



# President's Annual Report 2018

## *Dear Friends,*

All Hallows Guild celebrates an outstanding 101st year as stewards to the gardens, grounds, and woodlands of the Washington National Cathedral. 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.

This has been a year of many accomplishments, with the installation of visible improvements to our landscape, as well as preventative maintenance tasks to ensure that our community space is preserved for years to come. Please refer to the Garden Committee report on page 4 for a full summary.

All this progress depends on hundreds of dedicated volunteers who have worked diligently throughout the year. Flower Mart continues to thrive, as does our popular Tour & Team program – if you haven't yet stopped by for tea, please do so! We'd love to share a cup with you!

A major focus of our fundraising efforts for the near future will be the redesign and replacement of the Woodland Bridge in conjunction with a study of the environmental health and maintenance of the Olmsted Woods. We are working alongside architects and engineers to ensure the bridge's longevity and minimize the impact on the surrounding woodland. We are very excited to begin this project!

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](http://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)

## *Committee Reports*

### **Development: The Second Century Committee**

All Hallows Guild is celebrating its *Second Century* through events, projects, and by fulfilling the ongoing needs of the gardens and grounds. Our calendar was busy and varied.

Summer 2017 featured a six week drop-in yoga series in the amphitheater.

September had the Guild hosting both a book club discussion of *Founding Gardeners* by Andrea Wulf and Garden Day, featuring children's activities, garden tours/information, plein air artists, and food trucks. Garden Day coincided with the Cathedral congregation picnic and Beauvoir events.

November's well attended Annual Meeting featured Mount Vernon's Director of Horticulture, Dean Norton who proved both enlightening and entertaining.

December means participation in St. Albans School's Christmas House Tour Boutiques. All Hallows Guild's Herb Cottage Gifts featured our classic garden accessories, soaps, jams and seasonal arrangements and plants.

The Spirit in Bloom 2018, an art exhibit of painting, drawing and photography opened in April and ran through mid-May on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Cathedral. In addition to the exhibit, All Hallows hosted a reception honoring both the art and our Life Members.

Also in April, the Guild was invited to participate in the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum's Garden Party celebrating the release of new garden stamps. The All Hallows Guild table featured a display on the Guild and a coloring station for families, featuring images from our Cathedral Coloring Book. A great outreach to the greater community.

May is Flower Mart, our largest event of the year and in 2018, we celebrated our historic carousel. Our Adopt-An-Animal program is ongoing to supply funds for the refurbishment of the animals, canopy, structure and calliols of the carousel.

### **Tour and Tea Program**

Our Tour and Tea 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.

This year we held 70 teas accommodating some 2,805 guests. Highlights of the year are the Cherry Blossom teas with decorations and appropriate kimonos, special holiday and garden tours. We have 55 wonderful volunteers, an excellent coordinator and special captains who stay in touch with their teams. We continue to work with a well-known caterer and receive many 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 Flower Mart 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 [gifts@allhallowsguild.com](mailto:gifts@allhallowsguild.com), and pop-up sales will be advertised through our email newsletter and on our website, [www.allhallowsguild.org](http://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 2018 celebrated our beautiful antique wooden carousel, which ran joyfully for the two days of the Mart after a first ride by Honorary Chair D.C. Mayor Bowser, who graciously participated in our opening ceremonies for the second consecutive year. Dean Hollerith joined us in opening Flower Mart as well, and was a great supporter all year long.

The children's area included face painting, a bungee jump, carnival games and rides and the traditional cookie walk and goldfish toss. Another wonderful puppet show delighted young visitors. The fabulous Floral Exhibit in the Cathedral nave featured stunning arrangements provided by over 15 embassies and diplomatic partners. Eighty-plus goods vendors and over a dozen food vendors offered a variety of unique and eclectic products. AHG's Premier Plants sold out of its native, annual, and perennial plant selections. A light lunch offered in the Cathedral tower was enjoyed by over 100 patrons. Our book sale moved to interior quarters and featured children's and young adult books. The White Elephant sale expanded and filled its space with treasures as always. Entertainment ran nonstop inside and out with musicians, singers, and dancers.

