

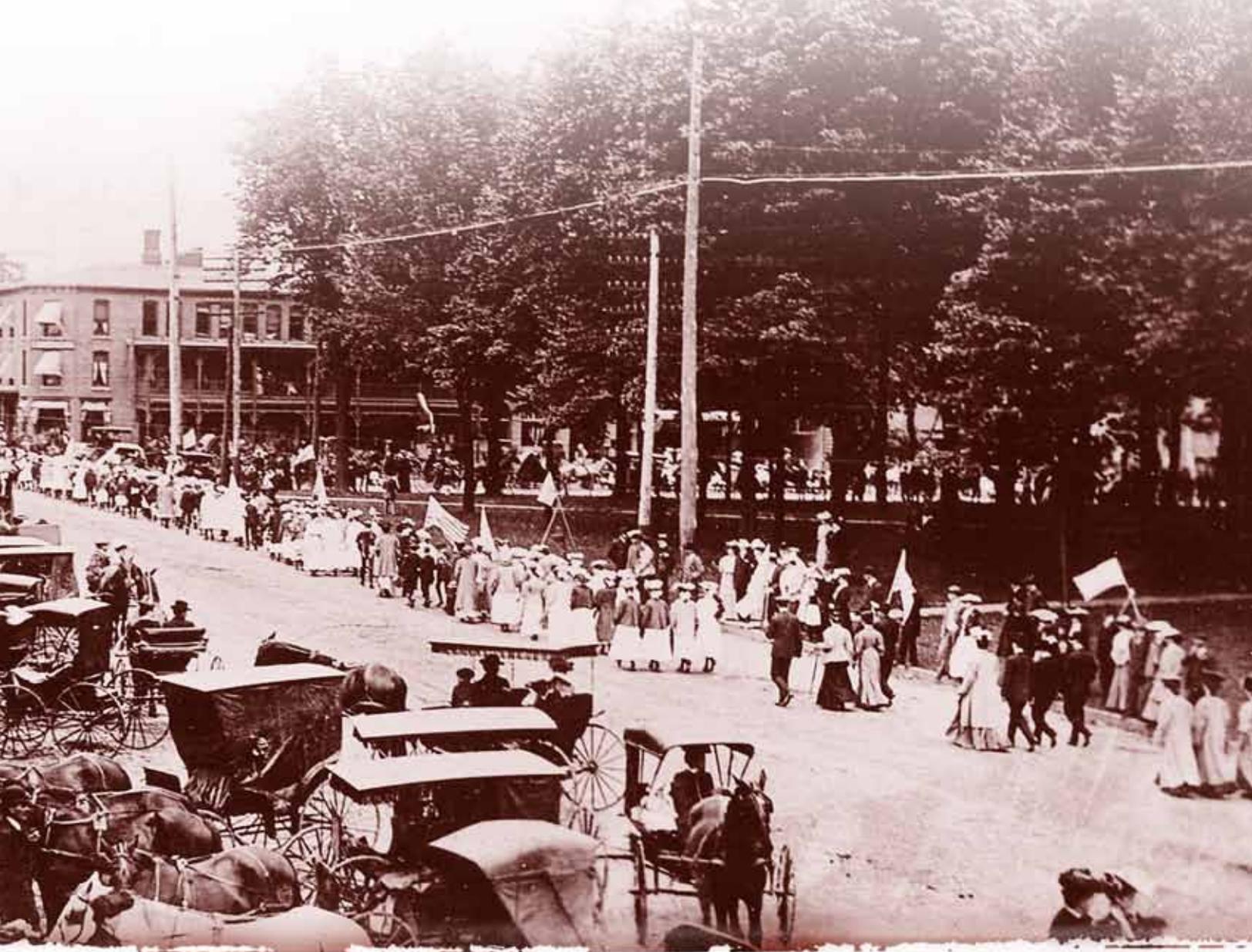
# FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

Issue 28

Medina, Ohio

May 2013

*Decoration Day Parade 1890 • The American Hotel in the background - from the collection of David Kellogg.*



*L*

he Spring Grove chapel and the mausoleum will be open to the public from 9:30 a.m. until the end of the Memorial Day services around noon. Please feel free to stop in to visit the lovely restored 1884 chapel and the mausoleum before and for a short time after the ceremony. The Friends will have handouts and informational boards on display in the chapel. We look forward to seeing you.

