



# Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery  
Winter 2011

## *Little Garden Club of Columbus Honors Founding Members with Major Gift*

Little Garden Club of Columbus, a member of the Garden Club of America, has awarded \$50,000 to the Friends of Green Lawn Cemetery. The gift commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Little Garden Club and honors its founding members for their dedication to gardening, conservation and civic beautification.

In 1961, fourteen young women joined together to launch the Little Garden Club. Families of the founders have been inter-woven for generations with the Friends of Green Lawn. Half of the founding members' families have lots at Green Lawn and more than a quarter of the present members can trace their families to Green Lawn. That history, coupled with the shared interest in nature and the beautification of public spaces, led to a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary project proposal that honors the past and protects our natural environment at Green Lawn for the future.

Green Lawn will use the award to improve the environment surrounding the pond, located in the heart of the 360-acre cemetery, and the historic bridge nearby. Removal of invasive plants will enhance the natural beauty of the area. Fourteen native species oak trees will be planted in honor of the Little Garden Club founders, in addition to 200 native shrubs. Benches will be added for the enjoyment of visitors. The Little Garden Club gift is a significant contribution toward our goals of maintaining the urban forest for future generations and improving this very special park's renowned birding environment.



The Friends of Green Lawn are proud to be working with members of the Little Garden Club in restoring the pond and bridge sites to their former glory. The synergy created as these two distinguished groups collaborate is matched only by the commitment to preserving the treasure that is Green Lawn. In this season of giving, we thank the Little Garden Club of Columbus for their generous lasting gift.

*From left: Little Garden Club members Kitty Young, Liz Taylor, Green Lawn General Manager Linda Burkey, and Twink Smith*

### **Puzzle**

Markers and monuments have a lot of trim on them. Do you know which popular landmark in Green Lawn has this trim? Check page 5 to see if you were correct.



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## *President's Message*

Green Lawn looks forward to 2012, our city's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, as a year of enhancement for our beautiful park. Much of the history of Columbus rests at Green Lawn, and we are participating in exciting plans to celebrate the Columbus Bicentennial. Leaders of the Columbus Landmarks Foundation and Green Lawn are discussing ways to share educational opportunities and increase community awareness of Green Lawn's historic and architectural treasures. Green Lawn partnered with the Capital Square Foundation to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Ohio Statehouse and its lead architect, Nathan Kelley, who is buried at the cemetery with no headstone. This spring, we will host the community at a ceremony to unveil a headstone and properly recognize Mr. Kelley at Green Lawn.

We look forward to collaborating with the Little Garden Club of Columbus in 2012 to maintain Green Lawn's urban forest and improve the cemetery's renowned birding environment. We will continue working to positively influence the long-term environmental impact of the proposed redevelopment of Cooper Stadium.

Green Lawn's full agenda requires strong leadership and we enthusiastically welcome three new members to our board of trustees — Joel Chester of Casto, Inc., Randy Rogers, a major in the Ohio Army National Guard, and Yolanda Vorys of Vorys law firm. They each bring new energy to the board and we appreciate their willingness to devote their time and talents. We are especially grateful to retiring board members Jim McCormac who served 14 years, Molly Morris for 10 years, and Jay Vorys for six years for their hard work and generosity during their years on the board. Thank you Jim, Molly and Jay for a job well done!

The volunteers of Green Lawn provided the gift of hospitality to our families and guests again in 2011. Please consider using the enclosed envelope to make your first or final gift of the year to help us keep this very special park beautiful. On behalf of the board, volunteers and staff, thank you for your investment and your friendship.

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year!

Christina Brown  
President

## *Wreaths Across America*



On December 10 wreaths decorated Circle M and Section 28, sites of graves of Civil War soldiers and veterans. These wreaths were part of the Wreaths Across America. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Franklin County Veterans Commission and Green Lawn organized the program, which also included music of the era. Wreaths were placed in honor of each branch of service as well as to honor the missing in action. The Franklin Heights Junior Navy ROTC, the Ohio State University synchronized swim team, Green Lawn Volunteers and people from the community assisted in placing wreaths.

### *Thank you Volunteers*

If you have visited Green Lawn lately, you may have noticed the improvements around the pond, or the pit as some call it.

Thanks to Scott Mansfield for recruiting fellow members of Troop 428 of Powell as he works toward his Eagle Scout ranking. With help from Tom Sheley of Wild Birds Unlimited and the Columbus Audubon Society, these young men refurbished the kiosk, cleared away brush and planted native spicebush and other shrubs.

On several other occasions this fall Green Lawn was fortunate to have volunteers.

At the left, Columbus Zoo Teens and Toledo Zoo Teens raked leaves in front of the office.

