

2019

# THE ARCH

*News of Green-Wood for  
Members, Fans, and Friends*



**GW**  
**GREEN-WOOD**

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## Note from the President

Dear friends,

If you're picking up *The Arch* for the first time, you might be surprised that this beautiful magazine is published by a cemetery. On its pages you'll read about art, culture, preservation efforts, the environment, history, education, and so much more. All of it, taking place right here, right now, at Green-Wood. I'm happy to share with you a snapshot of what's going on...

From classical music to vaudeville and from storytelling to film, our amazing cultural programs stimulate every sense. Perhaps none more so than *Nightfall* where you'll wander the grounds on a beautiful autumn evening, lit by thousands of flickering candles, and encounter musicians, performance artists, films, and storytellers at every winding path. It's always a sellout—so make your reservations now for this October and the experience of a lifetime.

As a National Historic Landmark, Green-Wood is deeply invested in preservation work and in making sure we pass these skills on to next generation. This summer, seven high school students took part in our intensive internship program where they learned to reset, clean, and repair grave markers damaged over time. They put their skills to good work not only here at Green-Wood but also at The Old Gravesend Cemetery, the oldest surviving burial ground in the City dating back to 1643.

Unique among green spaces in New York City, Green-Wood takes its responsibility as a steward of the environment very seriously and our work is getting noticed! On September 7th, we hosted BioBlitz—a 17-hour biological survey where more than 500 students from Macaulay Honors College catalogued every species of plant and wildlife living here. With this new-found knowledge, our horticulture staff will be better able to manage our spectacular urban forest.

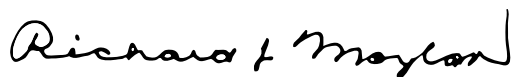
Even though it's more than a year away, the 2020 presidential election is already dominating the news. At Green-Wood, we too have connections to the White House. As *The New York Times* reported in 2016, nine failed presidential candidates are interred here. Among them is Citizens Party candidate Barry Commoner, a cellular biologist and trailblazing environmentalist who won about 234,000 votes in 1980 as Ronald Regan swept to victory. Now, as part of The Green-Wood Historic Fund Collections, we are the proud owner of original Commoner campaign buttons and posters.

These items and many others from our Collections will be on display at "The Green-Wood Center." A welcoming place for visitors and an exhibition space, the Center will be located near the Main Entrance at 25th Street and Fifth Avenue. Planning is well-underway.

Finally, among our most exciting preservation projects is the restoration of the landmarked nineteenth-century Weir Greenhouse. It's nearing completion. So stay tuned for updates.

If Green-Wood inspires you as much as it inspires all of us, we urge you to become part of our campaign for Green-Wood. We depend on your tax-deductible donations for support. Go online to [www.green-wood.com/donate](http://www.green-wood.com/donate) or use the envelope in this magazine to become a supporter!

See you around the grounds,



Richard Moylan  
President



President Richard Moylan congratulating Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams on receipt of The New York Landmarks Conservancy Chairman's Award.



# IMAGINING ALL A HISTORIC CEMETERY CAN BE

## Green-Wood's Vision for the Future

BY LISA ALPERT VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAMMING

Here at Green-Wood, we see it happen every day. People come to Green-Wood to take a quiet walk. They come with a school group. They come for a Twilight Tour. They stroll over to one of the glacial ponds and read a book on a nearby bench. They visit a loved one. They take a toddler to the koi pond. They discover their favorite monument. They visit an exhibition in the Fort Hamilton Gatehouse. They come for the spectacular trees. In short, they come for reasons as varied as the landscape of Green-Wood itself.

The capacity to be many things to many people is what makes Green-Wood a very special place. It is also what inspires our vision for the future. Our goal is to be both a cemetery and a cultural institution that showcases the history, culture, and natural beauty of America's past, present, and future. Serving our community with programs in education, the natural environment, historic preservation, and the arts is key to our work.

These are bold ideas. We admit it. But as Brooklynites and New Yorkers, we are up to the challenge. In just the past few years, our South Brooklyn community has helped inspire new ways for Green-Wood to make an impact, from programs in workforce development and environmental justice, to digging deeper into untold histories and contemporary cultural traditions.

