

at the Cathedral

Fall 2014

Blue Nights

A READING BY VANESSA REDGRAVE, BASED ON THE MEMOIR BY JOAN DIDION

In the fall of 2009, Vanessa Redgrave and Joan Didion brought Didion's *The Year of Magical Thinking* to the Cathedral, in a spellbinding performance directed by David Hare. The performance was a benefit for UNRWA and UNICEF "to help the children of Gaza and southern Israel."

Both Redgrave and Didion know what it is to lose children: both lost beloved adult daughters around the same time, Quintana Roo Dunne dying in 2005, Natasha Richardson in 2009. Didion writes about both deaths in her book *Blue Nights*, an elliptical, sparsely told memoir whose incantatory return to certain memories and images—including Quintana's 2003 wedding at the Cathedral—holds together a fragile narrative that makes no attempt to tell the whole story, or even to say for sure what the story is. It is a book of tremendous feeling, often painful to read, written with the acute self-consciousness and intelligence Didion is known for. The Cathedral will host a reading from the book, performed by Vanessa Redgrave, on November 17.

The Cathedral put a series of questions to Didion and Redgrave. Didion answered the questions specifically; Redgrave wrote an inclusive statement. Their words are below.

Cathedral: We have been thinking about John Banville's review of *Blue Nights* in the New York Times that concludes, "it is most profound... [at] the level at which the author comes fully to realize, and to face squarely, the dismaying fact that against life's worst onslaughts nothing avails, not even art; especially not art." What is your take on this?

Joan Didion: I think that's true. I have never believed that art could help with these things—with all the things we ask it to do. I wish I did believe that.

Cathedral: You and Vanessa have both shared the experience of unspeakable loss. How has that informed working together on *Blue Nights*?

Joan Didion: Sharing unspeakable loss has informed every day both Vanessa and I live. It has led, on my part, to a profound trust of her.

Cathedral: You have a long history with the Cathedral as a place of joy and of memory. Given that the Cathedral can mean so many different things to different people, is there anything more about the Cathedral you would like to say?

Joan Didion: I love doing this at the Cathedral. *Blue Nights* is so intensely personal a piece, that the Cathedral seemed the only logical place for it.

Vanessa Redgrave was asked, "You have narrated the audio book of *Blue Nights* and have deeply immersed yourself in adapting the book for a theatrical performance. How has this experience been different for you from the work you did with Joan Didion on *The Year of Magical Thinking*? Do you have an idea of taking *Blue Nights* to other venues? Your performance at the Cathedral of *The Year of Magical Thinking* has been called by viewers "among the most powerful nights of theater I've ever witnessed." Was it your experience that the performance in the Cathedral was very different than on Broadway or the West End?"

Vanessa Redgrave replied, "Whether or not I ever present *Blue Nights* again, the evening will be unique. The Cathedral is an awesome, warm, enfolding place. When Joan and I were here in October 2009, with *The Year of Magical Thinking*, the Cathedral technical staff, led by Ken Williams, were phenomenal. The Cathedral is a Holy Place. For communion. For reflection. For turning to our neighbours in the seats beside us. For gratitude. For thinking of how we may be able to help others in great need of loving support.

"Theatre began as a new way of extending beyond the limits of any given place of worship. Beyond the structures of all religions. Beyond the limits of literacy. Theatre has always been rather feared by all religions. Even Rousseau, the free-thinker, fiercely objected to a theatre in Geneva! The Puritans shut down the theatres; the Wahabite sect of Islam does not permit theatre and so on. I am sad that an opera production at the MET was recently withdrawn. I am sad when any individual or group censors or tries to censor a viewpoint, or nationality or faith in the context of theatre or music. This is an alarming current in our world today. Whatever our beliefs, blue nights come to all of us. I find Joan Didion's thoughts of her husband and daughter, Quintana Roo—who knew my daughter Natasha, who died in March 2009—very strengthening and

thought-provoking, so I am very grateful that I can share her thoughts in the Cathedral."

The celebrated trumpet player, Jimmy Owens, 2012 NEA Jazz Master, leader of Jimmy Owens Plus, will take part in the program. Ms. Redgrave has requested that the evening be a benefit for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and Cathedral Community Cares. Please check the website for details.



Photo: Brigitte Lacombe

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Schedule of Daily Liturgical Services

Sunday

8 am
Morning Prayer
& Holy Eucharist
9 am
Holy Eucharist
11 am
Choral Eucharist
4 pm
Choral Evensong

Monday through Saturday

8 am
Morning Prayer
8:30 am
Holy Eucharist
(Tuesday & Thursday)
12:15 pm
Holy Eucharist
5 pm
Evening Prayer

Cathedral Information

The Cathedral is open daily
from 7:30 am–6 pm
For information:
(212) 316-7540
stjohndivine.org

Reaching the Cathedral

The Cathedral is located at
1047 Amsterdam Avenue,
at 112th Street.

By Subway:
#1 Train to 110th Street

By Bus:
#M4 to Amsterdam
& 110th Street
#M11 to Amsterdam
& 112th Street
#M104 to Broadway
& 112th Street

Looking Ahead



Photo: Courtesy Paul-Gordon Chandler

The Cathedral has an exciting fall season ahead: liturgy, art, music, education and special speakers and events. Longtime artist in residence **Ralph Lee** and the **Mettawee River Theatre Company** return for the weekend of September 5–7 with ***The Dancing Fox: Wisdom Tales of the Middle East***. First produced in 2003, this show weaves together material from the folk traditions of Jews and Arabs, including the writings of Sufi mystics. Join Ralph and his company for tales of clever foxes, dim-witted fish, a vengeful snake as well as a number of wise and foolish humans.

On September 16, the Cathedral will host the **Episcopal Relief & Development 75th Anniversary Celebration Art Exhibition**. This touring photo exhibition shows Episcopal Relief & Development's mission of "healing a hurting world" in action around the world, from China to Ghana to El Salvador to Louisiana to New Jersey, and points in between. Visit episcopalrelief.org for more information.

On September 21, after the People's Climate March, the Cathedral will host **Religions for the Earth: A Multi-Faith Celebration** (see article). Climate change is one of the central problems of our era: frightening, daunting, yet offering a vast opportunity to reshape our culture and politics in accordance with the needs of all the earth's creatures—the strong, the vulnerable, and future generations. This interfaith service, bringing together a microcosm of our diverse and disparate human community, may be one step on the path towards that goal.

September 28 is **U.N. Sunday**, when the Cathedral honors the mission of the United Nations. The 69th President of the General Assembly of the U.N. will offer a sermon at the 11 am service.

The Feast of St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals (see article) is one of New York's most beloved events. Cathedral friends and animal lovers—two groups that overlap

significantly—pack the huge space, with leashed or caged pets attending the service with their human companions. **The Paul Winter Consort**, **The Forces of Nature Dance Theater** and **Omega Dance Troupe** perform the *Missa Gaia* (Earth Mass); the Dean preaches; and a parade of creatures large and small fills the audience with wonder at the beauty and variety of the animal kingdom.

On October 8, the Cathedral will host **Maude Barlow**, the bestselling author and activist who is the National Chairwoman of the Council of Canadians, an citizens advocacy group; co-founder of The Blue Planet Project; one of the "1000 Women for Peace" nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize; and 2009 winner of the prestigious Lannan Cultural Freedom Fellowship, known as the "Alternative Nobel." In 2008, Ms. Barlow was named the first Advisor on Water to the United Nations. She will speak on **Our Great Lakes Commons: A People's Plan to Protect the Great Lakes Forever**—a vitally important project for all who care about freshwater.

On display from October 12 through November, **Amen, a Prayer for the World** is an exhibition of fiberglass statues of figures in poses of prayer or meditation. The traveling exhibition was sponsored by **CARAVAN**, a nonprofit focused on interfaith and arts; and co-curated by **CARAVAN** founder and president **Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler**, and renowned Egyptian artist **Reda Abdel Rahman**, who also designed and sculpted the statues. Each statue was painted/adorned by a different artist: thirty Egyptian artists and eighteen Western artists. The sculptures will be displayed in the Chapel of St. James. A reception will be held on October 16. A concert in conjunction with the exhibition is planned: please keep an eye on the calendar.

The Cathedral welcomes poets **Marilyn Hacker**, **Deema Shehabi**, **Lawrence Joseph**, **Khaled Mattawa**, and more for a reading on October 14,



Photo: Courtesy of the Mettawee River Theatre Company

spotlighting the diversity of Arab and Arab-American literary achievement and necessity of cross-cultural exchange and understanding in our uncertain world.

Great Choir: A Choral Concert Series opens on October 15, with Arvo Pärt's rarely performed "Te Deum" (see article).

As nights come earlier and colder, the holiday season begins with one that is special to children, young and old, who have a taste for spider webs, spooks, and things that go bump in the night. Come celebrate the horror and humor of Halloween at the **Cathedral All Hallows Eve Annual Halloween Extravaganza**, with **Ralph Lee's** Procession of the Ghouls. Are those shrieks of fear, delight or laughter? Only you can say. The film this year is ***The Phantom of the Opera*** with shows at 7 and 9 pm.

November brings two literary events you won't want to miss. The induction of **Flannery O'Connor** into the American Poets Corner, at the November 2 evensong, honors an American original and a deeply spiritual sensibility. O'Connor's sharp eye for hypocrisy and human failings, undergirded by a profound belief in redemption, makes her a natural for the Cathedral. Friends and fans will gather to honor the writer and celebrate The American Poets Corner, the only such place in the United States. There will also be a program on November 4.

Vanessa Redgrave performed **Joan Didion's** *The Year of Magical Thinking* at the Cathedral in 2009, a powerfully moving night of theater. They return on November 17 for a performance of a theatrical piece based on Didion's new book, ***Blue Nights*** (see article). *Blue Nights* is a meditation on grief, memory and aging by one of our country's greatest living writers, performed by one of the world's greatest living actors. Not to be missed.

