

SWEET AUBURN

Magazine of the Friends of Mount Auburn | SPRING 2009



COMMEMORATION: TRADITION, DIVERSITY AND NEW BEGINNINGS

BIRDS AT MOUNT AUBURN

SWEET AUBURN

*A publication of the
Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery*

580 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
617-547-7105
www.mountauburn.org

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Priscilla P. Morris, Editor
Senior Vice President of Development

Stephen H. Anable, Managing Editor
Communications Coordinator & Writer

David P. Barnett, Contributing Editor
President & CEO, Mount Auburn Cemetery

Dennis Collins
Horticultural Curator

Candace Currie
Director of Planning & Cemetery Development

Bree D. Harvey
Director of Education & Visitor Services

Jennifer J. Johnston, Photo Editor
Visual Services Coordinator & Staff Photographer

Stephen R. Silver
Director of Leadership & Planned Giving

Brian A. Sullivan
Archivist

Margaret L. Winslow
Curator of Historical Collections

DESIGNER
Elizabeth Bonadies

PRINTER
P+R Publications

Cover photo: Baltimore Oriole, by George McLean
of Medford, MA

TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF MOUNT AUBURN

Mary Lee Aldrich, Cambridge, MA
Clemmie Cash, Chair, Wellesley, MA
Thomas C. Cooper, Watertown, MA
Caroline Loughlin, Weston, MA
Sean McDonnell, Cambridge
Caroline Mortimer, Cambridge
Ann M. Roosevelt, Cambridge

HONORARY TRUSTEE OF THE FRIENDS

Susan W. Paine, Cambridge

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 1,200 active members.

Correction

Our previous issue did not include the source of the diary featured in "Stories Behind the Stones: Everything that human love could do was done": "Papers of Samuel Eliot, Boston Atheneum, Special Collections, Call#L140

President's Corner

In this, my first "President's Corner" column for *Sweet Auburn*, I must begin by saying that it is an honor to be addressing you as the 13th President in Mount Auburn Cemetery's distinguished 177-year history. In particular, it is an honor to follow in the footsteps of Bill Clendaniel, the man who hired me as Director of Horticulture 15 years ago. Bill, of course, left gigantic shoes to fill, but he also left an incredibly strong team—of dedicated staff and Trustees—to carry out our mission of preservation and service. He left us with two comprehensive documents—a pioneering Master Plan and a far-reaching Strategic Plan that provide clear direction as well as a framework for all of our future activities. We are working diligently to enhance the visitor experience, expand cemetery services, ensure the preservation of our buildings and structures, and be worthy stewards of the natural and ornamental landscape. All of this will require continued—and in fact increased—funding, in terms of earned revenue and contributed support. Our endowment, like everyone's, has suffered a considerable decline during the last year, and we will no doubt have to postpone some projects and delay implementing some of our ambitious goals. However, thanks to the diligence and dedication of our Trustees and the creativity and energy of our staff, we are still in sound financial condition. I am sure we will weather these relatively short-term difficulties and emerge even stronger as we plan for the next century and beyond.

Mount Auburn means so much to our visitors for so many different reasons, and I am excited to have the opportunity to lead this great institution and this great team forward. I hope that you will continue to visit Mount Auburn frequently, enjoying the beautiful landscape, the magnificent trees, the abundance of birds and other wildlife, the precious history, art and architecture—and perhaps visit the resting places of your loved ones. We are, after all, still very much an active cemetery, offering new interment space and providing cemetery services to families during their time of need.

In fact, the lead article in this *Sweet Auburn* discusses how monuments and other forms of commemoration have evolved throughout Mount Auburn's history and how we are continuing to provide innovative options to families. Our newest interment landscape, Birch Gardens, just opened this past September and is the latest example of how we remain active and relevant as a cemetery by creating new burial and commemorative space while also preserving—and in fact enhancing—our beautiful and historically significant landscape. We have many other dynamic projects in our future, including the new Horticulture Center and Family Center presented on page 21. I look forward to your continued support and interest in Mount Auburn.



David Barnett, President



pg. 10



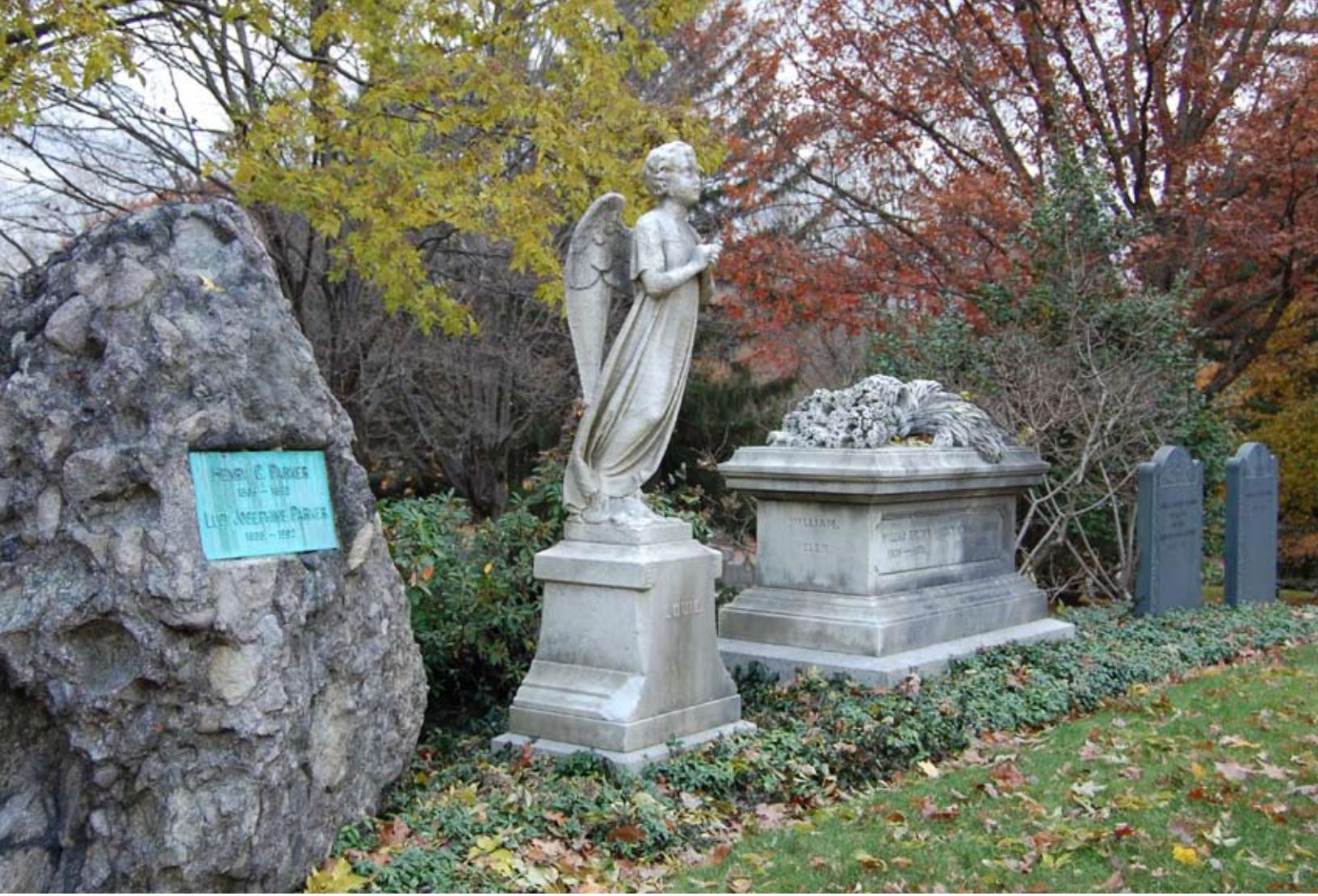
pg. 18



David Barnett



pg. 20



COMMEMORATION AT MOUNT AUBURN: *Tradition, Diversity, and New Beginnings*

BY STEPHEN H. ANABLE, *Communications Coordinator & Writer*

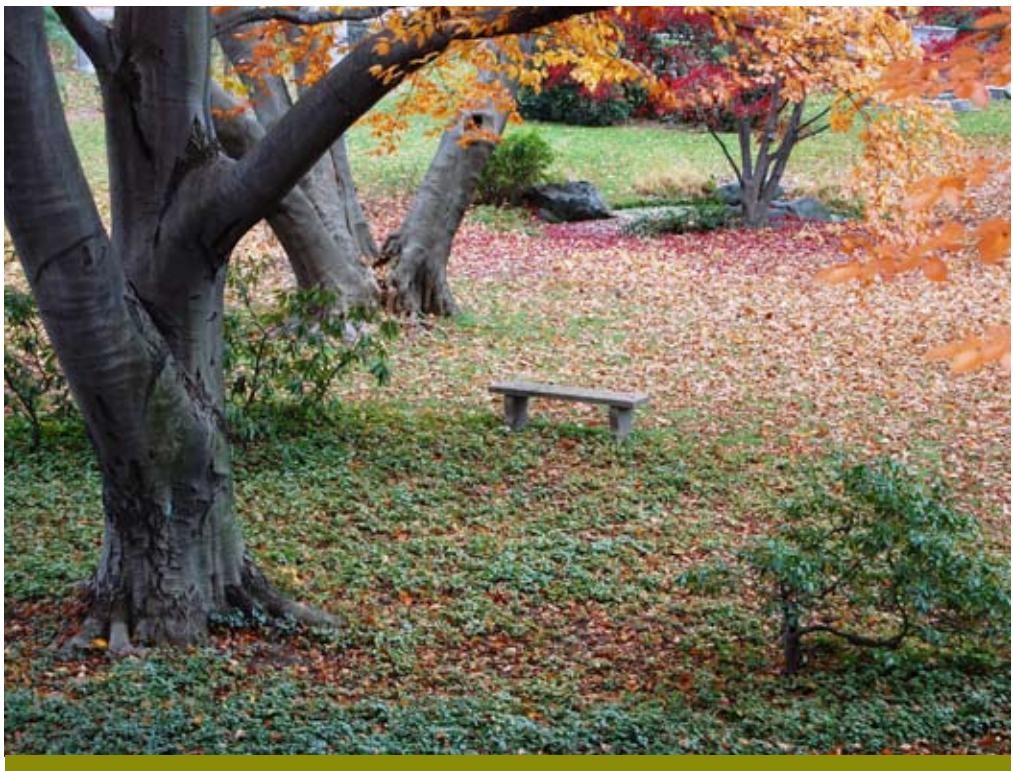
Commemoration is as old as death—and as old as the insistence that love does not stop with life. Mount Auburn Cemetery—the first garden cemetery on the North American continent—was founded in 1831 “*to commemorate the dead in surroundings of exceptional beauty and to provide comfort and inspiration to the bereaved and the public as a whole.*” Today, in terms of the ways people are commemorating, Mount Auburn is witnessing continuing traditions, increasing diversity, and new beginnings.

