

**Join us as a Docent**

The Cemetery welcomes inquiries and applications from prospective docents (tour guides). Training opportunities are available and current docents are happy to co-lead tours until new recruits are ready to “fly solo”. Being a docent is both intellectually stimulating and socially rewarding. It’s an opportunity to study and share important moments and monuments of New Haven and U.S. history. If interested, please contact Patti Illingworth at (203) 389-5403 or at p.b.illingworth@worldnet.att.net for more information.



**How to Reach Us**

Grove Street Cemetery  
 Open daily from  
 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 227 Grove Street  
 New Haven, CT 06511  
 Phone: (203) 787-1443

Friends of Grove Street Cemetery  
 P. O. Box 9238  
 New Haven, CT 06533-0238  
 Phone: (203) 782-0485  
 e-mail: office@grovestreetcemetery.org  
 website: www.grovestreetcemetery.org



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Spring 2010

**Meeting House to be Restored**

The Standing Committee is currently in the process of planning for the restoration of the Chapel (to be referred to, after restoration, as the “Meeting House”). While details are still being sorted out, it is expected that the Meeting House will serve not only as a place for local groups to meet but also as a “visitor’s center” for the Cemetery. It will be available for interment services in inclement weather and there will also be office space for the business activities of the Cemetery and an area for our docents to begin their tours. Formal fundraising for the project has not yet begun, but it is expected that there will be a wide-ranging effort to involve the greater community in the preservation and adaptation of this architecturally significant building.



motion approved to construct, near the Gateway, a stone or brick building suitable for a Chapel and for funeral services in stormy weather, provided the cost of construction did not exceed \$3,000. The next minutes of the Standing Committee are of a special meeting of the Committee held on June 29, 1872, in the newly completed Chapel. It was reported in these Minutes that the Chapel had in fact cost \$4,648. The names of the architect and the builder are not recorded, and there is no description of the original building. The only other information concerning the architecture of the Chapel is contained in the Historical Resources Inventory published by the State of Connecticut Historical Commission in September,

1981. In a brief description of the Chapel it is noted that “orig. chapel tower & spire removed.” There is no reference as to where this information came from, and we have so far not been able to find any mention of modifications to the Chapel. Further research is being conducted, and if anyone has information about the Chapel please contact John Edwards, 203-782-0485, email john.debbie@sbcglobal.net.

**Standing Committee of the Proprietors of Grove Street Cemetery**

- G. Harold Welch, Jr., President
- Harry B. Adams
- Eleanor C. Babbitt
- Anne T. Calabresi
- Milton P. DeVane, Esq.
- Charles D. Ellis
- Gerald E. Gaab
- David F. Musto, M.D.
- Curtis L. Patton, M.D.
- Lorraine D. Siggins, M.D.
- John G. Simon, Esq.

**Honorary Members of the Standing Committee**

- Mrs. Regina Starolis
- Mr. Henry H. Townshend, Jr.

**Board of the Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc.**

- John M. Edwards, Esq., Chairman
- Nancy E. Ahlstrom
- Edward S.K. Bottomley
- Gerald E. Gaab
- E. Robert Gregan
- Patricia B. Illingworth
- Herrick N. Jackson
- Birgitta W. Johnson
- Jean C. Kashgarian
- Daniel S. Lovins
- David F. Musto, M.D.
- James C. Niederman, M.D.
- Miriam C. Niederman
- Judith A. Schiff
- Margaret S. Watley
- G. Harold Welch, Jr.

**Honorary Board Member**

Paul E. Waggoner

*The Grove Street Bulletin*

Edward G. Williams, Editor

In connection with the proposed restoration of the Meeting House, efforts have been made to locate information on the construction and original plans for the building. To date, it appears that all documentation and descriptive materials have been either misplaced or destroyed. What we do know is that at a meeting of the Standing Committee held on March 31, 1871, there was a

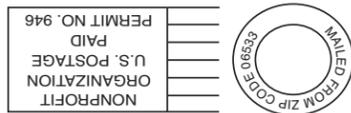
**Save the Date: April 8, 2010**

**Program in April to Address Humorous Side of Death**

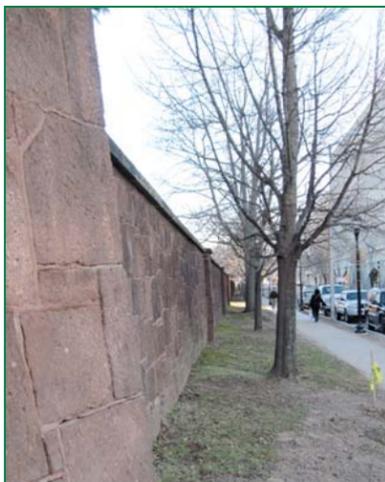
On April 8, 2010, the Friends will offer a presentation by Walter Cahn, Carnegie Emeritus Professor of History of Art, who will take a humorous look at the usually somber subject of death. Entitled “At the Pearly Gates: Judgment, Heaven and Hell in the New Yorker”, the talk will be illustrated with slides of New Yorker cartoons. The talk will begin at 4:30, and will be held in the Lecture Hall of Sterling Memorial Library, located immediately to the right after entering the Library through the Wall Street entrance (directly across from the Law School entrance). Docent led tours of the Cemetery will be offered at 3:00, weather permitting. The presentation will be followed by a reception. All Members of the Friends are cordially invited to attend.