## Friends of the Cemetery

445 W. Liberty Street, Suite 219  
Medina, Ohio 44256  
www.friendsofmedinacemetery.org

### To reach us:

info@friendsofmedinacemetery.org

Teresa Merkle  
330.722.1706  
Cynthia Szunyog  
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### Trustees

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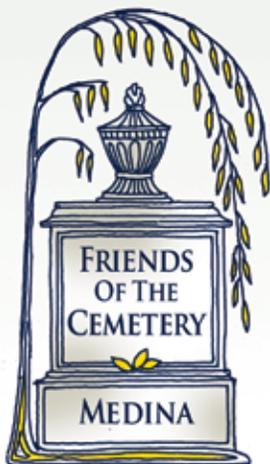
### Photos

John Gill  
Cynthia Szunyog  
Teresa Merkle  
Annette Miller

### Board Meetings

First Thursday at 7 pm  
FOC office-Liberty Row  
445 W. Liberty Street  
Conference Room  
*Please call first.*

Designed by Ron Bell/Advision



## *Anniversary of Ed Mears' Death*

April 2, 2013 marked the 10-year anniversary of the death of Edward C. Mears, Friends of the Cemetery benefactor. Upon his death, the Friends inherited his entire estate, including his Marble Falls, Texas cattle ranch, all his personal effects, as well as a Trust. Mr. Mears and his father, Amos, were instrumental in building the industrial area of Medina in the 1950's and '60's. Ed Mears also played a significant role in the development of the Rustic Hills subdivision and country club as well as the Granger condominiums. Even though Ed left Medina to pursue ranching in California and Texas, he always held a special place in his heart for Medina and kept in touch with many people here including Cathi Carmany and David Jones who were among his closest friends. It was through a chance meeting with FOC Trustee John Gill at Spring Grove Cemetery that Mr. Mears became interested in the Friends of the Cemetery organization and it was through Cathi Carmany, who at the time headed the First Merit Trust Department, that Mr. Mears received information and counsel about the Friends organization.

Mr. Mears left just a few specific requests of the Friends. These included completing the hard-edged lake project with a columbarium wall, a special garden with a bench in memory of his wife Pat, constructing a fence around the cemetery property, enhancement of the Baby Section and establishment of a memorial to his father, Amos, along with Amos' contemporaries from the 1950's and '60's who helped build the industrial section of Medina. Three of these five requests have been honored in the past ten years with the construction of the Edward C. Mears columbarium wall at the new lake, the Pat Mears Memorial Garden, and the on-going beautification and improvements at the Baby Section by the Oddfellows and Friends. The new office building the Friends will be erecting will fulfill a fourth request as the memorial to his father and his father's associates. Other great improvements such as the chapel restoration, chapel furnishings and garden, entryway garden, park benches, garden and lake maintenance, in-kind matching funds, to name a few, have been accomplished at Spring Grove due to Ed Mears and we continue to be so appreciative of his generous gift to the Friends and for the legacy he left the citizens of Medina. Ed Mears, his wife, Pat, and his parents are buried side by side in Section 10 at Spring Grove Cemetery under the Mears family gravestone.

## *Mayor James S. Roberts*

Former Medina Mayor Jim Roberts passed away February 24, 2013 at age 72. As mayor of Medina, Roberts was a staunch advocate for Medina cemeteries. It is due to Mayor Roberts that the Medina City Cemetery Commission exists. In 1995, he revived the then defunct Commission and placed his full support and City resources available to him behind it. He promoted the Spring Grove Master Plan and fought hard to fund the copper roof on the mausoleum. He supported eliminating the use of outside contractors who mowed and plowed the cemeteries in favor of in-house maintenance and brought back the position of sexton. He never wavered in promoting the maintenance and beautification of Medina's cemeteries. The Friends are grateful for Mayor Roberts' foresight and resolute support through the years.

## Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Cemetery is scheduled for Sunday, September 15, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the restored Spring Grove Chapel. We will be mailing post card reminders to all our FOC members at least two weeks in advance of the date of the meeting.

## Congratulations to Helen Streett

Friends Trustee, Helen Streett, celebrated her 90th birthday in April! We congratulate Helen on achieving this milestone in life! Helen is a positive force and great asset to our organization. We look forward to many more years of working together with her.



## Eagle Scout Projects

By: Bob & Linda Fenn

This Memorial Day 2013, citizens gathering at Spring Grove Cemetery to witness the annual Memorial Day ceremonies will notice that over 200 veterans' grave sites have been improved with the addition of new holders, markers, and flags honoring those who served during the many conflicts in which our country has been involved. These improvements were made due to the volunteer efforts of Medina Boy Scout Troop 507 members Alex Fuerst and Joseph Toth.

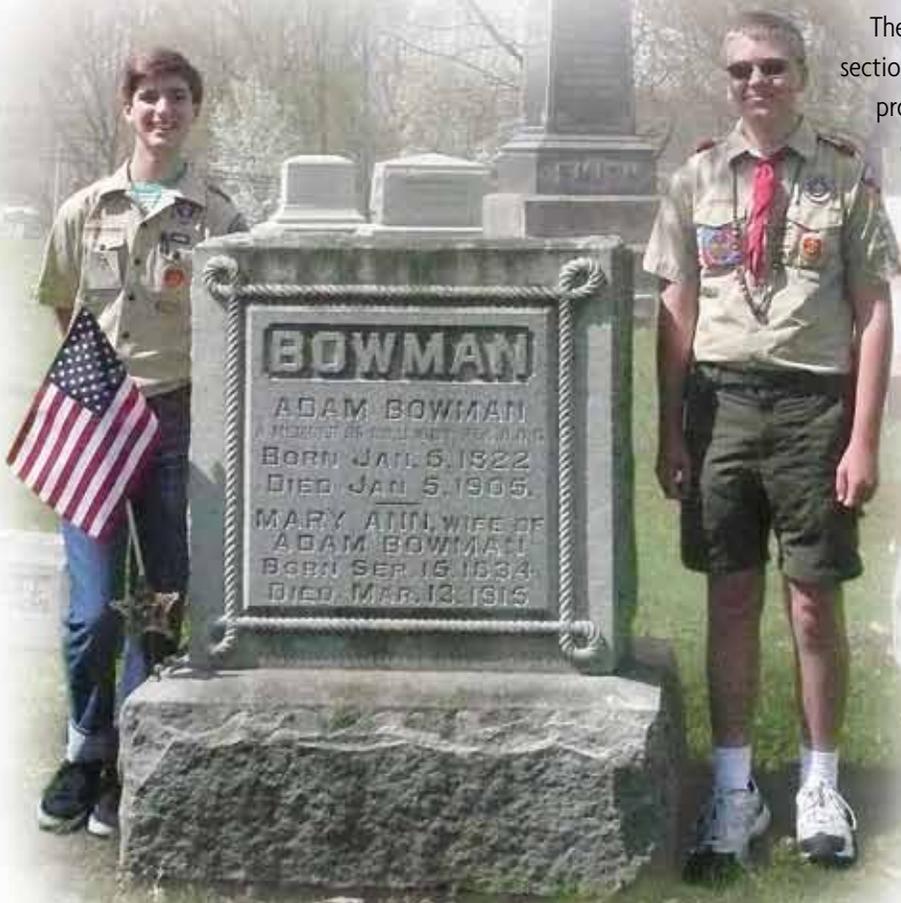
Each of these two scouts had to plan, develop, and successfully complete a service project which is one of the requirements for receiving the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor a Boy Scout can be awarded. Alex and Joe were helped by approximately 20 other Boy Scout volunteers and adults, as well as their parents.

