
With this issue of the **Alumni eNewsletter**, we welcome the graduates of the Summer School Classes of 2019 into the Alumni Association.

The VSA was established in 1966. It is the only national, non-profit organization committed to historic preservation, protection, understanding, education, and enjoyment of our nineteenth century heritage. The VSA has national members and several chapters located around the country. The Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools is a membership organization exclusively for graduates of the Summer Schools in Newport, Rhode Island; Chicago, Illinois; and London, England.

The Alumni Association is a Chapter of the VSA that was founded in 1975 following the first VSA Summer School held in London, and established:

- to support and encourage the VSA as it fosters public appreciation and understanding of the artistic expression of the Victorian Era in the United States;
- to promote the programs of the VSA Summer Schools;
- to provide opportunities for professional, educational and social interaction of the Summer Schools alumni through study tours, seminars and other activities;
- to provide consistent scholarship funds for the VSA Summer Schools; and
- to encourage participation in and scholarship, through the VSA Summer Schools.

This year, the Alumni Association was able to provide \$23,250 to the VSA for summer schools scholarships for the 2019 class.

The source of the Alumni Association funds includes a \$55 annual membership fee (which is a separate membership fee from the VSA), and largely from

generous alumni who donate to scholarship funds, and honorary and memorial donations to support future VSA and Alumni Association leaders. There is a special \$35 a year membership available for those under 35 years of age.

As a chapter of the VSA, the Alumni Association is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization. You can find more information about the Alumni Association by visiting our web site at vsaalumni.org, separate from the VSA web site (victoriansociety.org)

If you have not already done so, please become a friend of the Alumni Association on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vsaalumni/>). There you will find information about upcoming events, and updates on news and information on your new friends and other Alumni Association members. Please share information about any of your travels, publications, employment, promotions, etc.

Alumni Association membership benefits include: opportunities to participate in the Alumni Association's national and international Study Tour Programs that include exclusive access to historic sites, private homes, and private collections; invitations to special events nationwide; an invitation to attend the Alumni Association's Annual Meeting & Dinner often held in a private home in connection with a VSA Study Tour; and publications keeping members informed of activities - only current Alumni Members may submit essays for possible publication and join Alumni Association Study Tour.

Members are strongly encouraged to submit articles for publication in this eNewsletter. Articles sharing your adventures and travels in Victoriana since your summer school experiences would be most welcomed by all of us. Please send to David Lamdin at dalamdin@aol.com

The next Alumni tour to Lisbon, Portugal is planned for the fall of 2020.



Alumni News



Carley Altenburger (Newport 2015) reports that she has accepted the position of Assistant Librarian for the Joseph Downs Collection of Manuscripts and Printed Ephemera at Winterthur.

She always dreamed of somehow combining her love of archives and decorative arts but didn't truly think it would ever be possible. Lesson learned - never give up on your seemingly impossible dreams!

Jim Gonzalez (Newport 2016) was sworn in as a new Commissioner on the Toledo City Historic District Commission, representing downtown and several other districts.

Alessandra Merrill (Newport 2016) was promoted to Associate Vice President at Sotheby's.

Sara Durkacs (Newport 2016) was promoted to Corporate Secretary at The Green-Wood Cemetery.

JÓZSEF SISA (London 1996 and Newport 1999) presented a lecture on the Budapest Parliament building on June 27 at the Institut Hongrois in Paris

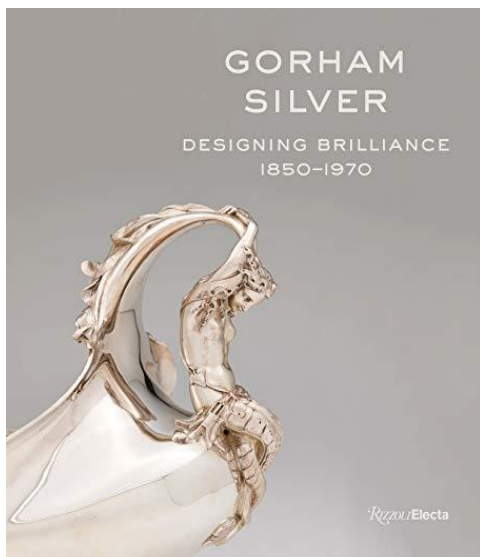
Andras Jeney (London 2018) held a semester this spring on British Victorian Architecture at ELTE University in Budapest, disseminating his newly-acquired knowledge to the next generation of Hungarian students.

