BARBARA ROTUNDO TO LECTURE ON RURAL CEMETERIES

On Monday, April 26, at 8:00 p.m. Barbara Rotundo, Professor of English at SUNY Albany, will lecture on the rural cemetery movement in 19th century America. The lecture will be held at the Garden Center of Rochester (access from Reservoir Avenue) across from Mt. Hope Cemetery. Refreshments will be served beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The lecture is being sponsored jointly by The Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery and the Victorian Society. Speaker Barbara Rotundo is a well-known authority on rural cemeteries and has written a history of Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the first garden cemetery in the United States. We hope that you will be able to attend.

GAZEBO RESTORATION UNDER WAY

Repair and restoration of the Moorish-style gazebo across from the Old Gatehouse began in March. The gazebo is the first restoration project of the Friends organization and carpentry and roof repairs are expected to be finished in April. Painting will be undertaken later in the spring if sufficient contributions are received.

General contractor for the project is R-Monde Contractors, Inc., the lowest of three bidders on the job. Carpentry and roof repairs (the roof is tin) will cost $7,420. Painting (which includes recreating arabesque designs on the roof) will cost an additional $2,950. Architects for the restoration are John Bero and Roger Brainard of Bero Associates, who have performed services for half their normal fee.

The Friends have raised approximately $5,500 towards the cost of the project and need just another $500 to receive a dollar-for-dollar matching grant from the Rochester Area Foundation. If needed, the Friends also have access to a $5,000 line of credit provided by The Landmark Society of Western New York.

Upon completion of the project, the Friends intend to hold a rededication ceremony and to invite Senator Daniel Moynihan. Senator Moynihan wrote a letter to the Rochester Times-Union in November, 1979 urging restoration of the gazebo.

Additional contributions to the gazebo fund should be made out to the Friends organization with a "gazebo fund" notation on the check. All contributions are deductible for Federal and State tax purposes.
GAZEBO FUND DONORS

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HELP YOURSELF AND VOLUNTEER!

There are a number of Friends committees which need your help, especially now that activities for the year are getting under way. Those who have been active in the Friends unanimously agree that the benefits of participation are felt as much by the individual as the organization.

Below is a list and brief description of committees. Committee chairpersons and their phone numbers are also indicated in most cases. If no chairperson is listed, you can write or call the Friends office: 791 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620 (461-3494).

Tours — organize and schedule Sunday tours; develop special tours; train tour guides. Chairmen Dennis Carr (461-3494 or 442-8156) and Stephen Thomas (473-1281).

Membership — develop and implement plans to augment membership; review membership categories and dues levels; solicit committee participation; coordinate publication and distribution of membership brochure.
Office Volunteers — maintain the office and assist with office needs. Chairwoman Marjorie Ewell (271-5374).

Publicity — handle publicity for tours, special events, and other occasions; create media interest in the Cemetery, the Friends organization, and Friends projects. Chairman Dick Brown (544-5532).

Program — develop a program of projects and events for each season of the year; work with other committees to implement and create interest in programs.

Gardening and Beautification — stimulate and coordinate interest in Cemetery gardening and beautification; maintain rock gardens; plant formal gardens; care for neglected plots. Chairman Bob Hoepfl (244-4640, 247-3874 or 271-9199).

Newsletter — compile material for seasonal newsletter; coordinate typing, layout, and printing. Chairwomen Alma Creek (271-8751) and Kathryn Hunter.

Research — conduct research and do write-ups on subjects of local history, natural history, funerary customs, Cemetery figures, etc. Chairman Joe Barnes (428-7340).

Finance — review needs for operating and capital funds and recommend methods for acquiring funds; recommend an annual budget to the Board of Trustees; review bookkeeping and financial reporting practices; assist with grant applications. Chairwoman Dorothy Humes (473-3935).

GARDENERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

Members of the Friends Gardening Committee, and those interested in joining the Gardening Committee, should meet at the Old Gatehouse on Saturday, May 1st at 9:30 a.m. Bob Hoepfl, County Superintendent of Horticulture, is Chairman of the Gardening Committee. The purpose of the gathering will be to discuss plans for the year and to do some spring clean-up. Wear gardening clothes. Necessary tools will be furnished. Last year the Gardening Committee maintained rock gardens, planted formal gardens, and cared for neglected plots. 

AND FROM OUR HORTICULTURIST... 

This past fall the city of Rochester made the first tree plantings in the Cemetery in nearly thirty years. These included magnolias planted at the new Elmwood Avenue entrance and in the vicinity of the new office. Dogwoods were excellently located on the slope behind the gazebo.

Cornus Florida, Flowering Dogwood, is one of the commonest and most generally distributed inhabitants of deciduous leaved forests of the middle and southern states. These small graceful flowering trees are usually grown under the shade of taller trees in rich well-drained soil. During the month of May the Flowering Dogwood comes into bloom. Blooms are actually bracts, small leaf-like brightly colored organs located just beneath the flower itself. Although they are the showiest part of a flower cluster, they are not technically part of the flower.

However, the flowers are not the tree’s only attraction. It has special interest every season of the year. Summer; good foliage not marred by insects or disease. Autumn; brilliant red berries and vivid fall colors. Winter; a picturesque horizontal method of branching. The small red berry-like fruit is an attraction for songbirds and small mammals, however they are poisonous to humans. The hard close grain wood has been used for tool handles, small wheel hubs and barrel hoops.

The following is a passage from The Garden’s Story written in 1889 by George H. Ellwanger:

“The shad-blow has scarcely vanished ere the Dogwood succeeds it as torchbearer. A very much larger white flower, or strictly speaking, involucre, it is scarcely more brilliant from a distance. It is far more distinct on close approach, and one would have to think twice to decide to which the preference should be accorded. I love the shad-blow, because it is first to appear; and the Dogwood not only for its beautiful inflorescence but for its brilliant red berries and glorious autumnal hues.

Robert E. Hoepfl
Superintendent of Horticulture
Monroe County Parks Dept.
CALENDAR

April 11 Tours begin, to continue every Sunday at 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.
Begin at Gatehouse (North Entrance)

April 26 Lecture by Barbara Rotundo on Rural Cemeteries
Garden Center of Rochester, 8:00 p.m.

May 1 Garden Committee meeting and Work Day, 9:30 a.m. at the Gatehouse

May 14-23 Lilac Festival

May 19 Wildflower Walk 10:00 a.m.

This newsletter is published four times a year by the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery.

GUIDED TOURS

Our Tour Guide Committee is arranging the Spring Tours to be resumed after the winter interim. The spring schedule will start on Easter Day, April 11, with free tours open to the public at 2:00 and 3:00 p.m., starting from the North Gate at the northern entrance to the Cemetery on Mt. Hope Avenue.

For further information call the answering service number 461-3494 and leave a message.

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THE FRIENDS OF MT. HOPE CEMETERY
791 MT. HOPE AVENUE
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14620