

Speak of the dead

BY MOIRA RICHARDSON

Rachel Blackman insists she's not a morbid person. But while passing through local cemeteries she was quite taken with the variety of words that appear on tombstones.

Words like "Lemon" and "Almond" and "Waterfalls" and "Smile" to name but a few.

Sounds like poetry here. Which is exactly what the Providence photographer was thinking when she joined independent toy developer Wayne Losey to create afterWords POETry, a collection of graveyard-inspired word-magnets that let you create your own funeral verse just in time for Halloween. Unlike the well-known Magnetic Poetry, which debuted 15 years ago with black



print words on a white background, afterWords are Blackman's images of words and phrases taken from actual New England tombstones.

"I really do it with respect. I'm not tromping around, being disrespectful in cemeteries," explained Blackman.

The sets sell at Pleasant Surprise stores in Newport and Providence, and Only in Rhode Island in Newport and TF Green Airport and The Curatorium in Providence. Or check out www.afterwordspoetry.com.