

# *The Evergreens Cemetery*

## *Quarterly Newsletter*



### ***Notable Resident***

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

#### **Wing On Hom (1924-1944)**

On October 11, 2023, The Evergreens Cemetery had the honor of interring WW II hero Wing On Hom. He was laid to rest next to his parents and brother.

Wing On Hom was born on January 10, 1924. Private Hom entered the United States Army in Boston and served in WW II. In February 1944, Hom was assigned to B Company, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. On February 2, 1944, Hom went missing while his unit was engaged in defensive fighting against German Forces near the town of Cisterna di Latina, Italy. After his body was not recovered and he was not reported as a prisoner of war, the War Department declared Hom dead on February 3, 1944.



In 1946, a set of remains were found three miles west of Cisterna. The remains could not be positively identified, and they were interred at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery. A Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) historian believed that the set of remains could possibly be Hom's. In September 2021, the remains at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery were disinterred and sent to the DPAA laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. The remains were formally identified on April 6, 2023. Hom's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery where a rosette has been placed next to his name, indicating he has been accounted for. Hom was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

The Evergreens Cemetery is grateful for all active and retired veterans for their service to our country.



On October 11, veterans groups, FDNY Phoenix Society, NYPD's 5th Precinct and honor guards, alongside Hom's family, came to pay their final respects to Private Hom in a beautiful gravesite service.



## ***The Evergreens Cemetery Celebrates its 175th Anniversary***

The Evergreens Cemetery is proud to celebrate its 175th anniversary next year. Founded in 1849 as a non-sectarian cemetery, The Evergreens was designed by renowned landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing in the 'rural' style. The historic chapel, now the cemetery office, was designed by architect Alexander Jackson Davis in the Gothic Revival style. The Cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Over 532,000 people are buried here, including notables such as cartoonist and animator Winsor McCay, jazz musician Lester Young, painter Martin Heade, tap legend Bill "Bojangles" Robinson and Thomas "Blind Tom" Wiggins, and chess champion Wilhelm Steinitz.

The Evergreens has from its inception been a place of inclusiveness, welcoming those of all races, ethnicities and religions. The cemetery is notable for being the first in New York City to bury members of the Chinese community, who due to discrimination were prohibited from being buried at other cemeteries at the time. Many others who faced discrimination due to their professions, such as actors, musicians and authors, are also interred at The Evergreens.

"As we look ahead to this milestone, we reflect on the importance of our core values" says The Evergreens Cemetery President Julie Bose. "Our inclusiveness and diversity are what make us unique. Our burial spaces have always been available to all people, including those who were not allowed to be buried at other cemeteries. From our founding 175 years ago to today, we have welcomed a wide variety of people to be interred in peace and harmony alongside each other."

One especially significant burial site belongs to previously unknown victims of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire. The 1911 factory fire, which was the deadliest industrial disaster in the history of New York City, claimed a total of 146 lives. The monument "Triangle Fire Memorial to the Unknowns" marks the final resting place of six victims who were unidentified until recently. The memorial, featuring an expressive carving of a mourning woman, was created in 1912 by Evelyn Beatrice Longman.

The Evergreens, covering 225 acres and containing over 3,000 trees, is accredited as a Level II Arboretum. Home to many bird species due to its extensive tree canopy, the cemetery is a popular spot for birders.

The Evergreens has a robust slate of public programs, including tree walks, stargazing, history tours and events for families such as an annual Arbor Day celebration. Recent events include a bird walk for Black Birders Week in partnership with NYC Audubon and New York Restoration Project and a tour on Chinese Heritage at The Evergreens for Asian American and Pacific Islander



Heritage Month with the Urban Park Rangers. “We’re thrilled to invite the public to enjoy our serene green space and celebrate our heritage while serving our community through our innovative public programming.” says Bose. “Our 175th anniversary allows us to reflect on our past as we look towards the future.”

## ***Board Spotlight***

### **Interview with Meredith B. Jenkins**

Meredith Jenkins serves on the Investment Committee of The Evergreens Cemetery Board of Trustees. She is Chief Investment Officer at Trinity Church Wall Street.



