

PROPOSAL FOR 2020 CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY (last updated 03-20-2018)

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Members of the 2020 Centennial Committee are: Gary White, Jody Nolin, Andi Rivarola, Jim Morris, Bob Pries, Nancy Skjei-Lawes, Nancy McDonald, Jill Bonino, Paul Gossett and George Hildenbrandt.

The Guest Gardens Are

- A- Presby
- B- NYBG
- C- Wave Hill

SCHEDULE & TIMELINE

Monday, May 18th, 2020

AIS Board of Directors meeting
Boutique set-up
Auction set-up
Farr Exhibit set-up (owned by Lori Galletti)
International Judging starts at Presby: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Optional Tour #1 ==> All day: Liberty State Park (Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, CRRNJ)
DROP OFF/PICK UP

Farr Exhibit Opens
Boutique Opens
Auction Opens
Evening ==> Centennial Convention Opening Banquet, Introduction of Centennial Book and Centennial Medals; Centennial Re-enactment immediately before dinner, Artist Lisa Palombo Live painting during dinner, and Live music at some point (after talk?).
International Judges at Presby: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Note: At the Liberty State Park people have easy access to a number of attractions such as the Statue of Liberty Tour, the Ellis Island Tour, the Center Rail Road New Jersey Tour, or the

Science Center Tour). We basically will offer a drop off/pick up service, they decide where to go. Let's say drop off 8:00 a.m., and pick up 5:00 p.m. to give you an idea). For more on the Park, check: <http://www.libertystatepark.org/>

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Optional Tour #2 ==> AM ==> Untermyer Gardens (lunch box)

PM ==> High Line Park & Gardens (dinner max till 5:00 p.m.)

Dinner on your own -- see Food in NYC below

Evening ==> JTs, meetings, presentations

International Judges at Presby: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

International Judges finalize compilation of winners: 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Note: If you have not heard about the two gardens featured for this day you're on for a treat.

Explore via their websites:

The Untermyer Gardens: <http://www.untermyergardens.org/>

The High Line Park: <http://www.thehighline.org/>

Food in NYC (in lieu of a Dine-Around)

1. Ina Garten, the Barefoot Contessa recommends the Standard Grill (right under the High Line). <http://www.thestandardgrill.com>
2. Or, explore on your own: **The best restaurants near the High Line:** <https://goo.gl/1bX4ra>
3. And, **Where to Eat Near NYC's High Line:** <https://goo.gl/nHtuYX>

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Garden Tours

AM & PM ==> Presby (box lunch only)

Evening ==> Dinner on your own, presentations, meetings, at the hotel

Friday, May 22, 2020

Garden Tours

AM ==> Wave Hill Public Gardens (LUNCH)

PM ==> NYBG Presentations at Library, dinner on your own

Evening at NYBG ==> presentations, meetings, at the hotel, Centennial Geek Dinner(?).

Note: The idea is to spend a long afternoon/evening at NYBG since it's the location of AIS's founding. The events there in the afternoon, TBD. I would like this day to be educational, either for historical purposes, and/or adding iris JTs or other educational presentations. Gary White has an excellent presentation on the why of preserving historical irises, and what they represent. Something like that and more.

Saturday, May 23, 2020

Mid-AM to mid-PM ==> Presby: light box lunch, plus music, white dove release. Leave for hotel at 3:00 p.m.

Evening ==> (leave hotel at 7:00 p.m.) 911 Memorial at Eagle Rock, plus Dinner at Highlawn Pavilion Restaurant with **1920's dress style optional**, plus awards ceremony on site.

Note: Nancy Lawes is our contact with the Highlawn Pavilion Restaurant (checking on this with the restaurant's owner, whom she knows.) The full evening consist of: visiting the Eagle Rock Memorial at sunset (sunset on May 23, 2017 was at 8:13 p.m.); viewing of NY City skyline at night; and then driving to another section of the park, 5 minutes away, where the restaurant is located to end with dinner and award ceremony. I think it would make it a very special evening.



The manager did say to reserve the location they need a deposit of \$2,000.00, and also the room can hold up to 230 re: menu that might change as we get closer however I can get some examples for now. I know we always need some vegetarian meals, probably a chicken and maybe salmon the Salmon from the East Coast is quite good.

He did mention to me that Friday and Sunday night would be cheaper is that possible?

1. They do have speaker system & screen, & wireless microphone. No charge
2. Dinner includes: appetizer, salad, 3 choices for main course: salmon, chicken and filet mignon. Plus dessert (3 small pieces per person), and coffee and water.
3. Cash bar available (pay bartender \$150).

4. Taxes 7%, gratuity 22%
5. Parking buses - No problem.
6. Down payment with contract signed \$2,000.00.
7. May 23, 2020 it's available. Penciled in!

MAP of NJ and NY

Here's a map for your viewing pleasure of distances, locations, locations in relation to the other events. Eventually the (final) map will be incorporated to the 2020 website.