Below left is a former employee of the Make a Difference Day Ohio office painting the fence. Former MADD-O held a reunion at Green Lawn and painted the fence.

Below right is a member of the Wagnalls Weeders, a garden club from Fairfield County, who cut shrubbery at several locations.

We thank you all for your efforts.



## *Statehouse Architect to be Honored*

Nathan Kelley, an architect who worked on the Ohio Statehouse, is buried in Section I at Green Lawn in an unmarked grave. Come spring, he will have a special marker.

During preparations for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance of the Ohio Statehouse, workers found a slab of limestone left over from the remodeling some 15 years earlier.

The Capitol Square Foundation decided they would use that 800-pound piece of stone to pay tribute to Kelley, who died in 1871. Green Lawn will host a special ceremony in the spring for the placement and dedication of that marker.

Mark Passarello, a statehouse employee, shared Kelley's story at a First Saturday at Green Lawn program in July 2008. Early design work on the Statehouse had been done by several architects who had entered a contest. When work stalled, he said, Kelley was chosen the architect to finish the job.

The Capitol Square Foundation will recognize Kelley by placing a new marker at his gravesite. Workers at Columbus Art Memorial have etched the Ohio Statehouse on that piece of stone.

## *Thurber Remembered*

James Thurber was the most prolific writer to call Columbus his home town.

Shortly after leaving Ohio State University in 1917, he became a reporter for the *Columbus Dispatch* and wrote skits in the evenings. After marriage to Althea Adams, the couple moved to France where Thurber worked for the Paris edition of the *Chicago Tribune*.

Financially strapped, the couple came home and settled in New York where Thurber became a free lance writer. He met author E.B. White, and his writing career flourished.

Throughout his lifetime, he wrote nearly 40 books and some stage plays and movies. His play *The Male Animal* also became a hit movie. *A Thurber Carnival* won a Tony Award and *My World and Welcome to It* became a television series. His most popular book was *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*. Much of his work was illustrated with caricatures of his dogs.

Thurber died Nov. 2, 1961, in New York not long after he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. On the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing, the staff of the Thurber House and Thurber Board members visited his grave at Section 50, Lot 1, for a short remembrance ceremony.

*Meg Brown and Pat Shannon pause as Thurber House board member Barbara Tootle reads about the life of James Thurber on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing.*



## *Calendar of Events*

*First Saturday at Green Lawn, held the first Saturday of every month at 11 a.m. in the Huntington Chapel, takes a look at the lives of people interred here. Programs are free and open to the public*

**January 6** — First Saturday at Green Lawn. *Happy Birthday, Columbus.* Leaders of the Columbus Historical Society talk about the development of Columbus 200 years ago. Photo winners will be announced.

**February 4** — First Saturday at Green Lawn. *Neisley Shoes.* Granddaughters of G. Edwin Smith talk about his days of operating Neisley Shoes in Columbus in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**March 3** — First Saturday at Green Lawn. *The Lazarus Department Store.* Elise Walker and her parents Dave and Beverly Meyer researched and wrote the book *The Lazarus Department Store.* They'll share stories on that landmark and the Lazarus family.

**April 8** — Easter service in the Huntington Chapel, 7 a.m.

**May 5** — Join Hands Day, a day of multi-generational volunteering. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 614-266-5218 for information.



## *Answer to Puzzle*

The elegant trim in the front-page photo can be found on the base of the bronze statue of The Fisherman, the monument of Emil Ambos in Section 50 that faces the pond. A stop at The Fisherman is a request on tours.

## *Calendar Celebrates 200 Years of Columbus*

The 2012 Green Lawn calendar is a collector's item.

With the city of Columbus celebrating 200 years, the calendar carries a bicentennial theme. Each month has information about residents of the cemetery who played a role in the development of the city or a business there.

The calendar also features photos taken at Green Lawn and submitted in last year's photo contest.

You can purchase your calendar at the office or through a volunteer for \$10. You can also send a check for \$12 to the Green Lawn Volunteers and receive your copy in the mail. Or contact us on the website at [www.greenlawncolumbus.org](http://www.greenlawncolumbus.org).

We have also reproduced several photo contest entries into placemats. They depict some lovely scenes of Green Lawn. Placements can be purchased for \$5 in packages of four.

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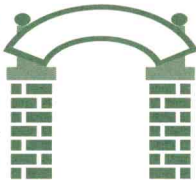


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**CEMETERY GATES**  
Open 7 Days/Week  
November-March  
7:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
April-October  
7:00 AM - 7:00 PM



**OFFICE**  
Monday - Friday  
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
Saturday  
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
Sunday  
Noon to 4:00 PM



**CHAPEL**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Saturday  
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Sunday  
Noon to 4 PM  
Closed Most Holidays



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***Green Lawn Heritage Newsletter***

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