#### **When did you first join the board, and how did you become involved?**

I just joined, so my first meeting was in October. I was invited about a year and a half ago by several board members, Fred [Bland], Dennis [Sullivan] and Bill [Cline]. At the time, I didn't have capacity to join this board, but some stuff has rolled off since then, so they were unbelievably wonderful and flexible in letting me wait until this fall to join. I knew both Fred and Dennis from Trinity Church, where I work. Dennis is on the vestry now, and Fred used to be on the vestry, so I had met them both in that context.

#### **What is your position at Trinity Church?**

I'm the Chief Investment Officer, so I manage their endowments.

#### **What are some of your duties as trustee at The Evergreens?**

I will be on the investment committee, working with the other members of that committee, and the Cambridge Associates team (Cambridge Associates is the investment consultant that works with the investment committee on The Evergreens portfolios).

#### **What are you most looking forward to about being on the board at The Evergreens?**

I'm really looking forward to getting involved. I've been really impressed by everyone I've met so far, and the people I already knew are people I have a lot of respect for, and enjoy spending time with. I've been really impressed at how thoughtful everyone is, and with the work that they are doing for The Evergreens. So I'm excited to spend more time with everybody.

#### **What other boards are you on?**

I'm on the Josiah Macy Foundation and the Windward School Board. I will be starting in the spring on the investment committee for the Grosvenor Estate in London.

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

I love to travel. My family lived abroad in Hong Kong for four years, and I'm a huge fan of getting around the world and traveling with my family. I have three boys, now almost all grown up, but love to spend time with them when they'll have me. On weekends, when possible, we like to go to Shelter Island. And I love to read.

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

In downtown Manhattan, in the West Village.

## ***Fall 2023 Community Service at The Evergreens Cemetery***

*The Evergreens continues to host and support a wide range of public service activities. Below is a selection of programs and*

*classes that took place this fall.*

Students from the John Bowne High School Agriculture Program enjoyed an introductory Tree ID class led by acclaimed author and certified arborist Bill Logan of Urban Arborists. The group of 9th graders are just beginning their plant science journey and they were excited to participate in a fall Arbor Day tree planting with an oak nurtured in the school's tree nursery.



Garden's Dan Gross.

Participating in the City of Forest Day initiative in October, the Evergreens welcomed a large group of tree lovers to learn from Trees New York's Director of Education, Sam Bishop. Subsequently, by popular demand, on a sunny day in November, we hosted a second tree education class walk, with Council Member Sandy Nurse as well as BKRot and Know Waste Land

We were pleased to welcome members of the New York City Urban Park Rangers who attended for professional training. We looked at a wide variety of trees, from rarely seen evergreens, to a silver bell, a Kentucky yellow wood, and a coffee tree as well as large mature oaks and beeches along with many others, all part of the Evergreens accredited Level II arboretum of more than 3,000 trees. The Evergreens is grateful to the NYS DEC Urban and Community Forest program that has helped support our tree canopy in the midst of Bushwick.



**Sustainable Trees:** For the second year in a row, the Evergreens donated sweetgum pods to the NYS Forestry nursery. The pods will be used to grow sustainable sweetgum trees for distribution across the state. The 15 gallons below represents 25% of all pods gathered this fall.

## *Support Us*

Please join us in supporting the Evergreens Cemetery by making a gift to the 2023 Annual Fund of The Evergreens Cemetery Preservation Foundation. These funds support our slate of dynamic programming, the preservation of our landscape, and the fulfilment of our mission to serve our families and communities.

Please send a check or money order to The Evergreens Cemetery – Preservation Foundation, 1629 Bushwick Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207.

To make a donation online please click on the Square link:  
<https://square.link/u/v7inR1rA> or scan the QR code below:



# 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:

Shevonne N. Zaccheo  
Family Service Counselor  
718-455-5300  
[sz@theevergreenscemetery.org](mailto:sz@theevergreenscemetery.org)

# Cemetery Hours

**Grounds/Gates open 7 days a week:**  
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

*Please visit our website or contact the office for holiday closures.*

**Office:**  
Monday through Friday:  
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Saturday:  
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

## The Evergreens Cemetery Board of Trustees

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Shevonne N. Zaccheo, Family Service Counselor

**The Evergreens Cemetery**  
**1629 Bushwick Avenue**  
**Brooklyn, New York 11207**  
**718-455-5300**

[info@theevergreenscemetery.org](mailto:info@theevergreenscemetery.org)



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