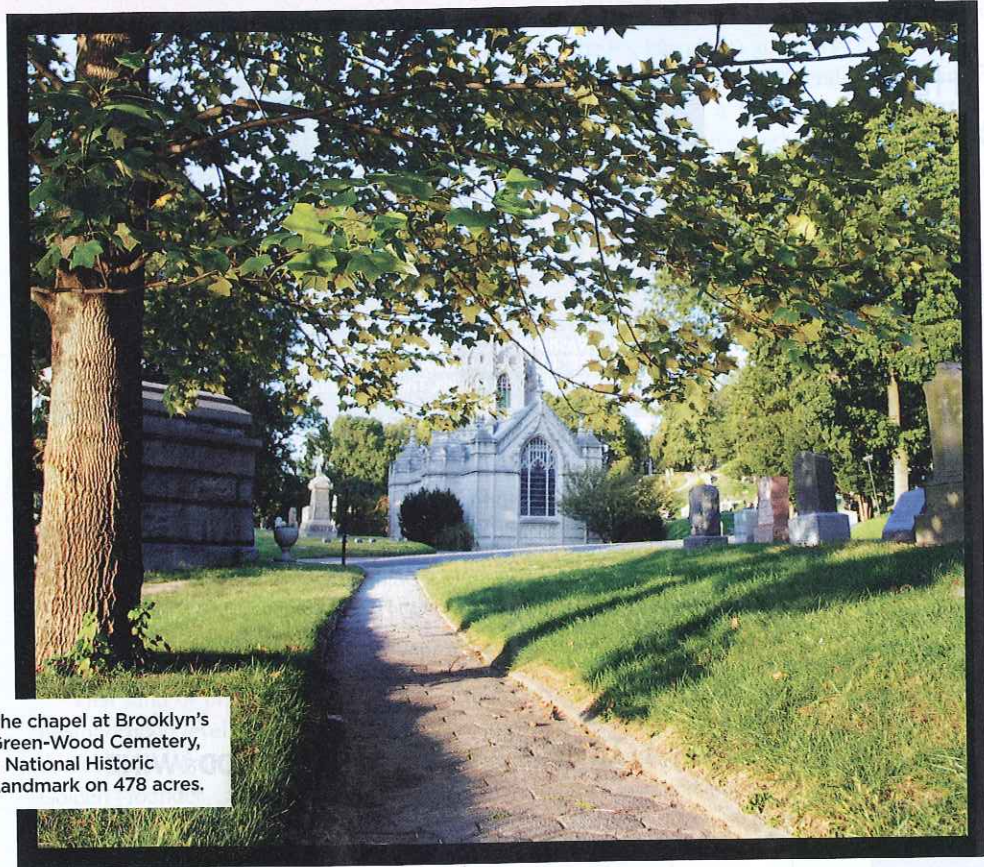


paul auster's

favorite place

BY DANI SHAPIRO



The chapel at Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery, a National Historic Landmark on 478 acres.



LOCAL TIPS

HIS MORNING ROUTINE

"I always stop at **La Bagel Delight** (284 Seventh Ave., Brooklyn; 718/768-6107; lunch for two \$16) and ask for a sandwich to go. It's a wonderful crossroads for Brooklynites."

MORE THAN DESSERT

"**Sweet Melissa Patisserie** (175 Seventh Ave., Brooklyn; 718/788-2700; lunch for two \$17) is known for its pastries, but everything is good. The back garden is open all year."

BEST BROOKLYN TABLES

"The Venice-born owner of **Al Di Là** (248 Fifth Ave., Brooklyn; 718/636-8888; dinner for two \$75), a terrific Italian spot, doesn't take reservations, so you have to be willing to wait. Or try **Rose Water** (787 Union St., Brooklyn; 718/783-3800; dinner for two \$60), an intelligently run place that uses local ingredients."

A LITERARY LEGACY

"The only remaining independent bookstore in Park Slope is the **Community Bookstore** (143 Seventh Ave., Brooklyn; 718/783-3075). The shop is a crucial part of my neighborhood."

GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

"A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO I WAS THINKING OF SETTING A NEW NOVEL IN SUNSET PARK, BROOKLYN, AND IN walking around the neighborhood, I visited Green-Wood Cemetery for the first time. In fact, maybe it was the cemetery that convinced me to write the novel. I had known about Green-Wood for years—had driven by it scores of times—but I had no idea that I was passing one of the most remarkable places in all of New York City. It's so big, so bursting with history, and to meander among the trees and plantings is to leave the city behind. Before Central Park was even dreamed of, families would come to Green-Wood on weekends. It's a forgotten corner, an eerie, beautiful place.

"The vast grounds, sculptures, and 19th-century Greek and Moorish Revival architecture are amazing, but equally amazing are the people buried there: everyone from pharmaceutical pioneers such as Squibb and Pfizer to much of the Tiffany family, F.A.O. Schwarz, Leonard Bernstein, Jean-Michel Basquiat.

"My book *Sunset Park* is about a group of young people who become squatters in a wooden house across from the cemetery. One character, a bit of a lost soul, spends a lot of time wandering Green-Wood with his camera. He marvels at the paths and pyramids, and muses, 'Where else but in Green-Wood Cemetery could he have learned that the real last name of Frank Morgan, the actor who played the Wizard of Oz, was Wuppermann?' To think of the Wizard of Oz lying there is very moving to me." ✚

Paul Auster's new novel, *Sunset Park* (Holt; \$25), is in bookstores now.