

---

# The New Englander



December 2007/January 2008

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
**NEW ENGLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**

[www.newenglandcemetery.org](http://www.newenglandcemetery.org)

Editor: Dan R. Krueger  
Beaverdale Memorial Park  
90 Pine Rock Ave. New Haven, CT 06515  
203.387.6601 fax 203.397.1517  
drk@beaverdale.net

First Vice-President  
Dale Fiore  
Evergreen Cemetery  
New Haven, CT  
  
Secretary  
Raymond Scholl  
Milford Cemetery Association  
Milford, CT

**President**  
**Mark Hemmann**  
Cedar Hill Cemetery  
Hartford, CT

Second Vice-President  
Anthony Hollingshead  
Swan Point Cemetery  
Providence, RI

Treasurer  
Barbara Brooks  
Riverside Cemetery  
Charlestown, RI

---

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**T**'was weeks before Christmas and all through our cemeteries, we are placing the blankets and wreaths. All the creatures are hiding and snoozing till spring. It is hard to believe that the holidays are upon us already. On behalf of the New England Cemetery Association Officers and Board, we wish you and your families a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season.

103 members, suppliers and speakers were in attendance at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Fred Laffond Educational Seminar in Durham, New Hampshire. I would like to commend Dale Fiore and Anthony Hollingshead for putting together such a tremendous program. We also had 11 new members in attendance. The Connecticut and Massachusetts Associations have a scholarship fund program for members/non-members that allow them to attend the seminar as well. We had two people take advantage of that opportunity, one from Connecticut and one from Massachusetts.

During the winter months we try and get together through our Mid Winter Conference, which will be held at the Mystic Hilton, in Mystic, Connecticut, beginning on Friday evening February 1st and concluding on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is a good place to network and get together. Why not join us?

Right around the corner is the New England Cemetery Association Annual Meeting and Conference. This year the location is Sturbridge, Massachusetts at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center. This will take place from June 24<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>, so make sure to include this in your budget! I am lining up our speakers now, and the program will be of interest to all. Please keep in mind this is a family friendly event.

Also, please join me in welcoming our new members (they are listed on page 6). Many of you had an opportunity to meet them at the just completed seminar. They certainly received a superb introduction to our wonderful organization and what we accomplish.

Sincerely,  
Your President, *Mark Hemmann*

---

## 38TH FREDERICK R. LAFFOND CEMETERY MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

---

**Expertise in Management:** submitted by Dale Fiore, CCE

The New England Center, located at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, was the setting for one of this year's most informative programs for cemeterians to attend. Over 100 registrants, including industry vendors, took part in the classroom sessions with the desire to learn from industry experts and other cemeterians, how to become proficient at what we do on a daily basis. Office etiquette, professional leadership and computers in the office were the topics of the first day followed by a social time that attendees could network together about the activities of the day. Bronson Hawley, President of Oak Lawn Cemetery in Fairfield, CT presented a survey to the group that was well received. As an incentive for completed surveys handed in, two cash prizes donated by Oak Lawn Cemetery were awarded.



Tina Shockley, Community Relations Officer with the Delaware Department of Transportation, presented "the Roadside Memorial Garden". The memorial garden was designed as an area for families to safely grieve the loss of a loved one that was killed on a Delaware highway. Susan Wolfe from Morgan Stanley Financial Services presented Investment Strategies, and Brian Koziar of The Rock of Ages Corporation educated the group on mausoleum construction and care. Peg Goralski showed photos of burial practices and cemeteries from the Netherlands, China, India and Japan. An audience participation project took place, allowing attendees to ask questions and solve possible problems that may occur at any time during a cemeterian's day. During the final evening social, we were treated to some holiday and popular music selections, sung by the University student group called "Alabaster Blue." Each day, a supplier's showcase was time for the vendors in attendance to talk to the group about their products and services. The seminar concluded with a wonderful visual presentation from Massachusetts Cemetery Association President Bray Walsh of the Lowell Cemetery. Bray demonstrated how to properly prepare a grave site from the burial order to the replacement of the sod. Evaluation forms were collected and certificates given to all attendees as another successful seminar was completed.

I would like to thank President Mark Hemmann for his confidence in me as chairman of this year's seminar. All who attended and participated in the program including speakers and industry vendors. My co-chair Anthony Hollingshead for his professional assistance and putting up with me over the past year, my fellow New England Cemeterians and board members, especially those who helped introduce the speakers. The hospitality committee including the ladies from Connecticut who took the time to bake some tasty and cute holiday snacks for our coffee breaks. And finally the staff of the New England Center helping make the 2007 seminar a great success.



