

2020

THE ARCH

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



GW
GREEN-WOOD

THE ARCH.

Green-Wood is a living cemetery that brings people closer to the world as it is and was, by memorializing the dead and bringing to life the art, history, and natural beauty of New York City.

Established in 1838, The Green-Wood Cemetery, a National Historic Landmark, is recognized as one of the world's most beautiful cemeteries. As the permanent residence of over 570,000 individuals, Green-Wood's magnificent grounds, grand architecture, and world-class statuary have made it a destination for over 330,000 visitors annually, including national and international tourists, New Yorkers, and Brooklynites. At the same time, Green-Wood is also an outdoor museum, an arboretum, and a repository of history. Throughout the year, it offers innovative programs in arts and culture, nature and the environment, education, workforce development, restoration, and research.

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A monarch chrysalis hangs from an angel sculpture at Green-Wood

PHOTOGRAPH: *Sara Evans*



Note from the President

Dear Friends,

At no time in recent history has New York City faced a crisis like COVID-19. Cemeteries, including Green-Wood, have been pushed close to breaking point. The sheer number of deaths we deal with every day has physically and emotionally overwhelmed us.

But, at no time in my 48-years at Green-Wood have I ever been prouder of our dedicated staff who have worked around the clock to ensure that every family affected by a COVID-19 death is treated with the utmost respect and dignity in their time of deep sorrow. From the crematory operators, gravediggers, and groundskeepers to the creative minds of The Green-Wood Historic Fund; and from our security force to the tireless office staff; each of them has my undying respect and gratitude.



And while it's true that a quiet sadness has enveloped Green-Wood, as I look out my window and see the grieving mourners, I am also reminded that Green-Wood is a very special place—one that offers a peaceful oasis where everyone is welcomed to find serenity amidst the uncertainty and turmoil of the day. Knowing how important it is for New Yorkers to have access to a place to stroll, get fresh air, and commune with nature, we made the decision—unprecedented in my tenure—to open all four of our gates seven days a week and to keep them open until 7pm, every evening. We've even brought on extra personnel and recruited an army of volunteer “Green-Wood Ambassadors” to ensure that our visitors are safe and abide by the rules, including critically important social distancing protocols.

Sadly, at the same time, we have had to temporarily cancel all tours, cultural programming, special events, and even our award-winning masonry training initiative for young New Yorkers. To make up for the vacuum this created, we developed free remote and virtual programs that continue to provide inside access to Green-Wood's fascinating history, permanent residents, and magnificent natural landscape.

We also created “Green-Wood From Home,” an ongoing series on Instagram and Facebook of short and entertaining videos that explore some of Green-Wood's great monuments and the stories behind them (via @historicgreenwood). Tens of thousands of you have already enjoyed these video excursions!

And, for even more access, don't forget to download the free Green-Wood app from Google Play or the App Store.

During this unprecedented time, one thing remains a constant: Green-Wood is a welcoming and tranquil oasis. Better days are just around the corner.

Until then, please stay safe and well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Moylan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Moylan
President

P.S. As we go to press, we have learned of the passing of former Brooklyn Assemblyman Joe Ferris. Not only did he make a significant impact on the governance of Brooklyn, New York City, and New York State, but forever earned a place in our hearts at Green-Wood as a fierce protector of the historic sightline from Battle Hill to the Statue of Liberty. Joe was always on the frontline of the Battle of Brooklyn Commemoration and was instrumental in bringing the Irish Korean War Memorial to Green-Wood. He will be missed.

A DYNAMIC BOARD

Green-Wood's Newest Leaders

BY LISA ALPERT VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAMMING

When an institution has been around as long as Green-Wood has—182 years and counting—the list of esteemed board members is very long. Beginning with our first chairman, David Bates Douglass, who designed the layout and infrastructure of Green-Wood, a high bar has always been set for trustees of Green-Wood.

In December 2019, our chair of twenty-two years, **C. Payson Coleman Jr.**, stepped down from the top role. As the longest serving chairman since the Cemetery's founder, Henry Pierrepont, Coleman oversaw a period of extraordinary growth at Green-Wood. As Green-Wood President Richard Moylan, has asserted, "His many accomplishments include initiating the Cemetery's drive to embrace its status as a cultural institution, the dramatic expansion of our education programs, and countless restorations, fundraising efforts, and other initiatives." The Cemetery's endowment increased ten-fold during his tenure, due to his expertise on Green-Wood's investment committee. Coleman will remain an active board member.



Former chairman and current trustee, C. Payson Coleman, Jr.



