



SOCGRAM

September - October, 2007

Board of Directors

President

Allain Hardin

President-Elect/Treasurer

Melanie Martin

Secretary

Torie Kranze

V.P. Education

Michael Duplantier

V. P. Membership

René J. L. Fransen

Chief Financial Officer

Thomas G. Krentel

Legal Counsel

John H. Ryan

Kelly Bienvenu

Edward Bonin

Richard Briede

Mark Britz

Brian Chamberlain

Angie Cavanaugh Green

Ann Heslin

Yancey Jones

Mimi Koch

Bari Landry

Christine Overby

Larry Schmidt

Helen Smith

Adam Stevenson

Bill Young

Richard Young

Advisory Board

Cathy Alford

Mary Louise Christovich

Bret A. Clesi

John Geiser III

Alfred Lemmon

Paul Masinter

Jan Booth North

Louise S. Ripley

Francis J. Schultz

Board Emeritus

Michael Boudreaux

André de La Barre

Steven Rutledge

Margie Scheuermann

Executive Director

Louise Fergusson Saenz

All Saints Soirée 2007 – Join Us to Celebrate the Free Spirits of New Orleans



SOC President Allain Hardin and wife Pauline, Soiree Co-chair Kristen Smith with Dann Cahoon, and Soiree Co-chair Ann Heslin with Honorary Chair Sidney D. Torres IV in St. Louis Cemetery No. I. © 2007 Robert S. Brantley.

You are invited to join us for a gala event to benefit the preservation programs of SOC. The 21st All Saints Soirée, to be held **Saturday, October 20, 2007**, is planned to be a glorious evening complete with fabulous cuisine, entertainment and a silent auction. Save Our Cemeteries thanks Mr. and Mrs. Daniel O. Conwill IV for graciously opening their beautiful Audubon Boulevard home for the Soirée.

Fine culinary delights from Emeril's Delmonico Restaurant and Bar and entertainment by The Last Straws will delight Patrons from 7 to 8 o'clock. Acme Oyster House, Aurora Catering, Creole Creamery, Galatoire's, One Restaurant and Lounge, Pascal's Manale and Semolina's Bistro Italia will provide

delicious delicacies for the Soirée (8 to 11 o'clock). International Latin musical sensation, Freddy Omar Con Su Banda, will keep everyone on the dance floor.

This event is the largest benefit event for Save Our Cemeteries, and we ask you to join us for this wonderful evening. Patron Party tickets are \$100 per person (inclusive of the Patron Party and Soirée). Soirée tickets are \$60 per person for non-members and \$50 per person for current SOC members. Purchase your tickets today by calling the SOC office at 504-525-3377 or visiting the SOC website www.saveourcemeteries.org. Thank you for your support! We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, October 20.

SOC Mourning Lecture

SOC will be presenting our final lecture of 2007 on Tuesday morning, October 23rd. In anticipation of All Saints Day in November, we have chosen a slightly different format for our final program, which we know you will enjoy. At 8:30 AM, a coach will depart from Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home and Cemeteries, 5100 Pontchartrain Blvd., to bring guests to St. Joseph Plantation in Vacherie, Louisiana. Upon arrival, historian Ann Masson will present a lecture on 19th Century Mourning in Louisiana, featuring some of the interesting mourning jewelry and attire she has collected. Attendees will then be guided on a Mourning Tour of the plantation. Following the tour, lunch will be served. The coach will return to New Orleans by 3:00 PM.



**Mourning Tour of St. Joseph Plantation
Lecture by Ann Masson on 19th Century Mourning in Louisiana**

**Tuesday, October 23
8:30 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Reservations must be made and paid by Thursday, October 18th -
\$35 for SOC members, \$40 for non-member includes the lecture,
tour, lunch and round trip transportation.**

In the early days of the 18th and 19th century, the Creoles of Louisiana were predominantly of French, German and Spanish descent. These families, whose parents and grandparents had settled in New Orleans and the surrounding areas of South Louisiana were all Roman Catholic. Their religion was woven deeply into the fabric of their daily lives. On Sundays, buggies were full of families making their way to the various Catholic Parish Churches to attend Mass. Images of Jesus, Mary, St. Joseph and the other Saints were as much a part of the decorations of these homes as the pictures of family members. A *Prie Dieu* was visible in every bedroom. Morning, evening, and before meal prayers, rosaries and holy candles also made up the

patterns of daily life in these homes. In the city and on the plantation, these customs were devoutly followed.

