

AIFD North  
East  
Newsletter  
Symposium  
Special



Editor  
Jo A Jarvis  
AIFD



August 2023





## Editor's Note....

**WOW!!!!** Talk about the North East rocking this year's symposium in Chicago...this issue is full of pictures with North East members not only celebrating, but being celebrated for what they have given to the floral industry.

Meet and welcome our three new inductees to the region; then have a break and read what it is like to be an ambassador at symposium. Check out photos of the brilliant designs that Jorge Uribe AIFD, CFD, EMC and Andreia Boscato Muller created for their main stage program.



Pictured Left: North East chapter members Theresa Colucci AIFD (our new National President) Laurie Lemek AIFD (National President-Elect) and Renee Tucci AIFD (National Vice-President) for 2023-2024. This has got to be a first in so many ways, and what a hard-working trio of florists. Our congratulations and support to these ladies in their new positions.

Pictured Right: Tim Farrell AIFD (AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO AIFD), Claire Won Kang AIFD (2023 recipient) and David Siders AIFD (2020 recipient) of the AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE FLORAL INDUSTRY. They are icons in our floral world and most deserving awardees.



There is now a second endowed fund thru the AIFD Foundation powered by the North East Region, appropriately named: 'The SAIFD Endowed Fund, Powered by the North East Region'. The interest and dividends from this fund will be used to sponsor a hands-on class for every student that attends Symposium in future years.


The first fund, 'The North East Foundation Scholarship' awards Symposium scholarships to worthy applicants annually.

Ron Mulray and his team dedicated their time creating stunning pieces for the Body Flower Buffet, aptly titled the GROWtique this year. The funds raised through these efforts will help support the SAIFD Endowed Fund for next year. Our thanks to Ron and his team for their creative work.

I hope members have time to check out this issue which is full of pictures and information regarding fellow AIFD North East members, and their time at Symposium. A big thank you to Heather Towne AIFD and Trish Reppert CFD for all the pictures they took at symposium and shared with me so I could share with our social media outlets and newsletter.

Until the next issue...it will be back to the garden for me...tons to do and tidy up.





## Meet YOUR NEW National Board of Directors of the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD) for 2023-2024 year

This talented team will lead us on a blossoming journey of creativity and innovation in the floral design industry.

**President:** Theresa Colucci AIFD CFD

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**Vice President:** Renee Tucci AIFD CFD

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SC: Bradley Shane Cranford AIFD CFD

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SW: Brent Leech AIFD CFD



Together, they bring a wealth of experience, passion, and dedication to their respective roles, ensuring that AIFD continues to flourish and inspire floral designers worldwide.



A big welcome to the AIFD North East regions new 2023 Inductees  
Aaron Bowden AIFD, Samantha Pascal AIFD & David Yacagnisky AIFD



"AIFD GROW Symposium Induction ceremony, dinner and dance was an awesome experience tonight. Extending Congratulations again to all my fellow new AIFD inductee floral family.

We Did It!

Aaron S Bowden AIFD CFD FSMD  
So proud to be AIFD!"



Samantha T. Pascal AIFD



David Yacagnisky AIFD



# **Congratulations to North East members Tim Farrell, David Siders and Claire Won Kang**

who were award winners during GROW Symposium in Chicago!  
The talent, creativity, dedication and passion for the floral industry  
shines in each of these exceptional floral artists.

## **AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO AIFD (FELLOW)**

**Tim Farrell, AIFD, CFD, AAF, PFCI Farrell's Florist**

This award is given to longstanding members of the American Institute of Floral Designers in grateful recognition of extraordinary service to the Institute, upholding its goals and supporting its activities. Recipients shall be known as 'Fellows of AIFD®' and are granted Life Membership.



## **AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE FLORAL INDUSTRY**

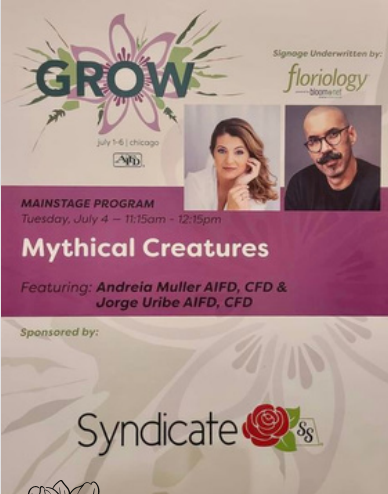
**David Siders AIFD CFD 2020**

**Claire Won Kang AIFD CFD 2023**

This award is presented to AIFD® members who have made a significant contribution to the floral industry.

Their unique and innovative designs have truly pushed the boundaries of floral art, inspiring us all to see the beauty in every petal and stem. It is through their skillful hands that flowers become a language of emotion and celebration.





