

The Alumni Association held its Annual meeting as required by our bylaws on Zoom on May 5, 2021 in connection with the VSA Annual meeting. Many thanks to Kevin Rose and the VSA for hosting our meeting. Here are the draft notes from the Alumni meeting:

ANNUAL MEETING

Correspondence Secretary **Jeanne Solensky** called the meeting to order and certified that a quorum was present. The Alumni members present at the meeting constitute a quorum per the bylaws.

Ms Solensky entertained a motion to dispense with the reading of the notes from the May 20, 2020 Alumni Annual meeting since those notes were distributed by email and US Postal Mail to all the current members of the Alumni Association. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Secretary **Sara Durkacs** reported that the Alumni Association has 185 Households registered as dues-paying members which means about 234 individual members. Follow-up appeals continue, including our final "Pay-What-You-Can" to enroll lapsed members continues into 2021.

2021: 185 Households + 49 = 234 Total memberships
2020: 206 Households + 50 = 266 Total membership
2019: 177 Households + 57 = 234 Total membership
2018: 147 Households + 53 = 200 Total membership

John Martine, Alumni Board member and Alumni Study Tour Director, reported that the VSA Alumni Study Tour to Lisbon, Portugal is still in a holding pattern. We have tentatively rescheduled it for March 2022 with 29 people. A survey of those who have signed up received mixed messages about traveling this year. So many unknowns

remain and difficult to predict what the situation will be several months in the future. Europe for the most part remains in lockdown with increasing cases of infection. A similar spike is happening in the US as well. Most respondents were concerned about our large group [29] being admitted as a group to restaurants and cultural sites such as museums, etc. Whether mask wearing will continue to be required, etc. Further information will be sent to the trip participants as soon as possible.

James Russiello, Alumni Association Director and Social Media Committee, reported that the social media accounts that the VSA and the Alumni Association are all now shared between the VSA and Alumni Association. Events of both organizations continue to be shared to increase the reach of the events notice. This has included the three event pages for the summer schools, and one recruitment event in NYC.

There were no live events for the Alumni Association to cover after February 2020. In past years, the VSA Alumni Association social media pages have been most engaged reporting on, and advertising live events. With the majority of these events canceled, there was less engagement with the Alumni Association pages than in past years.

Photo posts of a February alumni gathering in NYC received the most clicks and the VSA Summer School administrator posted virtual photo itineraries during the summer of what each of the three summer schools would have done on that day. The photos had been supplied by alumni from past years.

Photo posts receive more impressions and engagement than the link posts but in the absence of live events in the foreseeable future, the Alumni Association should focus more link posts. Most of the non-photo posts were created by David Lamdin, which typically advertised program events associated with other VSA individuals. These concise link posts helped maintain content on the FB page and in advertising the news and even of summer school alumni furthered the mission of the Alumni Association.

Recommendations for the FB page: Outside of direct emails and the website, Facebook remains the Alumni Associations most visible presence to non-active members. With David Lamdin's regularly emailed pdf newsletters, it might be advisable to share newsletter content via Facebook. Also, it would be good to have more moderators attached to the page to produce additional content.

James Buttrick, the Chair of the Alumni Finance Committee, reported that the Alumni Chapter raised \$217,008.50 for the scholarship Endowment Fund. The Finance Committee looked at several options for investing the money and chose eCIO [standing for "electronic Chief Investment Officer"] located in Madison, WI. They specialize in smaller non-profits, are cost-effective, and are easy to work with. An Investment Policy Statement has been drafted and approved by the Alumni Chapter Board. Funds have been transferred to the investment manager and will be gradually committed to the market over a six-month period to minimize the impact of market volatility. The portfolio will be broadly diversified.

David Lamdin, Acting Treasurer, reviewed the Income and Expenses of the Alumni Association in 2020, discussed the immensely successful Buttrick Challenge which ended on Dec. 31, 2020 and resulted in the Alumni establishing an Endowment Fund with a little over \$217,000. Excluding the Endowment Fund, the Alumni ended 2020 with a balance of \$48,394 in the main account. The additional funds in the Pittsburgh account are set aside for the Portugal trip and other Study Tour activities.

