



MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

580 Mount Auburn Street | Cambridge, MA 02138

NEWS:

For Immediate Release

For more information contact:

Bree Harvey
Director of Education & Visitor Services
Mount Auburn Cemetery
617-607-1945
bharvey@moundauburn.org

Mount Auburn Cemetery Celebrates 175th Anniversary Of Its Consecration

WATERTOWN, MA - September 24, 2006 - Mount Auburn Cemetery, the nation's oldest landscaped cemetery and the model for modern day park systems, marks its 175th Anniversary this year. Its 1831 consecration will be celebrated with a Commemoration Ceremony held at Mount Auburn on September 24, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. The festivities will feature Paul Grogan, President of the Boston Foundation, Reverend Peter Gomes of Harvard University, poetry readings by Celia Gilbert and musical performances by the New England Conservatory.

“One hundred and seventy five years into our mission, Mount Auburn Cemetery remains an active cemetery and a place of comfort and inspiration for its 200,000 annual visitors,” said William C. Clendaniel, President of Mount Auburn Cemetery. “This 175th commemoration presents us with the opportunity both to remember our past and to look forward to a new vision of ways we can preserve and protect this National Historic Landmark for future generations and expand the wide range of cemetery service we provide the Boston community.”

A unique aspect of the year-long anniversary celebration is the collaborations that have been formed with other non-profit organizations. Partners for a seven part lecture series include: The Boston Athenaeum, The Boston Public Library, Historic New England, The Massachusetts Historical Society and The National Park Service. Sponsors for individual lectures include the Arnold Arboretum, Boston Foundation, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site,

~ more ~

t: 617-547-7105 | f: 617-876-4405

www.moundauburn.org

Friends of Fairsted, Harvard Museum of Natural History, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Longfellow National Historic Site, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, National Association of Olmsted Parks, New England Conservatory, New England Genealogical Society, New England Wildflower Society and Wellesley College Botanic Gardens. The Harvard Art Museums, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, Boston Conservatory and the Longy School of Music will sponsor other events as will area churches such as Old South Church and the Church of the Advent in Boston and Memorial Church in Cambridge.

Corporate and foundation support for the anniversary programs comes from the Anthony J. and Mildred D. Ruggiero Trust, Cambridge Savings Bank, Cambridge Trust Company, Halvorson Design Partnership Inc., Harvard Book Store, the James W. Flett Co. Inc., Lowell Institute, The Vose Galleries of Boston and Whole Foods Market River Street, Cambridge.

The Cemetery's 175th Anniversary program includes a free, seven-part public lecture: "FACETS OF MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY: CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF A BOSTON JEWEL" in the Rabb Auditorium at the Boston Public Library beginning on October 18, 2006 and finishing on May 15, 2007. Internationally renowned speakers will address how Mount Auburn Cemetery relates to history and culture, art and architecture, horticulture, landscape, non-profit organizations, birding, and music. Each lecture begins at 6:00 p.m. and concludes with a reception with the speakers.

In addition to the lecture series, Mount Auburn Cemetery will partner in February 2007 with the Vose Galleries of Boston, located on Newbury Street, Boston, to present works by artists buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery. Members of the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra will present a concert at Mount Auburn Cemetery on October 14, 2006 at 3p.m. with music by composers buried at the Cemetery. Several legacy projects of the anniversary include the publication in the Spring of 2007 of a revised edition of the seminal book on Mount Auburn, *Silent City on a Hill* by Blanche Linden, the opening in May 2007 of a Visitors Center, and the restoration of the Bigelow Chapel stained glass windows, scheduled for unveiling on October 28, 2006, as well as digitization of its records, and the groundbreaking for a major new interment landscape, Birch Gardens, in Spring of 2007.

~ more ~

About Mount Auburn Cemetery

Mount Auburn Cemetery is located on the Watertown-Cambridge border on Mt. Auburn Street, about six miles from downtown Boston and one mile west of Harvard Square. The grounds are open every day of the year from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with extended hours during the spring, summer and fall. Maps, audio tours and other publications are available at the Gatehouse or the Office. The Office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays. Mount Auburn Cemetery remains an active cemetery. Hundreds of burials and cremations take place annually. A wide variety of public tours and lectures take place throughout the year. More information is available by visiting www.mountauburn.org or calling 617-547-7105.

###