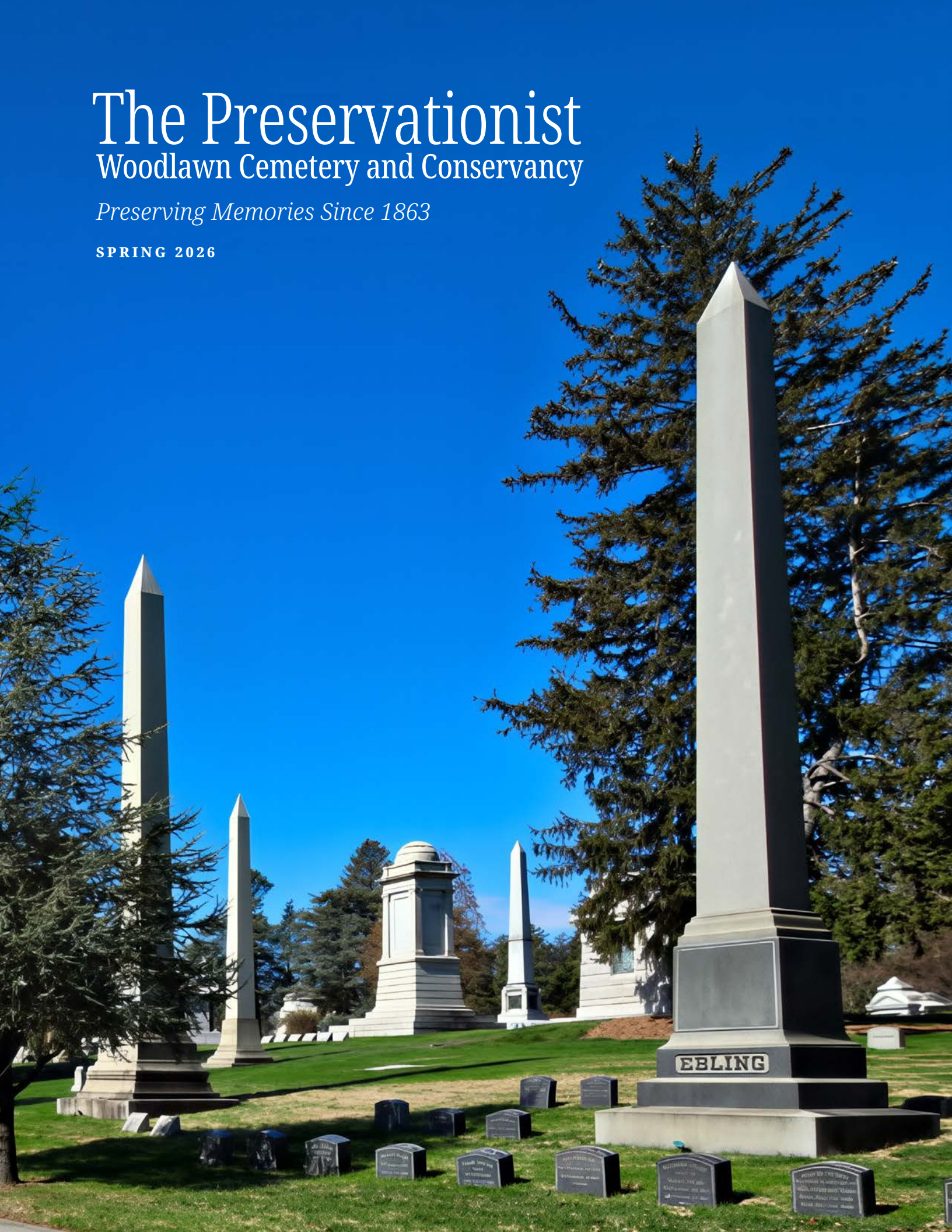


The Preservationist

Woodlawn Cemetery and Conservancy

Preserving Memories Since 1863

SPRING 2026





Memorial to Clyde Fitch (1865–1909), the most popular Broadway writer of his time—a monument featured on Woodlawn’s annual LGBT Tour. The memorial was designed by the architectural firm of Hunt and Hunt.

From the President & CEO

Welcome to this issue of *The Preservationist*.

At Woodlawn, many people first encounter the beauty of the landscape, the grandeur of the mausoleums, and the artistry of the monuments that define this remarkable place. Preservation at Woodlawn is also quieter, deeper, and more far-reaching than what is immediately visible. It lives in the daily work of caring for our historic grounds, conserving works of art and architecture, advancing research, training future preservationists, and sharing the stories of the more than 350,000 people laid to rest here.

As one of the nation's most important rural cemeteries and a National Historic Landmark, Woodlawn has long served not only as a place of remembrance, but also as a place of learning, reflection, and discovery. The work of preservation here includes the stewardship of headstones, mausoleums, landscapes, bronze, stained glass, and archival collections. It also includes teaching, interpretation, public programs, and community engagement, all of which help ensure that the lives commemorated at Woodlawn remain meaningful to future generations.

For 163 years, Woodlawn has offered an extraordinary lens into the American experience. The individuals memorialized here include immigrants in search of opportunity, civic and business leaders, artists, musicians, inventors, educators, and public servants whose lives helped shape New York and the nation. Their stories are not confined to the past. Through conservation, scholarship, and public engagement, they continue to inform and inspire the present.

That sense of connection feels especially meaningful as the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of American independence. Woodlawn offers a singular opportunity to encounter stories of ingenuity, service, ambition, and achievement across generations. Family members, descendants, students, scholars, and visitors come here for many reasons, whether for personal remembrance, historical research, or simple curiosity. Each visit becomes an opportunity to deepen understanding and preserve memory.

In this issue of *The Preservationist*, we highlight some of the many people and partnerships that make this work possible. From archival discovery and academic collaboration to bronze conservation, volunteer research, and public interpretation, these stories reflect the many forms preservation takes at Woodlawn. Whether a person was buried here in 1866, 1966, or 2026, there is always more to learn, more to preserve, and more to share.

Thank you for your interest in Woodlawn and for helping us sustain this extraordinary place of memory, history, and beauty.