The two separate projects involved six different cemetery sections at Spring Grove for each scout to work on. The projects also required the cooperation and assistance of James Hjort, Sexton of Spring Grove Cemetery, Ed Zacher y, Director of Medina County Veterans Services and Robert Fenn, representing Medina American Legion Post 202.

Alex, the son of Randy and Joyce Fuerst, is finishing his senior year at the Medina County Career Center and will attend Xavier University this fall. He plans to major in computer science. Joe is a junior in high school and in the future wants to study fashion design, with a minor in entrepreneurship in hopes of one day owning his own clothing store. Joe and Donna Toth are his parents.

The Friends thank Alex and Joe and commend them for their service to our veterans' graves at Spring Grove and their service to our community. We wish them well in their pursuit of the rank of Eagle Scout.

*Joseph Toth (left) and Alex Fuerst (right)*





## New Building Update

The Friends of the Cemetery and the City of Medina are collaborating on a highly anticipated capital improvement project at Spring Grove Cemetery. The project will be carried out in three phases and will focus on the office and equipment storage buildings of the cemetery.

In the first phase, the Friends will fund the construction of a new office building that will accommodate office spaces for the Sexton, City Arborist and the Friends of the Cemetery. A conference room and restrooms will be included in this building.

In the second phase, the City of Medina will build a new maintenance building that will be large enough to house all cemetery equipment as well as the equipment used by the Forestry Department. A lunch/break room, storage area and employee restroom will also be in this new equipment storage building.

The third phase will be the demolition of the old maintenance building. The City plans to do this part of the project in-house. Once the demolition is completed, the Friends will pay for a new visitor parking lot and a new employee parking lot.

The estimated joint cost of the total project is approximately \$600,000, with both parties funding about half the cost.

There are many reasons for the necessity of this project. The existing maintenance building is old and in need of repair. It no longer meets the needs of the City and is not large enough to hold all of the cemetery and forestry equipment, thus most of the equipment currently sits outside in the weather year round. There is only one small office space in the building and the Sexton and City Arborist share this office. Not only are there cramped quarters, but when visitors come to the cemetery to purchase grave plots, the City Arborist has to leave his office. This office is located inside the cemetery maintenance building and, although it is kept as neat and clean as possible, it is really not a suitable or fitting place to meet with grieving families. The new office building will address all these concerns by providing individual offices for the Sexton and City Arborist and a conference room where families can be attended to in comfortable surroundings. The conference room will also be offered as a location for small gatherings before or after funeral or graveside services. The surrounding work yard area will be improved to address employee and visitor parking. A new material storage bin area for excavated soil, topsoil and mulch will be installed to efficiently and professionally contain these materials.

The Friends and the City anticipate breaking ground on the office building in 2013. New information on the construction timetable and other items related to this project will follow in the weeks to come.

## Garden Tour at Spring Grove

The gardens of Spring Grove Cemetery will be featured on the Community Design Committee's first annual Garden Tour on June 29, 2013. The Soldiers' Mound Perennial Garden, Pat Mears Memorial Garden, the Art Riedel Chapel Garden, and the Spring Grove Entryway Garden will be on display. The gardens will be delightful at this time of year and we look forward to taking part in hosting

this event. The Friends will be providing refreshments in the chapel and will be showcasing our new stained glass piece at this time. Other gardens in Medina and Medina Township will be on the tour. For ticket information, call or email Cynthia Szunyog at 330-722-5020 or [cszunyog@msn.com](mailto:cszunyog@msn.com).

# Annual Historical Walk

Last September's walk in Old Town Cemetery was a great success and we plan on doing another walk in Old Town on September 21 at 1 p.m. Researching and preparing for the walk can be quite a challenge because the lives of the people buried there in the decades between 1820 and 1880 are not well documented and it is difficult to find local descendants. Stories about these early residents are important not only for our walks but also for the

history of Medina, all the more so since Medina's bicentennial will be celebrated in 2018.