Going forward, our most important task is to share Green-Wood—the sculpture, the architecture, the history, and the arboretum—with a

vastly larger audience. It's all part of imagining what this Cemetery can be. We invite you to imagine with us. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Robin Chamberlain, our director of development, at [rchamberlain@green-wood.com](mailto:rchamberlain@green-wood.com). We welcome your support and involvement in our endeavors.



Top to bottom: Visitors gathered before the Arch for a screening by Rooftop Films; A dancer performing at Green-Wood's Nightfall; Visitors enjoying the entertainment at Green-Wood's annual program, Niblo's Garden.

# RESTORATION ON THE ROAD

## High School Preservationists at Green-Wood Take Their Skills Beyond the Gates

BY NEELA WICKREMESINGHE MANAGER OF RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION

Each summer, my restoration team and I have the great opportunity to share our passion for historic preservation with a team of high school students. These rising juniors and seniors, each of them preparing to enter the working world, are interested in seeking technical, hands-on work experience. Green-Wood can offer just that as one of the host sites of the Careers in Technical Education Externship program offered by the New York City Department of Education. The initiative is presented in collaboration with World Monument Fund's Bridge to Craft Careers Program.

In the summer of 2019, we worked with seven students from three high schools: Williamsburg High School of Architecture and Design, Stephen T. Mather Building Arts High School, and the Urban Assembly School for Green Careers. The basics of monument cleaning, resetting, and repair were up first. Once the students had acquired these skills here at Green-Wood, we took them on the road. Our goal was to show them the huge impact historic restoration can make on a smaller cemetery that has few resources.

We headed out to The Old Gravesend Cemetery in South Brooklyn, the oldest surviving burial ground in New York City. It dates back to 1643—nearly two centuries before Green-Wood was founded. With their newfound skills, the students were entrusted with handling stones dating back to the mid-eighteenth century! The cemetery is operated under the auspices of the Citywide Monuments Conservation Program of New York City's Department of Parks and Recreation. We were thrilled to have their support and collaboration. By the end of the Gravesend project, the interns had reset 42 monuments and cleaned an additional 20, vastly improving the cemetery's appearance and helping to preserve its history.

This was the second year we took a team of summer interns to a cemetery in need. In 2018, the students worked in Staten Island on St. Andrews Cemetery and the cemetery at Sandy Ground—one of the oldest continually inhabited free Black settlements in the United States.

Green-Wood thanks World Monuments Fund for their generous funding and continued partnership in this venture. We are proud to advocate for cemetery preservation and restoration efforts throughout New York City. We look forward to working with another great group of students in the summer of 2020!



*Green-Wood's 2019 Restoration and Preservation student interns.*



**“IT’S BEEN AMAZING TO WATCH THESE STUDENTS LEARN AND GROW, WHILE MAKING A LASTING IMPACT ON THEIR COMMUNITY.”**

TAYLOR KABEARY, PROGRAM SUPERVISOR,  
GRADUATE STUDENT INTERN

*The interns at work in Brooklyn's Old Gravesend Cemetery.*

# RETHINKING URBAN GRASSLANDS

## Green-Wood Teams Up with Cornell University to Battle Climate Change

BY JOSEPH CHARAP DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE AND CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE



*The grasslands of Green-Wood, showing new treatment plans developed in collaboration with Cornell University's School of Integrative Plant Science.*

**T**he global effects of climate change are staggering: species extinction, rising sea levels, rising temperatures, and more. But what does this mean for Green-Wood? In partnership with Cornell University's School of Integrative Plant Science, we've embarked on a first of its kind research initiative to examine and address the effects of global warming right here in the Cemetery.

Focused on our hundreds of acres of grass, the project is led by Dr. Frank Rossi, an associate professor of horticulture at Cornell who is internationally recognized for his work in environmentally sustainable systems for grass and turf. Urban environments experience accelerated impacts from the increasing temperatures and rainfall associated with climate change, threatening grasslands like Green-Wood.

A number of challenges have become increasingly evident at Green-Wood. Most notably, we've seen a rise in invasive grass species, affecting both the appearance and biodiversity of our landscape. Furthermore, the longer growing season has meant more frequent mowing. Mechanical mowing contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, enlarging our carbon footprint, creates noise pollution, and opens our landscape and monuments up to damage.

Over the course of this three year project, we're setting out to address several questions: How can we reduce the spread of invasive grass spe-

cies? How can we cut down on how often we mow? What alternatives to traditional turf grass can we grow at Green-Wood?