CHRISTOPHER JEANNOPOULOS

President & CEO

The Woodlawn Cemetery & Conservancy



Woodlawn's Archives and the Discoveries Still to Be Made

Some of Woodlawn's most important discoveries begin not in the landscape, but in the archive. Records, drawings, correspondence, and photographs often reveal as much about the cemetery's history as the monuments themselves, opening new ways to understand the people, artists, and ideas that shaped this extraordinary place.

That spirit of discovery was at the center of a presentation by Maddy Heller and Jesse Ludington at the 2025 New York Archives Week Symposium, sponsored by the Archivists Roundtable of Metropolitan New York. The symposium, held under the theme *What Is Past Is Prologue: The Future of Memory*, brought together professionals from cultural institutions across the city. Maddy and Jesse spoke as part of a session titled "Documenting the Ephemeral," and their presentation was so well received that Woodlawn invited them to share it again for our own audience.

Their talk, *Memories of Memorialization: The Presbrey-Leland Memorials Collection at The Woodlawn Cemetery & Conservancy*, explored how archival research can deepen our understanding

of monument design, fabrication, and commission history. By preserving and studying these records, Woodlawn gains new insight into the art and architecture across our grounds, the craftspeople who created memorials, and the firms that helped bring them into being.

Years ago, Woodlawn acquired the historic records of Presbrey-Leland, a major force in the funerary monuments industry. These materials are far more than business files. They show how memorials were commissioned, how families and lot owners worked with architects, sculptors, and designers, and how monuments moved from concept to completion. Although Presbrey-Leland offered standard designs through catalogs, the firm also excelled in producing highly customized memorials shaped by the aspirations of its clients.

As an archivist, Maddy was immersed in cataloging the collection, but it quickly became clear that the records held much more than administrative value. The archive includes

Top: Historic image of the Presbrey-Leland stonecutting facility in Vermont, which operated from 1922 to 1943.
Bottom: Madison Heller, at the podium, with Jesse Ludington, presenting at New York Archives Week Symposium held at the Center for Brooklyn History.



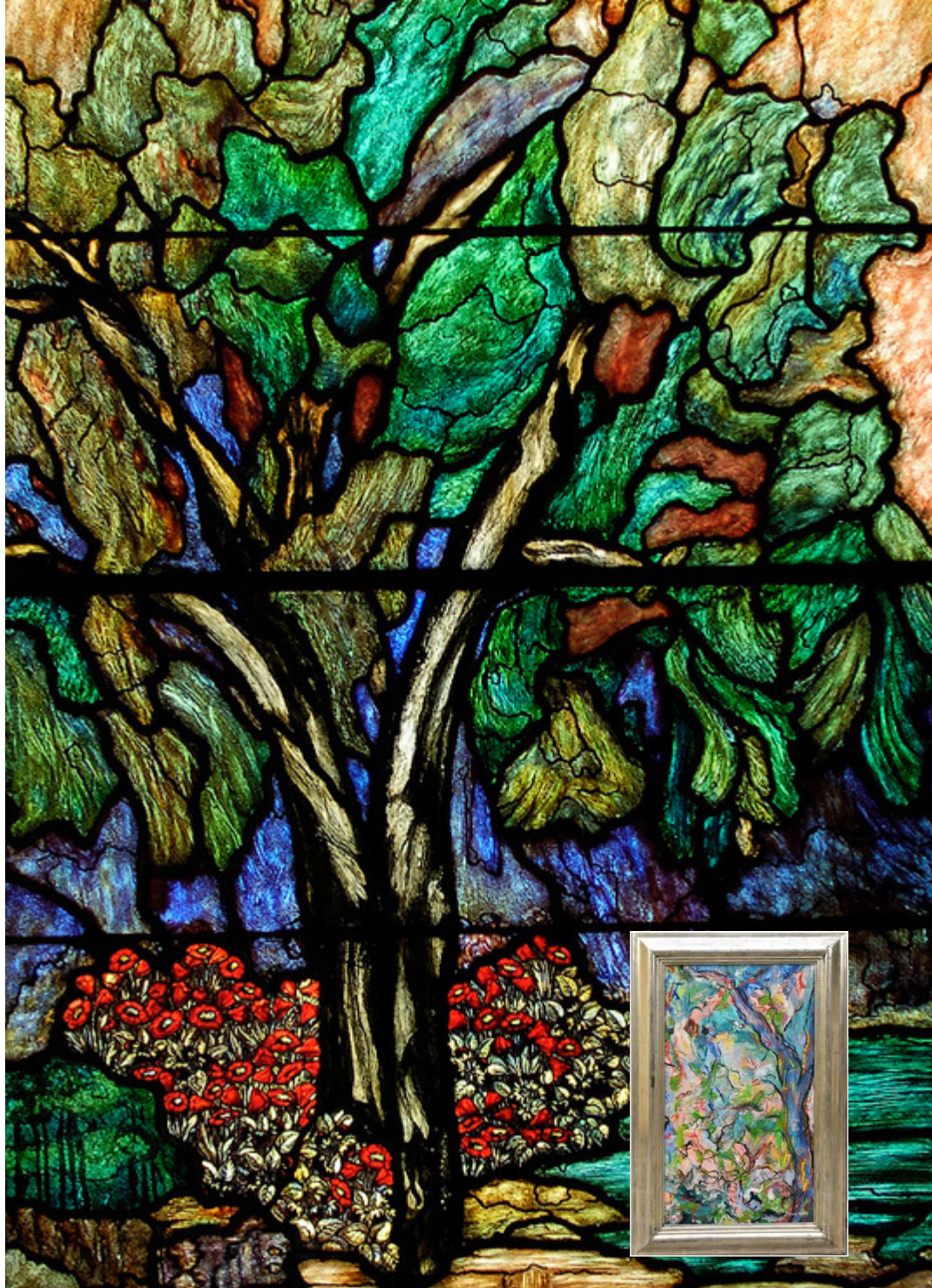
marketing materials, client files, invoices, correspondence, and documentation tied to specific commissions. Taken together, these materials offer a vivid picture of how Presbrey-Leland presented itself, how it operated, and how widely its work extended. Although much of its business was concentrated in the northeastern United States, the firm also served clients across the country, throughout the Caribbean, and even in Africa.

