



## TULIP DIG

Another favorite event: our annual Tulip Dig, where fans of the park tulips patiently stand in line to dig up bulbs from the Moses fountain beds. **DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S EVENT, TRADITIONALLY HELD THE WEEK-END AFTER THE TULIP FESTIVAL.** Come join the Conservancy volunteers, together with City Gardener Jessica Morgan and her staff, to dig up the bulbs on Saturday, and then come back to help sell or purchase some of these beautiful bulbs on Sunday! Proceeds go towards new plantings in the park.

## WPC & THE CITY: PLANTINGS

And speaking of plantings... This year, your donations supported planting to fill some of the gaps on the 'Mall' once lined with American Elms. The city attempted to find disease resistant elm, but the importance of diversity in planting forced other choices. The intent was to plant sections of the Mall with trees that would attain size and stature. The section closest to the Soldiers and Sailors monument now has two new London Plane trees joining previous plantings; the section east of the formal gardens has five new White Oak. Trees that will mature to 50'-60' height were added to the State Street area, and a Tulip tree was added near Armsby Monument. With financial support from WPC, the city also planted a shrub massing of PJM rhododendron in the garden sector to restore buffer planting for this area, and there are now three Magnolias on the roadway between the 'lilac' area and the playground.



## MOSES STATUE UPDATE

With support from the Bender Family Foundation, work is underway to install evening lighting at the King Memorial Fountain, affectionately called the Moses Fountain. These images show the test lighting and a rarely-glimpsed view of one of the equipment tunnels underneath the fountain. The electrical work is done, with installation of lights expected this spring. We look forward to sharing the big re-opening with you!



P.O. BOX 1145  
ALBANY, NY 12201

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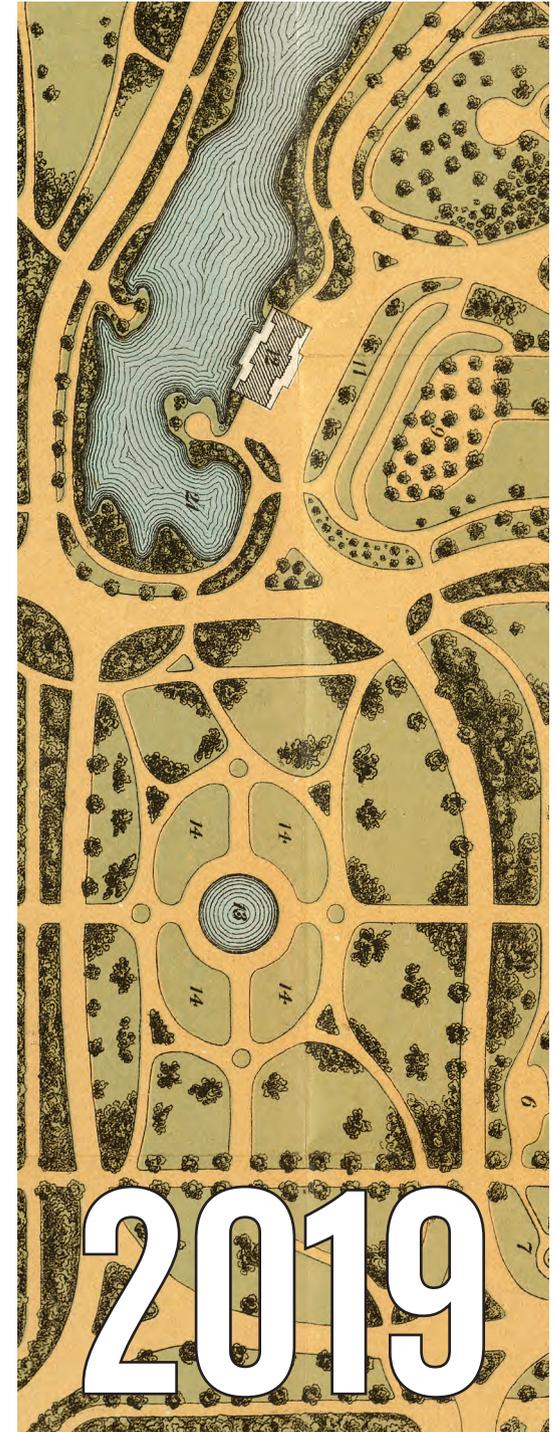
## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Your support will help the Conservancy restore, preserve, and maintain Washington Park for leisure, recreation, and the appreciation of nature for all of Albany's residents and visitors.

Please fill out and return the enclosed membership form so that you can continue to be involved, or go online to our website at

[washingtonparkconservancy.org](http://washingtonparkconservancy.org)

AND PLEASE CONSIDER THE CONSERVANCY  
IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING.