We are looking for people who would like to help research and organize the walk. Please let us know if you would like to participate. Call or email Cynthia Szunyog at 330-722-5020 or [cszunyog@msn.com](mailto:cszunyog@msn.com).



*Friends Trustees and Jim Ascherl discuss stained glass colors.*

## Stained Glass

Ascherl Studios in Hinckley, Ohio have been hard at work this winter crafting the stained glass window for the Spring Grove Chapel. The window is 6' 8" high and 6' wide and is lit from the back and framed in oak. We are looking forward to its installation in the very near future!

## Chapel Runners

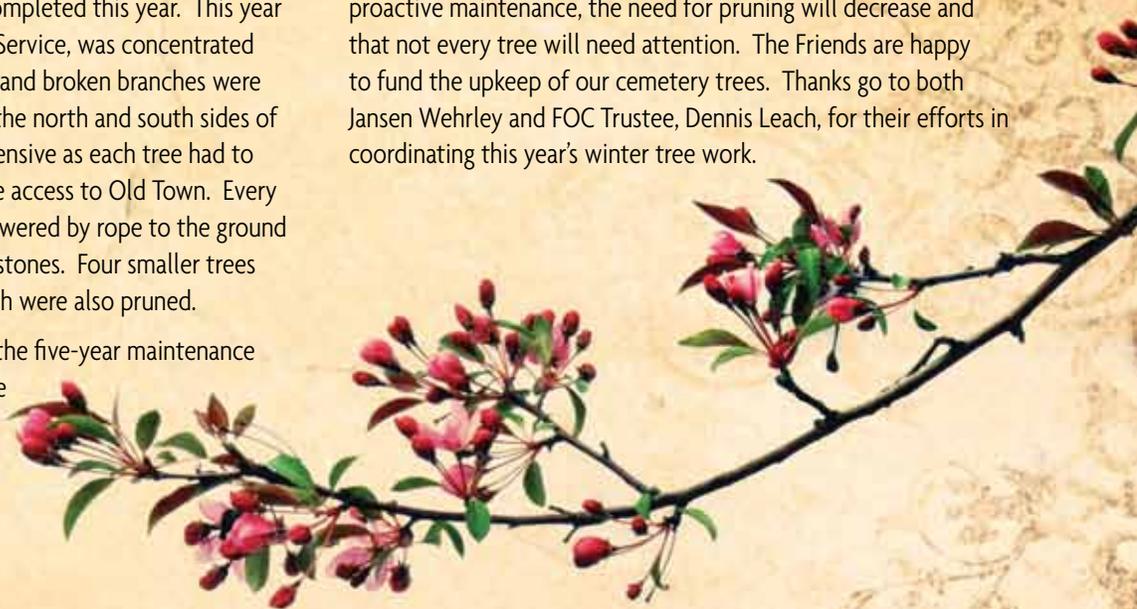
The Friends have purchased a 14' x 3' aisle runner for the interior of the Spring Grove chapel and a 4' x 6' outside mat for the entry to the chapel. These will help to minimize the mud and dirt brought into the chapel. Thanks to Jerry Gunner for handling this project.

## Winter Tree Work

The five-year cemetery tree maintenance plan as laid out by City Arborist, Jansen Wehrley, was completed this year. This year the work, done by Treemasters Tree Service, was concentrated at Old Town Graveyard. Dead wood and broken branches were removed from nine mature trees on the north and south sides of the graveyard. The job was labor intensive as each tree had to be climbed due to the lack of vehicle access to Old Town. Every branch removed was meticulously lowered by rope to the ground to avoid damaging the historic gravestones. Four smaller trees outside Old Town's fence to the north were also pruned.

Jansen recommends re-starting the five-year maintenance cycle in 2014 by structure pruning the younger trees that were pruned five years ago and removing major dead

from mature trees. He anticipates that because of our past proactive maintenance, the need for pruning will decrease and that not every tree will need attention. The Friends are happy to fund the upkeep of our cemetery trees. Thanks go to both Jansen Wehrley and FOC Trustee, Dennis Leach, for their efforts in coordinating this year's winter tree work.