Many thanks to **Nancy Golden** (Newport 1998), who served the Alumni Association as President from 2006 through 2016 and who was elected to another term as an Alumni Association board member in 2018, has resigned from the board to pursue other opportunities. Nancy's enthusiastic support and inspirational leadership of the Alumni Association for over a decade established a firm foundation for the future growth of the Alumni Association.



Armon White (Newport and London 2017) was elected to fill the vacancy on the Alumni Association’s Board. Armon received a Bachelor of Environmental Design (1995) and a Master of Architecture (1998) from Texas A&M University. He also earned a Master of Science in Historic Preservation and a Master of Science in Real Estate Development (2016 - 2018) from Columbia University. In addition to the Victorian Society Summer Schools, he earned a Certificate from the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art – Winter Intensive.

Armon currently is working on an internship at MAPLEWOOD SENIOR LIVING at INSPIR, Carnegie Hill –Manhattan Luxury Senior Living High-Rise Construction New York, NY. As a past scholarship recipient, Armon is aware of the generosity and rigor required to keep important endeavors like The Victorian Society in America ongoing and hopes to help the Alumni Association fulfill its mission by his service on the Board.



RISD Museum curator **Elizabeth Williams (Newport 2009)** organized the groundbreaking show “**Gorham Silver: Designing Brilliance, 1850–1970**” and edited its accompanying catalog.

Williams charted the exhibition — which features 600 examples of Gorham silver, plus design drawings, casting patterns and tools — on the foam core panels covering one wall of her office.

Published by Rizzoli, ***Gorham: Designing Brilliance, 1850-1970*** builds on pioneering scholarship by Charles H. Carpenter, Samuel J. Hough, Charles Venable and others. It features archival and documentary

images, some by Erik Gould, who also photographed the objects in exquisite detail. The book’s authors include Williams, **Emily Banas** (Chicago 2017 and Newport 2018), David L. Barquist, Gerald M. Carbone, Amy Miller Dehan, Jeannine Falino, Catherine L. Futter, Ingrid A. Neuman, John W. Smith and Holly Snyder.



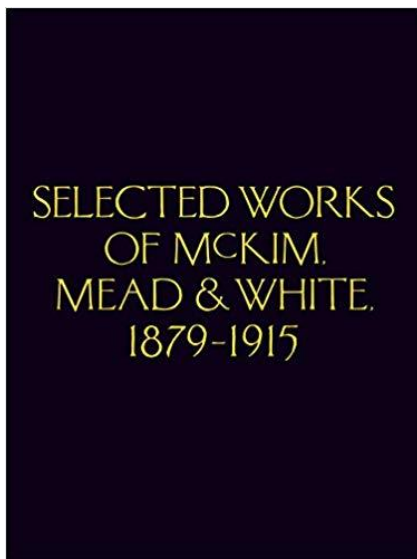
<https://www.amazon.com/Gorham-Silver-Designing-Brilliance-1850-1970/dp/0847862526>



On May 13, 2019, **James Russiello** (Newport 2012 and London 2013), Alumni Association Board Member, presented the 2019 Amy W. MacDonell - Randall T. Shepard Historic Preservation Lecture sponsored by the Preservation Alliance of Evansville. The lecture, **PRESERVATION THROUGH TRANSFORMATION - the Adaptive Reuse of Redundant Religious Structure**, examined the problems affecting historic church buildings and other religious structures and the sympathetic adaptive reuses for redundant religious structures appropriate to their architectural and community significance. The history of continued use and adaptive reuse of redundant religious properties was examined through the spectrum of redundancies, levels of support, and approaches to reuse present in the United States and abroad.

