

The Evergreens Cemetery Quarterly Newsletter



Photo by Yuri Pires Tavares

Notable Residents

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

The Evergreens Cemetery recently discovered that two survivors of the Titanic disaster are buried here. The Titanic sank on April 15, 1912, on its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York City after colliding with an iceberg, resulting in the deaths of more than 1,500 people.

We would like to thank British researcher Trevor Baxter for bringing these two survivors of the sinking of the Titanic to our attention. Mr. Baxter says "I have been researching the Titanic for 30 years. For the last nine years I have been very interested in the stories of passengers and crew, which led me to locating grave sites and memorials around the world and to keep their memories alive. I have located some 600 grave sites and memorials and there are still more to locate – one day I would like to put a book together including photos, and a little information on each photo of the passenger or crew member."



Grave of August Abraham Johannes Abrahamsson

August Abraham Johannes Abrahamsson (1892 - 1961)

August Abraham Johannes Abrahamsson was born in Finland in 1892. He boarded the Titanic as a third class passenger at Southampton, travelling to New Jersey, where his brother lived. He shared a cabin with five other Finnish men. He survived the disaster, escaping the sinking ship on one of the last lifeboats, and was rescued by the RMS Carpathia and taken to New York to St. Vincent's hospital. He went back home to Finland until 1914, when he returned to America, marrying a Finnish woman who had spent time in America. They settled in Brooklyn, where he worked as a ship's carpenter. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1919. Abrahamsson died in 1961, aged 69, and is buried with his wife Martha in The Evergreens Cemetery.



August Abraham Johannes Abrahamsson
Photo from 1922 passport application

Aurora Adelia Landergren Johnson (1889 - 1947)

Aurora Adelia Landergren was born in Sweden in 1889, one of seven siblings. In 1912 she decided to emigrate to New York,



Grave of Aurora Adelia Landergren Johnson



RMS Titanic

and purchased a ticket for the Scandinavia-America Line's Fredrik VIII, departing from Denmark. On her way to Denmark she traveled with two fellow Swedes who convinced her to come with them to England instead to depart. They found themselves rebooked on the Titanic in Southampton when their original vessel was unavailable because of a coal strike in Britain. Landergren survived the disaster, and was rescued by the RMS Carpathia and taken to New York. She married Simon Frederick Johansson, a fellow Swede, in 1922. They remained in New York, settling in the Bronx where her husband worked as a handyman, and anglicised their surname to Johnson. She died in 1947, aged 58, and is buried with her husband in The Evergreens Cemetery.



Letter from the President

Spring is in the air here at The Evergreens Cemetery. Birds are chirping, flowers and trees are beginning to bud and landscape beautification is underway. I am delighted to announce that we are planting legacy trees throughout the cemetery to replace trees lost during Hurricane Sandy.

This is an especially active time of year for Chinese-American members of our community. Ching Ming Festival, known in English as Tomb-Sweeping Day, falls on April 5 this year, and many visitors will come to the cemetery to honor their ancestors. We are proud of our strong connection with the Chinese-American community; The Evergreens was the first cemetery in New York City to bury those of Chinese descent just after our founding, and our many Chinese sections attest to this long-standing tradition.

The Evergreens hosts a slate of programs that reflect our diverse community. We hold events for a wide variety of visitors, and are delighted to welcome our neighbors as well as those who come from all across the city to enjoy our natural beauty. In 2018 our programs include historical walks, tree walks, holiday events and yoga classes.

We are delighted to partner with the Amateur Astronomers Association of New York this May to host their annual spring Starfest. In addition, we will hold our first Arbor Day celebration, which includes a tree planting, a tree identification walk, art activities and a tree-climbing demonstration by a professional arborist. We are not only a historically significant site, but also one of New York City's great urban forests, and we are dedicated to utilizing our green space for outreach and education. Please join us this spring for one of our public programs.

Warmest wishes,
Julie Bose

Exhibition: Triangle Factory Fire Memorial Quilt

To commemorate the 107th anniversary of the Triangle Waist Factory Fire The Evergreens Cemetery is displaying Robin Berson's memorial quilt for the month of March.

The Evergreens is the final resting place of several victims of the fire, which claimed a total of 146 lives on March 25, 1911. The Triangle Fire Memorial to the Unknowns marks the final resting place of previously unknown victims of the fire.

