

SWEET AUBURN

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MOUNT AUBURN AS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE
ANNUAL REPORT 2009

SWEET AUBURN

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*Cover photo: Cambridge Montessori kindergarten class visits
Auburn Lake, June 2009. Photo by Jennifer J. Johnston*

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The Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery was established in 1986 to assist in the conservation of the Cemetery's natural beauty and to promote the appreciation of its cultural, historic and natural resources. Organized in 1990 as a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable trust, the Friends seeks financial support from its members, other individuals, foundations, corporations and public agencies. It receives gifts for educational and interpretive programs and materials for the public, specific cultural projects, and operating support for horticultural rejuvenation and the preservation of the historic monuments, structures, and archival artifacts and records. The Friends has over 1,300 active members.

President's Corner

In this issue we explore some of the many different ways that Mount Auburn is an important resource for our local community and beyond. We have long summed up our mission at Mount Auburn Cemetery as one of "preservation and service." As a National Historic Landmark, there is no doubt that Mount Auburn is committed, as a priority, to preserving this landscape of natural and horticultural beauty and significant monuments, art and architecture. Likewise, there is no question that because Mount Auburn is also an active cemetery, providing high-quality service to our clients at a time of need is of critical importance. But Mount Auburn is so much more complex than those simple words "preservation and service" might indicate. We are visited every day by a diverse mix of visitors ranging from students (kindergarten through graduate school) to professional colleagues to birders, history buffs, artists, and neighbors simply looking for inspiration and enjoyment. In the lead article on the following page, Steve Anable does a superb job of interviewing a number of our clients and visitors and capturing in their own words what Mount Auburn means to them.



David Barnett

It is gratifying to read the recurring comments about the professionalism, dedication and compassion of Mount Auburn's staff. We do indeed have an amazing staff, of which I am extremely proud. This has been a challenging year, as we have had to make difficult decisions to reduce expenditures in response to the declining financial environment. Over and over again, however, the creativity and dedication of the staff has enabled us to maintain the high standards of maintenance and service that visitors to Mount Auburn have come to expect. We are still in sound financial condition and remain optimistic about our future.

One of the cost-saving measures we have taken is to insert the FY2009 Annual Report to Proprietors into this issue of Sweet Auburn to reduce printing and mailing expenses. As outlined in the Annual Report, we continue to pursue our Strategic Plan that envisions Mount Auburn as an active cemetery and dynamic cultural institution for many decades into the future. We have exciting plans and look forward to sharing them with you in future issues of Sweet Auburn.



David P. Barnett, President



pg. 1



pg. 8



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MOUNT AUBURN:

A Vital and Vibrant Community Resource

BY STEPHEN H. ANABLE

Mount Auburn Cemetery is a treasured community resource for people from the Boston region and visitors from the country and around the world. It is a unique place, beloved by many, and consulted, walked, toured, admired, studied, emulated, and enjoyed by more than 200,000 people each year. And it serves, of course, as a sacred repository of community memory for the families and friends of the more than 94,000 people who are buried here.

Here, told in their own words, are the stories of some of the people who find Mount Auburn to be a valuable resource and a dynamic yet caring environment.

**Michael Horn, sixth-grade science teacher
Shady Hill School, Cambridge**

Every year I go bird-watching with my sixth graders at Mount Auburn Cemetery, around the ponds and in Consecration Dell. My students are beginning bird-watchers who haven't seen birds in such quiet surroundings; the quiet makes them focus a bit more. At some times it feels like we're in deep woods, and yet we're in a major city. The students find out the Cemetery is on the flyway for birds—and is a fantastic spot for birding.





Montessori Kindergarteners study pond-life at Auburn Lake.

This past spring we had just walked into Mount Auburn through the east gate when a great blue heron flew over our heads. The orioles have always excited the kids, not only seeing the birds but also their nests. Last year two classes loved seeing the male rose-breasted grosbeak coming to the bird feeder—it was phenomenal to see his colors in full sunlight.

The view from Washington Tower is great for map study when combined with readings from *Birds of the Cambridge Region*, written by William Brewster. Brewster was a 19th-century authority on birds who wrote extensively about the walks he took from his house on Brattle Street into the marshes along the Charles River. When you're on top of Washington Tower, you can get a good idea of what he was talking about, concerning the natural and human history of this area. (When we're at Mount Auburn, we also visit Brewster's grave.)

Most years I conduct a topography class at the Cemetery. We come to Mount Auburn with a topographic map and cross-sectional profiles. We walk Indian Ridge Path to the main gate and then turn south, walking straight into Consecration Dell. As we're walking I ask my students to keep aware of exactly where they are on the path. We have check points where I ask them to tell me the exact height of a particular place and how the topography they observe compares with their cross sections.

I've also used the Cemetery for tree study. When you've "lived" with a tree on the school campus, it's a totally different experience to hunt for a similar tree at Mount Auburn. We find the name plaque on the tree—and it's so much better than identifying it by using a field guide. You've really connected completely with the tree.

Other teachers use Mount Auburn for other purposes. The youngest children study the pond life, as do second-graders when they learn about the Charles River. Seventh and eighth graders do sketching or water colors of plants or monuments. Grades five through eight might come for other reasons, but are exposed to views of death and the afterlife and begin interesting discussions as a result of their visits. (Of course, *they* are all immortal!) Sometimes we combine classes and students bring books and have an hour of quiet reading at Mount Auburn.

One student asked me, "Why can't the rest of the city be like Mount Auburn?" He was just overwhelmed with the peace and quiet—and the care taken to make the landscape visually interesting. I myself look on the setting as ideal and have worked to make Shady Hill's landscaping more like Mount Auburn's.

Scheri Fultineer,
Design Critic in Landscape Architecture
Harvard Graduate School of Design

I teach a course called "The Dead" at the Design School. I've been interested in the way religious and spiritual practices have impacted our understanding of the landscape and its design, and how, in our increasingly pluralistic world, different communities have to literally share common ground in cemeteries. I usually bring that into the design



Harvard Graduate School of Design's class "The Dead" take a tour of Mount Auburn on March 6, 2009.

studies I teach, and also into the seminars. It struck me that all departments of the Design School—architecture, landscape architecture, urban design and planning, environmental studies—could be interested and informed by the role that cemeteries play.

When I was studying landscape architecture at the Design School in the early 1990s, our class went to Mount Auburn with our instructors. We examined the use of different plant materials and how Mount Auburn had been designed, as far as the manipulation of its grade and water bodies. I really liked that project. It was a factor in my deciding to pursue an additional degree in theology.

What is very compelling about Mount Auburn from a design school perspective is the successive approaches to burial at the Cemetery and the different ways to insert them into this strong landscape fabric. Mount Auburn has sought contemporary expression, turning to some very interesting practitioners, through a very long “dialogue” about commemoration. Mount Auburn has a persistent and unique history of pursuing design excellence.

There are many instructors at the Design School who take their students over to Mount Auburn, for botanical research, or looking at site-engineering, or understanding the cultural history of changing ideas of the landscape. Mount Auburn has been a great resource through the years, for everybody.



Rob Gregg (right) watches Preservation Craftsman, Steve Brown, clean the 1832 Hannah Adams monument—the Cemetery’s first monument—on June 18, 2009. The Friends of Hannah Adams, the Medfield Historical Society, and the Medfield Historical Commission partnered to fund this project.

