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stjohndivine.org



# 2011-

### Faith in Action: Catherine Skopic

he energetic and charming Catherine Skopic, whom Bishop Sisk recently appointed Chair of the Diocesan Environmental Committee, is an acolyte and Lay Eucharistic Minister at the Cathedral, the Chair of Environmental Task Force Committee of the Congregation of St. Saviour, a retired art teacher—and most of all a passionate advocate for the Earth. Her involvement in environmental issues goes back to the 80's, when she would

incorporate environmental information and practice into her

art classes. Now, environmental and church issues take most

Since its inception, the Environmental Task Force has had as its primary purpose, "To explore the question and its implications, 'What is our responsibility as Christians to care for God's Creation?" This large question incorporates issues of justice; poverty; the reduction of our ecological footprint; increased education about the environment for the congregation and the public; and a desire to strengthen connections between the Cathedral and environmental activists and actions. The Task Force, which meets regularly, sponsors lectures, films, and presentations from people like Cathey Falvo, M.D., Physicians for Social Responsibility; and Sister Catherine Grace of the Community of the Holy Spirit, from the Bluestone Farm and Living Arts Center, a monastic community for women in the Episcopal Church.

Last March, the Environmental Task Force Committee organized "A Learning Event in Preparation for Lent—Caring for God's Creation: Ideas for Sustainable Living," with 14 exhibitors and a feast of organic food. Committee members have helped Cathedral Community Cares Health Screening Fair, supported Canon Patti Welch in her work for the Evensong and Ecology program, and much more.

There is a core group of people, past and present, who have been active in the Committee: Sylvia Bellusci, Christopher Caraballo, Anna Gustafson, Pam and Aaron Koch, David

McGee, Michael Nixon and Velma Jean Reeb, as well as Catherine Skopic. Usually 25 to 35 congregants show up for events. Skopic is looking forward to welcoming new participants. "More members of the congregation are getting involved," she said. "People want to learn."

In partnership with Green Faith and 350.org, the Committee has organized and participated in rallies in Washington, Albany, Philadelphia and New York City. On September 24, the Committee organized participation in the Moving Planet rally and clean energy demonstration at the United Nations General Assembly, one of 2,000 around the world on that date.

Skopic's focus this year is on hydrofracking, in particular trying to organize resistance to Governor Cuomo's new Energy Policy Document that would allow fracking in New York State everywhere except in the New York and Syracuse water sheds. The ETF has been trying to get the word out about the dangers of this process to the water, air, land, animals, plants, and health of New Yorkers. In May, Ms. Skopic drove to Albany to speak to the state legislature. The public is invited to comment on the new policy until December 12, though activists are working to extend that period. Asked if she feels optimistic or pessimistic about the environment, she says simply, "I pray a lot."

Skopic notes that the Diocese already has a lot in place, praising the dedication of Bishop Sisk, Bishop Roskam and Dean Kowalski. In addition to her appointment as Chair of the Diocesan Committee, Bishop Sisk has invited her to be part of a new committee - Food, Farming, Faith and our Futureand she is enthusiastic about this. She is also pleased that at the 2010 General Convention, two resolutions were passed: that each parish select a Parish Environmental Leader, and that environmental liturgy be composed, to be available in whatever circumstances might warrant it.

For more information on the work and upcoming events of the Environmental Task Force, contact missionandoutreach@ saintsaviour.org

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Constantin Antonovici



### The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine

The Right Reverend Mark S. Sisk Bishop of New York

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

Pentagram *Graphic Design* 

Margaret Diehl

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### Schedule of Daily Liturgical Services

### Sunday 8am Morning Prayer & Holy

Eucharist
9am
Holy Eucharist
11am
Choral Eucharist
4pm
Choral Evensong

### Monday through Saturday

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

### **Cathedral Information**

The Cathedral is open daily from 7am–6pm
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 toamsterdam & 112th Street #M104 to Broadway & 112th Street

### Looking Ahead



This time of year is sacred in most religious traditions. We respect the logic of prayer and feasting when the harvest is in and the days are getting short; we also feel particular joy at the commemoration of the birth of a child who changed the world. Without expecting another divine incarnation, we are hoping for thousands of children who will change the world, as well as hoping that many adults will find renewal through faith, art or activism. Christmas in this society is too often focused on gifts, but the greatest gift of all is paying attention—to that which nurtures us, and to those who need our nurturance.

December 1 is **World AIDS Day**. Services will reflect on those suffering and the need for us all to extend a hand, whether through contributions, advocacy, or the care of a friend or neighbor.

There is, of course, always a place for gifts of a material nature—particularly when they are beautiful handmade crafts. On December 2–4, Synod Hall will host the annual **Cathedral Crafts Fair** (see box).

**A Cathedral Christmas**, on December 10, continues the musical celebration with the Cathedral Choir

performing **Charpentier's** grand and charming "Te Deum." The Cathedral Choir including volunteer members join in singing motets by **Giovanni Gabrieli** and **Heinrich Schutz.** Members of the audience add their voices to favorite carols, and for the grand finale, the Choristers join the entire Cathedral Choir for a performance of **Antonio Vivaldi's** "Gloria." Director of Cathedral Music and Organist Kent Tritle conducts.

The students from **The Cathedral School** will put up their annual Mitten Tree and join in the holiday celebrations, some as choristers, and all as members of our community—a community that includes clergy, congregants, staff, students, volunteers, ACT families, CCC clients, visitors, and three peacocks. It's important to remember the peacocks in the long, dark nights in mid–December (15–17) when we come together for the annual **Winter Solstice Concert** by **Paul Winter and the Paul Winter Consort**. And then, after a brief pause for Christmas parties and last minute stocking gifts, **Christmas Eve** is celebrated with a festive Eucharist and carols, preceded by the beloved Gothic Brass Quintet.

New Year's Eve Concert for Peace is always a very special event. This year, it celebrates African-American Music. The centerpiece of the concert will be the oratorio "A Child of our Time" by the distinguished British composer Sir Michael Tippett. The concert will feature the New York City orchestra Ubuntu-Shruti and the renowned Dessof Choirs of New York City under the baton of 2011 Conductor in Residence and Artistic Director George Mathew.

