In Memorium
Dr. Michael D. Coe
May 1929 – September 2019
We’ve accomplished and celebrated much these past months, but we’ve also endured a great loss with the passing of Michael D. Coe, grandson of Mai and W.R. Coe and lifelong advocate of the preservation of Planting Fields. Having served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1986-2018, Michael’s contributions to Planting Fields are immeasurable. We will miss him greatly, but will honor him daily as we continue the work he fervently believed in.

At this historic site we are often reflecting on the past while simultaneously looking toward the future. What do the next five years at Planting Fields look like? This is the principal question that is guiding the new strategic planning process we embarked on at the start of the summer. A strategic plan serves as a road map and ensures that there is consensus among stakeholders on the direction of the organization. It is the opportunity to be nothing short of aspirational and to consider the full potential and impact of Planting Fields. We are planning opportunities for community input and are eager to have your voice factored into the process.

We have exciting 2020 exhibition updates to share. Next year marks the centennial of the Buffalo Mural by artist Robert Winthrop Chanler. Completed in 1920, the immersive space offers a ranched view into the eclectic tastes of Gilded Age society, which in this case resulted in a quintessential vision of the landscape of the American west integrated into an aesthetic dominated by English influence. To commemorate the milestone, we are organizing an exhibition on the work of Chanler, most of which is held in private collections. Opening in spring 2020, this will be the first time the public is able to see a holistic representation of Chanler’s work since the 1930s. Chanler was one of a handful of artists who was commissioned by the Coes to produce integral work for Coe Hall.

In an effort to keep the spirit of Planting Fields, we continue this legacy of artistic patronage by launching a new commission-based program that will engage artists with the site. Mark Dion and David Brooks were selected for the inaugural exhibition to open in May 2020. With this project, we endeavor to generate awareness, excitement and appreciation for some of the most relevant and accomplished artists in America through thought-provoking experiences with history and preservation through the lens of contemporary art. Working with artists provides a sense of cultural vitality that prompts new encounters and an expanded value of Planting Fields.

Great things can’t be accomplished without great people and to that end we are so pleased to have Bruce Addison join the Board of Trustees and look forward to the distinct perspective he brings to the Foundation. We also welcome three new staff members, Rheanna Abbott who assumes the newly created position of Director of Education and Engagement, Toni Barnes, Executive Assistant; and David Dvorak, Director of Finance.

As 2019 comes to a close, please consider supporting our Annual Appeal campaign which will help the Foundation meet our goals and enable us to exceed your expectations. While we reposition Planting Fields as a catalyst for great things, we remain committed to the Foundation’s core values: excellence, innovation, reflection and inclusivity. We hope you enjoy this journal and that the contents inspire frequent visits to Planting Fields this season!

With best wishes,

Gina J. Wouters
Executive Director
Planting Fields Foundation
Welcome New Trustee Bruce Addison

We are pleased to announce that Bruce Addison, an avid gardener and a 50-year resident of Glen Cove, has joined the Board of Trustees. He has been with JPMorgan Chase in Manhattan for 30 years where he is a founder and Managing Director of the Financial Sponsor practice in their Private Bank. Bruce currently serves on the board of the Horticultural Society of New York as well as the board of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. Bruce was educated at Lehigh University and obtained an MBA degree from Columbia University. Bruce is the father of an adult son and divides his time between New York City and Glen Cove. He has been a frequent visitor to Planting Fields since his teenage years and is looking forward to contributing to an organization that has given him so much pleasure over the years.

Conservators’ Work on the Buffalo Mural

New York State Parks conservation staff returned to Planting Fields in mid-September to continue a multiyear project to treat the Robert Winthrop Chanler Buffalo Mural in the Breakfast Room of Coe Hall. Chanler’s unconventional techniques and material choices have challenged conservators for the last decade and a half, as they did the Coes who also endeavored to maintain it in the years following the mural’s completion. With Planting Fields’ mural being one of only two Chanler works on view to the public, Planting Fields Foundation and New York State are deeply committed to ensuring its preservation. This project concluded the last phase of treatment of the room, though ongoing maintenance and a controlled environment will be critical to its preservation.

