

# The Heritage Fund

2020 Annual Drive



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



# Dear Friends,

As companion to the wife of a traveling showman, Babe was famous in his own right. For one thing, he was the world's smallest Black and Tan terrier. What's more, he could do "everything but talk." Talented and charismatic, Babe was received at the great theatrical houses of America and Europe with as much applause as his master's performing troupe. So when he suddenly passed away at the breakfast table in 1901 his family was understandably heartbroken. News of Babe's demise even made the front page of *The New York Times*. While he lay in state in a satin-lined casket the size of a shoe box, admirers left offerings and toys at his home "until the front yard looked like the premises of a country clergyman on Donation Day." Then, accompanied by a sizeable entourage, his mistress brought him to Hartsdale Pet Cemetery and "laid him to rest in a flower trimmed grave."

At that time we had just over one hundred burials, with many plots marked only by field rocks, wooden planks or simple plantings, but Babe's monument changed all this. Crafted from flawless marble, the little dog's likeness was a catalyst for other exquisite tributes in stone, ultimately leading to the transformation of the rustic hillside into an acclaimed garden of beauty and grace. Here, plot-holders found creative inspiration as well as solace. Here, they realized, was a place worthy of their sustained support--and with that support Hartsdale went on to forever change the way the world regards animal remembrance.

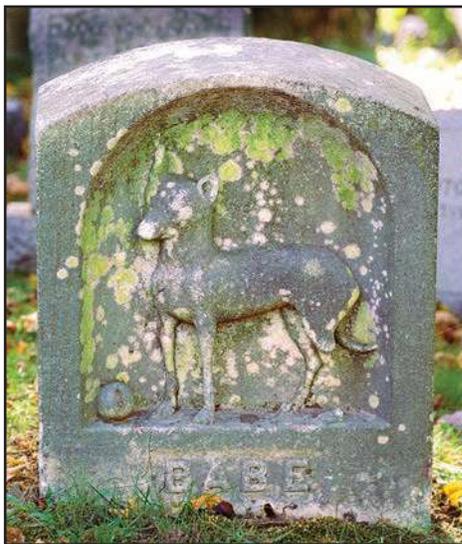
We too have an abiding love for this place, as demonstrated by so many of you who give to the Heritage Fund. With your help, our magnificent legacy trees were tended to, more flowers got planted, more historic gravestones were conserved, and we were again able to host a celebration for the dogs of war as well as a blessing for all animals. And I am particularly excited to tell you about the project to photo document our most precious art works, including Babe, in anticipation of whatever this unfolding century may toss our way.

## *Saving Babe*

*He withstood the wrath of hurricanes, blizzards, spring monsoons and the occasional downed tree limb. Along the way he lost his supporting base and part of one leg, and algae had so discolored him that nobody believed he once was white as sugar. If ever a monument needed an intervention, it was Babe.*

*The first step was to reset him on a bed of gravel to facilitate drainage, and then he was repeatedly tipped onto his back for saturating baths of a special solution to kill the algae and neutralize the effects of air pollution.*

*In order to replicate his former base, we turned to a bit of rare 1937 film footage, which shows him from a frontal perspective. Using this, we calculated the original dimensions for a new 200-pound marble block that was cut to match. Now back to his full stature, a beaming Babe again stands sentinel over his fellow grave markers--and we can see why he was so greatly admired those many decades ago.*

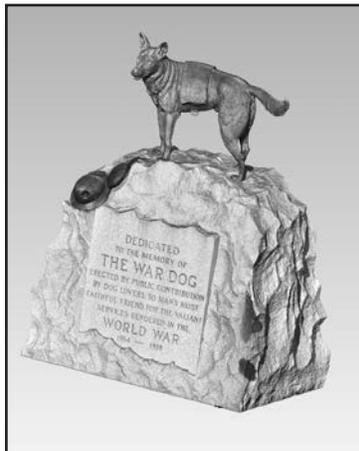
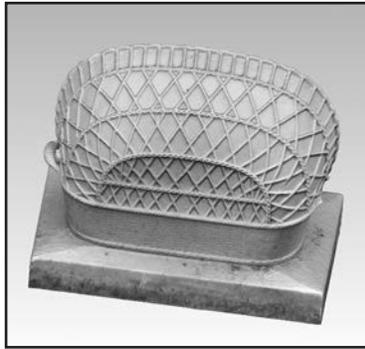