First we need to understand exactly what we're dealing with. State of the art technology is being used to track the characteristics of our soils, grasses, and microclimates, including drone imagery and an array of monitoring devices. This baseline data is being used to develop, test, and refine treatment plans for our landscape.

Research is in its early phases, but we know what our goal is: to establish a more climate-resilient landscape. We're currently in the process of testing treatment plans. This has included the introduction of new seed mixes as an alternative to traditional turf, adjusting the frequency and height of mowing, and finding effective ways to manage soil disruption.

The most exciting part of this project is its impact beyond Brooklyn. Our findings will serve as a blueprint for other cemeteries, parks, and greenspaces in cities across the country that are facing similar challenges. By offering real-world strategies for large-scale urban grassy landscapes, Green-Wood is making an important contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and creating sustainable solutions for the future.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [grass@green-wood.com](mailto:grass@green-wood.com).

*A mowed path through long grasses that are aflutter with wildlife on Green-Wood's Hill of Graves.*



**“THE URBAN GRASSLANDS AT GREEN-WOOD PROVIDE AN IDEAL ENVIRONMENT TO STUDY SUSTAINABLE AND ECOLOGICAL ALTERNATIVES TO THE MANICURED LAWN IN AN ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE”**

FRANK ROSSI, PhD, PROJECT MANAGER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HORTICULTURE AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY



*Aerial photographs captured by drones are used to map and monitor the species of grasses at Green-Wood.*



*Andrew Pochedly, Cornell graduate student and project technician.*

## NEW BEETLE SPECIES DISCOVERED AT GREEN-WOOD

**T**he new species was identified during a screening for invasive wood-boring beetles on our grounds, conducted in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service. Entomologists analyzed the traits of the insect and found it to be distinctive from any known species in both physical appearance and genetic composition. It also exhibits a distinct behavioral difference from its closest relatives—it feeds on beech trees. This is a significant find because of the potential harm the beetle is capable of inflicting on the important urban tree population. The species has not yet been named.

Since 2016, Green-Wood has participated in initiatives to identify and reduce the populations of invasive insects that wreak havoc on trees both inside and outside of Green-Wood. Our partners in this work are the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the New York State Department of Environmental Protection. Green-Wood is proud to help safeguard New York's urban forests.



*Enlarged image of the newly discovered beetle, which measures just 3.7mm in length.*

# ART AT GREEN-WOOD

## Sparking Conversations Through Visual and Performing Arts

BY HARRY J. WEIL, PhD DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Art has always been an important facet of Green-Wood's history. Nearly two centuries of sculpture cover our 478 acres. As Green-Wood embraces its expanded role as a cultural institution, we seek ways to engage our visitors through the arts. We have staged theatrical performances, concerts, exhibitions, and more.

In the past three years, we have broadened our portfolio of arts programming by partnering with many outstanding artists and arts organizations, including Creative Time, Rooftop Films, The Moth, and Pioneer Works. The goal is to create and share works that respond to the unique themes that a Cemetery presents. These site-specific installations and programs enable our visitors to engage with the space in new and personal ways. By provoking a creative dialogue in keeping with our role as a place of memorialization and remembrance, Green-Wood ensures that art remains central to the visitor experience.



### BORDER CROSSINGS

(November 2018)

In partnership with Bard Graduate Center Gallery (located on the Upper West Side and dedicated to new research in the decorative arts, design history, and material culture) Green-Wood presented *Border Crossings: This and Other Worlds*. It was a weekend-long celebration of Día de Los Muertos, including traditional music from Central America, poetry readings, and a panel discussion on immigrant and refugee rights. The event featured a Día de Los Muertos-inspired altar, designed by Sunset Park artist Adrián Viajero Román, in Green-Wood's Historic Chapel. Visitors and neighbors came to see the ceremonial performances and participate in the traditional blessing of the altar. In keeping with the tradition of the holiday, they brought personal offerings, including photographs, flowers, small gifts, and treats.



### LIVING INSIDE SANCTUARY

(February–April 2019)

For the first time in our long history, we utilized our cast iron fence to share art with our community. In partnership with BRIC, the leading presenter of free cultural programming in Brooklyn, twelve banners were displayed along Green-Wood's Sunset Park Entrance, each bearing photographs taken by documentary photographer Cinthya Santos Briones. The series takes an intimate look at the lives of undocumented migrants who have found security in America, yet face orders of deportation, leaving them in a constant state of uncertainty. The photos were part of our "Lives Lived" series, which commemorates the myriad ways in which we live our lives in today's world.