PFF Hosts the New York State Board for Historic Preservation

The New York State Board for Historic Preservation convened in early September at Planting Fields to review 14 new sites nominated for addition to the National Register of Historic Places, all of which were approved. Open to the public, the session took place in the Great Hall of Coe Hall. Presentations were given by Planting Fields Foundation Executive Director, Gina J. Wouters and Vincent Simeone, Planting Fields Arboretum Director, as well as Christopher Flagg, Chief, Historic Site and Park Services. For a complete list of the 14 nominated and approved sites, visit https://parks.ny.gov/.

Announcing Robert Winthrop Chanler 2020 Exhibition

A long-awaited exhibition of monumental, decorative screens painted by Robert Winthrop Chanler will be on view at Coe Hall in the spring of 2020 as we commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the completion of the Buffalo Mural. This will mark the first instance where a collection of works by Chanler will be on view since the 1930s. Porcupines and Foxes two-sided screen shown below will be featured in Coe Hall.

PFF at a Glance
Cultural Landscape Report Completed

This fall we completed the Cultural Landscape Report which has positioned us to think strategically about the future of the extraordinary Planting Fields landscape. We have identified several early action projects that are both aspirational and practical, including the restoration of the Heather Garden, the oldest designed landscape on the estate, improved signage and wayfinding, redevelopment of the main entrance drive, recapturing the vistas toward the Carshalton Gates on Chicken Valley Road and overall improvement to the vehicular and pedestrian circulation throughout the estate. Implementation will begin in 2020.

Season’s Greetings

This year, the holiday season at Coe Hall will feature interior decorations in the spirit of early twentieth century styles that reflect the era that the Coe family lived here. The décor will explore the concept of sentiment and visual splendor that inspire and bring warmth and joy worldwide around the holidays. For the first time, guests can expect to see fresh, live greenery, most of which will be sourced from the property. Guests will have the opportunity to reflect on the seasonality of Coe Hall and enjoy the home through an added festive flair.

Coe Hall will be open to the public on Saturday, December 14 and Sunday, December 15 from 11 AM to 4 PM for special holiday programming.

Sensory Garden Fountain

The Sensory Garden at Planting Fields offers a space where visitors of all abilities can experience a diverse collection of fragrant plants, herbs and even vegetables by touch, smell, sight and sound. We are pleased to report that the repair work to the water feature is underway.

PFF Makes the Cover of Vogue

Academy Award winning actress Olivia Coleman was photographed by Annie Leibovitz in the Great Hall at Coe Hall this summer.
We are excited to introduce a new project launching in 2020 that will be a confluence of various initiatives we have prioritized for Planting Fields. As we endeavor to look closer at the Coe family and the defining characteristics that they imparted onto Planting Fields, we look at their embrace of arts patronage, an often overlooked activity of Mai and W.R. Coe. Some of the leading designers and artists were engaged for site-specific work at Planting Fields at the time of its making and we are continuing the legacy of patronage by engaging living artists with the site today. While our mission to preserve underpins all aspects of our work here, we also want to ensure a strong sense of cultural vitality that brings fresh perspective and relevance to Planting Fields.

Working with Artists, Thinking about Habitat and Impacting our Sustainability

Mark Dion and David Brooks have been selected to be the inaugural artists of our new annual commission program. Both Dion and Brooks are artists that have focused their artistic output on working with historic sites and collections resulting in a multitude of work produced for the public realm. Mark Dion has had major exhibitions at Storm King Art Center, New Windsor, New York, dOCUMENTA 13 in Kassel, Germany, MoMA PS1 in New York City, ICA Boston, British Museum of Natural History in London, Guggenheim Bilbao and the Tate Gallery in London and his work can be found in the collections of MoMA, Tate Gallery, Carnegie Museum of Art, Centre Pompidou and Seattle Art Museum. David Brooks has exhibited his work at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Connecticut, Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, MoMA PS1 in New York City, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens in Miami, Florida and has had major commissions from The Trust for Governors Island, Storm King Art Center and deCordova Museum, Massachusetts.