Great Organ: A Recital Series has its first performance on November 18, featuring Kent Tritle (see article).

On November 22, Cathedral Artist in Residence **Fred Renz** and **Early Music New York** open their 40th anniversary season on St. Cecelia Day (patron saint of musicians). The evening will feature festive works for natural trumpets and timpani by Johann Sebastian Bach and contemporaries Georg Philip Telemann, George Frederick Handel and William Boyce.

Looking Back

On June 7, **Cathedral Community Cares (CCC)**, in partnership with **Mount Sinai Health Systems** and **Sigma Gamma Rho Alumnae**, **Kappa Sigma Chapter**, offered a Health Fair for neighborhood residents, with medical screenings, information, music, and more.

On the 10th, the Cathedral hosted a hugely successful **Spirit of the City** gala. **Xu Bing** was honored with the Spirit of the City Global Arts Award, and businessman/author/philanthropist **Peter Georgescu** with the Spirit of the City Global Citizenship Award. The gala raised much-needed funds for social service outreach, education, music, exhibitions, civic gatherings, and preservation.

At the 19th Annual **Summer Solstice Concert**, held the weekend of June 21, Cathedral Artist in Residence **Paul Winter** performed with **Chris Brubeck**, bass trombone; **Paul McCandless**,

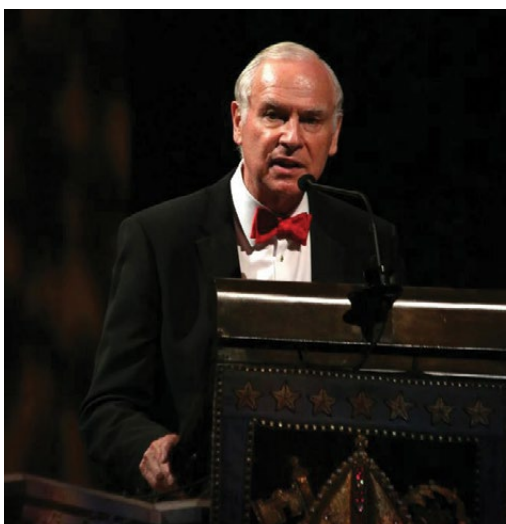


Photo: Cathedral Archives

oboe, English horn and bass clarinet; **John Clark**, French horn; **Marcus Rojas**, tuba; **Tim Brumfield** organ; and four percussionists, welcoming in the summer long days.

On June 21, the Cathedral hosted **The Interfaith Kirtan for World Peace**, with **The Integral Yoga Institute of New York**, **the Temple of Understanding**, **gratefulness.org**, and the **Lotus Center for All Faiths**. The event was part of the 2014 "Global Garland," a yearlong celebration of the centennial of **Sri Swami Satchidananda**, Integral Yoga founder and interfaith pioneer. Musical guests included **Krishna Das**, **Guru Ganesha Singh**, **Kirtan Rabbi**, **Mandala**, the **PS41 Songbirds Choir**, **Tibetan Gongs** with **Grand Gongmaster Don Conreux**, and **Islamic Call to Prayer**.

Dean's Meditation: The Mosaic of Loss

“We all survive more than we think we can. We imagine things—that we wouldn't be able to survive, but in fact, we do survive. ... We have no choice, so we do it.”

Joan Didion

“Everybody who came to see [The Year Of Magical Thinking] said they realized we all go through these extraordinary experiences of walking into another country that we never imagined and couldn't imagine—the country of having lost the member of the family whom we just adore”

Vanessa Redgrave

“The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of those depths.”

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

Vanessa Redgrave has decided to perform again in the Cathedral—in *Blue Nights*, another piece by Joan Didion, adapted from her novel of the same name. A New York Times Notable Book, *Blue Nights* has been described as “a work of stunning frankness about losing a daughter.” Vanessa also lost her daughter, Natasha Richardson, in a freak skiing accident. Then her actor brother Corin died. Less than a month later her younger sister, Oscar-nominee Lynn, lost her battle with cancer. Vanessa embraced her friend Joan Didion's loss of two family members in quick succession—Didion's husband and daughter—in *The Year Of Magical Thinking*, performed first on Broadway and then at London's National Theatre. She reprised her performance for one night here in October 2009, to respond to the crisis then in Gaza by raising money for

UNICEF and UNRWA in support of the children of Gaza and southern Israel affected by warfare.

Writing for the Express four years ago, Simone Edge claimed, “In a remarkable interview ... on BBC Radio ... the 73-year-old Academy Award-winner finally let the world in.” Edge had observed that even Lynn Barber, “an interviewer so legendary she has herself been the subject of an Oscar-nominated film” had not been able to “penetrate the actress's rigid guard.” Barber asserted:

“It's as if Vanessa finds it safer to talk about politics than to talk about herself. She has a great mistrust of journalists and scans each question for hidden bear-traps before answering at tediously cautious length. She seems drawn to put the heaviest possible spin on everything.” I have had the privilege of meeting with Ms. Redgrave several times. I disagree with Lynn Barber. Loss is an often mysterious and sacramental event in our lives. Although our losses may be similar to the experience of countless others, they are also profoundly personal. People respond to them as differently as they do most other things in a lifetime. Except that our attachments define us, as do our losses. When we move, undergo vocational turmoil, become victims of violence or enter the throes of any human saga of loss, we often feel the earth quake under us. Those losses raise in us the universal human question, “Who am I?”—cross time and cultures—as what shapes our lives is threatened or taken from us. No wonder the wailing we hear as passersby resonates with us beyond language and time.

That is why Vanessa Redgrave has told us that she experiences the Cathedral as

... an awesome, but also warm, enfolding place ... a Holy Place. For communion. For reflection. For turning to our neighbors in the seats beside us. For gratitude. For thinking of how we may be able to help others in great need of loving support.

When British author and commentator Karen Armstrong came to the Cathedral in 2010 to discuss the Charter for Compassion, she reminded us that the Greeks put suffering on stage so that we could learn compassion. Few do that better than Vanessa Redgrave.

To witness such staged drama is different from being a voyeur—one who is perverted by obsessive observation of things sordid or sensational. The word derives from the Old French, which referred to one who lies in wait. I was drawn to an undergraduate major in literary criticism because I could examine human stories that had often been kept secret from me or not openly discussed within my family. I knew the fictional stories were not real, but they in some ways prepared me to listen to the stories I have heard over the decades since, as a hospital chaplain and as a parish priest. As Elisabeth Kubler-Ross reminded us, we could rediscover the elegant beauty of being with people as they died and share in what defines the human condition, when we walk through losses with others.

Kenneth Feinberg has been thrust into an extraordinary career, as a lawyer who helps to quantify loss after horrific tragedies. He did not know any of the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Or the victims of the Virginia Tech mass shootings, the BP oil spill, or the Boston Marathon bombings. General Motors has retained Feinberg to address at least 13 deaths and 31 accidents linked to faulty ignition switches. Attorney General John Ashcroft asked Feinberg, a compensation expert, to set

up and head a congressionally mandated victim's-compensation fund. Feinberg and his law firm staff devoted 33 months, pro-bono, to investigating claims and deciding benefits. Feinberg personally conducted most of the 1,500 hearings with survivors and victims' families. As he wrestled with the valuation of the lives lost, Feinberg started to question the premise of our legal system: that no two lives were worth the same in financial terms.

But now I found the law in conflict with my growing belief in the equality of all life. “Mr. Feinberg, my husband was a fireman and died a hero at the World Trade Center. Why are you giving me less money than the banker who represented Enron? Why are you demeaning the memory of my husband?” ... And I didn't believe it myself ... I was engaged in a personal struggle. I felt it would make more sense for Congress to provide the same amount of public compensation to each and every victim—to declare, in effect, that all lives are equal. But in this case, the law prevailed. (From NPR's Weekend Edition Sunday by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman)

The private fund that responded to the Virginia Tech deaths of 32 victims allowed, “Feinberg the citizen should trump Feinberg the lawyer.” All victims—students and faculty alike—received the same compensation. Feinberg believes that if there is another 9/11, if Congress decides to award public compensation (he doubts that Congress will ever again use a 9/11-type fund to provide such generous compensation to people), the law should declare that all life be treated the same. “One of the things ... is that when people complain to me, argue, or demand more money,” Feinberg has said, “I don't believe it has anything to do with greed. It has to do with grief. Valuing a lost loved one—a life that won't be fulfilled, a future that will never be realized.”

Whether a lifetime is long or short, the loss engendered by death forces us to take stock of it. Even lives fulfilled, with many goals realized, end. Our lives are punctuated by the small and not-so-small deaths of such endings, as we begin the next hello with goodbye. I have seen firsthand as a pastor that unsaid goodbyes can be the basis of the dis-eases of our lives. Those endings shape us, opening us up to daring to love or closing us to that risk of the loss of all our attachments. Each of us will have opportunities to help others navigate the challenge of loss. Ken Feinberg knows well that

... the reaction to tragedy is almost unlimited, limited only by the vagaries of human nature. It is unbelievable. Families would meet me and express anger, frustration, sadness, joy that somebody would listen. Families met with me expressing newfound belief in religion. Others would express the view that there is no God that could allow this to happen. The mosaic of human emotion is incredible ... Despite the personal impact on me emotionally, I'd do it again. ... If you can make some small contribution to the healing process, that justifies your involvement in coping with tragedies.

That kind of compassion is learned, as we walk with others and as we are transformed into healers who mend hearts and this broken world.