# THE ANGEL'S SHARE

(Ongoing)

Since June 2018, Green-Wood, in partnership with Death of Classical, has presented a unique series of classical music concerts set in our famed Catacombs. Through this ongoing series, a range of artists present intimate and transcendent musical experiences in a one of a kind setting. The 2019 season included director Alek Shrader's operatic interpretation of Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* as well as the modernized baroque chamber music of Augusta McKay Lodge's *Epilogues and Epitaphs*. Before each performance, visitors are treated to a sunset reception and whiskey tasting featuring spirits crafted by local, Brooklyn-based distillers.



# NIGHTFALL

(Fall, annually)

One of Green-Wood's most popular events, *Nightfall* begins as darkness descends across Brooklyn. Visitors step through Gothic Arch to experience ethereal sights and sounds. Guided by thousands of flickering candles and the light of the silvery moon, they wander along the Cemetery's winding paths. Around almost every corner are musicians, performers, moving images, and storytellers. The creative team for *Nightfall* includes Bindlestiff Family Cirkus, Death of Classical, Morbid Anatomy, The Moth, Pioneer Works, Rooftop Films, and Green-Wood's own public programming team.



## WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

### I am fertile ground

(Fall 2019)

Artist Janine Antoni uses the human body, most often her own, as a tool and a subject for her artwork. In an upcoming site-specific installation in Green-Wood's Catacombs, Antoni expands on this theme by using the language of religious icons to pay homage to the body's wisdom.

Visit [green-wood.com/calendar](http://green-wood.com/calendar) for a full schedule of upcoming programs.

# SURVEYING GREEN-WOOD'S WILDLIFE

BY SARA EVANS PROJECT MANAGER, DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE



*A brown-belted bumblebee collecting nectar from the flowers of one of Green-Wood's sourwood trees.*

**G**reen-Wood is a haven for wildlife. A vast variety of birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and insects make their home at the Cemetery. Did you know that Green-Wood is home to five species of native bats? (Big brown bat, little brown bat, eastern red bat, hoary bat, and silver-haired bat.) Or that a population of red backed salamanders resides near Dell Water?

In efforts to learn more about our wildlife, a two-year survey was completed in 2018. These findings provide us with detailed data about the animals and insects that live here. We want to promote biodiversity wherever possible, as a diverse ecosystem is healthier and more resilient to environmental changes. As we understand species diversity here at Green-Wood we are then able to support that diversity. Our goal is to reduce practices that negatively affect our wildlife, such as the use of fertilizers and herbicides, and incorporate practices that enhance it.

Green-Wood will use the results of the survey for years to come as we continue to assess our ecosystem. The makeup of our wildlife will provide valuable information about the health of Green-Wood's environment, and a way in which we can measure the success of our landscape practices, from native tree and garden plantings to thoughtful pruning and mowing. This venture is just one way in which Green-Wood's team seeks to align our practices more harmoniously within our natural environment.



*An eastern red bat photographed at Green-Wood.*

## GREEN-WOOD'S ARCHIVES

Green-Wood retains an extensive archive of records—over 3,000 cubic feet—documenting our operations and permanent residents, dating back to our founding in 1838. A remarkable resource for staff and outside researchers, the archives reveal a vast store of genealogical and historical information. Green-Wood



has worked hard to ensure the records are well preserved and available for generations to come. We have a dedicated team of interns and volunteers who process the records, including college and graduate students studying information science and history and passionate fans of Green-Wood. Join our team! Contact Tony Cucchiara, archivist, at [tcucchiara@green-wood.com](mailto:tcucchiara@green-wood.com).

IN ONE YEAR...