## Old Town Graveyard

# Stone STRAIGHTENING

### Phase III

We are so happy to report that Phase III of the stone straightening and cleaning at Old Town Graveyard has been completed as of May 2013! Cutlip Construction of Canal Fulton was again tapped to do the final phase of this project which included 65 stones being gently cleaned and their footers repaired, reset and plumbed, 25 stones gently cleaned, reset level and plumbed, 7 stones gently cleaned and broken pieces epoxyed, and, one stone gently cleaned with D/2, for a total of 98 stones. The cost for Phase III is \$25,000 and will be paid by the City with the Friends funding \$25,000 in-kind work at Spring Grove later in the year. What an amazing transformation has been wrought at Old Town over the past three years!

## Indigent Stone

Recent changes in state law in Ohio require municipalities to take responsibility for interment of indigent persons who have died within that municipality. In accordance with these laws, the City of Medina has reserved an area near the end of Section 16 for these burials and will be installing a large stone marker on which will be engraved the name and date of death of each individual

interred there. This area will provide approximately 400 cremains burial plots. Sexton James Hjort recently reported to the Cemetery Commission that there have been six indigent burials at Spring Grove since September 2012 - a trend that seems to be growing in the past couple of years.

## New Bench Donated and Refurbished

A very big thank you to Charlene Fife of the Bakery Shoppe on Public Square for donating an old park bench for use at Old Town Graveyard. FOC Trustee, Jerry Gunner, refurbished the bench and placed it at Old Town midway under a tree along the sidewalk that traverses the graveyard. Thanks Jerry!

