

PASSAGES

ANCIENT BURYING GROUND ASSOCIATION, INC.

“Passing Connecticut’s Heritage from Generation to Generation”

Marty Flanders and Kathy Marr Honored with Hooker Award



The 2005 Thomas Hooker Award honorees Marty Flanders (3rd from left) and Kathy Marr (2nd from right) pose with program participants (l to r) Susan Rottner, President of Bank of America Connecticut, John Boyer, Executive Director of the Mark Twain House and Museum, Bob Hill, President of ABGA, and Shep Holcombe, ABGA Chairman. (Avignone photo)

On October 5, 2005, the Ancient Burying Ground Association presented its annual award honoring the memory of Hartford’s founder, the Reverend Thomas Hooker. The singular legacy of Thomas Hooker lies in the then-revolutionary concept he preached that a government derives its powers from the consent of the people, and the award bearing his name is presented each year to one or two individuals whose leadership has improved the quality of life in the Hartford community.

This year, the Thomas Hooker award was presented to two women with distinguished records of community service: Marty Flanders and Kathy Marr.

Marty’s activities have included the Board of Trustees of the Hartford Art School, President of Child and Family Services, Elector and Women’s Committee Board Member of the Wadsworth Atheneum, Auxiliary Board of the Institute for Living, Board Member of the Mark

Twain House & Museum, and fundraiser for the Connecticut Historical Society Museum and the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society; and we welcome her this year as a new member of the ABGA Board. “There are many wonderful organizations in need of volunteers in Hartford,” she later said. “And we’ve had a lot of fun, too.”

“I believe that when you have a lot, more is expected of you,” stated Kathy Marr. A successful interior decorator, Kathy has served on the Boards of the Connecticut River Museum in Essex, the Ivoryton Playhouse, the Hartford Art School, the Mark Twain House & Museum, where she served as Vice President and as head of the Collections Committee, and the Wadsworth Atheneum, where she was Vice President of the Women’s Committee and Chairman of the Costume and Textile Committee. She also chaired the Atheneum’s Austin House Committee during the final restoration of

Please turn to page 4

ABGA Welcomes New Board Members

ABGA is very fortunate to have five new board members: Marty Flanders, Nancy Pexa, Tom Seymour, Ty Tryon, and Judy Wawro.

Marty Flanders

Marty is a Hartford native and has served on many area arts, heritage and service organizations. (See page 1) She also loves gardening, racquet sports and Vermont.



Nancy Pexa

Nancy is a professional genealogist with a special interest in colonial New England research. She is currently Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution State Historian and Historian of the Oliver Ellsworth Homestead. She serves as registrar of several Connecticut lineage societies including Daughters of American Colonists, U.S. Daughters



of 1812, Women Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery, and Daughters of Colonial Wars. Nancy is a descendant of several of the first settlers of Hartford.

Tom Seymour

Tom was born in Hartford and has lived in greater Hartford almost all his life. He is a past president of the Yale Club of Hartford. He is currently auditing "Greening the Industrial Facility," a course at Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.



Ty Tryon

Ty has worked in the financial services and health insurance industries for over 25 years as a marketing communications professional.

Employers include The Travelers, MassMutual, Aetna and The Hartford. His personal interests include New

England, Connecticut and Hartford history, particularly discovering obscure and unmapped historical sites. Ty is currently researching and writing about his grandfather's World War I front-line combat experience with the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Among outdoor interests, Ty enjoys fresh and saltwater fly-fishing and leading group adventures such as spelunking, rappelling and orienteering. He is currently studying for his Maine Guide Sea Kayak license.



Judy Wawro

Judy Stoughton Wawro was born and brought up in West Hartford. She graduated from Oxford School, and from McGill University in Montreal. She worked briefly as a bacteriologist and doing cancer research. Judy has served as a member of the Junior League of Hartford, board member and President of the Community Council of the Capitol Region, member and Vice President of the Distribution Committee (now Board) of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, board member and President of the Connecticut Historical Society, member of the founding Board of Duncaster, Inc. Judy cares deeply about local history and works to keep this area a good place to live. She is also interested in art and all manner of things that make life exciting. She reports, "I still play tennis and occasional ridiculous golf, but think I may give up skiing."



