

President's Annual Report

2017

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 101st year of the All Hallows Guild! As stewards of the gardens, grounds, and woodlands of the Washington National Cathedral and the Cathedral Schools since 1916, we remain committed to ensuring that the green spaces around this sublime place of worship remain a vibrant place for contemplation, prayer, gathering, and fun.

What joy it was to ring in AHG's Centennial last year! Our community overwhelmingly responded to our Centennial Campaign, and we are humbled and honored by these donations. They allow us to continue our current programming and fund new endeavors for our next century. Our carousel refurbishment campaign will allow a new generation of families to sponsor their beloved carousel animals and become part of that animal's family tree. We are truly thankful.

During our Centennial we have undertaken a study of the environmental impact of the Woodland Bridge in the Olmsted Woods and begun evaluating architectural designs for its replacement. We are actively fundraising for this restoration, and we need your help.

In our 100th year we also launched outreach initiatives to ensure that the gardens and grounds be used freely and with joy! Yoga in the Amphitheater, an art exhibition in the Pilgrim Gallery, and autumn's Garden Day were received enthusiastically and met with great success. We are excited to expand our community programming with more initiatives like these.

We are thrilled once again to have sponsored three interns to work with the Cathedral's horticulture staff during summer break, instilling a love of the Cathedral's green spaces into the next generation. And as always, our beloved Flower Mart was a success on all fronts despite two days of rain, and Tea & Tour at the Cathedral received a record number of attendees.

Committee Reports

Centennial Committee:

All Hallows Guild continues to celebrate our Centennial with events, projects, and activities that increase public awareness and inform our membership. Flower Mart in May celebrated our vision for "A New Century." In April and May we organized the enchanting art exhibition *The Spirit in Bloom*, featuring botanical art and Cathedral landscapes by over 20 local artists. Summer brought a six-week yoga series in the Amphitheater and an open book club gathering to discuss *Founding Gardeners* by Andrea Wulf. We hope that you were able to join us for some of these exciting offerings.

Through the year, we have received your generous donations toward the projects identified in our Fall 2016 *A New Century* mailing: the Woodland Bridge Replacement, Carousel Fund, Endowment, Bishop's Lawn Plantings, Nitze Garden, Pilgrim Road Plantings, Olmsted Woods, Supplemental Paths, Wright Fountain and general Garden funds. Additional, non-specified gifts have been gratefully received and are being put towards projects in the gardens and grounds. Several projects have been fully funded and brought to fruition in this year. For more details, please see the Garden Committee Report in this document.

The needs of the gardens and grounds are ongoing and as projects are completed, new projects will be added. Thank you for your continued support and watch for project updates.

Tea and Tour Program:

Our Tea and Tour program in conjunction with Cathedral Visitor Programs continues to be a successful endeavor for both parties. It serves as a very welcoming, gracious part of the Cathedral experience for many visitors and is an important fund raiser for the Guild. The program originated in 1990 and has become increasingly popular. Reservations come from visitors from all states and abroad. The tea is held on the 7th floor in the St. Paul room which overlooks the city and our beautiful landscape. A fee is charged.

*Approximate **VOLUNTEER HOURS** invested in selected All Hallows Guild projects and activities over the past year, based on recent surveys:*

*AHG active and associate board (22 respondents):
6,563.50 hours
Flower Mart: over 700 volunteers over 8 months:
4,560 hours
Tea and Tour: 54 regular volunteers, 72 teas
1,152 hours*

This year we held 72 teas accommodating some 2600 guests. Highlights of the year are the Cherry Blossom teas with decorations and appropriate kimonos, special holiday and garden tours. We have 60 wonderful volunteers, an excellent coordinator and special captains who stay in touch with their particular team. We continue to work with a well-known caterer and receive multiple compliments on our cuisine. It has been a busy, productive year. We enjoy our work, being together and being of service.

Herb Cottage Gifts:

The Guild continues to sell unique gift items at the St. Albans Christmas House Tour, Flower Mart, Fall Garden Day, and other special events. There you will find our Herb Cottage jams and salad dressings, gardener's and boxed gift soaps, teas and other old favorites. Limited custom orders are available at herbcottagegifts@aol.com, and pop-up sales will be advertised through our email newsletter and on our website, www.allhallowsguild.org.

Our Garden and Woods Docent Programs:

We are proud of our docent program, which guides hundreds of people each year through the Bishop's Garden and the Olmsted Woods. Self-guided tour pamphlets are in post boxes in both sites.

Flower Mart:

Flower Mart 2017, chaired by Sara Schaberg and Christina Grigorian, marked a spectacular celebration of the gardens and grounds at the Washington National Cathedral. Although there were a few "drops from heaven" outside (and sometimes more than a few!), the event started with a rousing welcome by the National Color Guard, the St. Albans Lower School chorus, and Washington, DC, mayor Muriel Bowser. We also celebrated with a blessing by Rev. Randy Hollerith who expressed gratitude and admiration for all those who work tirelessly to make Flower Mart a success.