I initially came to Mount Auburn for genealogical research. I discovered that I have 95 relatives interred at Mount Auburn, both ordinary and extraordinary people. Those visits stimulated my thinking about Medfield’s historic Vine Lake Cemetery and its three types of graves: Colonial, Rural, and Landscape Lawn. In addition, I knew preservation issues abounded in Medfield. To explore establishing a trust to preserve our cemetery, I met with Bree Harvey [Mount Auburn’s Director of Education & Visitor Services]; I also took Medfield leaders on two field trips to Mount Auburn. Paul Walker [Superintendent of Grounds] was extremely helpful about discussing how Mount Auburn is addressing the need for additional burial sites in a finite space, a situation identical to ours at Vine Lake.

Once you identify the cultural resources inherent in a cemetery, the possibilities are endless! For us, Vine Lake, like Mount Auburn, can be seen as an outdoor museum, and our trust is already presenting interpretive programs celebrating that viewpoint.

After our trust was founded, I continued to have productive sessions with Meg Winslow [Curator of Historical Collections] and Natalie Wampler [Preservation & Facilities Planner], exploring how to compile a gravestone inscription and condition catalog. David Gallagher [Chief of Conservation] has offered his wealth of experience in answering additional questions about preservation.

Mount Auburn has a substantial role as a community resource, beginning with providing an approachable, generous, and insightful staff. Their attention to detail is one of the Cemetery’s strengths, and to walk the grounds with them is a terrific inspiration. In fact, the spirit of the Mount Auburn staff is the best commercial the Cemetery can have.



**Robert Tucker Gregg, Preservation activist
Vine Lake Cemetery, Medfield, MA**

Rob used his research at Mount Auburn Cemetery to establish the Vine Lake Preservation Trust in 2009 to preserve and protect his own town’s cemetery, a National Historic Landmark. Vine Lake’s earliest marked grave is dated 1661. Rob is the sole proprietor of Classic Chair Seating, a Medfield-based business which repairs, refinishes, and reseats antique and specialty chairs.

Chris and Elizabeth DeMille Barnett
Lexington, MA

The Barnetts lost their son, Nicholas, 18, a first-year student at Bowdoin College, in an automobile accident during Thanksgiving weekend, November 2007. Nick is buried at Mount Auburn, near Willow Pond. Chris, an engineer, is a Vice President of Parsons Brinckerhoff. Elizabeth, an urban planner, works for the town of Carlisle, MA. (The Barnetts are not related to Mount Auburn President David Barnett).

Elizabeth Barnett:

It was such a shock to think about having to find a place for Nick. It was like a train moving quickly: all of a sudden, you have to make so many decisions.

We wanted a place that was beautiful because we knew we would be spending a lot of time there. I wanted a place I'd want to go to. It was going to become part of my life. I knew that Mount Auburn is a National Historic Landmark, but it's still very much a cemetery of the 21st century—and the future.

My older son, Alex, had an even stronger feeling. He said, "Nick's going to be dead longer than he was part of my life, and it means a great deal to me that he be in a beautiful place." Alex is interested in architecture and he knew about Mount Auburn from a horticultural design point of view.

When we visited the Cemetery to look at space, we had two vans full of people. My husband's brother had just gotten off the plane from Chile, his sister and brother-in-law had come from Germany, and other friends had come from Washington, D.C., just to be there for us. Jim Holman [Director of Cemetery Services Administration] talked with us about different parts of the Cemetery where we might consider graves. He brought up things that would never have crossed my mind—"if you're not social, here's a quiet place," or, "here you'll find other families who've lost young adults." Jim was phenomenal; there was no pressure. His attention and care were just extraordinary. He acted as if two vans of people looking at graves happened all the time.

Mount Auburn was a place where our family and friends could mourn and be comfortable and they told us that. They felt that everyone could go there and no one would feel excluded.



Left to Right, Christopher J. (Vice President and Engineering Manager at Parsons Brinckerhoff), Alexander C., Nicholas J. and Elizabeth DeMille Barnett (Town of Carlisle Urban Planner) at the time of Nick's 2007 high school graduation. Photo courtesy of Barnett family.

Over 400 friends and family came to Nick's funeral. Bowdoin sent nearly 50 students and faculty in a tour bus, and there were so many of his classmates from Lexington. We had wanted to welcome anyone who also wanted to come to the burial, and over 200 people chose to join us. We looked back down Route 2, and there were two miles of cars in the procession to Mount Auburn; the state troopers had completely closed off the road. I don't know how the Cemetery staff did it, got all those people in and out so calmly. They just rose to the occasion. I was so touched, so moved. It takes a lot of hard work to make things happen seamlessly.

Now, I take a deep breath when I go through the gate at Mount Auburn. I feel from the moment I go in that I am in a place of contemplation and reflection, a special, sacred place where people can mourn individually and collectively. The peace and tranquility are comforting. I feel that when

I am in Mount Auburn, it is a community. I am pleased that there are people walking, sitting, reflecting—that this beauty and this extraordinary place is used the way it is. It makes me feel good that Nick is in a beautiful place and that other people enjoy it.

The day we picked out Nick's grave, there was this great blue heron sitting there at Willow Pond, watching us. I had never seen a heron inside the city, let alone in Cambridge. I love the wildlife, the trees, the little Baltimore oriole that nests by Willow Pond, the red-tailed hawks...

We visit Nick's grave at least once a week. All death is difficult, but especially when people die unexpectedly. At Mount Auburn,

people have extended so many kindnesses—I can't live long enough to thank them.

Chris Barnett:

That Thanksgiving when Nick died was a disaster. Our families dropped whatever plans they had for the holiday to come to be with us. We had the funeral as close as possible to Thanksgiving, so Nick's friends from high school and his class at Bowdoin could attend.

It seemed like there was a succession of angels that came into play, our funeral director in Lexington and then Jim Holman at Mount Auburn. We ended up buying the first plot Jim showed us, overlooking Willow Pond. It was fall and the area was so beautiful. There was this big yellow maple...

We bought four spaces there because we're all going to be there at some point, in the same place.

I've been to a lot of funerals, of family and friends, and I've been to some pretty fancy cemeteries in other parts of the country, and I think Mount Auburn's level of professionalism and compassion is extraordinary—and rare. My sense is that this work there is a kind of vocation. Everything the staff did that touched us was done with a level of compassion and caring.

We had a memorial service last year at Nick's grave on the first anniversary of his death. We also come to the Service of Commemoration the Cemetery holds during the holidays; that's been very comforting as well.

**Laura L. Nash, Ph.D., Horticulturist and educator
Chair of Horticulture Committee,
Cambridge Plant and Garden Club**



Laura Nash is the Chair of the Linden Tree Project of the Cambridge Plant and Garden Club and is a member of the Board of The Friends of Longfellow House in Cambridge. She has been Chair of the Board's Garden Committee for Longfellow House for the past five years. She was formerly a Senior Lecturer at the Harvard Business School, semi-retired two years ago, and is currently a lecturer and author on business ethics. Laura lives with her husband Thomas Beale in Cambridge.

We are so excited to collaborate with Mount Auburn on our four-year project for the centennial of the Garden Club of America. Every G.C.A. club will be studying, documenting and propagating a significant tree in their town, with a view to horticultural education and public service. The Cambridge Garden Club chose the enormous American linden (*Tilia americana*) on the grounds of the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow house on Brattle Street, and the National Park Service was generous enough to allow us to clone it under close supervision. This tree predates Longfellow and may go back to the time when George Washington used the house as his headquarters during the Revolutionary War. The club's "One Hundred Longfellow Lindens" project seeks to clone one hundred of these trees to donate to public spaces in Cambridge and around the United States.