Newly appointed chair, Peter W. Davidson

Taking over as Green-Wood's new chair is Brooklynite **Peter W. Davidson**. A trustee since 2004, Davidson is the CEO of Aligned Climate Capital LLC, an investment group focused exclusively on clean energy, efficient transportation, green real estate and sustainable natural resources. Davidson serves as chair of the J.M. Kaplan Fund, his family foundation, which champions social, environmental, and cultural causes through inventive grant-making. Davidson was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as executive director of the Loan Programs Office at the U.S. Department of Energy.

The board also welcomed three new members, **Kathy Kermian-Leicht**, **Rudy Wynter**, and **Krystyna Houser**.

Kermian-Leicht enjoyed an impressive thirteen-year career at Christie's Auction House in New York, where she was a member of the executive committee and advanced to several senior executive positions, eventually becoming senior vice president and deputy managing director for the Americas. She resides in Brooklyn Heights.

Wynter, a resident of Cobble Hill, is president and chief operating officer of Wholesale Networks and U.S. Capital Delivery at National Grid. A twenty-five-year veteran of the utility company, he is leading the transformation of National Grid's transmission network into a highly intelligent, resilient system that will help enable a clean energy future.

Houser has built and managed many businesses over the years. She runs a private real estate investment firm and is currently working on a multi-book publishing deal in the wellness industry. Houser also works as an activist and philanthropist, and serves on the board of several not-for-profits, including the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Trustees of Green-Wood enjoy the unique dual role of overseeing the operations of a not-for-profit cemetery corporation and the growth of its educational, cultural, historical, and environmental organization, The Green-Wood Historic Fund.



New board members
Kathy Kermian-Leicht,
Rudy Wynter, and
Krystyna Houser

CEMETERY AS MUSE

Artists Interpret Green-Wood and Its Themes

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

Over the past year, Green-Wood continued to reach new audiences through its programming in the visual and performing arts. We've forged partnerships with contemporary artists and local arts organizations to create dynamic exhibitions for which the Cemetery served as inspiration.



I am fertile ground, 2019, Mixed media gilded with 24 karat gold leaf

I AM FERTILE GROUND

(Fall 2019)

Last fall, I curated a site-specific exhibition of sculptures by acclaimed artist Janine Antoni. They were created specially for Green-Wood's Catacombs.

Antoni was inspired by the power of physical gestures, or movements that communicate an idea or intention. We humans engage in them all the time, sometimes unknowingly and sometimes purposefully. Some are recognizable, like hands clasped in prayer, while others are personal and idiosyncratic. Antoni believes that such motions comprise a kind of library of wisdom that the body can intuitively access. Her depictions of these gestures were surrounded by elaborately gilded bones that correspond to each image. The artworks resembled religious icons.

Exhibited in the Catacombs, one of the Cemetery's oldest structures, *I am fertile ground* enabled visitors to engage with a space that is rarely open to the public. From the sophisticated art lover to the novice, visitors experienced an entirely original work in one of the most enthralling settings for art in New York City.

I am fertile ground was funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.



Death Becomes Her, Exhibited in BRIC's Main Gallery

DEATH BECOMES HER

(Spring 2020)

What lingers after loss? How do we, the living, respond to death? In history, in our families, in our communities? These questions, among others, served as inspiration for *Death Becomes Her*.

Presented in partnership with BRIC, a leading arts and media institution in Brooklyn, the collaborative exhibition explored how death and the grieving process impact the living. It featured works by eight outstanding female-identifying artists: Mimi Bai, Kim Brandt, Nona Faustine, Rachel Grobstein, Gyun Hur, Heidi Lau, Catalina Ouyang, and Keisha Scarville. The artists drew inspiration from a myriad of sources to expand the visual rhetoric of how the departed are remembered—examining both the ability of loss as a catalyst for self-discovery and its larger cultural and social associations.

Death Becomes Her was curated by myself and Jenny Gerow of BRIC, and exhibited at BRIC's gallery space in Downtown Brooklyn. This enabled Green-Wood to engage new audiences and to commission works specifically for the exhibition, which wouldn't have been possible on site.

TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Think Globally. Act Locally

BY JOSEPH CHARAP DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE AND CURATOR

Climate change affects the natural environment worldwide—but that doesn't mean action can't start on a small scale. Change has already begun here at Green-Wood.

From the effects of increased storm frequency and severity to longer periods of warm temperatures allowing the spread of invasive species and incidence of tree diseases, climate change has posed a number of challenges for Green-Wood's landscape.