125

CUBIC FEET OF ARCHIVAL RECORDS PROCESSED

150

ARCHIVAL ITEMS (MAPS, DIAGRAMS, AND DRAWINGS) PRESERVED AND PROTECTED

62

VOLUNTEERS, GRADUATE STUDENTS, AND INTERNS

690

GREEN-EALOGY INQUIRIES RECEIVED

1,883

HOURS CONTRIBUTED BY VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

1,212

LINEAR FEET OF ARCHIVAL SHELVING ADDED

# GREEN-WOOD AS CLASSROOM

## Expanding Our Education Department

BY RACHEL WALMAN DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



*Students from Brooklyn's P.S. 321 participating in one of Green-Wood's school programs.*

**“THIS WAS ACTUALLY THE BEST FIELD TRIP EVER!”** yelled a fourth grader on a recent school program at Green-Wood. Those words are music to an educator's ears. And they are pleasantly surprising considering that student had just spent ninety minutes reading primary source documents and sketching monuments with his classmates—in a cemetery in the rain. We hope to hear those words regularly from now on as Green-Wood revitalizes and expands its school programs.

In March 2019, I had the privilege to become Green-Wood's new Director of Education, a position created with the generous support of a three-year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. With this funding, we have created a menu of pre-K-12 Green-Wood School Programs tied to school curricula for history, art, and science that teachers can now book online. A generous and critical grant of \$300,000 (over two years) from the Booth Ferris Foundation will further support this expansion of our education programming. Our goal is to foster experiences that are unique to Green-Wood, where students not only learn, but are challenged and engaged.

We have a lot working in our favor towards reaching our goals: when it comes to School Programs Green-Wood's history naturally pushes students to think beyond what happened in the past to how and why we *remember* it. Research has also shown that students learn best in an emotionally affective environment. No middle school student will for-

get surveying the headstones throughout the Freedom Lots while studying the burial records of the more than 1,300 African American New Yorkers interred there. For preschoolers, the magic of walking around Valley Water investigating changes in the seasons will be a captivating experience. And high schoolers will be able to wax lyrical about Gothic Revival architecture decades after sketching the grand Arch at Green-Wood's Main Entrance.

As we start our journey to a new educational future at Green-Wood, we envision a time when all of New York City's students look forward to a transformative visit here, but until then we still never tire of hearing “best field trip ever!”

For more information, visit [green-wood.com/education](http://green-wood.com/education) or contact us at [education@green-wood.com](mailto:education@green-wood.com).



*Students studying the monument to George Washington's dentist, John Greenwood.*

# BRIDGE TO CRAFT CAREERS

## Training the Next Generation of Masonry Restoration Professionals

BY NEELA WICKREMESINGHE MANAGER OF RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION



Participants in the 2019 Bridge to Craft Careers program with Green-Wood's Manager of Restoration and Preservation.



**MICHAEL NIKOLARAS**  
"HISTORIC RESTORATION IS JUST A WHOLE NEW WORLD FOR ME... IT [GIVES] A LOT MORE MEANING TO YOUR WORK THAN JUST ANY OTHER CONSTRUCTION."



**JOSCELYNE DIAZ**  
"NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE GET TO EXPERIENCE FIXING OLD STRUCTURES LIKE THIS SO TO BE ABLE TO SAY I FIXED SOMETHING FROM [THE] 1860s IS QUITE AN HONOR."

In New York City, restoration of historic buildings is booming. Yet, the number of qualified craftspeople to carry out this important work is woefully low. At Green-Wood, we're doing our part to change that. Through the Bridge to Craft Careers program, we present a unique and unexpected educational experience for young job seekers interested in hands-on, outdoor work.



Photograph of the mausoleum circa 1875, published by E. & H.T. Anthony & Co.

Participants in the program learn the basics of restoration and preservation, including stone cleaning, repair, and re-pointing. They work right here on the grounds utilizing our historic mausoleums. Instructed by Green-Wood's experienced restoration department and master craftsmen from Local 1 of the Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, students receive all the training necessary to enter the field of masonry restoration.

The unique advantage of working on a cemetery mausoleum is that it presents, in miniature form, the same restoration issues that a historic building does. It allows the students to observe and practice preservation best practices in a learning environment that's focused on mastering industry standards. It's an ideal way to acquire the knowledge and skills

to tackle large restoration projects in their future careers. As an added bonus, students get to experience seeing a project through from start to finish. Further, they're making a lasting impact on Green-Wood's landscape.

This year, ten students, aged 18-27, from across New York City, turned their focus to the Egyptian Revival mausoleum of the Spofford, Tileston, Bryce, and Dambmann families. The former beauty is located beside Sylvan Water, Green-Wood's largest glacial pond. Their efforts revitalized the long overlooked architectural gem, preserving it for years to come. It was a monumental task, but one that the group took on with great enthusiasm and success.