The Ongoing Need for a “Place”

Director of Sales Bob Keller—who has been helping families make decisions about commemoration at Mount

Auburn for 38 years—has observed that survivors “need a place to visit, a place of beauty where they can think and reflect on the person who has died.” A majority of people want this commemorative place to be in the vicinity of where that person is interred. Jim Holman, Director of Cemetery Services Administration—a 20-year veteran in Cemetery Services—believes that most people want a physical monument “with qualities of durability, clarity, and significance, in an intimate setting.”

Throughout American history, styles of commemoration have changed, says Meg Winslow, Mount Auburn’s Curator of Historical Collections. For example, the early Victorians embellished their monuments with symbols carved into the marble, for affection (ivy), childhood innocence (a lamb), and longevity (sheaves of harvested wheat); these served to “soften” or even romanticize death. Later, this trend was ended by the brutality of the Civil War, when death came to be seen in starker terms. During the mid-



A bench in the Cemetery near Alice's Fountain. People may honor a living person or commemorate a deceased individual by purchasing a plaque for a bench or tree.

20th century, the lawn cemetery movement again softened the presence of death by favoring flat markers flush with the ground so that the monuments themselves became less visible. Then, after the 1960s, the Washington, D.C., Vietnam War and Vietnam Veterans' Memorial designed by Maya Lin "revived the movement toward personal commemoration." And today Mount Auburn remains a dynamic landscape, reflecting landscape design history and our attitudes toward death and commemoration.

Commemoration and the Increase of Cremation

In both the United States and much of western Europe, there is a growing trend toward choosing cremation. By 2010, the National Funeral Directors Association projects that more than 30% of deceased people will be cremated in Massachusetts and more than 38% nationwide. By 2025, more than 51% of deceased people will be cremated nationwide. Here at Mount Auburn an average of 1,000 cremations take place each year. Cremation does allow a wider timeframe for a commemorative service or ceremony because it makes an immediate interment unnecessary. Families can hold an interment or memorial service soon after a death or wait until all family members and friends can be present or until warmer weather or some other meaningful time of the year.

Some people mistakenly believe that when a person is cremated, they need not make decisions about memorialization. This is simply not true. Cremated remains, popularly referred to as "ashes," can still be memorialized. Some peo-

ple keep a decedent's cremated remains, but most inter them just as they would a body, placing them in the ground or in a niche in a structure built to hold cremated remains, a columbarium, like the one here in Story Chapel. Other families divide cremated remains so that portions can be interred or scattered in two or more locations.

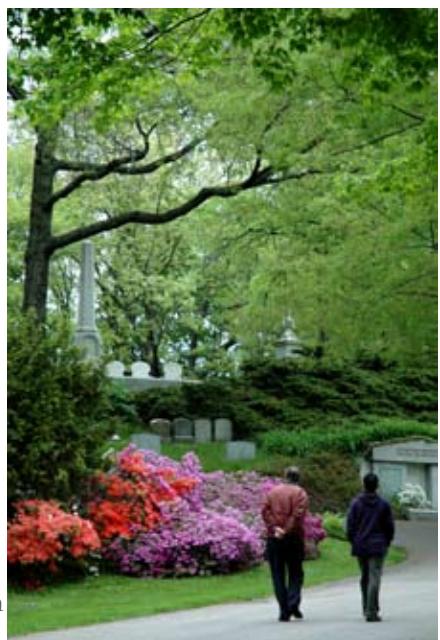
Families may choose to scatter a decedent's cremated remains at a favorite park, beach, or forest, but often come to regret this irrevocable act when they realize they have no private, protected space specifically designated to commemorate their loved one. A colleague recounts the story of a friend whose cremated remains were scattered, at his request, over a slope at the side of his house. Since then, the house has changed hands several times, so the man's family no longer has access to the site. Another colleague stipulated that her cremated remains be scattered over a quiet garden in the quadrangle of

the university she'd attended. Subsequently, the quadrangle and an adjoining administration building have undergone an extensive renovation, obliterating the garden. In both instances there is no way for survivors to retrieve these scattered remains, even if they could visit these sites.

Of course a person who wishes his or her remains to be scattered can still have a place of commemoration at a cemetery such as Mount Auburn, in the form of a cenotaph. Or a person can be commemorated by a plaque in his or her honor fixed to a bench or tree (see photo above left). Cremation is one of several end-of-life options, which also include traditional in-ground burial and entombment.

Diverse and Evolving Commemoration Traditions

Like the country beyond its gates, Mount Auburn is experiencing an increasing diversity in the ways that people commemorate. Since its founding in 1831, the Cemetery has been open to all, interring African Americans when



slavery still existed in the antebellum South and Jewish people when they were excluded from some cemeteries and certain organizations. "Mount Auburn began as a non-denominational cemetery and continues to be so, even more today," says Tom Johnson of Cemetery Services. "We are very accommodating to families and funeral homes—honoring their needs, beliefs, and traditions. For example, some religions request that a person be buried facing east, so we align the casket at the foot of the grave to comply with that custom."

Jim Holman reports that he is helping more and more Indian families hold cremations and cremation ceremonies at the Cemetery.

Crematory Manager Walter Morrison Jr., assists Hindu families laying offerings of flower petals, fruit, rice and coconuts on the Bigelow Chapel altar before cremation ceremonies. At this time, the decedent's casket faces east while resting at the altar; as tradition dictates, men lead the procession from the chapel to the crematory.

Christian commemoration customs have changed over the decades. Fifty years ago, wakes and visiting hours extended over two days, while now they are often held the hour before a funeral in the morning. More and more people are planning funeral and memorial services incorporating personal eulogies written by family members and friends, accompanied by filmed tributes and favorite music. The memorial service of a prominent educator/environmentalist at Mount Auburn featured a New Orleans-style jazz band, followed by a catered lunch on Bigelow Chapel Lawn. "The Cemetery Services staff at Mount Auburn can advise people in choosing and designing monuments that pay unique and personal tribute," says Vice President of Cemetery Services Sean O'Regan, "and in planning services or receptions in Story or Bigelow Chapel, and, from May through October, on Bigelow Chapel Lawn."



Birch Gardens, a 21st-Century Commemorative Space

Mount Auburn's newest landscape, Birch Gardens, is an innovative, designed memorial garden that opened this past September. Located on the east side of the Cemetery, it encompasses nine granite panels—each 16 inches deep and seven feet tall—with designated space for personal inscriptions. The panels are connected by cast iron fencing inspired by the historic Victorian fence on Mount Auburn Street. Immediately in front of the panels are three burial options: space for casket burials, urn burials, and cremation burials without urns. In addition, a number of individual markers and upright monuments in garden beds are also available. The lush plantings throughout Birch Gardens include hundreds of shrubs and groundcover plants and 51 new trees, such as shadblow (*Amelanchier grandiflora*), paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*), and London plane tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*). In keeping with the strong trend toward cremation, 80% of Birch Gardens' 400 units are specifically for cremated remains.

Sean O'Regan suggests that people interested in Birch Gardens "look around at the whole setting, because that's what you're purchasing—a place within this revered landscape." He emphasizes three things about Birch Gardens: one, as beautiful as it is today, it will become

even lovelier as its plantings mature; two, in the future, it will be regarded as an historic space and a monument reflecting the best design traditions of our time; and, three, it is "a value option" because people purchasing an inscription on a panel rather than an entire memorial will save the thousands

of dollars needed to create and set a memorial of comparable quality. Sean reports that 11 spaces at Birch Gardens were sold during the first month they became available.

