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Dorothy Parker died of a heart attack in NYC at the age of 73. A firm believer in civil rights, she bequeathed her literary estate to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. After King's assassination, the estate was left to the NAACP and her ashes were interred in a memorial garden at the NAACP headquarters in Baltimore, MD.

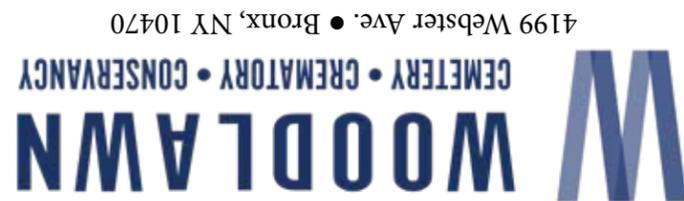
The NAACP recently moved from Baltimore to Washington, DC which left the memorial garden and the remains of Mrs. Parker in an uncertain state. The Dorothy Parker Society and the relatives of Dorothy Parker worked extensively with Woodlawn to make sure Dorothy Parker could be interred with her family. She is buried in the family grave in Myrtle Plot on White Oak Avenue, in the grave closest to her mother. The reinternment was celebrated with remarks by Kevin Fitzpatrick, Susan Olsen, Woodlawn's Director of Historical Services, and Dr. Hazel Dukes of the NAACP. Two songs were sung in her honor by Bill Zeffiro, including one written by Dorothy Parker in 1934 titled, "I Wished on the Moon."

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- **Ingalls Foundation**
- **New York Community Trust**
- **NYC DYCD Advance and Earn via The Door**
- **New York City Department of Education**
- **New York State Department of Labor**
- **Ventus Charitable Foundation**
- **World Monuments Fund**
- **And the Members of the President's Circle**

THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

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.



THE PRESERVATIONIST

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Woodlawn Conservancy. We hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe. The world is a much different place since our last issue of *The Preservationist*. Our lives have changed to adapt to the "New Normal." Yet here at Woodlawn, what hasn't changed is our commitment to our preservation efforts and to our Bridge To Craft Careers Program.

Our Masonry cohort started in early March with our young adults learning on-site, and within two weeks of the program, New York City's "Stay at Home" orders were issued to control the spread of COVID-19. Rather than cancel or postpone the training, our program partners; The Door, the World Monuments Fund, and the International Masonry Institute, worked together to develop an on-line curriculum which included documentation of monuments, stone identification, lessons on stone cleaning and metals cleaning, and lessons in job readiness. Guest speakers, experts in the fields of stone masonry, metals restoration, and historic preservation "zoomed" in from Philadelphia and Washington DC to deliver on-line lectures. By early June, our young people were allowed back on site and under the guidance of our Resident Craftsmen, were able to gain some hands-on experience. By the end of the program, we graduated 12 young people. The program was featured in the *Wall Street Journal* and *Crain's New York*.

At our graduation celebration, our President and CEO, Mitch Rose said of the young people, "They're entering into a trade where they're going to earn good money and be able to open up checking accounts, have families, get apartments, and buy cars. It's phenomenal because we're creating jobs, good jobs for young men and women who are in many cases are staying here in the Bronx and through their own economic strength, they're serving the very same community that the program originates in."

We took the lessons from our Masonry Cohort and applied that format to our Landscape Restoration Program which started this September. We welcomed 18 young people to this cohort and they are using our grounds as an Outdoor Learning Lab with the goal of gaining employment in green collar jobs and public horticulture.

We did a little celebrating too. In August, we commemorated the Centennial of the 19th Amendment granting Universal Suffrage for Women with a team of all female sky divers – yes, you read that correctly, jumping into Woodlawn with parachutes in the yellow and white colors of the suffragettes. It was a great day to honor the legacies of the notable women buried here at Woodlawn.

Lastly, please allow me this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Meg Ventrudo and I am the new director of the Woodlawn Conservancy. I started here at the end of March after many years of working in art and history museums. I very much enjoy working in this "outdoor museum," and I look forward to seeing you here.

Thank you for your continued support of the conservancy's programs and preservation efforts.