Lindens, called lime trees in England, have heart-shaped leaves and wonderful blossoms that are made into tea. You will find various cultivars placed in long alleys or among the tallest specimens on historic properties. In Europe, they have an iconography associated with love and the cause of peace. Since Longfellow was a supporter of trees, pacifism and progressive politics, we felt this was a great match, botanically and culturally.

This particular tree has a rich place in the Cambridge landscape. The Longfellow House grounds are a major jewel in "the green necklace" that runs along Brattle Street from Radcliffe Yard to Mount Auburn Cemetery. Cambridge Plant and Garden Club members have donated time and money to many locations in this necklace over the years, so we saw a geographical and personal link.

Why did we turn to Mount Auburn for help? After all, we have lots of experience in the Garden Club and have sponsored many public plantings in Cambridge. Well, we felt we had to go there. Mount Auburn has amazing plantings and beautiful, mature trees you won't see anywhere else. There was a horticultural and historical connection to our goals and to Longfellow, whose birthday is celebrated annually at his grave in Mount Auburn Cemetery.

The Club first turned to [Mount Auburn President] Dave Barnett for advice about propagating the tree; he'd already served as an advisor to the Friends of Longfellow House Gardening and Grounds Committee and spoken at the Garden Club about the conservation practices and new plantings. Dennis Collins, Mount Auburn's Horticultural Curator, found space for the cloned specimens in Mount Auburn's greenhouses and helped us with the first batch of cuttings this summer.

People we've spoken to from around the country have been very enthusiastic about having "a Longfellow linden" in a public space. We have archives, artwork, historic houses, and furniture, but a tree, this tree, *this tree* is a living connection to the past, a piece of history.



L-R, Horticultural Curator Dennis Collins with Laura Nash and Sibyl Martin (right) of the Cambridge Plant and Garden Club at Mount Auburn's greenhouses.

Sara Goldberg, Archival consultant
Mount Auburn Archives volunteer, intern,
consultant
Newton, MA

PHOTO BY MEG WINSLOW



Sara Goldberg (center) records the oral history of visitors at Mount Auburn Cemetery's May 2009 Open House.

I came to the Historical Collections Department and Archives at Mount Auburn in September 2008, first as a volunteer, then as an intern, through the Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science Archives Management concentration. I received my MLS this year (2009). I completed a 60-hour internship at Mount Auburn, working on the lot correspondence project with Historical Collections Curator Meg Winslow and Archivist Brian Sullivan. We identified historic documents that were at risk because of their fragility and their materials, such as acidic paper. Many of these documents are over 150 years old, and my job was to make them stable and safe to ensure their long-term preservation. Without this type of care, documents on acidic paper will gradually crumble and damage other documents around them. Having completed my internship, I am now working as a consultant with Mount Auburn's Historical Collections, continuing on the historic lot correspondence project.

The Mount Auburn collection is really unique because of its breadth, continuity, and the fact that it's still being used. The Cemetery Services staff accesses the historic correspondence for information about deeds, who owns particular lots, who can legally be buried in certain lots, and the genealogical charts related to all of these issues. When documents end up in most archives, they are not being consulted by people on a daily basis, but here at Mount Auburn they are.



Great-blue Heron at Mount Auburn by Nathan Fried-Lipski

I've been amazed at the dedication and passion that the staff and volunteers in all of the departments bring to their work and at the "beehive" of activity that occurs every day at the Cemetery. In the Historical Collections department, we have staff and visitors coming in and out, looking for information; researchers who are local and from farther away; as well as colleagues from other historic institutions.

And I've been astonished at the amount of information and the social history that can be gleaned from the Cemetery's records. It just wasn't something that had crossed my mind before I came to Mount Auburn, and in talking to other students at Simmons, it was clear they had never considered cemetery records as an area of study either. Now, thanks to Brian Sullivan's tours and my speaking in class, there is a lot of interest at Simmons in being an intern in Mount Auburn.

Nathan Fried-Lipski, Photographer
Boston

Nathan Fried-Lipski is a photographer and birder who finds subject matter and aesthetic inspiration at Mount Auburn. He thrives on capturing action—of the Boston Celtics shooting a free-throw, the Boston Bruins scoring a goal, or birds in flight at Mount Auburn.

I've been photographing birds at Mount Auburn for about two years. Before that, I would go on Boston birding websites to see where birders were going. I kept noticing lots of listings for Mount Auburn, so I sort of ventured over there and really enjoyed it.

I like photographing action—anything that's moving and hard to capture. Most of my birding photographs are of birds in motion, in flight. I like the raptors at Mount Auburn, the birds with a big wingspan, like hawks. And the herons are a lot of fun. I enjoy photographing herons while they eat, seeing what they catch.

Mount Auburn is one of the only places in the city where I've seen owls, which I really like to photograph. There were a couple of great horned owls over on Ivy Path, above Consecration Dell.



GRACE MCCREARY

My daily life is shooting a lot of people and activity for newspapers and magazines. For me the Cemetery is great because I may have four or five jobs in a day, but I can just pop in for an hour or half an hour in the middle of the day and grab a few pictures. You can shoot high or low at Mount Auburn, photograph birds nesting in the tops of trees or in the water, on one of the ponds. The view from Washington Tower is beautiful. Sometimes, when you go up there, you can shoot birds with the skyline of Boston behind them, which is just spectacular.

**Susan Caulfield and Randall Cox
Cambridge, MA**

Susan and Randy are longtime neighbors of Mount Auburn on nearby Aberdeen Avenue. They have two sons, Ben, 16, and Andy, 15. They are Charter Members of the Friends of Mount Auburn, having joined in 1986. Susan is a reference librarian at the Newton Free Library and Randy is an architect with Icon Architecture, Inc., in Boston.



Susan Caulfield (far left) with infant son Andy and slightly older son Ben (learning his letters) at Mount Auburn Cemetery circa mid-1990's.

We actually went to the Cemetery on our first date! We walked to the top of

the Tower, past really amazing monuments and beautiful trees. It was early June—and we were hooked! Now our family has lived near Mount Auburn, practically across the street, on Aberdeen Avenue, for 17 years.

We started taking our children, now teenagers, to Mount Auburn when they were babies. We would go for walks all through the year, just as if it were a park. You could see ponds, rabbits, birds and foliage—all kinds of things kids just love.

Our boys had a couple of favorite “hiding trees.” One was at the foot of Indian Ridge Path, with branches that bent low to the ground and a hollow, making a hiding space. The other was up by Winslow Homer’s grave. And the kids also liked the Dell.

We went to most of the bulb plantings in the fall and all of the Arbor Day tree plantings each spring. Then, in the spring, we would go to see the bulbs that we had planted in bloom—that sort of thing.

We would practice letters by reading letters off monuments. The whole cemetery was good for teaching all kinds of things—the letters, tadpoles and frogs in the ponds, leaves we would collect and identify. The children liked the labels on the trees. I have photos from years ago, of a big ice storm, when we went to the Cemetery to see the damage.

We have tenants and when they first move in, we give them brochures and maps of Mount Auburn. ✱

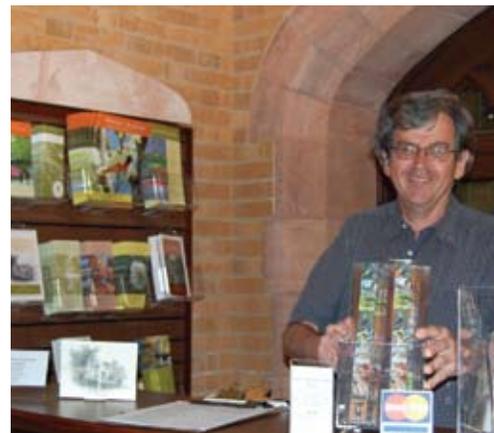
Volunteer Profile: Jim Gorman A DOCENT'S PERSPECTIVE

JIM GORMAN (*right*) OF SOUTH BOSTON BEGAN volunteering as a docent at the Mount Auburn Visitors Center in Story Chapel in November 2007. He has had “a longtime relationship” with the Cemetery, having been a member of the Friends since 1986. Of the Cemetery and himself he says, “Professionally I’m a horticulturalist, and as an avocation, I’m interested in Boston history. And it’s all there at Mount Auburn.”