Birch Gardens is the result of more than a decade of planning and deliberation, of brainstorming, focus groups, and artistic give-and-take. An early rendering of the

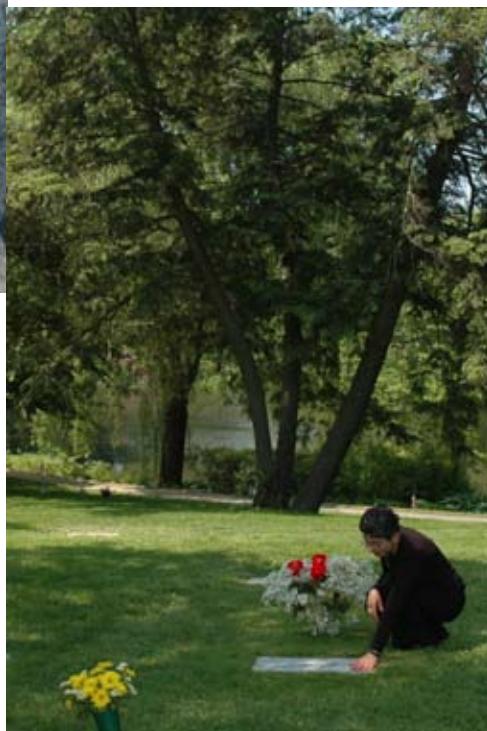


PHOTO BY TOM JOHNSON, MOUNT AUBURN STAFF

memorial was sketched by architect Craig Halvorson of Boston's Halvorson Design Partnership in Mount Auburn's 1993 Master Plan. Later, two full-sized mockups of the garden's granite inscription panels were constructed: one, for inside use, made of foam board, and one for outside use, made of MDF, a resin-treated wood fiber painted to resemble granite. (The second model was so large it had to be built in a vast, hangar-sized studio in Needham, MA.) These models came complete with the "names and dates" of fictional people "cut" into their surfaces. They were used to gauge and respond to public reaction and to refine the context of the monument's structure to the landscape and vice versa. Mount Auburn's Trustees were enthused and invested in the planning of Birch Gardens, involved with aesthetic details such as style of the rock-pitch (the band of rough-hewn stone at the base of memorials) and the design of the finials capping the cast iron fencing.

The granite in Birch Gardens echoes the granite found elsewhere in the Cemetery. The designers of Birch Gardens searched for granite that was durable and from a quarry with a plentiful supply that could be extracted far into the future. The stone could not be "too much of a sponge" and thus absorb large amounts of water, causing it to crack in the freeze-and-thaw cycle of the New England climate. ...And of course the stone had to be beautiful.

A number of Mount Auburn staff journeyed to Nelson Granite in Vermillion Bay, Ontario, to consider the igneous

"candidates." Craig Halvorson had envisioned the memorial's panels being fashioned of gray granite warmed by 'pinkish highlights, colors he felt harmonized with granite already at Mount Auburn. Ultimately, Nelson Granite's "Canadian Mahogany" was chosen for Birch Gardens.

Craig, who has won awards for his work at Boston's Post Office Square Park and other landscape design projects, found the Birch Gardens assignment both challenging and stimulating: "The toughest part of designing Birch Gardens," he has said, "was getting the sensibility right, making it feel as though it belongs there, that it doesn't look too designed, and will stand the test of time."

In the past, people's cremated remains have been interred with casket burials in family lots or placed in columbaria. A space such as Birch Gardens—for the burial of cremated remains—was not available. Says Sean O'Regan, "In a way, the art of commemoration has to catch up with the national trend toward cremation. We believe that Birch Gardens is a definitive step in this direction."

Now into its third century, Mount Auburn continues to commemorate, to act as the repository of the community memory, as generation succeeds generation, and, in the words of the Roman orator Cicero, "The life of the dead is placed in the memory of the living." *

Birch Gardens—the Cemetery's newest commemorative landscape, opened in September 2008—showing the granite panels designated for commemorative inscriptions, the lawns and gardens where burials take place, and the reflecting pool.



Words from the past

NOW HEARD ONCE MORE: ONE VOLUNTEER'S STORY

BY HILARY HOPKINS

Hilary Hopkins, of Cambridge, is a longtime volunteer at Mount Auburn. She is now helping to decipher and record eroding inscriptions on certain monuments before they become "lost."

Crouched in front of the monument, clipboard in one hand and flashlight in the other, I try to empty my mind so that my preconceptions won't cloud my perception of what the faint marks on the old marble might be. Using a mirror to shine light over the eroded words, I imagine entering the mind of the person who selected them. Is that a "TH"? Does that say "DEATH" or maybe "EACH"? Or something else? What words did a grieving family choose to commemorate their precious lost one?

As a volunteer at Mount Auburn Cemetery, one of my tasks is to try to decipher and record for the future these time-battered inscriptions. I love this work! It gives me a chance to bring to life the voices of those silent for a time, voices of mourners who are themselves now so long gone.

About ten years ago, during a stressful and sad time when I was caring for my mother during her last illness, I began walking by myself in the Cemetery. I also took some guided walks and spent more and more time on the beautiful roads and paths. I found solace and hope in the many loving commemorative inscriptions I read on the monuments.

Then I learned of Mount Auburn's Inscriptions Project, and offered my time. Sitting on my folding stool in the sun and peering closely at the worn messages speaking the love and sorrow of the past seemed a meditative and important way to accept the changes to come in my own family.

I began to feel that I was a living member of the Cambridge family of residents resting at the Cemetery. After some discussion with our daughters, my husband and I purchased memorial space on Willow Pond Knoll. We thought of this as a way of supporting this important place into the future, after we ourselves are gone.

I also like to think, as I bring inscriptions once more into voice, letter by letter, that I am keeping faith with those mourners of the past, who, meeting in grief, decided how best to commemorate those they had loved and lost. Their chosen words can be heard once more, now, by us, and in the minds of those who will come after us.



Fagnani Monument

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY MEMORIAL INSRIPTION SURVEY 1
Safety Concern Contact Preservation Staff _____
Date Surveyed June 13, 2008 Time Surveyed 11:25 AM
Name of Surveyor Hilary Hopkins Sunny? Overcast?
Weather 65°/68° & 0.75" winds
DATA FROM LOT CARD
Lot Number 818 Lot Address 1 Greenbrier Path
Name on Lot Card (for related grave) no associated grave
Grave Number no number
MEMORIAL FUNCTION (Check one)
Central/family monument Individual grave marker Cenotaph (no remains)
DATA FROM MEMORIAL
Which direction is the front of the memorial facing? (Circle one) N S E W
Number of people commemorated 5
Is the marker mark visible? No
Is the memorial missing or buried underground? None
SURFACES WITH INSCRIPTIONS (Check off that apply)
Front Back Top Left Side Right Side None
OVERALL CONDITION OF INSCRIPTIONS
Clear and sharp Clear with slight deterioration Difficult to read Illegible
Raised Lettering (above the surface of the stone)
Front Back Top Left Side Right Side None
Inscribed Lettering (cut into the stone)
Front Back Top Left Side Right Side None



... be coming round ;
We see their rows of heart-shaped leaves
Up springing from the ground.
The tender things the winter killed
Renew again their birth ;
But the glory of our morning
Has passed away from earth.

Oh, Earth ! in vain our aching eyes
Stretch over thy green plain !
Too harsh thy dews, too gross thine air,
Her spirit to sustain ;
But up in groves of Paradise
Full surely we shall see
Our morning-glory beautiful
Twine round our dear Lord's knee.

—Maria White Lowell.



Through recording the eroded inscription on the Beatrice Fagnani monument at left, Preservation & Facilities Planner Natalie Wampler and Hilary Hopkins were able to do research on the Internet and learn that the inscription was actually a Victorian-era open called "The Morning Glory." (above center) The poem was written by another Mount Auburn resident, Maria White Lowell, the wife of writer and diplomat James Russell Lowell.



Stone, Time, and Preservation at Mount Auburn

Visitors sometimes comment on the varied conditions of the monuments and structures at Mount Auburn. Stone, in the outdoors, weathers over time. Conserving monuments is complex because some treatments that temporarily arrest damage to the stone can occasionally be harmful to the long-term condition of the monument. We have a large and varied collection of built structures here, so our Preservation department must prioritize its work. Less than half of the monuments are covered by perpetual care contracts, so funding must be sought from outside sources (such as grants from foundations and contributions from families) to cover the remaining work. Contributions to fund preservation work are welcome through the Preservation Endowment Fund, in care of the Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery.



(Above left) Washing Victorian granite curbing with high pressure water hoses

(Above) Preservation staff place a canopy on repaired columns as Chief of Conservation David Gallagher (far left) looks on

Preservation Craftsman Steve Brown (left) treating a 19th-century marble monument

Photos by Jennifer Johnston, Staff Photographer



STORIES BEHIND THE STONES: “Our Roots and Hearts are in Mount Auburn Cemetery”

BY BRIAN A. SULLIVAN, *Archivist*

ON AUGUST 29, 1977, EDUCATOR PHOEBE CUTLER Greene (1900–1987) wrote to the staff of Mount Auburn Cemetery for advice relating to burial and commemoration: “I refer to the plot purchased by my great-grandfather, Pliny Cutler, on November 12, 1840. When I was in school and in Radcliffe College in Cambridge I knew my way to it perfectly. Mount Auburn probably means more to me than any member of the family. Perhaps one has to live outside one’s country to reverence fully one’s native soil.”

Phoebe’s husband, Theodore Chase Greene, M.D. (1899–1988), served under the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions doing medical work in China from 1926 until 1950. Phoebe and their children accompanied him there. She continued, “(We) have willed our bodies to Vanderbilt Medical School...Our roots and hearts, however, are in Mount Auburn Cemetery. Would it be possible for our ashes to be sent to you...to be buried in the family plot... We should have this matter settled in our wills, to make things easy for our daughter [Joan Greene Smith, who, as a Radcliffe student found solace at the family lot when her parents were unreachable in China during the communist revolution].

“...If there is no room for our ashes in the family plot by the time my husband and I die, I suppose we should plan to have our ashes buried here [Nashville, Tennessee], but the thought does not appeal to us. We both want to go HOME to Mount Auburn. Have you ever done such a thing as this, namely, to record names in your ledger in

your Office, or at the Information Desk, and state “buried elsewhere”?”

