

Annual Report

The Church Club of New York

2019-2020

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About The Church Club of New York

The Church Club of New York, founded in 1887, brings people together from different parishes, in fellowship, to discuss and deepen their understanding of the issues of the day, including those in theology, social justice, the arts, and more. To that end, the Church Club supports and hosts a series of ministries and monthly events including: the **Young Adult of the Year Award Service Recognition Award**, participation in a **Day of Service at Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen on Martin Luther King Day**, **Fighting Human Trafficking**, the **Annual Christmas Toy Drive**, and more.

2019-2020 Overview

The 2019-2020 year began with ‘business as usual’ for the Church Club but also included a signature event – a five-day pilgrimage to Gladstone’s Library in Hawarden, Wales. Gladstone’s, a residential library with guest accommodations, hosts visiting authors and speakers and workshops and lectures. Members who participated in the pilgrimage were treated to Morning Prayer each day in the library’s chapel and to some fascinating lectures on the history of British Prime Minister and Statesman William Gladstone and other topics. The itinerary also included day trips to Chester Cathedral and parish churches around the Diocese of St. Asaph and the St. Asaph Cathedral.

Things took an interesting turn in March 2020 with the introduction of the Covid-19 global pandemic. In person events were prohibited. The Annual Dinner scheduled for May was immediately cancelled as was an in-person event schedule to take place the end of March at Trinity Church Wall Street.

But, as many other organizations and parish churches were moving towards streaming and other online technology, so too, the Church Club considered how it would adapt. The Church Club pivoted, immediately, and successfully adopted ZOOM technology which enabled us to continue offering monthly programming to our members. In April, the Church Club hosted its first virtual event – **Art of the Resurrection, with Professor Susan Ward of Rhode Island School of Design and Trinity Church parishioner.**

2019-2020 Overview – cont'd

That event was followed by other monthly ZOOM events. Additionally, Board of Trustee meetings and the June 2020 Annual Meeting all occurred via ZOOM.

The Church Club is grateful to the very generous donors who purchased tables for the Annual Dinner and then, when the event had to be cancelled due to Covid-19, allowed us to retain the donations.

We also thank the all of our speakers and panelists who generously gave of their time and talents to bring us another year of outstanding programming.

We look forward to another successful year and hope for everyone's safety and wellbeing.

Susan Ridgeway
Executive Director

2019-2020 Programs/Events

July 2-7, 2019

Pilgrimage to Gladstone's Library, Hawarden, Wales
Lectures, Tours, Morning Prayer Services, Free Time

Sunday, September 15, 2019, 4:00pm

Members and Prospective Members 'Meet and Greet'
All Saint's Church- Park Slope, Brooklyn, New York

The Rev. Steven Paulikas, Rector

4:00pm - History and Tour of All Saints' Church

5:00pm - A Special Contemporary Evensong

6:00pm - Members' and Guests' Reception

Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 6:30pm

Tending to Domestic and Sexual Violence:

God's Response and Ours

St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery

The Rev. Anne Sawyer, Rector

6:30pm - Panel Discussion

7:30pm - Reception

8:15pm - Evening Prayer

About the Program

Domestic abuse is a pattern of coercive, controlling behavior that is a pervasive life-threatening crime affecting people in all of our communities regardless of gender, age, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, social standing and immigration status. Abuse is not love. It is one person in a relationship having power and control over the other person. Domestic violence takes many forms: physical, emotional, economic, stalking and harassment, and sexual.

2019-2020 Programs/Events – cont'd

Panelists

Ambassador Pennelope Beckles

H. E. Pennelope Beckles is Permanent Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations. She is also President of the Executive Board/Chair for U.N. Women. The Ambassador is an Attorney-at-Law, having graduated from the University of the West Indies in Barbados with honors, and later, from the Hugh Wooding Law School, Trinidad and Tobago. She is founder of her own NGO, the Arima Foundation for the Advancement of Women and Children and has served as President of the Rape Crisis Centre of Trinidad and Tobago, the UNICEF Board, and the Commonwealth Institute for Women in Leadership.