For Woodlawn, the collection has become an invaluable research tool. In many cases, these files help fill gaps in our own records and may prove essential to future conservation efforts. One especially exciting discovery emerged during research into one of Woodlawn's historic stained glass windows. Archival documents showed that the window was based on a painting by Emily Lowe and fabricated by a craftsman who had worked for Tiffany for many years. Details like these remind us how archival work can reshape what we know about the cemetery's artistic history.

The personal paths that brought Maddy and Jesse to Woodlawn are equally compelling. Jesse, Woodlawn's Development Associate, is often the first to welcome visitors, guests, and program attendees. She helps present Woodlawn to the public through event communications, digital storytelling, and interpretive content that connects audiences to the cemetery's history. She holds an M.S. in Museums & Digital Culture from Pratt Institute and a B.A. in Literary Studies from The New School, and her creativity strengthens Woodlawn's public work every day.

Maddy Heller holds an M.S. from Pratt Institute in Library & Information Science and a B.A. in Film and Screen Studies from Pace University. Through her work, and through the thoughtful way she shares archival material with the public, she shows how a single image, sketch, or notation can open an entirely new conversation about Woodlawn's art, landscape, and memory. Her close attention to detail, paired with a gift for interpretation, demonstrates that archives do more than preserve the past. They actively shape how we understand it.

Together, Maddy and Jesse show that preservation is not passive. At Woodlawn, the archive is not only a repository of memory, but a living tool for research, interpretation, and caring for them in the present.



Detail of a stained glass window designed by Emily Lowe and an Emily Lowe painting that served as its inspiration.

Bronze: Fabrication, Conservation, and Meaning

Across Woodlawn, bronze appears in forms both practical and beautiful: doors, locks, plaques, and decorative elements that reward close attention. For Talisha Ward, Woodlawn's bronze specialist, each of these objects offers a way into larger stories of design, fabrication, craftsmanship, and tradition.

Her enthusiasm for the material is immediate and infectious. As she talks about the bronze found throughout the cemetery, it becomes clear that she sees more than surfaces. She sees process, intention, and the many hands involved in creating and preserving these works over time.

A Brooklyn native, Talisha showed an early interest in history, especially in the way language reflects culture and place. Her fascination with how words carry social meaning led her to study American Studies at Kenyon College, where she earned a B.A. with a minor in History. She is currently pursuing an M.S. in Urban Placemaking and Management at Pratt Institute. At Woodlawn, she also serves as an instructor in the Bridge to Craft Careers workforce training initiative, where she leads sessions focused on historic bronze conservation.

Her own experiences as both an intern and a mentor shape the way she teaches. Talisha worked with the first bronze cohort in the B2CC program, and those early projects reinforced an important

Below: Talisha Ward.
Right: Before and after the conservation of the memorial for Thea and Fioretta LaGuardia, first wife and child of Fiorello LaGuardia. The monument was designed by the Piccirilli Brothers.



lesson: conservation is never only technical. Every intervention raises questions about how an object was made, how it functioned, and why it deserves care. Cleaning, stabilizing, and restoring bronze are acts of preservation, but they are also acts of interpretation.

Bronze conservation demands patience, concentration, and precision. Talisha pairs that technical rigor with a broader understanding of cemeteries as public spaces. Woodlawn, like other nineteenth century rural cemeteries, was designed not only as a burial ground, but also as a place of contemplation, beauty, and respite from urban life. She wants her students to understand that larger context. The work they do is part of preserving a cultural landscape, not simply maintaining isolated objects.

She also places special emphasis on helping trainees understand not just the sequence of the work, but its purpose. Safety matters. Finish matters. Technique matters. Rather than treating conservation as a checklist of procedures, Talisha encourages students to see how every phase of the process reflects care, discipline, and respect for the object. That approach helps them build both skill and professional confidence.

As her own career in preservation has evolved, Talisha has become increasingly interested in the people behind the monuments: the artisans who created them, the grounds staff who care for them today, and the trainees who may carry those traditions into the future. In addition to her work at Woodlawn, she serves as a History Fellow at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, where she is researching the legacy of the Freedom Lots, the burial place of more than 1,300 African Americans.

As she prepares for the 2026 bronze cohort, Talisha is focused on designing projects that teach essential skills while grounding students in the histories of the monuments they will conserve. For Talisha, technical excellence and historical understanding belong together, and that combination lies at the heart of meaningful preservation.

B2CC Bronze trainees cleaning the LaGuardia monument (left), and learning to make molds (upper right). Bottom right: B2CC trainees standing in front of the Gullabi Gulbenkian (1865–1918) monument after completing its conservation. They also learned the story of Gulbenkian, who arrived from Turkey c. 1890 and built a successful rug and carpet business with his brothers.



Adrian Untermyer: Legacy, Preservation, and Engagement

For Adrian Untermyer, Woodlawn is both a place of personal memory and a site of active preservation. That dual connection makes his role within the Woodlawn Conservancy especially meaningful and gives his stewardship a depth that is both professional and deeply rooted.

Today, Adrian serves as Vice President & Treasurer of Woodlawn Conservancy and brings to the organization a rare combination of preservation expertise, civic commitment, and personal connection. Many in New York's preservation community first came to know him during his tenure as Deputy Director of the Historic Districts Council from 2015 to 2017. During that same period, he also played a major role in raising public awareness of Untermyer Gardens in Yonkers and the importance of its rehabilitation. Thanks in no small part to Adrian's efforts, Untermyer Gardens has become a beloved public space. For Woodlawn, it also serves as a partner site for the Bridge to Craft Careers program, where horticulture trainees can experience another carefully curated historic landscape.

Adrian is also an accomplished pianist who has performed to benefit many of the organizations he supports. His connection to music began early. His father was a partner in Hamer Guitars, known for creating bespoke instruments for leading musicians in the 1970s and 1980s. That early exposure to both music and craftsmanship fostered a lifelong appreciation for artistry and making.

His professional path eventually led him to law school and a career shaped by interests in civil rights, public policy, and transportation. After experiences at the Urban Justice Center, the New York State Supreme Court, and NJ Transit, he went on to become Chief of Staff for Rail Operations at NJ Transit.

Those wide-ranging interests in music, law, public policy, architecture, transportation, and history make him especially well-suited to appreciate Woodlawn's many dimensions. He understands the significance of a rural cemetery set within a densely populated Bronx neighborhood and the way place, memory, and civic life intersect here. He is also a direct descendant of Samuel Untermyer, whose mausoleum is one of the most significant sites on Woodlawn's landscape.