In death as in life, these Catholic families of old Louisiana practiced customs and rituals that were followed for generations by their ancestors. Of course with the much shorter life expectancy of those days, family members were in mourning a considerable amount of their life. A widow would be in deep mourning for a whole year. Black garments were required at all times. Black dress of a reflective nature could be worn but only after the first six months. Children and servants were also required to dress the part.

— continued, page 3

**Welcome New Members
(from New Orleans unless
otherwise noted)**

Ms. Kathryn E. Baxter
Ms. Mary Blount - Kenner, LA
Ms. Claire Burkley
Mr. Bryan Camp
Ms. Diane Celento/Rochester
Travel Group - Rochester, NY
Ms. Lisa Crossman
Ms. Bobette B. Dudley -
Metairie, LA
Mr. Robert Evans - Metairie, LA
Ms. Heidi Fabian
Ms. Coni Gracianette -
Kenner, LA
Ms. Denise Malo - Metairie, LA
Ms. Connie Landry -
Metairie, LA
Ms. Joanna M. Lightell -
Metairie, LA
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Lindsley
Ms. Holly McLachlan -
Mandeville, LA
Ms. Kelly Maier -
The Woodlands, TX
Ms. Sally Martinez -
Metairie, LA
Ms. Beth Anne Merida
Ms. Peggy Messina
Ms. Arlene Montgomery
Mr. Danny G. Moody -
Fuquay-Varina, NC
Mr. & Mrs. John Parham
Ms. Louise Pemberton
Ms. Adrienne Petrosini
Ms. Phyllis M. Schleismann -
Metairie, LA
Ms. Susan Sperry - Metairie, LA
Ms. Lisa Stejr - Kenner, LA
Ms. Lauren Thomas
Ms. Poppy Tooker
Ms. Marcella Ursin -
Metairie, LA
Ms. Marta Vincent
Ms. Terry Wiss - Kenner, LA

Mourning *(continued from page 2)*



Holy Days were also very important and November 1st, All Saints' Day, (*La Toussant*), was one of the most celebrated Holy Days of the year. Weeks before, family tombs were cleaned, repaired, and white-washed in preparation of this much anticipated annual event.

On All Saints' Day, whole families could be seen visiting their family tombs. Families and friends visited with the living as well as paid respects to the departed. This custom, although modified somewhat by modern life, is still very strong in South Louisiana today.

The plantation home will be dressed in "deep mourning". Black crepe drape and wreath will adorn the front doors. Pianos and organ will be closed and mirrors will be covered.



Each room of the plantation home will be decorated according to the prescribed customs.

Incorporated into the regular house tour, St. Joseph Plantation family members and friends will explain the old customs and rituals, which are all so very important in understanding the rich history and culture of Old Creole Louisiana and should not be forgotten.

Call for Volunteers

Save Our Cemeteries has several events planned for this fall and we need your help. Volunteer opportunities:

Saturday evening, October 20th
All Saints Soirée
shifts between 6:30PM and 11:30PM

Thursday, November 1st
All Saints' Day
shifts between 9AM and 2PM

Sunday, November 4th
A Run through History 5K
shifts between 8AM and 11AM

Friday, November 9th
Uncorked! . . . A Taste of Canal Place
shifts between 6:30PM and 8:30PM



Promising to be even bigger and better than ever, the sixth annual A Run Through History will breeze through historic Metairie Cemetery on **Sunday, Nov. 4, 2007**. Thousands of runners and walkers will once again enjoy their journey through the famous landmark cemetery course.

The annual race is hosted by the New Orleans Track Club and Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home and Cemeteries. It is open to walkers and runners and benefits Save Our Cemeteries, Inc. Benny Maygarden will provide musical entertainment, and WWL-TV's Bill Capo will serve as master of ceremonies.

The one-mile run/walk begins at 8:30 a.m. followed by the 5K race at 9 a.m. Entry fees are \$18 for NOTC members and \$20 for non-members who register by Oct. 29; \$10 for youths aged 15 and under who register by Oct. 29. Entry fees after Oct. 29 are \$25 for adult entrants and \$15 for youths. A \$20 no-T-shirt registration fee is available on race day.

After the race, area restaurants and businesses will satisfy participants' hunger and quench their thirst with a wide variety of scrumptious food and drinks. In addition, for a minimal donation, Save Our Cemeteries volunteers will share their love of cemetery history by leading guided walking tours through select areas of the renowned cemetery. All proceeds will benefit SOC.