# 2019

# WASHINGTON PARK CONSERVANCY



Photo courtesy of Nine Pin Cider Works

## ALBANY'S URBAN ORCHARD

Albany's Urban Orchard turns one year old on April 15th! Over the past year the trees have grown significantly. The orchard was trimmed in May to keep the trees from growing fruit to focus energy to their roots and limbs. Regular watering and pruning has been done by Nine Pin Cider Works and Samascott Orchards. The urban orchard is considered one of the first in the nation and is a collaboration between Nine Pin Cider Works, Samascott Orchard, the Washington Park Conservancy and the City of Albany. You can follow Albany's Urban Orchard on Instagram @albanyurbanorchard to stay up to date on how the orchard is progressing and upcoming educational events.

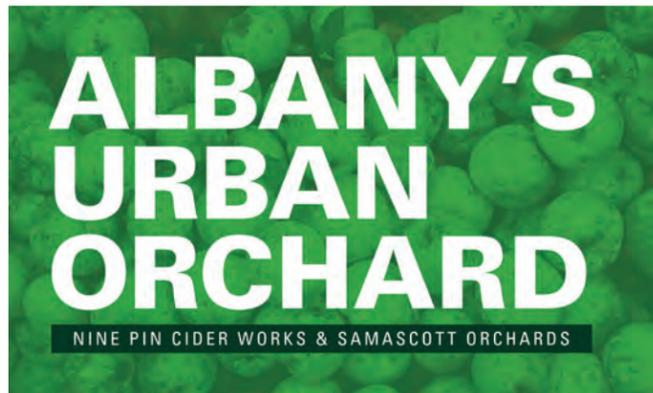


Photo courtesy of Paul Buckowski/Times Union

## LANTERN PARADE

The 3rd Annual Lantern Parade brought over 800 people together on the evening of November 4, lighting up the path around the lake and warming the evening with cheerful conversation, creativity, and music. In preparation, community venues opened their doors for free lantern-making workshops- the incredible librarians of the Albany Public Library hosted a workshop at each branch, while others were held at local businesses and institutions. Outside groups and individuals created their own lanterns; the magic of seeing all these lights and those holding them as they gather is the essence of the event, and what the Washington Park Conservancy, Mayor Sheehan, and the City of Albany see as the promise of a new tradition for our city. Many thanks to all involved- we are looking forward to the partnerships and lanterns 2019 will bring!



## CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY

Retired SUNY Professor and Conservancy member John Pipkin and Jessica Fisher Neidl, who has worked as a senior writer/editor for SUNY System Administration and with Mount Ida Press, are developing a book on the history of Washington Park. They hope it will be ready for the Park Sesquicentennial in 2021.

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### TWO MAYOR THACHERS AND THE PARK

When it was first created by a law of 1869, Washington Park was run by an independent Commission that could call on the City to issue bonds, but over which the municipal government had very little control. This considerably galled Mayor George Hornell Thacher. In May 1873 he wrote that the Park Commission was: "... an absolutely distinct and independent city government. It haughtily exercises the right to bond and tax the city of pleasure ... They have not deigned to consult the Common Council or our citizens."

George's grandson John Boyd Thacher II, the third Thacher to be Mayor of Albany, performed heroics in the Park about 62 years later. The Mayor and his secretary Bernard Fitzpatrick saved ten-year old Jay D. Clark, of 27 Dana Avenue, on the afternoon of April 11, 1935. Jay was riding a toy wagon that rolled into the lake and his leg got stuck. New York Times reported that the Mayor and Fitzgerald "plunged" into the lake. After bringing the boy to safety the two rescuers waited in the boiler room of the Lake House until their families brought dry clothes.



## SEPTEMBER SPLENDOR

2018's September Splendor was a great success, raising \$16,580. An end-of-summer tradition at the Lake House in Washington Park, September Splendor is the primary event that raises funds to preserve and improve this historic park. The botanical theme featured perennials, lush autumn annuals, shrubs, bushes, and trees, as well as stunning floral arrangements, all contributing to the distinctive character of this cocktail event. Once again, local artists, individuals, businesses, nurseries, and tree services generously donated an abundance of items for the silent auction. Thanks to Mark Brogna of Capital Wine for donating all the wine and thanks to Chuck Kuhtic of the Morgan State House for donating his time for the floral arrangements and thanks to the all the volunteers. **COME JOIN US THIS YEAR ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2019!**

## BREAKFAST

Every year (typically in June), the Conservancy hosts one of our favorite events: providing breakfast for the workers who take such great care of our park. Our thanks to the mayor's office and local businesses for their support!

