

# SWEET AUBURN

*Magazine of the Friends of Mount Auburn* | 2017 VOLUME 2



COMMUNITY, CONSERVATION, AND CITIZEN SCIENCE

# SWEET AUBURN

*A publication of the  
Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery*

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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.*



*Young explorers from Lesley University's Wonder Lab, an evolving afterschool program visit the Cemetery to learn about urban wildlife. Mount Auburn is excited to be partnering with faculty from Lesley who will conduct biodiversity research and create citizen science opportunities for local children and other community members here. Learn more on page 4.*

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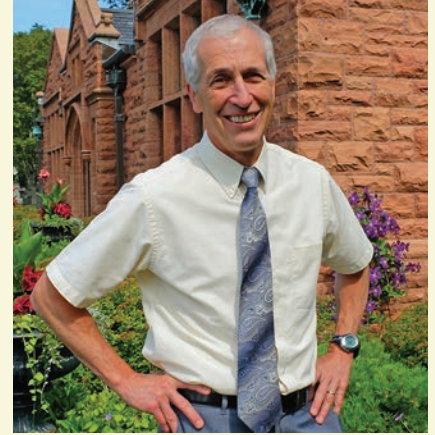
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*See more online at [www.mountauburn.org](http://www.mountauburn.org)*

*The theme of this issue of Sweet Auburn, "Community, Conservation, and Citizen Science," highlights Mount Auburn's important role in the greater Boston community as an urban oasis and a refuge for both people and wildlife. I am particularly pleased to introduce our exciting collaboration with Lesley University, made possible by a grant from the A. J. & M. D. Ruggiero Memorial Trust. As described by Charlie Eaton on pages 4–7, we have embarked on a multi-faceted project to conduct biodiversity research at and ecological assessments of Mount Auburn, with the goal of informing our continued efforts to improve the wildlife habitat value of the landscape. The collaboration with Lesley University scientists and education researchers will enable us to expand our educational programs related to the environment and conservation, and will also create new citizen-science opportunities for both children and adults in Watertown, Cambridge, and other neighboring towns. On pages 8–9, Paul Kwiatkowski, Mount Auburn's Wildlife Conservation & Sustainability Manager, describes our fledgling but rapidly growing citizen-science program that he has so enthusiastically and capably organized. These projects all fall under our efforts to "Be a model of environmental stewardship," one of the six major initiatives of our five-year Strategic Plan. I am proud to be part of a great team of staff and trustees who are following in the footsteps of the individuals described by Jim Levitt (p. 20), who have made landmark contributions to conservation and environmental stewardship.*



*While we strive to expand our environmental stewardship and educational efforts, we continue to carry out our core mission of "comforting the bereaved and commemorating the dead in a landscape of exceptional beauty." Candace Currie and Bree Harvey (pp. 2–3) summarize our process for developing new burial space while ensuring that preservation and enhancement of Mount Auburn's landscape takes precedence. We also continue to carry out projects to preserve monuments and the important life stories they represent (pp. 12–14), as well as other significant structures such as the Egyptian Revival Gateway (p. 15). We are grateful for the generous institutional and individual support that has enabled us to complete these preservation projects.*

*And on page 21, Melissa Banta celebrates the completion of Caroline's Path, a project entirely funded by a significant contribution from the Loughlin family via the Caroline Loughlin Fund of Vanguard Charitable, in memory of our beloved former Trustee. By the time this issue goes to press, we will have broken ground on a major renovation of Asa Gray Garden, also made possible by a lead gift from the Loughlin family. I look forward to reporting on completion of this project a year from now.*

*I hope you enjoy this issue of Sweet Auburn, and I hope you continue to visit Mount Auburn frequently to observe all the exciting things going on!*

*Dave Barnett*

Cheers,

David P. Barnett

President & CEO



# Burial Gardens within the Greater Garden

BY CANDACE CURRIE, *Director of Planning & Cemetery Development* AND BREE HARVEY, *Vice President of Cemetery & Visitor Services*

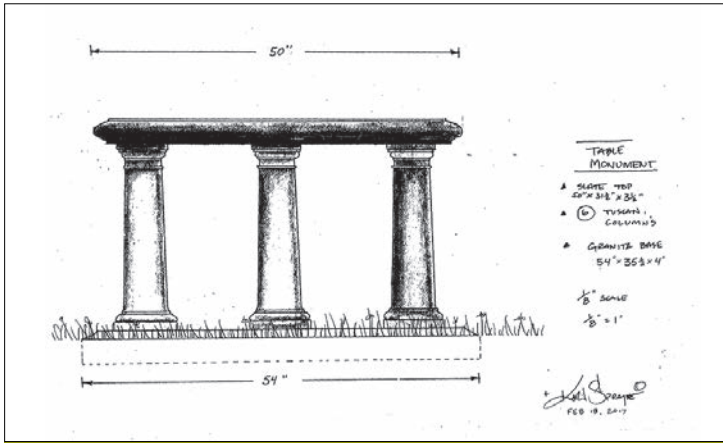
*“Mount Auburn is committed to organizational excellence by sustaining the innovative development of a diverse mix of new inventory that responds to evolving client interests and trends while at the same time ensuring that preservation and enhancement of the landscape takes precedence.”*

—OPENING STATEMENT FROM MOUNT AUBURN’S CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN (2016 – 2020)

EVERY TIME MOUNT AUBURN CONSIDERS REMOVING a tree that is a safety hazard, or rejuvenates a tired landscape, or makes an addition to a building; we ask ourselves, is there something that *could* be here that enhances *all* of Mount Auburn? Perhaps a view can be opened or a sequestered bower brightened. Perhaps there is an opportunity to create new habitat for wildlife or a landscape improvement is required because heavy rains have adversely affected one of the ponds. With all the possibilities of what could be done, how does Mount Auburn decide what projects to undertake? Who is listening to the landscape for an answer?

When it comes to the creation of new burial space, it is a multi-disciplinary team of staff members at Mount Auburn—our Cemetery Development team—that leads the charge. This team vigorously debates the merits of each potential development and more favorable proposals are added to Mount Auburn’s long-term plans. Ultimately, the Cemetery Development team makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees, offering for consideration the projects that best support our goal of creating new burial options while also enhancing and preserving the character of our landscape. Those projects endorsed by the Trustees are then prepared for construction, with one, or maybe two, being completed in any given year.

Some of our most recent Cemetery Development projects include an expansion to Spruce Knoll, a popular woodland cremation garden established more than 20 years ago, and the creation of Beech Garden, an entirely new garden located behind Birch Court Crypts so-named for the large European Beech that anchors the area. The enlargement of a rain garden at Willow Pond in 2015, which protects the pond from storm water runoff, also provided Mount Auburn with the opportunity to create a small lot adjacent to the new garden and pond. Each of these



Sketch for a shared memorial by Karin Sprague Stone Carvers, Inc.