Kicking off 2012 is **ACT Camp Reunion Day** on January 7, which we expect to be the largest reunion of camper alumni and staff ever—part of the continuing celebrations of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ACT. Come and bring a friend!

The Cathedral will host an afternoon on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> to explore issues about fracking with **Food and Water Watch.** Fracking endangers our water, our land, our food and our health. Storytelling events with **Laura Simms** and **Kewulay Kamara** (see article) are also scheduled for this winter; please check the website for dates and details. And finally, to soothe the dreaded winter blues, the **St. James Recital Series** continues (January 8 & 22, February 5 & 19). Please see box for details.

### Spotlight on Cathedral Arts: Council of Pronghorn

When you enter the Cathedral now (except during certain special events) you will encounter The Council of Pronghorn, an art installation— Water—created in response to environmental devastation in Wyoming by coal and oil interests. Its remarkable power does not derive directly from the circumstances of the contemporary West. Rather, it evokes a sense of ancient ritual honoring life, death, and the wisdom of animals something we've all read about, seen depicted in art and film, and perhaps carry as ancestral memories. The piece, created by writer/activist Terry Tempest Williams and Wyoming artists Felicia Resor and Ben Roth, consists of 23 pronghorn skulls (for the 23 affected Wyoming counties) mounted on lodgepole pine fence posts and arrayed in a circle. Tempest Williams

said, "When we had it

completed, and it was outside Ben's studio, we weren't sure if it worked or not, if people would get it. Then we looked outside and saw a bunch of kids dancing in the circle, and shouting, 'If only there was a fire!"

shouting, 'If only there was a fire!" Pronghorn Antelopes are not true antelopes, but migrating ungulates unique to the American West, the last surviving species of the family Antilocapridae, known for their speed and their amazing eyesight. Pronghorns can spot movement up to three miles away, and due to the placement of their eye sockets can see almost completely behind themselves. They've been roaming the West since the Pleistocene age. Their sleek skulls and sweeping horns are beautiful and haunting. When you stand inside the circle of skulls, itself inside the stone pillars and dome of the Nave, the grandeur and mystery of the Cathedral space are amplified in intensity and

in reverence; the awe you feel is the presence and power of Time. The Council of Pronghorn is a

result of a road trip the three artists took, after winning a grant from Invoking the Pause (a small environmental grants program, which has also funded the Cathedral in hosting this installation). Ben was skeptical at first. "I don't pause," he said. But the trip through a landscape devastated by mining, whole communities living with contaminated water systems, opened his and the others' eyes to a horror they hadn't fully appreciated.

many arrows...that image has

never left me." Felica Resor

by fences they can't get over (they get stuck trying to go "All of our lives changed as a under and die), and who drink result," Terry said. "It was water contaminated by fracking, like seeing the nerve system as looking weak and ill. Terry of the land exposed. All those added, "They were emaciated, wells piercing the earth, lethargic—like my mother dying injecting venom. It reminded me of a sculpture I'd seen "This is where I grew up, where once of a tiger pierced with I live," said Ben. "I realized I

piece was three years in the

described seeing the antelopes, making, and has spent the last whose range has been divided year at the Jackson Hole Community Center for the Arts. For The Value of Water exhibition Ben and a friend drove the piece to New York, arriving on the Sunday Hurricane Irene made landfall here. Mid-afternoon they were in lower Manhattan with the 23 "windhorse" skulls in his truck. With a 60 mph wind at his back, he arrived at had to do something." The

the Cathedral in four minutes.

Dean's Meditation: The Same Voice

THE VERY REVEREND DR. JAMES A. KOWALSKI

# "In Jesus, God will to be true God not only in the height but also in the depth—in the depth of human creatureliness, sinfulness and mortality." Karl Barth

"All of us have a God in us, and that God is the spirit that unites all life, everything that is on this planet. It must be this voice that is telling me to do something, and I am sure it's the same voice that is speaking to everybody on this planet – at least everybody who seems to be concerned about the fate of the world, the fate of this planet."

Wangari Maath

"God may thunder...commands from Mount Sinai and men may fear, yet remain at heart exactly as they were before. But let a man once see his God down in the arena as a Man – suffering, tempted, sweating, and agonized, finally dying a criminal's death – and he is a hard man indeed who is untouched."

IR Philins

She had been weakened by the cancer treatments, and we were warned that she might find the evening more than she could handle. The emphasis was placed on "the conversation" the evening Wangari Maathai spoke at the Cathedral a year ago. Born just as the world prepared to become engulfed in the Second World War, she would spend more than three decades as an environmental leader. Dr. Maathai was the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate and the first woman professor at the University of Nairobi where she taught veterinary medicine. She chaired Kenya's National Council of Women and introduced the idea of community-based tree planting, claiming, "It's the little things citizens do. That's what will make the difference. My little thing is planting trees." Planting trees ensured supplies of firewood and protected water sources and crops.

That work led to broader-based grassroot poverty education and environmental conservation, with the Green Belt Movement by 1986 established as a pan-African network. With the Jubilee Africa Campaign, Maathai would seek debt cancellation for African countries as she also campaigned against land-grabbing and the plundering and extortion of forest lands. For Wangari Maathai, environmental justice was inexorably connected to the struggle for democracy and human rights. That vision animated her advocacy for women at the Earth Summit and her role on the Commission for Global Governance and the Commission of the Euture

By the time she was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace seven years ago, Wangari Maathai had emerged as one of the most powerful people in the world and was seen as a prophet and an "Eco-Hero" by millions. In her presence you felt that she was deeply spiritual in the best sense, someone for whom spirituality was not only religious but also practical and rooted in the real issues of daily life. That was the grounding of her

insistence that when we degrade the environment, "we degrade ourselves and all humankind." To her, the environment was sacred precisely because "...to destroy what is essential to life is to destroy life itself," and she warned that "[w]e have become disconnected...If we were able to achieve this consciousness, we'd see that the planet is hurting, and internalize the spiritual values that can help us move to address the wounds. We'd recognize that it should be in our nature to be custodians of the planet and do what is right for the earth and, in the process, for ourselves."

