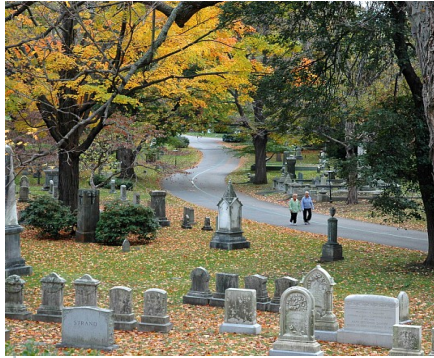




Why is Channing Important?

William Ellery Channing (1780-1842) was one of the most significant religious thinkers of the nineteenth century, and the spiritual leader of American Unitarians. In his sermons from the pulpit of the Federal Street Church in Boston he gave voice to the supreme dignity of human nature, an unflinching advocacy of the free mind, and a mystical sense of imminent divinity. His influence in the fields of religion, literature and social ethics extended far beyond sectarian boundaries. His spiritual vision of a world made one continues to be seen in his allegiance to “the great family of all souls.”



About Mount Auburn Cemetery

Mount Auburn Cemetery, founded in 1831, was the first large-scale designed landscape in North America open to the public.

A National Historic Landmark and accredited arboretum, Mount Auburn’s beauty, historical associations, architecture, monuments, landscapes, and horticultural collections are internationally renowned. Mount Auburn’s monuments tell the stories of more than 98,000 individuals who are buried at the Cemetery, representing a local and national community that embraces many faiths, races, and ethnicities.

www.mountauburn.org

580 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

William Ellery Channing

*Help Honor
His Memory*



Photograph © Greg Heins, 2014.

Channing Monument

Mount Auburn
Cemetery



An Important Monument in Need of Care

The monument to the Reverend William Ellery Channing, a social reformer, author, and one of New England's leading clergymen, was designed by painter and poet Washington Allston, Channing's brother-in-law. Allston created a simplified Neoclassical design for the memorial, which was carved by local stone carver Alpheus Cary.

Today, the monument is stained from pollutants and biological growth. Lichen and green algae obscure the inscription and detract from the once-polished white marble, and the surfaces are covered with a thin network of cracks. Conservation treatment will stabilize the stone, preserve the sculptural elements and inscription, and ensure the long-term survival of this important Unitarian memorial.



Dr. Channing's Monument. Engraving by James Smillie, 1847. Courtesy of Mount Auburn Cemetery.

In the fall of 2015 the Channing monument was inspected and assessed by conservators from Daedalus, Inc. Proposed conservation treatment will include gentle washing with soft brushes to reduce the soiling, filling cracks and joints. Washing, pointing, and repair will be performed by trained and experienced conservators. After treatment, the Channing monument will be monitored regularly by Mount Auburn's preservation staff. Although stopping the degradation of stone entirely is not possible, Cemetery staff and professional conservators are confident in their ability to stabilize the stone and extend the life of the historic monument.

Although Mount Auburn Cemetery has an endowment that provides operating funds for general maintenance of its grounds, some individual lots, and buildings, this restricted endowment support was not intended and is not available to cover additional costs of extraordinarily demanding and critical conservation projects. This remains one of the Cemetery's biggest challenges in caring for its monument collections.

Q & A

How can I help?

Please send donations to "UUHHS", indicating support of Channing's Monument, to:

**UU History & Heritage Society
670 High St.
Dedham, MA 02066**

How much is needed?

It is estimated that \$15,000 will be needed to conserve the Channing monument. The Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery (a 501c3 organization) is seeking to fund half the project costs in donations.

How was the monument originally funded?

A committee from the Federal Street Congregation (now the Arlington Street Church) in Boston raised \$1,780 from 112 members. The sum was sufficient to erect a monument and to leave a moderate surplus that helped to fund its care for several decades.

Several Unitarian Universalist ministers, the Reverends Mark Harris, Stephanie May, and Rosemarie Smurzynski are leading this effort to invite the UU world to participate in honoring a foundational figure.

For more information contact:

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