



**The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery  
2022 Annual Report  
March, 2023**

Each year our Annual Report provides us with an opportunity to give our members and the community a brief description of our numerous activities during the preceding year. As an all-volunteer organization, these milestones are a testament to the dedication of our volunteers and the support of our members.

**Restoration**

Restoration is one of the 2 major activities of the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. This initiative is supported by funds from membership, donations, and grants. 82% of FOMH expenditures was used for cemetery restoration in 2022.

**Gravestone Restoration Projects in 2022**

- Section C along the ridge  
2022 was the final year of a project to repair all the gravestones in areas contiguous to the Susan B. Anthony gravesite. The last section, an area along the ridge of the hill above the Old Chapel, completed this project. Funds for this restoration came from the Baum Family Foundation.
- Section T/V  
All the gravestones were repaired in Section T and V. This project was financed by a grant from the Lloyd Klos Historical Fund of the Rochester Area Community Foundation matched by funds from the FOMH.
- Section S  
This area, across from Sylvan Waters, is the location of a large B'rith Kodesh plot. It also includes an area for general burials which extends west to Mount Hope Avenue. Seven cradle graves are included in this section. Funding for this section came from FOMH funds plus a generous donation of \$5000 for historic restoration from our supporters in Palm Springs, CA.
- Range 3/1  
This area is the first of a multiyear project to repair all the Jewish sections of Mount Hope. It is located on Grove Avenue on the corner of Greenleaf Avenue. This area is the location of many cradle graves which have already been repaired. This effort is supported by a grant from Ames Amzalak Foundation.
- Rau Mausoleum area  
Many gravestones in this area were loose or had fallen over. We needed to stabilize this area because it provided a background for our Fringe Festival production.
- The iconic Civil War Monument designed by Sally James Farnham was rewaxed and restored. This project was supported by funds from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp #6, SUVCW Charitable Foundation, Pomeroy Foundation, and the FOMH.

**Save a Stone Project**

Often members or citizens volunteer to pay to have our experts professionally repair or clean a gravestone. We welcome their enthusiasm and generosity. Communicate with us via "Contact us" for further information about this opportunity.

**Cleaning Stones**

Our stone cleaning committee worked twice a month cleaning gravestones using a solution called Wet and Forget. We have used this process for several years, and it has proved effective in removing biological residue from stones. This committee, with 28 active volunteers, completed just over 250 hours of work and sprayed about 5,000 headstones and brushed stones in Sections A and B.

Their work was assisted by the Eagle Scout project of Matthew Cudzillo which provided 20 volunteers for our last workday. Three generations of the Cudzillo family were among our most active volunteers. Several of our generous volunteers donated funds and material. This committee was led by Valerie O'Hara and Julie Thomas. Special thanks to Mayer Hardware for their support and donations.

### **Cradle Grave Program**

In its fourth year, the cradle grave program continued to grow, featuring 133 gardeners maintaining 232 cradle graves. The annual Cradle Garden Picnic was celebrated in August 2022, featuring refreshments and the distribution of free plants. New hose extensions were added at the gatehouse and a hose reel was placed on Grove Ave at Range 3 to assist gardeners in that area. Robbie Dreeson is chair of this committee.

### **Care for Gardens and Trees**

FOMH volunteers maintained eleven garden plots and four planters in the cemetery. Mary Olinger led our gardening group working in the fountain area. FOMH provided funds for the annual professional treatment of five iconic trees that were gifts of the Ellwanger Barry nurseries in 1848. FOMH volunteers also maintained the Anthony Family plot. Two new trees were planted in addition to crab apples, dogwoods, azaleas, rhododendrons, and a snowbell.

### **Landscape Volunteers**

Our many landscape volunteers led by Tom Jones and Chris Petote worked in collaboration with the City of Rochester on projects which were suggested in the City's Master Plan. Every week our teams were hard at work. The City's Second Saturday Program of volunteers is operated by the FOMH. 2022 volunteer cleanup efforts (Second Saturday and volunteer groups) put in a total of 440 hours of community service.

Removing invasive species, one of the projects of the Friends, was begun in earnest in 2022. We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic group of volunteers working on this initiative led by Susan Andersen.

### **Speakers Bureau**

2022 featured six opportunities for community outreach where FOMH tour guides would speak to local groups on a topic that they had researched.

### **Holocaust Project**

Our work in 2022 was highlighted by the Holocaust Project commemorating Holocaust survivors buried at Mount Hope. Sixty-four biographies of these survivors have been researched and published on our FOMH website. After a successful fundraising effort, a Holocaust monument was designed and erected in Range 7. This area will be officially dedicated in May, 2023. The Holocaust Committee is led by Marcia Birken and Marjorie Searl.

### **2022 Tour Program**

Our 2022 tour program featured over 100 tours for the season. The tour program is led by co-chairs Deb Coffey and Dennis Carr.

In addition to Theme Tours, Twilight Tours, and Sunday tours from July through October, we conducted three highly successful ensemble tours. Each of the programs had a unique theme that connected the stops and stories together.

- The Man Behind the Camera: George Eastman
- Civil War: Stories from the Fields of Glory
- From the Beyond: Tales of Melancholy, Grief & Tragedy (a fund raiser)

New in 2022 was an expansion of private tours, where families or groups of friends would schedule a special tour at their convenience. School tours and organizational tours continued. For the first time the FOMH operated regularly-scheduled tram tours.

