

# BRONZE RESTORATION PROJECTS *by Scott Kreilick*

For years the team from Kreilick Conservation has been providing services to take care of Woodlawn’s significant collection of doors. From experience we know that well maintained bronze-work enhances the aesthetic appearance and increases the longevity of a mausoleum. We begin each project by assessing the current condition and then provide recommendations for appropriate treatment. In many cases, the bronze-work at Woodlawn Cemetery was treated with a very tenacious protective coating that has deteriorated and must be removed. After the original surface is revealed, our conservators adjust the color of the metal-work, returning it to its original state by applying a chemical patina. The surfaces are then protected by the application of microcrystalline wax. We work with Woodlawn staff to provide ongoing care and if doors are maintained on a regular basis, the wax will protect the bronze in perpetuity.



## OUR 2019 PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS ARE MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF:

- **Altman Foundation**
- **Bronx Council on the Arts**
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Supporters who make unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 or more annually become members of the President’s Circle. This group provides the much needed support to achieve Woodlawn’s immediate and long-term restoration priorities. To learn more, go to [WoodlawnPresidentsCircle.org](http://WoodlawnPresidentsCircle.org).



# THE PRESERVATIONIST

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

The fall is a reflective time at Woodlawn. The vibrant flowerings of the summer will gently give way to the vivid color of falling leaves and bare branches reminding us of the transformational power of nature.

This transformation reminds me of the importance of preservation, not only of monuments and mausoleum, but of the memorial heritage they represent for the multiple generations of our lot owners and their descendants. It is through their enthusiastic engagement and support to restore and preserve Woodlawn’s significant memorials and landscapes, that this very special place will be preserved for generations to come.

This fall I am delighted to announce a special opportunity for you to join me for an inside look at the incredible restoration work that has been accomplished thus far for our first annual Fall Landmark Luncheon at Woodlawn on October 20th at 11:00 am.

We will be visiting recent mausoleum and landscape restoration projects and learning the best practices for restoration and preservation care by experts Paul Engel, Woodlawn Trustee and Curator of the Harkness House, Chris Luley, PhD, Woodlawn Arboretum Curator and Scott Kreilick, Bronze Conservator. I believe you will be inspired to come on site to see firsthand how as the dedicated stewards of a National Historic Landmark are investing in Woodlawn’s future by preserving the past in many creative and innovative ways.

You will be receiving an exclusive invitation to this event soon.

Throughout the year, I will be reaching out to you to make you aware of the restoration initiatives, special events, and educational programs taking place at Woodlawn. I hope you will be inspired by this intimate look at all of the exciting things happening at Woodlawn. I encourage you to share our progress and goals with your extended family. To arrange for a personal tour, obtain information about your property, add to our mailing list, or learn more about our events, please call us at (718) 920-1456.

It is through your enthusiastic participation and support that we can protect and preserve this very special place.

Mitch Rose  
President, CEO



The Preservationist is distributed twice a year to Woodlawn’s Lot Owners, their descendants, members of the President’s Circle and supporters of the Woodlawn Conservancy. To be on our mailing list call us at (718) 920-1456 or email us at [contact@woodlawnconservancy.org](mailto:contact@woodlawnconservancy.org)



## ON LEGACY *By Adrian Untermeyer, Urbanist and Preservationist, Great-Great-Grandson of Samuel Untermeyer*



This summer, I had the good fortune of sharing a morning with Woodlawn’s latest batch of interns. During the course of the year, the Conservancy introduces forty 16-24 year olds to career opportunities in historic preservation and masonry restoration. The young people are employed through two programs: Bridge to Crafts Careers—a partnership with the World Monuments Fund & International Masonry Institute and the NYC/DOE Career & Technical Education Schools.

We talked about my work in the field of historic preservation and visited the Untermeyer Tomb where I shared my family legacy, which begins with Samuel Untermeyer – the “Superlawyer Who Took On Hitler” (and J.P. Morgan, among many others). They were surprised when I told them about my desire to follow in his legendary footsteps by going to law school. Eager to learn more about Samuel Untermeyer’s love of nature and beauty, the group caravanned up to Untermeyer Gardens in Yonkers to connect with mentors in the field of landscape restoration.

People tell me our family’s legacy is a storied one. Samuel Untermeyer’s son Irwin served with distinction as a Justice of the Appellate Division and a leader of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. His son, and my grandfather, fought for equality and taught at one of Chicago’s first integrated colleges. My father spent a lifetime championing American manufacturing, and my generation now promotes social and economic justice in the fields of dance, music, architecture, and urban design.

But I am proudest of the smaller things, like working with those who are dreaming about their futures. By sharing our legacy we can inspire Woodlawn’s interns and provide them with memories that will last a lifetime. Teaching this group of preservationists is but one of the innumerable opportunities Woodlawn Cemetery offers our city and nation. As a lot owner, I urge you to become involved with this vital community resource and engage in preserving the cemetery we know and treasure.

## BRIDGE TO CRAFTS CAREERS INTERNS AT WORK *by Susan Olsen*

This spring our fifth cohort of Interns, enrolled in Woodlawn’s extensive preservation training program, took on the exterior restoration of the Currier Family mausoleum.