Mrs. Greene also inquired about placing a commemorative stone



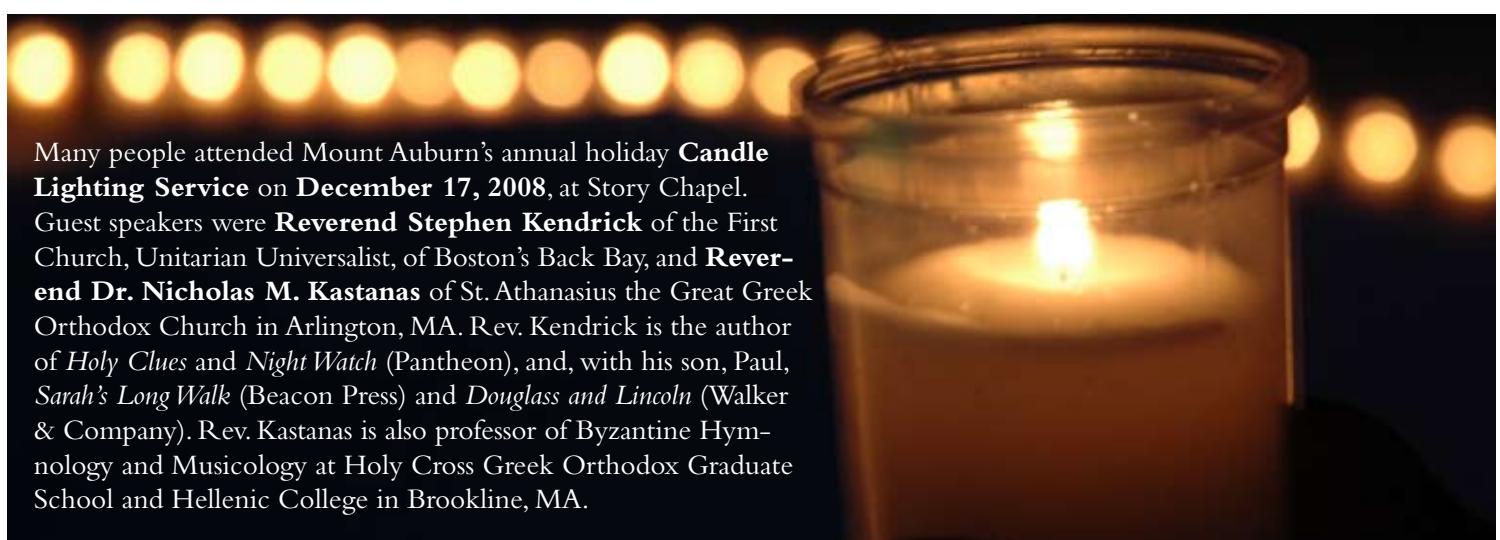
Cutler Green lot on Fir Avenue (Lot #767)

at the Cutler Greene lot. “We have often wished we could have such a marker to include the name of our son who died in West China at the age of 13, in 1941. His death was indirectly due to World War II.

The happiest year of his life was 1939–40 when

he attended Browne and Nichols School, and made a kayak which he sailed up and down the Charles River, from M.I.T to Watertown.”

A granite lawn marker was eventually placed over what became the resting place of Phoebe and Theodore Greene. And, as they wished, their son, Ralph, is commemorated there as well. Above the Greenes’ names, “God is Love” is inscribed in Chinese characters. In making Mount Auburn the consistent burial and commemoration choice for her family, Phoebe Cutler Greene has given her descendants a site of pilgrimage and solace.



Many people attended Mount Auburn’s annual holiday **Candle Lighting Service** on December 17, 2008, at Story Chapel. Guest speakers were **Reverend Stephen Kendrick** of the First Church, Unitarian Universalist, of Boston’s Back Bay, and **Reverend Dr. Nicholas M. Kastanas** of St. Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church in Arlington, MA. Rev. Kendrick is the author of *Holy Clues* and *Night Watch* (Pantheon), and, with his son, Paul, *Sarah’s Long Walk* (Beacon Press) and *Douglass and Lincoln* (Walker & Company). Rev. Kastanas is also professor of Byzantine Hymnology and Musicology at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Graduate School and Hellenic College in Brookline, MA.

DAVID P. BARNETT, PH.D.—

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN MOUNT AUBURN'S COURT

BY STEPHEN H. ANABLE, *Communications Coordinator & Writer*

AFTER A NATIONAL SEARCH THAT PRODUCED DOZENS of eager and qualified candidates, the Trustees of Mount Auburn selected David (Dave) P. Barnett to be Mount Auburn's thirteenth President and CEO on September 10, 2008. In a letter announcing the appointment, Board Chair Jim Storey and Search Committee Chair Ann Roosevelt stated, "We could not be more proud or confident to have Dave lead this very special place into the future." Sometimes the best person to fill a position is the one already doing the job and doing it well: Dave had been Acting President since Bill Clendaniel's retirement on July 1, 2008. A loyal



and popular Mount Auburn employee, he arrived here 15 years ago as Director of Horticulture and served more recently as Vice President of Operations & Horticulture and then as Executive Vice President.

Looking back, Dave is proud of his strong record of accomplishments thus far, including enhancing Mount Auburn's horticultural diversity, improving its value as a wildlife habitat, opening up once-overgrown vistas, and implementing key elements of the Cemetery's 1993 Master Plan. He has also carried out the Master Plan's directives to delineate and nurture the Cemetery's landscape character zones—the naturalistic parkland, woodland areas, Victorian-style gardens and others—while integrating innovative new burial spaces into the whole so that Mount Auburn continues as an active cemetery. Dave "brought the first computers to the Horticulture department," guiding the Cemetery through the establishing of a Plant Records department and the computerization of the horticultural databases to better manage the plant collections. "Computerizing the database was a ten-year effort led by Horticultural Curator

Dennis Collins," Dave says. "Volunteers, who helped survey and identify the plantings, were a vital help in doing this. Now, each year, we can perform a comprehensive analysis of all of our plant collections, making their maintenance that much more timely and thorough.

"Another cause dear to me is the implementation of more environmentally friendly and sustainable, 'green' practices wherever possible, which helps to improve the habitat for wildlife and save us money—while helping the planet as well. Over the years we've added plants that attract and nurture wildlife at Auburn Lake, Halcyon Lake, Consecration Dell, Willow Pond, and, most recently, at our new Wildflower Meadow at Washington Tower."

"In a broader sense, we do many things quite differently than we did 15 years ago—in practices such as mowing, irrigation, fertilization and leaf cleanup. Instead of vacuuming and removing all of the fallen leaves each autumn, as we did for decades, we now use rotary mowers to mulch



the leaves in place, returning organic matter and nutrients to the soil—and virtually eliminating the use of fertilizer on the grounds. In addition, we have also re-seeded many naturalistic turf areas with dwarf fescue grasses, which require less water and less-frequent mowing. Among cemeteries and botanic gardens, we are a leader in these practices, but there is much more that we can and will do."

In retrospect, it seems that his whole life prepared Dave to assume Mount Auburn's helm. He grew up in the southeastern Connecticut town of Ledyard, in a family abundant with green thumbs. His maternal grandfather

owned a garden center, Holdridge Farm Nursery, in Ledyard, and his father, a landscape architect, was responsible for designing and maintaining plantings along the state highways. Dave and his five younger siblings, four brothers and a sister, grew up surrounded by rhododendrons and azaleas and the “naturalistic landscaping” of his family’s home. He regularly helped his father with landscaping and gardening chores, and his favorite plants remain the trees in his parents’ yard and the adjacent woods—especially the native flowering dogwoods, which were “spectacular every spring.”

Dave earned a B.S. in Environmental Horticulture at the University of Connecticut, despite his dad’s fears that making a living in horticulture might prove daunting. He married his “high school sweetheart,” Eileen Nickerson, just after they each graduated from college and then the couple headed west to Chicago where for three years Dave was the Collections Crew Supervisor at the Morton Arboretum, gaining valuable experience in the maintenance and curation of an extensive woody plant collection.

Next, the Barnetts relocated to California so that Dave could pursue his M.S. in Horticulture and Ph.D. in Ecology at the University of California at Davis. California’s hot, dry Central Valley—with little rain and temperatures of up to 100 from May to November—had “a completely different plant palette” from New England’s, and Dave

loved the program. He was a teaching assistant for many classes and got an early, inside track about the importance of water conservation and raising drought-tolerant plants. His dissertation, in fact, explored how varying irrigation regimes influenced the root growth and the establishment of woody landscape plants during the first season after planting.

Dave had “known all along” that he wanted to work in a public garden, and while still writing his dissertation he was offered the position of Assistant Director at Planting Fields Arboretum, a 400-acre state park on the

north shore of Long Island in Oyster Bay, NY, and moved there in January 1986. His responsibilities at Planting Fields included supervision of the grounds and greenhouse crews, as well as other staff who were charged with the care of a 65-room mansion, two large conservatories, 200 acres of gardens and plant collections, and 200 acres of natural woodland. Dave enhanced the volunteer program and increased the arboretum’s educational programming, especially for children. He was content, being groomed for the director position, when a visitor from Cambridge—Mount Auburn’s president, Bill Clendaniel—came to a regional meeting of what is now the American Public Gardens Association (APGA) at Planting Fields, to deliver a talk about



Dave Barnett (center) with his executive senior team, (l to r) Vice President of Preservation & Facilities Bill Barry, Senior Vice President of Development Piper Morris, Dave, Senior Vice President of Finance & Administration Mike Albano, and Vice President of Cemetery Services Sean O'Regan.

the Cemetery’s Master Plan. Bill and Dave met, then, two years later, Bill rang up Dave to ask if he’d be interested in becoming Director of Horticulture at Mount Auburn.

It was May 13, 1993, when Dave first set foot in the Cemetery, when the grounds were in lush, dazzling bloom, including some dogwoods that exerted a tug on his horticultural heartstrings. (“Bill knew what he was doing, scheduling the timing of my visit,” Dave recalls with his characteristic grin.) Dave toured the grounds and met many of the staff and told Bill his interest was piqued, then, three weeks later, had a formal interview with the Board of Trustees and Bill offered him the job.