He has been involved with “public horticulture” for 25 years. Currently, he is teaching in the Landscape Architecture Program at the Boston Architectural College. Prior to that, he worked at the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain and as Chief of Interpretation in the park ranger program for the city of Boston. When he travels, he gravitates toward open spaces, used bookstores, botanical gardens, and cemeteries. He finds cemeteries enjoyable “because of their horticultural pull.”

“At Mount Auburn, I like being able to help people make connections that are a little more meaningful for them. If somebody comes in to the Visitors Center and you ask informally about their interest and it turns out to be poetry,

you can direct them to the graves of Amy Lowell, Robert Creeley, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. If sports fans come in, you can lighten them up by saying ‘You know Curt Gowdy is buried here.’ Pick a topic and there are notable people in the Cemetery from medicine, law, politics, the military...”



Jim has also alerted visitors to a great horned owl roosting in Consecration Dell and other avians of note. He enjoys talking to all the visitors, in all their diversity. He says, “Mount Auburn is a truly a democratic—small ‘d’—place where people of all cultural and social strata cross paths.”

What does his work as a docent give him? “I like learning from others, from the visitors, and being able to share anything that I might have as well—it’s a reciprocal situation.”



Partners in Preservation— an amazing experience for Mount Auburn

BY BREE D. HARVEY,
Director of Education and Visitor Services

DURING APRIL AND MAY, MOUNT AUBURN participated in the 2009 Partners in Preservation initiative—a high-tech twist on historic preservation. Partners in Preservation—a collaboration between American Express and the National

Trust for Historic Preservation—invited 25 historic sites and cultural institutions from greater Boston to compete for \$1 million in preservation funding by participating in an online voting contest. Before determining what sites received funding, Partners in Preservation turned to the general public with a simple question: What site matters to you?

The Cemetery submitted an application for \$100,000 to preserve and rehabilitate its iconic **Egyptian Revival Gatehouse** (*photo top-left*) built in the 1840s. From the many applications (over 150) submitted for funding, only 25 were selected for the final, public phase of the initiative. During a press conference in Faneuil Hall on April 14, Mount Auburn was announced as one of the participants in the Partners in Preservation initiative.

Immediately, we began making “our case” and the public began their voting for their choices on the Partners in Preservation website. Between April 14 and May 17, Mount Auburn staff spoke with thousands of visitors about our ongoing preservation efforts and the need for funding to preserve one of the Cemetery’s most significant structures. We expanded our internet presence with videos on *YouTube*, photos on *Flickr*, and a page on *Facebook*.

On May 2 and 3, the Cemetery and each of the other finalists hosted a Preservation Open House. More than 750 people attended the event at Mount Auburn that weekend. Trolley rides, scavenger hunts, hands-on activities, demonstrations, and free tours all highlighted the Cemetery’s preservation efforts. Visitors also enjoyed songs from the Victorian era, sung by the trio *Vintage Voices* in period dress. The Open House, a happy success, is one we hope to make an annual tradition.

On May 17 the internet public voting phase of Partners in Preservation ended—with the Paragon Carousel in Hull gleaning the most votes and a guarantee to receive funding. On June 16th, the remaining funds were distributed to 11 other participating sites. While Mount Auburn was not one of the sites selected for major funding, we were happily surprised to receive a grant of \$5,000 for participating in the initiative. This gift will be used towards the preservation and rehabilitation of the Gatehouse.

We are honored that American Express and the National Trust presented us with the opportunity to introduce the Cemetery to a larger audience and grateful for the support from our members and the community. All of the votes cast for Mount Auburn, the testimonials shared on the Partners in Preservation website, and the encouragement we heard from our “fans” reminds us about how important Mount Auburn is in the hearts of many. We are proud to protect and preserve this community treasure.



PHOTO BY MEG WINSLOW



A DUAL CHALLENGE: Preserving a national treasure and serving our public's needs

BY WILLIAM G. BARRY, JR., *Vice President of Preservation & Facilities*, and SEAN J. O'REGAN, *Vice President of Cemetery Services*

MOUNT AUBURN'S MISSION: "TO COMMEMORATE THE dead in a landscape of exceptional beauty and tranquility, providing comfort and inspiration to the bereaved and the public as a whole; to protect and improve its historic landscape, monuments, architecture, horticulture, and natural resources, and; to provide comprehensive cemetery services of the highest standard to persons of all faiths."

The current down economy demands more than ever Mount Auburn's spirit of innovation to maintain our commitment to preservation and service excellence. Our mission is very much alive today as it has been for 178 years.

Today, Mount Auburn is a multidimensional cultural resource comprised of a world class arboretum, wild life sanctuary, outdoor sculpture and history museum, valuable historical archive, and educational programs, all set in a spectacular and always-inviting venue. In all that we do, both publicly and privately, Preservation and Client Services intersect, and our challenge is to maintain, in a fiscally responsible manner, the standard of excellence and innovation that our families, supporters, and visitors have all come to expect.

Mount Auburn's Cemetery Services is focused on providing comprehensive client service of the highest standard to persons of all faiths in a caring and dignified manner. Our Preservation team is focused on protecting the character of the landscape, monuments and buildings—each with different preservation needs that are sometimes at odds. Cemetery Services and Preservation actively collaborate to achieve our shared objective of preserving the memory of each of our families' loved ones, while conserving the material fabric of our art and architecture as well as the beloved horticultural landscape.

Maintaining Mount Auburn and protecting its extraordinary sense of place requires an investment of substantial resources and time which by necessity, is reflected in the pricing of the burial and memorialization options. If not for the assured longevity of Mount Auburn's magnificent presence, these cemetery pricing levels could not be achieved. Yet, without the premium pricing level, its beauty could not be sustained with such assurance. In this integration of service and preservation, Mount Auburn's viability is sustained.

The families we serve understand the significance and value of their investment in Mount Auburn after hearing stories and viewing the results of the recent restoration of the 1832 Hannah Adams monument, the first monument at Mount Auburn, or witnessing the delicate balance between nature and monumentation. Our clients choose Mount Auburn to be remembered and to be part of a vibrant historical place that will remain relevant for the foreseeable future.

Birch Gardens, the Cemetery's newest memorial landscape (2008) is an innovative design, developed by the Cemetery Services team and Mount Auburn's Trustees, that meets today's needs both for traditional casket burial space and the increasing demand for cremation burial and memorialization



Left photo: Bill Barry (right) and preservation specialists inspect the Administration Building. Below: Director of Cemetery Services Administration Jim Holman with Vice President Sean O'Regan at Birch Gardens.



PHOTO BY TOM JOHNSON

(80% of Birch Gardens' space is designated for cremation burial). The Preservation team was involved from day one to develop a preventive maintenance program as a tool to preserve the investment. As a result, several families have purchased space at Birch Gardens and a number of cemeteries are watching Birch Gardens with an eye towards duplicating this innovation in their master plans for future cemetery development.