Designed by Tiffany Studios in 1906, this granite structure is among Woodlawn’s most significant memorials. Our crew cleaned the outside of the building

and replaced deteriorating and missing mortar. The Currier mausoleum is among the thirty three monuments and mausolea at Woodlawn designed by Tiffany Studios. Tiffany had their own stone quarries located in Cohasset and Braintree, Massachusetts. Woodlawn has the largest collection of memorials created by Tiffany and in addition to the stone designs includes mosaics, bronzes, and stained glass.



When you pass by the Woolworth Building, Lincoln Center, or St. Patrick’s Cathedral look for a bright orange shirt. A Woodlawn Apprentice is at work!

The Bridge to Crafts Careers program at Woodlawn was established in 2015 in collaboration with the World Monuments Fund, The Door, and the International Masonry Institute. Eighty three young men and women ages 18-24 have participated in the program which has led to promising careers in the field of masonry restoration.

## GREEN HAPPENINGS IN THE WOODLAWN ARBORETUM AND URBAN FOREST *by Chris Luley*

The urban forestry program at Woodlawn is making significant strides in maintenance. Several approaches are being used to reduce storm damage, and generally improve health and longevity of the tree population. Eighty four trees were maintenance pruned in Narcissus, Tulip, Rhododendron, Violet, Yew and Zinnia plots. This pruning is very cost effective as certified arboricultural companies can work efficiently because the trees are in close proximity. In addition to the systematic pruning, 19 trees were safety pruned and 68 trees were removed in various parts of the Cemetery because of storm damage or safety concerns.

This work is critical to keeping Woodlawn safe for visitors, minimizing damage to Cemetery assets, and reducing the need for costly storm damage clean up. Because we are able to proactively manage this work and bid it out during the winter to several excellent tree care companies, it is being completed at costs significantly below higher in-season prices.

The mature and beautiful population of oaks, beech and maples can be easy prey for insect and disease pests that prefer older, less vigorous trees. In conjunction with monitoring and treating, we have removed the weakest specimens to eliminate breeding grounds for these pests, and to focus efforts on healthier trees. The Cemetery recently surveyed all its Canadian hemlocks and has been removing the weakest trees that would not respond to treatment. The remaining hemlocks are being monitored and treated as needed for hemlock wooly adelgid, a destructive insect on this species. A similar approach is being used for in oaks and European beech populations to preserve as many of these trees as possible.



Photo by Benjamin Swett

## BROWN RESTORATION PROJECT *By Robert Kesack*

At the dawning of my post-graduate career, nearly two years ago, I discovered The Woodlawn Cemetery. I, then an exceptionally eager pupil of Columbia University’s Historic Preservation Program, had been assigned a research project by the acclaimed architectural historian Andrew Scott Dolkart. From my first step onto the Woodlawn grounds, I was awestruck by the extraordinary beauty of the historic landscape. I knew only some of its attraction and history as one of America’s most impressive and important rural landscapes until Professor Dolkart impressed upon me the true weight of this historical place introducing me to mausoleum of the late Vernon Carleton Brown’s family lot.



Murray, and Phillip, creators of monumental structures, specifically the comparably styled Church of the Heavenly Rest in Manhattan. I spent days looking at a diverse collection of Woodlawn archival materials, found both at the Cemetery and Avery Library’s Drawings & Archives. Vernon Carleton Brown was a man of prominence and was a parishioner and head of the finance committee at The Church of the Heavenly Rest. There he likely met and built upon his relationship with the architects



VERNON CARLETON BROWN  
FIRM: BATTERY INSURANCE CO.; MANHATTAN FIRE CLAY CO.  
BATTERY, MANHATTAN, NEW YORK. "NATION & BROWN," BOSTON.

The mausoleum itself is inspiring -- a beautiful neo-gothic treasure with faux buttresses, distinctive sculptural carvings attributed to Lee Lawrie, and a sizeable Celtic cross, highlighting an overall design by the prominent architectural firm of Mayers,

(and possibly their mentor Bertram Goodhue) whom he eventually chose to plan his memorialization.

One of the things that impacted me most when visiting the Brown mausoleum was its landscape. While overgrown upon my earliest visits, it still proved inspirational and reflected a particular promise of a paradise that seemingly had once been. I discovered it was the remnants of work by one of the most accomplished landscape architects of his time Charles Downing Lay. Lay was known for his emphasis on the importance of open space, as showcased in his many projects, including Battery Park and the 1939 World’s Fair for which he won a gold medal.



While I treasure those early visitations to the Brown family lot, I could never stop dreaming of what it would look if it had only been maintained to its original brilliance. Since my initial research project, I have gone on to work with Woodlawn the past two summers, serving as an instructor for the cemetery’s youth program Bridge to Craft Careers. It was this year that I saw the uprooting of the overgrown plantings and scaffolding piled beside the mausoleum. Work begins in September to completely restore this significant property. Mark Nielsen of the Davey Group has made the effort to find all the now obscure ornamentals specified by Lay. With all historical plants located, Lay’s landscape appears slated for a full restoration to its earliest and healthiest form. Perhaps most thrilling to me is that all of this work will be possible due in part to my research as a student which unearthed Lay’s original landscape design.