As prominent and esteemed in the larger horticultural community as here at the Cemetery, Dave recently served as President of APGA and is currently on the board as Immediate Past President. He is active and well-known in many other horticultural groups and societies. Dave and Eileen, an art teacher, live in Boxborough, MA, and have two adult children, Jake and Marie, who are recent graduates of Cornell University and Oberlin College, respectively. An ardent runner, Dave completed his fourteenth consecutive Boston Marathon in April, running for the eleventh year to raise funds for cancer research in memory of his dad, Phil, and younger brother, Jack. (He has raised a total of \$130,000 for this worthwhile and personally meaningful cause.) Dave also loves backpacking and camping, and, last summer, hiked 130 miles of the Appalachian Trail with his son, Jake.

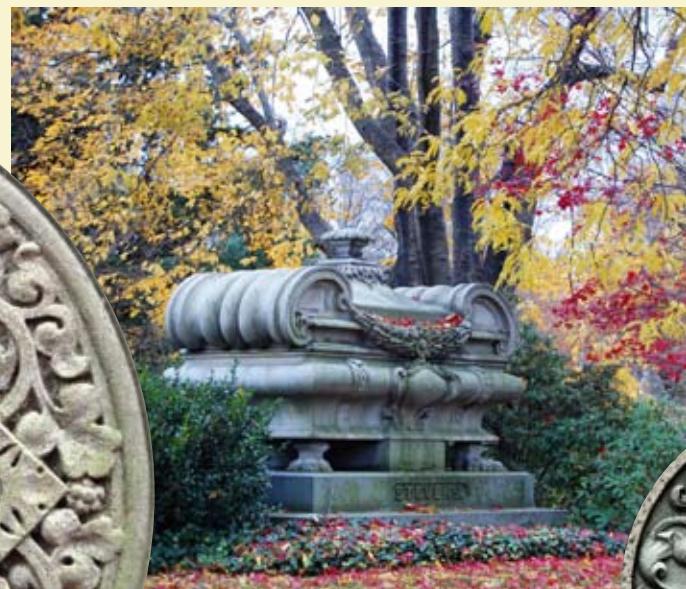
Ann Roosevelt, now Chair of the Board of Mount Auburn Trustees, says, “Dave is an inspirational leader with tremendous skills and insight, as well as a wonderful manager who inspires loyalty and trust throughout the staff. He is a visionary, but is totally committed to the day-to-day details of running Mount Auburn. I’m thrilled he is our new President.”



Mount Auburn Monuments

A Mount Auburn photo essay by Jennifer Johnston, Staff Photographer

Mount Auburn Cemetery, the first landscaped cemetery on the North American continent, has a collection of monuments—commemoration made art—of marble, granite, limestone, and bronze of astonishing variety. The earliest are embellished with motifs from man and nature that symbolized survivors' affection for the deceased and the moods their loss provoked.





A New Perspective: *Sean O'Regan, New Vice President of Cemetery Services*

As Mount Auburn's new Vice President of Cemetery Services, Sean O'Regan believes he brings "a different perspective on client service." His background includes work in the high technology industry, such as, appropriately, data capture and data conversion for cemeteries. Sean wants to "meet the various needs" of a diverse and changing public regarding commemoration choices: "My hope is that Mount Auburn will have a wider mix of buyers who are of diverse economic means. Birch Gardens, the Cemetery's newest landscape of commemoration, offers such a range of choices."

Sean sees monuments as giving people "the opportunity to create a memory and then leave that behind." This makes commemoration such a personal and sometimes seemingly daunting task (that can be made less daunting with the help of Cemetery Services staff). He stresses that living people can be honored here by endowing a plaque on a bench or tree, and points out that one of Mount Auburn's most celebrated memorials—to Civil War hero Robert Gould

Shaw—is in fact a cenotaph because his body was interred with the dead from his regiment at the South Carolina battlefield where they fell.

All cemeteries, Sean believes, must "come up with a better way of presenting the memorial options for cremation. The perception is: 'I'm cremated, so why would I be buried?' But in fact, cremated remains must be considered."

The beautiful grounds and chapels at Mount Auburn are also available for special events, such as wedding services. If you are interested in finding out further information about these or other options, please call Sean O'Regan at 617-547-7105.



Sean O'Regan and his wife, Suzanne

Visitor Kiosk Will Put Mount Auburn "At Your Fingertips"

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

Mount Auburn is creating a new interactive, educational kiosk that will give visitors a wealth of general and customized information about the Cemetery. Set to be housed in the Egyptian Revival Gatehouse at the Mount Auburn Street entrance, it will debut during the fall of 2009. A team of consultants, all experts in the world of interactive exhibits, is working with the Cemetery to complete this exciting project. The kiosk is being made possible thanks to the generosity of the Anthony J. and Mildred D. Rugiero Memorial Trust. Created by the Small Design firm of Cambridge, MA, the kiosk will have a touch-screen format that marries text, images and maps in a manner that is user-friendly, informative and attractive. It will enable visitors to explore information about the Cemetery's history, horticulture, wildlife, art and architecture, and the notable figures interred here. Providing a brief and compelling overview of the subject of the visitor's choice, the kiosk will then point the visitor towards some of our printed maps and brochures for further exploration. A burial look-up feature will allow visitors to locate the graves of family and friends within the Cemetery, and will assist visitors interested in finding out more information about attending public programs, joining the Friends, or purchasing burial space. The kiosk



Above: The Egyptian Revival Gatehouse at the Mount Auburn Street entrance, future site of the new kiosk.

Left: The new educational, interactive kiosk will be located and open to the public under the east portico above. Illustration by Filament Design Studio

will be available whenever the Cemetery is open to the public, at times when staff and docent volunteers are not present, such as when the Visitors Center and Administration Building are closed.



Autumn 2008 Festivities

On September 28, 2008, on what Mount Auburn President Dave Barnett admitted was an “iffy wet day,” a large crowd turned out for the Cemetery’s Fall Celebration, highlighting the opening of Birch Gardens and the new Wildflower Meadow at Washington Tower. At the Birch Gardens ribbon-cutting, Dave called the landscape Mount Auburn’s “newest and grandest” interment space, “following the vision of the Cemetery’s founding fathers.” A jaunty white trolley-style bus traveled a continuous loop around the grounds—stopping at the Visitors Center at Story Chapel, Bigelow Chapel, Consecration Dell, the new Wildflower Meadow at Washington Tower, Birch Gardens, Auburn Lake, and Halcyon Lake—as guests, including many families with children, enjoyed the walks, sketching classes, and cider and cookies.

Among those present for the opening of Birch Gardens were: David Russo, Chair, Watertown Historical Commission; Brian Murphy, Vice Mayor, City of Cambridge; Chris Hayworth, Agent, Watertown Conservation Commission and Watertown Historical Commission; and Mary Louise McDermott, Chair, Watertown Conservation Commission. Birch Gardens encompasses property in both Watertown and Cambridge. *Photos by Jennifer Johnston*



(Far left) The new Wildflower Meadow at Washington Tower (left center) in the shadow of the Tower as seen from the Tower.



(Left) Volunteer docent Jerilyn Famileto of Belmont, MA, greets a guest at the Wildflower Meadow

People and Happenings



As part of Mount Auburn's continuing **commitment to sustainability**, Candace Currie, Director of Planning & Cemetery Development; Dennis Collins, Horticultural Curator; Darryl Sullivan, Gardening Supervisor; Paul Kwiatowski, Greenhouse Technician/Conservationist; and President Dave Barnett attended the **Green Buildings and Green Landscapes Conference**, held November 6-8, 2008, in Pittsburgh. Sponsored by the American Public Gardens Association (APGA), the conference was hosted by **Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens** (above and right). People from across the country shared what Candace Currie calls "informative and inspiring ways to reduce energy use in buildings as well as to improve the natural benefits of ecosystems like Mount Auburn's."



Horticultural Curator Dennis Collins received the 2008 President's Award for his 18 years of outstanding service to Mount Auburn. Dennis came to Mount Auburn in 1990 as an arborist and worked on the trees for his first six years. He was appointed Horticultural Curator in 1995. Dennis is pictured below, in center with umbrella, on a horticultural tour during the spring of 2008.



• **Sean O'Regan**, Vice President of Cemetery Services, attended the **International Cemetery, Cremation, and Funeral Association (ICCFA) Fall Management Conference** in Naples, FL, on October 22-28, 2008, which was his "first introduction to my peer group in the cemetery industry." • **President Dave Barnett**, serving as Immediate Past President of the **American Public Gardens Association (APGA)** Board in the final year of his term, attended the Board's meeting in Honolulu, HI, on September 18-20. The meeting was hosted by current APGA President Christopher Dunn, the Executive Director of the Harold L. Lyon Arboretum of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. • On October 9-11 Dave attended his first **Historic Cemetery Alliance (HCA)** meeting in New York City, hosted by Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn and Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. The Alliance is an organization founded by Mount Auburn's former President Bill Clendaniel. Its members now include the CEOs of 15 historic cemeteries around the country.

The Ariel String Quartet of New England Conservatory (NEC) delighted a capacity crowd in a concert on **November 15, 2008, at Mount Auburn's Story Chapel**. The Quartet, formed in Israel in 1998, is now

the resident ensemble in NEC's prestigious Professional String Quartet Training Program. Their appearance at Mount Auburn was made possible thanks to the generosity of Harold (Harry) Pratt, Vice Chair of the NEC Board of Trustees, and his wife, Frances, of Cambridge, a Mount Auburn volunteer.



