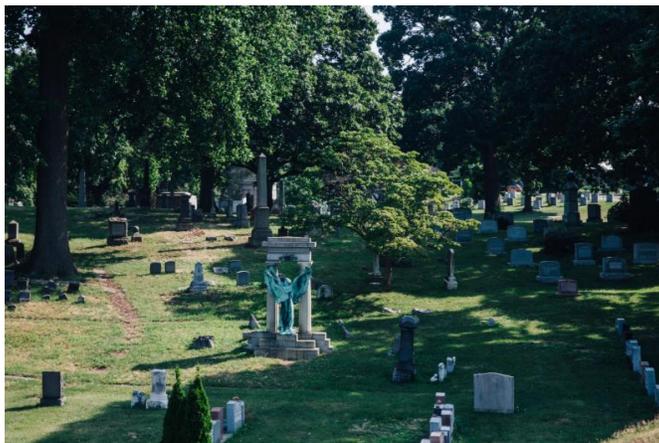


# The Evergreens Cemetery

## Quarterly Newsletter



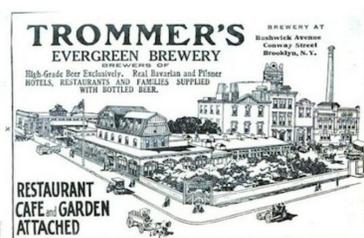
### *Notable Resident*

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

#### **Trommer Family**



Trommer family mausoleum



Advertisement for Trommer's Evergreen Brewery, 1909

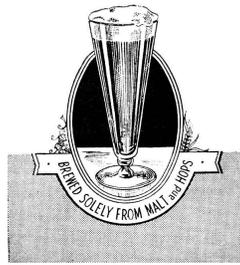
The Trommer family owned one of the most successful breweries in Brooklyn in the first half of the 20th century. At the end of the 19th century, Brooklyn had almost 50 breweries. The majority were owned and operated by German immigrants, who began coming to the United States in the late 1840s. The German brewers brought their tradition of brewing lager to the country – formerly Americans had favored ales and dark beers but soon developed a taste for the paler golden lager and it became immensely popular.

Trommer's Evergreens Brewery was located on the southwest corner of Bushwick Avenue and Conway Street, directly facing the cemetery. John F. Trommer came to the United States in the late 1840s, and after time in Portland, Maine and Boston settled in Brooklyn. He served as William Ulmer's brewmaster, and in 1897 bought into a new brewery called Stehlin & Breitkopf, and changed the name to Trommer's Evergreens Brewery. When he died in 1898 his son George took over the company. Trommer's became known for their all-malt beer, which was made of 100 % barley, wheat malt and hops, without the additives of corn, rice or cane sugar prevalent in cheaper beers. Trommer's also sold their malt extracts in retail stores.

George opened a hotel, restaurant and beer garden alongside his four-story brewery, with a Bavarian theme including half-timbered stucco walls reminiscent of the architecture of Germany. Like many other of the larger breweries in Brooklyn, which had on-site beer gardens or halls attached to their factories, Trommer's carried on the tradition of the German beer hall and beer garden. Trommer's establishment, conveniently located near the elevated subway, proved very popular, and the hotel hosted guests visiting loved ones at the cemetery. Prohibition, lasting from 1920 to 1933, was devastating to most of Brooklyn's breweries, but George Trommer possessed a savvy sense of business and began producing a popular 'near beer' that sold extremely well. He also offered financial support to hot dog restaurant owners, who in exchange only carried Trommer's White Label Near Beer. By 1930 almost 100 establishments carried Trommer's beer. He

# TROMMER'S

*Famous*  
White Label  
MALT  
BEER



Advertisement for Trommer's beer

opened another plant in Orange, NJ.

After the end of Prohibition in 1933 Trommer returned to making their signature malt beer, and added a bock and ale. They expanded their business to sell overseas, and were the largest purveyors of malt beer in the world.

In the late 1940s, however, Trommer's fortunes reversed; in 1948 multiple breweries went on strike, devastating the business of Trommer's and many other breweries. During this time out-of-state breweries advanced on the market, and Trommer's had a difficult time recovering their market share. The final straw was the failure of the company to preserve their strain of yeast during the strike; the yeast died and consumers didn't like the new taste of the beer when it was fermented with a new strain of yeast. In 1951 Trommer sold the Bushwick plant to Piel's, which continued to make the Trommer's label for just a few more years, and the Evergreens Brewery complex closed in 1955.