Photo: Isadora Wilkenfeld

On June 22, the **Logo Network** taped its awards ceremony **Trailblazers** (the first of a projected annual event celebrating pioneers in the LGBTQ rights movement) at the Cathedral. Among the honorees were **Edie Windsor**, who challenged the Federal Defense of Marriage Act and her lawyer,



Photo: Isadora Wilkenfeld

Roberta Kaplan, **A Great Big World**, **Exosia**, and **Sia** were among the featured performers.

The Cathedral collaborated with the **Asian Cultural Council** for a performance by **Hu Xianqian** on July 16. The artist, who was born in Leizhou in Guangdong Province, explores gaps in

communication and issues of identity in pieces that are often documented on video.

Throughout the summer, two quilts made by writer, artist and activist **Robin Berson** were on display. The exhibition memorialized the workers killed in the infamous 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire and their modern-day counterparts in Bangladesh. Created with the support of the **Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition**, these quilts honor the lives of garment workers, and encourage activism by and for workers around the world.

Summer wouldn't be summer without the **ACT campers**. As any visitor knows, these children bring laughter and high spirits to the Cathedral. Whether they are playing on the Close, picking up peacock feathers, or leaving comments about the phoenixes, ACT kids are a cherished part of Cathedral life.

A Volery of Birds: Our Fine Feathered Friends

Sitting on 11 acres of park-like grounds, the Cathedral has an abundance of wildlife, from the peacocks whose shed tail feathers are gathered with delight by ACT kids every summer to red-tailed hawks nesting high on the statuary of the facade, to pigeons, squirrels, ducks, a managed beehive, and the occasional cat slinking through the shrubbery. Cathedral respect for animals is most evident in the upcoming Feast of St. Francis and Procession of the Animals (October 5), when friends from around the city and the world visit with leashed companions and the clergy bless sheep, goats, ducks, llamas, a tortoise, a camel and many more.

But every department at the Cathedral is involved with animals one way or another. The Maintenance Department feeds and tends to the peacocks; the Finance Department handles the vet bills; and teachers at The Cathedral School, ACT and Visitor Services give lessons that incorporate elements of animal science, husbandry, history and symbolism. Art at the Cathedral, from the original stonework and stained glass to the 2013 Jane Alexander exhibition *Surveys (from the Cape of Good Hope)* to Xu Bing's *Phoenix*, now hanging in the nave, often draws on animal imagery. Mary Bloom's 2013 exhibition of photographs, *Dog Bless You*, was an unabashed celebration of the canine spirit. Now in the planning stages, the Cathedral-wide initiative *The Value of Food* acknowledges the many ways animals sacrifice that we might eat.

A Muster of Peacocks

For all the majesty of the Cathedral building and the abundance of clerical, educational and artistic talent that make this such a special place, people—especially, but not only children—often focus on the peacocks. Their beauty dazzles. Their antics inspire visitor and press devotion and hardly anyone can resist pausing to watch when one deigns to show off his splendid tail.

The Cathedral first acquired peacocks in 1972, when four peachicks were given to the new dean, The Very Reverend James Parks Morton, by a farm in Massachusetts. The dean named the birds Matthew, Martha, Luke and Joan. The Cathedral Maintenance department built a pen for the vulnerable young birds, where they were confined until old enough to wander the grounds. When those peacocks died, a veterinarian at the Bronx Zoo offered to replace them and Mary Bloom, the Cathedral's photographer in residence and an early contributor to the Saint Francis Day Procession of the Animals, kept three peachicks in her kitchen until they were old enough to brave life at the Cathedral.

The peacocks in residence now, Jim, Phil and Harry, arrived twelve years ago as a gift to the new dean by Cathedral School class of 2002. India Blue Jim is named for The Very Reverend Dr. James A. Kowalski and India Blue Harry for a former dean, The Very Reverend Harry H. Pritchett, Jr. Rare White Phil is named for Phillip Foote, the former head of The Cathedral School.

The peacocks are often seen moving around the gardens and walkways with their distinctive strut, sometimes roosting in trees, fences, or on the porch of the Textile Conservation Lab. If you wish to see them in all their glory, be advised that they are more likely to present you with a rear view than full-face. If you want a picture of a peacock facing you, you have to be patient; walking around the bird will often result in the bird spinning around to maintain the status quo. The birds occasionally wander off the Close, some going as far as Broadway in their search for adventure. Luckily, neighborhood residents know where the peacocks belong and will give a call to the Cathedral.



Photo: Robert Schmunk

A Cast of Red-Tailed Hawks

The red-tailed hawk is one of the most common of its genus in North America: medium-sized raptors with robust bodies and broad wings. They are monogamous and often return to the same nesting site for many years. During courtship, the male displays his aerial prowess, diving steeply and climbing back up the air for ten minutes or more. At the end of the display sometimes the two birds briefly grip each other's talons.

We're not sure when red-tailed hawks first nested among the saints and prophets, but Urbanhawks.com, a blog with a collection of spectacular pictures (some of which are reproduced in this article) started reporting on them in 2006. Robert Schmunk, who writes about Morningside Heights hawks, always keeps a close eye on the Cathedral fledglings and has made himself available to answer many of our questions about hawks. "This beautiful location continues to consistently give us young hawks year after year," said a recent entry.

“Hear the harsh cry from where the peacock perches, Not breaking that strong peace of God’s word born.”

Robert Lowell (1917–1977), inducted into the American Poets Corner in 2003.



Photo: Cathedral Archives

The Cathedral is deeply grateful to all those who have offered information and assistance with the hawks, a group that includes Bobby and Cathy Horvath, of Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation. The Horvaths rehabilitate about 800 animals a year, including eagles, baby chipmunks, poisonous snakes and even a bobcat, in their Massapequa home, relying on donations and their own funds to care for the animals. Ten years ago, they took in a Cathedral hawk that was injured eating lead paint on a scaffolding; the hawk is still under their care. Other sources of help have been the Urban Park Ranger Wildlife Program, which cares for animals in city parks, focusing on education and community involvement, and Audubon NYC.

Recently, Cathedral staff members have been concerned with bird illnesses. This year one of the red-tail fledglings and the female parent, Isolde, developed frounce, a yeast infection contracted by eating pigeons. Even with immediate veterinary help, Isolde died. One of our trio of peacocks, Jim St. John, has a serious infection on his leg and after receiving acute care is now convalescing at the a facility run by the Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine, whose skilled and compassionate staff, including Manager and veterinary nurse Lorelei Tibbetts, Dr. Anthony Pliny and Dr. Cynthia Brown, have gone above and beyond to care for the ailing bird. Vet bills have been high this year, and contributions for the care of our feathered friends will be gratefully accepted.”



Photo: Isadora Wilkenfeld

Stewardship: The Course Ahead

In the century since the first services in the new Cathedral, New York City, the role of America in the world, and the role of the church in American life have changed dramatically. But the ideals the Cathedral was founded on have not changed, and the responsibilities and rewards of church fellowship are not greatly different. “A house of prayer for all people” is the phrase from the Cathedral’s charter that is used most frequently in recent Cathedral publications and press releases, and there’s a reason for that. Interfaith issues have become a flashpoint in global and national society, and are a particular concern of the Very Reverend James A. Kowalski, Dean of the Cathedral.

In an interview with this writer, the Dean explained how things were when he was appointed, shortly after 9/11. “I was the voice and face of the Cathedral in a time of war. My concerns those first years were with reclaiming what it means to be an American Cathedral in a time of global citizenship.” It has been a dozen years since the World Trade Center attacks—a period encompassing two wars, controversies about torture and surveillance carried out by the United States government, the economic crash of 2008, increasing income inequality, and urgent concerns about climate change. These are all global issues. The Dean spoke about maintaining a balance between America and the world—facing issues such as the current surge in military tension in Iraq and differing perspectives on Israel’s role in the Middle East. “I don’t think you can be a Christian and not be involved in politics,” the Dean said, “unless you’re part of a sect that is only concerned with the afterlife. If you’re talking about life on earth, you’re talking about politics.”

In recent years, the Cathedral has held exhibitions, memorials and symposia on 9/11, the issue of water (*The Value of Water*, 2011) the plight of undocumented immigrants and global kinship. *Phoenix: Xu Bing at the Cathedral* opened in spring of this year, and *The Value of Food* and more programs on immigration are coming up, all of which address the central Cathedral mission of an inclusive stewardship. “What is Xu Bing’s work about but the quest for a universal vocabulary?” the Dean asked. He sees danger in the spread of religious illiteracy, heightening the need to help people connect the dots politically, socially, environmentally and spiritually.

Stewardship is an ideal of human and institutional behavior. To conserve, to know what to conserve and to what degree, is a responsibility that depends on a balance of emotional investment and good judgment. One stewards what one knows enough about and cares enough about to manage wisely, but which is not one’s own. To be aware of that fine line is paramount. The Cathedral is “our Cathedral” in an absolute sense; at the same time, that “belonging” is proportionate to what we do for it, what responsibility we bear, and what choices have been made.

“I was the voice and face of the Cathedral in a time of war. My concerns those first years were with reclaiming what it means to be an American Cathedral in a time of global citizenship.”

The Very Reverend Dr. James A. Kowalski
Dean of the Cathedral

Real Estate Initiative

A million people—
manners free and
superb—open voices—
hospitality—the most
courageous and
friendly young men,
City of hurried and
sparkling waters! city
of spires and masts!
City nested in bays!
my city!

—from “Mannahatta” by Walt Whitman.
Whitman (1819–1892) was inducted into
The American Poets Corner in 1984.

New York is a city of change, fast-paced, crowded, diverse and exciting. That is the source of its great allure and its cultural and financial success. But like any place called home, it also needs stability. The Cathedral is here for the long haul—however long that may be—but precisely because of that, and because massive structures need a corresponding amount of care, it is incumbent upon its administrators to be wise and prudent managers. Most of you are aware of the building going up next to the Cathedral, on the corner of Amsterdam and 113 Street. There have been many questions and some concern about the development, locally and in the press. In this first of a series of columns, the Cathedral keep you informed about current and future real-estate-related activities.