Portions of the lecture are available on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqJ4BWS5MkM&feature=youtu.be>

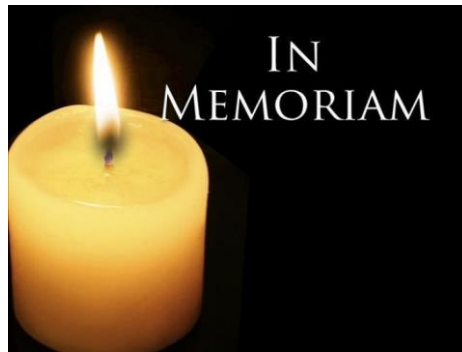


In the Spring 2019 issue of the VSA's *Ninetieth Century* magazine, **William Ayres**, a vice-president of the VSA Board of Directors, prepared a review of this one-volume reprint of the four volumes of *A Monograph of the Work of McKim, Mead & White, 1879-1915*. The introduction by **Richard Guy Wilson**, Commonwealth Professor of Architectural History at the University of Virginia, and the accompanying essay by Leland M. Roth, Marion D. Ross Distinguished Professor of Architectural History emeritus at the University of Oregon, together provide an excellent overview of accomplishments of the McKim, Mead & White firm, nicely explaining and justifying its preeminent position in the history of American architecture—useful refreshers even for those who are already familiar with the material that these two short pieces cover.

Ayres noted that this deluxe edition on quality paper with superbly reproduced images of its photographs and drawings is the closest thing to the original that is likely ever to come along. The scale is slightly smaller than the original, but this has the advantage of making it much easier to handle.

<http://victoriansociety.org/upload/NC-39-1.pdf>

<https://www.amazon.com/Selected-Works-McKim-White-1879-1915/dp/1616897570>



Richard Reutlinger, a Summer School alum (Newport 1987 and London), a long-time friend, member, and supporter of the Alumni Association and the Society, passed away in San Francisco on June 29th. Richard was also a frequent traveler on VSA and Alumni Study Tours.



Many of his friends in the Alumni Association recall what a wonderful, funny, and knowledgeable collector he was. He restored his own beautiful San Francisco house many years ago on a shoestring. With the Brune/Reutlinger House, Richard became a national leader in the Victorian Revival of the last third of the 20th Century.

In a 2004 article in the *SFGATE*, it was reported that the Nebraska native was among a generation of gay men who flocked to San Francisco in the 1950s and '60s, and moved into row after row of Victorians, many of which had been abandoned by blue-collar workers who left the aging city neighborhoods for the suburbs.

Richard purchased several of them throughout the years, including a decaying classic Victorian Revival house in Hayes Valley in 1965. The once-stately structure, designed in 1886 by noted San Francisco architect [Heinrich Geilfuss](#) for businessman [Henry Brune](#), was structurally sound, but like many Victorians after World War II had become "drab and dilapidated, targets for urban renewal's bulldozers."

The previous owner of the [Grove Street house](#) -- the [Antioch Baptist Church](#) -- had taken out the central furnace and installed oil and gas heaters. But they failed to install ventilation, so much of the ceilings were coated with a black, gummy residue. Richard was in the dining room one day, scrubbing away the muck, "when all of a sudden the old paint started to flake off the picture rail," he wrote. "I found that the upper rail was gold leaf and the lower one was silver leaf with little copper flowers."

Nine months and plenty more surprises later, Richard moved in. He slowly filled his stately quarters with hundreds of period pieces, including an impressive walnut and rosewood bedroom set that he purchased for the grand sum of \$135 nearly 45 years ago and an 1870s settee upholstered with its original fabric and needlepoint portraits of [Queen Elizabeth](#) and Sir [Walter Raleigh](#).



Chronicle / Mike Kepka

"I was fascinated with the piece, but whatever they were asking for it was a lot more than I could afford," wrote Richard, who fell in love with the loveseat after spotting it in a San Jose shop in the mid-1960s. He spied the settee several times more in the years that followed but couldn't afford to buy it until 1975, when it surfaced in an antique emporium on Market Street as part of a half-off sale.