On a beautiful sunny morning in May, we held a graduation ceremony outdoors on the steps of the mausoleum that the students had restored. Green-Wood was honored to welcome Melissa del Valle Ortiz, from the office of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, to give remarks and to congratulate the students as well. We are especially proud to announce that four of our students passed the Union Local 1 Brick and Allied

Craftsperson test, making them eligible to join union apprenticeship programs. Other graduates have already accepted positions with highly competitive private restoration firms.

Each student that completed the Bridge to Craft Careers Program is now working in a career they love. They bring to their jobs the confidence of having already successfully restored a priceless piece of architecture. With a greater understanding of our shared architectural history, these recent graduates are also injecting new purpose into historic cemeteries. We are thrilled to work with such talented young people while helping create a more diverse community of craftspersons in the fields of masonry restoration and construction.

Green-Wood is grateful for the support of the Achelis Bodman Foundation, the New York Regional Economic Development Council, and the donors and members of Green-Wood. If this is a program you'd like to help support, let us know! Contact Robin Chamberlain, our director of development, at [rchamberlain@green-wood.com](mailto:rchamberlain@green-wood.com) or (718) 210-3076.



Program participants test out their new skills at Green-Wood.

The restored mausoleum of the Spofford, Tileston, Bryce, and Dambmann families after the conclusion of the 2019 program.

# OUR RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION TEAM

There are thousands of monuments and memorials at Green-Wood—hewn in marble, granite, sandstone, even zinc—exposed every day to the elements. Gravity, rain, erosion, and plant life constantly challenge the architectural landscape on our grounds. Green-Wood is one of the only cemeteries in the county to have a dedicated team of restoration specialists on staff to preserve the precious monuments over time.



**Does your family have a gravestone or monument you'd like our restoration team to review?** Get in touch with us. Sara Durkacs, our corporate secretary, can walk you through the options to find a plan that works for you. Email her at [sdurkacs@green-wood.com](mailto:sdurkacs@green-wood.com) or call (718) 788-7850.

Green-Wood's Department of Restoration and Preservation (Bogdan Kubiszewski, Neela Wickremesinghe, Gustavo Padilla, and Felipe Hernandez).

IN ONE YEAR...

**56**

MONUMENTS  
REPAIRED

**7**

MAUSOLEUMS  
RESTORED

**488**

MONUMENTS  
RESET

**600+**

MONUMENTS  
CLEANED

**57**

PREVIOUSLY BURIED  
MONUMENTS UNEARTHED

**18**

FUTURE  
PRESERVATIONISTS  
TRAINED

# PROFILE OF A FRIEND, FAN, AND VOLUNTEER

Longtime Lover of Green-Wood Nicole Francis Shares What Makes the Cemetery so Special to Her

BY STACY LOCKE THE GREEN-WOOD HISTORIC FUND



*Nicole Francis and Joe Famiglietti celebrating at Green-Wood during their wedding reception.*

**G**reen-Wood holds a special significance for a lot of us, whether as the final resting place of a loved one, an oasis of nature amid the urban bustle, or a history lesson in our backyard. For Nicole Francis, her connection to Green-Wood is especially unique—it's where she fell in love and ultimately got married.

A California native, but a New Yorker at heart, Nicole has been coming to Green-Wood for over twenty years. As a volunteer, donor, fan, and friend she's been one of our greatest ambassadors. In fact, it was Nicole who, several years ago, pitched the beekeeping program at Green-Wood through which 16 hives are maintained on the grounds. "I am enormously proud that the program has done so well and The Sweet Hereafter [honey] is so bee-loved."

Nicole's first date with the man who would become her husband, Joe Famiglietti, was here at Green-Wood. It was at a performance of the *Spoon River Anthology*

**“EVERYTHING ABOUT GREEN-WOOD IS SPECIAL, NOTHING IS PEDESTRIAN. GO AHEAD AND TALK TO ANYONE WHO WORKS THERE AND YOU’LL SEE IT IN THEIR EYES.”**

in 2014. Three years later, Joe proposed on the steps of our Historic Chapel, where they would later hold their wedding reception. It's a true love story of the kind you don't necessarily associate with a cemetery. "We had our first date at Green-Wood and returned many times thereafter...Joe immediately started volunteering with me (we are both unapologetic history geeks) and he loves Green-Wood just as much as I do." These days you'll find the energetic pair volunteering at our annual gala or simply taking a stroll and enjoying the atmosphere.

