhibition:

Letterform Characters: Incised Gravestones of Colonial New England and the British Isles

October 2018

The Evergreens is pleased to present the exhibition *Letterform Characters: Incised Gravestones of Colonial New England and the British Isles* in October. The exhibition is created by graphic design professor Lynne Baggett from Louisiana State University.

The exhibition features a selection of photographic images of gravestone lettering from the British Isles and colonial New England c. 16th-18th centuries, and celebrates the innovative hand carved lettering styles of early stonemasons.

For more information about the artist and her work see <http://design.lsu.edu/faculty/baggett-lynn/> and <http://ligs2lichen.wordpress.com>.

The exhibition is located in the administration building; follow the signs from the main gate at 1629 Bushwick Avenue. The office is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Free and open to the public; registration is not required. Click [HERE](#) for the Eventbrite link for the exhibition.

Hidden History Stroll: Walking Tours of The Evergreens



Saturday, September 22 and October 20, 2018
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a walking tour as we explore the winding paths of the historic Evergreens Cemetery. We will visit the gravesites of notable residents -- who reflect the racial and religious diversity of New York City -- including artists, actors, musicians and entertainers as well as some controversial personalities. We will learn about Victorian funerary symbols and styles as

well as secret societies and their mysterious memorials. The tour will also include a trip inside our normally 'off-limits' Receiving Vault as well as other surprises.

Registration is appreciated but not required. \$5 suggested donation. Register [HERE](#)

The tour will take place weather permitting; if the event is canceled registered attendees will be notified by email.

Open House New York

Weekend

Saturday, October 13, 2018

12:00 to 4:00 p.m. (tour starts at 1:00 p.m.)

The Evergreens Cemetery is proud to participate for the second year in Open House New York (OHNY) Weekend, a citywide celebration of architecture, design and New York City. We will explore the art and architecture of the cemetery, designed by noted landscape designer Andrew Jackson Downing, and tour the newly restored chapel designed by Alexander Jackson Davis.

For more information about OHNY see <https://ohny.org/weekend> or <https://www.facebook.com/openhousenewyork/>.

See [HERE](#) for further information.



Brooklyn Eagle photo by Lore Croghan



Bird Walk

Sunday, October 21, 2018
9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

We will hold a family-friendly bird walk (for ages 8 and up) led by NYC Audubon's Corey Finger, who is the author of the American Birding Association's Field Guide to Birds of New York and a birding blogger.

Registration is required. Register on Eventbrite [HERE](#).

The tour will take place weather permitting; if the event is canceled attendees will be emailed ahead of time.

Community Halloween Event

Saturday, October 27, 2018
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Join us for a family Community Halloween Event! Wear your best costume and enjoy a hayride, petting zoo and refreshments. Pumpkins available while supplies last. Free and open to the public; appropriate for all ages.



Registration is appreciated but not required. Register [HERE](#).

The event will take place weather permitting; if the event is canceled registered attendees will be notified by email.

We would like to thank Carbone Memorials Inc. for its generous support of this event.



Battle of Brooklyn and Beyond: The Evergreens Cemetery Military History Tour

Saturday, November 10, 2018
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a military history tour for Veterans Day (which falls on November 11) led by James Henry. This year is the 100th anniversary of the signing of the armistice, which ended the World War I hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany in 1918.

Registration is appreciated but not required. \$5 suggested donation. Register [HERE](#).

The tour will take place weather permitting; if the event is canceled registered attendees will be notified by email.

Recent Events at The Evergreens

Stargazing with the Amateur Astronomers Association of New York

We were delighted to host the Amateur Astronomers Association of New York's Spring Starfest for the first time in June. We observed and learned about the stars, and the event included a raffle. Jason Kendall from William Paterson University was the featured guest speaker.