Celebrating a Birth. Bree Harvey, Director of Education & Visitor Services, and her husband, Andrew, welcomed a daughter, Willa Tucker, on September 14, 2008. Willa made "official" appearances at the Fall Celebration and at the staff holiday party.



Lights! Camera! Walter!

Several scenes from *Edge of Darkness*, a thriller starring **Mel Gibson** and directed by **Martin Campbell**, were filmed at Mount Auburn on October 1, with sequences shot in the family room of the Administration Building and at the Crematory. **Crematory Manager Walter Morrison, Jr.**, had a part! Based on a British television series, the film will be released later this year. *Photos by Jennifer Johnston and Tom Johnson, Mount Auburn Staff*



Actor Mel Gibson (left) talks with director Martin Campbell in front of the Administration Building

Ready for My Close-Up

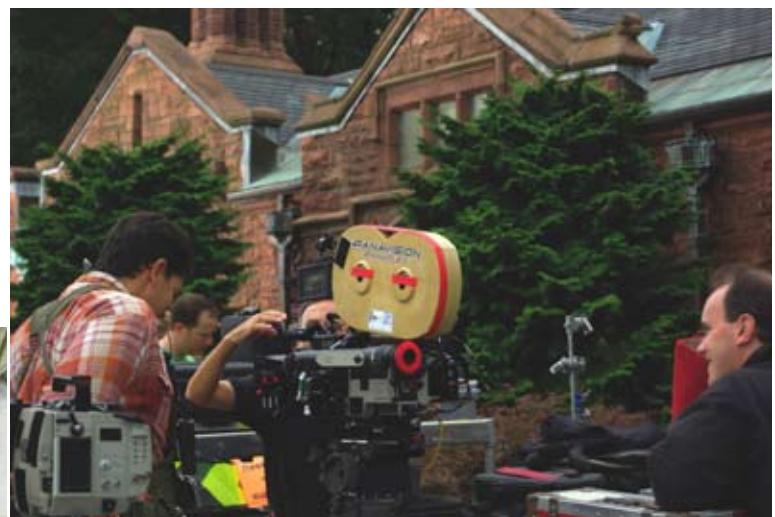
BY WALTER MORRISON, JR.,
Crematory Manager



Walter awaits his call to "action"

Before we started shooting "my" scene, I was first taken to makeup and wardrobe. I approached the makeup trailer with the assistant director at my side and knocked on the door to announce my arrival. The door opened and there in a chair sat Mel Gibson, getting made up. I took a chair next to him and as I did he saw me in the mirror and asked, "Who are you?" So, in my best acting voice, I responded, "The question is who are YOU?" That broke the ice and we continued talking for the rest of the day about everything from the economy to our upcoming scene. Mel was always "on," and I had no problem, no nerves, acting with him. During lunch, Mel was chomping away on his piece of pizza while I was reluctant to eat because I was afraid of getting tomato sauce on my shirt. I mentioned that to the director, Martin Campbell, who encouraged me to eat. Mel overheard our conversation and told me that if I got anything on my shirt HE would buy a new one.

Shooting my scene took all day. I had my own stand-in when the crew tested lighting and camera angles. At the end of the day, I was asked to attend the "wrap party" with Martin, Mel and the assistant directors. (The rest of the crew was moving on to another location.) I gave Martin and Mel my regrets and they said, "It was good working with you. See you on the big screen," and they walked off to their limo. Who knows, I may see them all again...at the 2010 Academy Awards.



A Celebration for the Life of I. F. Stone

The crusading life of progressive investigative journalist I.F. (Isidor Feinstein) Stone (1907-1989) was recalled and honored at a celebration marking what would have been his 100th birthday on Sunday, November 16, 2008, in Story Chapel. A large number of Stone's family, colleagues, friends and admirers assembled to hear tributes read by many speakers. Among them were his daughter, poet **Celia Stone Gilbert**; **Jack Beatty**, news analyst for NPR's "On Point"; **Robert Giles**, creator of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University; **Christopher Lydon**, host of radioopensource; and **Anthony Lewis**, former columnist of the *New York Times*. Stone is famous for his work as the author/editor/publisher of *I.F. Stone's Weekly* and as an editor of *The Nation*. The Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard has created an annual I.F. Stone Medal for Journalistic Independence in his honor.



Celebrate Somerville!



A program and walk on November 8, 2008, *Celebrate Somerville! Some Notable Somervillians at Mount Auburn*, marked the publication of *Somerville: A Brief History* (History Press, 2008) by authors Dee Morris and Dora St. Martin. Among the prominent people buried here with strong Somerville ties are: **George O. Brastow** (1811-1878), the first Mayor of Somerville (Lot #1656, Acacia Path); **Edward Everett** (1794-1865), Governor of Massachusetts, Mayor of Boston, President of

Harvard, (Lot #17, Magnolia Avenue); **Martha Perry Lowe** (1829-1902), a historian and clubwoman active in obtaining a college education for female graduates of Somerville High School, (Lot #2757, Mistletoe Path); Melville Parkhurst (1842-1921), police chief, (Lot #5534, Amethyst Path); **Charles Tufts** (1781-1876), benefactor of Tufts College, (Lot #2870, Central Avenue); and **Columbus Tyler** (1805-1881) and **Mary Sawyer Tyler** (1806-1889), who, as a little girl, inspired the poem "Mary Had a Little Lamb," (Lot #2757, Mistletoe Path).



Civil War enthusiasts from throughout the country who are members of the **Sons of Union Veterans** visited Mount Auburn on August 7, 2008. They held a memorial service in Bigelow Chapel and also paid their respects at the monument of Robert Gould Shaw, colonel of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, the first African American regiment to fight in the Civil War. A fleet of trolleys brought the group of more than 100 people to the Cemetery. Their visit was part of the annual encampment of the **Sons of Union Veterans**, which, this past summer, was held in Boston.

Jim Storey Retires as Chair of the Board

James M. (Jim) Storey of Boston—the First Chair of the Board of Mount Auburn Cemetery Trustees—assumed that post in September 2005. He has been a Trustee since 1979, when he succeeded his father, Charles Moorfield Storey, on the Board. (Charles Moorfield Storey served as a Trustee from 1932 until 1979, and is buried in the family lot on Excelsior Path.) Jim has had a distinguished career in law, finance and education. He served on the United States Securities & Exchange Commission, and was a partner at Gaston, Snow & Ely Bartlett, as well as at Dechert Price & Rhoads. He was a lecturer at the Morin Center for Banking and Financial Law at the Boston University School of Law. He served as a trustee, officer or director of SEI Allocation Trust, Oaks, PA; The Massachusetts Health & Education Tax-Exempt Trust; Massachusetts Historical Society; State Street Research Funds; The Signet Associates, Cambridge, MA; and the U.S. Charitable Gift Trust. He is a former trustee or officer of the Austen Riggs Center, Inc., Stockbridge, MA; Earthwatch Institute, Maynard, MA; Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; The Park School, Brookline, MA; Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME; and West End House, Allston, MA. Jim lives with his wife, Isabelle, on Beacon Hill.





Bidding Bill Good-bye

A black-tie dinner honoring **Bill Clendaniel**, who retired as President of Mount Auburn Cemetery after 20 distinguished years, was held at the **Boston Athenaeum** (left) on **June 19, 2008**. Earlier, on June 17, Mount Auburn's staff and Bill's friends and colleagues in the historic preservation/cultural/cemetery worlds bid him a fond farewell at an informal catered cocktail reception on Bigelow Chapel Lawn.

Among those sharing roasts and toasts at the Athenaeum were **Jim Storey**, Chair of Mount Auburn's Board of Trustees; **Gordon Abbot, Jr.**, Honorary Trustee; **Richard Moylan**, President, Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY; **Dennis Fiori**, President, Massachusetts Historical Society; and **Dave Barnett**. In addition, **Michael Schaffer** gave a captivating media presentation that explored Bill's life from boyhood to retirement. Speakers at the lawn party included **Joseph V. Roller II**, President and CEO, Cambridge Trust Company; **Anne Hawley**, Director, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum; landscape architect **Craig Halvorson** of Boston's Halvorson Design Partnership; **Bud Hanson**, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston; and Trustee **Ann Roosevelt**. In addition, Bill was remembered with warm anecdotes and humor by current and former Mount Auburn staff.

Bill Clendaniel has been elected an **Honorary Trustee of Mount Auburn Cemetery**.



Jim Roosevelt, President and CEO of Tufts Health Plan, with his wife, Ann, now Chair of the Mount Auburn Board of Trustees

Dennis Collins, Horticultural Curator, and Natalie Wampler, Preservation & Facilities Planner, co-led a site tour concerning a famous New England disaster of the past, "**Seventy Years Later: The Hurricane of 1938 Re-visited**," on September 29. The tour was an excellent example of interdepartmental collaboration, with Dennis and Natalie taking turns describing the hurricane's lasting impact on our horticultural collections and built structures.

Curator of Historical Collections Meg Winslow and **Archivist Brian Sullivan** hosted a group of curators and librarians from the **Boston Athenaeum** for a visit to



our Historical Collections and a tour of the Cemetery grounds on October 16. On October 29, Brian, assisted by **Friends Trustee and volunteer Caroline Loughlin**, hosted two large groups of **Harvard University** librarians. On November 6 and 13, Brian hosted two groups of **Simmons College** graduate students in archival studies.



(Above) Children from the Haggerty School in Cambridge, one of many schools that visit Mount Auburn every year, came to the Cemetery on October 27, 2008.

