



# President's Annual Report 2019

*Dear Friends,*

We are thankful for another fruitful year for the All Hallows Guild. As stewards of the gardens, grounds, and woodlands of the Washington National Cathedral Close 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.

AHG was so honored that the grounds of the Cathedral were named one of the ten best picnic spots within driving distance of DC by WTOP. We hope our neighbors, the greater DC community, and our visitors from out of state and the globe continue to bask in the vibrancy of God's natural world!

We have stayed very busy this year, undertaking new restoration projects, maintenance tasks, and plantings. We continue to seek solutions for improving traffic flow and navigation via crosswalks, railings, and informational signage to ensure accessibility, safety, and ease of use for all our visitors. Stay tuned as we develop those projects.

We continue to restore our antique Flower Mart Carousel, registered as one of only 22 existing carousels built before 1900, and enjoyed by thousands of children at Flower Mart annually. This year we refurbished its historic caliola. We can't wait for you to enjoy these renovations in 2020.

This year's Flower Mart celebrated "Pollinator Power" and the installation of a new pollinator-friendly garden on the Close, designed by summer interns funded by AHG. Our ever-popular Tour & Tea program keeps growing— if you haven't yet stopped by for tea, please do so! We'd love to share a cup with you!

As you probably know, our historic Bishop's Garden is home to five medieval bas relief sculptures and a 9<sup>th</sup> century Carolingian Baptismal Font. Time and environmental factors brought wear and tear to these artifacts, so we were thrilled to have completed a careful process of restoration under the guidance of top art conservationists. Come take advantage of these newly restored antiquities on the Close!

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 picnicking 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)

## **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 provide 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.

## Committee Reports

### 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 extremely 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 Cathedral Close. A fee is charged.

This year we held 70 teas and served 2,935 guests. Our extravagantly decorated Cherry Blossom teas are always a highlight of our year, as are the teas with garden tours. We have 55 wonderful volunteers, an excellent coordinator and tea 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 working together to provide our guests with a unique and delicious experience at this beautiful Cathedral.

### Herb Cottage Gifts:

The Guild continues to sell Herb Cottage brand jams, mustards and soaps along with garden related gifts. Come see us at the Annual meeting, Saint Albans Christmas boutique and Flower Mart. Custom orders can be arranged by emailing [gifts@allhallowsguild.org](mailto:gifts@allhallowsguild.org). Looking forward to seeing you!

### 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 2019 celebrated "Pollinator Power" and the opening of a new pollinator garden on the Close. Our theme tent featured a Paint a Pollinator activity and a USDA info booth with live bees! Our horticulture staff provided displays and information on pollinator-friendly gardening and the importance of pollinators to our environment and well-being.

Our antique carousel 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 third consecutive year. 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 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 pollinator-friendly plant selections. A delicious light lunch was offered in the Cathedral tower. Our book sale tent 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 80th 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.



### Communications and Marketing:

- AHG's website, [www.allhallowsguild.org](http://www.allhallowsguild.org), is adaptable, beautiful, and functional. 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 2019 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.

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.

## Memorial Gifts, 2019

Several *Cornus florida* (dogwood) trees were planted on the hillside of the newly renovated Nitze Garden. Diane Ney donated a tree in memory of her aunt and uncle, Catherine and Donald Witmer. This dogwood tree stands next to the one given by Diane in memory of her parents. Another new dogwood replaced a tree originally donated by Karen Harmon in memory of her daughter Lauren. Jan Mest and Harrison McKnight gave a dogwood in memory of Sandy McKnight, Jan's sister and Harrison's mother.

Jean and Duffy Ward donated a *Cersis canadensis* "redbud" in memory of their son Edward Junior, located at the top of Pilgrim Road outside of the Bishop's lawn wall.

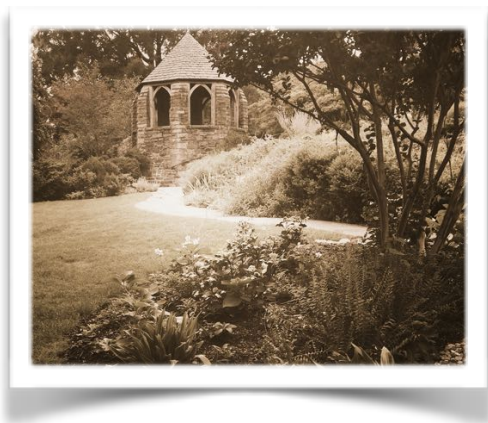
A new bench is now on the west front replacing the deteriorated original in memory of Randall Clyde Revelle Hufbauer and donated by his mother Carolyn Revelle. Several other benches that needed cleaning and slight repairs have been refurbished this past year.