Mount Auburn is a rewarding and important community resource with a daily challenge to balance complex historic and current priorities with today's public needs and diverse interests. At the heart of it all is our commitment to collaboration, creativity, professional planning, prudent spending and high standards, all required to sustain Mount Auburn.

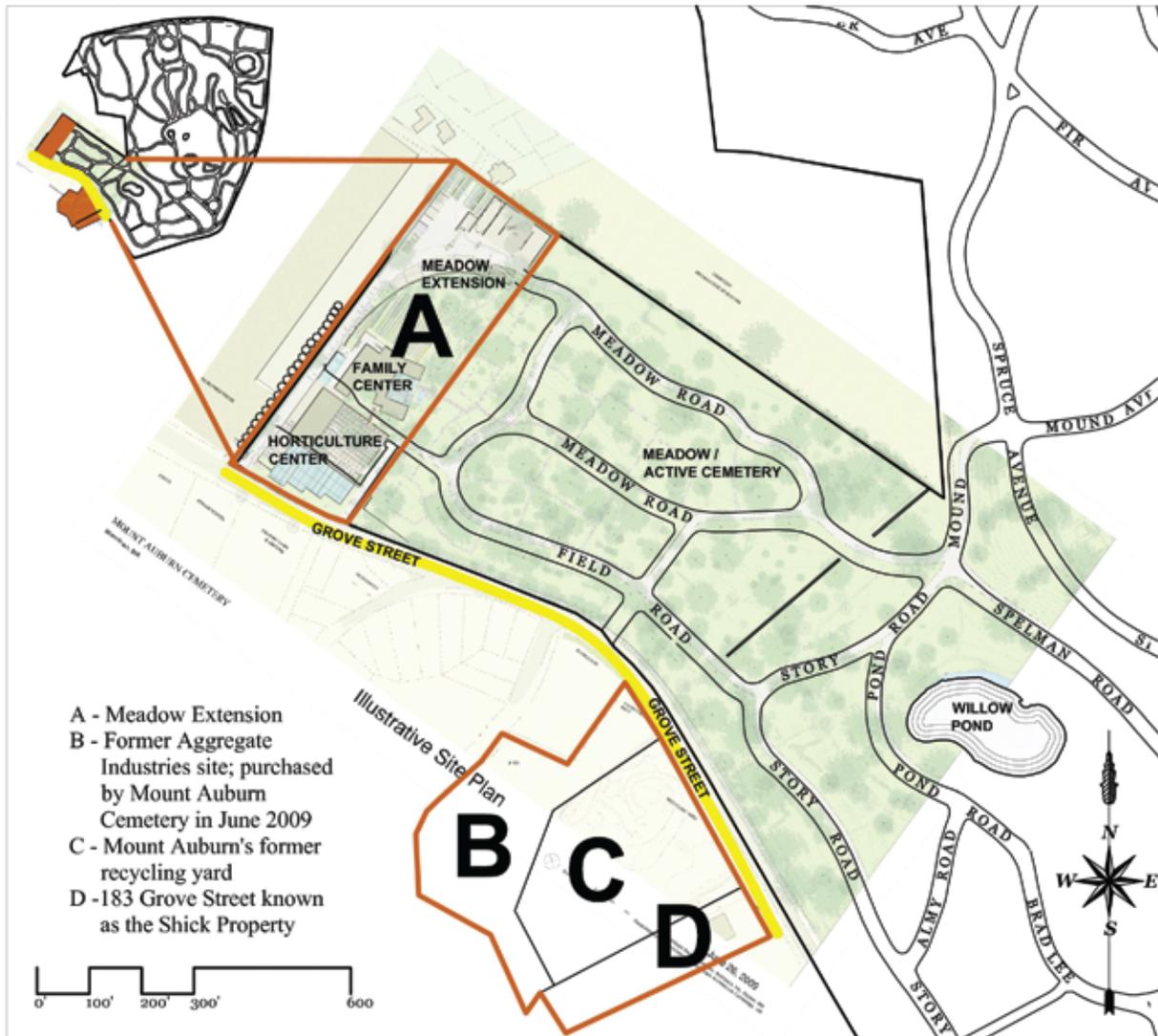
A NEW VISION FOR THE GROVE STREET CORRIDOR

BY CANDACE CURRIE, *Director of Planning and Sustainability*

FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS THE STAFF AND TRUSTEES of Mount Auburn Cemetery have been developing long range plans for a new greenhouse and other visual and programmatic improvements on the western edge of the Cemetery. Working with the Boston architectural firm of William Rawn Associates and the Watertown landscape architectural firm of Reed | Hilderbrand Associates, we are currently in the schematic design planning phase for a multi-dimensional complex of facilities in the area called the Meadow Extension (*parcel A* in the drawing) near our existing greenhouses northeast of Grove Street. In addition to the new facilities and the horticultural improvements, new burial space will be created to help extend Mount Auburn's future as an active cemetery. President Dave Barnett has said "Mount Auburn's vision to elevate the horticultural and cemetery services to new levels of excellence and innovation" will improve the streetscape for our Watertown neighbors along Grove Street in addition to improving these programs for our visitors and clients.

We are on track to complete the schematic design in the fall of 2009, and anticipate meetings with the Watertown Planning and Zoning boards in early winter on construction plans for the new Horticulture Center. The groundbreaking ceremony for new greenhouses is tentatively scheduled for April 2011.

Since the 1940's, Mount Auburn has owned a piece of land (*parcel C*) on the southwest side of Grove Street known as the "pit property". Over the decades the purpose of the pit changed; originally used to dispose of interment fill, it became the Cemetery's main composting site including materials deposited by outside landscapers. (Non-Mount Auburn landscapers are now prohibited from using the site, which reduces truck traffic). Biodegradable materials such as leaves, grass clippings, and prunings from shrubs and trees are mixed together with interment fill to create nutrient-rich topsoil that is used in flower beds and lawn areas. In June 2009, Mount Auburn purchased the adjacent property, former Aggregate Industries site (*parcel B*). This purchase



TITLE: Grove Street Parcels Owned by Mount Auburn Cemetery

CREDITS: Illustrative Site Plan by Reed | Hilderbrand. Plan prepared by Candace Currie

has enabled us to consolidate the recycling operations and minimize turf vehicle traffic and noise by storing finished compost and topsoil in this area. A more efficient recycling yard for day-to-day use has been created on parcel A which the turf vehicles access several times a day.

In 2001 Mount Auburn purchased the former Shick property (*parcel D*) immediately adjacent to the “pit property” (*parcel C*) and has already done extensive work to clean up the property. Having determined that the house does not fit into Mount Auburn’s long range plans, we are now discussing its future with the Town of Watertown.

We have committed to setting back all of our fences along parcels B, C and D, to allow for the area in front to be landscaped with low-growing plants that will visually improve the site for both pedestrians and drivers. Alyson Karakouzian, one of our long-standing Grove Street neighbors in Watertown says, “My family has always enjoyed the beautiful grounds and the peaceful serenity that can be found within the Cemetery. We have felt a bit like the back-door, however, so we are very excited to see the visions of the Cemetery being brought to our small neighborhood. Grove Street has long been an industrial, heavily travelled road and it is great to envision the improvements to the sidewalks, fencing and all-around quality of our neighborhood.”