Valentin Camaño

Valentin Camaño survived domestic violence at the hands of his biological father. He is currently a U.N. Youth Representative and Senior Intern for Communications, Social Media and PR for the James Jay Dudley Luce Foundation. Mr. Camaño is enrolled at Brooklyn College studying International Affairs and Anthropology-Global policy studies through the Baccalaureate Program (CUNY).

Ebony Anderson

Ebony Anderson is a leader with the Safety Net Activists. She has always been a helper with a strong sense of justice. She became an advocate and activist out of personal necessity. She credits her ever-growing relationship with God for seeing her through the various traumas and challenges of her life. It is also that inspiration that causes her to continue to advocate for others - to speak for the voiceless and shine a light in dark places.

Dr. Carol Labor

Dr. Carol Labor is Survivor of sexual assault and Principal Consultant for the Women's Wellness Group, providing mental health and psychosocial support for survivors of gender-based violence. A Doctor of Public Health, she's an advocate for women's mental health and well-being and research interests are in the areas of mental health and trauma.

Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 5:30pm

Annual Bishop's Forum

St. James' Church Madison Avenue

with the Rt. Rev. Carlye Hughes, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark
and presentation of the

2019 Young Adult of the Year Service Recognition Award

5:30pm - Evening Prayer with Bishop Hughes officiating

6:15pm - Bishop's Forum and presentation of

The 2019 Young Adult of the Year Service Recognition Award

presented by **Bishop Suffragen, Allen Shin**, Episcopal Diocese of New York

7:15pm - Members' and Guests' Reception

Thursday, December 12, 2019, 6:30pm

Annual Christmas Party and Toy Drive

Calvary Church, Manhattan

The Rev. Jacob Smith, Rector

Monday, January 20, 2020 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Annual Day of Service – Holy Apostle's Soup Kitchen

Church of the Holy Apostles

New York, New York

2019-2020 Programs/Events – cont'd

Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 6:00pm

Spirituality in the Arts

St. Philip's Church, Harlem

6:00pm - Organ Music provided by Mr. Erik Carlson

6:15pm - Program: Spirituality and the Arts

7:30pm - Members' and Guests' Reception

About the Program

This program will present two distinctive aspects of art related to the spiritual life of the Church and to people of faith. One aspect will be from the perspective of how people in the performing arts incorporate spirituality into their artistic endeavors. The other aspect will be from the vantage point about Spirituality in the Visual Arts and its Corporate Expression.

Spirituality and the Arts related to people in the **performing arts**, presents ten elements of the universal spiritual life - Faith, In the Moment, Listening, Silence, Prayer, Self-knowledge, Community, Hospitality, Ritual and Transformation - from a Jewish and Christian perspective. This includes insight from performing artists such as Kristin Chenoweth, Dudu Fisher, Edward Herrmann, Liam Neeson, Phylicia Rashad and Vanessa Williams on how they incorporate these elements into their personal and professional lives. Audience members can identify how these spiritual elements are already in their lives and how they can be increased.

While we often think of spirituality as something characteristic of an individual artist, this talk will also explore how the **visual arts** can reflect the corporate spirituality of a group of people. Such visual works are often created in dialogue with social currents and varied religious traditions. To do this we will examine three different case studies. We will explore how the Baptistry from Dura Europos (mid-third century CE) expressed the spirituality of Early Christian community in the polyglot environs of a Roman border town, how Lucas Cranach the Elder's illustrations for Luther's German Bible translations (1534) used imagery to express the new Protestant spirituality, and finally how the Farm Workers Altar (1967) and other art works supported the efforts of the United Farm Workers. Through these three examples we will speculate on the corporate expression of spirituality in the visual arts.

Panelists

Retta Blaney - Performing Arts

Retta Blaney is an eight-time journalism award winner and author of *Working on the Inside: The Spiritual Life Through the Eyes of Actors*, which features interviews with Kristin Chenoweth, Edward Herrmann, Liam Neeson, Phylicia Rashad, Vanessa Williams and many others. She was a reporter for newspapers in New York and Maryland and her freelance work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *Crain's New York Business*, *Newsday*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *The Living Church* and various theatre publications. She is a Drama Desk voter and a member at St. Bart's.

