

# The Heritage Fund

2018 Annual Drive



AMERICA'S FIRST PET BURIAL GROUNDS  
LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
A NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION HABITAT





## Dear Friends,

In 1918, around the time our cover photo was taken, you could hop on a train from Grand Central for fifty cents to spend the day in a place as far removed as any from the cold reality of the big city, at the “canine cemetery” in Hartsdale. Even then our little burial ground doubled as a popular destination for personal reflection and renewal — a place “alive with sounds, smells and colors,” according to one eyewitness, “this is a place of joy.”

Just as remarkable was how these early patrons came together to support Hartsdale as it faced uncertain times following the so-called “war to end all wars.” Some of them personally bent knee to tend the older graves, and one plot-holder, a great lover of cats, gifted a fine set of Adirondack furniture so visitors could rest in the shade of the old apple trees. Others contributed their legal or financial expertise to solidify the cemetery’s place on the county rolls, and they pooled their wages to help realize the nation’s first monumental tribute to war dogs, which today stands proudly on our summit. It’s almost as if they were cognizant of the great destiny that lay ahead for the Peaceable Kingdom as a beacon for animal lovers not just from New York City, but all over the world.

Today, their spirit of caring and community is alive and well in you. Thanks to your generous patronage of our public events, seasonal floral programs, landscape maintenance and preservation projects, you enabled the cemetery to continue its tradition of caring for this place in a manner that far exceeds most burial grounds — pet or human. And with your gifts to the Heritage Fund, we were able to attend to more of Hartsdale’s fragile early monuments and bronze works, which after a century of weather now require a different type of care to ensure their survival.

It is only with your continuing support of the Heritage Fund that these kinds of activities are possible. In this New Year, please consider a special bequest in your will or life insurance policy for the cemetery, or a subscription to perpetual flower care, which will forever enhance the beauty of these grounds. With so many historic treasures in need of special conservation even a one-time donation, in any amount, makes a real difference.

Thank you for helping keep Hartsdale Pet Cemetery a vital destination for us all. I look forward to catching up with you under one of our magnificent shade trees very soon.

With warm regards,



Mary Thurston, Historian



*It is with a heavy heart that we must share the sad news that our beloved Nellie died peacefully at home on August 5 surrounded by her family. Nellie came into our attention as a puppy at a shelter adoption event held here on the grounds, and throughout her life she was devoted to her work as the cemetery’s official greeter. Despite painful arthritis in her later years, she always crawled out from under Brian’s desk when the cottage door opened. Nellie had a little smile for whoever came to call, and with a gentle nudge of her nose she brought comfort to countless many. We were so lucky to have her in our lives. She is greatly missed.*

# Thank You for Your Support!



Fragile architectural treasures such as the Calla Wallace monument require careful cleaning and saturation with a special solution to fortify it against air pollution.

The 96 year-old chiseled arch marks the graves of this international socialite's beloved Pekingese dogs, "Lady Lu" and "Pekoe."

This intricate block sculpture of a woven wicker pet bed is one of many monuments carved from semiporous locally quarried marble, which make it prone to parasitic mildew and algae. But with nonabrasive cleaning and the application of a special biodegradable solution, it is now as bright as the day it was installed in 1916.



This six inch plated trophy cup from 1932, which sits in a customized gravestone niche, needed serious TLC after decades of weather exposure before returning to its place of honor for a much loved little dog named "Metzie."



## In Appreciation Rene Arias

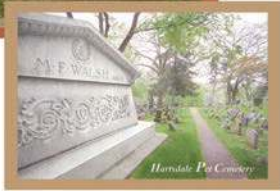
After more than 20 years of service to Hartsdale Pet Cemetery, Rene has decided to return to his family in Mexico. A dedicated employee, his kindness and compassion toward those mourning the loss of their pets will be missed.

We wish Rene well.





# Please Help Us Preserve and Improve Our Irreplaceable Treasure



*Now available: Limited Edition Postcards with your \$100 donation  
and Posters with your donation of \$500 or more!*

The U.S. Department of the Interior added Hartdale Pet Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places making it the first and only animal burial ground to receive such distinction as a site of profound cultural significance. With national recognition comes a new level of responsibility to care for Hartdale's many historic features. The cemetery's general maintenance fund is not sufficient to cover these costs, nor was it designed to do so. Unlike human cemeteries, we are not tax exempt from federal and state taxes nor do we receive federal and state funding. Therefore, we depend entirely on generous supporters like you to protect this legacy of animal history. As a valued member of our family, we ask you to please help us protect and revitalize this precious national asset.

**YES, I want to help the Hartdale Pet Cemetery Heritage Fund!**

No matter what size, every gift counts. Thank you!

\$100     \$500\*     \$1,000\*     Other \_\_\_\_\_ \* Eligible for limited edition artwork

Name \_\_\_\_\_

To give online, visit [www.petcem.com](http://www.petcem.com)

Plot Number \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check payable to:  
Hartdale Pet Cemetery

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note: Hartdale Pet Cemetery is not a 501(c)(3) corporation. Your contribution is not tax-deductible.*