We are grateful to so many for the success of the 79th Flower Mart: the hundreds of volunteers, our corporate and individual sponsors, and our partners on the Close: the PECF, the Cathedral, Beauvoir, NCS and St. Albans School. Thanks also to our partners from around the diocese, including the Washington Episcopal Church Women, St. Andrews School, and all the members and friends of All Hallows Guild. We invite all to join us in supporting the 80th Flower Mart in 2019.



### **Communications and Marketing:**

- AHG launched a completely redesigned website in September 2018 that is adaptable, beautiful and more functional. Additionally, it can nimbly handle event payment and registration. We will continue to refine and improve our site and plan to launch an online garden tour during the next year.
- We continue to grow our email list and send out a monthly e-newsletter to more than 2300 people.
- In order to be good stewards of the environment and our finances, we have reduced the amount of material we print and mail. We do two annual hard-copy mailings - the Fall mailing focuses on projects and membership, and the Spring mailing spotlights Flower Mart.
- Our social media following continues to grow on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We are also posting video content to our All Hallows Guild YouTube channel.
- Flower Mart 2018 received a great amount of media attention - including television interviews, highlighted on online sites, and in the Washington Post Weekend section.
- The purchase of radio advertising leading up to Flower Mart proved to be a worthwhile investment.
- AHG reached new audiences through events such as our Fall 2017 Garden Day, recent Floral Arranging Demonstration and our participation in the Smithsonian Postal Museum's Garden Party event.

Our communications team has had success with expanded promotion of AHG events and programs - such as Tour & Tea and Volunteer Days in the Olmsted Woods.

### **Membership:**

**At almost 400 strong, we are grateful to our members whose roots run deep in this Cathedral Close. Membership is vital and continues to provides the financial foundation for the care and beautification of these magnificent gardens and grounds.**

- **Members (along with one guest) are not charged the Cathedral visitor admission fee.**
- **Members receive an invitation to our Annual Meeting in November – with a guest lecturer and refreshments.**
- **Invitations and notifications to attend special events and dedication ceremonies are sent to members.**
- **Advanced notice of upcoming events and activities (some with a discount or free admission for Guild members) are sent via our monthly email newsletter.**

# Treasurer's Report FY 2018

## FY2018 All Hallows Guild Funds given to the PECF or Cathedral:

### General Grounds and Horticulture:

Staff Education	\$ 690
Tree Maintenance (pruning, removal, boxwood care)	\$43,464
Plants/Bulbs for Hardwick Court, Bishops Garden and t Close	\$15,189
Interns	\$18,810
Other	<u>\$ 3,550</u>
<b>Total General Grounds and Horticulture</b>	<b>\$81,703</b>
<b>Amphitheater Crossing (portion paid in FY2018)</b>	<b>\$11,955</b>
<b>Environmental Assessment of Cathedral Close relating to Woodland Bridge</b>	<b>\$ 5,838</b>
<b>Sayre House Landscaping</b>	<b>\$39,679</b>
<b>Contribution to Horticulture Budget</b>	<b>\$14,850</b>
<b>Tea and Tour</b>	<b>\$17,850</b>
<b>Rent</b>	<b><u>\$11,187</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$183,062</b>

In addition, All Hallows Guild budgeted in FY18 but paid in FY19 the remainder due to the Amphitheater Crossing (\$22,585) and the restoration of the 9<sup>th</sup> century Carolingian Font and the 14<sup>th</sup> century bas-reliefs (\$20,000).

## Memorial Gifts, 2018



A *magnolia grandiflora* 'Bracken's Brown Beauty' has been planted in the Sayre House hillside garden in memory of Robert N. Walton from his wife, Jessica S. Walton.