So we're taking aggressive action to preserve its venerable legacy. We're reforming our management practices, hosting applied research initiatives with collaborators like Cornell University's School of Integrative Plant Sciences, advocating for climate adaptivity, and educating our community on responsible practices in climate resilience. These are just a few ways in which Green-Wood seeks to steward its natural landscape in perpetuity, for families, for their loved ones, and for hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

How do we adapt to the realities of a changing climate and build RESILIENCE AT GREEN WOOD?

Plant **2,000 trees** over the next 5 years
As trees grow they exponentially trap more carbon through the process of photosynthesis

Continuous data collection and tracking allows Green-Wood to monitor our climate and ecological impact

INCREASE WILDLIFE HABITAT

12% of Green-Wood's grassland are managed as meadow and mowed 3x per year

The remaining acreage is mowed every 13 days rather than every week ≈36% less GHG emissions

BY PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE AND REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS

Replace lawn with plantings of native perennials and shrubs

Mow at higher cut of 5" versus 2" to preserve the flowers of low growing plants

THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE WORSEN WITHOUT INTERVENTION

Invasive species *require more resources*: fuel to mow and chemicals to control that *contribute to the warming climate and biodiversity loss*

Tree canopy loss *exacerbates the spread* of invasive plant species that thrive in full sun.

Invasive plants' aggressive growth rate *outcompetes* desirable vegetation.

The warmer and wetter the climate becomes the faster invasive pests and plant diseases spread.

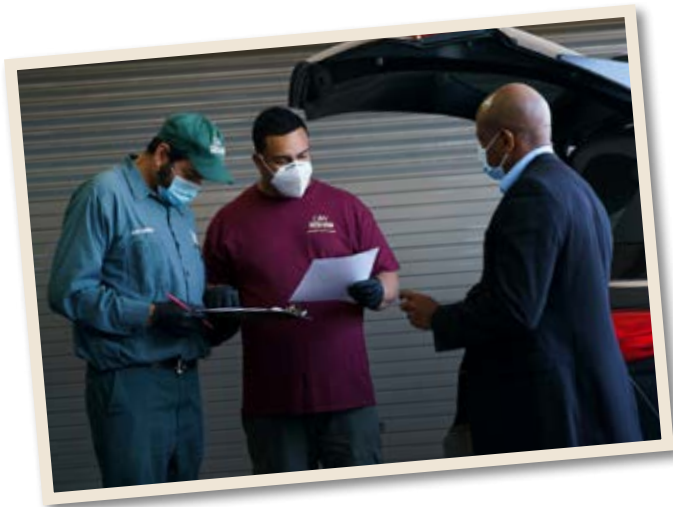
COMING TOGETHER DURING CRISIS

Green-Wood's Invaluable Essential Workers

The coronavirus pandemic has been an extraordinary time for everyone. For frontline workers in the death care industry, it's been a daily battle. Green-Wood's crematory operators, gravediggers, office staff, and security team worked almost around the clock from March through early June. They were stretched to the limit, but never wavered.

"I HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE PROUD OF OUR INCREDIBLE STAFF HERE AT GREEN-WOOD. THEY HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY AND SELFLESSLY TO TREAT FAMILIES WITH CARE AND DIGNITY. I WILL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR THEIR DEDICATION."

RICHARD J. MOYLAN, PRESIDENT



Crematory operators Antonio Carrasquillo and Gustav Padilla work with a funeral director



Joe Buccina coordinates Green-Wood mail



Isabella Vlacci-Melina takes a burial order

Gravedigger Janusz Karkos prepares a site for burial





GREEN-WOOD

A Peaceful Oasis in an Uncertain World

BY STACY LOCKE MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

For nearly two centuries, Green-Wood has been a peaceful oasis—a calm in the urban storm. Now, more than ever, New Yorkers need a safe space to take a walk, commune with nature, and reflect on the challenges of 2020.

On April 1, 2020, we made the unprecedented decision to open all four of our entrances to the public seven days a week. With the city ordered to stay home from work, we wanted to provide our neighbors with access to outdoor space. Our 478 acres provide ample room for visitors to take in nature, see world-class sculpture, think about history, and wander winding paths, all while social distancing.

We've long recognized Green-Wood's important role in the community, both to those memorializing loved ones and those seeking greenspace, but we were blown away by the responses we have received since extending our hours!

Thank you all for allowing Green-Wood to be a part of your lives during this difficult time and we hope that you always feel welcome and among friends when you are here.

“MY FAMILY STANDS WITH YOU, GREEN-WOOD! WE ARE THANKFUL TO HAVE THIS SAFE SPACE YOU HAVE PROVIDED YEAR AFTER YEAR TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR STAFF AND THE WORK YOU HAVE DONE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY.”