Staff and trustees consider new burial options that will enhance the Cemetery landscape.

gardens happens to be for the burial of cremated remains. At Spruce Knoll the remains are poured directly into the earth, while urns containing cremated remains are buried at Beech Garden and the Willow Pond Rain Garden lot.

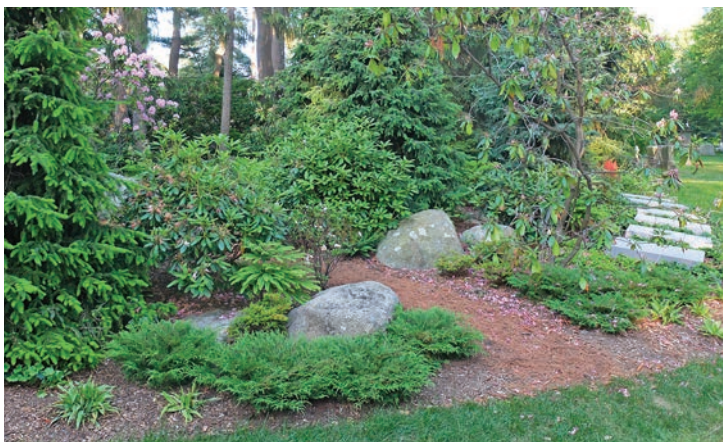
Our recent Cemetery Development projects have favored the creation of burial space for cremated remains, rather than caskets, in reaction to the growing demand and interest for cremation burial space. Presently, however, there is still enough interest in casket burials that Mount Auburn continues looking for creative ways to add more casket space into the landscape. One new development that will satisfy this demand is Crystal Avenue, which the Cemetery narrowed from 20' to 10' last summer to accommodate casket burials. The graves sold on Crystal Avenue have also been planned to allow for small upright memorials.

For both casket and cremation burial space, the most important defining characteristic of a new burial development is how the individuals will be memorialized. In general, Mount Auburn restricts the number of structural elements being added to the landscape to

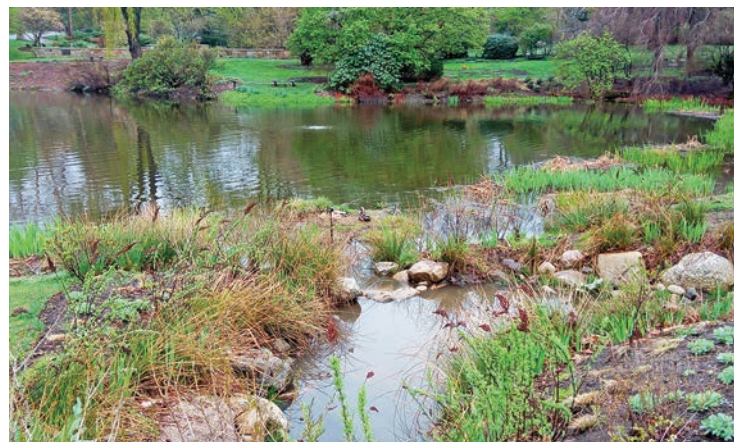
ensure that we maintain the careful balance between art and nature for which Mount Auburn is known. We also understand how important it is to families to have some recognition of one's life carved in stone. Consequently, many of Mount Auburn's new developments are designed with 'shared memorials.'

The shared granite markers at Spruce Knoll, Beech Garden, and the Willow Pond Rain Garden each allow for the listing of 24 names, each name corresponding to an individual whose cremated remains are buried near the marker. In these cases, because Mount Auburn owns the markers, families are purchasing both the right to be buried and right to inscribe a name and dates on the shared marker. At Beech Garden, families can opt to purchase their own granite marker, though this private marker must still adhere to the cemetery's guidelines on size and material.

The Cemetery staff loves this landscape as much as its visitors. Indeed, many of Mount Auburn's own are now buried here, too. We care for the *all* of it – resident, monument, tree, and vane. It's our honor to protect and listen to this garden of graves.



Recent expansion of Spruce Knoll.



Rain garden at Willow Pond.



# INTEGRATING ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES AND CITIZEN SCIENCE AT MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

By CHARLES EATON, *Senior Grants Office, Lesley University*

GIVEN THE INCREASING URBANIZATION OF NORTH America, models for successful urban wildlife refuges are desperately needed. They can provide guidance in identifying, building, and maintaining sustainable habitats for diverse species while encouraging people to participate in conservation projects within their own communities. Mount Auburn Cemetery aims to be one such model for the Boston area, and is partnering with researchers from Lesley University to pursue thorough ecological assessments of key habitats, assist in developing management strategies to enhance biodiversity, and evaluate the impact of research and educational engagement in sustaining urban wildlife habitat.

The project launched this spring, thanks to funding from the A. J. & M. D. Ruggiero Memorial Trust. Science and science-education faculty from Lesley University will conduct biodiversity research at Mount Auburn and create citizen science opportunities for local children and other community members.

Founded in 1831 as a rural cemetery, Mount Auburn is now recognized as a significant urban wildlife habitat as well as an active burial ground and historical site, featuring diverse habitats from ponds, meadows, and woods to gardens and lawns. Work over the past 20 years to support wildlife, formalized in the Cemetery's official Wildlife Action Plan in 2014, has included habitat restoration and re-introduction of native species. In this new partnership, Lesley faculty will work with Mount Auburn staff and consultants to help answer questions about the Cemetery's current state of biodiversity and to create new opportunities for engaging visitors and volunteers on the subject. The project will assess wildlife populations and water and air quality; monitor the mental, social, and emotional effects of human-environmental interactions; integrate research findings



## About the Author

**Charles Eaton**, *Senior Grants Officer at Lesley University*. He collaborates with faculty and University leaders to raise funds for Lesley's academic priorities from corporate, foundation,

and government funders. He has a BA from Bucknell University and an MBA from Suffolk University. He has secured grants from the U.S. Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Justice, as well as various corporations and foundations.



**Dave Morimoto**, *Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology, Director of Lesley College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Natural Science and Mathematics program*, will serve as the A. J. & M. D. Ruggiero Memorial Trust Educator-in-Residence in year two.



**Susan Rauchwerk, Ed.D., Associate Professor, Elementary Education, Lesley Graduate School of Education, will serve as the A. J. & M. D. Ruggiero Memorial Trust Educator-in-Residence in year one.**

with educational materials and new programs; and engage the public through tours and citizen science initiatives.