Joan Murray dedicated a *ceris canadensis* 'Redbud, forest pansy' in honor of her brother David Wallace Douglas. The tree is located along the outside wall of the Bishop's lawn in the new Pilgrim Road bed.

A bench has been placed in the Bishop's lawn in memory of Wendy Nicholson Bailey from her family.

Several historic metal garden benches have been restored and placed near their original locations in the Bishop's Garden.

## *Garden Committee Annual Report 2018*

The All Hallows Guild Garden Committee meets monthly to consider what landscape needs are most pressing and most desirable. The obvious central garden is the renowned and stunning Bishop's Garden, a centerpiece of the grounds. With blooms from early spring through the first frost, this gem is deserving of the praise it receives. The Olmsted Woods are equally stunning as a five-acre forest in the midst of this city, bringing a sense of calm and refreshment to the many visitors and neighbors who walk its paths.

- A major effort this year has been the design and planting of the gardens at Sayre House, once again the residence of the Cathedral Dean. At the request of the Cathedral, the Guild agreed to fund this project. Largely planted in the spring by our outstanding horticulture staff augmented by an outside contractor, the recent construction site has been transformed into a green and blooming surround for the renovated house. Some hillside plantings remain to be installed this autumn.
- After years of anticipation, we finally see the completed paved crossing between the south lawn of the Bishop's Garden and the All Hallows Amphitheater, completed in 2008. This porphyry and granite crossing makes a physical connection between the formal areas of the Bishop's Garden and the Amphitheater and Olmsted Woods across Pilgrim Road. We are grateful for the cooperation of all the entities on the Close, Facilities, Security and schools, who were patient while this work proceeded.
- As we do every summer, the Guild sponsored college horticulture interns to learn and work with our staff here. The three interns were challenged to design a pollinator-friendly garden for the Close, researching the most promising native plants, sourcing and pricing the plants, and designing the garden plan. We are thrilled to announce that the garden will be located on the NCS Athletic Center access road. NCS has approved the location and the Guild will furnish the plants. We hope to enlist students to help with planting in the spring as a service project, and also make it a learning environment for studying pollinators and why they are so important to our world.
- This fall we have begun critical work to clean and protect our priceless medieval sculptures in the Bishop's Garden — bas-reliefs, a Carolingian font, and others. These pieces of art are irreplaceable and contribute so much to the timeless aura of this medieval-style garden. As stewards to the grounds, we must preserve this legacy.
- We continue to work with landscape architects, engineers, and architects as we consider replacement of the destroyed Woodland Bridge. Plans are being drawn up to repair and extend the water control measures the Guild installed in the Woods beginning 20 years ago, as erosion and runoff are ongoing issues in our landscape.
- Garden docents offer tours to garden clubs and associations, many as adjuncts to our Tea and Tour program.

### *All Hallows Guild Annual Meeting*

**November 1st, 2018, 10 am**

**The Pilgrim Gallery, 7th floor, Washington National Cathedral**

#### **Guest speaker: John Magee, Landscape Architect**

John Magee has been designing and building landscapes in the Washington DC Metro area and beyond for the past 25 years. After receiving his degree in Horticulture from the Ohio State University and spending a few years training and showing horses, he settled into the industry as the General Foreman of Pennsylvania's highest award-winning landscape firm. While in Pennsylvania, he became a volunteer at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and not only did he meet his wife there, but he was introduced to habitat gardening and the use of native plants in the landscape.

He now operates his own award-winning design firm (Magee Design) in the beautiful countryside of Middleburg, VA, where he also enjoys kayaking and taking long walks with his wife and two dogs. He specializes in the use of native plants, but is also known for his work with stone and water. These 'earthy' elements combine to create a natural landscape that enhances not only the home of the client, but the surrounding area as well.

He created and hosts the Native Plant Podcast and hosts and produces the "Protecting What Matters" podcast in partnership with the Department of the Interior's "National Invasive Species Council" Secretariat. John also serves on the Board of the Piedmont Environmental Council, where he is the Habitat Chair.