



President's Annual Report 2020

Dear Friends,

We are well into the fourth month of my term as President of All Hallows Guild, and I am truly thankful for the Board's vote of confidence. Our profound thanks go to former President Lydia Benson, who served so ably for four years, and to all other wonderful officers and committee chairs who have so ably completed their terms. The following committee reports will be conveyed to the Dean for inclusion in the PECF Annual Report. We thank all committee members for their important roles in creating, maintaining, and preserving this wonderful place.

Guild members this year have been especially generous with their time, talents, finances, and dedication to something greater than ourselves-- to keep open our gardens and grounds when others could not and provide a peaceful haven for all visitors. Our reverence for the past since 1916, fears of the present pandemic situation, and dreams of the future have motivated us to make this a better world as stewards of the gardens, grounds, and woodlands of the Washington National Cathedral. It is in the gardens, Olmsted Woods, and the All Hallows Amphitheater's quietly distanced retreats that panic finds reassurance provided by grass, flowers, trees, birds, butterflies, and bees. Here students are further inspired by the evidence of adults caring about their environment.

In the first half of this fiscal year all activities thrived. The Guild remained busy with plantings, maintenance, restoration, informational signage, and concerted efforts to enhance outreach using new technology. However, the second half saw programmatic slowdowns and eventual pauses or outright elimination. Despite losing Flower Mart, except online, and many Teas and Tours due to COVID, the gardens and grounds were kept open for visitors and Close schools to use, although in limited ways.

Record usage of the grounds by families, neighbors, friends, and both national and international visitors has strained resources and upkeep capacity. Loss of revenue from the Guild's normal activities will have a long-term impact. We need everyone's help to continue our mission of preserving and enhancing these spaces for future generations,

Why do gardens attract us to devote ourselves to their creation, development, tending and funding? Are they merely places to enjoy and marvel at Nature's beauty, to retreat to for solace in loneliness, pain, doubt, illness, aging? Are they also places to share joyously with family and friends glimpses of God's plan for our natural world? Through the Cathedral's gardens and grounds we may even gain greater understanding of the Biblical gardens of Eden, Christ's agony in the garden of Gethsemane, or the garden encounter of the risen Christ with Mary Magdalene. Nature and religion seem inextricably merged. In our gardens all can be moved by the walls, trees, and Cathedral spires to look toward Heaven for inspiration.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Harkrader Brau

AHG President

Membership:

At almost 400 strong, we are grateful to our members whose roots run deep in this Cathedral Close. Membership is particularly vital this year. Due to the pandemic, as our ongoing programs, such as Tea and Tour and garden tours, remain on hold to ensure the safety of all, we are thrilled that so many find beauty and solace in our outdoor spaces. Our members' support continues to provide the financial foundation for the care and beautification of these magnificent gardens and grounds and to keep them open year round, free of charge, for all to enjoy. We are grateful for the stalwart support of our members and hope you will be able to enjoy the following benefits in the year to come once it is safe to do so:

- Members (along with one guest) are not charged the Cathedral visitor admission fee.
- Members receive a discount at our Annual Greens Sale
- 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

Tour and Tea began the 2020 fall season in September with sold-out teas, hardworking volunteers and a #1 ranking from EaterDC. We served enthusiastic guests through November and took our annual winter break.

On March 11th, after only two teas in our spring season, Dean Hollerith closed the Cathedral in response to the Bishop's order. It is our great sadness that we have not been open since.

We give enormous thanks to Melissa Isbister, who managed the arduous task of refunding every reservation and dealing with our disappointed guests. She is the cement which holds our program together, along with our long-serving and stalwart volunteers. We very much look forward to resuming our much-loved tea program and send our best wishes for health and safety to our beloved volunteers and guests.

Herb Cottage Gifts:

Herb Cottage Gifts is folding its tent due to the inability to hold pop-up sales during COVID-19 and the lack of volunteers. We will be selling down our inventory using our email address gifts@allhallowsguild.org. Please contact us for a list of items for sale. Pick-up is available at the Cathedral library as well as local delivery. We are grateful for the support and love over the past five years!

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. Though our Bishop's Garden tours are currently on hiatus due to Covid-19, visitors can now access maps on their mobile phones by means of QR codes posted in the garden, and will soon be able to access audio narration as well.