Richard and the house were known to many VSA members and Alumni. An interesting 2004 article on Dick's collection of player pianos and mechanical instruments can be found at: <https://www.sfgate.com/entertainment/article/There-s-nothing-mechanical-about-it-Player-2689122.php>

Robert O. Pritchard who took care of Richard has suggested the VSA Alumni Association's Buttrick Challenge for VSA Summer School scholarship be one of the funds as appropriate memorials for Richard. Robert has also mentioned the SF Victorian Alliance and the Cohen/Bray house in Oakland, CA. {Much information from the *"The Magazine Antiques"* August 2005}



To make memorial contributions in memory of Dick to the Alumni Association's Buttrick Challenge, please send checks payable to "**Alumni Association**" to:

David Lamdin. President, Alumni Assoc.

1515 N Kirkwood Rd
Arlington, VA 22201



Chronicle / Mike Kepka



Richard Reutlinger photo by Fred Golden

William J. (Bill) Dane (London 1982 and Philadelphia 1984), a long-time member of the VSA and the Alumni Association, passed away on July 13, 2019. Bill was the Special Collections Curator for 62 years at Newark Free Public Library (officially known as the Keeper of the



Prints), and namesake of The William J. Dane Fine Print Collection at the Newark Public Library. He was a longtime board member and advocate of the Victorian Society in America Summer Schools and Alumni Association and served as the VSA's Metropolitan Chapter treasurer from 1970-1973 and 1984-1986, Vice President, 1973-1975, and a director from 1970 until 1992.

Photographed on April 23, 2013 by James Russiello at the Benefit Lecture

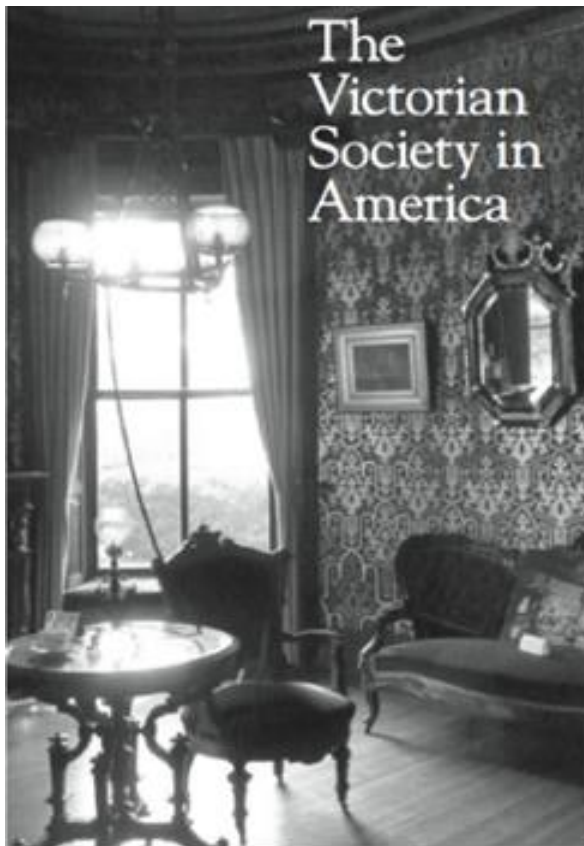
for The Margot Gayle Fund for the Preservation of Victorian Heritage at the Forbes Gallery, 60 Fifth Avenue, Greenwich Village with [Sibyl McCormac Groff](#).

Further information and a complete obituary can be found at:

<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/5255724/William-J-Dane>

https://www.nj.com/news/2009/12/newark_public_library_special.html?fbclid=IwAR33oRhbJPIe ehd2-2cVcD2Nr9MuVGXad7Dr68AzVn3BAgdV9gOsO7Svm6o

AN INVITATION TO JOIN



Since 1966, The **Victorian Society in America** has fostered an appreciation of this country's 19th century heritage through its preservation efforts, publications, and its Summer Schools in London, Newport, and Chicago. There are many outstanding benefits of a Victorian Society membership including supporting the Summer Schools, attending symposia, study weekends, and the annual meeting and tour in a location with a distinguished Victorian heritage, helping preserve historic structures, and receiving its scholarly publication ***Nineteenth Century*** and ***The Victorian Quarterly*** newsletter.