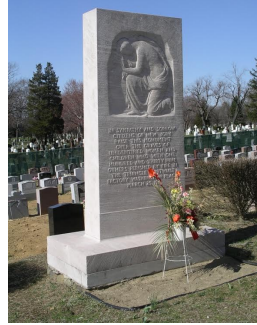
We are proud to honor these victims, as well as the many others who died in the tragic fire, by displaying this quilt in our office lobby.

The quilt on display is one of one of two quilts in the Workers Memorial Quilts series by author, quilter and historian Robin Berson. These quilts honor garment workers who died approximately a century apart in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire and those from the Tazreen fire and Rana Plaza collapse of 2012 and 2013 in Bangladesh.

For more information see:



There will be a wreath-laying ceremony at the Triangle Fire Memorial to the Unknowns on Friday, March 23 at 2:30 p.m.



The Triangle Fire Memorial to the Unknowns



Historical Walking Tours at The Evergreens

We would like to welcome our new tour guide to The Evergreens. James Henry is an experienced guide who gives tours at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn and the Manhattan-based Awesome Tours. He has had a lifelong fascination with historic cemeteries, and is excited about sharing his vast knowledge of them with visitors. He is especially interested in the ethnic diversity of The Evergreens and its huge potential for telling stories that often go unheard. James lives in South Prospect Park with his wife Meagan and their two adorable cats.

Please join us for one of James' tours this spring! We are also happy to arrange private tours; please contact Director of Programs Eva Bowerman at evabowerman25@gmail.com for further information.

Upcoming Events at The Evergreens

Commemoration of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire disaster

**March 23, 2018
2:30 p.m.**

We will hold a wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the victims of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. Email evabowerman25@gmail.com for further information.

Easter Eggstravaganza

**March 24, 2018
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

We will welcome families for an Easter egg hunt, visit from the Easter Bunny, magic show, petting zoo and refreshments at this free community event.

Free and open to the public. Registration is appreciated but not required. Register [HERE](#).

We would like to thank Carbone Memorials Inc for helping sponsor this event.



Hidden History Stroll: Walking Tours of The Evergreens

**April 21, May 19, June 23, July 21, 2018
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Come with us as we explore the winding paths of historic The Evergreens Cemetery on a walking tour led by James Henry. We will visit the gravesites of notable residents – who reflect the racial and religious diversity of New York City – including artist, 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.

Spaces are limited and registration is required. \$5 suggested donation. Register [HERE](#).

Arbor Day Celebration

**Saturday, April 28, 2018
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

We will hold a family-friendly Arbor Day celebration to learn about trees at the Evergreens, including a tree planting, flower planting, art activities, a tree identification walk, and a tree climbing demonstration by a professional arborist. Join us to learn more about trees at one of New York City's great urban forests.

Free and open to the public. Registration is appreciated but not required. Register [HERE](#).



Walking Tour: Tree Stories

Sunday, April 29, 2018
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Noted arborist William Logan will lead a tree tour exploring the wide variety of tree species at the Evergreens.

Spaces are limited and registration is required. \$5 suggested donation.

Register [HERE](#).

Spring Starfest: Stargazing with the Amateur Astronomers Association of New York

Saturday, May 19, 2018
7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

We will welcome the public to observe and learn about the stars with members of the Amateur Astronomers Association of New York at their annual Spring Starfest.

Free and open to the public. Registration is appreciated but not required. Register [HERE](#).



Bird Walk

Sunday, May 20, 2018
9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

We will hold 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. Spaces are limited and registration is required. \$5 suggested donation. Register [HERE](#).

Yoga classes

Sunday, May 6, May 20, June 3, June 10, 2018
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Join us for yoga classes on the beautiful grounds of the cemetery, led by Lila Lucy Nelson from All Yoga Studio.

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



Meditation Classes

Sunday, May 27 and June 24, 2018
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Join us for meditation classes on the beautiful grounds of the cemetery, led by Lila Lucy Nelson from All Yoga Studio.

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



Staff Spotlight with Eva Bowerman, Director of Programs

How long have you been involved at The Evergreens?

I have been Director of Programs here since August 2017.

What does your position consist of?