The work of both artists has looked at how the natural world is interpreted, organized, presented and preserved from the standpoint of humans which make them a natural fit to consider the melding of the built and natural world presented at Planting Fields. This past year Dion and Brooks have made site visits to Planting Fields, getting immersed in the rich social and architectural history and familiarizing themselves with the stellar plant and art collections. Each artist is developing an installation to be sited in or near the Bird Sanctuary in a project entitled The Great Bird Blind Debate. As this is a new initiative, Planting Fields Foundation and NY State Parks have been working closely on the planning and execution of an unprecedented, site-specific initiative that we look forward to sharing with the public next year.

A key objective of this exhibition is for the artists to deeply engage with the site and use it as a point of departure for newly created work. Just like the Coes invited Robert Winthrop Chanler to create the Buffalo Mural and Mai Coe’s Lace Room, Everett Shinn to create panels and painted furniture for the Tea House and Mai’s dressing room and Samuel Yellin to strike the hammer to the anvil for much of the hand-wrought iron work throughout the house and grounds, we too see the immense value in providing an entry point to Planting Fields through the lens of a living artist.

The Edwin H. Costich Wildflower Plantings and the Carl F. Wedell Bird Sanctuary, located on the south side of Carshalton Drive just past the Taxus Field, are two hidden treasures at Planting Fields. Dion and Brooks were particularly interested in this area of the landscape as both are avid birders. W.R. Coe was also a bird enthusiast and endowed the Professor of Ornithology position at Yale University, an appointment that historically and currently has been filled by a leading ornithologist.

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Throughout Dion’s and Brooks’ research phase we regularly shared insight with them about the progress of the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) which, among other things is currently studying the history of the landscape and identifying the contribution that this site can make as an optimal habitat for bird migration. In support of recommendations emerging from the CLR, emphasis will be placed on selecting plants for merits beyond aesthetics and novelty, such as their contribution to sustainability and ecological benefit.

Through careful planning and collaboration with Dion and Brooks, the temporary art exhibition will encourage visitors to explore the Costich and Wedell gardens and experience the beauty of our native flora and fauna. Additionally, by complimenting these installations with native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wild flowers we hope to create a diverse landscape, capable of supporting an array of bird species.

Migratory birds utilize plants for nesting, perching, protection, and feeding. The latter can be quite complex as some birds are very specific in their diet. For instance, hummingbirds feed on the nectar of flowers, making plants like trumpet vine (Campsis radicans) or cardinal flower (Lobelia cardinalis) suitable. We would select purple cone flower (Echinacea purpurea) or butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa) for seed eaters, like the American Goldfinch.

When creating a contrived naturalistic landscape, designed to support birds, the landscape should feature a variety of plants to serve the diverse dietary needs of different bird species. Throughout this project, the NY State Parks team will continue to maintain and cultivate this area to feature native grasses, wildflowers and herbaceous planting to increase the diversity of birds visiting and utilizing this space.

A truly collaborative initiative between Planting Fields Foundation and NY State Parks, this exhibition will apply an interdisciplinary approach involving visual arts, horticulture, museology, ornithology, landscape design, and environmental studies in thinking about the sustainability of Planting Fields.
Seasons of Living: Coe Family Properties 1910-1960

Andrea Crivello

With Coe Hall often at the forefront of the interpretation of the Coe family history and legacy at Planting Fields, it can be easy to overlook that between 1910 and 1960 the family owned several other properties spread out across the United States, each with character and magnificence of its own. While Coe Hall is the only home that survives as a historic site, archival imagery and documentation give a glimpse of where the Coe family spent their time throughout the year. Here is a chronological overview of the various Coe residences.

In 1909 W.R. Coe went bear hunting in Wyoming and fell in love with the landscape and the lifestyle of the American west. He purchased the Irma Lake lodge and property on Carter Mountain in 1910 from family friend Buffalo Bill. The family’s Shoshone Ranch was built in 1913 by Walker & Gillette, sitting at an elevation of 7,500 feet with the back of the property adjoining the Shoshone National Forest. Ultimately the family owned 100,000 acres and their Wyoming home was their preferred summer retreat. The property was an ideal site for horse riding, a pastime the Coe family particularly enjoyed. W.R. Coe and his sons, alongside family friend Buffalo Bill, engaged in hunting together.