David Lamdin, the President of the Alumni Association, reported on the activities that the Alumni Association was involved in for 2020. Most of the energies of the Alumni focused on fund-raising for the Buttrick Challenge and membership maintenance. Every dollar donated for the establishment of an Endowment Fund was doubled. The special contributions of some 97 individuals, couples, and organizations to the Buttrick Challenge was a wonderful tribute to the faithful and generous support of our organization. The Endowment Fund will provide a strong foundation for the Alumni Association to continue its support of student scholarships for many years to come. A very special thanks to **Sue Verzella** and **Sara Durkacs** for their extra efforts and detailed care to keep track of the donations. And of course, our sincere appreciation to **Jim Buttrick** for his inspiration and very generous support.

The Alumni Board approved a budget for 2020 which included a donation of \$16,000 to the VSA to help with the fixed expenses of the schools which had to be canceled because of the world-wide pandemic. Before the cancellation of the 2020 schools, the Alumni Association supported recruitment events in San Francisco, Chicago, and NYC. The Alumni Association conducted a successful Annual Meeting via Zoom in May with the 2020 VSA Annual Meeting. With the cancellation of the 2021 Summer Schools and the funding by the Foundation for the great zoom lectures, no Alumni donations are contemplated for 2021.

The Alumni Association is deeply grateful to the VSA President **Kevin Rose**, for his detailed and comprehensive work on the new Alumni website. After the Alumni Association is able to decide on the few remaining issues including credit card options, the new website which will be incorporated into the VSA website will be ready to be tested fully and then go live. Many thanks to **John Martine** for his ongoing efforts in planning and rescheduling what is sure to be an amazing trip for Alumni. **Hannah Sigur**, our alumna in Lisbon has been working diligently organizing a great tour for us.

Sara Durkacs, the dedicated and very hard-working Membership Secretary of the Alumni Association, has completed processing all of the BC donations and is now focused on processing membership renewals.

Thanks to the chair of our Nominating Committee, **Travis Brock Kennedy**, and members **David Vespa** and **James Russiello** for their work. Many thanks to our current Board of Directors for their dedication, support, and guidance over the past three years, and thanks to those who will serve in that capacity from 1/1/2022 thru 12/31/2024.

A huge “thank you” to our Finance Committee (**James Buttrick, Sibyl Groff, Bob Chapman, and David Lamdin**) for the many hours lending their expertise to the establishment of the Alumni Endowment Fund and the Investment Policy statement. A special thanks to the members of the Alumni Association who faithfully support our mission to support the VSA in its educational mission and to provide scholarship funds for students attending the summer schools.

And finally, a very big “THANK YOU” to our Correspondence Secretary, **Jeanne Solensky**, for guiding us through the annual meeting.

Travis Brock Kennedy, the Chair of the Alumni Nominating Committee, reported that he and committee members **David Vespa** and **James Russiello** recommended the following individuals for election to the Board of Directors in the offices specified for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024

David Lamdin (President)
Robert Chapman (Vice President)
Sara Durkacs (Membership Secretary)
Jeanne Solensky (Corresponding Sec)
James Russiello (Treasurer)
Richard Brandi (Director)
Travis Brock Kennedy (Director)
John Martine (Director)
Elizabeth Ann Milnarik (Director)
William Cullum (Director)