Flower Mart:

As we began 2020, we anticipated welcoming 20,000 visitors to the grounds of the Washington National Cathedral to celebrate Flower Mart as we have done since 1939. Our historic carousel with its newly-refurbished caliola was waiting for rides; our gift and food vendors were planning to bring unique plants, gifts and fun festival food for all to enjoy; children's rides and activities were ready to delight; and once again our International Floral Exhibit was preparing to take our breath away.

We never imagined that a pandemic might disrupt and ultimately cancel our beloved Flower Mart!

As Flower Mart has evolved over the years from a small fruit and flower market, we evolved again this year – and held our first Virtual Flower Mart. Many thanks to our gift vendors who agreed to hold virtual sales to benefit All Hallows Guild, and to the individual and corporate sponsors whose commitment and financial support was unwavering.

We hope that it will be safe to hold Flower Mart on May 7-8, 2021 and welcome you all back to the Close for another extraordinary event, again celebrating the Olmsted Woods, our historic five-acre woodland that has served as a Haven of Peace to our community during this unprecedented time.



Communications:

The communications team continues to make updates and improvements to our website, allowing us to reach a large audience in a time when that is especially necessary. We were able to use the website to host this year's Virtual Flower Mart in May, and in early September launched our **online garden tour**. The tour includes two interactive maps that lead to individual web pages for 17 areas of the Cathedral Close and 14 areas of the Bishop's Garden. The Bishop's Garden pages include video content as well as photos and text. Signage located near Shadow House and in the Olmsted Woods includes QR codes linked to the online tour maps. This allows garden visitors to easily access the maps with their mobile devices. The next phase of the online tour is the creation of a downloadable podcast version. We expect the podcast to be launched late this year.

Our eNewsletter is now being received by 3000 people. We continue send hard-copy mailings, with full-color brochures, twice yearly. The fall membership mailing and the spring Flower Mart mailing are sent to approximately 1600 addresses. Reducing the amount of material that we print and mail allows us to be better stewards of the environment and our finances.

All Hallows Guild has a growing presence on social media. We maintain Facebook pages for All Hallows Guild and for Flower Mart. We also have accounts on Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. We also maintain a blog on our website that features our programs and garden projects.

Memorial Gifts, 2020

A *Cornus florida* (flowering dogwood) was planted in the Nitze Garden in memory of Lavinia Lemon Pitzer donated by Ashley Lemon Shaw.

Replacement benches were placed for Marie Haslam Kreuzburg and Judge George H. Revercomb.

Seventeen teak benches including several chairs in the Bishops Garden have been repaired and refurbished this past winter.

Treasurer's Report FY 2020

All Hallows Guild (AHG) is a 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 104-year history, AHG has allocated its resources to grounds and horticulture projects that have brought national recognition to the Washington National Cathedral grounds and gardens.

In FY2020, the AHG, like everyone, was forced by the COVID-19 pandemic to make sudden and substantial changes to our operations. The pandemic mitigation efforts caused the cancellation of Flower Mart, our largest fund raiser, and the suspension of Tour and Tea, another significant revenue source. The loss of more than \$100,000 in expected revenue resulted in a substantial budget shortfall for the Fiscal Year. Fortunately, our initial financial position was strong and we ended the year with approximately \$600,000 in available resources and \$1.72 M in investments that have held their value. These resources, along with continuing membership and contributions, will allow us to continue to fund our core gardens and ground mission through 2021, as we continue to adjust to the pandemic restrictions.

FY20 Budget Summary

Total Income	\$233,500
Total Operating Expenses	\$363,420
Available Resources as of 6/30/2020	\$612,727
Total Investments as of 6/30/2020	\$1,726,000

Highlights of FY20 Significant Investments

Carousel and Caliola Repair	\$44,309
Safety Upgrades to the Bishop's Garden	\$17,310
Olmsted Woods	\$28,500
Tree Maintenance	\$66,407
Plants/Bulbs throughout the Close	\$19,050
Interns	\$22,926
Contribution to Horticulture Budget	\$8,924

All Hallows Guild Annual Meeting

We'll miss seeing you in person this year, but we hope you'll join us "virtually" for a video presentation of our Annual Meeting, available for viewing online beginning on **Friday, November 6 at 9 am**. Watch for a link via email just prior to meeting time, or go to our website, allhallowsguild.com, and view the meeting at your convenience.