The Cathedral’s partnership with The Brodsky Organization, which has leased the property on the corner of 113th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, and is constructing an apartment complex there, is going well. The Rt. Rev. Andrew M.L. Dietsche, Bishop of New York, writes in the summer issue of *The Episcopal New Yorker*, “I want you to know that the space between the Cathedral and the apartment building will be as wide as Lexington Avenue—a landscaped area of vehicle and pedestrian access with new space for the people of the neighborhood to stroll the grounds of the Close. We will attractively stabilize the ruins of the burned north transept for future rebuilding, with a broad, lovely new access to the Cathedral from 113 Street.”

Soon, we will have new neighbors—new ideas, voices and audiences—new businesses and families. As a community hub, a church for all peoples, and early pioneer of Morningside Heights, we welcome these newcomers to our conversations and celebrations.



Photo: Handel Architects LLP

The Cathedral Invites You to Take a Pause to Consider Climate Change

A few million years ago, when human beings first evolved on Earth, it was already a middle-aged world, 4.6 billion years along from the catastrophes and impetuositities of its youth. But we humans now represent a new and perhaps decisive factor. Our intelligence and our technology have given us the power to affect the climate. How will we use this power? Are we willing to tolerate ignorance and complacency in matters that affect the entire human family? Do we value short-term advantages above the welfare of the Earth? Or will we think on longer time scales, with concern for our children and our grandchildren, to understand and protect the complex life-support systems of our planet?

The Earth is a tiny
and fragile world.
It needs to
be cherished.

Carl Sagan (1934–1996)

The prominent scientist and writer was often a visitor at the Cathedral.

Carl Sagan has been dead for almost two decades. It is sobering to realize how long we have known about the dangers of climate change and how relatively little has been done, though the ranks of scientists, activists and ordinary people agitating for change continue to grow. This is a particularly important year for the climate. In September, the U.N. climate summit in New York will draw thousands of attendees, from government officials and faith leaders to concerned global citizens marching in the People’s Climate March (see *Climate Prayer* article). This summit is in preparation for the climate talks in Paris in 2015—perhaps the last best chance to address this vital issue with boldness, imagination, and justice for those who will suffer most from climate disruption, though they have done least to cause it.

Fall events 2014

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Services

8 am Morning Prayer & Holy Eucharist
9 am Holy Eucharist
11 am Choral Eucharist
4 pm Choral Evensong

Daily Services

Monday–Saturday
8 am Morning Prayer
8:30 am Holy Eucharist (Tuesday & Thursday only)
12:15 pm Holy Eucharist
5 pm Evening Prayer

TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS

Unless otherwise noted events do not require tickets or reservations. Tickets for all performances other than free or “suggested contribution” events may be purchased directly from the Cathedral’s website, stjohndivine.org, or by calling (866) 811-4111.

Your contributions make it possible for the Cathedral to offer the many programs listed below. Please fill out the enclosed envelope.

Please visit the Cathedral’s website, stjohndivine.org or call the Visitor Center (212) 316-7540 for updates and additional event and tour information.

Don’t forget to become a fan of the Cathedral on Facebook, where previews of events are listed and the adventures of resident peacocks Phil, Jim, and Harry can be followed in detail!

ONGOING PROGRAMS, TOURS, WORKSHOPS

The Great Organ: Midday Monday

Cathedral organists provide a 30-minute break for mind, body and spirit at 1:00 pm with an entertaining and informative demonstration of the Cathedral’s unparalleled Great Organ.

The Great Organ: It’s Sunday

The Great Organ: It’s Sunday invites established and emerging organists from across the U.S. and around the world to take their turn at the Great Organ and present a free 5:15 pm concert.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & VISITOR SERVICES TOURS AND CHILDREN’S WORKSHOP

Public Education & Visitor Services offers Cathedral Highlights, Vertical, and Spotlight Tours. All tours meet for registration at the Visitor Center inside the Cathedral entrance, at 112th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Highlights Tours: \$8 per person, \$7 per student/senior. Vertical Tours: \$17 per person, \$15 per student/senior. Spotlight Tours: \$10 per person, \$8 per student/senior.

Highlights Tours

Mondays, 11 am–Noon & 2–3 pm
Tuesdays–Saturdays, 11 am–Noon & 1 pm–2 pm
Select Sundays 1 pm–2 pm

Explore the many highlights of the Cathedral’s history, architecture, and artwork, from the Great Bronze Doors to the seven Chapels of the Tongues. Learn about the Cathedral’s services, events, and programs that welcome and inspire visitors from around the world. \$8 per person, \$7 per student/senior. No prior reservation necessary. Meet at Visitor Center.

Vertical Tours

Wednesdays, Noon–1 pm
Fridays, Noon–1 pm
Saturdays, Noon–1 pm & 2 pm–3 pm

On this adventurous, “behind-the-scenes” tour, climb more than 124 feet through spiral staircases to the top of the world’s largest cathedral. Learn stories through stained glass windows and sculpture and study the grand architecture of the Cathedral while standing on a buttress. The tour culminates on the roof with a wonderful view of Manhattan. \$17 per person, \$15 per student/senior. All participants must be 12 years of age and older and reservations are recommended. For reservations visit the Cathedral website or call (866) 811-4111. Bring a flashlight and bottle of water. Meet at Visitor Center.

Spotlight Tours

Select Saturdays and Sundays

Spotlight Tours are specially created by Cathedral Guides to give visitors a closer look at unique aspects of the Cathedral’s extraordinary architecture, artwork, and history. \$10 per person, \$8 per student/senior, unless otherwise noted. Space is limited and reservations are recommended. For reservations visit the Cathedral website or call (866) 811-4111. Meet at Visitor Center.

Phoenix: Spotlight on the Exhibition

Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 3 pm–4 pm

Climb through the Cathedral’s walls and walk along its corridors for an exclusive look at the contemporary art exhibition, *The Phoenix: Xu Bing at the Cathedral*. Visitors will participate in a lively discussion about the exhibition’s artworks, and their themes of urbanization, migration, and renewal. This tour explores the monumental Phoenix, two twelve-ton sculptures suspended in flight from the Cathedral’s 124-foot vaulting, and *Background Story*, a lightbox “painting” crafted from natural debris. \$20 per person, \$15 per student/senior. Space is limited and reservations are recommended. For reservations visit the Cathedral website or call (866) 811-4111. Meet at Visitor Center.

Textile Treasures

Select Fridays, 2 pm–4 pm

Explore the Cathedral’s magnificent art collection with a special focus on textiles! This unique opportunity includes a behind-the-scenes visit to the Cathedral’s world-renowned Textile Conservation Lab, which conserves tapestries, needlepoint, upholstery, costumes, and other textiles. Particular attention will be paid to the Barberini collection of the Life of Christ tapestries, given before there was even a cathedral to display them in, and the Acts of the Apostles tapestries, based on cartoons by Raphael. \$20 per person, \$15 per student/senior. All participants must be 12 years of age or older and reservations are recommended. Visit stjohndivine.org for the tour schedule. Meet at Visitor Center.

Medieval Birthday Parties

Saturdays & Sundays, by availability

Celebrate your child’s birthday with a two-hour party in the Medieval Arts Workshop, where children sculpt gargoyles, weave, make brass rubbings, carve a block of limestone, and much more! For children ages 5 & up. Call the Public Education & Visitor Services Department at (212) 932-7347 for more information and reservations.

NIGHTWATCH

The Nightwatch program has been updated and expanded with three exciting and innovative offerings: Nightwatch Crossroads, Knightwatch Medieval and Nightwatch Dusk & Dawn. For more information visit stjohndivine.org or contact: (212) 316-5819/nightwatch@stjohndivine.org.

ADULTS AND CHILDREN IN TRUST (A.C.T.)

To learn about the many nurturing year-round programs for young people offered by A.C.T., please call (212) 316-7530 or visit www.actprograms.org.

ACT Day Camps

ACT offers kids and families new friends and a place to enjoy their days away from school and home. Join us for a fascinating and fun time at a variety of day camps! Registration is on a first-come first-served basis. Enrollment is limited.

Children’s Quest Fund

Help us to invite children from many countries, religions and economic levels under the shadow of the beloved Cathedral. While any amount will help, \$1,000 enables a child from a low-income family to participate in a premiere summer camp experience. Please send donations to the Cathedral, designated “A.C.T.’s Children’s Quest Fund.”

Divine Children’s Party Packages

Easy for parents, great fun for children. Proceeds support A.C.T. Children’s Fund. Reserve party dates now. Speak to a party manager for details (212) 316-7530.

CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY CARES (CCC)

All programs meet in the CCC office, the Sunday Soup Kitchen or the Cathedral A.C.T. gym unless otherwise specified. Please visit stjohndivine.org for more information on CCC programs.

Nutrition, Health and Clothing Center

The Center hosts monthly HIV testing (in partnership with Care for the Homeless), as well as blood pressure, heart health, diabetes, and other screenings throughout the course of the year. Please visit our website for upcoming screening dates. Contact: Lauren Phillips, Acting Director, (212) 316-7581.

Clothing Closet

Gently used men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing can be donated to the CCC office Monday through Friday 10 am–5 pm.

Tax receipts available upon request. Contact: Lauren Phillips, Acting Director, (212) 316-7581.