Tree Dedicated in Honor of Dr. Allyn A. Martin



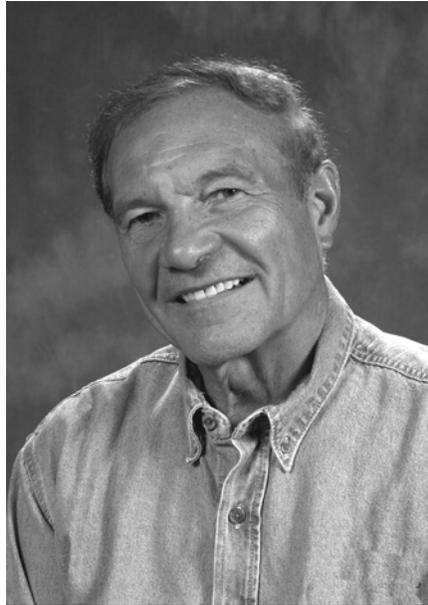
A redbud tree was planted on the south side of the Ancient Burying Ground before the 2005 Annual Meeting on June 8 in memory of the late Dr. Allyn Aubrey Martin, a former city councilman and husband of former ABGA board member Ionis Martin (center right with shovel). Among those attending the ceremony were (front row l to r) past ABGA president Ken Johnson, Charles Barrow, Elizabeth Kimble, Alyce Rawlins, Dr. Russell Martin (brother of Allyn Martin) and his wife Dr. Jean Martin, Ionis Martin, Barbara Clark (back row l to r) Shirley Freeman, Dr. Sedrick Rawlins, Allyn Martin (son of Dr. Allyn Martin), Oswald Sanders, Barbara Alleyne, and Shep Holcombe, ABGA chairman.

Message from the President

It is an honor to have been elected to serve as your Association's President, and I look forward to working with the newly expanded Board to preserve the Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground and to support educational and research opportunities at this historic site.

We will be carrying forward our ongoing projects and programs, and exploring new paths for fulfilling our mission:

- We continue to work with the collaborative Grounds Committee to address improvements to the burying ground through lighting, irrigation, landscaping and facilities upgrades.
- We are exploring the sponsorship of an essay contest in Hartford County public and private schools, the subject being a person buried in



ABGA President Bob Hill
the Burying Ground.

- New Board members Tom

Seymour and Ty Tryon are reviewing the condition of the stones and prioritizing our preservation efforts for the coming year.

- We continue to expand collaborations with educators, cultural and historical groups, tourism agencies, and the many organizations that care for the City of Hartford.

- Our web site is being expanded and has a new subtle change in address, the addition of "the": www.theancientburyingground.org.

Your Association could not function without the consistent and generous contributions from all our supporters. Please look for our 2005 Annual Appeal letter to arrive soon.

Thank you for your continuing support.

– Robert L. Hill, President

Robert L. Hill Named ABGA President

Our new President, Bob Hill, attended the Ohio State University Law School, from which he received a Juris Doctor degree. He was a corporate attorney for Aetna for some 19 years. He now represents a number of clients mostly on a pro bono basis. Bob chairs the Advocacy Leadership Committee of the AARP, which brings him into contact with many state legislators and U.S. Congressmen. He is also a member of the State Insurance Risk Management Board, a Corporator of the Hartford Hospital, a member of the 1892 Club and the Hartford Golf Club. He is a retired Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves and an active member of the Reserve Officers Association.

Bob was elected to the ABGA Board in 1998, and has served as a Vice President since 2001. He was active in the transfer of ownership of the 'White Tower Lot' to the City of Hartford and in the recent updating of the By-Laws. Bob resides in West Hartford with his wife Barbara.

Thanks to Ken Johnson

Kenneth D. Johnson has stepped down as President of ABGA and will remain on the board as a vice president. Ken served as president beginning in 1996 and led the organization through a period of substantial accomplishments, including the erection of the African-American monument, the restoration of 23 gravestones, development of a new brochure and the collaboration with Sister Cities to bring the statue of Samuel Stone to the ABG. It was Ken who recognized the old photograph of Governor Leete's lost grave marker and, working with Harmon Leete of the Leete Family Association, headed the project to install a replication of the stone in the Burying Ground.