Mount Auburn is eager to see these streetscape improvements eventually connect to the new, attractive, state-of-the-art greenhouses that will be visible from the road welcoming visitors to the new Horticulture Center at Mount Auburn. There will be no question that one has entered a botanic garden as well as a cemetery with the prominence of these greenhouses. They won’t still be standing “a thousand years from today,” as our founder Dr. Jacob Bigelow said in the mid-19th century about the Egyptian Gatehouse entrance from Mt. Auburn Street, but woody plants propagated in these greenhouses *will* be standing 200 years from now, much like a few of the majestic oaks standing today that predate the founding of the Cemetery in 1831. The beauty of the grounds has served as a source of solace to the bereaved for decades and there is every indication that the natural world of Mount Auburn will continue to serve them and our Watertown neighbors.

Mount Auburn Cemetery and the Grove Street Corridor

The diagram at left, an enlarged inset from the map of the Cemetery (upper left), shows the western edge of Mount Auburn along Grove Street, Watertown, and also the parcels of property across Grove Street (B-D) now owned by the Cemetery. The Meadow Extension (A) is the area within the existing Cemetery that is being planned for future redevelopment. New greenhouses and fences set back from the sidewalk along Mount Auburn’s Grove Street property will enhance the visual appearance and safety for Watertown neighbors, commuters and Mount Auburn visitors.

MOUNT AUBURN’S MEADOW EXTENSION ARCHITECT RATED # 1 IN US

William Rawn Associates of Boston, the architectural firm in the process of developing the design for Mount Auburn’s Meadow Extension project for new greenhouses and Horticultural Center, a Family Center, new landscaped burial space and a recycling yard, has been recently named the Number One architectural firm in the country by the industry publication ARCHITECT in its May 2009 issue. The firm was also named #4 in the Top 10 in “sustainable” practices and LEED projects and number of LEED certified architects on staff.

Rawn Associates’ principal, Bill Rawn, grew up in Pasadena, CA, graduated from Yale, and although he had always shown an interest in building things, he went to Harvard Law School (J.D 1969) and became an attorney. Still “passionately” interested in design, he ultimately decided that he wanted to go to architecture school. He received a Master’s in Architecture from MIT in 1979 and never looked back to a career in law. He founded his firm in 1983 and since has received nine national AIA Honor Awards, including one in 2008 for the interior of the acclaimed center for dance and theater at Williams College.



Bill Rawn

A WORKING VISIT FROM SMITH COLLEGE BOTANIC GARDENS

A group of nine interns and their leader from The Smith College Botanic Gardens visited Mount Auburn on June 30 for a tour of the Cemetery’s horticultural collections and various landscapes. In lieu of a monetary contribution to the Friends for the tour, the group contributed their time by spending several hours working at Mount Auburn’s experimental garden and nursery, weeding, transplanting, labeling, staking, and doing other important summer garden tasks.



HARVARD ART MUSEUMS JUNIOR FELLOWS VISIT

A group of the Harvard Art Museums Junior Fellows visited Mount Auburn on June 10 for a tour highlighting traditional and contemporary sculpture in the landscape and the rare 1841 stained glass window in Bigelow Chapel which was restored in 2006. The tour and the reception following were hosted by Mount Auburn staff.

MUSIC, MUSICIANS AND MOUNT AUBURN

THE FRIENDS OF MOUNT AUBURN PRESENTED A special music event in Bigelow Chapel on June 20 featuring Soprano Jean Danton and Pianist Thomas Stumpf. During the hour long concert, Ms. Danton, a soloist with Handel and Hayden Society, Oregon Bach Festival, Boston Baroque and the Boston Pops Orchestra, and Mr. Stumpf, who has performed across four continents and appeared with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Boston Pops Orchestra and

numerous other ensembles, celebrated some of the notable poets and composers now buried at Mount Auburn. Their program featured poetic verse set to music and included the works of poets Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Julia Ward Howe, Amy Lowell and David McCord. The program also included a

wonderful and crowd-pleasing performance of Edward Ballantine's "Variations on 'Mary Had a Little Lamb'" by Mr. Stumpf (Mary Sawyer Tyler, the inspiration for the poem, is buried at the Cemetery). Program notes, written by musicologist Steven Ledbetter, helped to explain Boston's literary and musical circles and how these collaborative works between poet and composer



came to be. The wine reception following the concert allowed concert attendees to mingle and chat with the musicians.

What began as a single concert to celebrate the works of composers now buried at Mount Auburn during our 175th Anniversary in 2006-2007 has since become an annual event. While preparing for that first concert in June 2006,

Ms. Danton uncovered a wealth of material composed by figures now buried at Mount Auburn. So much, in fact, that it could not all be used in one program. Ms. Danton and Mr. Stumpf have since prepared two additional programs for the Cemetery. As has been the case with the previous two concerts, some of the pieces performed this June were uncataloged works discovered by Ms. Danton in the archives of the New England Conservatory that have been performed or heard for the first time in decades. With even more discoveries, there is no doubt that Ms. Danton and Mr. Stumpf will join us again in the future to celebrate some of Mount Auburn's musical figures and continue to bring this music back to life.

Musicologists all agree that Boston's most lasting impression on the cultural identity of the nation was its importance in establishing American music in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Many of the individuals who helped to define Boston's musical life and establish the city as the epicenter of American music—including composers George Whitfield Chadwick (1854-1931), John Knowles Paine (1839-1906), Arthur Foote (1853-1937), and Mabel Wheeler Daniels (1878-1971)—are now buried at Mount Auburn.



Musicologist Steven Ledbetter (left), and soloist Jean Danton (right) with Mount Auburn's Bree Harvey.



Former Mount Auburn Cemetery President Bill Clendaniel has been appointed Chair of the Board of Trustees at the Massachusetts Historical Society effective July 1, 2009. Pictured L-R are Massachusetts Historical Society Trustees: The Honorable Levin Campbell; new Chair of the Board Bill Clendaniel; Trustee and outgoing Chair Amalie M. Kass; President Dennis Fiori; and Treasurer of the Board, William Cotter. Photo by Michael Dwyer, AP.

"Green Burials"—a Future Possibility?



Kate Ochsner (*center*) and Rachel Bechhoefer (*right*), graduate students at the Conway School of Landscape Design in western Massachusetts, were photographed with Mount Auburn's Candace Currie (*left*, a Conway School graduate) after their thesis presentation on "green burials" to Cemetery staff and interested Trustees in June. Rachel and Kate did extensive research on "green burials" and used Mount Auburn's properties on the south side of Grove Street as the focus of their case study which presented several intriguing design ideas for a potential designated "green burial" area.

STAFF NEWS AND TRAVEL



Chief of Conservation David Gallagher (left) attended the American Institute for Conservation Conference in Los Angeles May 19-23. He has also recently agreed to serve on the Board of The Northeast Chapter of the Association of Preservation Technology International.

Jim Holman (right), **Director of Cemetery Services Administration**, was elected as a Director of the Massachusetts Cemetery Association (MCA) at their annual meeting in April 2009 at the JFK Library in Boston. Vice President of Cemetery Services Sean O'Regan and President Dave Barnett also attended the MCA meeting. Bob Keller, Mount Auburn's longtime Director of Sales, had previously served the Association as a Director.



Also in April, **Sean O'Regan** attended the annual International Cemetery Cremation and Funeral Association meeting in Las Vegas, and in June several members of the Cemetery Services staff attended the annual conference of the New England Cemetery Association in Nashua, NH.



Natalie Wampler (left), **Preservation and Facilities Planner**, is partnering with Vertical Access, a building and structural inspection company, to present Mount Auburn's pilot monument survey to the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training's nationwide Cemetery Summit in Nashville, TN, October 19-20, 2009.