“Lesley’s approach to urban ecology is in step with the latest strategies of educating people about their local environment,” says Associate Professor Dave Morimoto, who is currently writing a book on human interactions with the natural environment. “In the past, researchers were focused on cities and pristine environments exclusive of each other, but now, more researchers are looking at both together. With 80 percent of the world’s population currently living in urban areas, places such as Mount Auburn offer us the opportunity to learn more about how to sustain a healthy ecosystem for both people and wildlife.”

In support of both the Friends of Mount Auburn’s Wildlife Action Plan and their educational mission, the grant has established the A. J. & M. D. Ruggiero Memorial Educator-in-Residence position for a two-part project, covering education and public outreach related to the environment and conservation on the one side, and specific initiatives in the Wildlife Action Plan and urban ecology on the other. Associate Professor Susan Rauchwerk, who specializes in informal science education and research, is currently serving as the first Educator-in-Residence. She is working in collaboration with staff members Jessica Bussmann, Director of Education & Visitor Services, and Bree Harvey, Vice President of Cemetery & Visitors Services, to develop programs that will best support and expand Mount Auburn’s education efforts.

So far, Lesley University scientists and education researchers have met and reviewed existing research projects with Paul Kwiatkowski, Mount Auburn’s Wildlife Conservation & Sustainability Manager, to create an overarching plan for the Cemetery with team partnerships

of site-specific scientists, educators, and community interest groups. Rauchwerk participated in a spotted-salamander data collection event and piloted her first educational materials and approaches with sixteen students from the Wonder Lab program at Lesley in April ([www.lesley.edu/#WonderLab](http://www.lesley.edu/#WonderLab)). In her curriculum, student participants in grades 1 to 6 will research sites, learn about data collection and research protocols, try out sampling techniques, meet with researchers, and observe live amphibian and reptile species. Education outcomes from this session will guide the development of a six-day summer program that will be offered to Wonder Lab students in late August 2017.



Several other groups will be participating in new programs at the Cemetery in the coming year as well. Beginning in the summer of 2017 and continuing for the next two years, staff and participants from STEAM Beans will serve as education consultants piloting a variety of activities. An educational program for young African American girls and their families ([www.steambeans.org](http://www.steambeans.org)), STEAM Beans is an informal science, technology, education, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) program that runs every other weekend during the school year and once per month each summer, beginning in first grade with a group of ten children and their families and continuing through fifth grade. Sheila Johnson, the STEAM Beans director and founder, will provide input into the development of a fully inclusive

program that includes family and community. “Mount Auburn is unique as it offers a rich cultural history that sustains the stories of African Americans and women scientists who are resting here,” says Rauchwerk. “The cemetery offers multiple ways to engage visitors in learning about diversity and about relationships between humans and their local environment. STEAM Beans will provide critical insight and perspective in establishing opportunities



**Albert Liao, Assistant Professor, Biology, Lesley College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, will test the air quality and measure physical features such as microclimate variation.**



**Nicole Weber, Ph.D.,** *Associate Professor and Program Director Science in Education program, Lesley Graduate School of Education,* will mentor a graduate research assistant and author a case study of the Consecration Dell woodland restoration project.

where ALL children feel empowered and supported to engage in STEM-based careers and sustainable solutions.”

In another upcoming program this summer, teenage youth from the Mass Audubon Habitat Trekkers program will have a chance to work alongside researchers this summer in four day-long programs. Additionally, Lesley community arts graduate Laura Katherine will work with Rauchwerk starting in the fall of 2017 to extend the Wonder Lab offerings and start a homeschool program for children ages 6 to 16 that supports citizen science research and education outreach at Mount Auburn.

Rauchwerk will collaborate with Associate Professor Nicole Weber on the assessment of education materials and citizen science curriculum efforts. Weber, who directs the Science in Education Graduate Program and co-directs the EcoNet Lab with Rauchwerk at Lesley, has broad experience ranging from researching monkeys to teaching high school. For this project, she will work to create design-centered case studies with local teachers and graduate students to capture the nuances of real-world data, systems thinking, and creative solution brainstorming for teachers to utilize as learning tools for their classrooms. The first case-study will focus on Consecration Dell, the site of a 20-year native woodland restoration project at Mount Auburn.

For the education side of the project, the long-term goal is to develop visitor-accessible materials that contribute to monitoring the biodiversity of the Cemetery. Lesley faculty are highly experienced in field research, teaching, and mentoring citizen scientists, and will collaborate with Mount Auburn staff on programs and activities that increase visitor confidence, knowledge, skills, and literacy in science. Both Rauchwerk and Weber will collaborate with Assistant Professor Jeffrey Perrin, a social science researcher who teaches psychology and applied therapies. Perrin will survey visitors for their usage, attitudes, and perceptions of the environment to help Mount Auburn better design its educational materials. His work will also contribute to the growing literature on how nature impacts people in different areas, urban and otherwise.

On the urban ecology side of the project, four Lesley scientists will collect and analyze data on insects (pollinators and ants), bats, birds, air, and water, and will collaborate with Mount Auburn staff and wildlife consultants to analyze previously collected data on birds, amphibians, fish, and reptiles. With the combined results, the team will make recommendations for restoring habitat, develop protocols for monitoring biodiversity, and provide more content for educational materials.



**Jeffrey Perrin, Ph.D.,** *Assistant Professor of Psychology, Lesley College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,* will survey visitors for their attitudes, perceptions, and usage of Mount Auburn.





**Chris Richardson, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor, Lesley College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,** will collect data on bat activity, diversity, and health.

Assistant Professor Albert Liau will test the air quality of Mount Auburn to help determine whether Mount Auburn's bountiful trees make a noticeable difference to the ecosystem, and will measure other physical features using data from the Cemetery's microclimate study, which is underway. Meanwhile, Assistant Professor Amy Mertl will conduct a biodiversity survey of both pollinators and ants, examining the two groups together for a better indicator of overall insect diversity. Finally, Adjunct Professor Chris Richardson will collect data on bat activity, diversity, and health, and use bioacoustic equipment to detect bat flyways.

In the second year of the project, Dave Morimoto will serve as the A. J. & M. D. Ruggiero Memorial Trust Educator-in-Residence. During that time, he will synthesize Lesley's research data and collaborate with Kwiatkowski at Mount Auburn to map the biodiversity of the Cemetery's ecosystem. The map will identify wildlife corridors, insect and pollinator localities, and bat and bird hot-spots, among other findings, in order to monitor the ecosystem as part of a longitudinal (Long Term Ecological Research, LTER) study.

Over the long term, the findings from the various initiatives in Mount Auburn's partnership with Lesley will enable the project to make specific recommendations for the Cemetery's Wildlife Action Plan in the context of the bigger ecological picture. On a larger scale, these recommendations can also impact local urban planning.