Susan Ward - Visual Arts

Susan Ward is an art historian of Medieval Art and Architecture and a professor in the Theory/History of Art/Design at the Rhode Island School of Design. She was the co-director of *Gothic Sculpture in America*, vol III, a catalogue that studies Gothic Sculpture in American public collections. She has written numerous articles on medieval art including recent studies of an eleventh-century Jewish building in Rouen, France and a fifteenth-century alabaster of the Mass of St. Gregory. She is completing a book on medieval narrative in twelfth-century French sculpture. Susan is parishioner at Trinity Wall Street where she has long been involved in religious education including lecturing on religion and the arts for grownups and teaching Sunday School.

2019-2020 Programs/Events – cont'd

Thursday, February 27, 2020, 6:00pm

**Leadership for the 21st Century
The Mission of Episcopal Camps &
Retreat Centers: From Character Formation and
Care of the Soul to Care of Creation**

Church of the Incarnation

New York, New York

The Rev. Adrian Dannhauser, Interim Priest-in-Charge

6:00pm - Tour and History of the Church

6:30pm - Program: The Mission of Episcopal Camps & Retreat Centers

7:30pm - Members' and Guests' Reception

About the Program

There are currently 100 Episcopal Camps and Retreat Centers around the world, with 60 in the U.S. Many of these sacred places were originally intended to offer urban mothers and children a place to go to get out into the fresh air and wide-open spaces. Over the years, though, they have found a broader audience and mission....to rejuvenate the spirit and soothe the soul of retreatants; to offer community where, otherwise, it might not exist for some and, which in this time of epidemic loneliness, is needed more than ever; to help kids at camp learn to live in a diverse community amid nature and strengthen their character. And, now, with climate change, they are places where we can all experience relationship with the natural world on a more intimate level and learn how to care for Creation. Even **House of the Redeemer**, in the heart of New York City, has a working plan to lessen its carbon footprint and, did you know it maintains a rooftop beehive?!

Panelists

Nancy Nygard Pilon - Executive Director, Incarnation Camp and Conference Center

The Rev. Dana Capasso Stivers - Associate Director and Chaplain, Incarnation Camp and Conference Center

Joseph Rose - Executive Director, Trinity Retreat Center

Bradley Kalos - Retreat House Manager, St. Marguerite's, Community of St. John Baptist

Sister Monica Clare - Sister Superior, Community of St. John Baptist

Judi Counts - Executive Director, House of the Redeemer

April 23, 2020, 6:30pm - via ZOOM

Art of the Resurrection

with Professor Susan Ward

Biography - Susan Ward - Professor, Rhode Island School of Design

Susan Ward is an art historian of Medieval Art and Architecture and a professor in the Theory/History of Art/Design at the Rhode Island School of Design. She was the co-director of Gothic Sculpture in America, vol III, a catalogue that studies Gothic Sculpture in American public collections. She has written numerous articles on medieval art including recent studies of an eleventh-century Jewish building in Rouen, France and a fifteenth-century alabaster of the Mass of St. Gregory. She is completing a book on medieval narrative in twelfth-century French sculpture. Susan is parishioner at Trinity Wall Street where she has long been involved in religious education including lecturing on religion and the arts for grownups and teaching Sunday School.

2019-2020 Programs/Events – cont'd

May 20, 2020, 6:00pm - via ZOOM

"Damaged Heritage: The Elaine Race Massacre And A Story of Reconciliation"

with author

J. Chester Johnson

Summary Description

Damaged Heritage: The Elaine Race Massacre and A Story of Reconciliation

An illuminating journey to racial reconciliation experienced by two Americans - one black and one white, Damaged Heritage begins with an account of the 1919 Elaine Race Massacre, which, though arguably the worst on record for the nation against African-Americans, has been effectively unknown for a century, thanks to the whitewashing of history.

In 2008, Johnson was asked to write the Litany of Offense and Apology for a National Day of Repentance when the Episcopal Church formally apologized for its role in transatlantic slavery and related evils. In his research, he happened upon a treatise by historian and anti-lynching advocate, Ida B. Wells, on the Elaine Massacre, where more than a hundred and possibly hundreds of African-American men, women, and children perished at the hands of white posses, vigilantes, and federal troops in the rich cotton fields on the Arkansas side of the Mississippi River Delta. Johnson, who grew up one county removed from Phillips County, Arkansas, site of the white onslaughts, also determined that his beloved grandfather, who had been Johnson's principal caretaker in the early years of his life, participated in the Massacre. The discovery shook Johnson to his core.