Ken is the Executive Director of the Northside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (NINA), a two-year old collaborative devoted to rebuilding the city's historic Asylum Hill neighborhood. NINA has saved and restored historic houses, and promotes homeownership and public safety, as well as education and economic development, as steps to revitalize the area.



Ancient Burying Ground Association

Executive Board Members

Shepherd M. Holcombe Chairman
 Robert L. Hill President
 Kenneth D. Johnson Vice President
 Frederick W. Sawyer Vice President
 Anne Holcombe Secretary
 Raymond S. Nichols . . . Treasurer

Board Members

Martha D. Flanders
 Jon B. Harden
 W. Harmon Leete
 Jeffrey Marsted
 Nancy M. Pexa
 Thomas Seymour
 Ty Tryon
 Judith Wawro
 Walter W. Woodward

Ex Officio Board Members

The Honorable Eddie Perez
 The Reverend Richard Sherlock

ABGA Representative

Ruth Shapleigh-Brown

2005 Thomas Hooker Award Ceremony

Continued from Page 1

the Chick Austin House on Scarborough Street in Hartford.



Bob and Barbara Hill

“As a woman president of Bank of America Connecticut, it is an honor to share the company of two other women being honored for their leadership and community service,” stated Susan Rottner, President, Bank of America Connecticut, the event’s sponsor. The bank provided generous support to underwrite the costs of the event as well as use of its lobby on Main and Pearl Streets in downtown Hartford.

With chairs and a podium in place, it made an attractive and inviting spot with a large view of the Old State House and the statue of Thomas Hooker, and with ample room to circulate and talk to others. Over 75 people attended. ABGA

President Bob Hill read Official Statements issued and signed by Governor Rell recognizing the efforts of the honorees, followed by remarks from ABGA Chairman Shep Holcombe. Willard Holmes, Executive Director of the Wadsworth

Atheneum, and John Boyer, Executive Director of the Mark Twain House & Museum, presented glowing tributes to the honorees. Ann Howard presented Kathy and Marty with gifts marking the occasion of their awards. Each woman received a specially commissioned pin created by Hartford glass artist Dennis Peabody. Images from two of the cemetery’s headstones – the Ebenezer Watson stone, and the Seymour stone with the angel and scroll top – were transferred to glass, fired, and embedded in silver.

The ceremony reached its high point with a joint acceptance speech by Marty and Kathy featuring banter, stories, sincere expressions of honor and gratitude, and even snatches of song.

Following the ceremony was a reception with an



Francine Christenson, Roger Lawson and Lynne Lumsden



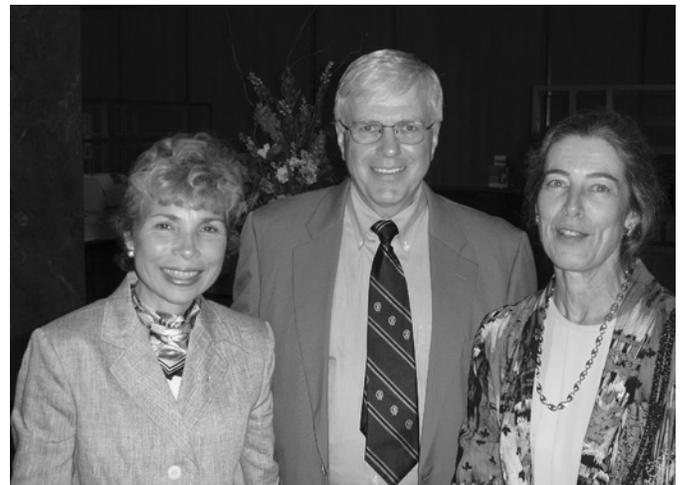
Atheneum director Willard Holmes and Harmon Leete

impressive variety of hors d’oeuvres and an opportunity to congratulate the award winners.

Photos by John Avignone and Jon Harden



ABGA board member Ty Tryon, Ruth Way, Ginny Way, and Ella House.