# North East on the Main Stage



We are thrilled to share with you our latest project, the Mythical Creatures runway flower show! Inspired by myths, legends, and creatures, we used botanicals as our primary medium, complemented with other elements to portray diverse looks. Our goal was to create a wow factor with colors, textures, techniques, and mechanics while still maintaining an organic and natural feel. We spent a lot of time brainstorming and researching the best materials and botanicals to use, considering factors such as weight and longevity. We also had to determine the most suitable mechanics and techniques to bring everything together. The end result was incredibly satisfying, and we believe that our ideas evolved and developed beautifully to meet our design goals. Our experience was truly exciting and wonderful. It was such a great opportunity to share our passion and commitment with others, and it was incredibly gratifying to see our hard work pay off. There's nothing quite like the feeling of bringing together different elements and creating something truly beautiful and inspiring. We feel so grateful for the chance to showcase our creativity and to connect with others who share our love for art and design. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of such a

special event.

JORGE & ANDIE

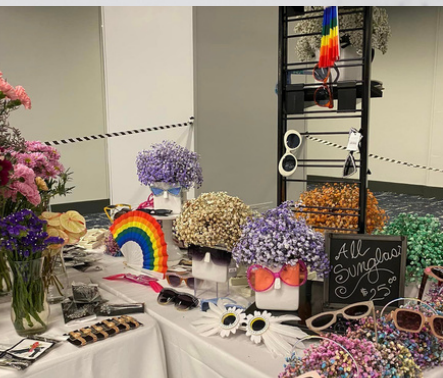








Under the direction of Ron Mulray AIFD, the Body Flower Boutique was the center focus of the GROW Gallery! Creative designs to purchase and wear, as well as flowers and trinkets to design your own, were available for the two evening events. Proceeds will GROW the AIFD Foundation SAIFD Endowed Fund, powered by the North East Region, to benefit students with hands-on opportunities as part of their Lifetime of Learning.



North East  
Showman  
Ron Mulray  
AIFD







# *"WORK TRIP"*

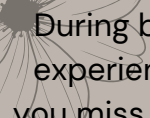
## *BY TRISH REPPERT CFD*

I arrived in Chicago a few days before the AIFD Grow Symposium began, and when anyone, from the airport attendant to the Uber driver, asked why I was in Chicago, I always replied, "Work trip." But they probably didn't catch my smile when I said it. They may have felt sorry for me, that I had to "work" all week. Don't get me wrong—the whole reason I was there early was that I had registered as an AIFD Ambassador. This was my 2nd symposium, and my 2nd year attending as an Ambassador, so I knew there would be work. As an Ambassador, you are assigned to assist where needed. This could be processing flowers, cleaning buckets, filling buckets, carrying buckets, pulling flowers, pushing carts, moving pallets, etc. (a.k.a. "Work"). But I also knew that the work brought with it some amazing opportunities.





Florists and other AIFD Partners attend symposium to connect or reconnect with floral friends and industry leaders. There is no better place to connect than through the Ambassador program. First of all, you are on a team with 35 other Ambassadors, and often assigned to the same tasks. Unpacking and chopping 1,000 flowers next to one another creates some fast friends! In addition, you often will be assigned to one of the main stage designers. You may get to meet and work side by side some of the best designers in the world! You have an All-Access, backstage pass to see the designer's vision come to life from the beginning, right through to their main stage presentations. Sometimes, you are working on the more time-consuming tasks, such as wrapping hundreds of pieces of floral material in wire, weaving ribbon, or pinning a thousand flower heads to some surface! Other times, the designer will show you a technique, and ask you to complete a design task. Either way, it's like attending a master's class! We often see these internationally known designers and may be intimidated to speak with them. As an Ambassador, they welcome your volunteerism as a vital part of their presentation. They often show their kindness and appreciation by taking time to demonstrate their methods and make your time there a learning experience. And they warmly smile next to you for selfies!





During breaks, you may attend the programs and stage presentations taking place at the time, so you can share those experiences with other AIFD attendees. I recommend going through the gallery of previous days' event designs should you miss any program you were interested in. In addition, try to attend the Partners' Showcase, and introduce yourself to the various industry vendors. There are committee meetings and informal gatherings listed on the event app where you can make even more connections!



And let's not forget the nightlife! As an Ambassador, and in appreciation of your hard work, you are given a ticket to the Awards and Induction Dinner Dance, as part of your already reduced price registration. You are also invited to attend the Welcome Reception and all cocktail hours, where you can strengthen the connections you have been making. Tickets are available to join in the last evening's gala, and this year, the Ambassadors were given a special treat. An anonymous donor bought tickets for all Ambassadors to attend! It was a Versailles themed masquerade ball, but we could not mask our surprise or enthusiasm!

Perhaps you may want to take a "work trip" next July in Orlando, where you can "Emerge" with new friends, new experiences, and memories that will last a lifetime!





Trish Reppert  
CFD







TIME TO LET YOUR  
HAIR DOWN OR  
UP...FINAL NIGHT  
LIKE NO  
OTHER...2023





## 2023-2024 NORTH EAST BOARD MEMBERS

The North East region includes Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and the Canadian Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and the United Kingdom.

APPLICATIONS ARE ONLINE

### AIFD FOUNDATION GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLICATION DEADLINE  
OCTOBER 15, 2023



Next issue deadline is September 15th, 2023  
send to [earthworks@btinternet.com](mailto:earthworks@btinternet.com)

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