Understanding how urban ecosystems function can directly affect how cities and towns plan and preserve their green spaces, not only for human recreational purposes but also for maximizing urban biodiversity and ecosystem services. On the educational side, the project will provide citizen scientists and Lesley students with the opportunity to be a part of research that not only transforms their view of themselves and their place in science, but also furthers efforts by Mount Auburn and local communities to improve the conservation of natural ecosystems and global biodiversity, which is increasingly affected by humans.

"This is one of the most popular places to see migratory birds in Massachusetts," said Dave Barnett, President & CEO of Mount Auburn. "It's also internationally renowned for its beautiful landscape and significant horticultural collections. Many scientists believe that urban ecosystems such as Mount Auburn are the last frontier of ecology and that ordinary citizens can contribute to the growing area of study of how people and nature can benefit one another within an urban environment."

#### ABOUT THE LESLEY UNIVERSITY

*Founded in 1909 for aspiring kindergarten teachers, Lesley University prepares socially responsible graduates with the knowledge, skills, and understanding for a more just, humane, and sustainable world.*



**Amy Mertl, Assistant Professor, Biology, Lesley College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,** will conduct pollinator studies.



# WHERE SCIENCE AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATE, GREAT THINGS HAPPEN!

BY PAUL KWIATKOWSKI, *Wildlife Conservation & Sustainability Manager*

PEOPLE OFTEN ASK, WHAT IS CITIZEN SCIENCE ANYWAY?

Let's begin with a definition.

**cit-i-zen sci-ence.** n. The collection and analysis of data relating to the natural world by members of the general public, typically as part of a collaborative project with professional scientists.

— Oxford Living Dictionaries

All over the world, citizen-science projects have been mobilized to pursue scientific research through the support and energy of dedicated volunteers. This mode of research appears likely to increase in scale, as state funding for research is endangered by political considerations. As government-supported science is deprived of resources, well-structured programs with well-trained volunteers are more important than ever. Citizen-science projects have been implemented to protect fresh water, observe bird migration, map biodiversity, and preserve pollinators.



In 2016, Mount Auburn introduced its first citizen-science program, a phenology study, created to collect data from the trees and shrubs that cover our forested landscape.

Phenology is the study of recurring plant and animal life-cycle stages and the relationship of these life-cycle stages to weather and climate. To pursue this path of inquiry, ten species of deciduous trees and shrubs were chosen. Volunteers collect data on leaf emergence, unfolded leaves, open flowers, leaf color change, leaf drop, ripe fruit, and fruit and seed drop. Collecting this data over the long term will help us better understand the impacts of a warming climate on our urban wildlife refuge.

Studies have shown that as temperatures rise, leaves and flowers are emerging earlier. The insects that feed on the new leaves and flowers are hatching earlier as well. Are migratory birds able to alter the timing of their spring migrations to coincide with the availability of food sources? Are birds shortening their fall migrations, or cancelling them all together, to remain closer to their breeding ground as the seasons are extended? Will some tree and shrub

species vanish from their native ranges because they cannot adapt quickly enough to the warmer, dryer conditions that are predicted for New England over the coming century? These are a few of the questions that scientists

are exploring, and similar research has been undertaken by citizen-science programs all around the globe.

Preparations for the phenology study began in 2015. The ten species were selected, a three-section trail was established, and maps, data sheets, and ID workbooks were created. Volunteers participated in a classroom phenology training and a field ID training in March 2016. They were asked to walk at least one section of the trail every week with binoculars and a data sheet to record their observations. Over the course of the spring, volunteer numbers grew to thirty-two, and many participated in tutorial walks to improve their observational and data collecting abilities. Brooks Mathewson M.F.S. joined us in the role of project consultant to lead trainings and analyze and report on collected data. After a brief summer hiatus, data collection resumed in the fall of 2016. You can find a link to the 2016 data on our website [mountauburn.org](http://mountauburn.org). Phenology trainings were held again in March 2017. This year our volunteer numbers stand at forty.

In addition to the phenology study, a second citizen-science program has been implemented in 2017 to document microclimates. The term microclimate describes the climate of a small, defined area that differs from that of the larger, surrounding area. This study includes an eighteen-point trail designed to record the ground-surface,

ambient, and dew-point temperatures, along with measuring relative humidity, sun exposure, and moisture at each point. The general data from our operation center weather station is also recorded. Several important factors can impact a microclimate area, including slope, sun exposure, and soil composition. Wind, water holding capacity, and erosion are influenced by these factors and all impact the success or failure of plantings in these locations. This study will help us to better understand the differences within microclimates at Mount Auburn, which may be considerable, and to tailor plant selection to meet specialized growing conditions.

If you are concerned about the potential impacts of climate disruption, or if you just want to get closer to nature, the Mount Auburn Citizen Science program may be a great volunteer opportunity for you. To volunteer, contact: **Paul Kwiatkowski**, Wildlife Conservation & Sustainability Manger, at [pkwiatkowski@mountauburn.org](mailto:pkwiatkowski@mountauburn.org).

*Clockwise from top: Joe Martinez, Harvard University Curatorial Assistant, Department of Herpetology, Museum of Comparative Zoology; Jim Gorman, Mount Auburn Cemetery Visitor Services Assistant; Brooks Mathewson, Naturalist and Photographer; Paul Kwiatkowski, Mount Auburn Cemetery Wildlife Conservation & Sustainability Manager*

### *Species in the Phenology Study*

- Sugar Maple*  
(*Acer saccharum*)
- Bottlebrush Buckeye*  
(*Aesculus parviflora*)
- Paper Birch*  
(*Betula papyrifera*)
- Flowering Dogwood*  
(*Cornus florida*)
- Maidenhair Tree*  
(*Ginkgo biloba*)
- Sweetbay Magnolia*  
(*Magnolia virginiana*)
- Tupelo*  
(*Nyssa sylvatica*)
- White Oak*  
(*Quercus alba*)
- Red Oak*  
(*Quercus rubra*)
- Black Oak*  
(*Quercus velutina*)





*Citizen Scientists  
at Mount Auburn*







## STORIES BEHIND THE STONES: *American Veterans Interred at Mount Auburn*

JENNY GILBERT, *Director of Institutional Advancement*

THE FRIENDS OF MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY HAS been awarded a Massachusetts SHRAP Preservation Grant of \$7,500 for a \$20,000 project to conserve eight of our most significant veterans' monuments. The monuments were selected by the Cemetery's Preservation and Historical Collections staff, in collaboration with docents and volunteers, because of their meaning and significance to Massachusetts and American veterans' history, their urgent need for preservation, and their importance as teaching and educational tools. Without prompt treatment, the memorials are at high risk of deterioration, leading to the loss of their stories and symbolism. Conservation treatment will stabilize the stones, preserve the sculptural elements and inscriptions, and ensure the long-term survival of these threatened cultural artifacts. With their well-documented histories, the monuments in this initiative feature prominently in Mount Auburn's interpretive tours and programs, and help educate the public about our country's history and the service of men and women in times of war. To complete the project, the Friends of Mount Auburn must raise an additional \$12,500 in donations. To learn more about the project or donate to the Friends of Mount Auburn, please visit our website at [mountauburn.org/give/](http://mountauburn.org/give/) and toggle Veterans Preservation, or call the Office of Advancement at 617-607-1946.