My primary role is to bring visitors to the cemetery for a wide variety of programs, such as stargazing, tree walks, bird walks, yoga classes, holiday events for families, historical walking tours, and many other programs. In collaboration with my colleague Veronica Willis I come up with ideas for programming and implement them; I'm involved in all stages of planning, publicity, registration and check-in. An important part of my position is creating and maintaining partnerships with other organizations in the community. I maintain our Facebook page and mailing list, and also give tours of the art and architecture of the cemetery. I'm also the designer and editor of our quarterly newsletter, and am currently working on content for our website, which we are completely updating.

What is your background?

My background is in the history of art and architecture, and I've worked in art museums in the past. I became interested in cemeteries several years ago, and became involved with an

organization called the Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS), a non-profit devoted to the study and conservation of gravestones and cemeteries. I'm on the board of the national organization, and am also chair of the New York Chapter of AGS. I organize several meetings a year, as well as smaller events, for the chapter. My experience with AGS has been invaluable for my work at The Evergreens.

What is most rewarding about your position?

When I started at The Evergreens the cemetery was just starting to hold events, so it's been exciting to develop a slate of programming almost from scratch. I enjoy finding innovative ways for the community to enjoy this beautiful, historically significant place. I enjoy forging and deepening partnerships with organizations and individuals in the community. The position allows for a lot of creativity in conceiving of and implementing events, as well as finding ways to make the community aware of them. I feel very lucky to work in such a beautiful place, and to have the chance to bring other people in to appreciate the cemetery as well.

What is most challenging about your position?

Since we are still in the fairly early stages of developing our programs it can be challenging to draw people in – people aren't necessarily used to coming to a cemetery for events. I'm committed to outreach and publicity, and we are continually finding ways to let people know about our diverse offerings. At our Easter party last year we had over 500 visitors, and it was wonderful to see so many people enjoying our space and know that our efforts at outreach were effective!

Where do you live?

I live in Astoria.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like spending time with my husband and 9-year-old son, and enjoy museums, reading, yoga, cooking and traveling. I love visiting cemeteries and frequently go to other cemeteries in NYC to explore and take photos.

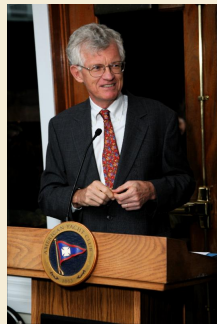
Employee Recognition Program

On January 1 the Evergreens launched a new employee recognition program intended to foster teamwork and motivation among the grounds maintenance crew members. Employee recognition forms are available in the break room at the maintenance building, and employees are encouraged to recognize their fellow employees whenever they see an act that is above and beyond the regular 'call of duty'. Every week management selects a nomination, and during the Friday lunch break the winner is awarded a gift card to Dunkin' Donuts, Subway or elsewhere. A gift card is also given to the person who submitted the winning nomination.

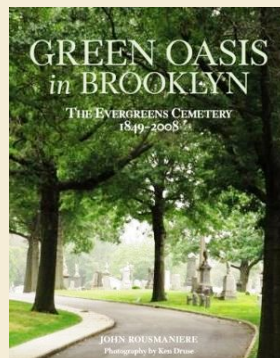


This initiative is contributing to a supportive work environment, based on teamwork, among the grounds maintenance crew. According to Superintendent Henry Nunez "we are always looking for new ways to keep the troops motivated and in sync with the "Team First" culture."

Image: Sean Brown, the weekly winner on January 19th, Henry Nunez and nominator Robert Noel.



*John Rousmaniere, author of
Green Oasis in Brooklyn*



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 the land itself before the cemetery was founded in 1850, 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.

Carbone Memorials, Inc.

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Brooklyn, NY 11207-1805
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Email: carbone_memorials@live.com

Serving all cemeteries since 1917

Support Us

We are committed to maintaining our beautiful historic cemetery, 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, yoga, 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 Preservation Foundation
1629 Bushwick Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11207

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



Inspection visit by Members of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation agency. The Evergreens was the recipient of major state grants to fund a Cultural Landscape Report and the restoration of grounds damaged and trees destroyed by Hurricane Sandy.

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.com

Research

We welcome genealogical inquiries. Please contact the office at 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 designed by Eva Bowerman and Elba Luna

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