Sunday Soup Kitchen

Every Sunday in the A.C.T. gym.
Breakfast, 10 am; Lunch, 12:30 pm

Contact: Thomas Perry, Food Program Manager (212) 316-7579 (T/W/Th after 12 noon)

SNAP/Food Stamps Program

(in partnership with the Human Resources Administration, The Food Bank for New York City, New York City Coalition Against Hunger, and Columbia University-SHOUT) Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (by appointment only)

Pre-screening and, if eligible, help with online applications and recertification is available. Contact: Lauren Phillips, Acting Director, (212) 316-7581.

SEPTEMBER

SELECTED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Mettawee River Theatre Company: The Dancing Fox

Friday, September 5–Sunday, September 7, 7:30 pm
The Dancing Fox: Wisdom Tales of the Middle East gathers material from the shared folk traditions of Jews and Arabs, including the writings of Sufi mystics, along with fables and folklore of the region. In these tales we encounter some clever foxes, dim-witted fish, a vengeful snake and other colorful creatures, as well as a number of wise and foolish humans. New perspectives emerge from the comic twists and tragic turns of their adventures. A variety of masks, puppets and giant figures will be used to flesh out the particular realm of each tale.

I Love New York: Spotlight on the City

Saturday, September 6, 10 am–11:30 am
Celebrate New York City and its indomitable spirit with a special tour of the Cathedral. Learn how the Cathedral and City serve as places of diversity, tolerance, and human achievement. Hear stories of New York’s immigrants, inventors, and artists who have helped shape the City and the world. Visit the Firefighter’s Memorial and see New York City’s skyline in sculpture. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide John Simko.

Episcopal Relief & Development 75th Anniversary Celebration Art Exhibition

On view Saturday, September 6–Sunday, September 21
This touring photo exhibition shows Episcopal Relief & Development’s mission of “healing a hurting world” in action around the world, from China to Ghana to El Salvador to Louisiana to New Jersey, and points in between. Visit episcopalrelief.org for more information.

The Great Organ: It’s Sunday

Sunday, September 7, 5 pm
Ruaraidh Sutherland, Rye, NY

Mettawee River Theatre Company: The Dancing Fox

Friday, September 12–Sunday, September 14, 7:30 pm
See description for September 5.

Building a Movement of Movements: Towards the Peoples Climate March

Friday, September 12, 7:30 pm
The Cathedral welcomes Bill McKibben and a roster of speakers for the first in an informal series of talks and programs centering on the September 21st People’s Climate March. Visit 350.org for tickets and more information.

Gateway to the New Jerusalem: Spotlight on the Iconography of the West Front

Saturday, September 13, 10 am–11 am
The west front is the architectural equivalent of an overture, an exposition of the themes developed within the main body of the Cathedral. The tour introduces the interplay of modern and medieval motifs in the sculpture of John Angel and Simon Verity. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

The Great Organ: It’s Sunday

Sunday, September 14, 5 pm
James Wetzel, New York, NY

Religions For The Earth: A Multifaith Gathering To Stop Climate Change

Sunday, September 21, 4 pm

Join Artists in Residence Paul Winter and Ralph Lee for an interfaith service centering on the need to protect the planet. This gathering is presented in conjunction with the World Council of Churches, Religions for Peace and other institutional partners. For more information, visit peoplesclimate.org/march.

Nightwatch Dusk & Dawn

Friday, September 26 and Saturday, September 27

Nightwatch Dusk & Dawn is designed for adults seeking time away from their busy lives for soul renewal and spiritual direction. This two-part series will offer a Friday evening of meditation, chanting and a teaching from a spiritual leader. Saturday will be a half-day retreat in a workshop style setting, led by a guest facilitator. Participants will have time to learn and practice the tools of meditation, chant and relaxation, as well as group reflection, question and answer, and private prayer. Visit stjohndivine.org to register.

Priesthood Ordinations

Saturday, September 27, 10:30 am

Visit diocesenyc.org for information.

United Nations Sunday

Sunday, September 28, 11 am

The 69th President of the General Assembly of the U.N. is invited to offer the sermon.

The Great Organ: It's Sunday

Sunday, September 28, 5 pm

Nigel Potts, New York, NY. Music of Elgar and Wagner, with Sarah Rose Taylor, mezzo-soprano

OCTOBER

SELECTED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Feast of St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 5, 11 am

This joyous celebration of human and animal life is a beloved annual event at the Cathedral. Visit stjohndivine.org for passes and more information.

Enter the Conversation: Maude Barlow

Wednesday, October 8, 7:30 pm

Author and activist Maude Barlow joins the Cathedral for a rousing talk about her work with the Council of Canadians, Food & Water Watch, and more.

Knightwatch Medieval

Friday, October 10, 6:30 pm

Enter the Cathedral for the kickoff to Knightwatch Medieval's 2014-15 season!

Knightwatch Medieval is a series of imaginative overnight experiences designed for children ages 6–12 and their adult chaperones. This sleepover program offers a unique blend of education, fun and fantasy under the roof of the world's largest Gothic cathedral. Guests will be transported back in time to the age of medieval storybook kings, jesters, princesses and knights. At the close of the evening, the whole group rolls out their sleeping bags on comfortable cots and falls asleep to the tales told by our resident storyteller under the protective arches of the Nave. \$135 per person. Visit stjohndivine.org for tickets and more information.

Find It, Use It! A Creative Building Workshop

Saturday, October 11, 10:00 am–Noon

Explore different materials used in building the Cathedral, *Phoenix: Xu Bing at the Cathedral*, and other artwork while touring through the space. Participants will think about new ways to use everyday objects around them. In the workshop, children will design and build with different types of found items from blocks to plastic bottles to buttons to make buildings, Phoenix sculptures, and more! Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$8 per child with accompanying adult. Meet at Visitor Center.

Unfinished Symphony: Spotlight on Architecture

Saturday, October 11, 11 am–Noon & 1 pm–2 pm

Learn about the architectural styles within the Cathedral, how it was constructed, who designed it, where it stands within American architectural history, what keeps it standing up, and why it's still not finished. This tour is offered free in partnership with Open House New York Weekend. Reservations are required and are available through ohny.org. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

The Great Organ: It's Sunday

Sunday, October 12, 5 pm

Mickey Thomas Terry, Washington DC

Arabic Poetry Reading

Tuesday, October 14, 7:30 pm

Join poets Deema Shehabi and Lawrence Joseph, plus poet and translator Marilyn Hacker, for an evening of contemporary poetry from the Middle Eastern diaspora.

Great Music in a Great Space: Te Deum

Wednesday, October 15, 7:30 pm

The 2014-15 season of Great Music in a Great Space opens with Arvo Pärt's rarely performed *Te Deum*. This work for choir and orchestra evokes the mystery of the Divine, combining the influences of medieval music and chant to transcendent effect. Pärt's composition will be presented alongside Mendelssohn's jubilant *Heilig*, Tavener's hypnotic *Svyati* for choir and cello, and other works. Visit stjohndivine.org for tickets.

Amen: A Prayer for the World

On view October 16–November 18

This thought-provoking exhibit of life-size praying figures will be on view in the Chapels of St. Boniface and St. Columba.

Knightwatch Medieval

Friday, October 17, 6:30 pm

See listing for October 10.

Within the Walls: Exploring Hidden Spaces

Saturday, October 18, 10 am–11:30 am

This extended tour features “behind-the-scenes” climbs in both the eastern and western ends of St. John the Divine. In the East, descend into the unfinished crypt and then ascend Rafael Guastavino's beautiful spiral staircase to incredible views high above the altar. The western climb presents an amazing view down the entire length of the world's largest cathedral. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide John Simko. \$20 per person, \$15 per student/senior. All participants must be 12 years of age and older and reservations are recommended.

The Great Organ: It's Sunday

Sunday, October 19, 5 pm

Frederick Hohman, South Bend, IN. Symphonic organ transcriptions by Lemare and Hohman.

Lincoln Center White Lights Festival: Curlew River

Thursday, October 30–Saturday,

November 1, 7:30 pm, Synod House

In this highly acclaimed production of Benjamin Britten's Noh-inspired opera, tenor Ian Bostridge delivers a devastating portrayal of a madwoman tortured by the loss of her child. Visit whitelightfestival.org for tickets and more information.

Gotham Gargoyles: A Halloween Workshop

Saturday, October 25, 10 am–Noon

The morning begins with a reading of Eve Bunting's *Night of the Gargoyles*, then down to the workshop to assemble gargling, grimacing clay gargoyles, skeleton creatures, and paper gargoyle masks. Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$8 per child, with accompanying adult. Meet at Visitor Center.

The Great Organ: It's Sunday

Sunday, October 26, 5 pm

Stephen Buzard, New York, NY

Halloween Extravaganza and Procession of the Ghouls

Friday, October 31, 7 and 10 pm

The Cathedral's annual Halloween celebration welcomes revelers with the showing of a classic silent film and parade of rascally ogres and boogymen (performed by Ralph Lee and members of the Mettawee River Theatre).

NOVEMBER

SELECTED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Medieval Arts Children's Workshop

Saturday, November 1, 10 am–Noon

In this signature workshop, children carve a block of limestone, create medieval illuminated letters, design gargoyles, weave, and more! Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$6 per child, with accompanying adult. Meet at Visitor Center.

Crypt Crawls: A Halloween Tour

Saturday, November 1, 1 pm–2 pm, 2 pm–3 pm, 3 pm–4 pm & 4 pm–5 pm

Descend a spiral staircase into the Cathedral's crypt with Cathedral Guides and learn the origins of Halloween as the Celtic New Year celebration and later transformation into All Hallows Eve. Reservations are recommended and participants must be 12 years of age and older. \$20 per person, \$15 per student/senior.