The Untermyer
Mausoleum
undergoing
conservation work
in 2025.





Adrian Untermyer announces the launch of the conservation project in fall of 2024.

Conservation work is currently underway at the Untermyer mausoleum complex, and its completion will create an important opportunity to reflect on the life and legacy of Samuel Untermyer (1858 to 1949). Great civic leaders are not always remembered as fully as they should be, yet Samuel Untermyer's impact on American public life was profound. During his legal career, he handled major banking and corporate merger cases and served as counsel to the Pujo Commission, whose work contributed to the creation of the Federal Reserve System.

After World War I, he advised the U.S. Treasury Department and was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson to the 1916 International High Commission, which sought to establish a framework for more uniform laws across the Americas. He later served as a delegate to the 1938 New York Constitutional Convention and played important roles in Democratic Party politics. He was also a man of deep principle. In 1933, he helped establish the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League to organize an economic boycott of Nazi Germany.

Adrian's service to Woodlawn Conservancy, his stewardship of the Untermyer legacy, and his abiding love of history speak to the personal dimensions of preservation. His work reminds us that preserving memory is not only about honoring the past. It is also about carrying forward the values, struggles, and public commitments that continue to matter.

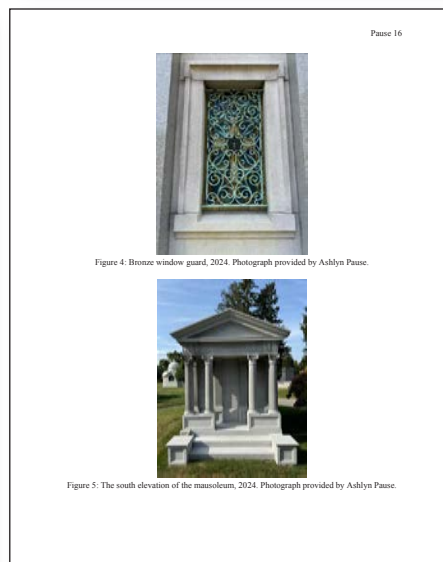
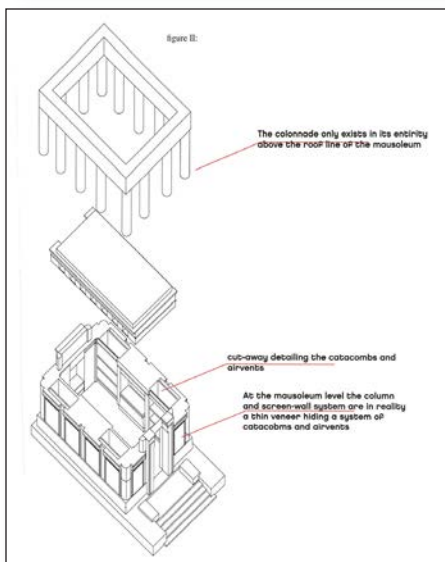
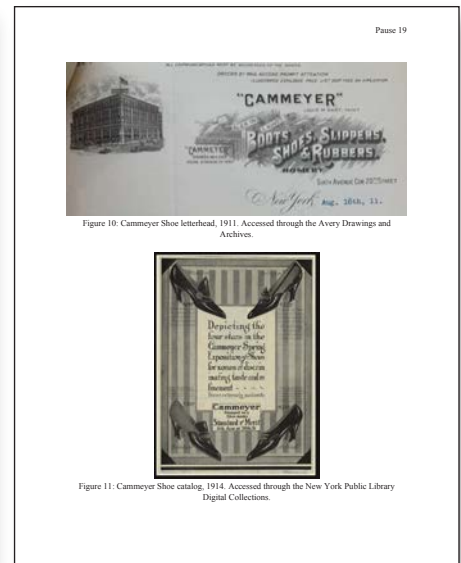
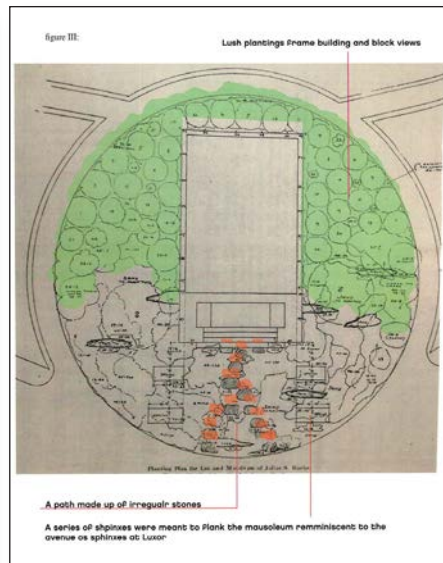
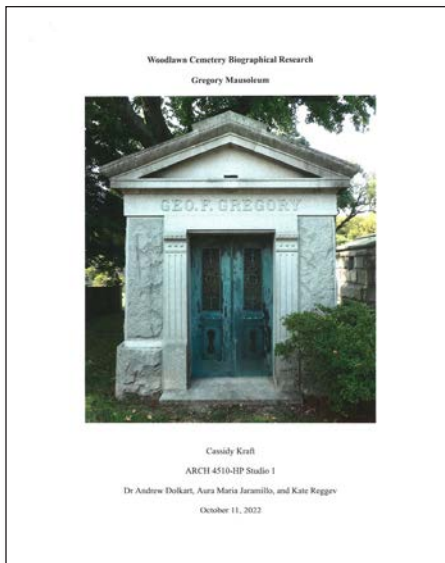
In November 2025, Woodlawn hosted a live taping of *Person Place Thing* featuring Adrian, who spoke about several of his favorite subjects, including why Samuel Untermyer deserves to be remembered. The episode offers yet another invitation to engage with this remarkable legacy, whether by visiting Woodlawn Cemetery or Untermyer Gardens.

Columbia University and the Documentation of Woodlawn

For years, Woodlawn has served as a classroom, field site and research partner for the next generation of preservation professionals. In partnership with Columbia University graduate students are documenting mausoleums, researching their histories, and identifying conservation needs. This partnership has become one of the most valuable and productive ways Woodlawn expands its understanding of the cemetery while helping train the next generation of preservation professionals.

