



# President's Annual Report 2023

*Dear Friends,*

As we gather for our Annual Meeting, the board of the All Hallows Guild is filled with gratitude for our members' gifts that have allowed us to continue our work to enhance the gardens and grounds of the Washington National Cathedral.

Our focus over the past year has been both large and small. For example, we have contributed to the garth garden at the Virginia Mae Center, a premier space where those who gather to listen and learn will benefit from our efforts to ensure that the fountain provides a soothing complement to their activities. On a larger scale, we hosted what many believe to be the largest Flower Mart (in terms of the number of attendees) that the Cathedral Close has ever experienced. From the International Floral Show to the dancers from lands around the world, from the food vendors selling savories and sweets to the gift vendors selling treasures from near and far, and from the old-fashioned sounds of the carousel to the glitter of the face painters on our youngest visitors, it was a weekend filled with laughter, joy, and light-heartedness, all of which were salves to souls that had long missed such a festival.



In July, a severe storm caused extensive damage to the Cathedral Close, resulting in the loss of about 40 trees and a massive cleanup effort on the part of our dedicated horticulture staff. In response to this situation, the AHG board approved a new campaign, the **All Hallows Guild Emergency Storm Relief Fund 2023-24**, in order to help the PECF cover costs of restoration and recovery. More information is available on our website, [www.allhallowsguild.org](http://www.allhallowsguild.org).

Recent events have made it very clear that contemplative places serve a very important role as a resource to communities impacted by local and global affairs. Time in natural beauty reminds us that there is good in this world - and that we are blessed to benefit from the dedication and skill possessed by those who work to preserve the Cathedral Close so that all people, regardless of nationality or religion, may find solace and inspiration in these sacred spaces.

With prayers of peace for all,  
*Christina J. Grigorian,*  
*President, All Hallows Guild*

## **Membership:**

At almost 400 strong, our members' support continued 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. Without our members, medieval stonework and statutes could not be repaired, native plants could not be planted, and there would be no Pollinator Garden. **THANK YOU** for your unwavering support. **THIS YEAR WE NEED YOU MORE THAN EVER GIVEN THE EXTENSIVE STORM DAMAGE ON THE CLOSE. PLEASE CONSIDER ADDING A GIFT FOR THE STORM DAMAGE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP DONATION.**

### **In the coming year, members will enjoy these benefits:**

Members (along with one guest) are not charged the Cathedral visitor admission fee.

Members receive a discount at our Annual Virtual Greens Sale in October and November.

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

Advance notice of upcoming events and activities (some with a discount or free admission for Guild members) are sent via our monthly email newsletter.

**Members may receive a discount to attend events and activities hosted by organizations with similar interests.**

# Committee Reports

## Our Garden and Woods Docent Programs

We are proud of our docent program, which guides large numbers of people each year through the Bishop's Garden and the Olmsted Woods. We led several tours in the spring with visitors from across the country, and we continue to receive inquiries and requests as people have resumed travel. In addition, visitors can access a recorded tour by means of QR codes posted in the garden, and on our website, [allhallowsguild.org](http://allhallowsguild.org).

## Flower Mart

With the cooperation of perfect weather, Flower Mart 2023 proved to be a banner year, with what we believe to be record attendance. In May 2024, we look forward to welcoming visitors back to the Close for our **85th** big spring festival, an annual tradition since 1939 and a vital source of support for our mission of preserving and beautifying the Cathedral gardens. This year's theme, **"In Bloom,"** reflects the joy of springtime and the spirit of celebration. The historic carousel, children's rides and games, traditional offerings of Premier Plants, unique gifts, entertainment, festival food, and an international floral exhibit will all return. We earnestly hope to make this the biggest event we have ever had! We are incredibly grateful to all who attended Flower Mart last year and to the generous donors and sponsors who continue to sustain us. Thanks to you, the Cathedral gardens and grounds have remained open nonstop for all to enjoy.



## Philanthropy Committee

Entering its fourth year, the Philanthropy Committee continues to submit grant applications to foundations that fund projects and maintenance throughout the gardens and grounds. The Guild has received grants for our ongoing carousel restoration, the watershed restoration plan in the Olmsted Woods, as well as grants for general expenses and cleanup from the significant July, 2023, storm damage. This successful effort by the four-member philanthropy team has been important to offset revenue lost during the pandemic.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

All Hallows Guild's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee was formed February 2022 in order to expand the Guild's outreach to the larger community in which the Washington National Cathedral exists, and continues to develop initiatives that ensure all communities are aware of the many ways available to enjoy the beauty and peace of the our gardens and grounds.