For more information or to join go to www.victoriansociety.org



THE 2020 VSA SUMMER SCHOOLS

We invite you to study architecture, art, landscape and preservation at one of our internationally-acclaimed Summer Schools in Newport, Chicago and London. You will enjoy lectures by leading scholars, private tours of historic sites, engaging social experiences, and opportunities to get behind the scenes at museums and galleries. Open to graduate students, academics, architects and the general public.

The Summer Schools are academically rigorous and physically demanding. A typical day includes lectures and tours by leading scholars, considerable walking, periods of standing and engaging social experiences. These intensive programs are action-packed with little free time. Tuition costs include expert instruction, shared accommodation, some meals, tours, and admissions. Competitive scholarships are available for all three programs.

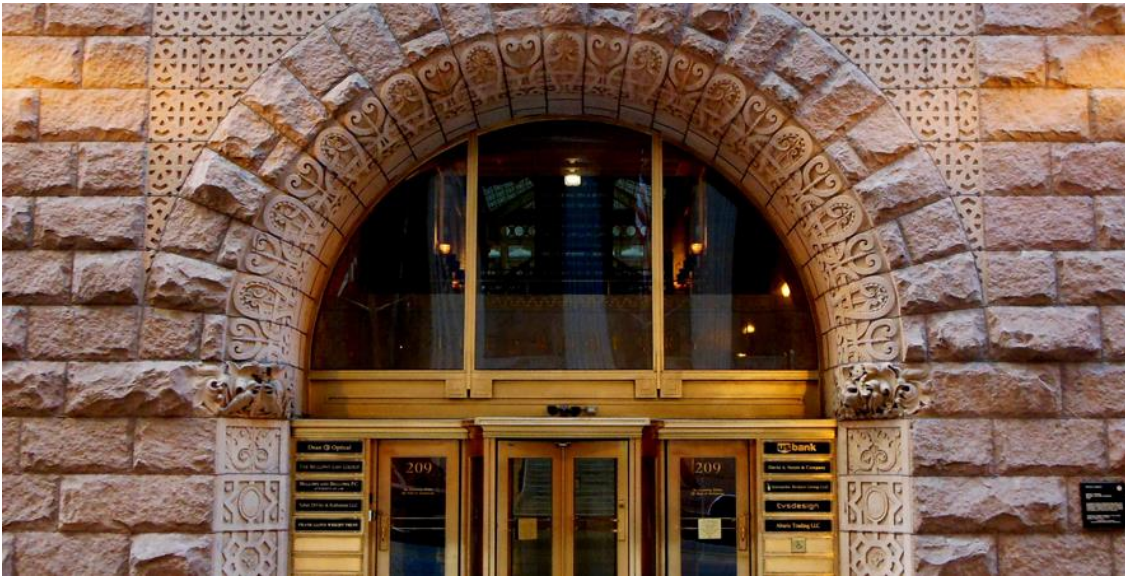
Word of mouth is the best form of advertising for the Summer Schools, so please share this with those who you think might benefit from attendance.



