


SINCE  1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



Above Photo: Dayton Daily News, 11/30/1965

Ann Heller
Chef, Journalist, Mentor
☐ 1936-2022

"The best part of writing about food has always been the people and their passions, from the sausage maker and the confectioner to the farmer, the chef and the dedicated cook, but the recipes were the exclamation points at the end of the story. They told the continuing story about the way America cooks."

-Ann Heller, Dayton Daily News, 2006

Ann Heller named to food editor post

Journal Herald food writer and restaurant critic Ann Heller has been named food editor of *The Journal Herald* and *The Dayton Daily News*.

In her new role, Ms. Heller will be responsible for the planning and content of the *The Journal Herald* and *Daily News* food pages. She will write food stories for both papers. Her "Dining Out" column will continue to appear exclusively in *The Journal Herald*.

Announcement of the expanded responsibilities for Ms. Heller was made by Paula Grogan, executive features editor of both papers.



Ann Heller was born Feb. 1, 1936, in Middletown Ohio. After graduating from Northwestern University, where she studied journalism, Ann returned to Dayton to become the first restaurant critic for the *Journal Herald* in 1975. When the *Journal* was merged with the *Dayton Daily News*, Ann was named restaurant critic and food editor, a position she held until her retirement.

As a restaurant critic, Ann Heller earned many readers' loyalty with her (sometimes brutal) honesty, quick wit, and breadth of knowledge about the culinary arts. According to Mark Fisher, Heller's successor as the *Dayton Daily News*' food and dining editor; "Ann had very high standards for her own work, and she held chefs and restaurant owners to high standards as

well. If she wrote a complimentary review of a restaurant, readers could be absolutely assured the restaurant was doing things right." (*Dayton Daily News*, 4/10/2022)

"As an esteemed journalist, Ann's reputation was beyond reproach," said Kate Lawson, a dear friend of Ann's and fellow food editor for the *Detroit News*. "She took the job as restaurant critic as a serious endeavor and strove to be fair and uncompromising, sometimes to the dismay of the proprietor. But Ann felt that she owed it to her readers to offer an honest opinion as she crafted each and every review. She worked diligently to remain anonymous and never accepted a free meal or any token of appreciation from businesses. She was always fair and never harsh. If a restaurant failed to deliver either on food or service, she gave them the benefit of the doubt, often scrapping a review until she could revisit the venue. If we drove by a newer restaurant and the parking lot looked empty, she moved on to another day." (*Dayton Daily News*, 4/10/2022)

Above Photo: *The Journal Herald*, 1/11/1984 p.19



Above Photo: *The Journal Herald*, 2/6/1982 p.14

Home chefs in the Dayton area may remember Ann Heller best as the author of the long-running newspaper column, "It's Simple" as well as her series of stories entitled "Best Recipes of the Year" that were published by the Dayton Daily News. In 1992, The Dayton Daily News published a collection of Heller's recipes titled "The Best of It's Simple: Easy Recipes for Today's Lifestyles and Tastes." It was so popular Heller continued to receive feedback about it for more than 20 years. Because good taste never goes out of style, in 2013 the Dayton Daily News republished some of her most popular recipes online.



Following her retirement in 2006, Heller continued to test recipes and create fabulous meals for family and friends. A familiar face in the Oregon District, Ann Heller purchased her historic home there in 1980. Family members recall the time Heller and her friends spent digging dirt out of the second floor, left there from the Great Flood of 1913. Heller was also fond of travel, playing tennis, and gardening—particularly at her home, where she could enjoy a cocktail on the porch.

Above Photo: The Journal Herald, 1/11/1984 p.19

In 2022, at the age of 86, Ann Heller died. She is located at the Lookout Columbarium, at the highest point in Woodland Cemetery.



Ann Heller is survived by her sister Doris Elaine Thomson (New York) and nieces Jenny Thomson (Julie Lawton) (Spokane, WA) and Susan Tracy Thomson (Andy Roberts) (New York) and wonderful and loving friends including, but not limited to, Michael Barnes, Todd Crawford, Teri and Todd Carver (Dayton) and Kate Lawson (Michigan), and her beloved cat Charlie. She was preceded in death by her parents Roland S. and Florence T. Heller and brother-in-law Herbert S. Thomson.