Secrets of St. John the Divine: Spotlight on Hidden Images

Sunday, November 2, 1 pm–2 pm

What are a stripper and the signs of the zodiac doing in our

stained glass windows? Find out on this tour that puts the spotlight on surprising images in glass and stone. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

The American Poets Corner: Induction of Flannery O'Connor

Sunday, November 2, 4 pm and Monday, November 3, 7:30 pm

Mary Flannery O'Connor will be the latest author inducted in the Poets Corner. Join us for a special Evensong service on November 2, followed by a full program with poets, critics, and performers on Monday.

Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

Friday, November 7, 6:30 pm

Nightwatch Crossroads is a Friday evening and overnight spiritual retreat for middle and high school age students, youth groups and their adult chaperones, focusing on the wisdom teachings of Jesus. Groups will have the opportunity to unplug from the distractions and stresses of daily life to connect with God and one another in the sacred space of the Cathedral. \$85 per person. Visit stjohndivine.org for tickets and more information.

Feathered Friends Children's Workshop

Saturday, November 8, 10 am–Noon

Let your imagination soar while learning about birds at the Cathedral. Families will get to see different birds portrayed throughout the building including *Phoenix: Xu Bing at the Cathedral*. After seeing different birds, families will head to the workshop to create their own feathered friends, including clay phoenixes, designing peacock tail feathers, and origami birds. Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$8 per child with accompanying adult. Meet at Visitor Center.

Medieval 2.0: Spotlight on Traditions Transformed

Saturday, November 8, 10 am–11:30 am

What does New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine share with the great medieval cathedrals of Europe? How does it depart from that tradition? Join Senior Cathedral Guide John Simko for a tour of architecture and stained glass that focuses on St. John's unique blend of modern New York and medieval Europe.

The Great Organ: It's Sunday

Sunday, November 9, 5 pm

David Jernigan, Raleigh, NC

JUSSIT Finnish Choir Performance

Thursday, November 13, 7:30 pm

The Great Organ: It's Sunday

Sunday, November 16, 5 pm

Ryan Kennedy, New York, NY

Blue Nights: A Reading

Monday, November 17, 7:30 pm

Lauded actress Vanessa Redgrave returns to the Cathedral with a dramatic reading of Joan Didion's evocative memoir *Blue Nights*. Told in Didion's signature, spare and haunting prose, the story of love and loss has deep roots in the Cathedral (see article). With Jimmy Owens, trumpet. Visit stjohndivine.org for tickets and more information.

Great Music in a Great Space: Kent Tritle Organ Recital

Tuesday, November 18, 7:30 pm

Kent Tritle, Director of Cathedral Music, brings his formidable musicianship to bear on two late preludes and fugues of Bach and Duruflé's *Suite*, Op. 5 with its tour-de-force “Toccatà.” Also included on the program will be the Magnificat *octavi toni* by Heinrich Scheidemann. Visit stjohndivine.org for tickets.

Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

Friday, November 21, 6:30 pm

See listing for November 7.

Early Music New York Concert

Saturday, November 22, 7:30 pm

Frederick Renz conducts his baroque orchestra in festive works for natural trumpets & timpani by Johann Sebastian Bach and his contemporaries: Georg Philip Telemann, George Frederick Handel, William Boyce. Visit earlymusicny.org for tickets and more information.

The Great Organ: It's Sunday

Sunday, November 23, 5 pm

Colin MacKnight, New York, NY

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

Thursday, November 27, 10:30 am

This special service will be the only liturgy of the day.

The Great Organ: It's Sunday

Sunday, November 30, 5 pm

David Baskeyfield, Rochester, NY

Mary Flannery O'Connor Chosen as American Poets Corner 2014 Inductee



Photo: Joe McTyre

"The priest let his eyes wander toward the birds. They had reached the middle of the lawn. The cock stopped suddenly and curving his neck backwards, he raised his tail and spread it with a shimmering timorous noise. Tiers of small pregnant suns floated in a green-gold haze over his head. The priest stood transfixed, his jaw slack. Mrs. McIntyre wondered where she had ever seen such an idiotic old man. 'Christ will come like that!' he said in a loud gay voice and wiped his hand over his mouth and stood there, gaping."

—from *The Displaced Person*

Marilyn Nelson, Cathedral Poet in Residence, and the Council of Electors announced that Mary Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964) was elected, by unanimous vote, to be the 2014 inductee into The American Poets Corner.

O'Connor was born in Savannah, Georgia, the only child of Edward F. O'Connor and Regina Cline. O'Connor described herself as a "pigeon-toed child with a receding chin and a you-leave-me-alone-or-I'll-bite-you complex." In 1940, her father was diagnosed with lupus, the disease that led to his death in 1941, when Flannery was 15. The writer graduated from the Georgia State College for Women and The Iowa Writer's Workshop and was living in the North, beginning her career, when she discovered that she too had lupus. In 1951, she returned home to Milledgeville, Georgia, where she lived with her mother for the rest of her life, writing fiction, writing and lecturing on Catholic theology, and raising birds—chickens, ducks, swans and peacocks. The line that will be carved on her stone, "I can, with one eye squinted, take it all as a blessing" is from a personal letter, in a paragraph about her struggles with lupus.

O'Connor wrote two novels, *Wise Blood* and *The Violent Bear It Away*, and 32 short stories. Her *Complete Stories* won the 1972 National Book Award. Her letters are collected in *The Habit of Being* and her speeches and essays in *Mystery and Manners. A Prayer Journal*—selections from a diary that O'Connor kept during her time in Iowa—was published last year. O'Connor's prose is characterized by a keen eye and a razor sharp wit. The peculiar power and originality of her writing stem from a remarkable clarity of vision about Southern culture and human nature.

The Cathedral appreciates the generosity of the Drue Heinz Trust and Mrs. Edward T. Chase, whose support ensures that poetry continues to be an important part of arts at the Cathedral.

An Anthology of Stone

MARILYN NELSON. CATHEDRAL POET IN RESIDENCE

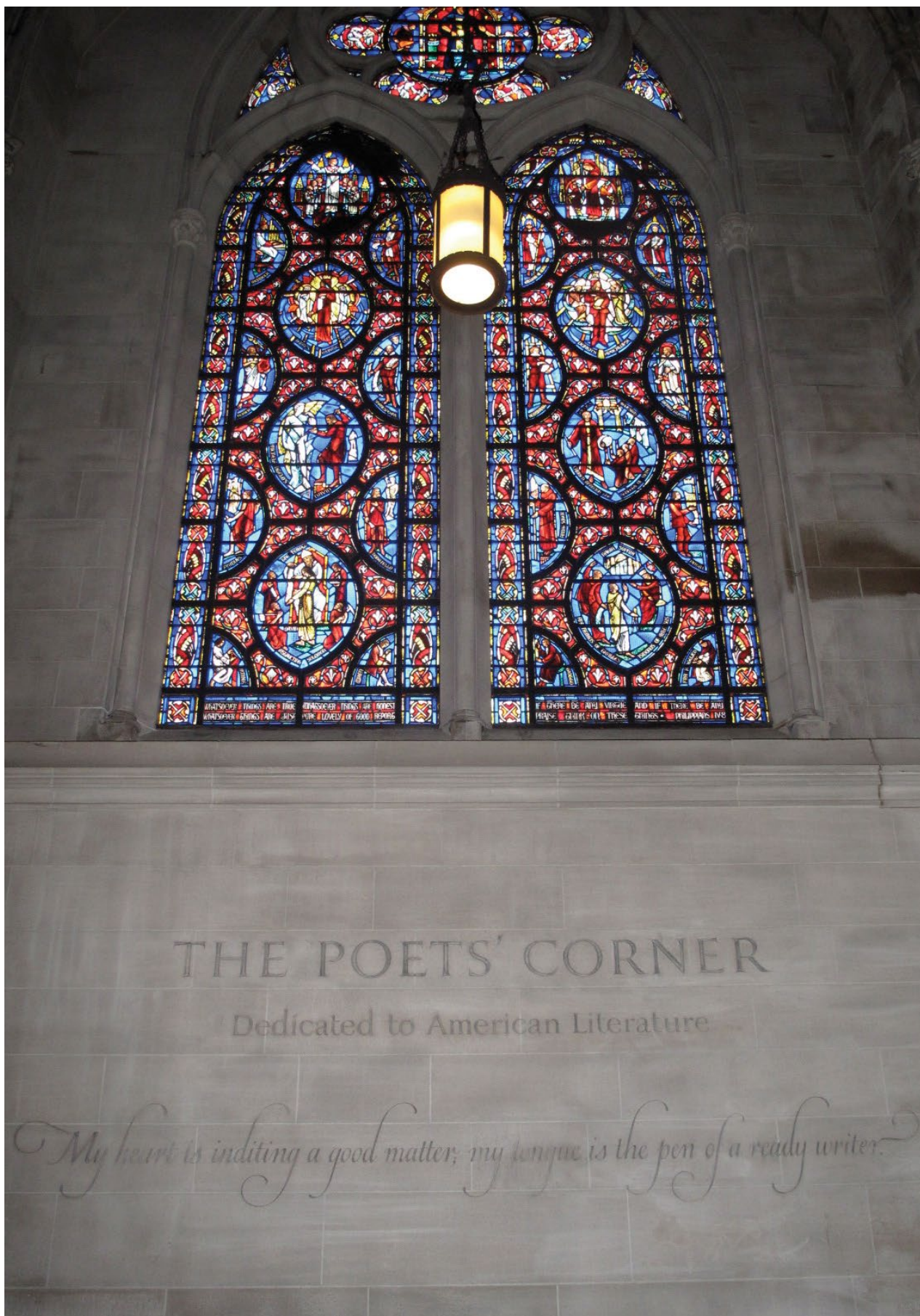


Photo: Cathedral Archives

Most Americans first encounter poems in the pages of anthologies. Our family library, carted from temporary home to temporary home for two decades, included two anthologies of poems selected for children, and an anthology of modern poetry published early in the twentieth century. When I started writing my own poems, my highest ambition for them was that one or two of them would appear in an anthology like those I knew, each page rich with thought-filled language, like a menu consisting entirely of desserts. Grown older and more cognizant, I saw how anthologies present agendas and create communities, how they often address specific audiences, how they cater to the market. Still, the sense persists of the anthology as a gallery of masterworks curated by editors with exquisite and unprejudiced taste. Poets are discovered in anthologies, and they discover each other there, and their generations. As they become anthology personages, the work of their lifetimes are whittled down to a strictly allocated number of pages or titles, the rest to be read only by fans and specialists. Most of us know most poets only from their anthology pieces.