ANNIE SYSO, GREEN-WOOD DONOR



“THIS IS SO VERY MUCH APPRECIATED IN THESE TOUGH TIMES! MY DAILY WALK IN GREEN-WOOD HAS BEEN KEEPING ME SANE. WHAT A GREAT SERVICE TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND BROOKLYN. THANK YOU”

SIGRID JAKOB, GREEN-WOOD MEMBER

“THANK YOU FOR REMAINING OPEN. AS ALWAYS, THE GROUNDS ARE A PLACE OF REFLECTION AND PEACE.”

BETSY LOREDO, GREEN-WOOD NEIGHBOR



“THANK YOU GREEN-WOOD FOR SUSTAINING OUR COMMUNITY WITH PEACE AND BEAUTY DURING THE COVID CRISIS.”

DONNA SCHNEIDERMAN, FACEBOOK FOLLOWER



A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GREEN-WOOD AMBASSADORS!

Keeping our gates open longer has meant lots of new visitors—so we asked for your help to keep Green-Wood a safe haven for everyone. Hundreds of you answered our call, becoming “Green-Wood Ambassadors” and taking your time on the grounds to direct visitors, reminding them of our rules and best practices and enforcing critical social distancing directives. We are, as ever, so appreciative of all our volunteers!

If you'd like to get involved, contact Volunteer Liaison Gabrielle Gatto at contactus@green-wood.com



Green-Wood's Coordinator of Public Programs and Volunteer Liaison Gabrielle Gatto, along with Green-Wood Ambassador Elaine Lippman

PUBLIC PROGRAMS GO VIRTUAL

Socially Distant Shared Experiences

BY DERYA MERGIN MANAGER OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS

ZOOMING IN ON HISTORY

Hosted on Zoom by Green-Wood Historian Jeff Richman, and featuring special guests, these conversations tap into fascinating historical topics connected to Green-Wood and its residents. Popular programs have included Green-Wood's Tiffany stained glass, the wild world of Coney Island amusements, and America's favorite pastime—baseball.

ZOOMING IN ON NATURE

In this series, Joseph Charap and Sara Evans of Green-Wood's horticulture department are joined by scientists and specialists to discuss the Cemetery's natural environment and the ways in which we support it. The series kicked off with a conversation led by Frank Rossi on our innovative Urban Grasslands Research Initiative. Other topics have included Green-Wood's veteran trees, wild bees, and mushrooms.



Zooming in On Sculpture: Green-Wood's Outdoor Museum, featuring Thayer Tolles, from The Metropolitan Museum of Art



Musician Chris Johnson performing an original composition, "We'll be fine...one day"

DEATH EDUCATION

Our popular Death Cafe program has transitioned to Zoom, where hosts Amy Cunningham, funeral director and death educator, and Bethany Tabor, our newest moderator, lead the conversations. These free programs provide a space for safe and open exchanges on the topic of death—so universal and yet so rarely discussed.

GREEN-WOOD FROM HOME

Beginning this spring we have offered special inside access to Green-Wood through videos on Instagram and Facebook via @historicgreenwood. Our "Green-Wood from Home" series provides an inside look at some of Green-Wood's magnificent monuments and memorials, as well as the illustrious permanent residents who inspired them.

MUSIC FOR ANXIOUS TIMES

Also on social media, we've introduced a music series specially curated for reflection and healing. Filmed on site in Green-Wood's Catacombs, the series has featured diverse artists and music genres including classical, folk, and jazz.

For upcoming programs and events, visit [green-wood.com/calendar](https://www.green-wood.com/calendar)

RESPECTING OUR ELDERERS

The Wisdom and Value of Green-Wood's Veteran Trees

BY SARA EVANS MANAGER OF HORTICULTURE OPERATIONS

New York City's natural history is reflected in some of its oldest living organisms: its trees. When trees have endured the pressures of human development—and have the scars to show for it—they are known as veteran trees. Some at Green-Wood predate the Cemetery's founding in 1838, remnants of Brooklyn's forests. They include native oak, hickory, American beech, tulip, and sweetgum trees. About 300, or roughly 4%, of Green-Wood's Living Collection of trees carry this distinction.

To ensure an even longer life for each veteran tree, Green-Wood's Horticulture Department works with industry partners to support their natural aging processes—with minimal intervention. Our approach is to mirror the natural rhythms of a tree's life cycle, helping trees age gracefully while reducing risk to the public and to our monuments.

