



THE BOUGH

NEWS OF EVERGREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION



Volume 20, Issue 2

July/August 2026

A Walk Through Evergreen Cemetery

**Dale J. Fiore, CCE,
General Manager**

It is a pleasure to begin this newsletter in the slightly cooler days of July. The week leading up to the 4th of July and the holiday week-end found us steeped in temperatures that hit 100 degrees and above. These were unexpectedly high temperatures for New England. However, we have cooled down a bit now with the promise of rain to replenish the grass to its lush shades of green.

At this time of the year, when the temperatures climb during the day and fall at night, the grass grows slower and we have time to trim bushes and trees, and take stock of the Cemetery grounds as we eventually lead into the fall season. The crew are can be immediately recognized by their bright summer shirts.

Surprisingly, after the Fourth of July, there do not appear to be any major holidays in July and August, other than family members birthdays, beach outings and picnic celebrations.

We are planning an event at Evergreen on October 7 2026 with Michael Morand, director of community enagement for Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale, who has recently been named by New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker to serve as the official city historian of New Haven. Morand stated, "I'm excited to do all that I can to further catalyze and connect our community's constellation of memory keepers and help read the future through the past." This sentiment rings true for Evergreen Cemetery as well.

As you can see in the photo on this page, a great blue heron was waiting outside the door of Evergreen when we arrived early in the morning. We have oftentimes seen the heron as it sits in the drainpipe and waits for fish to wash out of the pond, which it handily catches and devours with vigor.



A surprise visitor at Evergreen in the early morning hours.

Blue Herons are opportunistic carnivores that eat almost anything they can catch and swallow whole. Their primary diet consists of small to medium-sized fish, but they also consume amphibians, reptiles, insects, etc. They catch their prey by wading in quiet waters and get their name from their blue plumage. Just some interesting facts about one of the species that make its home at Evergreen.

Our notable in this issue is John Talbott Donoghue, sculptor of 'The Young Sophocles,' Donoghue was discovered by Oscar Wilde and befriended by John Boyle O'Reilly, internationally renowned poet, journalist, author, and activist.

We thank Liam Quinlan for sharing information about Donoghue with us. We are always interested in knowing more about the people who are resting at Evergreen.

Seasonal Flower Program



Order summer flowers to be placed at a gravesite or within the most beautiful cremation garden by the Columbarium. Do not forget your loved one during these long days of summer. We're here to help. Just go online or give us a call.



Evergreen Cemetery
Association of
New Haven & Crematory
Tel: 203-624-5505
Fax: 203-624-1223
www.evergreencem.org

For More Information, to Search for a Loved One, or Purchase a Monument, Niche, or Flowers, please visit,
<https://evergreencem.org/>



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Swans with cygnets.

Reflections of Evergreen by Dale J. Fiore

When I began my journey here at Evergreen 40 years ago, I was a young man, who had graduated with my horticulture degree from UCONN, worked in a nursery, and in landscaping. It was my desire to bring the knowledge gained through my studies and time in the field to Evergreen. While my journey here is not at an end, I wanted to take a few moments to reflect on the trees that we have planted, the sunflowers that turn their heads to follow the sun, and the buildings that have been erected during my tenure: Office, Columbarium, and Crematory addition, as well as overseeing the care of our beautiful Cemetery. I welcome you to visit, walk the beautiful 85 acres of park-like grounds and reflect.



John Talbott Donoghue - 1854-1903 - An American Artist and Sculptor

Donoghue was born of Irish immigrants in Chicago in 1854. He studied at the Chicago Academy of Design and Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, and produced figurative sculpture, bas reliefs, and paintings, but he is best known for a single bronze sculpture, "The Young Sophocles."

The bronze was originally cast in 1885, but later castings are known to exist. The sculpture depicts the ancient Greek tragic dramatist Sophocles at age 16. Following the Athenians' decisive naval defeat of the Persians at the Battle of Salamis in 480 B.C., a victory

trophy was erected. Because of his exceptional beauty and musical talent, the young Sophocles was chosen to lead the naked youth in a choral song and dance of praise around the trophy. Donoghue captures Sophocles poised in mid-motion, with mouth open in song, and fingers releasing the strings of a lyre.

The Young Sophocles is held by several major institutions, with the primary cast housed at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

In 1882, Oscar Wilde met Donoghue during his lecture tour in Chicago. He encouraged Chicagoans to support

Donoghue, "whose work is beautiful - more beautiful than the work of any American sculptor, and of whom you should be proud."

Wilde secured financial patronage for Donoghue, which allowed him to travel to Europe where his full-scale masterpiece was modeled in Rome in 1885. His original plaster won honorable mention at the 1886 Paris Salon and later won first prize at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Recognizing his genius, elite figures bought versions of his work.

Despite Donoghue's monumental success, his life



ended in tragedy. In the early 1890s after pouring years of labor and his life savings into a sculpture called 'The Genius of America' due to shipping delays and errors, his work of art sat exposed to the elements on a dock in New York and was thrown into the river as junk. On July 1, 1903, Donoghue took his own life.

John Talbott Donoghue is resting here at Evergreen.