Maathai insisted that she did not find or "discover" the environment as an issue or vocation, but that she had been led to it by events. She explained that she had gone into politics to demonstrate that "we don't need to be thieves. There must be another way of doing politics in my country." ("Planting the future", *The Guardian*, 16 February 2007)

Memorializing Dr. Maathai, BBC Environment correspondent Richard Black wrote: "Her unique insight was that the lives of Kenyans—and, by extension, of people in many other developing countries—would be made better if economic and social progress went hand in hand with environmental protection."

Planting some 45 million trees around Kenya was crucial to that country, whose population has multiplied 10-fold in the last century, challenging the distribution of land and water. And, as Black continued, "...what made the movement more remarkable was that it was also conceived as a source of employment in rural areas, and a way to give new skills to women who regularly came second to men in terms of power, education, nutrition and much else. Post-colonial links with the West offered Africans of great intellect but poor background the chance to study abroad, in the US and Germany. This brought her the knowledge of biology and the PhD that both opened doors in corridors of influence and gave scientific underpinning to the environmental restoration work on which she embarked."

Dr. Maathai's speech to receive the Nobel in Oslo on December 10, 2004, included her comment, "Entire communities also come to understand that while it is necessary to hold their governments accountable, it is equally important that in their own relationships with each other, they exemplify the leadership values they wish to see in their own leaders, namely justice, integrity and trust."

She was unafraid to state the scary truth that we have to actualize a "shift in our thinking" if we are going to stop threatening our own life-support systems. Dr. Maathai comprehended in its fullness the reality that sustainable development, democracy and peace are indivisible. When I met her she was ill—but her face still glowed with the hopefulness that this was an idea whose time had come.

wrote in *The East African*, "A politician, a professor of veterinary medicine and a conservationist, all rolled into one... she dropped out of Kenya's parliamentary politics after losing her seat after only one term, the 71-year-old professor went global. With the number of international assignments she was handling, Maathai was hardly in Kenya... [o]ne day... attending to the issues of the Congo Basin, as the roving ambassador of the Congo Basin... another day... making presentations at UN meetings... or just speaking to the media, on diverse issues. She had a full diary."

Capturing the grief Africa felt when she died, Mwenda Micheni

Wangari Maathai always insisted, "It is the people who must save the environment." She struggled against repressive and corrupt regimes and endeavored to stop land grabbing—especially the forests. Maathai was beaten and arrested numerous times. The Nobel committee's tribute stated that her "unique forms of action have contributed to drawing attention to political oppression—nationally and internationally." That bravery and defiance undergirded her heroism in Kenya and shaped the way she lived and died.

I love my job. Not mostly because I sometimes get to meet and actually talk with celebrities. Joy comes when I see in them—just like in ordinary folks like me—something more of the Divine Spark that fueled that long ago Star. Then you can get your bearings. You reconnect with what you value and feel you want to give yourself to, as you believe again that God cares deeply enough to risk getting involved in the everyday stuff of human living. Wangari Maathai lit the world in just that way. No stranger to the darkness, she chose not only to follow the light but also to reflect it. That's how Christmas happens again and becomes more than a day or even a season. That is how we reclaim the meaning and blessing of Christmas and make it come alive in and through us—as Wangari said, "God in us...the spirit that unites all life, everything that is on this planet."



### Tis the Season for Giving

Cathedral Community Cares works every day to bring food, clothing, health screenings and counseling on legal, medical, educational and other emergency services to neighborhood residents. Mark Goreczny, CCC Program Manager, talked about the higher demands for food during the winter months, and also stressed that interview clothing—suits or suit jackets, slacks, skirts, dress shirts—are especially needed. "Any possible step up you can give people will help. We have clients come in on a Tuesday, with a job interview on Wednesday. That extra suit jacket can mean the difference between getting a job or not." Clothing is accepted 5 days a week, 10 am to 5pm at CCC offices. In December, the Christmas tov drive. organized and promoted by the Today Show, fills CCC offices with a Santa's sleighful of toys, which are handed out to families over the holidays. CCC is also partnering with New York Cares' annual coat drive to help keep our most vulnerable citizens warm. The needs CCC fills are vitally important. Contributions are greatly appreciated. Please join the work of CCC, and spread the Christmas spirit. To learn more about how you can help CCC please contact the Development Department.

### Craft Fair

The Cathedral Crafts Fair, coordinated by the Cathedral's Congregation of Saint Saviour, is a joyous alternative to department and chain store holiday shopping. Handmade crafts are special gifts, and meeting the creators is a pleasure in itself. Chris and Alexandra Pantos make hand blown glass goblets, jewelry, marbles, paperweights and special commission work, but their heart is in their collectable perfume bottles. These fantastical bottles resemble Aladdin's lamp, a showpiece dessert, or a fairytale palace—each with a stopper whose design complements that of the bottle in theme, shape and color. The Craft Fair, organized by the indomitable Marsha Ra, held on two floors of Synod Hall, at 110 Street and Amsterdam Avenue, will present 60 exhibitors on Friday, December 2, through Sunday, December 4. The hours are Friday, 5-8pm; Saturday, 11 am-6pm; Sunday 1 am-5pm. The café is open during show hours.





### SERVICE TIMES

### **Sunday Services**

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

Monday-Saturday 8am Morning Prayer 8:30am Holy Eucharist

**Daily Services** 

(Tuesday & Thursday only) 12:15pm Holy Eucharist 5pm 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, www.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, www.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 PROGRMS, TOURS, WORKSHOPS

### Value Of Water: Sustaining A Green Planet

Through March 2012

A vast exhibition that includes a range of programs including visual art, multi-media, poetry, music, liturgy, drama, conversations and storytelling.

### StoryTelling: An Ocean of Stories

Please see website for more details.

### The Great Organ: Midday Melodies

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

### The Great Organ: It's Sunday

organists from across the U.S. and around the world to take their turn at the Great Organ and present a free 5:15pm concert. Please visit stjohndivine.org for updates.