Mai and W.R. also owned a townhouse located at 6 East 83rd Street in New York City. For this property the Coes again called on the expertise of architects Walker & Gillette for renovations. The family spent winters there and used it as a stopping point on their way to Oyster Bay. The home was valued at $290,000 when purchased in 1912. W.R. and Mai then purchased two vacant lots next to this home and had the Olmsted Brothers design the gardens and Wadley & Smythe to create a bird garden in 1919. The property was sold in 1926 from the Mai Rogers Coe estate.

While three properties were purchased by Mai and W.R. together, another three properties were purchased after Mai’s death in 1924. When W.R. married Caroline Slaughter in 1926, the couple would go on to purchase a plantation, a duplex in New York City and a home in Palm Beach, Florida.

In 1930, W.R. and Caroline purchased the 11,000-acre Cherokee Plantation in Yemassee, South Carolina also known as Coe Plantation, which they mainly visited in early spring and late summer. The cost to purchase and renovate the property was about $800,000 (over $11 Million today). To furnish the Georgian style home, the Coes called on a number of antique dealers including Mallett & Son and Lengy & Morant Ltd., both of whom had designed and supplied furnishings for the interior of Coe Hall. The facade of Coe Plantation survives and the property has been converted to a prestigious golf club.

River House is a luxury duplex overlooking Manhattan’s East River between East 52nd and 53rd Streets, which the family often visited in the winter. In the early 1900s it was considered a distinguished residence in the city. The building was designed and built in 1931 by Bottomley, Wagner & White. It featured a gated cobblestone courtyard with a fountain and a 26-story tower. The duplex that the
Coe family owned was one of the grandest in the building with about 7,000 square feet, nine rooms and six and a half bathrooms. There was a private yacht landing, gardens and terraces around the property. The market value of duplexes ranged from $37,000 to $65,000 at the time. The portrait of Caroline Coe, W.R.’s third wife, currently on view in the Great Hall of Coe Hall, once hung in the parlor of the River House duplex. For this project W.R. and Caroline worked with the interior decorating firm Thedlow that had also designed the interior of Caroline’s Manor House at Planting Fields.

In 1955, a few months shy of W.R.’s death, he and Caroline purchased a late winter/early spring home in Palm Beach, Florida with 400 feet of ocean front property. The main house, a tropical stucco paradise, boasted 19 rooms, plus a guest house, garage and quatrefoil garden design with plenty of palm trees. There was also a swimming pool with stunning ocean views. Anne W. Lanfranchi of Worth Avenue, Palm Beach decorated their home. In 1956, one year after W.R. died, Caroline was approached twice about the potential sale of her home, which she turned down. The property ultimately was sold in 1960 after her death for $500,000 (over $4 Million today). The residence still exists today and is privately owned.

The affection for the Coe family homes was memorialized by Caroline when she commissioned artist Minga Pope Patchin to hand paint scenes from Coe Hall at Planting Fields, Shoshone Ranch and Coe Plantation on a series of Lenox plates given as Christmas gifts in 1937 to W.R. and son Robert D. Coe. We are fortunate to have these dinner plates in our collection at Planting Fields Foundation.

Opposite Page
Minga Pope Patchin, West Lawn, Coe Hall, 1935

Above
Minga Pope Patchin, Cloister Garden, Coe Hall, 1935
This past summer Planting Fields Foundation began the process of creating a strategic plan that will guide the Foundation’s activities and operations as well as the long-term vision for what the future holds at this picturesque, historic place over the next three to five years.

Cultural sustainability and institutional longevity demand that we clearly identify and establish priorities, strategies and tasks that will help steer the direction of the Foundation’s initiatives. These plans must be based on our mission and a clear set of core values.

In the early phase of our strategic planning process we conducted a SWOT analysis to identify our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and establish actionable goals to help us fulfill our mission. This exercise has resulted in a significant shift in attitude, purpose, alignment and execution that reflects the Foundation’s newly established institutional core values and is evident in everything we do. We are currently studying the impact that our organization has on the local and regional community with new performance measures in order to refocus ideas and balance our internal assets with the external needs.