Outside the Cathedral, over 80 gift and craft vendors and more than 12 food vendors allowed Flower Mart attendees to explore crafts and cuisine from around the world. In addition, Flower Mart continued its tradition of being a premier site for used book purchases, selling a record number of books. At the White Elephant tent, crowds lined up an hour before opening to purchase their treasures and the flow of shoppers continued throughout the day. In the Cathedral, Flower Mart patrons were treated to a broad range of cultural displays, from floral arrangements representing over 15 countries to songs and dance that were both American and global.

A unique addition to Flower Mart 2017 was the art show held in the Cathedral Tower. Original works of botanical art and cathedral landscapes by over 20 local artists were on display and available for purchase, providing a perfect complement to our garden celebration.

As always, Flower Mart could not happen without the tireless dedication and support of its volunteers! This year was no exception and the hard work, ideas and laughter that were brought to this event (and the planning in advance of it) made for many wonderful memories and lifelong bonds between the volunteers.

Although soggy and windy throughout most of the event, spirits remained high during this 78th celebration of the Cathedral's garden and grounds. The next Flower Mart will be held on Friday, May 4th and Saturday, May 5th, 2018. It will be chaired by Sara Schaberg and Linda Semans Donovan.

Communications and Marketing:

Increasingly, digital media allow us to expand our outreach in a timely and effective way. Our monthly Constant Contact newsletter is colorful and interactive, providing news of upcoming events as well as links to videos, photo galleries, our Garden Girl blog, and detailed information on our website, www.allhallowsguild.org. And through our presences on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and Twitter, we are truly social. We hope that you will friend us, "like" our postings, and visit often.

In Summary

The creation, conservation, and restoration of the Cathedral's natural environment has been our priority in our 100th year, and will continue to be the focus of our work. As we take "The Path Forward," it is important to build upon the phenomenal accomplishments of our last 100 years, as well as to ensure that the Guild remains a relevant, evolving influence for good to both the Cathedral community and the community at large.

Looking forward, we are excited about strengthening our partnership with the other Cathedral entities. Building a close working relationship with the Dean and other leaders will allow us to work more symbiotically, with more growth and influence for good.

Most importantly, in this next century we want to empower our community members near and far to see the Cathedral's green spaces as *theirs* to use—for gathering, for meditation, for art, music, picnics, and peace. Beloved traditions such as Tea & Tour and Flower Mart and new initiatives like Yoga in the Amphitheater will continue to thrive and act as opportunities for community interaction, fostering the next generations of Cathedral stewards. In fact, at the start of this year we kicked off our first Book Club in the Gardens. We hope to have you reading with us soon!

Please join with us today to usher in All Hallows Guild's 101st year. Endowing, preserving, and protecting this landscape and all the prayerful, social, and peaceful moments that transpire on these grounds cannot happen without your help. For more information on partnering with us, please visit www.allhallowsguild.org.

I hope to see you reading in the Bishop's Garden, meditating in Olmsted Woods, or simply lying in the grass gazing at the majesty of the Cathedral!



Lydia Chopivsky Benson
AHG President (2016-present)

Treasurer's Report FY 2017

FY 2017 All Hallows Guild Funds given to the PECF:

Contribution to horticulture budget	35,000
General grounds/horticulture	137,280
Tea and Tour	17,850
Rent	11,18
<u>Total:</u>	<u>201,317</u>

Major Annual Fund Raisers:

Tea and Tour (in partnership with Visitor Programs)
Flower Mart
Herb Cottage Gifts—Shows and Online

Other Sources of All Hallows Guild Monies:

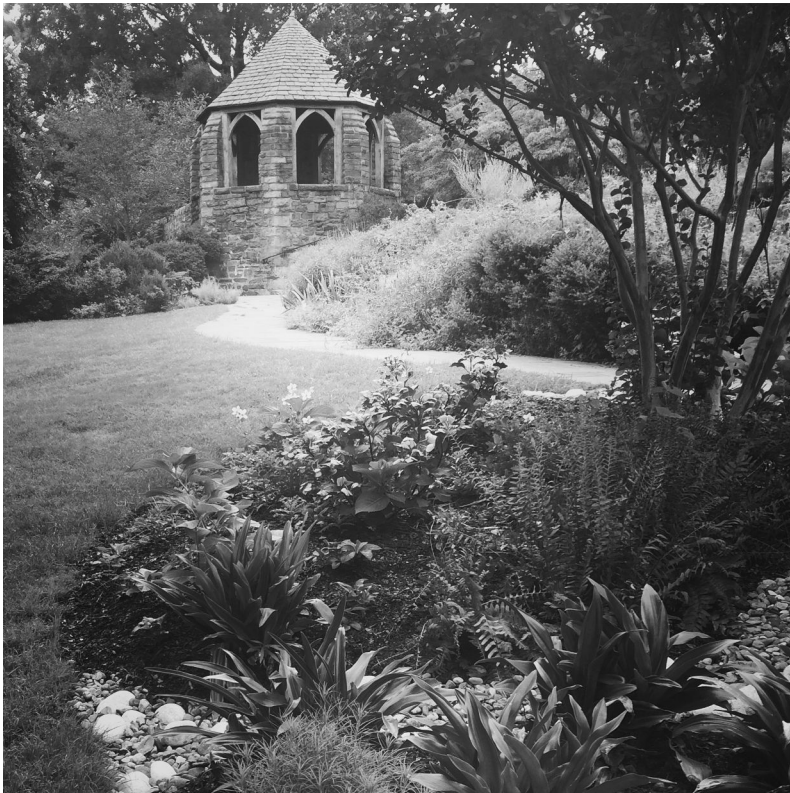
Memorial & general contributions
Special lecture and programs
Bratenahl commemorative scarf
Membership dues
Life memberships