Ellen Nichols, ABGA treasurer Ray Nichols, and Anne Holcombe

Hartford's History Must Be Used To Build Our Future

ABGA members who attended the Annual Meeting in June were educated and entertained by Walt Woodward's talk "Learning from the Past, Or Running from It: History's Role in Hartford's Future." Some highlights follow.

"What can history do for Hartford – how can Hartford make use of its past – and to what degree should ever scarce resources be allocated to helping residents, visitors, and the world at large come to think of Hartford as Historic Hartford? The Hartford we leave as a legacy to future generations largely depends on the answers we provide for these questions. For history to warrant the attention that you and I devote to it, it should have significant social value. I believe we who love history do so because we have a deep sense that studying and preserving the past serves some vital purpose other than, as a history critic once said, "telling more and more about less and less."

"Nor would I want to trust the future of this city to someone who was ignorant of the reasons this city was founded, and of the important role the people buried in this ancient burying ground played in establishing the foundations of a governmental form that was to become uniquely American. When Thomas Hooker asserted near this very spot, on May 1, 1638, that the foundation of authority lay in "the free consent of the people," he asserted a claim about democracy that Jefferson would refine at Philadelphia more than a century later, and Lincoln would confirm at Gettysburg a century after that. If Hartford can claim, then, to be the first seat of democratic political thought in America, is that historic and worthy of recognition? It is for Philadelphia, and for Gettysburg, but it is a question not yet answered for our home.

"Hartford has the distinction of creating one of the first and only recorded documents calling for the genocidal extinction of a people. The Treaty of Hartford, which ended the Pequot war in 1638, called literally for the Pequot tribe to be extinguished from existence. All survivors of the war were sold into Caribbean slavery, or divided up and given as war spoils to Mohicans, Narragansetts, or English.

"Additionally, Hartford has the distinction of being one of the first cities where secession from the United States was actively and hotly debated. In 1815, New England's Federalists, sick of the crisis created by the war of 1812, and convinced that Madison's policies were absurd, demanded certain reforms and threatened that New England would pull out of the Union if they weren't met. They did this, it must be added, with incredibly bad timing. For only days after the convention, news arrived of both the Treaty of Ghent, ending the war, and Andrew Jackson's victory at the Battle of New Orleans, making the war seem an American triumph. The Federalists were disgraced, and the party never recovered. Does it matter that four decades before the Civil War New Englanders and not South Carolinians insisted on their right to secede. And that they did so in Hartford? Where is that story made clear?

"Of course, on the plus side of moral lessons, Hartford also has a significant positive history. Harriet Beecher Stowe, whom Lincoln called "the little lady who wrote the book that started this great big war," spent most of her life



writing here in Hartford. And today, the Harriet Beecher Stowe center lives its mission of promoting social justice through historical knowledge every single day. Next door, the Mark Twain house and museum also celebrates one of America's great authors, satirists, and social progressives.

"Here in Hartford, the abolitionist John Brown came to the African American daguerrotypist Augustus Washington to have a photograph in which he is seen pledging to fulfill his promise to fight to the death to end slavery. And when the campaign against slavery led to a war to save the union, Hartford sent its sons to both glory and death. Today in Bushnell Park, the Civil War Memorial Arch marks the glory, while on the State Capitol grounds, the Andersonville Boy laments the terrible cost.

"But even as Hartford sent its sons to war, and used the genius of its American system industrialists to provide them weapons, it also had its share of anti-emancipation Copperheads. Throughout the long Civil War, the Hartford Times waged a vigorous campaign to preserve the status quo before the war. And it waged that campaign continuously, because the questions of moral justice were then, as now, complex and contested. But where is Hartford's story told in all its richness and complexity?

"Last week, a new and important chapter in Hartford's history began, with the opening of our new convention center. It's going to bring hundreds of thousands of new faces to our city every year, people as curious about our city as they are about our center. And there is no doubt that we have an important story – no dozens and dozens of important stories to tell them – using our architecture, our cityscape, our museums, our monuments and gravestones, our signs, our celebrations, and our voices.

"Can we rise to the challenge, and working together take all the elements this incredibly diverse and historic city possesses, to create an impression about Hartford that is greater than the sum of its parts? That uses our proud histories to make a profound statement about our future prospects?