*Top photo, Stephen Prinn of Alpha Associates addresses the attendees to the 38th Frederick R. Laffond Cemetery Management Seminar concerning office etiquette. Left, Brian Ricciardi of Means Precast discussing the products and services his company offers cemeteries and right, Dale Fiore with welcoming remarks.*



---

## STATE NEWS

---

### **Vermont:** by Joy Fagan

The largest case of cemetery vandalism in recent Vermont memory took place at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery in Winooski, Vermont. First estimates were \$100,000 and while later downgraded, it still remains a tremendous tragedy. An incredible number of suppliers, cemeterians and others stepped right up to the plate, offering their services, supplies and equipment at no cost, and repaired the damage in an amazingly short period of time. One of the suppliers is longtime VCA supplier member Jeffrey Kuhn of Kuhn Memorials in South Hero, VT. The cemeterians are VCA members Sumner Cohen, Hebrew Holy Society, Burlington, Jim "Woody" Woodman, Resurrection Park Cemetery, South Burlington and Dennis Beaudin, St. Sylvester Cemetery, Barre. For their selfless efforts the Vermont Cemetery Association is presenting them each with a complimentary 2008 VCA membership.

Since the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe (JCOGS) has signed the sales and purchase agreement for a parcel of land for its cemetery, work has begun on rules and regulations for the cemetery. Because this is a very diverse and inclusive community some regulations will have to be in place before the Master Plan for the physical cemetery can be drawn up as it appears there will be 2 or 3 individual sections to accommodate the diversity. The JCOGS Cemetery is a member of the Vermont Cemetery Association.

As the person directing the JCOGS Cemetery, Bereavement and Ritual Committees, all of which are and will be involved with body preparation, funerals and burials, I am amazed and relieved at how quickly these groups of people, none of whom have ever had any association with a cemetery before other than attending funerals, unveilings and memorial visits, are learning the ropes and moving ahead. I have to thank Patrick Healy and the New England Cemetery Association for having so well educated me. As I have said many times, my experiences with Patrick and NECA have provided me with more practical and hands-on education than I received to get my degree.

The Vermont Cemetery Association wishes all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### **Rhode Island:** by George Boardman

We held our annual Holiday Party and Toy Drive on December 12th at the To Kalon Club in Pawtucket. With over 30 in attendance we collected over 50 toys. Thanks to Mary Douglas these toys will be distributed locally through the Providence Community Action Group.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 16th at the Roma Gourmet on Federal Hill in Providence. We hope to see you all there. We also look forward to seeing everyone on the first weekend in February for the NECA Mid-Winter Meeting in Mystic.

We wish all of the members of the New England Cemetery Association and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### **Connecticut:** by Dan Krueger

Twenty seven members of the Connecticut Cemetery Association attended the 38th Annual Frederick R. Laffond Cemetery Management Seminar this past November. Six of these members attended for their first time and were truly impressed. We are especially pleased that to have provided a scholarship to one of these first time attendees. Congratulations and we look forward to seeing all you at many more CCA and NECA events.

We would be remiss if we did not congratulate Dale Fiore, a Past President of CCA on a superb program. The breadth of subjects and the enthusiasm developed created one of the more successful and rewarding seminars in recent history. A job well done, Dale!

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, March 27th. Our Annual Suppliers Expo is scheduled for the Aqua-Turf Country Club and we expect another stellar show. This is the perfect time of year to see what's new and how our suppliers can help make your day-to-day operations easier and more efficient.

We hope that you and your family have a very joyous holiday season and that the new year brings you much joy and prosperity.

P.S. Congratulations to Mark and Donna Hemmann on the birth of their first grandchild. Grandpa Mark is as proud as a peacock!

## MORE STATE NEWS

### **M**aine: by Gerry Raymond

Greetings from the Great State of Maine. Your friends and fellow cemeterians in Maine wish you all a Merry and Blessed Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

### **N**ew Hampshire: as reported in the New Hampshire Union Leader

The Christmas tree adorning Elm Street in downtown Manchester, NH had, until a month ago, been providing shade and solace to the families visiting Pine Grove Cemetery. It seems that a crew from the city Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Department removed the massive spruce and erected it in Stanton Plaza across the street from Veterans Memorial Park. For the past five



years the city has been placing and decorating a Christmas tree in Stanton Plaza after wind had blown down a tree at City Hall Plaza.