NEWPORT SUMMER SCHOOL

May 29-June 7, 2020

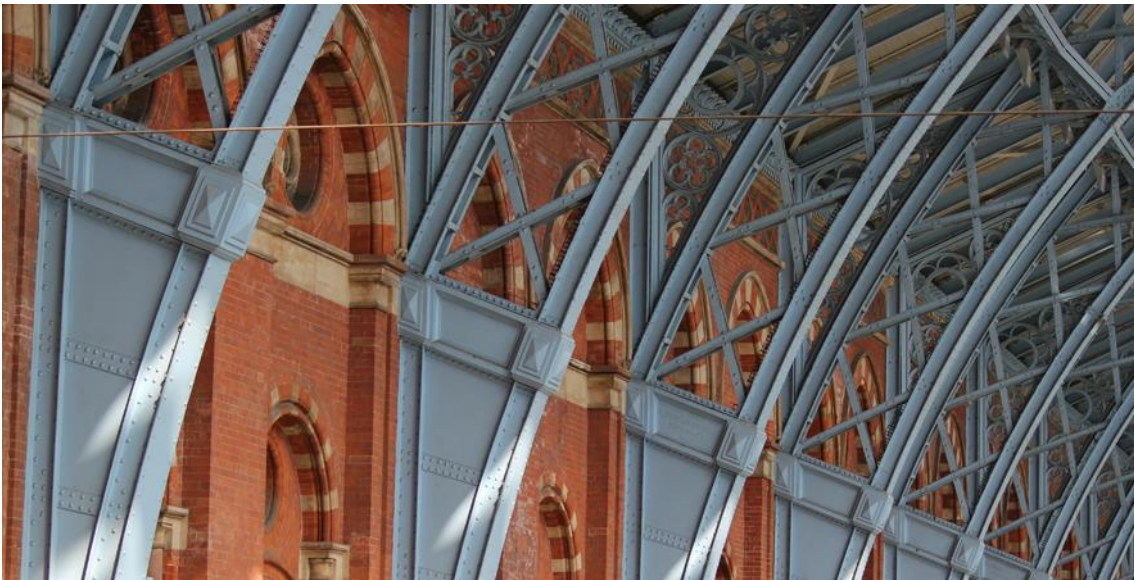
Join renowned architectural historian Richard Guy Wilson to experience and study four centuries of architecture, art, culture, and landscape at the acclaimed Newport Summer School. This ten-day program is based in Newport, Rhode Island, the “Queen” of American resorts.



CHICAGO SUMMER SCHOOL

June 11-16, 2020

The 5th annual Chicago Summer School focuses on the American roots of Modernism. After the Great Fire of 1871, progressive architects and patrons propelled the city to the forefront of technological and aesthetic experimentation. Through expert lectures and guided tours, you will survey mid-19th and early 20th-century architecture, art, design, history, landscape, and preservation.



LONDON SUMMER SCHOOL

June 27-July 12, 2020

The Victorian Society's Summer School is one of the most dynamic programs for the study of Victorian art, architecture and design. Featuring tours of London, the Midlands, and for the first time, the West Country, the course is a unique and engaging mix of talks, guided walks, and private visits.

FOR FURTHER INFO: victoriansociety.org



The 1996 Newport Summer School class making memories.

Please submit your old class photos to Correspondence Secretary Jeanne Solensky at jmsolensky@gmail.com

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND DONORS

The officers and board members of the Alumni Association give special thanks to those Alumni members at the Supporter level and above. Your generosity is appreciated!

BENEFACTOR (\$500 and above)

Robert Chapman
Hank Dunlop
David Lamdin
Jane & David Villa

SPONSORS (\$250–\$300)

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Shannon Grayson
Elizabeth Leckie
John McHugh & Janet Self
Duane Myers
Susan Robertson
Kristine Steensma
Sergei Troubetzkoy
Jane & David Villa
Samantha Wiley

Contributor lists June 1, 2018 through June 13, 2019. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of our contributor lists, but errors may occur. Please contact Membership Secretary Sara Durkacs at (718) 499-8254 or at membership@vsaalumni.org with any errors or omissions.

Heritage Society

The Heritage Society of the Alumni Association was established to allow the Alumni Association to recognize those individuals who have made thoughtful provisions in their planned giving documents, wills, trust, and bequests. These provisions will help to ensure that the Alumni Association will continue to have the resources necessary to fulfill its missions in support of the VSA.

We are extremely grateful to the following members and friends who so thoughtfully and generously included the Alumni Association in their wills or trusts. Their gifts will make a lasting difference to deserving scholars for years to come.

John C. Freed, a longtime VSA and Alumni Association supporter made provisions for a \$10,000 bequest to the Alumni Association in memory of his partner, **Paul Duchscherer**.

Paul Duchscherer very thoughtfully made provisions in his trust for a \$10,000 bequest to the Alumni Association as well as designating the Alumni Association as the beneficiary of all future royalties from his many books and other publications.