Upcoming Events!



Woodland Cemetery's Lookout Point offers one of the best views in Dayton, making it a perfect location to view the total solar eclipse! Join us for an incredible celestial experience Monday, April 8, 2024 from 1pm-5pm.

Featuring Dayton Urban BBQ food truck and plenty of space to take in the eclipse, bring chairs and blankets to experience the eclipse with family and friends. Come early to claim a viewing spot (gates open at 8am) and spend the afternoon at Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum.

A limited number of tickets will be available, and we anticipate they will sell out quickly. For more information, please click the link below. Pre-registrations ends on April 1st.

Cost: Pre-registration is \$60 per person (plus \$5.87 Eventbrite Fee)

Pre-registration Packet Includes:

- Pair of solar eclipse glasses
- Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum Solar Eclipse T-shirt
- Two meal tickets (entrée and drink)
- Parking for one vehicle
- Information on Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum, while you wait for the eclipse!

To register for this event, please click [HERE](#).

Due to the nature of this type of event, tickets are non-refundable. All proceeds support the Woodland Arboretum Foundation which focuses on the restoration, preservation, horticultural and educational projects needed to keep Woodland a cultural resource for Dayton and Ohio



It's time to start putting those local 5k's and 10k's on your calendar as we all dream of green trees, HILLS and spring time challenges!

This race through Woodland Cemetery is challenging. It's a pretty hilly course so maybe not the race if you are looking to PR, but if you want a great workout and some amazing views of Dayton and the opportunity to see some Dayton history, this race is for you! Proceeds to benefit the Woodland Foundation.

Packet pick up April 27 from 2-4 at Up and Running in Dayton or race day beginning at 8:00am. Shirts guaranteed to all those registered by April 14.

Register by clicking [HERE](#)

Share Your Story With Us:



Here at Woodland, we love to share stories of those who rest within our grounds.

It is most often thanks to family members or newspaper articles that those stories reach us, which allows us to include their loved ones in features like this.

Does your relative have a story we should be telling? Let us know by sending an email to ashimp@woodlandcemetery.org

Come Visit Us!



Volunteer opportunities

Woodland is seeking volunteers to give presentations to community groups on subjects such as local history, notable biographies, and trees.

Not into public speaking? Consider getting involved with our horticulture team, or assisting with special events & research projects.

*If there is something you'd like to see here at Woodland please reach out to us & suggest it!

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
8am-5pm

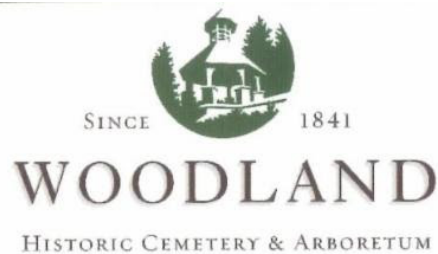
If you need help finding where someone is buried, need directions to a particular area, or have questions about pre-planning or funeral services, Woodland's Staff is here to assist you!

Tours & More:

We welcome walkers, runners, and wanderers -- leashed dogs & school groups.

Register for a guided tour: visit the Woodland Cemetery website! Learn about fascinating Daytonians resting peacefully in one of America's oldest rural garden cemeteries!
Or check out our [virtual tours!](#) (if you really don't want to go outside)

DONATE ONLINE!



Committed to providing dignified and caring funeral services and burial options to families of all faiths since 1841.

Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum
118 Woodland Ave.
Dayton, OH 45409
woodlandcemetery.org

Beautiful. Timeless. Still Available...



Discover the men and women who made it great in Dayton on a guided walking or bus tour. Self-guided tours are available on our mobile app.

For information call 937-228-3221 or e-mail info@woodlandcemetery.org

Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum | [Visit our website!](#)

Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum | 118 Woodland Ave., Dayton, OH 45409