Photo courtesy of Stan Honda



Photo courtesy of Stan Honda



Photo courtesy of Peter Lipschutz



Brewers' Row: The Beer Barons of Bushwick at The Evergreens Cemetery with Atlas Obscura Society New York

On June 16 we partnered with Atlas Obscura Society New York for a beer history event. We explored the unique brewing history and culture

of Brooklyn's German immigrant brewers at The Evergreens Cemetery, the final resting place of several notable beer barons. We visited the graves of the founders of Claus-Lipsius Brewing Co., Trommer's Evergreen Brewery and others.

Following a walking tour we gathered for a beer tasting provided by Brooklyn Brewery.

"We are delighted to celebrate the rich history of our ties to an important chapter in the history of Brooklyn" said The Evergreens Cemetery President Julie Bose.

Walking Tours of The Evergreens

This summer we continued to hold our popular Hidden History Strolls. Visitors had the opportunity to visit the graves of notable residents such as cartoonist Winsor McCay, tap legend Bill "Bojangles" Robinson and jazz great Lester Young, among many others. The tour highlighted musicians, actors and artists, including many involved with vaudeville, reflecting The Evergreens Cemetery's commitment from its inception to be a non-sectarian cemetery open to all.



In August the tour had a military history theme, to commemorate the 242nd anniversary of the Battle of Brooklyn. For New's 12 Brooklyn coverage of our Battle of Brooklyn tour click [HERE](#).



Tree Care at The Evergreens

Throughout the late spring and summer, thanks to a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, The Evergreens was busy maintaining the health and beauty of the cemetery's tree canopy.

Tree pruning throughout the 225 acres was made possible in part by an Urban and Community Forestry grant, part of New York's ongoing initiatives to provide funding through the State's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Projects target local environmental needs and benefit the community and the environment.

More tree canopy maintenance will take place at The Evergreens during the cold winter months. Pruning during the winter dormancy period is especially critical for oaks and elms.



Board Spotlight with Jonathan Weld

Jonathan Weld serves as Chairman of The Evergreens Cemetery Board of Trustees.

How long have you been involved at The Evergreens?

I'm not sure exactly, about 1990 or before.

How did you first become involved?

I became involved because John Titman, who was then the chairman, had two spots on the board open and he asked me and Fred Bland at the same time to join the board. And we

talked to each other, since we thought Titman was a really good guy and this was an interesting place, and we said "yes". So the two of us have been here ever since. Titman retired many years ago as chairman.

Had you had an interest in cemeteries previously?

No. All of my Brooklyn ancestors are at Green-Wood, and I had visited a couple of cemeteries because another board member, John Osnato, had taken us to Woodlawn, Green-Wood and a few other places, but that was about it -- we just explored the leading cemeteries a few times.

What does your role as chairman of the board consist of?

On an ongoing basis the board is supposed to adopt policies and stay out of the way of the management in terms of executing them. We are also responsible for seeing that the operations are proceeding ok -- in other words -- you are not responsible for the finance function, but you are responsible for determining at the board level that there is a finance function and that it is being done right.

What is the most rewarding part of being on the board?

I have always appreciated the management here and the way the place runs. I would say in the last three years, since Julie Bose has been president, many improvements have been made in all respects. It is just a somewhat different place. I think the most rewarding part has been to see the change of this cemetery -- with respect for all the 532,000 souls that we have here -- from just a burial ground into a more of a program-oriented place, almost a park. So it is unusual from that standpoint.

What has been the most challenging part of being on the board?

A major challenge is to keep the finance function and the investment function very strong which -- we have been lucky I guess -- has been very successful the whole time I have been on this board, including through 2008. So that is another major board function; we manage the investments very closely, probably more than most organizations, because the staff is so small here.

What is your profession and how do your skills and experience in your field help you in your work on the board?

I have been a lawyer for many years; I am no longer practicing law. I would say that governance is something that lawyers tend to know about in terms of how boards run and how they should run and how things should be done. And in my particular case I am involved with five or six other organizations, not as a lawyer but as a chair or a board member.