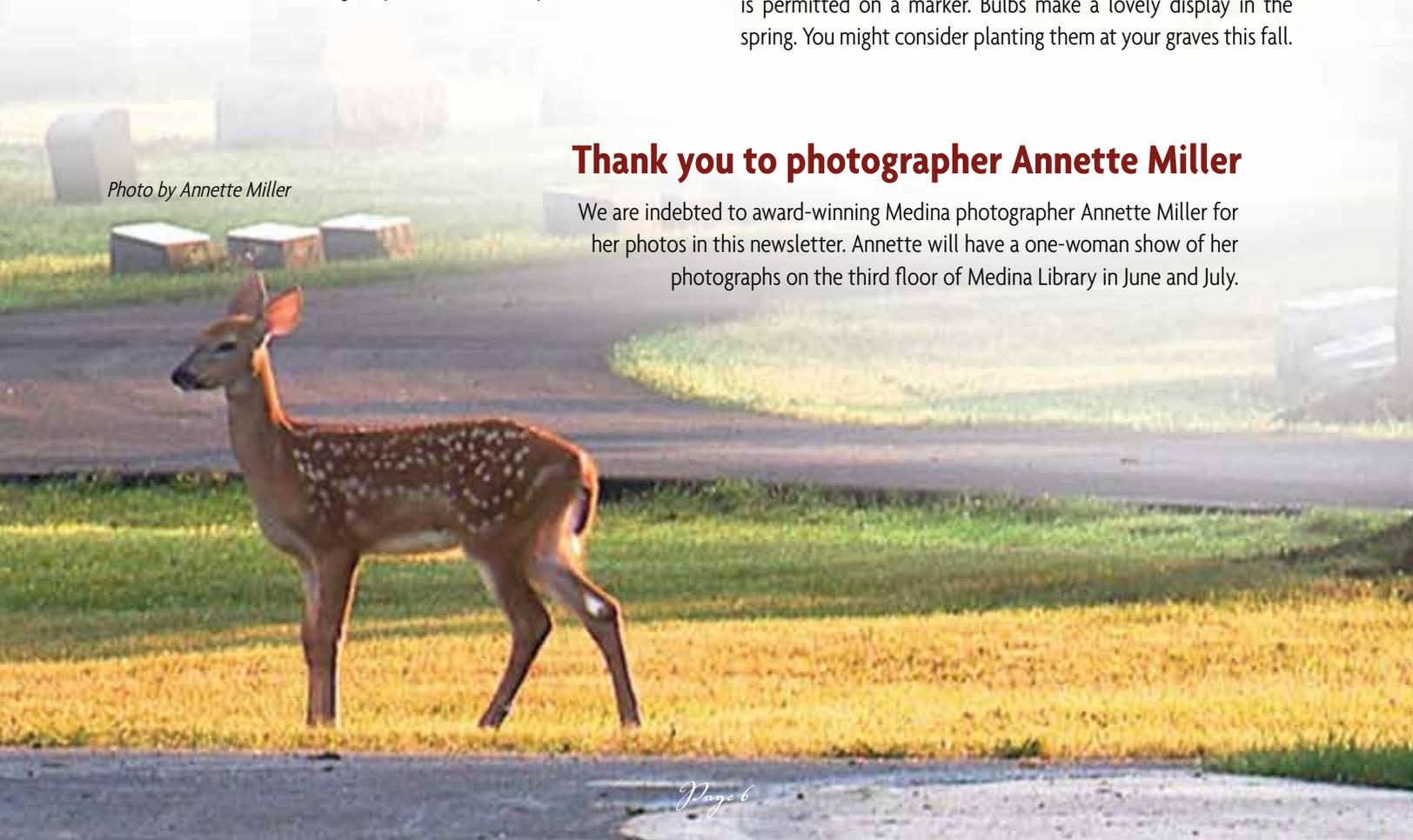
### Planting Regulations

All monuments are permitted a seasonal planting area extending no more than ten inches (10") from the foundation on the burial side of a monument. All decorations, ornaments and flowers must be installed within this area. No bushes or large plants are permitted. Only one (1) shepherd's hook or one (1) potted plant is permitted on a marker. Bulbs make a lovely display in the spring. You might consider planting them at your graves this fall.

*Photo by Annette Miller*

## Thank you to photographer Annette Miller

We are indebted to award-winning Medina photographer Annette Miller for her photos in this newsletter. Annette will have a one-woman show of her photographs on the third floor of Medina Library in June and July.