All Hallows Guild is a unique organization within the PECF. It is not a part of Shared Services but pays Shared Services bills on an *ad hoc* basis. AHG is primarily an all-volunteer organization that raises money for the care and beautification of the entire Cathedral Close. The Guild represents the green space. Throughout its 101-year history, AHG has allocated its resources to grounds/horticulture projects that go beyond general maintenance. Many of these projects have brought national recognition to the Washington National Cathedral grounds and gardens.

In the last 18 years, the Guild has spent over **\$6,503 million dollars** on the gardens, grounds, and woodlands and on contributions to the Foundation or Cathedral through AHG memberships, outright gifts and reimbursements to Facilities.

All Hallows Guild pays for: All flowers, bulbs, trees, shrubs, tree maintenance, storm damage to landscape, landscape architects, arborists, garden interns, staff education, and stone work as an integral part of a garden or woods design.

AHG does not pay for: Regular staff salaries, garden and turf maintenance.



Memorial Gifts, 2017

A donation from Travis Brown was made in memory of Ann Huidekoper Brown to move Aquia Quarry steps and install a steppingstone path and wrought iron railings on the South Lawn of the Bishop's Garden.

The Guild received a bequest from the estate of the late Helen Sisk for the Bishop's Garden.

Linda Roeckelein donated a Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*) in honor of her brother Richard W. Jackson. The tree is planted in front of Church House.

Several donations for the Olmsted Woods were received in memory of Nevin Kuhl.

Garden Committee Annual Report 2017

The All Hallows Guild Garden Committee has the responsibility and privilege of using funds raised by our many efforts to improve the landscape of the whole Cathedral Close. The grounds may look stunning to our many visitors, but in a garden certain plants may not thrive, areas become overgrown and require more than routine thinning and weeding, and always there are new plants to try to solve certain design problems. Working closely with the Horticulture Staff, Garden Committee strives to watch over all our grounds and respond as required with small or large steps, redesigns or minor tweaks. In the past year at the impetus of the Committee, we have seen:

- Repairing and repointing of Shadow House, designed by Cathedral Architect Philip Frohman with Carderock stones taken from “Red Top,” the summer residence of Grover Cleveland;
- Completion of a new Shadow house garden and installation of the Pan statue on a base inscribed by our own stone carvers, in memory of Rowan LeCompte from his family;
- Designing and planting the new garden of Hardwick Grove behind NCS’s Hearst Hall, following the stonework installed by NCS. The new plantings join the crape myrtles we furnished two years ago and bloom in NCS colors of purple and gold.
- Demolition and redesign and planting of the extensive Pilgrim Road bed. This bed had been overgrown and infested with difficult weeds that could not be separated from the desirable plants. Much soil was removed to clean it up, and existing trees were saved and augmented with new redbud trees, shrubs (viburnum and hydrangea) and many lower plants providing blooms for three seasons.
- The Guild has spent tens of thousands of dollars on tree work, including pruning and removals requiring cranes, for every area of the Close.
- Garden docents have led 16 garden tours, including four as part of the Tea and Tour program.
- The new steppingstone path, reached from Pilgrim Road via the Aquia Stone steps, moved from another location on the bank, has been completed with plantings adjacent and with elfin thyme set between the stones.
- AHG furnished five cherry trees planted in Curran Courtyard at NCS.
- The Guild paid the salaries of three university horticulture interns who worked with our staff during the summer, learning from our environment and providing helping hands and fresh viewpoints during the grueling summer months.
- At the edge of Olmsted Woods and the St Albans School service road, old unsightly plantings have been removed and native plants installed to provide a more attractive boundary and to attract pollinators and provide berries and seeds as food for wildlife.

Garden Committee uses the winter months to plan for next year’s planting and blooming cycles and has already begun the observation and design so crucial to our stewardship of the grounds and gardens.

All Hallows Guild Annual Meeting

November 1st, 2017, 10 am

The Pilgrim Gallery, 7th floor, Washington National Cathedral

Guest speaker:

Dean Norton

Head of Horticulture, Mount Vernon Estate

“See to it that you keep it the Home of Washington,” was the charge of Ann Pamela Cunningham, the founder of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, upon her retirement in 1874. For over 150 years, people have studied, researched and dug the earth for clues, helping make the home of George Washington one of the most accurately restored 18th-century estates in America. Dean Norton will discuss the beauty, use and importance of Mount Vernon’s gardens and landscape. Rather than a history lesson, Norton will provide an informative yet entertaining look at the gardening world of George Washington and the Ladies’ Association, with personal stories from his over 48 years of work at this historic property.