

In memory of my Grandfather, I made a garden with certain flowers. I planted ones that would represent memory, my grandfather and connect to the Archangel of death, Azrael. These flowers have their own history and meanings behind them, showing their significance. In the garden I made for my Grandfather, I planted seasonal flowers, Alyssum, Carnations, and Forget-me-nots.

Carnations were used as a gift for mother's day in American culture, an edible flower, as well as the flower for January Birthdays. These flowers are mostly perennials and come in many colors, but blue is not one of them. In American culture, Carnations are also Ohio's state flower.

Red Carnations were chosen in the honor of President William McKinley, who was assassinated in 1901. He was known for wearing red carnations in his jacket lapel. In religion, Carnations also have a Catholic background. It was said that these flowers grew from the tears of Mary watching Jesus carry the cross.

Forget-Me-Nots are a symbol for grandparents day and have a history behind them as well. Forget-me-nots are the state flower of Alaska, native to New Zealand and can be found in Asia, Europe, and America. These flowers were said to have healing properties against Scorpion stings, hence its other name "Scorpion Grass". It was also said that forget-me-nots were protection from witches as well as the juice of the flower enhancing steel to cut through stone.

In 1978, the 39th president of the United States, Jimmy Carter, began the tradition of Grandparents Day. Marian McQuade from Fayette, West Virginia helped in the process and eventually Grandparents day was celebrated, using the Forget-Me-Not as the official flower. Though it is not official, Forget-Me-Not day is celebrated on November 10th as well.

Alyssum flowers are part of the mustard family and are known as a treatment for rabid animal bites in old history. Though not used commonly today, since Alyssum is part of the mustard family, it is said to have a mustard taste, and are an edible flower.

The name is of a Greek word translating to "without madness". Alyssums can grow in just about any environment and type of soil, it does prefer in drainage in soil and also likes sunny days. Alyssums have much more lore on them than the other flowers, being connected to the element of air.

It was said to be protection against hexes, spells, and curses in the days of witches. Alyssums are supposed to be spiritual, connecting to planet Mercury, and are said to have a calming aura that comes with them. It's also said that Alyssum is associated with the Virgin Mary, though specifics are hard to find.

Though flowers are significant in my project so are Angels, specifically Azrael, archangel of death. He is seen as God's helper, guiding souls from the living to the spiritual realms. Not only does he do that but then comforts the grieving people who have lost ones they love. Azrael is known in many cultures and not only with American Christianity.

I made a Garden mixing all the flowers from the beginning, making a symphony of meanings and all connecting to each other in a way. Their connection is Azrael. Each reminding me of my grandfather by the Alyssum's strength to adapt or to the meanings of love in Carnations and Forget-Me-Nots.

My grandfather was born January 11th, the same as his daughter Nicole, and the same as me. Carnations the flower of January birthdays. Forget-me-nots for never forgetting him, and all connecting to Azrael or Death who returned my grandfather to God and who shares the meaning of remembrance and love with the flowers I've chosen.

My grandfather was religious which is a meaning found in the Carnation flower as well, looking back to the carnation's religious background as well as the flower symbolizing love. I loved my grandfather very much and he treated others with unconditional love, helping them whenever he had the chance. My grandfather was always so strong. Strength was a trait I found in the Alyssum flower, being a no-fuss flower and being almost "self-planting". I also saw Forget-me-nots in remembrance of him and for my family of the impact, my grandfather has made on all of us.