Natalie also presented two sessions at the **Association for Gravestone Studies Conference** June 24-27 in Schenectady, NY. One session ("*In Defense of the Fence*") focused on the challenges of managing a collection of historic lot fences in a permanent place like a cemetery affected by changing times and evolving tastes. She notes that during the 19th century over half the family lots at Mount Auburn had decorative iron fence enclosures, and that by the start of the 20th century, over half those fences, prone to rust and other weather and time-related damage, had been removed and continued to be dismantled throughout the century. In recent years, however, our few remaining iron lot fences have received important attention, a testament to the interest, historical and emotional, of families and friends connected to those lots.

Natalie's second presentation at the Conference was on Mount Auburn's monument inscription program which has uncovered and captured often heart-felt biographical information about children buried here and cenotaphs detailing the lives of people not buried at Mount Auburn.

Right: Mount Auburn President Dave Barnett (left) and Vice President of Preservation & Facilities Bill Barry, with helicopter on May 21, 2009, they took their cameras up for a "bird's eye" view of Mount Auburn.

Below (aerial shot): Egyptian Revival Entrance Gateway, Administration Building and Story Chapel as seen from above through the lens of Dave's camera.



Mount Auburn's president, **Dave Barnett**, has been much on the move also. In April he attended the American Public Gardens Association (APGA) Board meeting in Wilmington, DE, as the immediate Past President of APGA, and June 23-28 he attended the annual APGA Conference in St. Louis, MO, hosted by the Missouri Botanical Garden.

He has also had a number of speaking engagements in September around the country: on September 14 at the New York State Cemetery Association Conference in Lake George, NY; September 18-20 at the American Society of Landscape Architects conference in Chicago; and September 24-26 at the Historic Cemetery Alliance meeting in Providence, RI.

INTER-CEMETERY CONNECTIONS

Mount Auburn's Preservation staff have recently visited or hosted small groups from other Massachusetts historic cemeteries to explore and discuss a wide range of topics of mutual interest. On May 13 the Mount Auburn preservation staff toured Forest Hills Cemetery in Boston; on May 21 our preservation staff hosted a group from Ridgewood Cemetery in North Andover; and on May 29 representatives from Rural Cemetery in Worcester attended a monument inscription program at Mount Auburn.

The preservation staff hosted a group on July 31 from the National Center for Preservation Training and Technology (NCPTT) for a "back-of-the house" preservation tour of Mount Auburn. The tour focused on challenges faced by Mount Auburn "as steward of an historic cemetery landscape comprised of a rich array of structures set intimately within magnificent horticulture" (as described on the NCPTT's own website).

KIDS AT MOUNT AUBURN



Stay connected: “FIND US ON FACEBOOK”

NO MATTER WHERE YOU TURN THESE DAYS, PEOPLE are being asked to join the throngs of the multi-connected. This spring, the Friends of Mount Auburn jumped on the social media bandwagon and expanded its presence online with a page on Facebook and channels on YouTube and Flickr. The Friends’ use of these social media applications, along with our electronic newsletter, has allowed us to bring much more timely information to our members and supporters around the globe. By becoming a fan of the Friends of Mount Auburn on Facebook, a social networking site, you will find timely information and other interesting stories that relate to the Cemetery on a regular basis. With YouTube, a video sharing site, the Friends is now able to produce and share short videos about the Cemetery. Our first two videos on Facebook were created this past spring during our participation in the Partners in Preservation initiative to explain the story of our Egyptian Revival Gatehouse. New videos on notable figures, horticulture, art and architecture, and history are forthcoming. Flickr, a photo sharing website, allows us to share images of the Cemetery’s many facets including “What’s In Bloom” images and pictures from recent public programs.



To stay even more connected with the Friends, please do find us on Facebook!

And, check out our videos on YouTube and our images at Flickr:

<http://www.youtube.com/mountauburncemetery>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/mountauburncemetery>



Edward H. Morris (left), co-founder of The Canary Project and a 2008-2009 Loeb Fellow at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, speaks to the full Mount Auburn staff and invited guests about climate change and sustainability at Mount Auburn Cemetery’s Story Chapel on June 17.

The Canary Project—which Morris co-founded in 2006 with his wife, photographer Susannah Saylor—uses visual media and art to deepen greater public understanding of climate change and to energize humanity’s commitment to solutions. The presentation was planned as staff training in light of Mount Auburn Cemetery’s burgeoning sustainability and “green” programs. The poster behind Morris was designed and modeled by a group of students at Dorchester (MA) McCormack Middle School as part of a Green Patriot Program that Morris organized there in the spring of 2009.

Morris, son of Mount Auburn Senior Vice President Piper Morris, received his BA from Wesleyan University (CT) and his MA (in East Asian Studies) at Harvard. He was formerly a partner at the James Mintz Group, a financial and legal investigative firm in New York City. He and his wife Susannah are artists-in-residence this fall as teaching participants in a Visiting Visionary program at Indiana University.

CORNERSTONES AND COLLECTIONS



MOUNT AUBURN hosted a special late-day tour on July 15 of our archival collections as part of a joint program with the Cambridge Historical Society and

the Longfellow National Historic Site. Curators and archivists at each site showed highlights from their extensive collections of archival manuscripts, photographs and ephemera. The public program, called “Cornerstones and Collections,” focused on the many connections among our institutions, with architecture as a unifying theme. Over 35 people, in four separate groups which visited each of the three sites along Mt. Auburn

and Brattle Streets, were treated here to a glimpse of our remarkable collections, including a 19th century felt hat worn by the Cemetery gatekeeper, the 1896 watercolor



proposal by Willard T. Sears for Story Chapel, a candelabra featuring Bigelow Chapel, and an 1855 petition to build a conservatory. Curator of Historical Collections Meg Winslow, Archivist Brian Sullivan, and volunteer and Friends Trustee Caroline Loughlin gave presentations, explained the collections on display, and answered questions. The program, which began at 5:00PM, ran well into the evening.



19th century souvenir teacup, Mount Auburn's Historical Collections

GRANT AWARDED TO MOUNT AUBURN FOR NEW ENTRANCE TO STORY CHAPEL AND VISITORS CENTER

Mount Auburn was recently awarded \$132,000 by Mass-Development in partnership with the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) through their Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund (MCFF) for a proposed new entry to Story Chapel. Ours was among 85 projects (out of a field of 132 cultural orga-

nization applicants) in 2009 to receive grants. This is a 1:1 matching grant, so with it comes the challenge to raise matching funds by December 2010. McGinley Kalsow & Associates of Somerville, MA, have prepared a conceptual design that is reminiscent of a former 19th century porte-cochere at Story Chapel but yet focuses on improved contemporary visitor accessibility and increased energy efficiency.



Proposed Story Chapel & Visitors Center Entrance



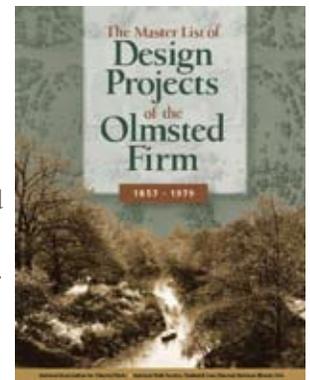
Story Chapel with Porte Cochere, 1934

FRIENDS TRUSTEE CAROLINE LOUGHLIN WINS HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PUBLICATION AWARD



Caroline Loughlin of Weston, MA, a Trustee and the Treasurer of the Friends of Mount Auburn, was one of three editors on a new publication (2009), *The Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm, 1857-1979* which was awarded the prestigious Boston Society of Landscape Architects Award of Excellence in May 2009. Caroline, and the other

two editors, Lucy Lawliss and Lauren Meier, have received two other prominent awards for this book: the Award of Honor from the American Society of Landscape Architects in Chicago in September 2009 and an award from the Betsy Barlow Rogers Foundation for Landscape Studies.