Beer serving tray, ca. 1900, manufactured by Meek Co Coshocton, Ohio



## *Letter from the President*

As we usher in the fall season, The Evergreens is a perfect place for the community to gather to appreciate the natural beauty of this time of year. With approximately 2,500 trees, our landscape is especially lovely as the leaves change color, enhancing the scenic beauty of our 225 acres.

The cemetery, designed by noted landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It forms an oasis of tranquility in the heart of

the city. We are proud to take part in Open House New York (OHNY) Weekend for the first time next month. As part of this citywide celebration of architecture and historic spaces we will welcome visitors to explore the cemetery's mausoleums and monuments, and will offer tours of the cemetery and the renovated chapel. We have been chosen as one of OHNY's 'Spaces of Respite,' a curated selection of sites across the five boroughs that provide respite from the chaos of the city. In October noted arborist William Bryant Logan will lead a tour of the trees at The Evergreens, where attendees will learn to identify a wide variety of species as well as learn more about the stories and lore of trees.

This fall we are delighted to host our first family Community Halloween Event, where children and their families will enjoy a horse-drawn hayride, pumpkin decorating, a petting zoo and refreshments.

This month we also welcomed members of the community for a yoga class, a bird walk and a stargazing event. We are pleased to offer this beautiful space of repose and reflection to the community through our robust array of programs.

With best wishes,

*Julie Bose*

## *Upcoming Events*

### *Open House New York Weekend*

Saturday, October 14, 2017 and Sunday, October 15, 2017

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



The Evergreens Cemetery is proud to participate for the first time in Open House New York (OHNY) Weekend, a citywide celebration of architecture, design and New York City. For more information about OHNY see <http://www.ohny.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/openhousenewyork>.

Visitors can explore the landscape, designed by Andrew Jackson Downing, and see the great variety of architectural styles represented in the mausoleums and gravemarkers. A tour will be offered which includes a visit to the community mausoleum and the receiving vault (normally closed to the public), as well as a tour of the Victorian Gothic Chapel designed by Alexander Jackson Davis in 1849/50, which is currently being restored.

At 10:00 a.m. Eva Bowerman, Director of Programs, will lead a historical tour that includes information about the variety of architectural styles represented in the mausoleums and gravemarkers. The tour includes a visit to the community mausoleum and the receiving vault (normally closed to the public).

Following the tour of the grounds Tony Wetzel, President of Historic Construction Mgmt. Corp., will lead a tour of the Victorian Gothic Chapel, designed by Alexander Jackson Davis in 1849/50, which serves as the cemetery office. This tour will focus on the restorations on the chapel that are currently underway.

The Evergreens has been selected as one of OHNY's Spaces of Respite.

*Spaces of Respite series description: Though New York's energy is one of its greatest strengths, it is important to have places in the city that offer relief from the stresses and anxieties of contemporary life. During this year's OHNY Weekend, Open House New York has curated a group of sites across the five boroughs that provide some serenity and respite from the chaos of the city, places where you can pause, rest, and gather your thoughts.*

Pre-registration is appreciated, but not required. Register on Eventbrite [HERE](#).

## *Tree Stories at The Evergreens Cemetery*

Sunday, October 22, 2017  
1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Join us for a guided tree tour of the Evergreens Cemetery on Sunday, October 22. Enjoy the spectacular fall foliage as we explore the grounds of the cemetery and learn to identify a variety of tree species. We will also hear fascinating stories and lore relating to various tree species. Participants will learn the answers to questions such as: "Why is a London plane from London? What does a sassafras have to do with sassafras tea? Why is the gum of a black gum black and the gum of a sweetgum sweet? How do you open a hickory nut and which ones would you want to open? What is the tastiest oak in the East?" and many more. Participants will also receive recipes for cooking with acorns.

This tree walk with noted arborist and author William Bryant Logan mixes lore, history, science and recipes to make a memorable 90 minutes in one of our great urban forests. Logan, the author of "Oak: The Frame of Civilization" is the Founder of Urban Arborists and a faculty member at New York Botanical Garden.

This family-friendly tour will begin at the cemetery office (follow signs from the Bushwick Avenue entrance). Please wear sturdy shoes. Free and open to the public. Suggested donation of \$5 (cash only) will be collected at the event.

Spaces are limited and registration is required. Register on Eventbrite [HERE](#).

## *Stargazing with the Amateur Astronomers Association of New York*

Friday, October 27, 2017  
7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Come observe and learn about the stars with members of the Amateur Astronomers Association of New York. This stargazing event offers the rare opportunity for attendees to observe the night sky in an area relatively free of glare from the lights of the city. Members bring high-powered telescopes and binoculars through which everyone is invited to look, and will provide instruction on how to find objects in the night sky. Feel free to bring your own binoculars or a telescope as well.