### **Distinguished Visiting Choir Series**

The Cathedral welcomes distinguished choirs from around the world to perform at Sunday services. The Distinguished Visiting Choir Series gives great voices the opportunity to share this majestic space with the Cathedral's own Choir of Girls, Boys

### **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: \$6 per person, \$5 per student/senior. Vertical Tours: \$15 per person, \$12 per student/senior. Spotlight Tours: \$10 per person, \$8 per

## 2011-2012

Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11am-Noon & 1pm-2pm (Saturdays, December 10, January 14, and February 4, 18: 11am only) Select Sundays 1pm-2pm (December 4, 11; January 15;

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. \$6 per person, \$5 per student/ senior. No prior reservation necessary. Meet at Visitor Center.

Saturdays, Noon-1pm & 2pm-3pm

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. \$15 per person, \$12 per student/senior. Space is limited to 20 people 12 years of age and older, and reservations are recommended. For reservations, visit the Cathedral website or call 866 811-4111. Bring a flashlight. Meet at Visitor Center.

### Water, Water, Everywhere: Spotlight on the Exhibition

Saturdays, December 2011 through March 2012, 2pm-3pm Explore the Cathedral's The Value of Water: Sustaining a Green Planet exhibition, which presents over forty contemporary art installations that encompass such media as painting, sculpture, drawing, video, and textile. Artists represented include Kiki Smith, William Kentridge, and Gregory Armenoff, among many others! Learn about the artists' inspiration for raising awareness of water and the themes of globalization, climate change, The Great Organ: It's Sunday invites established and emerging sustainability, and stewardship. \$10 per person, \$8 per student/ senior. No prior reservation necessary. Meet at Visitor Center.

### **Medieval Birthday Parties**

Saturdays & Sundays, reservation required 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 Cathedral's popular Nightwatch program continues to host youth groups for overnights at the Cathedral. For information and registration, please visit www.stjohndivine.org, call (212) 579-6210, or e-mail 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.

### 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 lowincome 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: Mark Goreczny, Program Manager, (212) 316-7583.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am-1pm Contact: Rasna Sethi, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator, (212) 316-7585

### Sunday Soup Kitcher

Every Sunday in the A.C.T. gym 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 Fridays (by appointment only) Pre-screening and, if eligible, help with online applications and recertification is available

Contact: Mark Goreczny, Program Manager, (212) 316-7583, or Rasna Sethi, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator (212) 316-7585

### **Cathedral Community Cares: Walking Club**

Mondays at 5:30pm and Wednesdays at 11:00am at 112th Street and Amsterdam Ave, in front of the Cathedral. The Walking Club meets twice a week for 30–60 minutes per session. We welcome everyone and all levels of fitness. No membership application is necessary and you do not have to attend every session.

Contact: Mark Goreczny, Program Manager, (212) 316-7583

### DECEMBER

### SELECTED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### **Cathedral Crafts Fair**

Friday, December 2, 5pm-8pm Saturday, December 3, 11am-6pm Sunday, December 4, 11am-5pm www.craftsatthecathedral.org

### Early Music New York, Frederick Renz, Director Medieval & Baroque Treasury

Saturday, December 3, 8pm Sunday, December 4, 2pm Sunday, December 18, 2pm Sunday, December 25, 2pm & 8pm

EM/NY's chamber choir of male voices will be joined by a trio of instrumentalists to present medieval procession conducti and dances to early baroque caroles and noels.

### Children's Workshop

Medieval Arts Children's Workshop

Saturday, December 3, 10 am-12 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.

### It's All about the Donors: Spotlight on the Spirit of Giving

Saturday, December 10, 1pm-2pm

From Elizabeth Cole's Barberini tapestries given even before there was a cathedral to display them in to Mrs. Twing's \$1.00 offering for the original cornerstone to J. P. Morgan's \$500,000 to "get the Cathedral out of the hole" and the two young girls who sent a small gift "to go for the Children's Arch," donors are the life blood of the Cathedral. In celebration of the Christmas spirit, come meet these special people whose generous gifts are responsible for this magnificent space. Oh yeah, we'll meet St. Nick, as well. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide John Simko.

### A Cathedral Christmas

Saturday, December 10, 7:30pm

The Cathedral Choir of Girls, Boys and Adults under the direction of Kent Tritle, Director of Cathedral Music and Organist, present Vivaldi Gloria and Charpentier Te Deum with orchestra and antiphonal works for double choir by Gabrieli and Schütz. Ticket information found at www.stjohndivine.org

### **Paul Winter and Consort: Winter Solstice**

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, December 15, 16 & 17 Tickets: \$80 (reserved), \$50 & \$35 (general admission). Tickets available on Cathedral website or by calling 866.811.4111

### **Peace Tree Dedication**

Friday, December 16, 11am

### Children's Workshop

A Season of Lights: A Winter Solstice Celebration Saturday, December 17, 10am-Noon

In this special workshop, children and their families brighten up their winter with a reading of Nancy Luenn's Celebrations of Light, learning about winter festivities from around the world. After exploring the many sources of light in the Cathedral, including stained glass windows, families are then off to the workshop. Activities include rolling beeswax candles; cutting Chinese and Taiwanese paper lanterns; sculpting clay candelabras inspired by Hindu floating lamps, Jewish menorahs, and Kwanzaa kinaras; and more! Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$8 per child, with accompanying adult

### With Angels and Archangels: Spotlight on Angelic Images

Sunday, December 18, 1pm-2pm

Discover images of angels in the Cathedral's glass and stone. Learn about the role of angels in the Hebrew, Christian, and Islamic scriptures, and the angelic hierarchy and how to identify angels by their field marks. The tour concludes with an ascent to the triforium for a birds-eye view of the breathtaking Archangels Window. Binoculars recommended. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

### **New Year's Eve Concert for Peace**

Saturday, December 31, 7pm

### **JANUARY**

### SELECTED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### Children's Workshop

accompanying adult.