The presentation will feature messages from Cathedral Dean, The Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith, and Provost, The Rev. Canon Jan Naylor Cope. All Hallows Guild will present video reports from our President, Treasurer, and the Chair of our Garden Committee, all highlighted with scenes from the Cathedral gardens and grounds.

Garden Committee Annual Report 2020

Nearly everything in our lives this year 2020 is spoken of in terms of Before and After. Some of the projects of the Garden Committee were completed before March of this year and were unaffected by the shutdown. Several efforts were delayed or cancelled, and others have been brought along through sheer resilience and dedication.

Before

Last fall and winter we completed work on safety measures in the Bishop's Garden. With a generous grant from Wallace Genetic Foundation, we made the ancient paths and steps easier to negotiate for those with mobility issues and safer for all our visitors. We contracted with stonemasons and ironworkers and smoothed out some uneven paths, replaced small steps with ramps, and installed some beautiful wrought iron railings. The stairs at Shadow House had fallen out of level over the years and they were removed and relaid. We are pleased to have improved the visitor experience without compromising the beauty and authenticity of the garden.

The Nitze Garden was redesigned and renewed last year and as it has grown in, has become a lovely, tucked-away spot off Pilgrim Road perfect for quiet reflection. The five dogwood (*Cornus florida* 'Appalachian Snow') are all designated memorial trees.

Our continuing program of cleaning and repairing teak memorial benches saw 17 benches sent out and returned looking much improved. Cleaning and making minor repairs to the wood and polishing or replacing brass memorial plates add life to these benches.

After

Delayed but Proceeding:

* The entire Close shut down in March for two weeks, and no grounds staff worked during that time. They returned to work in stages, allowing for some staggered scheduling to accommodate safety and distancing. Delayed maintenance projects persist to this day. The AHG garden interns were not authorized to begin work until June, but were a tremendous help in trying to catch up on the backlog – weeds know no closures! We are always pleased to offer this two-way benefit – help for our own staff and education and experience for the students.

* The hoped-for stone conservation for the Norman Arch and the Wayside Cross, two of our precious and irreplaceable medieval sculptures, is delayed as conservators have curtailed travel. We hope soon to be able to clean off dirt and microorganisms and inject the stone of the Wayside Cross with an acrylic to seal, and to consolidate the stone with a material that mimics the limestone. The Norman Arch would be cleaned and repointed, stone consolidated, and cracks injected with synthetic material to seal.

* Olmsted Woods surveys were halted and arborists are still unable to travel to assess the trees. Information from the surveys will be used to formulate a program to mitigate water runoff and erosion in the Woods. We will be given a tree care schedule for 5-10-15 years to preserve this five-acre urban forest.

* Olmsted Woods volunteers made a late start in the spring after shutdown but continue weekly to remove invasives, and their work is rewarded as wildflowers reappear and thrive without competition.

* NCS Curran Courtyard landscape redesign is a cooperative venture among NCS, our horticulturists, and the Garden Committee. The new plan will make the space more friendly to both humans and pollinators, and will feature less formal, more natural spaces and many native plants. All Hallows Guild is pleased to be able to assist with \$12,000 in funds to make the design a reality.

* Similarly, the Guild expects to coordinate with the Cathedral in the repair and renovation of the front garden at Church House. Part of the area of the garden and lawn has been excavated and destroyed to install new boiler lines. Destruction can always be an opportunity, and our horticulturists have consulted with Garden Committee and created a new design for the front garden, for which the Guild will contribute funds.

Canceled until Further Notice but Open for Enjoyment

Tours of the Bishop's Garden and the Olmsted Woods have been canceled since March. We are sorry not to be able to show the gardens to visiting groups, but it is clear from the numbers of visitors daily that many are finding solace in these beautiful outdoor spaces. To assist both those who come in person and those who visit by computer, the Guild is proud to offer **online tours of the Cathedral Close as a whole and the Bishop's Garden in detail**. Photographs, narration, music, and interactive maps make these tours educational and up to date, and convey a wealth of information about the designs, plants, sculptures, and history of the gardens and grounds. **Please check our website and note the QR codes posted on boxes at Shadow House and at the entrance to Olmsted Woods. Pull up the tours in person on your smartphone.**

These tours are our gift to our visitors and guests and show how we continue to work to make this place "more and more a haven of peace and refreshment."



Respectfully submitted,

Carol Kelleher,

Garden Committee Chair