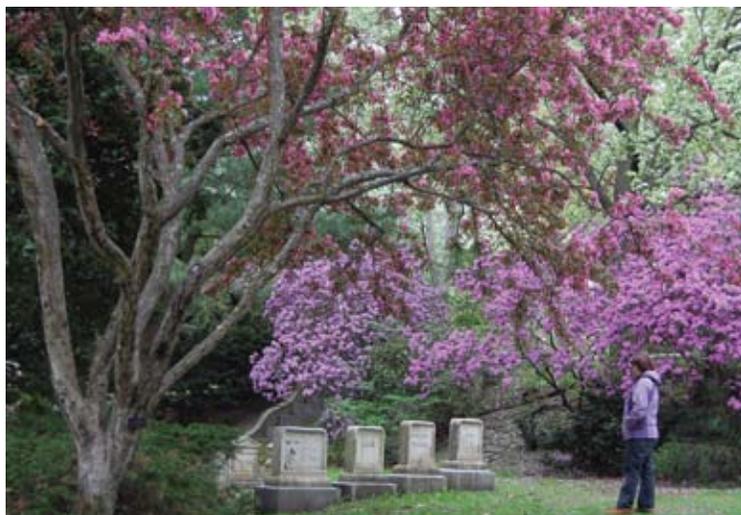
DID **you** KNOW...?

...Mount Auburn Cemetery has

- **45,000 monuments**
- **94,000 people buried** here over three centuries
- **over 5,000 trees** representing nearly 700 different taxa; 4,000 shrubs (400 taxa); and 3,000 groundcovers (300 taxa)
- **50,000 annual and perennial flowers and ornamental grasses** planted *every year*

...and there are

- **3 ponds and lakes**
- **a vernal pool**
- **7 major occupied buildings**
- **12 miles of roads** and **70 miles of paths**
- **4 miles of perimeter fencing**
- **62 historic iron lot fences** (most from the 19th century)



...at peak time, April-October, Mount Auburn has

- **over 100 employees** (55 full-time and 40-50 seasonal and part-time)
- **and they are:**

arborists, architect, archivist, art curator, artisan, back hoe and snowplow operators, carpenters, cemetery sales and service representatives, custodians, data entry, gifts coordinators, computer and software specialists for the Cemetery's 65 state-of-the-art computers, cremation experts, educators, electricians, events coordinators, facilities specialist, financial managers, fundraisers,



gardeners, an environmental "green team," greenhouse manager, grounds-keepers, horticulturists, human resources, interment crew, information technologists, landscape mapper, masons, mechanics, mowers and mulchers, photographers, planners, plant collections

curator, preservation specialists, publications designers and writers, researchers, security team, truck drivers, visitor service reps, and four Vice Presidents.

...there is

- **still space available** for purchase at Mount Auburn
- and the Cemetery does over 500 burials a year

...although Mount Auburn's zip code is 02138 (Cambridge) and the main entrance is in Cambridge, more than three-fourths of the Cemetery is actually in Watertown.

Alice Dabrowski, age 91, January 2009, has made a meaningful and significant gift to Mount Auburn.



Helping Others,

Helping Mount Auburn



Alice Dabrowski, circa 1950, as a dietitian at the Veterans Administration.

ALICE DABROWSKI (ABOVE) WHO DIED IN FEBRUARY 2009 AT the age of 91, led a remarkable life in which helping and encouraging others was always her priority.

A native of Chelsea, MA, Alice graduated from Framingham State College and dedicated her career to helping others: she was a dietitian with the Veterans Administration for more than thirty years, working throughout New England and ultimately serving as Chief Dietitian at the VA hospital in Manchester, NH, where she lived for many years.

Alice was an intrepid traveler, visiting Poland and Italy, and, in 1989, she took a five-month-long trip around the world. She loved the arts, and was especially fond of poetry, which she avidly read and collected. She also enjoyed baking, something she did right up until her death.

She was devoted to her family and friends, happily offering encouragement, help and support. Her sister Isabel Dabrowski, also of Manchester, NH, said that Alice was “always smiling, always.” She also noted that Alice’s ties to Mount Auburn Cemetery stretched back more than four decades. Ever since their father Joseph was buried here in 1968 (their mother Adela was buried here in 1992), Alice and Isabel would come to walk the grounds, enjoying the winding paths and appreciating the many inscriptions.

Alice’s love of Mount Auburn inspired her to give an insurance policy worth more than \$475,000 to the Cemetery. When she was asked about giving away such a large sum to Mount Auburn, she observed, “It’s money I suppose, but they will put it to some good.” Mount Auburn is honored by and grateful for this tremendous legacy which will help ensure that the Cemetery remains a place that provides enjoyment and inspiration for generations to come.

If you would like to learn more about ways to support Mount Auburn Cemetery while possibly enjoying tax and/or income benefits, please contact Stephen R. Silver, Director of Leadership and Planned Giving at 617-607-1956 or ssilver@mountauburn.org.

Upcoming Events

❁ Mount Auburn Book Club

Join us for the monthly meeting of the Mount Auburn book club! Each month, we will discuss a book that relates to one of the facets of the Cemetery. All books are readily available from bookstores or at your local library. Book Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month in Story Chapel at 10:00 AM FREE.

- Thursday, September 10 – *Sudden Sea: The Great Hurricane of 1938* by R.A. Scotti (2004)
- Thursday, October 8 – *For the Prevention of Cruelty: The History and Legacy of Animal Rights Activism in the U.S.* by Diane L. Beers (2006)
- Thursday, November 12 – *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War* by Drew Gilpin Faust (2008).
- Thursday, December 10 – *The Dante Club* by Matthew Pearl (2006)

❁ Upcoming Walking Tours:

Saturdays, September 5, October 3, November 7 and December 5, 2:00 PM

“Discover Mount Auburn” – a walking tour. Join us on the first Saturday of each month for this walking tour focuses on history, horticulture, and the lives of those buried here. Meet at the Entrance Gate at 2 PM. \$5 members, \$10 non-members.

Sunday, October 4, 2:00 PM

“Longfellow’s Footprints at Mt Auburn: Family, Friends and Flora” – a walking tour with Ted Zalewski, Longfellow scholar, historical interpreter and teacher. Join us on a lovely fall afternoon for this walking tour to learn more about Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and his circle of family and friends. The tour will highlight the history of Longfellow and his times. Meet at the Entrance.

\$5 members; \$10 non-members.



Photo by Jennifer Johnston

Thursday, October 22, 2:00 PM

“Harriet Jacobs and her Network of Friends” – a walking tour. During this walking tour we will celebrate Harriet Jacobs (1813–1897), freedom-seeker, abolitionist, and author of *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl Written by Herself*. After visiting Jacob’s grave at Mount Auburn, we will visit her network of family and friends who also chose to make Mount Auburn their final resting place. Meet at the Cemetery’s Entrance and wear comfortable footwear. FREE.

❁ SAVE THE DATE: Candle Lighting Service Wednesday, December 17, 3:30 PM

Join us for this annual event to remember those who have gone before us. This year’s service will feature remarks by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner, author of the bestselling book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* (1981). The service includes a moving candle lighting procession, during which you will have the opportunity to light candles in honor of those you wish to remember. Following the service, we will host a reception in Bigelow Chapel. FREE, but candles are \$5 each.

Make sure to visit www.mountauburn.org for a complete listing of our upcoming walks, talks, and special events.