Camels and Kings Workshop: A Celebration of Gift Giving Saturday, January 7, 10am-12 Noon Children and their families gather to explore the story surrounding the famous journey of the three wise men, celebrated around the world. The two-hour workshop begins with a story and then children make gift boxes, costumes and sparkling crowns. Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$8 per child, with

### St. James' Chapel Recital Series

Sunday, January 8, 5:15pm Carol Wincenc, flute & Bryan Wagorn, piano

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

### Sunday, January 8, 1pm-2pm

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 Cathedral will be closed to the general public on Saturday, January 14 for The Annual Diocesan Convention.

### **Brilliant Walls of Light: Spotlight on Stained Glass**

Sunday, January 15, 1pm-2pm Join Senior Cathedral Guide John Simko in an exploration of the history, making, and meaning of stained glass. Experience these brilliant walls of light as Abbot Suger imagined them more than eight and a half centuries ago and discover such diverse figures as Charlemagne, Pocahontas, and modern steelworkers.

Drip Drop: A Water Workshop

Saturday, January 21, 10am-12pm In support of the exhibition "The Value of Water," children are invited to join a special program exploring the interaction between people, water, and the larger environment. Through stories and close looking at how water is depicted in the art exhibit, children will learn about the water cycle and the importance of water in their lives. Children will translate their inspiration into their own art including block printing scenes of water, designing accordion books with water stories, painting watercolor Rose Windows, and creating "word waterfalls". Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$8 per child, with accompanying adult. Meet at Visitor Center.

### Signs and Symbols: Spotlight on Symbolism

Sunday, January 22, 1pm-2pm

Explore the signs and symbols in the Cathedral and discover the unique attributes that characterize saints, martyrs, and angels. See these ancient symbols in paintings, glass and stone, and learn how the legends have inspired artists through the centuries. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Becca Earley.

### St. James' Chapel Recital Series

Sunday, January 22, 5:15pm

Victoria Mushkatkol, piano

### The Congregation of Saint Saviour: Adult Education Program

Tuesday Programs,

January 24, 31 & February 6 & 14, 7pm-8:30pm Thursday Programs,

January 26 & February 2, 9 & 16, 7 pm-8:30pm "Biblical Women of Worth" with Dr. Phyllis Trible and "Exploring Genesis" with Rabbi Leonard A. Schoolman will be offered on Tuesdays. "Introduction to the Gospels" with Dr. Deirdre Good and "Introduction to Islam" with Dr. Hussein Rashid will be offered on Thursdays. All classes are \$100 and are held in the Cathedral House. For more information, please contact office@saintsaviour.org.

### Children's Workshop

Medieval Arts Children's Workshop Saturday, January 28, 10am-12pm Please see description for December 3.

### **Unfinished Symphony: Spotlight on Architecture**

Sunday, January 29, 1pm-2pm 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. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

### **FEBRUARY**

### SELECTED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### Signs and Symbols: Spotlight on Symbolism

Saturday, February 4, 1pm-2pm Please see description for January 22. Led by Senior Cathedral

Sunday, February 5, 5:15pm

NYC Duo (Jung-yi Hsieh Daugherty, flute/Michael Gilsinan, guitar)

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

Sunday, February 12, 1pm-2pm

Please see description for January 8. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

### I Love New York: Spotlight on the City

Saturday, February 18, 1pm-2pm Celebrate New York City with a special tour of the Cathedral that focuses on its New York stories. What do George Washington, Samuel Morse, and Philippe Petit have to do with New York and its Episcopal Cathedral? Come celebrate New York's immigrants, inventors, and artists who've helped shape

the city and the world. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide John Simko.

### Children's Workshop

Drip Drop: A Water Workshop Saturday, February 18, 10am-12pm Please see description for January 21.

### St. James' Chapel Recital Series

Medieval Arts Children's Workshop

Sunday, February 19, 5:15pm Carlos Gardels, piano

### Saturday, February 25, 10am-12pm Please see description for January 28

Food and Water Watch: Fracking

Saturday, February 25, TBA Please visit website for more details

### Signs and Symbols: Spotlight on Symbolism

Sunday, February 26, 1pm-2pm Please see description for January 22. Led by Senior Cathedral

### St. James' Chapel Recital Series

Guide Becca Earley.

Sunday, February 26, 5:15pm Music of the Americas Sebastien Zubieta, music director

### SAVE THE DATES

### Annual Reading of Dante Alighieri's Inferno

Thursday, April 5, 9pm

Blessing of the Bicycles

### Saturday, May 5, 9:30am **New York Philharmonic Memorial Day Concert**

Monday, May 28, 8pm

### **CELEBRATING THE SEASON: SERVICES**

### Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24th

4pm. Service of Lessons and Carols 10pm, Prelude Music

### **Christmas Day Eucharist**

Sunday, December 25, 11am (only service of the day)

### New Year's Eve Watchnight service

Saturday, December 31, 11pm

New Year's Day Service

Wednesday, February 22 Imposition of Ashes And Holy Eucharist (said service) 7:30am & 8:30am Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist

A vigil to meditate and reflect upon on the essence of water will be held throughout the night of Ash Wednesday. For more information please visit the website.

stjohndivine.org Winter 2011/2012

Sunday, January 1, 11am (only service of the day)