Some thirty years ago, in the question-and-answer period following a reading I had given at a college with another young poet, one of the students asked how a poet knows when a poem is "finished." After some minutes of tossing the ball back and forth between us, the other poet said she knew a poem was finished when she had the feeling she'd read it before, "...in that great anthology in the sky." Everyone laughed. But I think everyone understood what she meant. Anyway, I did.

That feeling that one's poem has achieved a larger, a higher existence, that it has discovered its own truth, that its tether has tugged out of one's fingers like the string dangling from an escaped balloon: that's what she meant. That up there, slipping through clouds, it has entered "that great anthology in the sky."

An anthology on the page, an anthology in the sky. And, of course, an anthology in the cloud. Whatever that may mean. Do we think literally when we decide to save a poem to the cloud? Does it float around in our atmosphere? Does it fly away like the rays of earth's halo of radio waves? I'm enjoying the image of a protective layer of poetry surrounding the earth, between us and the sun's potentially harmful radiation. But that is fantasy.

In reality, the highest anthology an American writer can aspire to is the solidly earth-bound anthology of stone housed here, in the Poets Corner. Here, engraved in permanence, life reduced to the dash between birth and death, work reduced to one perfect sentence or phrase, our poets achieve a longevity of anthology personhood known to the greatest, in the community of immortals.

A version of this essay appeared in the 2013 American Poets Corner booklet commemorating the induction of John Berryman.

Great Music in a Great Space: 2014–2015 Season

Great Music in a Great Space begins another spectacular season, encompassing a thousand years, from chant and late Medieval Machaut to the music of Arvo Pärt, John Tavener and a premiere by James Adler. Kent Tritle, Director of Cathedral Music, and the Cathedral Choir and Orchestra will present the works of Bach, Josquin, Mendelssohn, Vaughan Williams and more. New this year is an exciting collaboration: Verdi's Requiem with the Oratorio Society of New York and the Manhattan School of Music. There will be over 250 singers and a full symphony orchestra (March 26, 2015).

Great Choir: A Choral Concert Series opens on October 15, with Arvo Pärt's rarely performed "Te Deum." This work for choir and orchestra evokes the mystery of the divine, combining the influences of medieval music and chant to transcendent effect. Mendelssohn's jubilant "Heilig" and Tavener's hypnotic "Svyati" for choir and cello will also be performed. Eileen Moon solos.

Great Organ: A Recital Series has its first performance on November 18, featuring Kent Tritle. Kent brings his formidable musicianship to bear on two late preludes and fugues of Bach and Durufle's Suite, Op. 5 with its tour-de-force "Toccata." Also included on the program will be the "Magnificat octavi toni" by Heinrich Scheidemann. On December 2, Raymond Nagem, Associate Organist and C. V. Starr Doctoral Fellow at The Juilliard School, presents organ works of Olivier Messiaen. Organist, pianist, composer, and visionary, Messiaen wrote music of vivid color and intense contrasts.

Tickets to individual concerts, or to the two concert series and the holiday concerts (December 13 and 31) can be purchased on the website. You can also join as a subscriber for a 25 % discount on any series.

The Great Organ: It's Sunday

In celebration of the restored Great Organ, the Cathedral presents a concert series following Sunday Evensong. The concerts are held most Sundays at 5 pm in the fall and spring seasons. These recitals are free to the public. Check the calendar for details.



Photo: Isadora Wilkenfeld

Nightwatch at the Cathedral

The Cathedral is pleased to announce that Nightwatch Crossroads is the recipient of a \$4000 grant awarded by St. Peter's Fund for Special Ministry. This is a second-year renewal of a three-year grant provided to Nightwatch to make financial aid available to individuals and church groups needing assistance to offset the costs of attending the Crossroads program.

Nightwatch Crossroads is the flagship of the Nightwatch program, offering overnight retreats to middle and high school youth groups for over 25 years. Now in its third year under the direction of The Rev. Canon Patti Welch,

Nightwatch Crossroads has been revitalized and updated to include both Christian and interspiritual programs. The new interspiritual component has been an exciting and successful addition to the curriculum. It offers youth and their adult chaperones the opportunity to experience and learn about music, spiritual practices, and teachings from different religious traditions. Students have discovered their own Christian faith deepening as they gain knowledge about other faiths and spiritual disciplines.

Under Canon Welch's leadership, Nightwatch has expanded to include programming for young children and adults.

Nightwatch Medieval is a secular, imaginative, overnight sleepover experience designed for children ages 6 to 12 and their adult chaperones. Guests are transported back in time to the age of medieval kings, queens, and knights. Within the walls of the candle-lit Cathedral, participants engage in an interactive play and scavenger hunt, learn period dances, medieval safe-sword play, sculpt clay gargoyles and fall asleep under the protective arches in the Cathedral nave.

Nightwatch Dusk & Dawn is an urban retreat, designed for adults seeking time away from their busy lives for soul renewal and spiritual direction. This two-part series offers a Friday evening of meditation and chanting and a Saturday half-day retreat in a workshop style setting led by a guest facilitator.

Nightwatch Dusk & Dawn opens the program year the weekend of September 26 and 27 with a workshop entitled "The Obstacle is the Path." Facilitated by the Rev. Canon Patti Welch and Lee Welch, LSCW, the workshop will examine this ancient Zen proverb exploring how what blocks us teaches us, showing us the very path necessary for spiritual awakening and prosperity. The Friday evening of interspiritual music and chanting will be led by Ambika Cooper.

For more information about this program or any of the Nightwatch events please call 212-316-7518, or go to www.stjohndivine.org for a complete listing. If you would like to learn more about Nightwatch Crossroads financial aid opportunities please email nightwatch@stjohndivine.org.



Photo: Cathedral Archives



Photo: Helena Kubicka de Bragança

Value of Food: Coming to the Table

The Cathedral is looking forward to the 2015 initiative *The Value of Food*, which will explore nutrition, agriculture, access to food, food waste and the future of food. A new addition to the newsletter, this column will offer perspectives from writers and thinkers who may have never set foot in the Cathedral (though in many cases, it's hard to be sure of that), but whose idea and visions are in accord with the Cathedral mission and the intent of this initiative.



Photo: Courtesy Cathedral Community Cares

“Like most humans, I am hungry...It seems to me that our three basic needs, for food and security and love, are so mixed and mingled and entwined that we cannot straightly think of one without the others. So it happens that when I write of hunger, I am really writing about love and the hunger for it, and warmth and the love of it and the hunger for it... and then the warmth and richness and fine reality of hunger satisfied... and it is all one.”

M.F.K. Fisher (1908–1992) The Art of Eating
M.F.K. Fisher was a preeminent American writer on food, life and culture.

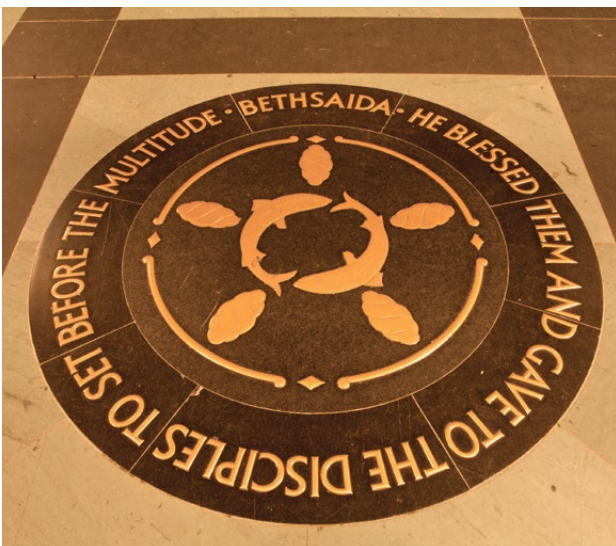


Photo: Helena Kubicka de Bragança

Climate Prayer



Photo: Courtesy Adults and Children in Trust

Throughout human history, seasonal change has been an affirmation of a larger order to things, one that we struggle to understand even as we give thanks for the varied bounty of summer, fall, winter and spring. Our species has adapted to many landscapes and unexpected natural events, but this century is the first in which anthropogenic climate change on a large scale will challenge societies and individuals. Ingenuity will be demanded of us, as will cooperation, endurance and imagination. On September 21, the Sunday before the United Nations Climate Summit, the Cathedral will host a multifaith climate prayer celebration with artists, activists and faith leaders in conjunction with The World Council of Churches, Religions for Peace and other institutional partners. The celebration comes at the end of Sunday afternoon's People's Climate March, intended to raise awareness and put pressure on governments and leaders. Look here for more details: peoplesclimate.org/march.

There are many organizations involved and a host of ancillary events, from workshops and teach-ins to Religions For The Earth: A Multifaith Gathering To Stop Climate Change, a conference of over 200 religious and spiritual leaders from around the world hosted by Union Forum, a platform within Union Theological Seminary that seeks to engage and interrogate the role of religion in the conflict and circumstances of the world. As the world's political leaders prepare to address the global crisis, Union will host a distinguished group of ethical leaders to speak for the major faith traditions and discuss means of galvanizing faith-based action. The Cathedral lends the gravitas of its history and space for this special event; the Cathedral Choir, Artist in Residence Paul Winter, as well as guest percussionists and song leaders will provide music, with Artist in Residence Ralph Lee's larger-than-life puppets adding a dash of their creative energy.