Map: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=15pl7shlB-LCZXhjxEkxilhu5n1M&usp=sharing>

Using the map:

1. Click on the **left side options** to make some of the features disappear from your map for easy viewing. Click again to make them come back to the map.
2. On Directions, click on the **three dots on right hand side**, then choose step-by-step directions for mileage and driving time. Directions are one way only at this time for easy viewing.
3. You can **enlarge or reduce** the size of the map for better viewing.
4. You can click on each **location button** (I designed it for each location to have a different color button) to know each location's address, and contact information.
5. Distance points and routes are all blue.

Final note: This is a proposal only, it doesn't mean that is all feasible or that it would make sense to some of you. I needed to organize this so I can know for myself, what goes with what. Also, many of the details still have to be worked out. Whatever works is fine with me. Please contribute with your thoughts and ideas.

SOME OTHER ITEMS

A- Centennial Book and Centennial Medal/s will be made available online before the Convention.

B- **Jill Bonino and Kathy Chilton will present information about the International Competition.**

C- A filming crew will be hired to record all convention events, including the garden tours.

D- Commissioning of centennial photography from individual members who are professional photographers, and may be willing to donate their time and expertise (not your regular Joe photographer, please, regular Joes are fine people but it takes a good eye to do it well). Neil Houghton and myself have some names in mind.

E- It seems like the Board of Directors meeting in 2020 should be special somehow. What should we do?

F- Please note the "Dine On Your Own" recommendations at FOOD in NYC (above). I'm proposing this as an alternative to the dine-around, an activity that was very popular in Des Moines, but as you know it's not the same configuration around the Liberty Marriott Hotel — restaurants are not near the hotel.

G- No live auction in 2020. See Disposing of Plants After the Convention (below).

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION GUEST PLANT CHAIR

Nancy Skjei-Lawes at Presby has agreed to be the Guest Plant Chair for the International Competition. She has agreed to receive and keep track of the plants.

NYBG AND WAVE HILL PUBLIC GARDEN GUEST PLANT CHAIR

George Hildenbrandt (whom many of us remember from the 2016 NJ Convention) has agreed to be the Guest Plant Chair for the gues plant gardens. Thank you George for agreeing to do this. He has already visited these gardens and has spoken with the garden managers.

DISPOSING OF PLANTS AFTER THE CONVENTION

The 2020 Committee has agreed to ask hybridizers to donate their rhizomes so that no rhizomes will need to be sent back, including international hybridizers (which may cost more to ship). The gardens will also keep all the plants. It could be suggested that if the gardens have an iris sale after the convention (optional) and if there's a sale then profits from the sale could be divided 50/50 between the host garden and AIS.

Note: I checked with Terry Aitken, Rick Tasco, and Paul Black. All agreed that this is a good method. Probably some will not agree with it, but still, it's all good publicity for any hybridizer sending their contributions.

Also, contributions of iris rhizomes will be limited for this convention as the number of gardens is only three.

CHANGING OR NOT CHANGING HOTEL FOR 2020

The 2020 Committee discussed this and agreed not to change the hotel for 2020.

Some of the reasons:

1. AIS would have to pay \$5000 to cancel the current contract with the Marriott Hotel, and then we will need to secure another hotel.
2. The funds would be better used in other ways (see ideas below).
3. The hotel room rates are fantastic at this Marriott considering it's next door to NYC and would certainly change if we go to another hotel this late in the game.
4. Other hotel possibilities were researched but NONE that match our criteria to our satisfaction were found (Paul Gossett will have more on this)

Note: see Paul Gossett's notes below:

“This was the criteria I used to locate a hotel that meet our needs to have a convention.

- 1) Nearby restaurants both sit down and fast food within either walking distance and/or not in area of no more than 1 mile or possibly within a distance the hotel shuttle would take a person.*
 - 2) Adequate number of guest rooms for at least 50% to 60% of attendees, estimated 300 people with a reasonable guest rate?*
 - 3) Are nearby hotels available for an overflow.*
 - 4) Free hotel shuttle to and from airport or some type of inexpensive van service to and from hotel.*
 - 5) Hotel large enough to serve approximately 300+ people a plated dinner.*
 - 6) A good amount of meeting rooms both large and small.*
 - 7) Hotel having a restaurant on site.*
 - 8) Hotel with parking and not costing an excessive amount to park a vehicle.*
 - 9) Does the hotel have a safe place for loading and unloading buses.*
 - 10) A hotel located in a safe area for attendees to feel safe and to walk around.”*
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There are many things we can do to improve AIS members' experience at this hotel. Most of them have to do with doing some pre-convention work and PR/Marketing.

For example:

1. Hire a shuttle service for a couple of days in order to take people to locations where there's food conveniently available (cost approx. \$1,500).
2. Recommend that members carry food to their rooms when necessary to avoid paying for dining out prices.
3. Make airport food locations/restaurant list available before the convention via the convention's website (free hotel shuttle from the airport).
4. Make a list of parking locations (with prices) near the airport available before the convention.
5. Ask the hotel restaurant for a flat discount for AIS members during the convention.
6. Add a FAQ section to the website to address any concerns people had from 2016 and address them ahead of the convention (see <http://www.2018irisconvention.org/>).

Volunteers, ideas and planning tips are welcome.

Andi Rivarola