### Ash Wednesday

12:15pm & 7:00 pm

### St. James' Chapel Recital Series

## The American Poets' Corner: Birches

When I see birches bend to left and right

Across the lines of straighter darker trees, I like to think some boy's been swinging them. But swinging doesn't bend them down to stay. Ice-storms do that. Often you must have seen them Loaded with ice a sunny winter morning After a rain. They click upon themselves As the breeze rises, and turn many-colored As the stir cracks and crazes their enamel. Soon the sun's warmth makes them shed crystal shells Shattering and avalanching on the snow-crust— Such heaps of broken glass to sweep away You'd think the inner dome of heaven had fallen. They are dragged to the withered bracken by the load, And they seem not to break; though once they are bowed So low for long, they never right themselves: You may see their trunks arching in the woods Years afterwards, trailing their leaves on the ground Like girls on hands and knees that throw their hair Before them over their heads to dry in the sun. But I was going to say when Truth broke in With all her matter-of-fact about the ice-storm (Now am I free to be poetical?) I should prefer to have some boy bend them As he went out and in to fetch the cows— Some boy too far from town to learn baseball, Whose only play was what he found himself, Summer or winter, and could play alone. One by one he subdued his father's trees By riding them down over and over again Until he took the stiffness out of them, And not one but hung limp, not one was left For him to conquer. He learned all there was To learn about not launching out too soon And so not carrying the tree away Clear to the ground. He always kept his poise To the top branches, climbing carefully With the same pains you use to fill a cup Up to the brim, and even above the brim. Then he flung outward, feet first, with a swish, Kicking his way down through the air to the ground. So was I once myself a swinger of birches. And so I dream of going back to be. It's when I'm weary of considerations, And life is too much like a pathless wood Where your face burns and tickles with the cobwebs Broken across it, and one eye is weeping From a twig's having lashed across it open. I'd like to get away from earth awhile And then come back to it and begin over. May no fate willfully misunderstand me And half grant what I wish and snatch me away Not to return. Earth's the right place for love: I don't know where it's likely to go better. I'd like to go by climbing a birch tree, And climb black branches up a snow-white trunk Toward heaven, till the tree could bear no more, But dipped its top and set me down again. That would be good both going and coming back.

Robert Frost (1874–1963), inducted into The American Poets' Corner 1986

One could do worse than be a swinger of birches.



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.

### The Cathedral Invites You to Take a Pause for Climate Change

DR. WANGARI MAATHAI (1940–2011) SPOKE AT THE CATHEDRAL MANY TIMES, MOST RECENTLY IN DECEMBER 2010

"Anybody can dig a hole and plant a tree. But make sure it survives. You have to nurture it, you have to water it, you have to keep at it until it becomes rooted so it can take care of itself. There are so many enemies of trees."

### Looking Back



The Cathedral had a very busy and exciting fall, ushered in by the high winds of Hurricane Irene—which caused some damage to tree branches in the Close, but was mostly a time to be thankful we were spared the worst, as so many upstate, in New Jersey, and other regions were not

The weekend of September 9–11, our inimitable friends **Ralph Lee and The Mettawee River Theatre Company** presented **The Old Boat Goddess: Songs of the Ainu,** a program about the Ainu
people who have lived in the northern islands of Japan for centuries.

On 9/11, The Right Reverend Mark S. Sisk celebrated the Eucharist and The Right Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, preaching. In the afternoon, Nana Simopoulos choreographed cycles of prayers and chanting from religious traditions throughout the world. "BraveSouls and Dreamers," performed by the Portland (Oregon) Gay Men's Chorus, ended the day's commemoration of the dead and celebration of the living.

September 12 was the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Broadway Blessing** with guest producer and founder **Retta Blaney**; producer, director and lyricist **Richard Maltby**, **Jr**; actress/singer **Natalie Toro**; singer **Tony Haris** and the **Broadway Blessing Choir**. **The Regents Society** hosted a lively reception after the event which 50 Regents and members of cast attended.

On September 22, the opening of **The Value of Water** was as spectacular as we'd hoped it would be. At least 1500 people wandered through the bays and chapels, looking in silence, or talking about art, water and social action. The exhibition is up until mid-March: do not miss it!

September 24, as part of *The Value of Water*, the Cathedral hosted a symposium on the role of art in re-imagining society. ZIt was a very spirited and hopeful exchange of ideas between the conditions and the auditores.

September 25, the Cathedral celebrated the mission of the United Nations, which complements our own spiritual investment in unity through diversity of the world's peoples. The President of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the U.N., **His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**, spoke from the pulpit at the 11:00 am service.

**St. Francis Day** was as lively as always—festive, colorful and crowded. **Paul Winter** led the "Earth Mass," with the Procession and Blessing of the animals. A baby kangaroo was the star this year, though all the animals were thrilling to behold.

That afternoon, **Evensong and Ecology** hosted **John Philip Newell**, poet, scholar, and Companion Theologian for the
American Spirituality Centre of Casa del Sol in the high desert
of New Mexico.

The evening of October 10 brought Alan Coates, Kevin Collins, Christian Conn, Michael Early, Dana Ivey, Anthony Newfield, Bruce Pinkham, and Cat Walleck to the Cathedral to give a reading of an edited version of acclaimed poet Stephen Mitchell's new translation of *The Iliad*. The actors were up to the challenge of the material, portraying the Achaeans, Trojans and Olympians with great humor, pathos and verve.

October 22, we commemorated the victims of the Holocaust with the **Interfaith Concert of Remembrance**, featuring The Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by **Arkady Leytush**. October closed with the **Annual Halloween Extravaganza**. Celebrants enjoyed *The Phantom of the Opera*, and were suitably scared by the giant and vivid puppets of Ralph Lee and The Mettawee River Theatre Company's **Procession of the Ghouls**.

On November 6, the Induction of novelist, essayist, playwright and social activist **James Baldwin** into The American Poets' Corner took place at the 4pm Choral Evensong. On November 7, the Cathedral hosted a program of writers, musicians, scholars and friends, including members of The Darkroom Collective, the influential group of African American poets that formed when a pair of Harvard undergraduates returned to Cambridge after attending Baldwin's funeral at the Cathedral.

The following weekend, November 11 and 12, **LiquidBody** performed the multimedia piece *Resonant Streams: An Ancient Call* with choreography by **Caryn Heilman**.

Nobel Peace Prize winner **Wangari Maathai** (1940–2011), who visited us only last year, was in our hearts on November 14 when the Cathedral hosted a memorial for her. Kenyan member of Parliament and Minister of the Environment; Professor of Veterinary Medicine; founder of the Green Belt Movement; and a tireless activist, writer and speaker, Dr. Maathai will be deeply missed.

At the annual **St. Nicholas Celebration,** November 15, attendees brought holiday gifts for people of all ages living with HIV/AIDS. Gifts were distributed the next day among several AIDS service organizations in the city. The Cathedral has collected holiday gifts for people with AIDS since 1994.

On November 17, Enter the Conversation welcomed activist **Maude Barlow**, the indomitable author or co-author of 16 books, including the international best seller *Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis and the Coming Battle for the Right to Water.* Ms Barlow chairs the board of Washington-based Food & Water Watch.