For more information, call the NOTC at **504-467-8626** or visit the NOTC Web site at www.runNOTC.org.

Culinary History Tours of Metairie Cemetery

Join SOC for our newest tour!

Save Our Cemeteries has developed a Culinary History Tour of Metairie Cemetery in conjunction with the New Orleans Culinary and Cultural Preservation Society. The one hour guided bus tour, will be held on **Sunday, October 7 and Sunday, October 28 at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM both days.**

The Culinary History Tour is an exciting and unique way to learn the success stories and inspirations behind New Orleans' culinary stars like Ruth Fertel, Angelo Brocato, Arnaud Casenave and the Brennan and Copeland families. Save Our Cemeteries volunteer and licensed tour guide, Joyce Cole, a fifth-generation New Orleanian, created the tour and will be your guide.

- What:** Culinary History Tour of Metairie Cemetery, 5100 Pontchartrain Blvd., New Orleans
- When:** Sunday, October 7 and Sunday, October 28
9:00 AM and 11:00 AM, both days
- How:** Open to the general public, **advanced reservations are required.** Cost of the tour is \$18.00 per person. For information and reservations, call Save Our Cemeteries at 504-525-3377.



The Tomb of Ruth Fertel of Ruth's Chris Steakhouse

This tour is sponsored in part by the New Orleans Culinary and Cultural Preservation Society, which annually produces the Tales of the Cocktail festival. The tour was developed to educate the hospitality industry and general public about the prominent restaurant proprietors and culinary industry pioneers who are buried in this historic cemetery.

Sip and Shop with Save Our Cemeteries

November 9, 2007

Sip fine wines, sample delicious food from New Orleans area restaurants, and shop for the holidays at your favorite stores. Join Save Our Cemeteries and musical guests Charmaine Neville, Sharon Martin, Germaine Basil and Tracy Chapman this holiday season at Canal Place, 333 Canal Street, for the 5th annual "Uncorked! ...A Taste of Canal Place" fund raiser on Friday, November 9, 2007 from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Proceeds from the event will support Save Our Cemeteries' preservation and restoration projects in the historic cemeteries.

Call 504-522-9200 to purchase tickets: \$25.00 in advance and \$30.00 at the door. SOC members receive a \$5.00 discount by calling 504-525-3377.



A SAINTLY CELEBRATION!

Dine for lunch or dinner at **Semolina's Bistro Italia** or **Zea Rotisserie & Grill** on Nov. 1, and raise money for Save Our Cemeteries and the New Orleans Culinary and Cultural Preservation Society. The two organizations, one dedicated to preserving the historic cemeteries of Louisiana and one raising funds to preserve New Orleans cocktail and culinary history industry and producing Tales of the Cocktail annually, will receive 10% of your purchase on this special day.

And to Toast these two important non-profits, a special cocktail by Absolut will be available in a souvenir NOLA champagne glass only on the November 1st menu!

Please present this ad on November 1st to have 10% of your purchase donated at these locations:



Semolina's Bistro Italia
3226 Magazine Street
New Orleans, LA 70115
504-895-4260



ROTISSERIE + GRILL
Zea Rotisserie and Grill
Clearview Shopping Center
Metairie, LA 70006
504-780-9090





In Memoriam

generous donations have
been made by

Mrs. Pauline Hardin
in memory of

Mr. Robert J. Cote, Jr.

Mr. Edward C. Bonin
in memory of

Elliot Andrew Tycer

Mr. Edward C. Bonin &
Mr. René Fransen
in memory of

Mr. Robert J. Cote, Jr.

Mr. Lucien Gex

Mr. Lazard Goldblum

Mrs. Frances Rizzo Vitale

Mrs. Elba Hickey
in memory of her husband

Eugene Hickey



DONATIONS

*(from New Orleans unless
otherwise noted)*

Ms. Linda Ackerman -
Fairfield, CA

Ms. Patrice Joan Boyd

Mr. Michael Duplantier

Mr. and Mrs. William M. Gray

in honor of **Mr. René Fransen**

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Marcus

NOLA Warriors Exhibit

Steve Martin Fine Art, 604 Julia Street, will be featuring The NOLA Warrior series by Orlando, Florida artist Lorraine Lax, a mixed media artist who incorporates her own photography into provocative, introspective paintings. **A portion of all proceeds will be donated to Save Our Cemeteries, the non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving the historic cemeteries of New Orleans.**



The exhibit runs from November 1st, All Saints' Day, through November 30th. The opening reception will be held on Saturday evening, November 3rd from 6 until 9 PM.