(Below) An international group of Loeb Fellows from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard with Mount Auburn President and CEO Dave Barnett (first row, far right) on October 14, 2008



Robin's Nest



PHOTO BY GEORGE MCLEAN



Northern Flicker

Hummingbird



Red-tailed Hawk

BIRDS FOR ALL SEASONS

Even in winter, birds can be found at Mount Auburn, and, during migration season during April and May, more than 200 birders can be found patrolling the grounds with their binoculars by as early as 7:30 AM. This variety and abundance of birds has made the Cemetery a favorite of birdwatchers, and led to it being designated an Important Bird Area (IBA) by the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Some scientists believe that avian habits are being influenced by environmental changes, although the jury is still out.

However, Wayne R. Petersen, Director of the Mass Audubon Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program, observes that changes are definitely occurring in the avian world: "It is unequivocal to me that changes in bird populations have taken place during the last fifty years. At Mount Auburn Cemetery common birds such as the Tufted Titmouse, Northern Mocking bird, and Northern Cardinal that did not become established in Massachusetts until the 1960s have since been joined by an increasing array of southern species that are now regular visitors. Red-bellied Woodpecker and Fish Crow currently breed in the Cemetery, and other southerners like the Acadian Flycatcher, Cerulean Warbler, and Orchard Oriole occur more frequently than they ever did before. In addition, several warbler species are routinely appearing as much as a week or more ahead of when they traditionally did half a century ago."

Here are some of the birds you might find at Mount Auburn during the next few months. Bob) are some of the birds you might find at Mount Auburn over the next few months.

First Sightings by Season

Winter

- Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*rare*)
- Red-bellied Woodpeckers
- Carolina Wrens
- Robins (*yes!*)
- Cedar Waxwings (*some*)
- Northern Flickers (*a few*)
- Sparrows
- Juncos ("snowbirds," *occasionally*)
- Cardinals
- Chickadees
- Goldfinches
- Owls

March

- Red-tailed Hawks (*early*)
- Blackbirds
- (*including Red-winged Blackbirds*)
- Woodcocks

April and May

- (*migration season for songbirds, others*)
- Robins
- Warblers
- Vireos
- Flycatchers

June (*nesting birds, fewer birders*)

- Baltimore and Orchard Orioles
- Catbirds
- Chipping Sparrows
- Brown Thrashers
- Great Crested Flycatchers



Eastern Screech-Owl by John Harrison



Common Yellowthroat

Red-eyed Vireo



PHOTO BY JOHN HARRISON



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

PHOTO BY JOHN HARRISON



Scarlet Tanager

PHOTO BY JOHN HARRISON



Hooded Merganser

PHOTO BY GEORGE MCLEAN

Red-bellied Woodpecker



Great Blue Heron

PHOTO BY GEORGE MCLEAN

PHOTO BY JOHN HARRISON



ANN ROOSEVELT—*Environmentalist, Lover of Mount Auburn—*

Elected Chair of the Cemetery's Board of Trustees

ANN M. ROOSEVELT OF CAMBRIDGE WAS ELECTED Chair of the Board of Trustees of Mount Auburn Cemetery on January 27. To that position she brings a native Cantabrigian's love and knowledge of Mount Auburn, as well as the passion of a seasoned environmentalist. Ann has served on the Cemetery's Board of Trustees since 1988. "Mount Auburn is truly a treasure," she says. "To have this place almost in my back yard is wonderful. To be able to help lead it is a tremendous opportunity." As Chair, she will mentor President Dave Barnett (as former Chair Jim Storey mentored Bill Clendaniel), ensure various committees are running smoothly, and fundraise. Ann is Mount Auburn's first female Chair and was also the Cemetery's first female Trustee.

Ann has a long history of concern for cherished landscapes. She was an assistant science advisor for Senator Edward Kennedy, working in Washington D.C., for the Office of Technology Assessment, evaluating science grants to receive federal funding. Later, she headed the national office of Friends of the Earth in Washington. "Their mission is to preserve the planet," Ann says. "They began as an offshoot of the Sierra Club, and were very focused on lobbying. I was their chief lobbyist, doing energy lobbying, testifying before the Senate about the energy crisis and writing environmental legislation. When Ann moved to Boston, she opened the organization's New England office.

Today, Ann also serves as President of the Cambridge Water Board, and is on the board of the Environmental League of Massachusetts. In addition, she is a founder of the Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters, the "first successful state-level environmental PAC," and she owns a real estate business in Cambridge called Roco Realty.



Ann (Conlon) grew up in the neighborhood of the Cemetery, a few minutes walk away on Lexington Avenue. Even as a child, she enjoyed Mount Auburn, when, accompanied by her parents, and, eventually alone, she could stroll through "just to appreciate the beauty." Decades later, she was asked to be a Cemetery Trustee through then-Trustee Herbert (Herb) Pratt: "Herb was with me on the Board of the Environmental League of Massachusetts and knew I was an environmentalist who appreciated Mount Auburn." She was "very enthused" to join the Board and has remained so ever since.

Ann is married to James (Jim) Roosevelt, President and CEO of Tufts Health Plan. She met Jim when both were undergraduates at Harvard. She "literally bumped into him" during a student civil rights march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in South Boston. Talking to her roommate to her right—and justifiably fearful of the occasional stone or tomato lobbed by a sometimes-hostile crowd—Ann collided with Jim's back when the march slowed but she didn't. Later, as the Harvard students' ranks thinned when academic commitments pulled them away, Ann found herself marching next to Jim. They began dating and wed soon after graduating from college.

*"Mount Auburn is truly a treasure," she says.
"To have this place almost in my back yard is wonderful. To be able to help lead it is a tremendous opportunity."*

The Roosevelts have three daughters. Kathleen, 30, earned both a B.A. and a master's degree in epidemiology from Columbia University. She works in the Boston laboratory of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and lives in Cambridge with her husband, Jeffrey Walker. Tracy, 26, graduated from Brown University and got a master's degree from the London School of Economics, and lives in the British capital, working for Ralph Appelbaum Associates, the museum designers responsible for the Clinton

presidential library; she does history research for the firm. Maura, 24, a Harvard alumna, plans to be a writer and is waitressing in Brooklyn. Jim Roosevelt is a grandson of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

"Becoming Chair of the Board of Trustees just as Dave Barnett assumes Mount Auburn's Presidency is a fantastic opportunity—and honor," Ann says. "I couldn't be more thrilled or proud."

NEW HORTICULTURE AND FAMILY CENTERS ARE PLANNED FOR MOUNT AUBURN

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY IS BEGINNING A comprehensive planning process to add a multi-dimensional complex of new facilities and new burial space in the area near our existing greenhouses off of Grove Street in Watertown. This area, called the Meadow Extension, will ultimately be occupied by new Horticulture and Family Centers, which will enable Mount Auburn to expand its mission while relieving the pressure on some facilities that are outdated, need supplementing, or cannot provide adequate space for our expanding services. The Horticulture and Family Centers—the first new major facilities at Mount Auburn since the 19th century—will enhance the Cemetery's horticulture program; offer new venues where families can hold funerals, memorial services, and other functions; and move and modernize the crematory. Mount Auburn has chosen William Rawn Associates, Inc., of Boston, as the architects for this expansive project.

The Family Center will be constructed around a garden courtyard, and oriented toward a water feature and views of Washington Tower. The neighboring Horticulture Center and greenhouses will be state-of-the-art structures, taking full advantage of advances in green and sustainable technology. Landscape design, key to integrating the Centers with the rest the Cemetery, will be done by Reed/Hilderbrand, Inc., of Watertown, MA, collaborating with the Rawn team. The plan for the landscaping allows for a significant increase in new burial space in a large ($\frac{3}{4}$ -acre), welcoming wooded area threaded with winding paths.



The design team for the Horticulture and Family Centers (l to r): Architects Bill Rawn and Sam Lasky, and landscape architect Doug Reed

The vision for these new centers was first conceived as part of Mount Auburn's Master Plan II process in 2001. The Cemetery began planning in earnest for the Horticulture and Family Centers in 2007, with Rawn Associates chosen as the architects for the project in July 2008.

Currently in early design schematics and pending appropriate permitting by the town of Watertown and approval by the Board of Trustees at various critical decision points, the project is to be completed in phases to accommodate the progress of a successful fundraising capital campaign. Groundbreaking for the project is now estimated to take place in late 2011, with completion estimated in 2014.

The Horticulture Center will include new greenhouses to raise flowers for family lots and ornamental purposes, as well as an area where staff can propagate and cultivate specific varieties of trees and shrubs desired for long-term landscape and collections enhancement purposes. The Family Center will contain Cemetery Services offices and a large family room capable of hosting 40 people, which can be used by either staff or families for a variety of purposes, such as for conferences or memorial gatherings. Smaller rooms will be available for more intimate meetings with families to plan memorial services or burials or to purchase burial space.

The first phase of the project will be the construction of the Horticulture Center, starting with the production greenhouses. Horticulture has played a dominant role in the Cemetery's 177-year history: Mount Auburn was founded by members of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and is renowned for the quality of its horticulture and the dedication and professionalism of its horticulture staff. Many people first experience Mount Auburn through interacting with staff in its greenhouses, and the greenhouses have been in need of upgrading for some time. Constructed nearly 40 years ago in 1971, the existing greenhouses are not energy-efficient. The technology regarding heating, cooling, and water collection has vastly improved since they were built, and we want to utilize these new technologies to be more green and sustainable. In addition, the boilers in the greenhouse complex are very old and in need of replacement. The automated climate control system and rolling benches that will maximize the available space and make plant production easier and more efficient will also be welcome components of the new greenhouses.

The Family Center will supplement the spaces at Bigelow and Story Chapels by offering rooms for memorial services



*Proposed site plan for new Horticulture and Family Centers at Mount Auburn.
(Courtesy of William Rawn Associates)*

New Horticulture and Family Centers continued

that are nonsectarian in style, for families desiring that option. In addition, the Family Center will provide convenient, easy access to Cemetery Services staff, an improvement over the existing situation in Mount Auburn's Administration Building. People interested in purchasing burial space need greater privacy when speaking to our staff than our current space allows. In the new complex, these clients will be separated from visitors with more informal purposes and be welcomed in private, comfortable family "living" rooms where a Cemetery Services representative can meet with them. The separation of the more casual visitors from those dealing with end-of-life issues has long been a Cemetery priority.

