



Orange County Government

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Orange County Historian hosting four Cemetery maintenance workshops**

Goshen, N.Y. – Orange County Historian Johanna Yaun has announced that the County will host four workshops to discuss the care and maintenance of cemeteries.

These will be “hands on” events with cleaning and repairs done by all participants. Attendance for each workshop is limited to 16 people. The sites for the cleanup event are: Circleville Presbyterian Church on May 27<sup>th</sup>, Temple Beth Jacob Big Rock Cemetery in Newburgh on July 16<sup>th</sup>, Washingtonville Presbyterian Church on August 12<sup>th</sup>; and Gumaer Cemetery in Deerpark on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

The workshops will be moderated by cemetery preservation expert Marianne McCaffrey-Greenfield, a 20-year member and past board officer of the Association for Gravestone Studies. Greenfield presents cemetery preservation programs for groups across the Hudson Valley such as the New York State Association of Cemeteries, New York Historical Societies, as well as area libraries, and rotary clubs.

Greenfield lives in the Village of Walton, in Delaware County, and serves as the Delhi Town Historian.

“Orange County has a wealth of historic cemeteries, and some of them are in desperate need of proper maintenance,” Yaun said. “Because the tombstones and markers are made from a variety of materials and have become fragile due to weather extremes, they require unique cleaning materials and repair methods.

Marianne has done this work for years, and her guidance will ensure that the cemetery stones will receive proper care.”

This event is free, however reservations are required due to limited seating. Contact Cher Vickers at 360-6978 or email [mgoff@orangecountygov.com](mailto:mgoff@orangecountygov.com).

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