



# Focal Points

## What Did You "Discover" in Washington, D.C.?

AIFD's Symposium "Discover" was held in Washington, D.C. June 30 - July 4. It was a week full of education, networking, amazing stage presentations, intense competition, testing, celebration, food and fun. If you have never attended a Symposium it is almost impossible to describe what you are missing. You see old friends greeting each other like family, you see new members being mentored by Life members, you see friendships in the beginning stages, friendships that have stood the test of time and a group of amazing, talented designers celebrating each other's talents.

This year offered even more education sessions than before thanks to the Main Stage Presentations, Innovate Hands-On Workshops, Inspire Creative Sessions and Impact Business Sessions. There was also a welcoming reception, three celebratory meals, a student competition, and our ever popular Partners' Expo. Coordinated under the direction of **Suzie Kostick AIFD, CFD** of Smithers-Oasis in Rio Rancho, N.M. and **John Kittinger AIFD, CFD** of The Best of Flowers in Lexington, Ky., AIFD's 2018 Symposium was about connecting and engaging the entire floral industry. Retail florists, mass market floral retailers, wedding and event florists and farmer florists enjoyed educational opportunities that served a diverse cross section of the industry.

**Frank Feysa AIFD, CFD** of Garden Gate in Aurora, Ohio, was installed as President of AIFD®. He succeeds **Kim Oldis AIFD, CFD** of Details...it's all about the flowers in LaConnor, Wash. as the volunteer leader of the floral industry's leading organization in design education. Installed as AIFD's President-Elect was **Jackie Lacey AIFD, CFD** of Floriology Institute in Jacksonville, Fla. **David Shover AIFD, CFD** of Karin's Florist in Vienna, Va. will serve as Vice President. **Janet Black AIFD, CFD** of Designs by Janet Black AIFD in Bethel, Maine was chosen as Secretary and **Laura Parker AIFD, CFD** of Fresh Start Floral in Holly, Mich. was chosen to serve as treasurer. **Joyce Mason-Monheim AIFD, CFD** of Tucson, Ariz. will take on the role as AIFD's 2018 Symposium Coordinator for "Awaken" taking place July 6 - July 11, 2019 in Las Vegas, Nev. **Brian Vetter AIFD, CFD** of Phoenix, Ariz. will be the Symposium Program Coordinator.

### Inside

AIFD Board Report - 7

Anti-Trust Policy - 13

Wedding Bliss - 15

Blooms Over D.C. - 29

Flip to page 10 for more details and to view photos!

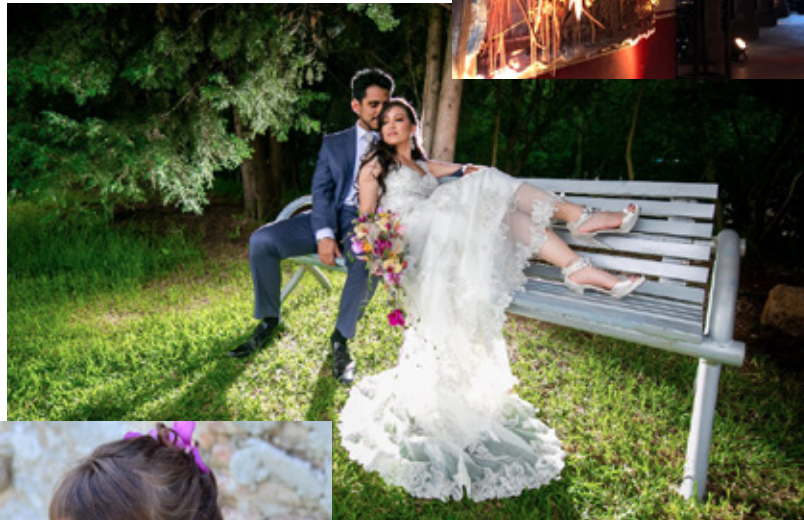
# Wedding Bliss

By Katie McCormick AIFD, CFD

What an honor it was to attend and be amongst family, friends & designers for the wedding of AIFD member Cindy Pham to Leopoldo Gomez, CAF. Cindy & Leo met at 2016 AIFD Symposium in Anaheim, California. This is where their love for each other began. Many will never forget this moment, including myself!

“Love is the Flower of Life and Blossoms unexpectedly and without law, and must be plucked from wherever it is found” - DH Lawrence.

Leo & Cindy together portrayed their perfect floral vision in a beautiful ceremony & reception at Hacienda De Sayavedra outside of Mexico City. Their team consisted of friends from Mexico & from the US, as well as AIFD designers, Philip Rice, Susan Ishkanian, Ania Norwood, and myself. Leo also had wonderful students from his school, Centro de Arte Floral, assist in making it all happen! In addition, many family and friends in and out of the floral industry were present and enhanced this amazing day for Cindy & Leopoldo. My mini, Madelyn, was thrilled to be asked to be one of her flower girls. The overall excitement was unreal!



When I first got the call that they were engaged, I wasn't sure what to expect from this outstanding couple. But I was more than blown away by the design concepts, ideas, and beauty throughout the entire day.

First off, the array of colors used in all the flowers – reds, oranges, purples, yellows, & more- made for quite the vision. The Hacienda de Sayavedra itself had a rustic-unique charm. Then, the inside and out were transformed into a floral vision- it was outstanding! Designs consisting of long

masterpieces in water trough tables, unique & structured trees, lush floral all around, and even floral art that looked as if it was a part of the walls.



The icing on the cake had to be the stunning tree which the two were wed in front of, by two dear friends, with both languages involved. The tree itself was on a small hillside with the breeze flowing, umbrellas to block the sun, and a rain shower that came

after the ceremony concluded. Flanking the aisle & tree were amazing creations of vases & floating tubes strung with white flowers. It set a beautiful tone and elegance that can't be truly portrayed or explained.

Leo created a stunning cascading bouquet for his bride to carry down the aisle and spent countless hours on the detailed wire work, but the true beauty was Cindy herself. Their vows to each other brought moments of loss of words and tears of joy.

Every single detail was on point from the food, flowers, incorporated traditions, entertainment & more. Cindy's request to finish off the night was to have piñatas strung over the dance floor for some extra fun- and it was certainly that! A huge hit, hilarious, fun & over the top for kids & adults alike.

Overall, it was a beautiful day and wedding! What an honor to be a small part of my dear friends' wedding along with family & friends! I know many near and far were thinking about Cindy & Leo on this day and as they continue their journey together. Congratulations Cindy and Leopoldo!