Attendance cannot be the only measure of our success – we must also seek performance indicators such as public engagement, demographic diversity, membership growth and geographic expansion of our audience. Anne W. Ackerson, a New York-based consultant who works with cultural institutions on organizational development, is guiding us in this process and as a first step we have conducted internal evaluations amongst our staff, volunteers and Board of Trustees, seeking feedback on how each group views Planting Fields Foundation. This insight was both validating and eye-opening. We are now engaging our community by conducting surveys with our members as well as the general public about their experiences at Planting Fields to better understand what draws them here and what keeps them coming back. Over the next few weeks our research will shift from an internal to external perspective through intimate focus groups and one-on-one interviews with outside partners, community leaders, educators, businesses and peer organizations. This process will help us identify our niche as an historic site and cultural attraction, while benchmarking our performance amongst peer organizations.

As we focus on our mission, we are conscious of our opportunity to make a positive difference in the quality of people’s lives. Engaging in the strategic planning process has enabled us as an organization to build a deeper sense of accountability among leadership and staff, while strengthening our passion and commitment to our visitors. Our current mission statement has not been reviewed in many years. It needs to be evaluated as the organization and needs of the community have both evolved.

The Foundation is fortunate to have an endowment to cover essential operational costs, including our annual contribution to NY State Parks for arboretum maintenance. Planting Fields’ growth and long-term sustainability, however, requires funding from foundations, donors, sponsors, and members who provide additional resources for our exhibitions and educational programs that enrich the broader community. We recognize the importance of transparency in how we use these financial resources to maintain our reputation and operate effectively. As we set new goals throughout this strategic planning process, we will look critically at how to accomplish our goals, communicate with the public and share our progress.

With new leadership and staff in place the timing of developing a strategic plan is optimal and we anticipate completion in December 2020. Over the next year we will continue to ask for input directly from our member base – your voice will be heard!
Happenings

**YOGA IN COE HALL**
SATURDAY, JANUARY 5
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1
8:30 – 9:30 AM
$10 Members
$18 Non-Members

Practice your yoga within the historic, peaceful beauty of the Great Hall at Coe Hall. Bring your yoga mat and water bottle and plan to arrive 10 minutes early. Check-in is at the front door of Coe Hall.

**MUSICK & MERRIMENT FALL AND WINTER CONCERT SERIES**
7:00–9:00 PM
$30 Members
$45 Non-Members

The grand oak doors to the Great Hall are decorated with two notable hand-carved figures: “Musick,” a thoughtful troubadour and “Merriment,” a gleeful jester. These characters have inspired the title of our upcoming 2019-2020 fall and winter concert series. Join us for these monthly gatherings and in doing so take notice of the beautiful craftsmanship in the doorway. All concerts include complimentary refreshments.

**BROADWAY NIGHT AT COE HALL**
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8
YUTO KANAZAWA TRIO
FRIDAY, JANUARY 10
JOHN LAKE QUARTET
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7
HOT CLUB OF FLATBUSH
FRIDAY, MARCH 13

**DECK THE HALLS ANNUAL BENEFIT**
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
7:00 PM

**WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP HARBOR HOMESTEAD & CO.**
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12
6:30 PM
$70 for Members
$85 for Non-Members

Make a stunning 16” wreath with a mix of fresh, fragrant greens such as cedar, pine and juniper on a wire wreath frame. A carefully curated selection of berries, pinecones and other natural materials to adorn your wreath will be on hand. A selection of ribbons will be available. All floral design materials, ribbon, clippers, wire and wreath form are included. All skill levels are welcome!

Visit our website for updates to all programs and events!

www.plantingfields.org

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**15th ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING AT PLANTING FIELDS GARDEN GIFT SHOP**
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13
6:00 PM
Free Admission

Enjoy a snack at Magnolia cafe, visit with Santa, listen to carolers and stop in our Garden Gift Shop, all located in the Visitor Center. See the spectacular poinsettia display in the Main Greenhouse. Listen to Long Island Chamber Music Festival in Coe Hall and tour the first floor.

**HOLIDAY FESTIVAL**
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM
FREE for Members
$10 Non-Members

Hear carolers sing, visit with Santa, tour Coe Hall and view our seasonal displays. Get into the holiday spirit amid fresh evergreen cuttings and festive decorations throughout the beautiful, historic home.
Engaging The Community

Member Appreciation Day

We hosted our first Member Appreciation Day as a thank you to our members for their support of Planting Fields Foundation, while also giving prospective members and visitors an opportunity to get to know us better. Guests enjoyed live music in the Great Hall by Brooklyn Bluegrass Collective, face painting, fall crafts, tours of Coe Hall and the gardens, hot apple cider and an assortment of delicious seasonal snacks provided by Green Pear Catering Company.