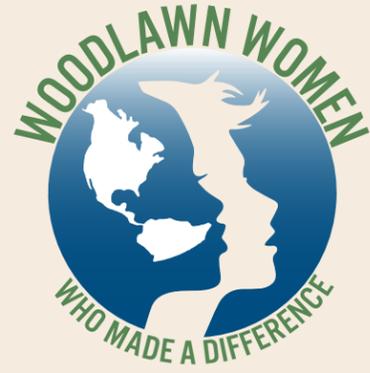
Sincerely

Meg Ventrudo
Executive Director



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

WOMEN OF WOODLAWN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE



On August 26th, the Highlight Pro Skydive Team dropped in to Woodlawn (literally) to help us celebrate National Women's Equality Day and the 100th Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Highlight Pro Skydive

Team is an all-female team of professional skydivers who celebrate the tenacious and fierce women who led the suffrage movement more than a century ago. They were a natural partner for Woodlawn, as we have a rich legacy of suffragettes and remarkable women.

That sunny August morning, their yellow parachutes, the color of the suffragettes, dotted the blue sky, and one by one, four fearless



women jumped from a helicopter hovering over New York City and landed on the meadow in front of Alva Belmont's mausoleum. The group then toured the cemetery and placed yellow roses on the gravesites of our suffragettes, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriot Stanton Blatch, Alva Belmont, Carrie Chapman Catt, Mary Garrett Hay and Madam CJ Walker.

We also had the great fortune to celebrate Madam CJ Walker. The life of Madam Walker was featured on Netflix in the miniseries "Self Made" based on her great-great-granddaughter A'Lelia Bundles' book *On Her Own Ground*. Madam Walker was a remarkable businesswoman and philanthropist, and first female self-made millionaire. We were so pleased to have Ms. Bundles conduct some of her research here at Woodlawn. According to A'Lelia, "Just as Madam C. J. Walker carefully selected the land for her estate in Irvington-on-Hudson, New York, she was intentional that her final resting place to be at Woodlawn. She



Photos Courtesy of Highlight Pro Skydive Team understood the symbolism of a black woman claiming her position among the wealthiest and most influential Americans during the early 20th century.

I always love visiting Woodlawn and knowing that thousands of people have made the "pilgrimage" to Madam Walker and A'Lelia Walker's gravesite and that they draw inspiration from their legacy. *(continues on next page)*

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One of the final scenes in *The Joy Goddess of Harlem*, the biography I'm writing about A'Lelia Walker, takes place in Woodlawn. As her casket was being lowered into the ground, Hubert Julian -- the pilot known as The Black Eagle -- released several dozen brightly colored dahlias and gladiolus as he flew over the crowd assembled around the grave."

We hope you will come join us and visit the graves of our remarkable Women of Woodlawn who made a difference.

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAM

It is with much excitement that we update you on the expansion of our Bridge To Craft Careers Program. On September 8th, Woodlawn welcomed our first cohort of 18 young people into the Landscape Restoration Program. Conducted in partnership with The Door, The NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, the World Monuments Fund and the Davey Tree Expert Company, and generously funded through many foundations and individuals, our young people are participating in classroom and on-site landscape training.

Our cohort is gaining experience in string trimmers, hand pruners, lawn mowers and other landscaping tools, all while learning tree identification, safety standards, and removal of invasive plants. According to Julia, one of the participants in the program, "I learn a lot on a daily basis. I've learned to identify trees and now I appreciate parks even more." And Bryan said, "This program gives me hands on experience with nature where I can make a greater impact in the community. It gives me a sense of purpose."

Their on-site work helps to enhance the natural beauty of Woodlawn, while at the same time, preparing these young adults for careers in landscaping and public horticulture.

WELCOME HOME DOROTHY PARKER

On August 22nd, the 127th Anniversary of her birth, the remains of noted author and oft quoted Dorothy Parker, were returned to her family plot at Woodlawn. Mrs. Parker is the latest of notable authors including E.L. Doctorow and Herman Melville that are buried at Woodlawn. Thanks to the efforts of Kevin Fitzpatrick and the Dorothy Parker Society, Mrs. Parker came home after many years. The story of her homecoming is a story as good as the author, herself, could write. Dorothy Parker, was born Dorothy Rothschild in 1893. She began her career writing for *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair* and the *New Yorker*. Best known as one of the founders of the Algonquin Round Table, along with such authors as Robert Benchley and Edna Ferber, Parker would go on to write articles, fiction and screen plays.

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