It seems a Parks Department worker had failed to secure a donated tree this year and took it upon himself to locate one on city property. Several trees were identified within Pine Grove Cemetery with this tree being the easiest to remove. The person responsible for the removal has been reprimanded. The city will replace the tree, although,

not with a mature fifty footer.

Stephanie Lewry, Executive Director of Intown Manchester has been trying to convince the city to plant a live tree at Stanton Park, which would save the city the trouble of finding a donated tree each year. She estimated that it would cost as much as \$8,000.00 for an appropriate mature tree.



*Left, Crews begin removing the tree from Pine Grove Cemetery in Manchester last month. Right, Now the city Christmas tree, it sits partially lit in downtown Manchester (Bruce Taylor photo, Union Leader)*

### **M**assachusetts: by Bray Walsh

The Massachusetts Cemetery Association held its fall luncheon meeting at Ken's Steakhouse in Framingham, MA on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Our guest speaker was the Honorable Anthony Verga, (right) House Chairman of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. Representative Verga spoke on what the committee does and important issues such as veterans' benefits, burial decorations, flag etiquette and other issues involving cemeteries in the state. The luncheon and presentation was enjoyed by cemetery members, supplier members and veterans agents from several towns.



The winter luncheon for the Massachusetts Cemetery Association will be held at the Hilltop Steakhouse on Route 1 South in Saugus, MA on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM. The presentation will be given by the Patriot Guard Riders. The Mission Statement of the Patriot Guard Riders follows and was taken from their website at [www.patriotguard.org](http://www.patriotguard.org).

*The Patriot Guard Riders is a diverse amalgamation of riders from across the nation. We have one thing in common besides motorcycles. We have an unwavering respect for those who risk their very lives for America's freedom and security.*

*Our main mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes **as invited guests of the family**. Each mission we undertake has two basic objectives.*

1. *Show our sincere respect for our fallen heroes, their families, and their communities.*
2. *Shield the mourning family and their friends from interruptions created by any protestor or group of protestors.*

*We accomplish the latter through strictly legal and non-violent means.*

We look forward to this presentation in February and encourage you all to attend.

## CHANGES AT THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION



*(l. to r.) Nick Pahoulis, Monsignor Walker; Hartford Archdiocese, Craig Neal and Bob Marek; Operations Director. (Photo by J. Swift)*

After 18 years of dedicated service, Nick Pahoulis will be retiring at the end of the year from his position of Director of Finance with Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford. During retirement, Nick will pursue his love of golf, serving as both Vice President for the Connecticut State Golf Association and coach of the Connecticut Junior Team. Hopefully, he will join us for a golf outing or two in the future (keep that leg inside the cart!!!) We wish Nick all the best of health and happiness in his retirement years.

Robert W. Salvato will succeed Nick as Director of Finance for CCA. Bob previously served as the Chief Financial Officer of Segment Promotions, Inc., East Hartford and brings with him 25 years of accounting experience. We welcome Bob not only to Catholic Cemeteries Association, but also as the newest member of the Connecticut and New England Cemetery Associations as well. Best of luck Bob!

On October 8, 2007, Craig S. Neal was appointed Executive Director of Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford by Archbishop Henry J. Mansell. Craig previously held the position of Human Resources Director for CCA. He has sat on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Cemeteries Association since 1999, and is now serving as Vice President. He was recently elected to the New England Cemetery Association Board of Directors in June, and has been a member of National Catholic Cemeteries Conference since 1999. We wish Craig all the best in his new position.

*First time attendees to the 38th Annual Frederick R. Laffond Cemetery Management Seminar (yes, that is Nick Pahoulis on the extreme right continuing his "farewell tour").*



Welcome to our new members and/or 1st time attendees to the Management Seminar.

- Bill Beverley; Plainville Cemetery, CT.
- Angel Morales; Sacred Heart Cemetery, CT
- Debbie Truhowsky; Willowbrook Cemetery, CT
- Robert Gambordella; Hartford Diocese, CT
- Paul Piscitelli- Hartford Diocese, CT
- John Demotte- The Gardens of Gethsemane, MA
- Alan MacKinnon- The Gardens of Gethsemane, MA
- Jacquelyn Poirier- Forest Hills Cemetery, MA
- James Shattuck- Wildwood Cemetery, MA
- Terry Spaulding- Woodlawn Cemetery, MA
- Craig Cunningham- Bath Cemeteries & Parks, ME
- Thomas Feeney- First Parish Cemetery, ME
- Ann Shaw- First Parish Cemetery, ME
- Diane Kenenski- River Bend Cemetery, RI
- Mark Bates- Norwalk Wilbert Vault, CT
- Mike Nue- Cold Spring Granite Group, MN