## Communications

This year the AHG board approved the addition of a part-time professional to our team in order to make our increasingly-important digital communications run even more smoothly. We continue to make updates and improvements to our website and database, allowing us to reach a large audience efficiently. We are especially proud of our blog that features our programs and garden projects, as well the full narrated online garden tour, with interactive maps that lead to individual web pages for 17 areas of the Cathedral Close and 14 areas of the Bishop's Garden.

Our eNewsletter is now being received by around 2500 people. We continue to 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.

## Development

In April-May, All Hallows Guild sponsored its third art exhibition in the Cathedral Tower. "The Spirit in Bloom 2023" featured original artworks by members of the Botanical Art Society of the National Capital Region and artists in the Cathedral Community. Twenty-five per cent of all art sales benefitted the Cathedral gardens and grounds, and the lovely reception on April 21st was attended by over 100 guests.

This year the board approved two fundraising initiatives. Our new **Planned Giving** program provides friends of the Guild a way to leave a bequest to the Cathedral gardens and grounds in their will. In the aftermath of the devastating July storm, the **All Hallows Guild Emergency Storm Relief Fund** was founded to help cover the costs of recovery and restoration. For more information and to donate, visit our website, [www.allhallowsguild.org](http://www.allhallowsguild.org).

## Memorial Gifts

As the Guild addresses the damage incurred in this summer's storm, we are especially grateful for the gracious memorial donations we have received for landscape improvement and refurbishment. We look forward to putting these funds to use in the coming year to revitalize our beautiful gardens and grounds.



# Treasurer's Report FY 2023

All Hallows Guild (AHG) raises funds and supports projects 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 the stonework that is an integral part of the gardens and woods design. Throughout its 107-year history, AHG has allocated its resources to projects that have brought national recognition to the Washington National Cathedral grounds and gardens.

In FY2023, the AHG activities returned to normal after impacts the COVID-19 pandemic. In May 2023, Flower Mart, our largest fund raiser, saw two days of beautiful weather that drew capacity crowds and raised funds that exceeded the budget projections. Members and supporters continue to be generous and our income from contributions again exceeded expectations. In addition, the grants initiative that AHG has undertaken has remained a significant source of supplemental income.

Substantial expenditures were planned for FY23, as we began to catch up of many long-planned projects that experienced pandemic-related delays, spending down funds that had been designated but not expended. We expect significant work and similar continued expenditures to continue into FY2024.

Overall, our financial position remains strong. We ended the fiscal year with approximately \$445,000 in available resources and \$2 M in investments. These resources, along with continuing membership and contributions, will allow us to continue to fund our core gardens and grounds mission through 2024.

## FY23 Budget Summary

Total Income	\$418,013
Total Operating Expenses	\$711,013
Available Resources as of 6/30/2023	\$445,664
Total Investments as of 6/30/2023	\$2,064,667

## Flower Mart

Expenses	\$221,611
Revenues	\$378,798
Net	\$157,187

## Highlights of FY23 Significant Investments

Tree Maintenance	\$72,285
Plants/Bulbs throughout the Close	\$9,800
Interns	\$16,320
Contribution to Horticulture Budget	\$6,996
Stonework Conservation in Bishop's Garden	\$107,289
Virginia Mae Center Landscaping	\$60,000
Shadow House Repairs	\$7,620
Olmsted Woods Study and Planning	\$50,463

## All Hallows Guild Annual Meeting

Nov. 1st, 2023, 9 am, Washington National Cathedral, 7th Floor Auditorium

### Guest Speaker: Thomas L. Woltz

Thomas Woltz is the Principal and Owner of Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects (NBW) with offices in New York City, Charlottesville VA, and Houston TX. He was named the Design Innovator of the Year by the Wall Street Journal Magazine in 2013. In 2011, he was invested into the American Society of Landscape Architects Council of Fellows, among the highest honors achieved in the profession. During the past 20 years of practice, Woltz has forged a body of work that integrates the beauty and function of built form and craftsmanship with an understanding of complex biological systems and restoration ecology that has yielded thousands of acres of reforested land, reconstructed wetlands, native meadows, and flourishing wildlife habitat. His design work infuses places where people live, work, and play with narratives of the land that inspire stewardship. Many of these projects focus on restoration of damaged ecological infrastructure within working farmland and create models of biodiversity and sustainable agriculture. Under his leadership, NBW has evolved from a firm of 5 people to 50, and has expanded its mission to tackle a diverse range of scales and contexts. The work of NBW has been recognized with over 100 national and regional awards and been published widely. The firm has worked in 25 states and 9 countries.