Museum Day

On Saturday, September 21, Planting Fields participated in Smithsonian’s Museum Day – an annual event offering free admission to Museum Day ticket holders at participating museums, zoos and cultural centers from all 50 states. Museum Day represents a national commitment to access, equality and inclusion. The event goes beyond getting visitors through museum doors—it acts as a springboard to empower and help advance the hopes and ambitions of the public, particularly school-aged children and those in under-represented communities.

Museums for All

Planting Fields Foundation has joined Museums for All, a signature access program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), administered by the Association of Children’s Museums (ACM), to encourage people of all backgrounds to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum-going habits. The program supports those receiving food assistance (SNAP) benefits visiting Planting Fields and offers free admission for up to four people with the presentation of a SNAP Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card. Museums for All is part of the Planting Fields Foundation’s broad commitment to seek, include, and welcome all audiences. More than 250 institutions participate in the initiative, including art museums, children’s museums, science centers, botanical gardens, zoos, history museums, and more. Participating museums are located nationwide, representing more than 40 states.

Volunteer Spotlight

Elizabeth Abrams and Joanne Stipp

Elizabeth Abrams and Joanne Stipp are located nationwide, representing more than 40 states.

As a young child growing up in Massapequa, Elizabeth visited Planting Fields frequently with her parents and her brother. They would picnic here and spend hours exploring the grounds and visiting Coe Hall. She became enamored with the park and other parks and historical sites. As she got older she brought friends here. Not only did she have a love for Planting Fields, but she also discovered that she had a love of history. She has particularly fond memories of her American Girl dolls, each one unique in their mode of dress and the historical era that they represented.

Shortly after graduating from York College, Elizabeth became a member of Planting Fields. At that time she had a job at the Museum of Natural History, but when the economic downturn occurred, she, along with many others, were let go. She then entered the financial industry where she has worked for a number of years. At the present time she is hoping to go back to school and get a graduate degree in Library Science. This year Elizabeth took another step in her quest to immerse herself in Planting Fields’ history; she became a docent in Coe Hall. Her thirst for knowledge, along with her boundless energy and enthusiasm, are characteristics that represent what our volunteer program is all about. We are very pleased to have Elizabeth as an integral part of our volunteer family.

When Joanne found out that there were training classes for garden guides at Planting Fields, she jumped at the chance to do it. She had been bringing her children to the park for years and now that they were a little older, she had the time to volunteer at a place that she loved. People, plants, and Planting Fields – it was a perfect fit for her. Initially, Joanne thought the classes were too technical and not something she was interested in, but that turned out not to be the case, after a short time she was hooked. Unfortunately, the staff that trained Joanne and many other guides years ago are no longer here today, so we count on those guides to continue the legacy provided by the formal training that they had, as new garden guides come on board. When it came time to giving her first tour, it was for a senior citizens group. With loft expectations, Joanne was excited and a little nervous, but anxious to get started on this new venture. In spite of the fact that the first two questions she was asked were “Where’s the bathroom?” and “Is the gift shop open?” she wasn’t discouraged. 35 years later she’s still doing garden tours for Planting Fields.

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Staying Connected

Membership

Did you notice we refreshed our membership program? Membership sign-ups and renewals through our website have been growing! Thanks to all who have used this new platform to keep your PFF membership current. It’s an easy, safe and secure way to join or renew. We have been thrilled with your positive response to the additional levels, benefits, program discounts and exclusives now available to Foundation members. Keep an eye on your mailboxes - new membership cards are coming soon!

For the PFF Enthusiast

We’ve added a new “Features” section to our website home page with articles written by the Planting Field Foundation team as well our partners at NY State Parks. We’ll add new articles regularly to keep you connected to Planting Fields, past, present and future. Questions or comments about the content? Send us your thoughts at features@plantingfields.org.