The event will take place near the office building; follow the signs to the office from the Bushwick Avenue gates. Parking is available on-site. The event is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is appreciated but not required.

The event will take place weather permitting – in case of rain or cloudy weather please check the Eventbrite page to confirm whether the event will take place.

Pre-registration is appreciated but not required. Register on Eventbrite [HERE](#).

## *Community Halloween Event*

Saturday, October 28, 2017  
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Join us for a family Community Halloween Event! Wear your spookiest costume to explore the beautiful grounds of the Evergreens Cemetery on a horse-drawn hayride. Enjoy a petting zoo, pumpkin decorating and refreshments. Free and open to the public; all ages.

The event will take place near the office building; follow the signs from the Bushwick Avenue entrance. Limited parking is available on-site; we encourage visitors to use public transportation.

The event will take place weather permitting -- in case of inclement weather please check the Eventbrite page to confirm whether the event will take place.

Pre-registration is appreciated but not required. Register on Eventbrite [HERE](#).

## Progress Update: The Chapel Restoration



Tony Wetzel of Historic Construction Mgmt. Corp. has been putting the finishing touches on the restoration of the beautiful chapel designed by Alexander Jackson Davis that serves as The Evergreens Cemetery office.

"The great thing about this project -- if you understand about the architectural history here -- is that Alexander Jackson Davis was kind of the godfather of the Gothic Revival style, and here we are bringing back his product to what it was meant to be" says Tony.



Restored interior of chapel

The work on the chapel interior, started in mid-October 2016, consisted of restoring the interior space of the original chapel building, and included revealing the vaulted ceilings and original bents. Many layers of paint have been stripped off the original woodwork to reveal the beadboard wainscoting.

The final step of this phase of bringing the chapel back to its original eye-catching grandeur was putting in a gleaming granite counter, which replaces a formica counter that was added to the original layout 40 or 50 years ago, most likely when the back office was added to the building. "The granite counter is a wonderful upgrade and beautiful finishing touch to this project," says Tony.



Tony Wetzel of Historic Construction Mgmt. Corp.

Especially exciting was finding the original porcelain floor, which was brought to light painstakingly: "We used a process called poulticing, when we have to soak it off with solvent over several weekends to avoid the fumes and ultimately we were able to get 95 to 99 percent of the black haze out of the porcelain, and it looks pretty good for being 100-something years old," explains Tony.

Currently Tony is carrying out renovations to the rear offices of the building, including several offices, as well as the rear office, hallway and stairwell. This section is not part of the original 19th century building, but dates from the 1950s, and Tony explains that this 'facelift' consists of "a renovation in a 19th-century flavor which is sympathetic to the design of original building. We will install panelled wainscoting, paneled doors, new carpeting, add cornice or crown moldings that are bigger, bolder more appropriate to period of the original building. We are aiming for Victorian flavor with modern materials."

"The biggest reward in working on this project is working with everybody here, because everybody is into it and appreciating what we're doing and what we're finding. And then finding the things we discover like the dormer windows and the porcelain floor."

Tony will lead the tour discussing the restorations he has done on the chapel for Open House New York Weekend on October 14 and 15, 2017.

## Recent Events at The Evergreens

### Stargazing

On Friday, September 8th the cemetery hosted a stargazing event in partnership with the Amateur Astronomers Association of New York, a group dedicated to observing the sky and introducing the public to the wonders of astronomy. Members brought telescopes and binoculars through which everyone was invited to look, and provided instruction on how to find objects in the night sky.

Visitors were able to view Saturn, its rings clearly visible. Attendees also observed Alberio (a bright double star in the constellation Cygnus The Swan), the Ring Nebula and the Double Double in the constellation Lyra, and Alcor and Mizar (the double star system in the handle of the Big Dipper).

We were pleased to welcome guest astronomer Franck Marchis, Ph.D., who is Chief Scientific Officer at Unistellar, and Senior Planetary Astronomer & Exoplanets Research

Group Chair at SETI Institute, who was on hand to demonstrate his equipment and answer questions.

Our next stargazing event will take place on October 27th, when the 1st quarter moon will be visible.



### *Bird Walk*

On Sunday, September 17 we held a bird walk 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.

We explored the serene grounds of the cemetery and spotted a variety of species that call the Evergreens home, including ravens, northern flickers, mourning doves, red-tailed hawks, red-bellied woodpeckers, common yellowthroats and many others.