---

## ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

---

**R**est easy, sleep well my brothers.

**Know the line has held, your job is done.**

**Rest easy, sleep well.**

**Others have taken up where you fell,  
the line has held.**

**Peace, peace, and farewell...**



Readers may be interested to know that these wreaths -- some 5,000 -- are donated by the Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington, Maine . The owner, Merrill Worcester, not only provides the wreaths, but covers the trucking expense as well. He's done this since 1992. A wonderful guy. Also, most years, groups of Maine school kids combine an educational trip to DC with this event to help out. Making this even more remarkable is the fact that Harrington is in one of the poorest parts of the state.

*Submitted by Bob Devaney, Center Street Cemetery, Wallingford, CT*

---

### FROM THE EDITOR

---

**D**o you have something exciting happening at your cemetery? Do you sponsor special events? Are you simply proud of your cemetery or staff?

If so, please let us know. Provide me with photos and specific information. As you can see from this issue and past ones, the New Englander publishes news releases from the membership. The more personal the newsletter is the more enjoyable it will be to the membership.

You can provide this information by e-mail at [drk@beaverdale.net](mailto:drk@beaverdale.net)

or by regular mail at

Beaverdale Memorial Park  
90 Pine Rock Ave.  
New Haven, CT 06515.

Photographs can be digital or prints.

*Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year!*

---

### WINTER/SPRING CALENDAR

---

**February 1-3, 2008: NECA**

Mid Winter Meeting  
Hilton Mystic, Mystic, CT

**February 13, 2008: MCA**

Winter Luncheon  
Hilltop Steakhouse, Saugus, MA

**March 27, 2008: CCA**

Annual Suppliers Expo  
Aqua Turf Country Club, Southington, CT

**April 16, 2008: RICA**

Business Meeting  
Roma Gourmet, Providence, RI

---

## MAUSOLEUM DEDICATION

---

The Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford dedicated their newest mausoleum on Saturday, December 1st. Holy Cross Cemetery in Glastonbury, CT exemplifies the most modern trend in cemetery design. The section of the cemetery that is currently developed consists of shrine lots and monument lots of two or more graves, depending on the needs of a family. To further accommodate these needs, the Catholic Cemeteries Association commissioned McClesky Construction, Inc. of Norcross, Georgia to build a community mausoleum, the 16th for the Catholic Cemeteries Association

The mausoleum contains 1,713 total casket spaces along with 430 niches. The interior crypt and niche fronts and wall stone are Perlato marble with Breche Nouvelle marble trim. Exterior crypt and niche fronts and wall stone are Spring Rose granite with Impala Black granite trim. All excavation and site work was completed by cemetery employees under the supervision of Robert Marek, Operations Director.

Artwork consisting of three fiberbronze reliefs commissioned through LP Bronze International feature The Last Supper, The Removal of Christ's Body and The Burial of Jesus. Electronic memorial candles supplied by Smartlite will offer families an opportunity to light a candle in memory of their loved ones. Matthews Bronze International has supplied the bronze lettering and mounting bars for the memorializing of family names.



*Photos from the recently completed seminar. (Clockwise from top left) "Alabaster Blue" entertain, Rick Sacca, Anthony Hollingshead with George Milley and Peg Goralski.*



---

## MID-WINTER MEETING

---

The Mid-Winter Meeting of the New England Cemetery Association is scheduled for Friday, February 1st through Sunday, February 3rd, 2008. Mark, our President, has created an opportunity for you to add to your knowledge of cemetery management. What better way to begin the new year than a visit to historic Mystic, Connecticut for a weekend of learning, sharing and camaraderie.

The Hilton Mystic is at the gateway to downtown Mystic with easy access to the Mystic Aquarium and historic Mystic Seaport. For those who enjoy exploring unique shops there is the Olde Mistick Village Shops. Once you cross the draw bridge you are in Mystic proper, full of boutiques, antique shops, artisan vendors and delicious food and drink. I might suggest the Daniel Packer Inn for afternoon snacks and libations, if you can find it!

I know, this is Super Bowl weekend. But Mystic is only minutes off Interstate 95 and, according to Mapquest, less than 5 hours from Burlington, VT, plenty of time for a leisurely breakfast Sunday morning before departing for home or party and the game.

So, if you have not registered yet please do so. You can contact the Hilton Mystic directly at 860-572-0731. Be sure to tell them it is for the NECA Mid-Winter Meeting. You can also contact Ray Scholl at 203-874-8998 for more information.