New Evergreen Digital Newsletter

Our monthly Evergreen newsletter will keep you informed about events, programs, what’s in bloom each season, membership updates and other Foundation news.

THANKS FOR YOUR FEEDBACK!

Over the past few months we’ve been asking you to share your comments about your experience at Planting Fields and what keeps you coming back. Here’s a peek at the results from our recent member evaluations:

- **What would you like to see more of at Planting Fields?**
  - Art Exhibitions 57%
  - Garden Tours 47%
  - Concerts 42%
  - Health & Wellness Programs 31%

- **How do you prefer to learn about our events and programs?**
  - Email 73%
  - Website 31%
  - Brochure 21%
  - Social media 10%
  - Local papers 5%

- **What can PFF do to encourage you, your family or your friends to attend programs or events more often?**
  - More food experiences 66%
  - More/different music programming 55%
  - More events and programs all year round 50%
  - More/different garden tours 30%
  - More behind the scenes/special access opportunities 22%

FOLLOW US!

Our social following is up 25% this year on Instagram! See for yourself – you’ll find us on every platform.

- @PlantingFieldsFoundation INSTAGRAM: 3178 followers
- @PlantingFF FACEBOOK: 4354 followers
- @PlantingFields TWITTER: 1270 followers
Annual Appeal

In every season, the experience of walking through Planting Fields is an opportunity to escape, explore and be inspired. The legacy and future of Planting Fields depends on your support. Your tax-deductible contribution will directly fund three key initiatives that empower us to continue our mission and growth as an organization.

Help us create a significant and lasting impact on this historic place and the community that cherishes it.

This year we have set an Annual Appeal fundraising goal of $150,000. With your support, we can continue the exciting new growth trajectory that has begun this year, while ensuring a sustainable future for Planting Fields.

Here Is How You Can Help!

Donate online!
It’s easy, safe and secure: https://plantingfields.org/annual-appeal

Mail your donation to:
Planting Fields Foundation
P.O. Box 660
Oyster Bay, NY 11771

Call or email:
Lilly McGurk, Director of Development and Membership
lmcgurk@plantingfields.org
516-922-8676
Growing Our Team

Planting Fields Foundation staff continues to grow and we are thrilled to have three new professionals in key positions.

Executive Assistant, Maritoni “Toni” Barnes
Toni brings a diverse set of skills to the Foundation with a formal background that includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from the Fashion Institute of Technology and a recently completed Master of Fine Arts degree in Drawing from the New York Academy of Art. In addition to a strong creative background, Toni has years of experience working in office administration, customer service and executive support.

Director of Finance, David Dvorak
David has extensive background in financial management in the not-for-profit sector. He started as Assistant Controller for the Social Science Research Council, moved to the College Board where he was Senior Director of Finance for the K-12 Division, Higher Ed Assessments & Corporate Planning and then on to Director of Finance for The Earth Institute at Columbia University. David retired from The Earth Institute in June of 2018. He is overseeing all finance matters at the Foundation.

Director of Education and Engagement, Rheanna Abbott
Rheanna is an arts educator and artists who has honed her skills of art education program design, implementation and evaluation over the past 10 years working in the Greater NYC area. Rheanna holds a Master of Arts Administration degree from Baruch College, where she was nominated for the Marlow Prize in Arts Leadership. She has presented on her work at multiple national and international conferences and is an alumnus of the Community Arts Education Leadership Institute.

About Planting Fields Foundation
Planting Fields Foundation preserves and interprets Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park as the premier public garden and Gold Coast estate for today and tomorrow while creating enriching experiences for the visiting public. Founded in 1952 by William R. Coe, the Foundation is a not for profit public educational foundation. Located in Oyster Bay, New York and originally landscaped by the Olmsted Brothers, the grounds feature 409 acres of greenhouses, rolling lawns, formal gardens, woodland paths and outstanding plant collections. The original historic estate buildings remain intact including Coe Hall, a 65-room Tudor Revival mansion designed by Walker & Gillette. The interior of the house is a showcase of artistry and craftsmanship and features a distinctly American aesthetic through original ironwork commissions by Samuel Yellin and murals painted by artists Robert W. Chanler and Everett Shinn. Planting Fields is included in the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of the Nation’s historic sites worthy of preservation.