Woodlawn's long-standing relationship with Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP) has turned the cemetery into a learning laboratory for students studying documentation, conservation, and architectural history. Each fall, graduate students research a selection of mausoleums on our grounds, document existing conditions, and present their findings at the end of the semester. Woodlawn also receives detailed dossiers compiled through their work.

Many people also know that Woodlawn transferred a large portion of its archival materials,



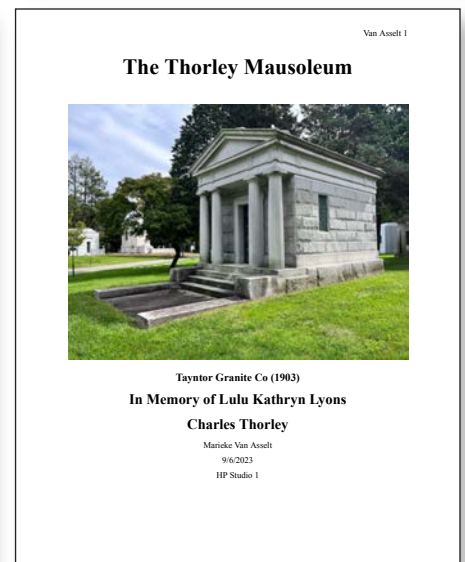
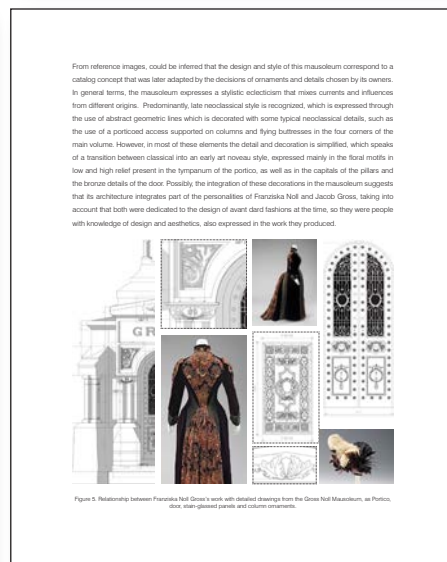
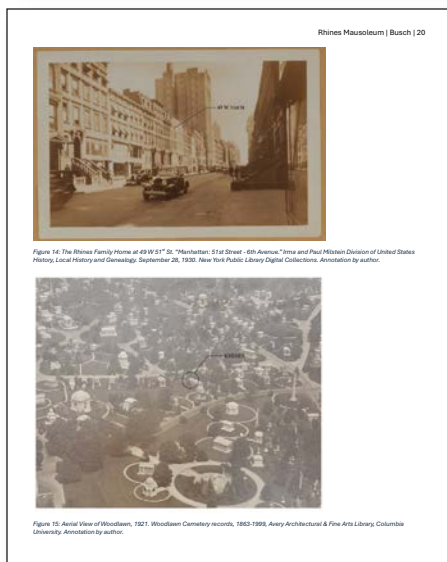
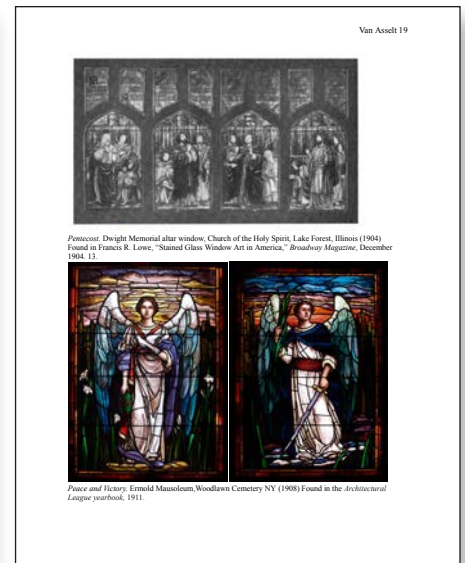
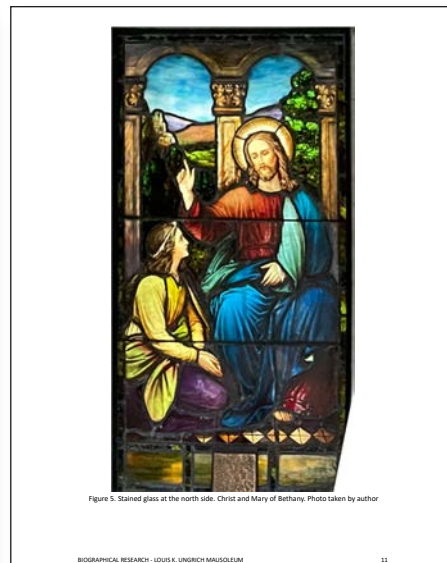
spanning 1863 to 1999, to Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library at Columbia University. Avery is one of the most important architectural libraries in the United States, and Woodlawn's records now sit among significant collections of drawings, books, correspondence, and other materials that document the cultural history of the nation. Their preservation there ensures both broad scholarly access and the highest professional standards of care.

A partnership began between Woodlawn and Columbia Historic Preservation students through the efforts of Professor Andrew Dolkart, who is also a Woodlawn Cemetery Trustee, and our staff. Since then, the project has generated well over 100 dossiers, creating an extraordinary body of documentation for the cemetery while giving students valuable experience in applied preservation practice.

The students' findings are often highly practical. Their documentation may identify water infiltration, vegetation damaging stone surfaces, alterations that diverge from original designs, or previously overlooked conditions requiring attention. Just as important, the research often uncovers rich biographical details about the individuals interred at Woodlawn, offering revealing glimpses into lives that shaped the broader world, even when the names are less familiar today.

This collaboration shows how academic partnerships can strengthen preservation in lasting ways. It deepens Woodlawn's understanding of the site, expands the historical record, and equips future preservation professionals with hands-on experience in one of the country's most significant cemetery landscapes.

Details of reports produced by GSAPP students working with Woodlawn staff and Professor Andrew Dolkart.



Volunteers and Genealogical Research

Some of Woodlawn's most meaningful preservation work begins with a single question. Families searching for ancestors, descendants seeking information, and researchers trying to piece together a life often turn to Woodlawn for help, and the volunteers who support this work play an essential role in making those connections possible.