Friends exceeds fundraising goal for FY2009

With Mount Auburn's 2009 fiscal year drawing to its close (March 31), we are gratified to announce that the Friends of Mount Auburn will receive over \$900,000 (cash in) in total contributions, an increase of 37% over last year and about \$55,000 over our fundraising goal of \$845,000. We are especially pleased, and immensely grateful for this support, given the current economy and our understanding of the impact of the economic crisis on literally every non-profit charitable organization's endowment, including Mount Auburn's, and overall fundraising results, in particular annual giving.

While the Friends' total contributions this year of \$900,000 is indeed a record for Mount Auburn, we, like so many other charitable organizations, have seen a decline in our Annual Fund, though a modest one with a 2% drop in individual giving and 5% overall (including corporate support), as well as a decline in gifts through membership dues. On the other hand, we received an unprecedented \$418,000 in grants and over \$264,000 in special (non-annual fund) gifts, primarily for the establishment of the Preservation Endowment Fund in honor of retiring Mount Auburn president Bill Clendaniel, as well as a single gift of \$50,000 to establish a new Horticulture Endowment Fund.

We will publish a fuller account of giving to Mount Auburn in the FY2009 Annual Report in September but in the meantime we want to acknowledge your continuing deep generosity to Mount Auburn now and in the future.

Your Support is More Crucial Than Ever!

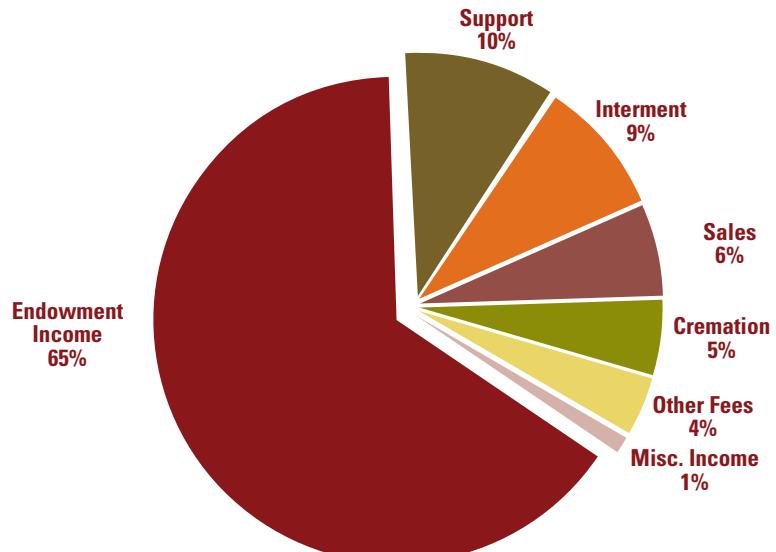
As the chart on the right demonstrates, 65% of the Cemetery's operating budget is derived from the interest generated by Mount Auburn's endowment ("Endowment Income"). 10% is derived from contributed support, such as individual gifts and grants ("Support"). In these difficult financial times—when endowments everywhere have diminished considerably in value (Mount Auburn's is down 30% from \$150,000,000 a year ago to under \$100,000,000)—support from Friends and other members of the public is more crucial than ever.

The creation of a new, beautifully landscaped burial space adjacent to the new Family Center will of course also provide new choices for families for years to come. In the words of Dave Barnett, President & CEO of Mount Auburn, "These new Centers have been envisioned for many years as facilities that would enable us to elevate our horticultural and cemetery services to new levels of excellence and innovation, and it is exciting to be finally moving past the conceptual design phase to begin talking about implementing our dream."

Friends to receive an extraordinary gift of \$475,000

Four years ago, Alice G. Dabrowski of Manchester, NH—a retired dietician for a Veterans Administration hospital—contacted Mount Auburn, saying, at age 87, that she felt she was at a point in her life when she wanted her "life to matter." Working with her financial advisors in New Hampshire (David A. and Bernadette Kutcher) and with Piper Morris, Senior Vice President of Development at Mount Auburn, she established a gift to the Friends of Mount Auburn through a significant life insurance policy (with a face value \$475,000) that designated Mount Auburn as the beneficiary. On February 4, 2009, Alice died at 91. She leaves her sister, Isabel B. Dabrowski, with whom she lived; a brother, George, of San Diego; and several nieces, nephews, great-nephews, and great-nieces. A memorial service will be held for Alice at Bigelow Chapel here at Mount Auburn on May 9. Ms. Dabrowski's parents, Joseph L. and Adela Dabrowski, of Watertown, MA, in whose memory her gift is given, are buried at Mount Auburn on Meadow Road.

Sources of Income for the Cemetery and Friends in FY 2009



Legacy Giving at Mount Auburn



PHOTO BY DAVID BARNETT, 1994

A lasting gift for a lasting purpose: the Ruggiero family's enduring generosity

Anthony and Mildred (Emily) Ruggiero (above) began their relationship with Mount Auburn Cemetery in 1949, when they purchased a lot on Azalea Path. Over the ensuing decades, their affection for Mount Auburn grew, as did their support of the Cemetery—culminating in their establishment of the Anthony J. and Mildred D. Ruggiero Memorial Trust of Tucson, AZ, in 1986.

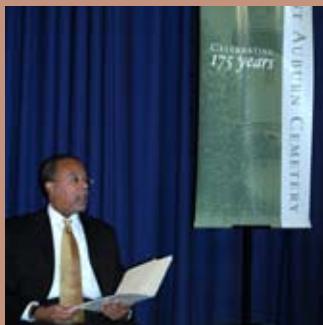
The Ruggieros divided their time between Massachusetts and Arizona, and created the trust to benefit two institutions, Mount Auburn and the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson. The Trust allows Mount Auburn a wide latitude for proposals to fund diverse educational and wildlife habitat projects. To date, the Trust has awarded Mount Auburn more than \$1,161,000.

It has funded the dredging of Willow Pond and the restoration and replanting of its banks; seven free lectures at the Boston Public Library, held in conjunction with our

175th Anniversary; the planning, planting and care of the new Wildflower Meadow at Washington Tower; and the design and construction of a new educational, interactive kiosk, to be installed in the Egyptian Revival Gatehouse later this year. Every year the Trust also generously supports interpretive public educational programs at the Cemetery.

Through their philanthropy, the Ruggieros are continuing to support the Cemetery they loved so much.

Establishing a charitable remainder trust can enable you to earn income for life while providing perpetual support for the causes you care about, such as Mount Auburn Cemetery. **If you would like to learn more about this and other ways to support Mount Auburn Cemetery** through a planned gift or bequest, please contact Stephen R. Silver, Director of Planned & Leadership Giving, at 617-607-1956 or ssilver@mountauburn.org.



Among the projects that received funding through the Ruggieros' generosity were: Mount Auburn's 175th Anniversary lecture series (show here at above left is Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates speaking on W.E.B. DuBois and the Encyclopedia Africana); the restoration of Willow Pond (above center); and the establishment of the Wildflower Meadow (above right).



Black-and-white Warbler, May 2008, Mount Auburn Cemetery
By John Harrison

Upcoming Events

Mount Auburn Book Club

Each month, the Mount Auburn Book Club reads a fiction or non-fiction book that relates to one of the Cemetery's diverse facets, such as history, horticulture, nature and the lives of those commemorated here. The club meets for approximately one hour on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM in Story Chapel to share their views and reviews. A complete list of 2009 Book Club selections can be found at www.mountauburn.org. FREE.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Birthday Celebration: "From the Heart"

Saturday, February 28, 10:00 AM

Mount Auburn will mark the poet's 202nd birthday at this annual event co-sponsored with the Longfellow National Historic Site. Paul Blandford, former Longfellow National Historic Site educator and a ranger at the site for 15 years,

will share his ideas about why Longfellow still touches the hearts of people today, more than a century after his death. After the program, birthday cake will be served in Story Chapel, and a wreath will be laid at the Longfellow family lot on Indian Ridge Path. Meet in Story Chapel. FREE.

Winter Tree & Shrub Identification & Signs of Spring

Thursday, March 19, 2:00 PM

This walk on the last day of winter—led by Dave Barnett, President and CEO of Mount Auburn Cemetery—will be an opportunity to observe the early signs of spring's arrival and to learn how to identify some of the Cemetery's most interesting trees and shrubs. The walk will end with a fun quiz to test what participants have learned. Meet at the Mount Auburn Street Entrance Gate. \$5 members; \$10 non-members.

Understanding Cremation

Saturday, April 11, 1:00 PM

The Cemetery's Crematory Manager, Walter L. Morrison, Jr., will present a brief overview of cremation and then answer questions about the procedures, costs and options for a permanent placement of cremated remains. The event includes an opportunity to tour Mount Auburn's crematory facility. Meet at Bigelow Chapel. FREE.

Save the Date! Spring Celebration & Open House

Saturday, May 2, and Sunday, May 3

There will be more reason than ever to celebrate the splendor of spring after the snowy winter this year. Visitors of all ages can enjoy the grounds at their most verdant and dazzling and participate in the tours, activities and special events that will highlight Mount Auburn and its many facets. All events during the weekend will be FREE and open to the public. A complete schedule of events will be announced in early April. Details will be posted at www.mountauburn.org and will be announced on the Special Events line at 617-607-1995.

Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138-5517

www.mountauburn.org • 617-547-7105

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LEWISTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 17