Lorraine developed the series from her recent journey through New Orleans' historic cemeteries in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. She was inspired by the need to acknowledge the city's brave and spirited people by depicting powerful warrior-like figures who have emerged victorious in the face of adversity.

Please be sure to visit the exhibit in November. For more information, call 504-566-1390 or 988-595-8278.

CALENDAR
of Events

- October 7 Culinary History Tour of Metairie Cemetery, 9 and 11 AM
- October 9 Executive Committee Meeting, Noon
- October 20 All Saints' Soirée Fundraiser
- October 23 Lecture: 19th Century Mourning Traditions
- October 28 Culinary History Tour of Metairie Cemetery, 9 and 11 AM
- November 1 All Saints' Day
- November 4 A Run Through History 5K in Metairie Cemetery to benefit SOC
- November 9 Uncorked! . . . A Taste of Canal Place

Ghostly Galavant



*Tour guides pose as Storyville Madam
Josie Arlington and Photographer
Ernest Bellocq*

Wealth! Power! Passion! Bloodshed! It's the twentieth anniversary of the Friends of the Cabildo's Ghostly Galavant. The ghosts at St. Louis #2 Cemetery are dying to tell you their stories. Learn the secrets of Marie Laveau. Listen to the Baroness Pontalba tell the tale of her unhappy marriage. Tours start at Jackson Square where comfortable shuttle buses will bring you to and from the cemetery. Tickets are available at the 1850s House store on Jackson Square, or in advance by phone at 504-524-9118, also on the web at: www.friendsofthecabildo.org

**Saturday, October 20th and
Sunday, October, 21st
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Advance tickets for adults \$15.00
seniors \$12.50**

**Day of event - adults \$18.00
seniors \$15.00**

GRACE KING AWARD

call for nominations - due November 19th

SOC is accepting nominations for the 2007 Grace King Award. The award was established in 1985 and is given each year to an individual or organization that has made significant contributions to the preservation of New Orleans' historic cemeteries. The award was named in honor of well known New Orleans writer, Grace King (1852-1932). By founding the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Tombs, she was the first person to work for cemetery preservation in New Orleans.

The deadline is November 19th, 2007. Please fax your nomination form to 525-6677, email to louise@saveourcemeteries.org or mail to Save Our Cemeteries, P. O. Box 58105, New Orleans, Louisiana 70158-8105.

Be sure to include information regarding how this person has contributed to the cemetery preservation movement this year. For more information, call 525-3377. This award will be presented at the SOC annual meeting in December.

NOMINEE: _____ PHONE: _____

WHY IS THIS PERSON A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR THE GRACE KING AWARD?

SUBMITTED BY: _____ PHONE: _____ DATE: _____

Save Our Cemeteries is proud to honor these sustaining sponsors:



Are you a SOC member?

Join us today and enjoy the benefits of membership which include receiving a one-year subscription to *Louisiana Life* quarterly magazine, our bi-monthly newsletter the *SOCGram*, free tour tickets to Lafayette Cemetery No. I, free admittance for all SOC lectures, a listing in the *SOCGram*, and invitations to our annual meeting and to all SOC events.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Cemetery/Cemeteries of interest: _____

Please select your membership level:

- \$25 Student/Associate (out of the Greater New Orleans area)
- \$35 Individual 1 tour ticket, lecture admittance for 1
- \$50 Family 2 tour tickets, lecture admittance for 2
- \$80 Protector 3 tour tickets, lecture admittance for 3
- \$150 Preserver 4 tour tickets, lecture admittance for 4
- \$500 Restorer 4 tour tickets, lecture admittance for 4, 2 tickets to annual fundraiser
- \$1,000 Conservator 4 tour tickets, lecture admittance for 4, 4 tickets to annual fundraiser
- \$40 Non-Profit /Associate Organizations

Please mark your volunteer interest(s):

- Public Outreach
- Tour Guide/Training
- Research
- All Saints' Soirée
- Photo Exhibit
- All Saints' Day
- Clean-Up Day
- Telephone and Mailing

SOCGRAM

SAVE OUR CEMETERIES, INC.

P. O. Box 58105

New Orleans, LA 70158-8105

504-525-3377; fax: 504-525-6677

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

New Orleans, LA

Permit No. 1244