"I believe we can; and in fact, I believe the work is well under way. Hartford recently passed an important and significant historic preservation law, that will do much to help preserve what Richard Moe, the President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, calls 'the best stock of historic architecture' in the country.

"Hartford's King Kahns – David and Ken, Historical Society and Arts Council, have been focusing the efforts of their respective organizations on the work of communicating Hartford's stories in compelling and commanding ways. The collaboration between the Arts Council, the City, and the Ancient Burying Ground Association to create improved landscaping, wayfinding, and walkways in the ancient burying ground is an example of the kind of work that is – and needs to be – taking place all around Hartford. "There is much to do to turn our city into "a city upon a hill." It is work that will necessarily take time, and produce results in fits and starts. But if each of us does our own small part, we can achieve so much. Sometimes, more than we ever thought."

Burying Ground Continues to Provide Window to the Past

Students Featured in CPTV Documentary

Billie Anthony and her Bloomfield middle school students were videotaped this fall as they learned about those buried in the Ancient Burying Ground. As a Hartford schoolteacher, Mrs. Anthony worked with the ABGA Summer Tour Guide program and, along with a group of students, pursued the research on African-Americans buried in the cemetery that culminated in the creation of the African-American monument in 1998.

Each year, Billie Anthony brings a new group of students to Hartford to visit the Old State House, the Ancient Burying Ground and other sites. This Fall, the tour was videotaped as part of the documentary "Complicity: Connecticut's Role in the Slave Trade," to be aired on CPTV November 21st and again in February.

Billie feels strongly that visits to the ABG and other sites should be a part of every student's curriculum. Teaching history through local places reinforces the connections between the past and the present and enlivens the lessons.



Billie Anthony teaches her students about the life of African Americans in early Hartford.

ABGA Representative Uses ABG as Learning Tool for Local Students

The end of the school year always brings lots of visitors and school groups to the Ancient Burying Ground. This spring we met classes from Trinity College, South Windsor Elementary, and Batchelder Elementary in Hartford. When the Batchelder group came on June 16th, ABGA Representative Ruth Shapleigh-Brown and their teacher had prepared material to introduce the students to the old burying ground and also to inspire their imaginations to get a sense of what Hartford may have looked like in colonial days.

Their first exercise was to measure out the boundaries of the first meetinghouse. The entire class gathered inside this sixteen by twenty-four foot area in order to experience the fact that this would have served as a meetinghouse for the business of the community as well as church on Sundays, and most amazingly, would have held the bulk of the population of Hartford at that time.

Ruthie also gave the students copies of a report that outlined the highlights of her talk, in the hopes that the information would be brought home and shared with family members. She encouraged them to bring their families back to visit and show them the gravesites and share the stories that they heard. Ruthie was very pleased to hear later, from the teacher, that several students were still asking questions the next week and had indeed taken their stories home with them.

Ruthie blended the modern day world into ABG's history by pointing out the gravestones where so many children had died in one family. She also talked about the stone marking the 1775 schoolhouse disaster, in which several young men died while getting explosives for a celebration.



ABGA Representative Ruth Shapleigh-Brown makes history come alive for students from Batchelder School.

Interest in and support for our cemeteries have always come from those who were proud of their heritage. Finding ways to reach out to their descendants is one way to support the cause; another is finding ways to bring today's youth into the world of our past.

During the spring tour visits Ruthie extends an inquisitive greeting to both local visitors and tourists. This spring Ruthie met folks from Tennessee, Virginia, Wyoming, Washington, Maryland and Georgia, as well as local out of towners, who have all come to visit this popular piece of New England history.

Ruth Shapleigh-Brown is available to give tours of the Ancient Burying Ground. To inquire, please call Anne Holcombe, 860-228-1517.

Grounds Committee “Main Street Entrance” Project News

Eddy Yews Planted by Garden Club of Hartford

The Garden Club of Hartford has joined the project to enhance the Main Street entrance to the Burying Ground. Working with City of Hartford Forester John Kehoe and Grounds Committee member Gene Goodwin, the Club chose five columnar Yews grown by Roger Eddy, husband of former Garden Club member Deb Eddy. GCH will dedicate nine trees in celebration of their 90th anniversary, and in remembrance of all past members. The Eddys also will be remembered as these trees grow and add an elegant presence alongside three recently planted Ginkgo trees.