**GEORGE WASHINGTON COLLAMORE**  
*(1818–1863)*

**J. HOFFMAN COLLAMORE (1846–1865)**  
*Lot 1400, Heliotrope Path*

George Washington Collamore was a Boston abolitionist who moved to Kansas in 1856, becoming head of the New England Kansas Relief Committee. In the Civil War, he served in the Union Army as a General. He was killed in 1863 by Quantrill's Raiders in Lawrence, KS. His son, J. Hoffman Collamore, was wounded in that attack and later enlisted in the Union Army, reaching the rank of Lieutenant. He served first in Company A of the 17th Kansas Infantry, and was then commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Company M of the 3rd Massachusetts Heavy Artillery. He contracted typhoid fever and died in Boston on September 17, 1865, at age 19. Father and son are buried together at Mount Auburn.

**WILLIAM CUMMINGS**  
(1840–1910)

*Lot 322, Chestnut Avenue*

William Cummings was a gas fitter from Boston. In 1862, he enlisted in the Union Army, serving as a Private in Company H of the 24th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. He was discharged for disability in May 1864 in Fort Monroe, VA, shortly after participating in ferocious fighting on Drewry's Bluff, VA, in which the 24th took terrible losses: 11 killed, and 54 wounded or missing. Cummings appears to have been institutionalized following his discharge, and he died in 1910 at the Boston State Hospital.



**FRANK HOWARD NELSON**  
(1843–1862)

*Lot 2845, Ivy Path*

Frank Howard Nelson was born in Boston and served as the Lieutenant of 19th Regiment, New York Infantry. He fought and died in the Battle of Williamsburg, VA, at the age of 19. Nelson is buried elsewhere, but a cenotaph honoring him was placed in his family's lot. His marble headstone is topped with a carved military-themed motif.



**EMILY PARSONS**  
(1824–1880)

*Lot 608, Greenbriar Path*

Emily Parsons trained as a nurse in the early 19th century—a rarity for women at the time. In 1861, at age 37, she became a nurse for the Union army. She served at Fort Schuyler Military Hospital on Long Island, Lawson Hospital in Missouri, and the hospital steamship City of Alton, which travelled the Mississippi River providing medical care to soldiers, including during the Battle of

Vicksburg. She aided the escape of many African Americans from slavery during that time. Parsons was placed in charge of the Benton Barracks Hospital in St. Louis, where she helped reduce death rates and improve conditions for African American patients. After the war, she returned to Massachusetts and opened Cambridge Hospital—now Mount Auburn Hospital.



**MASON REA**  
(1838–1864)

*Lot 669, Cypress Avenue*

Mason Rea served as 1st Lieutenant of the 24th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment K. He was killed in action at Drewry's Bluff, VA, on May 16, 1864, at age 26. Rea's remains were first interred on the battlefield, but were later moved to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, VA, in 1865. Rea's



family placed a marble cenotaph in his memory at Mount Auburn, featuring a sword and flag in relief diagonally across the front.



**CABOT JACKSON  
RUSSELL**  
(1844–1863)  
*Lot 2149, Lime Avenue*

Cabot Jackson Russell enlisted in the 44th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment in September 1862, at age 18. He was promoted to Captain in May 1863, com-

manding Company H of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment under Col. Robert Gould Shaw (also memorialized at Mount Auburn). The 54th was one of the first official African American regiments in the Union Army. Russell was killed on the parapet during the Second Battle of Fort Wagner in Charleston, SC, in July 1863. He was buried there alongside Shaw, who died in the same battle. Russell's monument at Mount Auburn is a cenotaph.

**WILLIAM TILTON**  
(1828–1889)  
*Lot 1763,  
Eglantine Path*



William Tilton was a businessman originally from Newburyport, MA. He enlisted in the 22nd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment in September 1861, at the rank of First Lieutenant, and was promoted to Major in October. Tilton served in the Peninsula Campaign before being wounded and captured in 1862. He was released in a prisoner exchange and went straight back to active duty, becoming a Lieutenant Colonel and fighting in the Battle of Antietam. He was promoted to Colonel shortly thereafter and led the 22nd during the Battle of Fredericksburg. He went on to command troops in the Battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Cold Harbor, and the Siege of Petersburg. He was mustered out of service in 1864. President Lincoln and the U.S. Senate later awarded him the honorary rank of Brevet Brigadier General. His carved marble monument features a military sword and medal in relief across the front.

**WALTER RAYMOND YORK**  
(1894–1921)  
*Lot 6228, Althaea Path*

Walter York grew up in Somerville, MA. In February 1916, he left college and sailed for France to join the Norton-Harjes Ambulance Corps, attached to the French Army. He served during the horrific fighting at Verdun and Champagne. After the United States declared war in April 1917, he enlisted in the U.S. Naval



Aviation Corps and was one of the first to train at Squantum Naval Air Station in Quincy, MA. In June, he returned to France and joined the Lafayette Flying Corps. He flew 122 hours over German lines and was awarded the Croix de Guerre with palm. In

December 1918, he was discharged, but contracted pneumonia during his trip home and never fully recovered. He died of tuberculosis in 1921.

*Photos by volunteers Helen Abrams, Ginny Brady Mann, and Rosemarie Smurzynski.*





## Egyptian Revival Gateway Preservation Completed

BY GUS FRASER, *Vice President of Preservation & Facilities* AND ROBIN HAZARD RAY, *Mount Auburn Cemetery Volunteer Docent*

SPRING 2017 SAW THE COMPLETION OF A TWO-year comprehensive renovation of the Mount Auburn’s historic Egyptian Revival Gateway. Support from institutional and individual funders was key to the success of the project.

The gateway, built originally of wood in 1832 but rebuilt a decade later in Quincy granite, is the grand public face of the Cemetery onto Mount Auburn Street. For many years, the small lodges within the gate housed a gatekeeper, who monitored the admission of carriages. The function of the gateway has evolved, though, and for decades now it has hosted the important bird-board, on which birders write the location of sighted species, as well as a rack of maps and other visitor literature. More recently, a computer kiosk was installed, allowing visitors to look up grave locations and access other information about the Cemetery.