# Treasurer's Report FY 2019

## FY2019 All Hallows Guild Funds given to the PECF or Cathedral:

### General Grounds and Horticulture Breakdown:

Staff Education	\$ 1,148
Tree Maintenance (pruning, removal, boxwood care)	\$ 47,069
Plants/Bulbs throughout the Close	\$ 29,311
Interns	\$ 33,933
<b>Total General Grounds and Horticulture</b>	<b>\$111,461</b>
<b>Amphitheater Crossing (portion paid in FY2019)</b>	<b>\$ 23,852</b>
<b>Conservation of Bas-Relief Sculptures and 9th-century Carolingian Font in Gardens</b>	<b>\$ 19,883</b>
<b>Environmental Assessment of Olmsted Woods</b>	<b>\$ 6,796</b>
<b>Sayre House Landscaping</b>	<b>\$ 4,267</b>
<b>Stone Repair to Amphitheater Floor and Nitze Garden Wall</b>	<b>\$ 57,570</b>
<b>Contribution to Horticulture Budget</b>	<b>\$ 20,846</b>
<b>Tea and Tour</b>	<b>\$ 23,480</b>
<b>Rent</b>	<b><u>\$ 16,632</u></b>
<b>Total Contribution by AHG to PECF or Cathedral in FY19</b>	<b>\$284,787</b>



All Hallows Guild (AHG) is primarily an all-volunteer organization that raises money for the care and beautification of the gardens and grounds of the entire Cathedral Close. AHG pays for flowers, bulbs, trees, shrubs, tree maintenance, storm damage remediation, landscape architects, arborists, garden interns, staff education, and stonework that is an integral part of a garden or woods design. Throughout its 103-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.

For the last 20 years, the Guild has spent over 6.9 million dollars on the gardens, grounds and woodlands of the Close, and on contributions to the Foundation or Cathedral through AHG memberships, outright gifts, and reimbursement to Facilities. AHG is a unique organization within the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation (PECF). It is not a part of Shared Services but pays Shared Services bills on an ad hoc basis.

## *Garden Committee Annual Report 2019*

This year the Garden Committee could barely keep up with the Horticulture Staff, who are always brimming with ideas for anything from complete garden redesigns to tweaks here and there to improve our already gorgeous Cathedral Close.

One big Guild garden project was the spring planting of the Pollinator Garden between the National Cathedral School Underwood Athletic Center and the Beauvoir access hill. This garden was welcomed by NCS as an addition to their property, and is not only a home for pollinators with many native plants, but has helpful educational signs and markers for students or other admirers. See the blog on our website <https://allhallowsguild.org/pollinator-garden-progress/>.

Additionally, we worked with the Horticulture staff to redesign and replant the Nitze Memorial Garden, which lies just at the bend in Pilgrim Road. Gardens have to adapt to changing conditions of sunlight and moisture, and new species and cultivars of plants can often solve problems. This woods-edge garden now has more dogwood trees that relate to those in the woods, with a dense and quiet green sparked by seasonal color from azaleas and hydrangeas, and tall flowering shrubs like ilex and viburnum. <https://allhallowsguild.org/renewing-the-nitze-garden/>

The Guild arranged for a wrought iron railing at some rustic stone steps adjacent to Sayre House as a finish to the garden we provided.

We were pleased again to augment the staff during the busy summer gardening (and weeding) months by sponsoring three university students as summer interns. <https://allhallowsguild.org/all-hallows-guild-summer-intern-program-a-two-way-benefit/>

Dedicated volunteers work weekly to remove invasive species (English ivy) in the Olmsted Woods, allowing trees to breathe and native wildflowers to flourish in cleared spaces. It is difficult, tiring, and unheralded work that makes a world of difference. We continue to work on the woods in a revived effort to tackle water runoff and erosion, and to assess tree conditions and maintenance for the next several years. This urban forest is a jewel but requires constant vigilance and maintenance to thrive amidst the pressures of invasive species, surrounding hardscape, loss of large, soil-retaining trees, and difficult topography in a tightly enclosed environment.

Two major projects that are not strictly garden related were stonework repairs. All Hallows Guild commissioned Serra Stone to repair the flooring of the All Hallows Amphitheater stage, and also to rebuild the wall adjacent to Sayre House and behind the Nitze Garden. The Amphitheater stage now reflects the beauty of that glorious space. Both of these stone constructions were unsightly and hazardous, and we are pleased to have rendered them once again safe and befitting this beautiful landscape, for which we have been stewards since 1916.

### *All Hallows Guild Annual Meeting*

November 1st, 2019, 10 am

The Pilgrim Gallery, 7th floor, Washington National Cathedral

#### **Guest speaker: Alonso Abugattas, The Capital Naturalist**

Alonso Abugattas is a well-known local naturalist, environmental educator, and storyteller in the Washington, D.C. area. He has been trained as a master gardener, was made an honorary Virginia Master Naturalist for his role in starting two chapters and serves as an instructor for both. He is a co-founder of the Washington Area Butterfly Club and has held several offices, including president, for the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. He invites you to check out his personal blog "Capital Naturalist" and Facebook group where he posts regular nature notes using his own photography. Mr. Abugattas is the natural resources manager for the Department of Parks and Recreation of Arlington, VA, and the co-chair for the Beltway Chapter of Region 2 of the National Association for Interpretation.

#### **"The Importance of Native Landscapes"**

Understanding how important even small native landscapes and gardens are in the modern world leads to the realization that everything in the natural world is interconnected. These natural connections will be the feature of this presentation.