Main Street Entrance Project Overview

The Main Street entrance project began in 2003 with the reintegration of the ‘White Tower Lot’ into the burying ground, giving the opportunity to create a landscape plan that would include the whole Main Street side of the cemetery and provide a site for the statue of Hartford co-founder Samuel Stone. The plans include irrigation for the open lawn on Main Street, illumination for the whole Burying Ground, to set off this jewel of downtown Hartford, and historical signage to introduce visitors to this valued resource. Design plans for the brick walk and terrace around the Samuel Stone statue are now underway.

Thank You!

The ongoing project to develop the Main Street entrance and enhance the entire Ancient Burying Ground is a collaborative effort involving the City of Hartford, the Greater Hartford Arts Council, and Hartford-Hartford Sister Cities, as well as the members of the Grounds Committee and the ABGA Board. In addition, the ABGA thanks the following for their generous support:

The Alexander A. Goldfarb Trust

The Ensworth Charitable Foundation

Joel B. Alvord	Ellsworth S. Grant
Max and Sally Belding	Arnold Greenberg
Mrs. J. Noyes Crary	Eunice Groark
Ethel F. Davis	Fred and Kitty Watkins
Stanley W. Dimock	Wilson and Joanne Wilde
James F. English	



ABGA President Bob Hill; Garden Club of Hartford member Donna Stout, who chairs the 90th anniversary celebration; and Mally Cox-Chapman and Joyce Magee, co-chairs of the GCH Civic Projects Committee.

Fundraising

Our ambitious plans for this major project call for continued fundraising and your donation to the Grounds Committee is welcome. Please make your check payable to the Greater Hartford Arts Council, which is managing the project, PO Box 231436, Hartford, CT 06123-1436. Please annotate your check “Ancient Burying Ground Fund” to assign your donation to the project.

Brick Walkway

You can be a part of this historic site and contribute to the ‘dressing up’ of the Main Street entrance by purchasing a brick with a personalized inscription. Any organization, institution, business, school, event, special date, anniversary, or “message to future generations” (with board review) may be placed in this walkway to help support this endeavor. Each Hartford Brick will be custom engraved and be placed in the central pathway leading into the burying ground.

Leave a Lasting Impression — Buy a Brick in ABG Entrance

15 characters per line, a space counts as a character. One line \$50, two lines \$75 and three lines \$100.

In case we have questions please provide us with:

Your name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Please mail your check payable to: The Greater Hartford Arts Council— Bricks, P.O. Box 231436, Hartford, CT 06123-1436. Payment can also be made by Visa or Master Card:

Name on card _____ Card Number _____ Exp _____

In Memory of Roy Kennedy Durant

Roy Durant was born in Barbados and passed away this August 23rd, at the age of 77. Roy worked at Center Church for 36 years and was a part of the church family. While there, he kept a watchful eye on the Burying



Ground, often opening the gates on Sundays. His friendly greetings at the Church house and his wise words were always enjoyed, and his much-appreciated help with tasks in the cemetery will be remembered.

Contact Us

For more information about the Ancient Burying Ground Association, or to make a contribution, please contact us.

Please note the changes in our email, web site address and telephone number.

Telephone: (860) 233-4451

Email: abg_email@theancientburyingground.org

PO Box 231257, Hartford, CT 06123-1257

www.theancientburyingground.org

Gifts of securities may be made through:

Ned Steiger

Trust Company of Connecticut

100 Pearl Street, Hartford, CT 06103

860-293-4141

Volunteer Opportunities

The Ancient Burying Ground is a lovely downtown park, filled with glimpses of Hartford's past and introductions to the art and culture and individual lives of 17th and 18th century Connecticut. The Ancient Burying Ground Association seeks to preserve and maintain this treasured historic site, and to support learning in connection with the cemetery's art and history.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Education
- Genealogical and historical research
- Gravestone preservation
- Newsletter writing and production
- Please contact us at 228-1517, or abg_email@theancientburyingground.org

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