The Bob and Carole Chapman Fund very generously awarded a grant of \$10,000 to the Alumni Association Chapter in memory of **Carole Chapman**.

Darrell Lemke & Maryellen Trautman

Including the Alumni Association in your estate plans is an effortless way to support the Schools. Please consider this sample language:

I give and devise to the Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools located in New Jersey, all (*or state percentage*) of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, to be used for its general support (*or for the support of a specific fund or program*).

If you are interested in and require further details about including the Alumni Association in your will or trust, please contact President David Lamdin at (703) 243-2350 or at dalamdin@aol.com.

\$100,000 Buttrick Challenge Grant

The following individuals have generously made donations to help the Alumni Association meet the challenge grant from Jim Buttrick to create an Endowment Fund to support the VSA Summer Schools.

Donors

Cindy Casey
Robert Chapman and
 Florence Sinofsky
Hank Dunlop
Nancy and Fred Golden
Mary Anne Hunting
David Lamdin
Laura Macaluso
John McHugh and
 Janet Self
Alessandra Merrill
Christopher Pollock
Phyllis Quinn
Laura Parrish
Robert Rettig
Charles Robertson
Richard Tuck and Neale Grash
Candace Volz
Susan Wagg
Washington, DC Metropolitan Chapter of the VSA

Pledges

Warren Ashworth
Sara Durkacs
Robert Esposito
Sibyl McCormac Groff

Victorian Society in America

The Alumni Association is extremely grateful to the following Victorian Society in America (VSA) donors, Victorian Society Chapters and others who so generously supported the Summer Schools through their very generous donations to The Victorian Society specifically for the Schools.

Robert G. Chapman

The VSA Washington DC
Metro Chapter

John	Simonelli
Anne-Taylor	Cahill
David A.	Lamdin
Warren	Ashworth

Felicia Fund
Pauline C Metcalf

Nancy	Golden
Tina	Strauss
William	Ayres
William	Eldredge

VSA Alumni Association

Judith Martorelli

VSA Metro NY Chapter

Sarah Lichtman

VSA Northern New
Jersey Chapter

Decorative Arts Trust Exec. Dir Thurlow

VSA Ohio River Valley
Chapter

Contributor lists December 2018 through June 10, 2019. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of our contributor lists, but errors may occur. If you see an error, please report it to David Lamdin at dalamdin@aol.com

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION of the VICTORIAN SOCIETY SUMMER SCHOOLS

\$100,000 BUTTRICK CHALLENGE GRANT

The Alumni Association is very excited to announce the creation of an Endowment Fund to support the VSA Summer Schools. We received a very generous matching grant from Jim Buttrick (Newport 1999, London 2000). Jim will donate a total of up to \$100,000 to match dollar-for-dollar donations large or small to the Endowment Fund. These donations must be “new” money received before December 31, 2020. The Endowment Funds will be separately invested for the long term with a small percentage of the value of the fund used each year as needed for summer schools scholarships and operations.

As a supporter of the VSA, you understand the importance that the Schools have played in the lives of those fortunate enough to attend. Students consistently report on how the schools have enriched their lives with the connections made, the first-rate lecturers, and a broadened appreciation of the built environment. The Endowment Fund will provide an ongoing income stream to make the Summer Schools stronger and be our legacy for future Victorians. Please consider a generous contribution.

For additional information contact: David Lamdin 703-243-2350

dalamdin@aol.com



Prof. Richard Guy Wilson with students at the Newport Summer School

Please complete and return the form below to help meet the Buttrick Challenge

I, _____, am including a check for \$_____ payable to the “**Alumni Association**”. Memo: for the Buttrick Challenge Grant. **AND/OR**

I, _____, pledge \$_____ to the Alumni Association for the Buttrick Challenge Grant to be paid before December 31, 2020.

Send to: **Alumni Association, VSA**
24 Wilkins Ave 1st Floor
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

As a 501 c (3) organizations, donations to the Alumni Association are deductible as provided by law.