The dedication of Woodlawn's staff is matched by the extraordinary commitment of these volunteers, especially those who lead genealogical research efforts. Their work expands our knowledge of the individuals interred at Woodlawn while also assisting descendants, researchers, and family members seeking information about those buried here.

In 2025, volunteers responded to nearly 1,000 inquiries. Of those, Woodlawn was able to assist with more than 700 requests related to individuals interred here. Some inquiries are relatively straightforward and involve helping families update records or understand what documentation is available. Others grow into much more extensive genealogical research projects that include photographs, maps, lot card information, and other archival materials. For those seeking more comprehensive research dossiers, Woodlawn offers this service for modest fees that help offset the time and resources required.

Volunteers have also carefully tracked the geographic reach of these requests. Many come from the New York metropolitan region, New England, and the South, but there has also been a noticeable increase in inquiries from Europe and Australia. Together, they reflect the wide dispersal of families across generations and the enduring pull of ancestral memory.

In addition, volunteers regularly update Woodlawn's Find A Grave page, hosted by Ancestry.com. There are currently 81,845 Woodlawn-related profiles on the platform, and according to our volunteers, roughly two-thirds include photographs. One volunteer alone has uploaded 15,000 images, helping ensure that these records are both accurate and visually meaningful.

Woodlawn is profoundly grateful for all that our volunteers do. Their efforts were recognized publicly in November 2025, when the Bronx Chamber of Commerce honored them at its Veterans Luncheon for their extraordinary work commemorating the veterans buried at Woodlawn during the annual flagging program each May. Four volunteers, Efrain Alvarado, Maryann Byrnes-Alvarado, Ginny Michaels, and Phil Michaels, attended the event and were recognized for their commitment to preserving the memory of those who served in the U.S. military.

Their work reflects something fundamental about preservation at Woodlawn: careful research, steady service, and a deep respect for the lives remembered here.

If you have a genealogical request, please email research@woodlawn.org.



Woodlawn combines art, history, nature, with stories about intriguing people, some famous, and some unknown. I love sharing Woodlawn's tales with visitors, and I also love working with a truly dedicated group of staff and volunteers who make Woodlawn a special place!

—NESTOR DANYLUK, *volunteer*

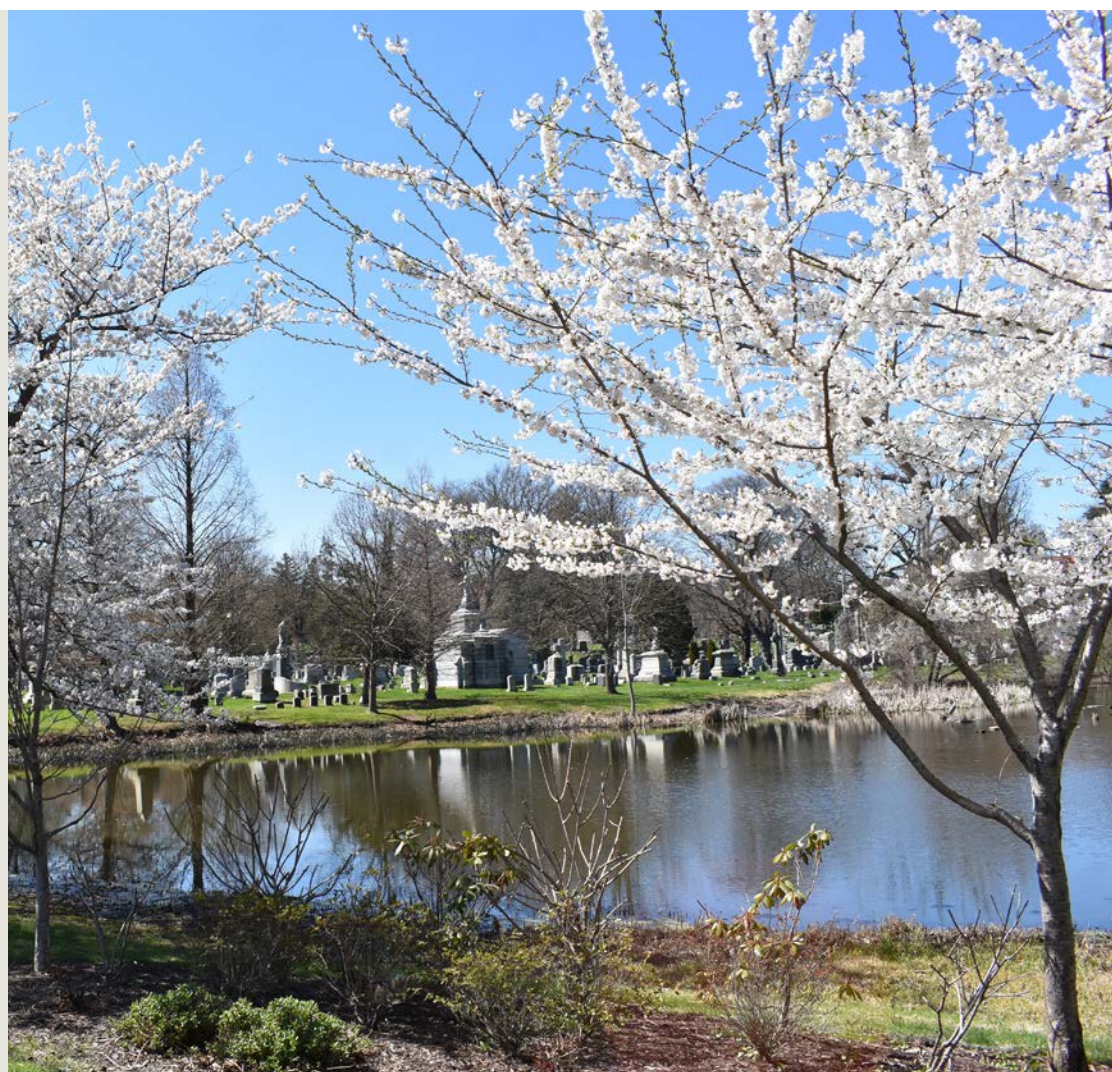


“The history of our city and our nation is told in the stories of our ancestors. To be able to answer a family's questions and to post photographs of Woodlawn's residents for everyone to view online brings me special joy. It is a unique happiness however to help a person resolve a family mystery. Helping a young Texan to find her mom who died as a 'Jane Doe' in the Bronx will always hold special meaning to me. Jane was not interred at Woodlawn but on Hart Island, in the largest public cemetery in the nation with over one million burials. Years of research and a knowledge of NYC helped me locate her and answer the plea for help.”