Preserving veteran trees is critical to safeguarding Green-Wood's historic character. But their benefit goes far beyond that. These grand, old specimens help Green-Wood to reduce its environmental impact. They mitigate stormwater runoff by capturing and storing rainfall in their canopy and releasing water into the atmosphere and store exponentially greater amounts of carbon than a younger tree. They are also great friends to wildlife, providing habitat to species ranging from rare fungi to common birds.

These wonderful old trees reflect nature's tenacity and its fragility. They are survivors. But they also remain ever vulnerable to the threat of the rapidly changing climate. As we work to maintain the health of our historic landscape, this special collection of trees will always be one of our most important constituents.



Arborists from Samara Tree Preservation reduce the canopy on a 150-year-old red oak

ARBORETUM BY THE NUMBERS

Green-Wood is a level III arboretum as accredited by ArbNet, one of only 27 in the world



690

UNIQUE TREE SPECIES
AND CULTIVARS

407

TREES PLANTED
IN 2019

300+

VETERAN TREES

7,457

TOTAL TREES AND
SHRUBS ACROSS OUR
478 ACRES

63

TREE SPECIES ADDED
TO THE LIVING
COLLECTION IN 2019

If you are interested in adopting a tree at Green-Wood, visit green-wood.com/adopt-a-tree

RESTORATION AT GREEN-WOOD

The Gilman Mausoleum

BY NEELA WICKREMESINGHE THE ROBERT A. AND ELIZABETH ROHN JEFFE DIRECTOR OF RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION



The newly repointed Gilman mausoleum

For me, buildings have always served as a mnemonic device. I can look at a structure and remember where I was when I first recognized it, or had the privilege to restore some aspect of it.

I remember the buildings that I observed from the bus window on my way to school, the bus giving me the height to notice the glazed terra cotta accents on apartment buildings and the carved limestone pediments on libraries and post offices.

At Green-Wood, this experience continues. I remember the sculptures I have worked on over the years—ones I worked on with exuberant students, ones worked on when I, or someone on my crew, was having a bad day.

When faced with what to work on during the coronavirus lockdown I knew that whatever it was going to be, I would not forget it. My decision to restore the Gilman Mausoleum, a structure built in 1850 of Tuckahoe marble in a simple neoclassical form, was easy. As I cut out the failing joints and began repointing, I went many days without seeing a visitor. I carefully worked my way around the mausoleum, and slowly, they began

to return, smiling at me behind their masks.

This May, in celebration of Historic Preservation Month, I documented my work on Green-Wood's social media channels (Facebook and Instagram @historicgreenwood) to share the process with a wider audience.

The Cemetery has been a safe haven for many during this time, myself included. To have time and space to hone my craft amidst such uncertainty was a gift. Gilman now holds not only the memories of its namesake, but mine as well. Memories of loved ones I lost during this time are now embedded in its walls and mixed in with the mortar.

Green-Wood has long been a place of remembrance for those with loved ones interred within its gates. As we begin to reflect on this time, it is clear that Green-Wood will remain so—for all of us, for years to come.



Neela explains mortar removal and replacement

GREEN-WOOD IS MY CLASSROOM

Online Resources for Distance Learning

BY RACHEL WALMAN DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

When New York City schools closed this spring, and students and teachers turned to distance learning, Green-Wood recognized that we were in a unique position to help students learn, both at home and on our grounds while safely practicing social distancing.

As a National Historic Landmark, an arboretum, and an outdoor sculpture garden, Green-Wood is the ideal environment for learning about American history, nature, art, and architecture. So we created a series of self-guided visits and at-home activities for students and families on all of these topics, available for free on our website.

Students can use these tools to learn about the natural environment—identifying birds with our birding checklist or locating plant species with our nature scavenger hunt. Kids interested in art can identify architectural styles of the nineteenth century at home and then identify them on site at Green-Wood, or search for common cemetery symbols on the grounds. And students of history can take an online tour of the Freedom Lots, the largest undisturbed African American burial ground in the northern United States.

More activities, all tied to national, state, and local learning standards, can be found on our website, green-wood.com/learning-resources.

“WE HAD A GREAT TIME LOOKING FOR THE SYMBOLS AND LEARNING WHAT THEY MEANT. WE WERE AMAZED THAT WE’VE BEEN LOOKING AT THE GRAVES EVERY DAY AND NOT NOTICING WHAT WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF US...”

LOCAL MOM AND HER 12 YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER



A student studies a monument



A family explores the historic landscape together

THANK YOU!

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Green-Wood's newly updated 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 inside 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: Evan Rabeck; A Red-Tailed Hawk rests on a monument at Green-Wood
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