Do you serve on any other board of trustees?

I was on the board of a large international bank until January. That is a paid board with a lot of interesting aspects in international finance and economics. I was the chairman of Brooklyn Hospital for a while, I have been only a board member for the last seven or eight years now. I am the vice-chair of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden -- actually, most of the people on the board here are on the board of the Botanic Garden. I have been heavily involved with Saint Ann's School for many years -- I just stepped down as the president of the board in May.

Where do you live?

In Brooklyn Heights.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I read, I used to play a lot of squash, plus some running in the old days before my knees gave out. Since my children left home, which was about thirty years ago, I have been doing a lot of pro bono work. And I go to lots of plays -- not so many movies, but lots of operas and plays.



Options for Cremated Remains

Cremation is an increasingly popular alternative to burial; more than fifty percent of Americans are now choosing cremation. Following a death in the family loved ones are increasingly faced with decisions about storing or finding a permanent resting place for cremains (cremated remains). Many choose to store an urn containing cremains on a mantle or shelf at home. Others choose to scatter cremains in nature -- on land, air or water -- often choosing a location with meaning to the deceased.

Cemeteries offer a secure and peaceful location for storing cremains. There are several advantages to choosing cemetery inurnment. When ashes are kept in the home or scattered, there is no record that will help descendants to locate the deceased in genealogical searches, whereas inurnment in a cemetery helps document and preserve family heritage for generations to come. In addition, cemetery inurnment provides a secure alternative to in-home storage, where cremains can be lost or destroyed by fire, flood or other natural disasters. Additionally, a cemetery provides a location that all family members can visit, in contrast to the options of in-home storage or scattering.



The Evergreens Cemetery offers a variety of options for cremated ashes. Inurnment in niches or in-ground ensures a place of remembrance to visit and memorialize the deceased, as well as a record for future generations. Above-ground niches in our community mausoleum allow for visitation year-round, affording the opportunity for all family members to visit and pay their respects. Photos and personal mementos can be placed in the niches to personalize the space and memorialize loved ones.

For the inurnment of cremains family members must provide both a death certificate and a cremation certificate. The family is not obligated to use the services of a funeral director for inurnment of cremains. Please contact our Family Service Counselor Damaris Rodriguez at 718-455-5300 or dr@theevergreenscemetery.org for further information about the variety of options at The Evergreens.

Our tranquil outdoor urn garden offers in-ground burial of urns. Owners of plots can also bury urns containing cremains in-ground throughout the cemetery, offering a serene final place of repose alongside family members.

Support Us

We are committed to maintaining our beautiful historic cemetery, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and offering our green space to our community through a wide variety of programs. Your support helps make our this possible. It allows us to offer historical tours, tours of cemetery architecture and art, tree walks, stargazing, bird walks, Easter and Halloween events for local children, and other events. We are grateful for your support in helping us fulfill our mission.

Your tax-deductible donation may be made by credit card through PayPal or mailing a check to:

The Evergreens Cemetery Preservation Foundation
1629 Bushwick Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11207

To make a donation through PayPal please click [HERE](#).



Making Arrangements

The Evergreens Cemetery provides a beautiful final resting place for loved ones, and we are pleased to discuss the variety of options available.

Contact:
Damaris Rodriguez
Family Service Counselor
718-455-5300
dr@theevergreenscemetery.org

Research

We welcome genealogical inquiries. Please contact the office at info@theevergreenscemetery.org or tel. 718-455-5300 for further information.

Cemetery Hours

Grounds are open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please consult our website or contact the office for holiday closures.

The Evergreens Cemetery Board of Trustees

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Damaris Rodriguez, Family Service Counselor

Veronica Willis, Executive Assistant

Newsletter edited by Eva Bowerman

Newsletter designed by Eva Bowerman and Elba Luna

The Evergreens Cemetery
1629 Bushwick Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11207
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info@theevergreenscemetery.org

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