—MARYANN BYRNES-ALVARADO, *volunteer*

“My experience is that I have learned about the people who have gone before us, their families, and incidents in history of which I had no knowledge, so of course had to research! I've also have been exposed to the arts, the architecture and natural beauty of the cemetery. All the volunteers contribute in many different areas. I'm honored to be able to pay tribute to the veterans, as many in my family served.”

—GINNY MICHAELS, *volunteer*



Woodlawn & America 250

THE UNITED STATES will celebrate 250 years of independence in 2026. Woodlawn offers a powerful way to encounter that history through individual lives. Woodlawn, at 163 years old, is younger than the nation itself, yet our grounds offer a remarkable way to encounter the breadth of American history through individual lives. Across Woodlawn, visitors can trace stories of migration, service, invention, artistry, ambition, and public life. The cemetery is not only a place of remembrance. It is also a place where the American story can be seen in all its richness and complexity.

That story begins even before Woodlawn was established. Long before the cemetery opened in 1863, this part of the Bronx held strategic importance during the Revolutionary period. It was also inhabited by Native Americans long before later waves of settlement and immigration transformed the region. The surrounding landscape still holds evidence of that earlier history and reminds us that this ground has long been shaped by movement, conflict, and change.

In 2026, Woodlawn will mark America 250 by sharing the history of people buried at the Cemetery through social media, our monthly newsletter, public programs, and video storytelling. We will reflect on the deeper history of the land itself. Woodlawn's landscape has changed greatly over the years, but it retains that sense of rural cemetery, even with the busy city just steps away from its gates.

Once inside the landscape and wandering through the grounds, the noise of urban life fades away and the beauty of the trees, flowers, shrubs, and architecture absorbs the attention of

A monument commemorating Civil War veterans, erected by veterans from the Oliver Tilden Post in 1888. Tilden was killed in battle in Virginia in 1862 and was originally buried at Bensonia Cemetery, then transferred to Woodlawn in 1878 when that cemetery closed. He grew up in the Morrisania neighborhood in the Bronx.



visitors. Woodlawn reflects the dynamics of the Bronx, including the history of real estate development as even in the late nineteenth century, Woodlawn accepted the remains of earlier cemeteries that were closed because of displacement.

Visitors to Woodlawn can also locate the plaque commemorating the Redoubt, where cannons were strategically placed to defend those fighting for freedom in the Colonies. Even before reaching the cemetery, history announces itself. Gun Hill Road, one of the area's best-known thoroughfares, takes its name from the high ground that made it a natural location for artillery. Although the name was not officially adopted until 1875, the site had been associated with "Gun Hill" since the early eighteenth century. Here, the Revolutionary past remains embedded in the geography of the Bronx.

Woodlawn's own history begins during another defining chapter in the life of the nation. Founded in 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, the cemetery naturally became the resting place of many who served in that conflict and in the wars that followed. Among the best-known memorials from this era is that of Admiral Farragut, the first Admiral of the United States Navy. Visitors interested in New York City history can also visit the grave of Archibald Gracie III, a relative of the Archibald Gracie who built Gracie Mansion, now home to the Mayor of New York. Woodlawn is also the resting place of Charles Dodge, one of the youngest Brigadier Generals in the Union Army.

Approximately 9,000 veterans are buried at Woodlawn, representing every major war in which the United States military has been engaged. That alone makes the cemetery a powerful place of national memory. It also explains why Woodlawn's annual flagging tradition is so meaningful. Placing flags at veterans' graves is not simply ceremonial. It is an act of remembrance that honors those who served and reaffirms Woodlawn's role in preserving their legacy.

Yet the American story told at Woodlawn extends far beyond war and political history. It also unfolds through the lives of artists, musicians, inventors, business leaders, and everyday citizens whose contributions shaped the nation in lasting ways. A walk through the cemetery reveals names from scores of countries, reflecting the growth of New York and the United States through immigration, labor, enterprise, and cultural exchange. Woodlawn's 350,000 interments together tell a powerful story of a country built by people of many backgrounds and talents.



Admiral David Glasgow Farragut, born in 1801, the first Admiral of the U.S. Navy, was buried at Woodlawn in 1870. The distinctive monument is decorated with many iconic images of maritime life—including a compass, sextant, anchor, and rope.



2026 marks the centenary of the birth of jazz luminary Miles Davis. His legacy reminds us of the many ways in which he pushed jazz's boundaries and the vast array of musicians with whom he worked.

One of the clearest examples is music. At Jazz Corner, visitors can reflect on the extraordinary legacies of Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton, Max Roach, and others whose work transformed American music. Elsewhere on the grounds are Celia Cruz, Pedro Knight, and Johnny Pacheco, artists who changed the sound and cultural life of New York and far beyond. Woodlawn is also the resting place of George M. Cohan and Irving Berlin, two composers whose work remains woven into American cultural memory. Across the grounds, the story of American music is not abstract. It is personal, immediate, and deeply human.

Woodlawn also preserves the history of invention and enterprise. Mihajlo Pupin, the physicist whose specialized coils helped make long-distance telephone communication possible, is buried here. So too is Granville Woods, the African American inventor who held 50 patents and developed technology associated with the Railway Telegraph. Their achievements helped transform modern life, and their presence at Woodlawn reminds us that scientific and technological innovation is also part of the nation's lived history.

The cemetery also tells the story of entrepreneurship in more familiar settings, including the American kitchen. Margaret Rudkin, founder of Pepperidge Farm, is buried at Woodlawn. In the 1930s, seeking foods suitable for her son's allergies, she began baking in her kitchen and ultimately built one of the best-known food companies in the country. Campbell Soup acquired Pepperidge

Farm in 1961, and Rudkin became the first woman to serve on the Campbell Soup Company board. Her story speaks to ingenuity, persistence, and the power of enterprise to shape everyday life.