### **Mourning in the Morning**

We are very excited and proud of our Mourning in the Morning program. This collaboration with the Rochester Public Library has allowed our members to share their research beyond the Rochester community. Each of these one-hour presentations are available on our website. Presenters in 2022 were Dennis Carr, Sally Millick, Sarah Johnson, Marcia Birken, Marjorie Searle, and Rose O'Keefe.

### **Publications**

FOMH printed and distributed to all members four issues of its acclaimed *Epitaph* magazine. Serving on this transitional team were Kristine Klein, Sarah Johnson, Joanne Mitchell, Cynthia Howk, Patricia Corcoran, Mary Ellen Capineri, Marjorie Searl, and Dennis Carr.

### **Genealogical Services**

As a free, volunteer service to the public, FOMH responded to inquiries for burial and other information, typically from family members and descendants of persons buried in the cemetery. During 2022, FOMH genealogist Nancy Uffindell received 95 requests and researched 206 names, receiving many accolades for her immediate responses and outstanding research.

### **Public Relations**

FOMH maintains an active up-to-date website managed by Kristine Klein and a Facebook page kept current by Chris Petote. Throughout 2022, FOMH communicated with the public via outreach to local newspapers, radio, and TV outlets and reached its members via email alerts (Constant Contact). Our PR chair and Zoom specialist was Pat Sorce, who has since relocated to Florida. We are currently looking for a Public Relations chair.

### **Membership**

At the end of December 2022, we had 492 members. Many of our members have taken advantage of joining FOMH or renewing their membership through our website. We are grateful for the generosity of our members, and hope to continue to build our membership numbers in 2023. Membership chair is Kristine Klein.

### **Bluebird Project**

Mount Hope Cemetery is proud to be a "Certified Wildlife Habitat." Our Bluebird Project is part of this initiative. In 2006, 12 nest boxes were placed in the best habitat areas for encouraging bluebirds. Our bluebird project continues today. We are so grateful to Sheryl Gracewski and her team of volunteers who monitor our nests and write us a final report each year. This group monitors our flying squirrel and red-tailed hawk population as well. Sheryl's report for 2022 is available on our website.

**In conclusion, in 2022 people throughout the community and afar continued to visit Mount Hope in unprecedented numbers. Members worked on their cradle graves, participated in work projects, attended tours, and expressed their creativity through virtual programs and research.**

**A highlight of our 2022 season was our collaboration with the Fringe Festival in presenting "When the Souls Rise," produced and directed by Ann Wilcox with music by Ward Hartenstein. Over 1000 people joined us in three presentations of this creative dance/theater production.**

**Patricia Corcoran  
President**

Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery  
Financial Information – 2022

Throughout 2022, the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery continued to build upon financial advancements started in 2021. FOMH's membership revenues continued to increase, as did tour revenues. Donations were also very strong. Because FOMH is an all-volunteer organization with low overhead expenses and uses a building (the 1874 Gatehouse) provided by the Cemetery, FOMH is able to devote a high percentage of its revenues to cemetery improvements.

FOMH's investment assets, plus five FOMH trust account designated for specific mausoleums and family plots, plus one endowment account, are managed by the Rochester Area Community Foundation. As is well known, 2022 was a bad year for equity investments.

FOMH operates on a "cash basis" that produces different results from an accrual system, as restricted funds (both grants and designated donations) are recorded in the year received, though all monies are always spent as designated. FOMH started 2022 with \$32,201 of previously received grants and donations, received \$71,729 in additional grants and restricted donations, expended \$60,118 of these monies in 2022, and will have \$43,812 in restricted funds for Cemetery Improvements at the start of 2023.

FOMH ended 2022 with investment assets of \$206,911 (excluding trust and endowment accounts).

*The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery (FOMH) utilizes a CPA firm to prepare IRS Form 990 and NYS CHAR 500 and to provide accounting advice. Treasurer Henry McCartney, a volunteer with over 35 years of nonprofit management experience, oversees FOMH's finances.*

| 2022 Income                | FOMH          | %    | Trusts        |
|----------------------------|---------------|------|---------------|
| Membership                 | 32066         | 21%  |               |
| Merchandise                | 3739          | 2%   |               |
| Grants                     | 14500         | 10%  |               |
| Tours & Events             | 23739         | 16%  |               |
| Contributions              | 76337         | 51%  |               |
| subtotal                   | <u>150381</u> | 100% |               |
| Investments and Interest   | <u>-44161</u> |      | <u>-65731</u> |
| Total Revenues             | 106220        |      | -65731        |
| <b>2022 Expenses</b>       |               |      |               |
| General/Admin              | 7179          | 5%   |               |
| Merchandise                | 1228          | 1%   |               |
| Tour & Event Expense       | 2344          | 2%   |               |
| Web/Education              | 5468          | 4%   |               |
| Newsletter                 | 7577          | 6%   |               |
| CEMETERY<br>IMPROVEMENTS   | <u>109375</u> | 82%  | <u>2118</u>   |
| Total Expenses             | 133171        | 100% | 2118          |
| Net before Investments     | 17210         |      | -2118         |
| Net with Investment losses | -26951        |      | -67849        |