But the years were rather hard on the structure. Sealants failed, introducing leaks into the lower areas. During heavy rains, the narrow downspout was frequently overwhelmed. An unfortunate run-in with a truck had left the massive wrought-iron gate in need of repair. The concrete floors had developed cracks. The windows, which had been replaced at some point in the past, were in poor condition. And the combined effects of pollution and biological growth had darkened the light-gray tone of the granite.

Jumpstarted with a matching grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, a successful fundraising effort allowed the enormous project to get underway in 2015. Cassidy Brothers Forge removed the great cast iron fence and began the laborious process of repairing, repainting and finally reinstalling it (this work was detailed in the Spring 2017 issue of Sweet Auburn).

For the second phase of the project, Phoenix Bay State Construction began work on the gatehouse structure, carefully cleaning the granite, removing biological growth and staining from pollution. Mortar joints were cut and repointed, and a new sealant was installed in the joints above the windows and between the granite slabs that form the roof. Larger holes in the granite were repaired with stone dutchmen, and smaller ones (<1/2”) with tinted epoxy. After the masonry work was complete, wood windows were removed for repair and repainting by carpentry contractor M.J. Mawn. Wood dutchman repairs were made to the wood window sills and surrounds, followed by repainting. The doors that open to the street side of the building were made operable and repainted.

The alcoves, which are open to the elements all year long, needed a great deal of attention. The granite walls, columns, and roof were cleaned with a masonry cleaner. Mortar joints were cut and replaced. Larger downspouts were installed through the granite lintel supporting the roof slabs, and the downspout drain was enlarged to accommodate heavy rains. The deteriorated concrete floors were replaced and finished to match the texture of the existing weathered concrete.

With all the work now complete, the Egyptian Revival Gateway is set once again to welcome visitors and to grace Mount Auburn Street as a testament to the historical character of both the Cemetery and the City of Cambridge. And the bird board is back up!

### *Support for this project provided by:*



*City of Cambridge  
Historical Commission  
Community Preservation Act Grant*

*Harold Whitworth Pierce  
Charitable Trust*



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL  
FACILITIES FUND  
*Through a collaborative alliance with*



*and*





## The Simplicity of Mindful Walking

BY ALYSIA LINSENMAYER

HAVE YOU EVER HEADED OUT FOR A WALK, PERHAPS with the intention of enjoying the outdoors or clearing your head, only to return and discover you can't remember the walk itself? For many of us, walking is so basic an action that we gloss over the time walking and rush along to the next item in the day, distracting ourselves with thoughts about the future or the past. While walking, did you ever make it a point to pare your thoughts down, to quiet your mind and find peace in your walking at this very moment? This is mindfulness: to be focused on the present moment. It is noticing the feel of the earth under your feet, observing your thoughts simply as thoughts and redirecting focus to your breath. Mindfulness at its core is simple, but as we know what is simple can be incredibly difficult, especially when our busy minds are involved.

In the "Introduction to Mindful Walking" workshops at Mount Auburn, walking becomes an easily accessible experience of mindfulness. We work together intentionally to slow the pace, to feel the soles of our feet as we walk, and to reflect upon our different experiences.

There are various definitions of mindfulness, but the idea underlying them all is to "be present." When you are eating, eat! When you are working, work! When you are walking, walk! The aim is to be present without judgment, with kindness, with the expectation that the mind will wander and that we can gently bring it back to whatever our focus is, despite our tendency to berate ourselves. If we can embrace our full experience of mindful awareness

(including our chatty minds) with self-compassion, that is a truly restorative meditative practice.

Most individuals find it helpful with their mindfulness or meditation practices to have an "anchor" to bring them back to the present when their thoughts wander. Anticipating that our thoughts will drift—our minds are thought machines after all, and are simply doing their job—can allow us to recognize them with an attitude of openness and curiosity before guiding them with kindness back to our anchor. The most common anchor you hear of is "the breath." As a good start, I encourage you to experiment with counting your breaths, using a soothing mantra or phrase, focusing on one sense (listening, for example), to find an anchor that works for you.

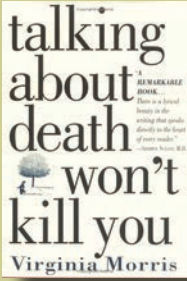
Try it when you are walking to or from work, as you do errands. Even a minute or two of mindful movement, especially if you sprinkle them throughout your day, can help bring you back to the present moment.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*Alysia Linsenmayer (LICSW, RYT-300) is a psychotherapist at Riverside Outpatient in Newton. She also teaches restorative yoga, mindfulness workshops, and a meditation class at Artemis Yoga in Watertown, MA.*



## Author Events at Mount Auburn Cemetery



On April 19, author Virginia Morris discussed her book, *Talking About Death Won't Kill You*.

Virginia outlined some common obstacles that can stand in the way of a more peaceful death, and ways to ensure your wishes are actually followed.



L-R: Mount Auburn Cemetery Vice President of Cemetery & Visitor Services Bree Harvey, Author Virginia Morris, Mount Auburn Cemetery Director of Planning & Sustainability Candace Currie, Ruth Faas of Mourning Dove Studio, Hospice Volunteer Richard Davis, Mount Auburn Cemetery Events

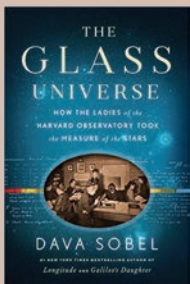
and Outreach Coordinator Corinne Elicone, and natural death care educator Heather Massey



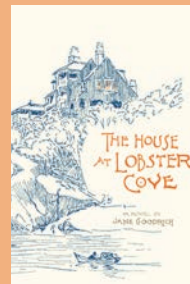
On May 3, author Miriam Weinstein shared stories from and about her funny but very serious book *All Set for Black, Thanks*. Part memoir, part how-to, her book follows a year in which she had way too many opportunities to wear black.



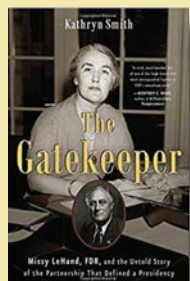
Left, author Miriam Weinstein. Right, attendees Margarete Dupere and Denise Patnod.



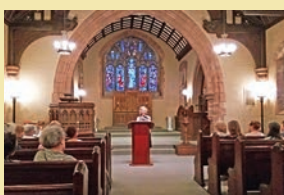
On May 15, after a talk about her book *The Glass Universe: How the Ladies of the Harvard Observatory Took the Measure of the Stars*, author Dava Sobel led a walk to the grave of Astronomer Willamina Fleming, as well as others who played a role in the incredible story of the pioneering women who worked at the Harvard College Observatory from the late-1800s through the mid-1900s.