Climate change affects everyone, and must be approached from many perspectives: political, social, scientific, artistic, and consumer, to name a few. Faith leaders have a special obligation to steward Creation, support social justice and look beyond the demands of the moment and the marketplace. Their influence in this and other countries is broad and deep: to harness this influence on behalf of just and effective climate treaties and climate action offers hope for a world too often in thrall to special interests. (The World Council of Churches recently decided, at its central committee meeting in Geneva, to no longer fund oil, gas, or coal and recommended that its members do the same.)

“Much of the political dialogue about climate change has focused on science and the mechanics of market economics,” said Karenna Gore, director of Union Forum. “What faith leaders and traditional indigenous elders bring to this conversation is real conviction about the values at stake. These values reveal the connections between exploitation of the earth and the exploitation of human beings and guide us to solutions that ease suffering and promote integrity and fairness.”

At the Cathedral interfaith service, participants—many of who will have come from the march, the conference or both—will be asked to sign a covenant to resist climate change. Everyone can do something; ideas about and support for what you can do will be everywhere in the city on this activist weekend.

As we go to press, two more climate-march related events have been added to the Cathedral's fall calendar: author and environmentalist Bill McKibben will speak on September 12, and the New York City Climate Convergence will be held here on September 19. Visit the calendar or our website for further information and resources with which to enter the conversation on this weighty—but essential—debate.

Close Reading: Talking Back to Phoenix

Xu Bing's phoenixes have been soaring in the Cathedral nave for almost three-quarters of a year. They arrived in snow, celebrated Easter, witnessed concerts and galas, and welcomed throngs of summer visitors. Few can see them without having something to say, so the Cathedral put up a board by the south doors for comments. Many people (in many languages) left prayers; many thanked Xu Bing and the Cathedral; some shared details of their personal lives as they grappled with what the experience meant to them; still others said merely: I was here! Here is a small sampling of the comments.

I've lived in NYC my whole life and I never understood beauty until now.

From the ashes rose a titan. From the wreckage rose a phoenix.

It's only taken 112 years, but they've finally arrived.

I was fired from a job I loved that changed my life. I came here after leaving the HR department and cried under the birds made of garbage in the place of salvation. Thank you.

Baci di Napoli. Wonderful Phoenix.

This is the best example of public art I have ever seen.

I studied this in school for months so to see it in the flesh is surreal.

Quelle belle histoire, quelle beau oiseaux.

I've only ever read about this kind of place. Sometimes it's a form of love to talk to somebody you have nothing in common with and still be fascinated by their presence.

Almost as cool as a real phoenix.

Magnifique! Un travail qui nous fait voyager!

This is the most important art I have ever seen. Thank you for your devotion and homage to workers and renewal.

I am a student and stumbled in here on my way to class. The pleasure of the phoenix is like something out of a dream. I love the way it plays against the stained glass windows and hangs suspended in a cavernous space.

Simplemente magico. Me encanto.

Thank you, Xu Bing, for reminding us what is possible.

Thank you for dreaming big.

Woop Woop!



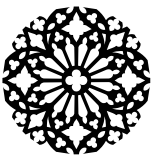
Photo: Courtesy Public Education and Visitor Services

Global Women's Fund



Photo: Lauren Salminen

While in Dodoma, Tanzania, Lauren Salminen, Program Coordinator for the Diocese of New York, met with Global Women's Fund Scholarship recipients Grace Malabeto, Aksa Ashweri and the Rev. Tumaini Sarakikyu. With aid from the Global Women's Fund, all three scholarship recipients were able to attend Msalato Theological College. They loved the Cathedral shirts and bags.



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the Divine

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Gifts from Cathedral friends and supporters allow the Cathedral to plan for the future. Please take the time to fill out the contribution envelope in the pages of the newsletter. Your generosity is needed and is always appreciated.

Art the Cathedral Fall 2014

Join the Dean's Pilgrimage to Germany

November 3-13, 2014

Cathedral Dean James Kowalski and his wife, The Rev. Anne Brewer, M.D., will lead a pilgrimage to Germany, including Reformation sites, the National Buchenwald Memorial and the Rhine Valley. This is an ideal time: to explore the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 (before the crowds); to examine aspects of the Two World Wars and the Holocaust; to travel a gorgeous country with beautiful architecture, countryside,

romantic rivers and castles. The food is splendid, too!

Airfare, 4-star hotels, meals (except lunches), and fuel surcharges and taxes (subject to change) are included in the price of \$4,498.00 per person, double occupancy. "Tour protection plan" insurance, which is recommended, costs \$239. Tips are not included. Full payment is due by September 9. Please note that passports should be valid for at least 6 months following return.

For more information and to obtain a registration form, visit www.stjohndivine.org/news/articles. You can also contact the tour operator's representative, Loretta Calabrese, at 1-800-486-8359-Ext. 206 or lcalabrese@groupist.com.

As the Dean looks forward to the journey, he notes, "I know we will find this a wonderful time to explore a complex and important country."

Close Friends

Kevin Blum, Public Education and Visitor Services Co-director, is leaving us for graduate study in the field of applied mathematics. We wish him great success and will miss his low-key wit and his enthusiasm.

Laura Fois Bosley has joined the Office of the Dean as Coordinator. Laura comes to the Cathedral from Children's Arts & Science Workshops, Inc., where she was After School Program Coordinator.

The Development Department has undergone personnel shifts in recent months as fundraising strategies have been researched and discussed. **Shelly Grossberg**, Vice President, has left to pursue other projects; the Cathedral wishes her the best. There will be an update in our next newsletter.

Stay in Touch

We welcome your suggestions and comments on the newsletter. Please write us at editor@stjohndivine.org.

In Memoriam

Ray Guyette (1951–2014)

Director, Facilities & Maintenance (1996–2014)
An article will appear in the Winter newsletter.

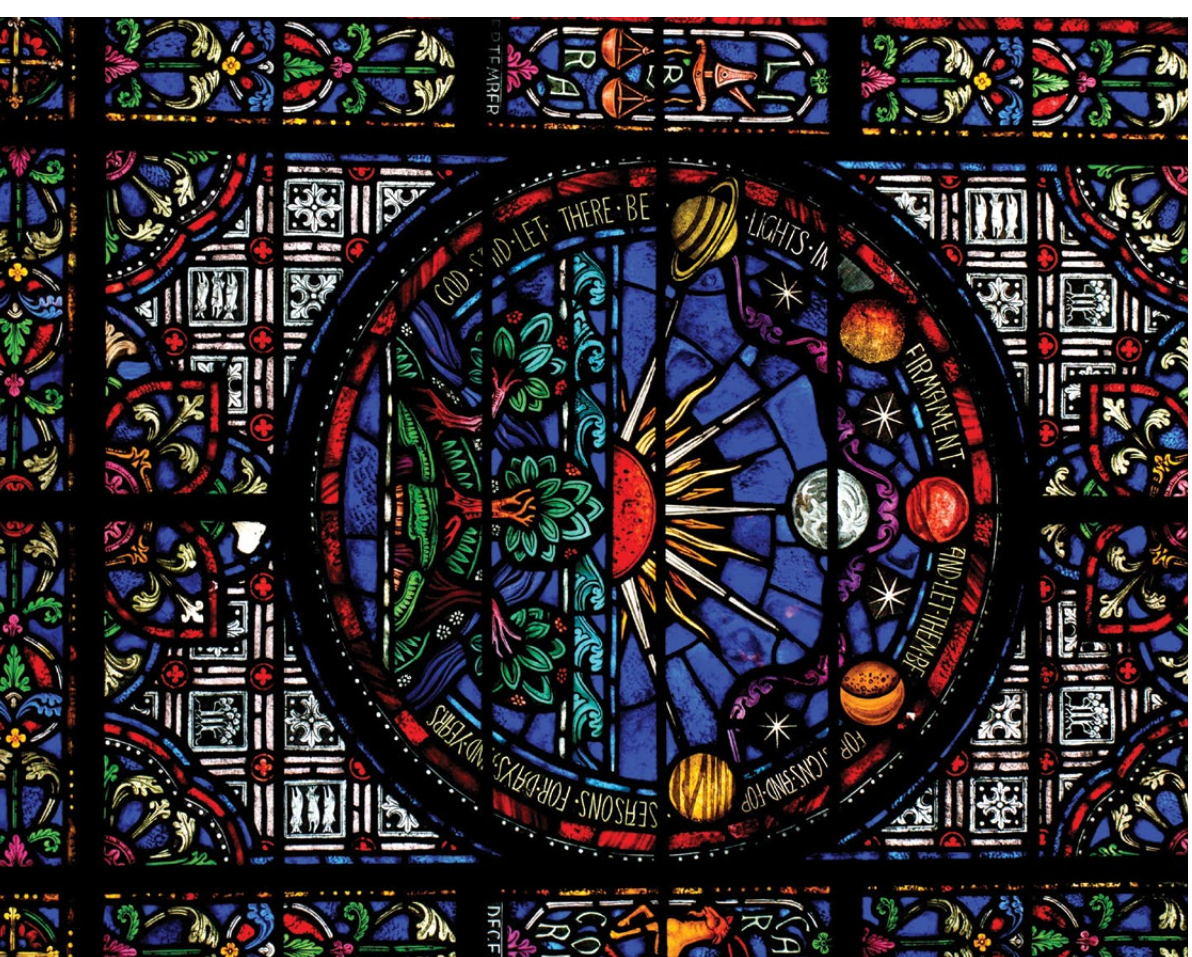


Photo: Helena Kubicka de Bragança