Also that weekend, Fred Renz: Early Music New York gave us the rare pleasure of "Burgundian Renaissance–Sacred & Salacious Polyphony" (French choral compositions and songs).

Tuesday, November 22, our new Director of Music and organist Kent Tritle gave his inaugural organ concert as Director of Music and Organist at the Cathedral, playing compositions by George Crumb, Larry King, Ned Rorem, and Julius Rebuke. Throughout the Fall, The Great Organ: It's Sunday brought us concerts by Ray Nagem, Daniel Beckwith, Karen Beaumont, Nancianne Parrella, Ben Sheen, Richard Sutton, Emmanuel Duperrey, Fred Teardo, Rose Wood and Jonathan Dimmock.

As we go to press, the Diocesan Convention has, with great expectation, chosen a new **Coadjutor Bishop**. For more information please visit dioceseny.org or nybishopsearch2011.org. We look forward to introducing the Bishop-Elect in our next issue.

### The Value of Water: A Symposium



On September 24, the Cathedral held a Saturday morning symposium that asked the question, How do art, theology and liturgy cooperate or complement each other, if they do, in the work of imagination that brings about new understanding and the willingness to be transformed for advocacy and action?

After an introduction by the Dean, Carter Ratcliff, poet and art historian, started the discussion with a lucid summation of the history of the split in Western Civilization between art and the rest of culture, referencing mid–20th century novelist/scientist C.P. Snow, John Stuart Mill, early 19th century French writer Theophile Gautier ("Nothing is really beautiful unless it is useless"), 20th century art critic Clement Greenburg, and several other well–and little–known figures. He concluded that "the belief in our culture of 'art for art's sake' persists because of the ideal of the individual as absolutely autonomous, which, given that we're social beings, is kind of silly." He then asked the panel to address how we bridge the gap between art and action.

Diana Rose, co-founder of the Garrison Institute, discussed the role of contemplation and mindfulness in attuning us to both art and the need for action. Fredericka Foster, exhibition curator and artist, said, "The idea that art has a use does not appall me. I love art that has this quality of lifting me a bit out of ordinary consciousness into a sense of intimacy with what exists... I want people to walk through the building having a dialogue with the art and with the whole concept of what water means to us...water desperately requires a voice, which is why I was so grateful when I realized how serious the Dean was about this...we're going to have to be a big voice for water."

Dr. Upmanu Lall, Columbia Earth Institute Hydrologist, spoke next. "I've had corporate people, Wall Street people, coming to ask me, 'What is the Value of Water? What should water be priced at?' Because, you see, they have noticed that water is very useful for many things...So how do we think about the value of water? When you seek contemplation, you go to a body of water. When you seek emotion, you look into that body of water and you see the color of everything around you reflected in the water and you think that is yourself." He discussed how the awareness of our utter dependence on water should lead us to conserve it, but concluded, echoing Carter Ratciff, "I'm not sure that that will ever work. People inherently do not like to be constrained. In our minds we are free spirits."

As we thought about the dominance of human beings—what we are doing to the earth with our relentless attempts not to be constrained—Canon Tom Miller added a different perspective. He talked about the Cathedral as a sacred space, and the exhibition as iconic. He mentioned the visitors' map that shows the location of the art works. "That map turned the exhibition into a kind of pilgrimage. Already we see people following it, walking from art work to art work, all around the Cathedral." The map itself looks like a treasure map, and Canon Miller, who knows the space intimately, is deeply aware of the change the art brings, how it wakes up the shadowy parts of this vast building, inspiring people to explore every chapel.

Terry Tempest Williams, writer/activist, gave an experiential illustration of Diana Rose's belief in the chain of mindfulness » appreciation » action. She discussed how she, Ben Roth and Felicia Resor, all Wyoming inhabitants with a fierce love for the open country, came to make The Council of Pronghorn (see article). She told a story about her month—long conversation with a pronghorn skull. "It was with me when I was writing; it was with me when I was cooking; I even took it to bed." She concluded, "Beauty is not optional—it's a strategy for survival."

When the audience joined the discussion, the issue of control of water came up, with several people expressing the belief that we control too much, that we need to be out of control. "In the eye of the storm," as Patricia Watts put it, reminding most present of the recent visit from Hurricane Irene. Dr. Lall replied, "We have to have control. Without control we can't affect how water is used. We need to think about how we control."

How, indeed. Fredericka Foster pointed out that fear as a motivator doesn't work. "People don't like being scared to death, even though maybe we're addicted to it." We're left with Tempest Williams' comment about beauty, with the hope and energy palpable in the room, and with our own experiences: cold water on a hot day, vacations by a lake or ocean, grateful soaks in a tub after hard work. Will we save water as water saves us? What do you think?

### Vital Resources



In August, GRACE Communications Foundation joined The Compton Foundation, the Roy A. Hunt Foundation, Invoking the Pause. The Kalliopeia Foundation. The Lambent Foundation. The Panta Rhea Foundation, and friends of the Cathedral in supporting The Value of Water. The mission of GRACE is the development of sustainable, community-based food production and regional food distribution networks; the sustainable use of water resources; clean energy and public awareness. GRACE educates consumers, advocates and policy makers through their web-based initiatives. One of the features on their site is the water calculator, a short guiz that allows you to enter information about your water use and household habits, from dishwashing to recycling, and then gives you a score, as well as tips on how to reduce your water use. You may already know the basic information behind this, but making it personal, and giving you details, nudges you to implement simple changes. Making an effort to do something positive, even if it is only a small step, has a subtle effect on the whole structure of your daily habits. The next step becomes easier to take, the next easier still, and you find yourself becoming interested in how much you can change, on a personal and social level.

The Grace Foundation grant was intended for a Resource Center at the Cathedral, a place where people could get information about partner organizations and events involved with the Cathedral or supported by the Cathedral. Our emphasis on water the past few years, and our more recent focus on sustainable and healthy food, connects us to a vast network of people working for change—more than we can cover on our website or in this newsletter. The Resource Center is there when the people are—when they come to view an exhibition, for another event, or are just visiting the Cathedral. The feeling of awe and serenity that many encounter within our walls is the best introduction to literature about stewardship, compassion and responsibility.