The guide brought a telescope to enhance attendees' viewing experience and drew birds out with the technique of 'spishing', which mimics the alarm calls of birds.



### *Yoga Class*

On Sunday, September 24 we held our last yoga class of the season on the beautiful grounds of the Evergreens Cemetery. The Energetic Flow Yoga class was taught by Shawn Garnier from All Yoga studio and was open to all levels of practice. We were delighted to welcome the community to enjoy our peaceful green space and look forward to continuing this series next spring.

## *Staff Spotlight*

### *Interview with Carl Dill, General Foreman*



#### **How long have you worked at The Evergreens?**

I have worked at The Evergreens Cemetery for a little over four months.

#### **What does your position at The Evergreens involve?**

My responsibilities include coordinating between office and field work on the grounds. My goal is making families and loved ones as comfortable as possible through their grieving period.

#### **How would you describe your typical day?**

First I meet with the superintendent and pick up the work that needs to be done for the day. Then I assign crews to the jobs that need to be completed, and see to it that all crews have what they need to complete the day's work that they are assigned. Throughout the day I rotate around to each crew to monitor their progress, and address any problems. At the end of the day, I check that all work assignments have been completed.

#### **Where did you work previously?**

I've had many different jobs over the years -- from construction work to managing routes, office work to owning and operating beverage routes.

#### **What do you enjoy most about working here?**

First off, the camaraderie among the men and women I work with. The grounds at The Evergreens are absolutely beautiful, which makes it a pleasure to work outside. Also, it's an honor to help, respect and comfort loved ones in their difficult times.

#### **What is challenging about your job?**

Time...!

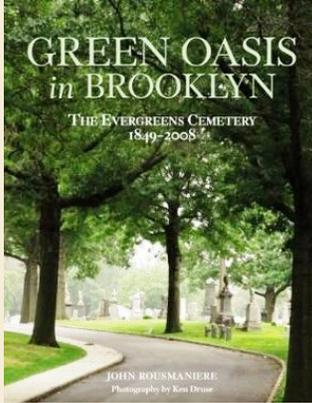
#### **Where do you live?**

Franklin Square, New York.

#### **What do you like to do in your free time?**

Spend time with my kids, family and music.

## *Featured Book:*



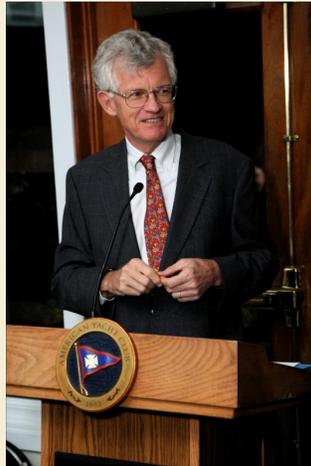
## ***Green Oasis in Brooklyn: The Evergreens Cemetery 1849 - 2008***

***by John Rousmaniere***

Noted historian John Rousmaniere traces the history of The Evergreens Cemetery in this well-researched and lavishly illustrated book. Beginning with a discussion of the land itself before the cemetery was founded, his engaging text shows how the forces that shaped the history of New York – population growth, immigration and growing wealth – also shaped The Evergreens. He also describes the beautiful monuments and fascinating characters that are buried there. Ken Druse's stunning color photographs demonstrate the beauty of the site and the monuments.

Evergreens Cemetery Historian John Rousmaniere, who leads many tours of The Evergreens, says that writing the story of The Evergreens, *Green Oasis in Brooklyn*, was one of the most challenging and rewarding of his many projects in a wide range of subject areas. He is a prolific author who has written 30 historical, technical, and instructional books on sailing, yachting history, New York history, business history, and clubs.

*Green Oasis in Brooklyn* is for purchase at the Evergreens office or on Amazon.



John Rousmaniere, author of *Green Oasis in Brooklyn*

### ***Support Us***

We appreciate donations to help preserve the beauty of our historic grounds and provide access to a larger public. Donations may be made by credit card through Paypal or mailing a check to:

The Evergreens 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:  
Anthony Salamone  
Family Service Counselor  
718-455-5300  
[info@theevergreenscemetery.com](mailto:info@theevergreenscemetery.com)

### ***Research***

We welcome genealogical inquiries. Please contact the office at [info@theevergreenscemetery.com](mailto:info@theevergreenscemetery.com) 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  
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,  
Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please contact the office about holiday closures.



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*Newsletter edited and designed by  
Eva Bowerman*

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**CONTACT US**