



Newsletter

Historic Oakwood Cemetery Preservation Association
Fall, 2010 Volume 20, Number 2

President's Message...

This past year has been a fruitful and productive one for the Historic Oakwood Cemetery Preservation Association, aka HOCPA. Many of you have purchased the wonderful book which was written by our favorite historian, Barbara S. Rivette. She authored *Oakwood, a Special Place* to commemorate Oakwood's 150th birthday. Copies are still available for purchase and we hope to distribute some to local public schools as well.

Tours this past summer were especially well attended and great fun. Tour Director Darothy DeAngelo again came up with fascinating tours with her own brand of witty titles. Who can resist a tour called "Murder, Mystery and Mayhem?" These tours have developed an enthusiastic following and continue to make history come alive in a most entertaining way. We are grateful for our guest tour guides who gave up a Sunday afternoon to share their expert knowledge of their particular subjects with us.

We are excited to be launching a website soon with the generous help of John Berger who is an expert in the field. Included will be tour schedules, historical notes of interest, photographs, membership forms, and general news about various HOCPA projects. Many thanks to Sue Greenhagen who has graciously agreed to be our webmaster.

Lastly, we are extremely grateful to all of you who have joined HOCPA and made possible our continued mission to maintain and promote historic Oakwood Cemetery.

Connie

Connie Palumb

What's New...

The most obvious "what's new" is that HOCPA's newsletter has a new look. That's because a new editor has taken over. Thanks to Trina Powers for all her years of putting out a high quality (not to mention always interesting) newsletter. Sue Greenhagen has been asked to try to fill Trina's shoes in getting out all the news that's fit to print, and as Arthur Judson Brewster would say, and then some. Thank you, Trina, for all your hard work.

You may notice that the title of this newsletter is "Newsletter." Boring. I'm looking to the membership for some ideas on an appropriate title. Clever, alliterative, witty, pun-ful (is that a word?) - put your thinking caps on and send those ideas flying in.

As Connie said in her President's Message, we're leaping into the 21st century by creating a website for HOCPA. I hear some moaning out there from you folks who don't have a computer at home and feel left out of the loop. Good news - you can access the Internet and hence HOCPA's website at your local library. More news will be forthcoming as we get the site up and running.

To distribute this newsletter, I'm going to attempt to send it out as a PDF (Portable Document Format) file on email. There are two quick advantages to this. First, it will save the organization the cost of postage. Secondly, it can be sent in a color format - all those great photos can be viewed in color, as opposed to the black and white of the printed copy. Change is on the way. I'm glad to have been asked to be a part of it.

Sue

Sue Greenhagen

A Look Back...

What a season we had this past year. Our Sunday tours totaled 169 participants. May's tour, "From the Ground Up" was conducted by ESF's Don Leopold. He regaled us with fascinating facts about the flora of Oakwood Cemetery. In June, Darothy DeAngelo led a tour called "Doctors, Dentists and Quacks." Darothy "dug up" some great stories about the medical profession in Syracuse. Our July tour was led by Steven Kern from the Everson Museum. The title was, appropriately enough, "Painters, Sculptors and Other Artsy Folk." We were introduced to some of the most talented people from Syracuse's past. In August we encountered some seriously rainy weather. Kudos to those 40 or so intrepid tourgoers who followed Arthur Judson Brewster (living historian Sue Greenhagen) around in the rain to hear tales of "Murder, Mystery and Mayhem." We closed the season with a slightly different topic, "The Iconography of Death." Armed with a handout describing the signs and symbols on headstones, the group, led by Sue Greenhagen, searched out various artistic, spiritual, and eccentric features on Oakwood's headstones.

Darothy DeAngelo and Sue Greenhagen (the cemetery sisters) conducted a number of special tours, including tours for 5th graders from Edward Smith Elementary School, West Genesee High School English students, and a writing class from Syracuse University.

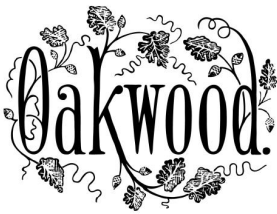
Our tours are such a wonderful historical experience, after all, cemeteries are our great outdoor museums. As Darothy is fond of saying, "not everyone is famous, but everyone has a story."

A Look Ahead...

Darothy DeAngelo is hard at work, even as we speak, creating a not-to-be-missed tour schedule for 2011. If you have any suggestions for tour topics, please contact her at (315) 682-6312. Also, we will be holding a clean-up day in April, and we need all the volunteers we can muster. More info will be coming out.

We urge our members to reach out for new members - call a friend and say, "hey, want to go to the cemetery?" They may even say yes. HOCPA depends on its members to sustain it. We need YOU to get involved.

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address correction requested

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