We're excited by the early response to The Value of Water. We're glad we've had information available for the thousands who've visited the Cathedral in recent months, and are looking forward to building a complete Resource Center, an inviting corner for in-depth learning, and a focal point for the many of us who feel that social action on the environment is crucial. Our visitors, our congregants and our neighbors are responsible and caring people. As their Cathedral, it is our job to convene, to communicate, and to connect the long tradition of Earth stewardship to the crises of today.

It was a very busy, not to say frenzied, summer at the Cathedral, getting ready for *The Value of Water*. When the GRACE Communications Foundation awarded the Cathedral a grant for a Resource Center in mid-August, we knew we wouldn't have the final version built in time for the opening, but we wanted something to display printed material and to orient visitors. Staff and volunteers put time in, but when a friend offered the services of two young men she knew, British university students on vacation, George Hayford-Taylor and Patrick Collingwood, Lisa Schubert, V.P., Events, Marketing and Communications, happily accepted. She showed them to a small office and gave them free rein. "I had no expectations. I had so much else on my mind. I couldn't supervise them. And when I hadn't heard from them in a couple of days, I assumed they'd lost interest." But instead the two showed up in her office with an expertly crafted model of a compact information center. The pair lived up to that original success. building a display counter on the roof of a walk-up Brooklyn apartment building where they were staying with friends. They went to a Bushwick scrapyard, found an industrial sink, and then waited all afternoon for a lift home, in the meantime sharing a barbecue with the scrapyard workers. They bought an acrylic slab in Chinatown and took it back on the subway to Brooklyn, where they hung extension cords from the roof down through the apartment windows. The end result was a very handsome metal counter with a guilted metal front, a wave shape punched in it with light shining through, and an acrylic top over a lit oceanbed diorama, complete with fish and coral replicas Cut-outs in the acrylic allow postcards and brochures on water events and organizations to stick up like shark fins from the surface. Hanging on the wall behind the counter is a pastel mural created by George, which is also lit up.

Once the piece was finished, the pair enlisted the help of one of the men they'd met at the scrapyard to drive it to the Cathedral on September 22. The man insisted on leaving at 6 in the morning to avoid traffic related to the gathering of world leaders addressing the U.N. General Assembly, and from the time they arrived until moments before the exhibition opened, Patrick and George were hard at work installing it. It was a rousing success.



1047 Amsterdam Avenue at 112th Street New York, NY 10025

## Telling Tales

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In an effort to be more sustainable and streamline costs, we are in the process of redesigning the Cathedral newsletter.

Gifts from Cathedral friends and supporters allow the Cathedral to plan for the

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.

The life of the Cathedral, like the lives of every institution and human being, is made up of stories. The story of how it began, the story of what happened next, the stories of all the people involved. Stories are how we make sense of things, and at the Cathedral we listen to a lot of stories. October saw a performance of Stephen Mitchell's new translation of *The Iliad,* and in November we inducted James Baldwin in the Poets' Corner. Just ahead of us is Christmas, a story we will tell many times this season, in liturgy, music and spread of the content o

To honor the art of the story, we have invited two remarkable storytellers, both of whom participated in the Cathedral's rededication celebrations, to join us in the coming months. Details are still being worked out, but we expect Laura Simms to offer two evenings for adults: *Under the Surface*, folklore and fairytales about the realms under the waves; and *An Ocean of Story*, a sampling from the great store of prophetic and mythological stories about water. For kids (of all ages) she will offer two Saturday afternoons: *The Water of Life*, and *The Mud Sisters and Other Stories*.

Laura has been telling stories to enthralled listeners for 40 years. She has recorded her stories on numerous albums, CDs and DVDs, and created theater and dance pieces. She teaches storytelling workshops all over the world, as well as at the University of Milwaukee, New York University and Naropa University. Laura's projects include *A Key to the Heart and Other Afghan Tales*,

ancestors, this libation will give water to water. Kamara said, "Through art we give back to the spirit of water."

African libations

where the offering is made to the

(Chocolate Sauce, 2003) benefiting children's education in Afghanistan; the Next Generation Environmental Program sponsored by the Murie Center for the Environment (with Terry Tempest Williams); and the Gaindeh Project, an international initiative to aid youth in crisis by teaching storytelling as a way of binding generations and communities together.

Simms will also join Kewulay Kamara for an evening called *Healing Waters*, where she will tell stories, and Kamara and a group of musicians and poets will perform a multimedia piece called *Je* (water). Kamara is a *fina*—a storyteller, in the West African language Mandeng—born in Sierra Leone. He came to this country when he was 18, earned an M.S. in economics from The New School, and taught for two decades at John Jay College of Criminal Justice while raising a family in New York City and telling stories. Kamara has performed at Cooper Union, The Kitchen, Alice Tully Hall, City Center, The American Museum of Natural History, the Museum of African Arts and Poets House.

performed at Cooper Union, The Kitchen, Alice Tully
Hall, City Center, The American Museum of Natural
History, the Museum of African Arts and Poets House.

Je is an epic story based on stories, rituals, and events
from Dankawalie. It speaks to the importance of
reciprocity and kinship between humans and all spirits
including animals, plants, and places. As part of the
event, the performers will lead the audience in pouring
(giving) libation to water, life to life. Unlike traditional

## In Memoriam

## Boyd C. Johnson

December 29, 1931– September 6, 2011 Cathedral Trustee 1995–2007

## Ralph K. Smith, Jr.

November 6, 1925-

August 23, 2011
Cathedral Counsel for more than 3 decades

## Constantin Antonovici

The Cathedral celebrates the release of Antonovici, a catalogue raisonné on the work of Romanian sculptor Constantin Antonovici (1911–2002), who sculpted the figure of Bishop Manning on his tomb in the Cathedral, and many other pieces throughout the building, and who had a studio in the Crypt for 50 years. The handsome full color book was donated to the Cathedral by Antonovici's great friend and the catalogue publisher, Stephan Benedict.

## Please Be In Touch

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