Recent research continues to reveal other remarkable figures whose names may be less familiar today, but whose influence was substantial in their own time. This year, when Columbia students presented research on the mausoleums and monuments they had documented, they brought renewed attention to Benjamin Talbot Babbitt, a multifaceted businessman and inventor. He created one of the first mowers sold in the United States, helped perfect systems for canning baking powder and packaging yeast, and developed soap products that became household names. During his lifetime he was known not only as an inventor and industrialist, but also as a showman who gave factory tours, distributed free samples, and held more than one hundred patents. His name may not be widely recognized today, but the influence of his work remains close at hand in ordinary domestic life.

Cyprien Gousset is not a name familiar to most people, but his story is emblematic of the American story of the nineteenth century. He was born in France c. 1841 and once settled into life in New York City, he continued his acumen in the confectionary business and started Cy Gousset, a candy-maker with a specialty in chocolate covered cherries. He eventually owned an impressive home in Allendale, New Jersey, and was a prominent resident of the community.

In 2026, Woodlawn is bringing these histories into sharper public focus through new programming. Our first in-person lecture of the season welcomed historian Eric K. Washington as he launched *Where Harlem Rests*, an illuminating exploration of African American entrepreneurs, civic leaders, activists, authors, educators, and entertainers buried at Woodlawn. Supported by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, this initiative highlights 25 individuals whose lives and accomplishments changed the world. Just as importantly, it invites visitors to become curious about the many others at Woodlawn whose stories also deserve to be told.

As America marks its 250th anniversary, Woodlawn offers a singular way to encounter the nation's past through the people who shaped it. To walk through Woodlawn is to encounter American history not as abstraction, but as lived experience. It is to meet, through memorial and memory, the generations whose labor, talent, courage, and imagination helped form the country we know today.

Cyprien Gousset's place of rest is a great testament to his life and successes, but also a reminder of the many immigrant stories that are told through Woodlawn's funerary landscape.



Memorial Day Flagging: A Woodlawn Tradition

FLAGGING HAS LONG BEEN an annual event at Woodlawn Cemetery. Volunteers, staff, community members, and corporations have embraced flagging as a great opportunity to show their support for veterans and assist the cemetery in placing a flag at the resting place of every service member on our grounds. Woodlawn is the final home for more than 9,000 veterans, and each of those individuals has a valiant story to be remembered. Woodlawn has veterans whose service extends back through all of U.S. history. Over the course of several weeks in May, flags will be placed at every known site of a veteran. Often flagging results in family members telling us about people buried at Woodlawn, who we did not know were veterans. We are always grateful for this new information.

Please show your support for flagging by visiting Woodlawn between Memorial Day and Labor Day when the flags will be on view. Or call our office at 718-920-0500 or email us at flagging@woodlawn.org if you would like to volunteer to help place flags. And if you would like to help us reach our \$25,000 goal to support flagging, please donate at the QR code at left.





B2CC trainees in winter 2026 proudly showed off their groundskeeping skills as they tackled the 43 inches of snow that greeted them at the start of their program.

Bridge to Crafts Careers Initiative Going Strong!

WHEN THE LANDSCAPE TRAINEES began the week of February 23, 2026, no one could have predicted their start would coincide with a historic New York City winter. A staggering 43 inches of snow had recently blanketed the Bronx, and the drifts were still high as the Bridge to Crafts Careers (B2CC) program kicked off. The Landscape group arrived just days after a major blizzard, followed by the Masonry students on March 2. Both cohorts immediately demonstrated their grit, working alongside Woodlawn staff to clear paths and ensure the cemetery was accessible. This unexpected orientation offered a unique bonus, allowing trainees to see firsthand how extreme weather and its aftermath impact historic buildings and grounds.

Once the snow cleared, the students transitioned into a rigorous schedule of hands-on training and exploration. The Landscape trainees worked with staff and consultants to master invasive species removal, lawn maintenance, and pruning, while the Masonry curriculum focused on documentation, restoration technology, and the intricate care required for historic mausoleums. To broaden their perspective, the groups visited iconic cultural destinations such as Randalls Island, Madison Square Park, the New York Botanical Garden, and Van Cortlandt Park. These excursions allowed students to analyze diverse landscapes, meet industry professionals, and discover the wide range of career paths available to skilled preservationists.

As these trainees look toward the future and prepare for their graduation in May 2026, they carry with them not just technical skills, but the resilience forged in a record-breaking winter. We are incredibly proud of their progress and look forward to seeing where their talents take them as they enter the workforce.

Join Us

This issue of *The Preservationist* offers only a glimpse of the preservation work underway every day at Woodlawn. Some of that work is visible in the landscape and monuments around us. Much of it happens more quietly, in archives, classrooms, workshops, research files, and conversations that deepen our understanding of the people remembered here.

For descendants, family members, and friends of those buried at Woodlawn, our responsibility is to ensure that this remains a place of dignity, welcome, and lasting honor. For visitors, scholars, students, and neighbors, we hope each visit offers something meaningful, whether that is a moment of reflection, a new piece of knowledge, or a deeper appreciation for the cemetery's history, art, and landscape.

Future issues of *The Preservationist* will continue to highlight the people who care for Woodlawn and the many forms preservation takes across our historic grounds. In this issue, we wanted to bring forward some of the work that often remains less visible: archival discovery, academic partnership, volunteer research, and the scholars, craftspeople, and storytellers who help interpret Woodlawn's legacy.

We hope you will visit, attend a program, and share Woodlawn with others. Every tour, lecture, concert, and act of support helps sustain this extraordinary place and the stories entrusted to it.

With your support, Woodlawn Cemetery preserves its monuments, landscapes, and memories of the lives, histories, and legacies entrusted to this remarkable place. The Conservancy thanks its Board of Directors, Woodlawn Cemetery Trustees, and its Staff who provide invaluable support to the organization. Additionally, we thank the many Members and Donors to Woodlawn Conservancy who make the work described in this issue of *The Preservationist* possible.

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Visit www.Woodlawn.org to learn about upcoming programs, tours, and events. We hope you enjoyed this issue of the *Preservationist*. If you would like to support this great work, you can make a donation by scanning this QR code.

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4199 Webster Avenue • Bronx, NY 10470
www.woodlawn.org • 718-920-0500