On June 13, Jane Goodrich spoke about her first novel, *The House at Lobster Cove* – a charming family saga and love story, with characters, letters and events from history, like protagonist, George Nixon Black, who is buried on Eagle Avenue at Mount Auburn Cemetery.



On June 20, author Kathryn Smith discussed her book, *The Gatekeeper: Missy LeHand, FDR, and the Untold Story of the Partnership That Defined a Presidency*. Missy LeHand, a smart and talented woman who has been misrepresented, mischaracterized, and overlooked throughout history, is buried on Central Avenue at Mount Auburn Cemetery.



SAVE THE DATE: AUTHOR TALK  
“Jordan Marsh: New England’s Greatest Department Store”

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 6PM  
Join us in Story Chapel for an Author Talk by Anthony M. Sammarco on his new book, *Jordan Marsh: New England’s Greatest Department Store*. Founded in 1851 by Eben Dyer Jordan and Benjamin L. Marsh,

Jordan Marsh who opened their first store on Milk Street in Boston selling linen, silk, calicos, ribbons, and assorted dry goods to Victorian Bostonians.

Benjamin Lloyd Marsh, co-founder, and his brother Charles Marsh, a junior partner, of Jordan Marsh are buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery.



On March 23, New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture workshop was held at Mount Auburn Cemetery.

On April 17 as part of the City of Cambridge Science Festival, Jim Gorman, Visitors Services Assistant, led an all-ages walking tour “Around the World, and Back in Time with Trees.”

On May 3, Author and Environmental Reporter Lynda V. Mapes led a walking tour on “The Memory of Trees” with President Dave Barnett. “Trees give us peace, solace, beauty, as does Mount Auburn,” according to Mapes, whose book talks about the effects of climate change in a single, 100-year-old oak tree at the Harvard Forest. “Trees speak of humanity’s essential bond with the land, with nature, and with hope of a future beyond our own lifetime.”



On April 27, Ruth Thomasian, founder and CEO of Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, presented “A Look at Who We Are: Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives” about the importance of documenting and preserving family photos at Story Chapel. Project SAVE has archived collections of more than 45,000 photographs.

On May 24, we held our annual Service of Commemoration. Words and music helped us to remember those who have gone before us during this Memorial Day service on Bigelow Chapel Lawn.

On June 3, we held the world premiere of “Mount Auburn: Spring Suite” by Composer-in-Residence Mary Bichner. Over the past year, Mary has written music inspired by the landscape of Mount Auburn and words from resident poets. Mary and the 19-piece orchestra showcased a beautiful and unique Spring program in historic Story Chapel with compositions that delighted classical enthusiasts and pop fans alike.

## Best Wishes to Jane Carroll

By DAVE BARNETT

IT IS WITH MIXED FEELINGS BUT sincere gratitude that I announce the retirement of Jane Carroll, Vice President of Institutional Advancement. In the years since Jane joined the Mount Auburn team in 2010, she has led fundraising efforts for capital projects and many preservation and horticultural initiatives, in addition to significantly increasing the Annual Fund. On a broader level, she has had a major impact on increasing awareness of and appreciation for Mount Auburn as an organization worthy of philanthropic support.

In 2012, under Jane's leadership, we launched Mount Auburn's Council of Visitors (COV). This advisory group, which began with 107 members and has since grown to 140, supports Mount Auburn in a variety of ways including hosting events, arranging for presentations, and soliciting contributions. The COV has been

a tremendous success for Mount Auburn: four Council members have become Trustees, and over 100 people attended the 5th annual Council meeting in October 2016. The Trustees and staff have greatly valued Jane for her

strategic thinking and commitment to advancing the organization through fundraising, and join me in wishing her all the best in her retirement. Since leaving Mount Auburn in May, Jane and her husband Ernie have been enjoying well-deserved time together at the summer cottage in Maine.

While Jane leaves big shoes to fill, I am pleased to announce that Jenny Gilbert, Director of Institutional Advancement, has succeeded Jane at her post. Jenny had a great mentor in Jane, and I am confident that her many talents, qualifications, and leadership skills will enable us to continue building on our recent successes. Mount Auburn has also recently hired Jude Bedel as Director of Individual Giving to lead the Council of Visitors, as well as to work with individual Friends of Mount Auburn.



## Farewell Lorraine Furlong

ON MARCH 1ST, CEMETERY STAFF GATHERED TO WISH LORRAINE Furlong a fond farewell after 22 years of service. Lorraine had worked in our finance department as a part-time accounts payable clerk since 1995.

*“Lorraine was always a thoughtful and compassionate colleague, while maintaining the highest standard of professionalism at all times. Thank you, Lorraine, for always being a serious, but also fun and helpful coworker, and a good friend to all of us here at Mount Auburn Cemetery.”*

— JENNIFER JOHNSTON

Lorraine Furlong and Jane Carroll at Lorraine's farewell breakfast on March 1st





## DID YOU KNOW...?

BY JAMES N. LEVITT, *Mount Auburn Cemetery Trustee*

MANY INDIVIDUALS NOW INTERRED AT MOUNT AUBURN Cemetery made landmark contributions to conservation and environmental stewardship. Their stories continue to inspire us.

**Jacob Bigelow (1787–1879, Beech Avenue, Lot #113)**, a founder of Mount Auburn, was a public health and horticultural visionary. He understood that the establishment of burial space in a verdant, rural setting was both a sanitary necessity and a way to preserve nature.

**Joseph Story (1779–1845, Narcissus Path, Lot #313)**, a Cemetery founder and U.S. Supreme Court Justice, articulated the healing power of nature in his 1831 address at Mount Auburn. Speaking in Consecration Dell, he said: “all around us there breathes a solemn calm, as if we were in the bosom of a wilderness, broken only by the breeze as it murmurs through the tops of forest, or by the notes of the warbler pouring forth his matin or his evening song.”<sup>1</sup>

**Edward Everett (1794–1865, Magnolia Ave., Lot #17)**, President of Harvard, Governor of Massachusetts, U.S. Senator, and Secretary of State, helped to establish the Bunker Hill Monument and the Cemetery in the 1820s, and to preserve Washington’s estate at Mount Vernon in the 1850s. His speech at Gettysburg in 1863 helped lay the groundwork for the establishment of a park at Yosemite in 1864 and the world’s first national park at Yellowstone in 1872.

**Asa Gray (1810–1888, Holly Path, Lot #3904)**, botanist, turned the Harvard Botanic Garden and Herbarium into a principal center for American botanical research. Gray used the Herbarium’s collection, and comparisons between North American and Asian plants, to buttress Darwin’s theory of evolution.