In 2014, the author met Sheila L. Walker, who wrote the Foreword to Damaged Heritage and who was a descendant of several Elaine Massacre victims; over the succeeding six years, the two, who were joined by the horrific conflagration, have pursued a goal of racial reconciliation that stands in stark contrast to the murderous event that brought their forebears together. The book, which describes how excessive reverence of the past and traditions by whites in America permits damaged heritage to be transferred into continuous racism from generation to generation, also offers a blueprint for how our pluralistic society can at last acknowledge - and repudiate - damaged heritage and begin a path toward true healing.

Biography

J. Chester Johnson

J. Chester Johnson, poet and nonfiction writer, grew up one county removed from the Elaine Race Massacre site in southeast Arkansas along the Mississippi River Delta. He has written extensively on race and civil rights, composing the Litany for the national Day of Repentance (October 4, 2008) when the Episcopal Church formally apologized for its role in transatlantic slavery and related evils. At the height of the Civil Rights Movement and following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., Johnson returned to the town of his youth to teach in the all African-American public school before integration of the local education system.

Several of his writings are part of the J. Chester Johnson Collection in the Civil Rights Archives at Queens College (NYC), the alma mater of Andrew Goodman, one of three martyrs murdered by white supremacists in Mississippi during Freedom Summer. His three recent books are St. Paul's Chapel & Selected Shorter Poems (2010), Now And Then: Selected Longer Poems (2017), and Auden, the Psalms, and Me (2017), the story of the retranslation of the psalms in the Book of Common Prayer for which W. H. Auden (1968-1971) and Johnson (1971-1979) were the poets on the drafting committee; published in 1979, this version has become a standard. Johnson's latest book, Damaged Heritage: The Elaine Race Massacre And A Story of Reconciliation, is being published this month (May, 2020) by Pegasus and distributed by Simon & Schuster. He served as co-chair of the Elaine Massacre Memorial Committee.

His poem about the iconic St. Paul's Chapel, relief center for the recovery workers at Ground Zero, has been the Chapel's memento card since soon after the 9/11 terrorists' attacks (1.5 million cards distributed).

2019-2020 Programs/Events – cont'd

Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 7:00pm - via ZOOM

Annual Meeting of the Church Club of New York

With special pre-recorded Evensong from The Church of St. John's in the Village and celebrating The Feast of St. John the Baptist.

The Young Adult of the Year Service Recognition Award - 2019

The recipient of The Young Adult of the Year Service Recognition Award for 2019 was Marie Massier, a parishioner at The Haitian Congregation of the Good Shepherd for her volunteer ministry:

“Service to the Episcopal Church in New York and Haiti”. Ms. Massier received a \$500 honorarium and a \$500 honorarium was designated for her parish/ministry. The award was presented during the Annual Bishop's Forum with Bishop Carlye Hughes on November 19, 2019 at St. James' Church Madison Avenue. New York Bishop Suffragan Allen K. Shin presented the award.

Financial Report – Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2019

Income / Expenses

INCOME

- Membership Dues – 24,551
- New Life Member - \$4,000
- Drawdown from Endowment - \$30,000
- Annual Meeting/Reception - \$1,939
- Bequest - \$5,000
- Programs/Events - \$7,382
- Contributions (general) - 826
- Year End Appeal - \$3,050
- Annual Dinner/ - \$61,000

Total Income: \$137,748

EXPENSES

- Gift – Bishop's Discretionary Fund - \$1,000
- Gift – Young Adult of the Year Service Recognition - \$1,000
- Annual Dinner - \$22,193
- Annual Meeting - \$1,550
- Programs/Events - \$3,565
- Office Rent - \$14,400
- Uncategorized expenses – \$551 (*Parking, Transportation, other*)
- Disability, Workers Compensation Insurance - \$1,566
- Administrative Expenses - \$11,183 (*Utilities, office supplies,, storage space, credit card fees,, other*)
- Executive Director - \$66,200

Total Expenses - \$123,208

BALANCE / DEFICIT – \$14,540

Election of Trustee(s)

At the June 24, 2020 Annual Meeting via ZOOM, the Membership elected five new Trustees to fill the vacancies created by Trustees resigning from the Board or whose terms are due to expire. Trustees may be elected to serve two consecutive three-year terms and must be re-elected to serve a second term. The following new Trustees were elected.