# *Friends of the Cemetery*

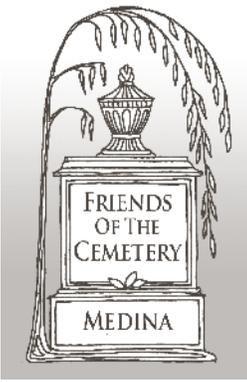
## MEMBERSHIP LISTING - MAY 2013

Cynthia Allman	Dick & Joyce Dirham	Mary Kay Klein	Jan Rusak
Charles & Margaret Anderson	Richard & Sally Eaken	Richard & Joyce Komjati	Gary Sabo
Steve & Jane Anderson	Robert & Patricia Farkas	Margaret Krupa **	Dorothy A. Seamon *
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Betty Bagley	Gary & Elaine Fernwood	Dennis & Bonnie Leach	Lucy Sekerka
David Bagley	Audrey Filous	Dave & Pat Lehotan	Jim Shields
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Paula Banks	Fred Fri	Linda Limpert	Jay Smith
Ken & Kathleen Barco	Sandy Frommeyer *	Charles Lons	Jeanne Smith
Bill & Alice Batchelder	Don & Cindy Fuller	Ann McClaning	Kathy Smith-Hudley
Carter & Elizabeth Bennett	Sharon Fuller	Mary McDowell	Dean & Margaret Snider
Elby A. Bennett **	Mary Alice Fulton	Thomas W. & Kay McFadden **	Nancy Sprowls
Peter & Sydney Sue Benson	Raymond & Maryellen Furse	Pat McIntire	Elizabeth Stadden *
Ruth Beshire	Lauretta Gerspacher	Jim & Nancy McKee	Linda Stekelenburg
Blackburn Family	Terry & Ann Gasser	Lyle McQueeney	Helen Streett
Carey & Karen Blair	John Gill **	Charles & Teresa Merkle	Steve & Tena Strine
Dean Bowman	Jim & Nancy Gowe	Sarah Meyer	William Stuchal
Mary Jane Brewer	Charles C. Griesinger **	Annette Miller	Carol Szakovits
Nancy Brintnall	Jerry & Sally Gunner	Jane Abel Miller	Paul & Susan Szaniszlo **
David & Bea Bryenton	Judy Hamer *	Jane Moos	Cynthia Szunyog
Sue Bryenton	Barbara M. Harrington	Pat Morgan	Ray & Alberta Taylor
Edy Campbell	Irwin (Bud) Herrle	S. Mosley	Joseph Thompson
Reg Campbell	Gary M. Hetrick	Jim & Hildy Navratil	Ruth Tubbs
Don & Marilyn Canfield	Tom Hilberg	Kenneth Oleksiak	John & Pat Van Hoose
Ron & Catherine Carmany	Jack & Patricia Hofstetter	Sally Otterbacher	Gloria Van Steenberg
Beth Streett Cassella	Dee Huddilston	James & Annette Patneau **	Brian Vereb Family
Casto Family	Bert & Carole Humpal	Robert Pennington	Harold & Nanette Waite
Ted Chandler	Howard Hunter	William & Jane Pierce	Ralph & Helen Waite
Susan Chmelik	Robert & Shirley Hyde	Sandra Pilarski	Lyle West **
Barbara Clark	Ann Ignacio	Brigitte Popelars	John Wetzel
John & Marianne Clevidence	Arnold & Cheri Ingraham	Jean Post	Jerry & Marsha Whitnable
Leland Coddling	Sarah Jane Ingraham	William Randall	Arline Westfahl
Dan Coleman	John & Virginia Jeandrevin **	Ed & Pat Rickard	Donald & Hope Wilder
Jim & Maureen Cook	Vernon & Marlene Jividen	Betty Riegger	Rob & Chris Wilder
Jane Corbus	Harold & JoAnn Johnson	Robert & Jane Riegger	Joyce Woolsteen
John & Peggy Dague	Irene Johnson	Dean Riggenbach	Kim Wuescher
Robert Dague	Randi L. Jones	Anita Robertson-Szucs	Gloria Yeager
Eric Daiber	Jeff & Jackie Kehnle **	Robert & JoAnn Robson	Ross & Dolly Yowler
Mike & Judy Davanzo	David Kellogg	George & Ruth Rodgers **	Jay & Janis Zachman
Homer C. Davis	Lisa Kerr Family *	Brad & Kathryn Root	Betty Zarney
Gary & Patricia DeHass	Bob & Betty Kiley	John & Elisabeth Root	Stephen Zetts-Neves *
Judy Delahoyde	Peter & Joann King	Charles & Patricia Ruflin	

\* designates new member

\*\* designates Life-Time member

*I*f you have not yet joined the Friends of the Cemetery, please do so today. For your convenience, we have provided a self-addressed envelope in this newsletter. Our membership schedule is included on the envelope flap. If you have been a member in the past, but do not see your name listed above, please take time today to renew your membership using the enclosed envelope.



# FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

445 W. Liberty Street,  
Suite 219  
Medina, Ohio 44256



## *New Members since December 2012*

Sandy Frommeyer    Lisa Kerr Family    Elizabeth Stadden  
Judy Hamer        Dorothy A. Seamon    Stephen Zetts-Neves

Don't forget to check us out on the web at:

[www.friendsofmedinacemetery.org](http://www.friendsofmedinacemetery.org)

## *Become a Friend of the Cemetery*

*"Show me the manner in which a nation or community cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the law of the land, and their loyalty to high ideals."*

*William Gladstone*



*Photo by Annette Miller*

Memberships are available as follows:

Senior _____	\$10.00	Supporting _____	\$100.00
Individual _____	\$15.00	Heritage _____	\$250.00
Family _____	\$25.00	Lifetime _____	\$500.00
Contributing _____	\$50.00	Corporate _____	\$1,000.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Membership enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:

Friends of the Cemetery • 445 W. Liberty Street • Suite 219 • Medina, OH 44256