



## Musings

by Scott H. Harris

Executive Director

University of Mary Washington Museums

Mark your calendars for March 19, 2019, the third annual **Mary Wash Giving Day!** This online fundraising endeavor has become a major source of much-needed support for a wide range of activities at the University of Mary Washington, including Gari Melchers Home and Studio and the James Monroe Museum.

The concept of giving is a recurring theme in the careers of James Monroe and Gari Melchers. Monroe frequently sacrificed his personal gain from farming and the practice of law to fulfil the demands of public service. Melchers, while more financially successful than Monroe, nonetheless gave of his time and talents as an arts advocate through leadership in regional and national museums and professional societies. Both men recognized that their contributions could make a difference to their communities and their cultures.

In 2018, Giving Day overall generated 2,987 gifts totaling \$449,000. Forty-one donors contributed \$5,430 to the Friends of the James Monroe Museum, while 30 donors gave \$3,070 to the Friends of Belmont. Our museums hope to surpass those totals in 2019, and I hope that YOU will help us succeed.



Through the wonders of technology, you can donate to Friends of Belmont and/or Friends of the James Monroe Museum by a simple mouse click:

Friends of Belmont: [givingday.umw.edu/melchers](http://givingday.umw.edu/melchers)

Friends of James Monroe Museum: [givingday.umw.edu/jmm](http://givingday.umw.edu/jmm)

At these links you can learn more about our museums, donate, and even become a Giving Day Ambassador, whereby you can use social media to help spread the word about the campaign. All donations are fully tax-deductible.

With thanks,

  
Scott Harris