### Topic: "Soul and Soil: The Healing Power of Narrative in Landscape Design"

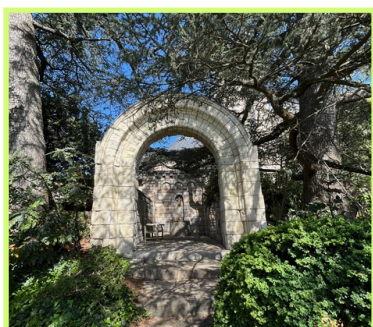
Thomas will discuss his team's process in applying the tools of landscape architecture to forge deep connections between people, uncover the layered narratives embedded in each landscape, and express key community values and aspirations. Thomas will offer insights into the firm's approach to diverse projects, such as the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, PA, the Memorial Groves design for Memorial Park in Houston, TX, the Naval Cemetery Landscape in Brooklyn, NY, and the EcoCommons at Georgia Tech. His presentation will demonstrate how resulting strategies and designs are rooted in site-specific ecological and cultural narratives, and can provide inspiring models of resiliency and committed stewardship.



# Garden Committee Annual Report 2023

**Summer Horticulture Interns—** Again this summer, All Hallows Guild sponsored three college students as summer interns. These students help our staff care for the grounds and enjoy a fabulous hands-on learning experience identifying plants, learning principles of garden design, and becoming familiar with plant care.

Charlie Thompson (Montgomery College-Environmental Horticulture); Elia Choi (Univ. of MD-Landscape Architecture); and Jason Parker (VA Tech.-Ecological Restoration) have all returned to their studies but carry with them the benefits of their summer's work on the Close.



**Stone Conservation—** Our gardens are immeasurably enhanced by the presence of a number of medieval stone artifacts brought from France over a century ago. We have commissioned conservation involving repair, cleaning, and preservation to save these unique pieces from exposure and human damage. The beautiful Wayside Cross and the massive Norman Arch are the latest to be cared for. The Arch had suffered from the Portland cement used in the 1920s to reassemble it here on the grounds, and the shaft of the Cross was cracked and in danger of crumbling. Both have been cleaned and repaired; our own stonemasons fashioned a new shaft for the cross from Aquia Quarry stone and reinforced it with a stainless steel rod.



The newly planted Wayside Cross bed features Russian Sage, Dusty Miller, and Verbena, backing and softening a length of wrought-iron garden edging. The work was supported by a generous donation from the Symington family in memory of their mother, Nancy Symington, long-time Guild Board member.



**Cathedral Apse Grove and Garden Design—** The recent loss of several oak and yellowwood trees in the Library and Apse area has forced us to rethink the space, how it is used, and how it might enhance our experience of walking, sitting, or conversing. Current horticultural thinking holds that planting several trees together in a grove allows them to support each other. This will introduce 21<sup>st</sup> century garden and landscape practices to the east end of the Cathedral. We will plant about a dozen oak trees of a few varieties that will likely tolerate the conditions of the space; they will join existing beech trees and mirror the remnants of the early oak and beech forest of the Olmsted Woods. Eventually trees will be underplanted with native plants to define where the turf ends and the garden bed begins. The grove is planned to provide spaces for people alone or in small groups to relax, meditate, or converse.

**July 29 Downburst and Horrific Damage—** A very localized windstorm decimated our trees in the Olmsted Woods and gardens. We lost more than 40 trees, some uprooted and toppled, some crushed by other trees falling, some whose limbs were shorn off. The main Woods and the smaller area behind Sayre House are disastrous; even determining the true extent of the damage will take time as the debris is gradually cleared away.



The area behind Sayre House will be tackled first; two enormous oak stumps are being sliced up and removed; invasive bamboo clumps and jetbead will be dug and pulled out, and then new yellowwoods, dogwoods, pecan, and sassafras will be planted. It is important that roots of these trees begin to hold the soil so that erosion will not worsen as we continue to fight that.



**ALL HALLOWS GUILD**  
WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL GARDENS

Respectfully submitted,

*Carol Kelleher,*  
Garden Committee Chair