There's still so much to do, so many treasures still needing attention. I hope you will continue to bless us with your support. No matter the amount, your gift ensures that the richness and beauty of Hartsdale endures for the next generation to enjoy. Thank you for helping us to preserve this remarkable history for tomorrow.

Until we meet again, I wish you and your beloved animals all the best in 2020.

Mary Thurston, Historian

# Virtual 3D: Photographing the Past for the Future



Hartsdale is now among the first cemeteries in New York to document its most important works of art with digital laser photography for purposes of historic preservation. The process, which involves a special camera that projects a laser beam of light and then measures the manner in which it bounces back, creates “data points” approximately every five millimeters on all sides of an object. Then a computer collates these points (in the case of our War Dog Memorial, 998 such points) to create a data “mesh,” resulting in a virtual three-dimensional model of the original work. Such a model can be rotated to any perspective for examination, or it can be fed through a 3D printer to produce a master for mold making, from which replicas in bronze, mortar or polymer resin can be created.

As heritage sites throughout the world face growing threats from vandals and natural disasters, there is mounting interest in the potential of digital preservation. Such a project was undertaken at the Notre Dame in Paris prior to the fire in 2019 that gutted its carved wooden interior. With these virtual blueprints, experts overseeing the cathedral’s restoration will be able to replicate antique components that are accurate to within a millimeter of the original pieces. For Hartsdale Pet Cemetery, virtual 3D modeling adds another layer of security should a day ever come when we are faced with damage to any of our historic sculptures.

*Hartsdale is profoundly grateful to the parents of “Sepai” for their sponsorship of this project. And a special thank you to Warren Wilford of Berkshire Dimensions for his photographic work.*

Last year’s War Dog Memorial celebration remembered the service and sacrifice of the military canine “Robby,” whose plight in the late 1990s as an aging patrol K9 mobilized dog-loving Americans to demand the government enact the first federal law stipulating a retirement and adoption alternative to euthanasia for war dogs. The law’s passage came too late to save Robby, but his cremated remains were personally brought by the Commander of the Military Working Dogs Agency at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas to be interred at the base of the War Dog. In attendance of our celebration this past year was U.S. Army Colonel James McDonough, Jr., Director of New York State’s Division of Veterans’ Services, who spoke of the unwavering dedication of military handlers and their dogs in his keynote address.



2019 marked the burial of “Ming,” a tiger who for the first three years of his life was confined to an apartment in a Harlem housing project, where he could only gaze out the window at the city five stories below. Authorities rescued and relocated him to Noah’s Lost Ark Sanctuary in Ohio, and for the rest of his days he had sun on his fur, grass under his feet and the fellowship other tigers. He passed away at the senior age of 19. Believing that Ming was always a New Yorker at heart, his caretakers brought him to Hartsdale, taking pains that his monument be positioned to look south, back toward the city. Ming is the second big cat buried here, the first being the lion “Goldfleck,” who lived in the Plaza Hotel prior to his death in 1912.





## Please Help Us Preserve and Improve Our Irreplaceable Treasure



*The U.S. Department of the Interior added Hartsdale 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 this recognition comes a new level of responsibility to care to Hartsdale'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 any federal or state funding. Therefore we depend entirely on generous supporters like you to help us protect this precious 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.*

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

**YES, I want to help the Hartsdale 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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Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

City \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check payable to:  
Hartsdale Pet Cemetery

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

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