**Charles W. Eliot (1834–1926, Thistle Path, Lot #713)**, President of Harvard from 1869 to 1909, ushered in several key conservation institutions: the Arnold Arboretum, the Harvard Forest, and the Graduate School of Landscape Architecture (now the Graduate School of Design). He helped protect land on Mount Desert Island in Maine that today forms the core of Acadia National Park.

**Charles Eliot (1859–1897, Amethyst Path, Lot #5417)**, son of the above, worked with Frederick Law Olmsted and helped create the world’s first regional land trust, The Trustees of Public Reservations (today The Trustees of Reservations), in 1891. Today, land trusts exist in every U.S. state and protect some 56 million acres.

**Harriett Lawrence Hemenway (1858–1960, Thistle Path, Lot #1463)**, co-founded (with her cousin Minna Hall) the Massachusetts Audubon Society in 1896. Hemenway and Hall urged ladies to give up wearing feathered hats and finally got the state to ban the trade in wild bird feathers. The pair worked to preserve habitat and create sanctuaries for native birds. Today, Mass Audubon is the largest conservation organization in New England, with 100,000 members and 34,000 acres of conservation land. Other famous ornithologists buried at Mount Auburn include William Brewster (1851–1919), Larch Avenue Lot #1099, and Ludlow Griscom (1890–1959, Palm Avenue Lot # 7370).

**Elisha Atkins M.D. (1920–2005)**, who taught at Yale School of Medicine, was an avid birder and conservationist. In retirement, Atkins and his wife, Libby, lived next door to the Habitat Nature Sanctuary that his mother, Ruth Hornblower Churchill (1887–1970, Birch Ave. Lot 8224), had created from the family’s estate. The Atkinses gave it to the Mass Audubon Society.

**Caroline Keller Loughlin (1940–2013, Story Chapel Columbarium 4 Alcove E)**, worked with the Friends of Fairsted to advance the mission of the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, and helped edit Olmsted’s papers. She joined the board of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, protecting the parks in Boston and Brookline. At Mount Auburn, she served as trustee of the Friends of Mount Auburn and a Cemetery trustee.

<sup>1</sup>Joseph Story, *An address delivered on the dedication of the cemetery at Mount Auburn, September 24, 1831*. Boston: Joseph T. and Edwin Buckingham, 1831. Available at <https://archive.org/details/addressdelivered00story>.



# Caroline's Path

BY MELISSA BANTA, *Mount Auburn Cemetery Historical Collections Consultant*

MOUNT AUBURN IS PLEASED TO CELEBRATE THE COMPLETION OF CAROLINE'S Path, connecting Story Chapel to Asa Gray Garden. Funded by a generous donation from the Caroline Loughlin Fund of Vanguard Charitable, the path is dedicated to the memory of Loughlin, a devoted volunteer, supporter, and trustee of Mount Auburn Cemetery. Designed by Craig Halvorson and the landscape architects of Halvorson Design Partnership, the pathway represents the first phase of the renovation of Asa Gray Garden. This larger project has involved researching primary documents in the Cemetery's Historical Collections Department to inform the contemporary

design. It is thus closely allied with the interests of Caroline, who volunteered in the historical collections for 13 years.



Starting at the steps of Story Chapel, a granite intersection leads across the street to the beginning of the path. Here, visitors find a low, granite bench inlaid with wood. Semicircular in shape, the inviting bench looks as though it had always been situated in front of the large European beech tree across from the Chapel. "Craig Halvorson's work always strives to be about Mount Auburn and to feel like it belongs, the *genus loci*, of and from this place," observes Ricardo Austrich, senior associate at Halvorson Design. The path gracefully wends its way down a sloping retaining wall, which blends harmoniously into the lawn. Following the curve of the road, it gradually ends at a smaller bench

with "Caroline's Path" engraved in a panel on the wall. From this vantage point, visitors can look into Asa Gray Garden, another elegant, elliptical form within the Cemetery landscape.

The path, described by Austrich as a "quietly seamless and artful transition space," serves as a welcoming threshold into the entryway of Mount Auburn. "In many ways, the path fulfills a need we didn't realize we had, and you can't imagine it not being here now," explains Curator of Historical Collections Meg Winslow. "Caroline would be happy to know her path has become a central meeting area for those gathering together to further explore the Cemetery grounds."

Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery  
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## Upcoming Events

Here is a sampling from the exciting schedule of upcoming programs. Visit us online today to register for any of these programs or to get a complete list of other events on our calendar.

### 🎭 A Glimpse Beyond September 16–17

Returning for a 6th year of inspired performances! Encounter unexpected sights and sounds while walking along a route through Mount Auburn's historic landscape. These "glimpses," being performed by a cast of professional and community-based musicians, dancers, and artists, will have you reexamining your ideas about life and death, joy and sorrow. For a full list of performers, visit our website as the date nears.

### 🎭 Mount Auburn: Fall Suite Concert Saturday, November 4, 2 PM

Please join us for the world premiere of *Mount Auburn: Fall Suite* by Composer-in-Residence Mary Bichner. Over the past year, Mary has written music inspired by the landscape of Mount Auburn and words from resident poets. A 19-piece orchestra will showcase her beautiful and unique fall program in historic Story Chapel. Mary's unusual gift of synesthesia — the perception of colors having specific sounds — allows her to create richly-colored compositions that delight music lovers of every stripe.



## COMMUNITY DIGITIZATION DAYS

**Saturday, October 14, Watertown Free Public Library**  
**Friday, October 20, Cambridge Public Library**

Members of the public can bring in a range of paper-based archival cultural heritage materials, such as photographs and letters, that help to tell the story of Mount Auburn Cemetery and the nearly 100,000 people buried and commemorated here. During the digitization days, consultants from the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) will hold a series of informational sessions about preserving and digitizing family collections, scan materials, rehouse originals in archival enclosures, and give participants a flash drive with their digital copies—all free of charge. With permission, materials will be used as interpretive and educational content for Mount Auburn's new mobile app. We will begin taking reservations for digitization appointments in early September. Please check our website for more details.



Funding provided by the National  
Endowment for the Humanities.



## MOUNT AUBURN'S NEW MOBILE APP

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new mobile app! You can now explore the many facets of Mount Auburn using your own mobile device. You can follow one of our thematic tours, discover the Cemetery's many significant

landmarks, and search our database of nearly 100,000 burials. Download the app for free from the Google Play or iTunes app store (search for "Mount Auburn Cemetery") and begin today!

Funding for the development of Mount Auburn's app has been provided by the A. J. & M. D. Ruggiero Memorial Trust. Biographical content and curated tours have been funded by Mass Humanities, the Rowland Foundation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and individual donors.