Nicole's love for Green-Wood is as multifaceted as the landscape itself. "I am most inspired at Green-Wood. I can explore the incredible American history, revel in unbelievable nature in the middle of Brooklyn... experience variations in topography not found anywhere else in New York City, visit my bees, and be in an incredibly peaceful and reflective place."

Like any of us, Nicole never ceases to find new areas of Green-Wood to explore. As she puts it, "Every corner is magical in its own way. I can stand on any hill in the landscape and convince myself that that exact spot is the best of Green-Wood."



*Nicole Francis volunteering at Green-Wood's annual Gala.*



# TRACES OF TIFFANY

## New Research Uncovers Treasure Hidden in Plain Sight

BY JEFFREY I. RICHMAN HISTORIAN



The best thing about Green-Wood is that there is always more to discover. Even after decades of research and exploration, untold stories continue to come to light. One of our more recent discoveries: a collection of sixty monuments at Green-Wood designed by the studio of Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933).

Tiffany, himself a permanent resident of Green-Wood, was a designer and artist who worked in various media, but achieved his greatest fame for his stained glass. It is well known that Louis Comfort Tiffany designed stained glass windows for use in cemetery mausoleums. There are several of those at Green-Wood. Much less well known are the stone monuments designed by Tiffany Studios. I was aware of a handful of such memorials here, but it wasn't until a chance meeting with Susan Olsen of Woodlawn Cemetery that we began to understand just how many Tiffany monuments reside at Green-Wood. And they are truly spectacular!

Susan introduced me to a master's thesis entitled "Silent Sentinels: Funerary Monuments Designed and Executed by Louis Comfort Tiffany and Tiffany Studios," written in 1995 by Eileen Wilson Coffman for

her master's degree at Southern Methodist University. Meticulously researched, it details 763 monuments by Tiffany Studios in cemeteries across the United States. As Coffman notes, Tiffany had established a niche in designing and producing stained glass for churches and mausoleums. From there, it was a short jump to creating high-quality stone memorials for placement in cemeteries.

Eager to identify Tiffany monuments at Green-Wood, long-time volunteer Jim Lambert sprang into action, consulting Coffman's paper and combing through Green-Wood's archives. The results were more than we could have hoped for. We were able to locate dozens of stones Coffman had identified in her thesis, and a handful more. The memorials at Green-Wood are spectacular. Elaborately and meticulously carved, favorite motifs appear to be crosses and lilies inspired by Art Nouveau.

The project also helped us answer a long standing question: who designed the monuments of the Tiffany family lot? Well, it turns out those were made by Tiffany Studios as well! Discoveries like this are a testament to the knowledge Green-Wood can gain through our connections, volunteer work, and unflinching curiosity.



*From Top: The Curtis monument, the Tiffany family lot, and the Mason monument, all designed and fabricated by Tiffany Studios.*

**The Green-Wood  
Historic Fund**  
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# EXPLORE ART, HISTORY, AND NATURE

## Let Our Mobile App Be Your Guide

Green-Wood's newly released free mobile app enables you to explore the grounds through three thematic tours. Just pick Art, History, or Nature and head to Green-Wood to get started. (Or view from home!) An interactive map will help you navigate our terrain as you learn about the unique treasures beyond our gates. Additional features include information about wildlife, access to our events calendar, and information on membership. Available in English and Spanish from the App Store and Google Play.

Get started now! Just search apps for "Green-Wood."



Founded in 1838 as one of America's first rural cemeteries, The Green-Wood Cemetery soon earned an international reputation for its magnificent beauty and became the fashionable place to be buried. Today, Green-Wood continues to serve as an operating cemetery and crematory. As a peaceful sanctuary for those who come to remember and reflect, Green-Wood offers a magnificent, natural setting to honor the memories of those who have gone before us.

The Green-Wood Historic Fund is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit membership organization that works to maintain The Green-Wood Cemetery's monuments and buildings of historical, cultural, and architectural significance; to advance public knowledge and appreciation of the Cemetery; and to preserve the natural habitat of one of New York City's first green spaces.

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*Cover Photo: Maike Schulz, a tree lined avenue at Green-Wood during Nightfall 2018  
Design by Archigrafika; Editorial by Green-Wood Staff; Edited by Stacy Locke*