- Christian Burke, St. Bart's Church - 2023
- Emory Edwards, Trinity Church Wall Street - 2023
- Anne Kelly, Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue - 2022
- Margot Shields, The Church of St. John's in the Village - 2023
- Adina Taylor, Church of the Heavenly Rest – 2023

The following Trustees were re-elected to a second three-year term which expires in 2023. Trustees may be elected to serve again after being off of the board for at least one year.

- Nicholas Birns, Grace Church Manhattan – Exp. 2023
- Willem Brans, Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue – Exp. 2023
- Gregory Stoskopf, Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue – Exp. 2023
- Christopher Strome, Church of the Incarnation - Exp. 2023

Election of New Officer(s)

Immediately following the June 24, 2020 Annual Meeting via ZOOM, the Board of Trustees three new officers to fill the vacancies created by officers whose 3-year terms have expired. Officers may serve in their positions for a period of three years.

The following officers were newly elected:

- Nicholas Birns, President
- Yvonne O'Neal, Vice President
- Diane B. Pollard, Vice President

The following officers were re-elected:

- Willem Brans, Secretary
- Gregory Stoskopf, Treasurer

Membership Report

Membership Report: Annual Meeting - June 24, 2020

Membership is comprised of Episcopal laity. Associate members are Episcopal clergy, Episcopal seminarians, and laity of other faiths and are not eligible to vote on Church Club business or serve on the Board. There are various levels of annual membership dues as follows:

- Honorary Young Adults – Candidates who applied for the Young Adult of the Year Award are given a free one-year membership)
- Young Adult - \$45
- Seminarian/ Spouse - \$45

Membership Report – cont'd

- Clergy - \$65
- Basic - \$85
- Sponsor - \$200
- Patron - \$300
- Dual - \$350
- Life - \$4,000 (Members make a one-time payment with no future request for annual dues)

I. Distribution

Membership Level	As of 2019 Annual Meeting	As of 2020 Annual Meeting
Life Members	35	35
Patron Members	7	6
Sponsor Members	86	50
Basic Members	133	130
Dual Members	34	23
Young Adult Members	33	10
Honorary Members (Young Adults)	0	10
Patron Associate Member	1	1
Sponsor Associate Members	2	1
Basic Associate Members	2	2
Clergy Associate Basic Members	14	17
Seminarian/Spouse Associate Members	0	2
Young Adult Associate Member	1	3
TOTAL	348	291

Membership Report – cont'd

I. New/Reinstated, Deceased, Resigned Members since 2019 Annual Meeting

New/Reinstated Members (14)	Deceased (3)	Resigned (7)
The Rev. Dr. John Beddingfield	Mrs. Grace Allen	Karen Giannelli
Mr. Jaxon Bradshaw	Mr. Gabriel Bonadie	The Rev. Susan Auchincloss
Ms. Mary Chilton Callaway	Mrs. Jo Brans	Mr. Stuart Auchincloss
Ms. Carmen Cohen		Marshall Acuff
Mr. Mark Dilcom		Patricia Demmitt
Mr. Nick Gordon		Adam Morrow
Mr. Michael Guardino (Honorary YA)		Michael Lawrence
Ms. Lorna Imperial		The Rev. Susan Auchincloss
Mr. Alan Kanen		
Mr. Raymond Knowles		
Ms. Marie Massier (Honorary YA)		
Ms. Laurie Mygatt		
Mr. Charles Schlangen		
Ms. Caroline Udelhofen (Honorary YA)		

Board of Trustees

2020-2021 Officers of the Board

Nicholas Birns, President
Yvonne O'Neal, Vice President
Diane Pollard, Vice President
Gregory Stoskopf, Treasurer
Willem Brans, Secretary

Members of the Board of Trustees

Nicholas Birns
Willem Brans
Christian Burke
Emory Edwards
Anne Kelly
Yvonne O'Neal
Diane B. Pollard
Margaret Shields
Stephen Storen
Gregory Stoskopf
Christopher Strome
Adina Taylor

Executive Director

Susan E. Ridgeway

Contact Information

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