Address Service Requested

Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 9238  
 New Haven, CT 06533



## Proposal to Modify Prospect St. Wall Debated and Withdrawn



At an open forum for the public held by the Proprietors of the Grove Street Cemetery at the Yale Graduate Club on October 6, 2009, Standing Committee member Charles Ellis and Yale School of Architecture Dean Robert Stern shared their vision for a proposed modification to the cemetery wall that runs along Prospect St. The new design would have removed small sections from the 8-foot wall and

replaced them with cast-iron fencing, and would have replaced the street lights along Prospect Street with more architecturally appropriate ones. Most attendees who chose to express an opinion were against the proposed change to the wall. Some objected that the cemetery was a national historic landmark and therefore should be preserved in its current form; others that the Cemetery is a kind of 'walled garden' that needs protection from the noise and pollution of the street. On October 13 the Standing Committee issued a statement thanking Mr. Ellis for his proposal and for his offer of financial support, and explaining that he had decided to withdraw the proposal due to concerns expressed at the forum, "particularly concerning possible noise intrusions".

## Grove Street DVD Wins Prestigious Linsley Award

The Association for the Study of Connecticut History (ASCH) has announced that this year's Linsley Award is being given to "Grove Street Cemetery: City of the Dead, City of the Living", a documentary directed by Karyl Evans and produced for Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery and the Standing Committee. According to February 2010 press release, the award "honors Betty Linsley, a history teacher, librarian, archivist, genealogist, and former treasurer of the Association for the Study of Connecticut History," and "is awarded to the best work on a significant aspect of Connecticut history published by or for a Connecticut historical society or non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the history of Connecticut. This is the first time in the history of the ASCH Awards that an award has gone to a historical documentary." Copies of the DVD can be obtained by sending a \$15 check to Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc. P. O. Box 9238; New Haven, CT 06533-0238.



## Cemetery Plots Still Available

Contrary to common assumption, more than 1,300 plots are still available for purchase at the Cemetery. To learn more, contact Mr. William Cameron at (203) 787-1443 or write him at Grove Street Cemetery, 227 Grove Street, and New Haven CT 06511-6806.

## Annual Fourth of July Celebration



In a tradition that goes back many decades, the Cemetery will be the site of the annual Independence Day commemoration sponsored by the General David Humphreys Branch Number One, Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The ceremony will include stops at the gravesites of Roger Sherman, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and David Humphreys, an aide-de-camp to George Washington during the Revolutionary War, and is scheduled to be led by an appropriately attired fife and drum corps. Beginning at 9:00 am on July 4, the participants will gather just inside the entrance to the cemetery. If you haven't had the opportunity to attend in the past, it is a stirring way to begin your celebration of our country's independence.

## Changes on the Board

The Board of the Friends has added four new members and has lost one of its long time volunteers. In September, Mimi Niederman, Birgitta Johnson, Daniel Lovins and Ed Bottomley joined the Board. In February, the Board regrettably accepted the resignation of an esteemed member, Paul Waggoner, and unanimously elected him to the position of Lifetime Honorary Board Member. Paul had led our Landscape Committee for a number of years and was instrumental in many improvements to the Cemetery.

## Do our Friends have friends?

If you are a member of the Friends of Grove Street Cemetery you are already aware of how important our work is for the preservation and protection of the Cemetery and for sharing its history with the greater community. Do you have a friend who might like to join with us in this undertaking? If so, pass this bulletin along so that they may complete and return our membership application. All new members who join before October 1, 2010, will enjoy membership through October, 2011. If you are not already a member, we encourage you to join.

## DVD Video Clips Now Integrated into GSC Website

Video clips excerpted from the Grove Street DVD have been added to the Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery Website: <http://www.grovestreetcemetery.org/video/video-grove-street-cemetery.html>. The four clips are entitled: (1) "Early History", (2) "Founding Fathers", (3) "Intro to Cemetery", and (4) "Still Plots Left". These videos, none longer than about three minutes, offer a wonderful introduction to the history of the Cemetery.

## How to Order YOUR Copy of the Grove Street Cemetery DVD

Copies of the Grove Street Cemetery DVD are available for purchase at \$15.00 (postage pre-paid) per copy. Please complete the form below to receive your copy. You should also consider purchasing copies for family members and for friends.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

No. of DVD copies \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ sent to the above address.

No. of DVD copies \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ sent to the individuals whose names and addresses appear on the separate enclosed list.

## How to Join Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc.

Individuals, organizations and corporations interested in Grove Street Cemetery and the objectives of the Friends are encouraged to become members. Annual membership dues are shown below. The membership year is October 1 to September 30. Membership Dues and other contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Contributions in excess of Membership Dues are welcome and, unless otherwise specified, will be allocated to its General Fund. We also maintain two additional funds which may be of interest to donors. The Landscape and Landmark Funds were created to support the on-going horticultural programs of the organization and the ever present need for support of the Cemetery's renovation and restoration efforts.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: Individual \$35 \_\_\_\_\_ Couple \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Not-for-profit \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Corporation \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Please check areas of participation that interest you:

Preservation \_\_\_\_\_ Program \_\_\_\_\_ Publication \_\_\_\_\_ Horticulture \_\_\_\_\_ Docent \_\_\_\_\_ Fund Raising \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks for DVD orders, Dues and Contributions should be made payable to Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery, Inc. and mailed with this completed form to: P. O. Box 9238; New Haven, CT 06533-0238.**