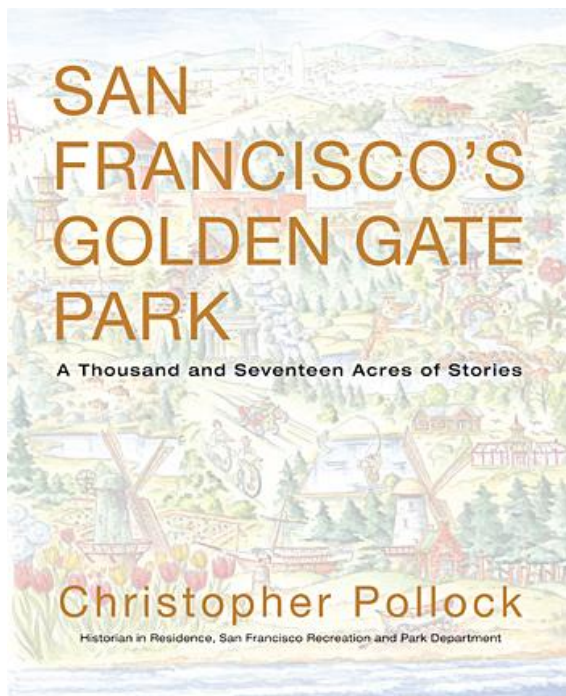
Hearing no other nominations from the floor, **Ms Solensky** noting that ballots were sent to all members with email addresses and by postal mail to those without email, called for a vote on all nominees. **Ms Solensky** reported that the membership voted unanimously to approve all nominees for the offices specified above.

Ms Solensky entertained questions. Hearing none, **Ms Solensky** entertained a motion to accept the reports of the Officers, Directors, and Chairs. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms Solensky then entertained a motion to adjourn which was approved unanimously.

Prepared by David Lamdin May 20, 2021

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Christopher Pollock (Newport 2004, London 2010, and a former member of the Alumni Board). Norfolk Press recently announced a newly designed edition of Chris' book, "*San Francisco's Golden Gate Park – A Thousand and Seventeen Acres of Stories*" Golden Gate Park has had many significant changes and upgrades since the initial publication was released 20 years ago. This updated design includes even more in-depth historical facts, along with new photos, maps, and insights on what not to miss while visiting the park

[SAN FRANCISCO'S GOLDEN GATE PARK: A Thousand and Seventeen Acres of Stories – Christopher Pollock | Norfolk Press](#)

If you have information regarding alumni presentations, publications, employment, or other items of interest for publication in our newsletter, please send the info to David Lamdin at dalamdin@aol.com

In Memoriam

During the Alumni Association's October 2018 tour of Northern Ireland, we visited Clondeboye House, where we were met with most the gracious and enthusiastic hospitality of **The Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava**.



We were saddened to learn that the glamorous, charming, and artistic Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava recently died at the aged of 79. She was the daughter of MP Loel Guinness and his second wife, Lady Isabel Manners, swapping Belvoir Castle for Clondeboye Estate after her Westminster Abbey wedding to the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava. She was a talented artist - whose friends included David Hockney and Truman Capote - she will always be remembered for her pastoral scenes, many painted from her marital home in Northern Ireland, the Clondeboye Estate.



Born in 1941 at the height of the Second World War as Serena Belinda Rosemary Guinness, her birth was seen as an opportunity to boost wartime morale, with her father, Loel Guinness, of the brewing dynasty, encouraging his second wife Lady Isabel Manners to give birth at Prestick Airport, where his squadron was based.

As she later recalled: 'He said the birth should take place at the airport to cheer everyone up. New life in the middle of the war, you know.' After her parents divorced, she split her childhood between her mother's family seat, Belvoir Castle, and Florida, where her father had moved with his third wife, the Mexican socialite Gloria Guinness. It was through her stepmother that she first met Truman Capote.

It was a chance meeting at a bonfire in 1958 with Duncan Grant of Bloomsbury Group fame that led to her realization that art was her calling. She went on to be one of Grant's pupils at Charleston, before going on to further study at Byam School of Art, Chelsea School of Art and the Slade. In 1964 she married her fourth cousin, Sheridan Dufferin, the 5th Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, who shared her interest in the arts and was a great patron of them himself.



The couple were wed at Westminster Abbey, in a glamorous ceremony that saw 2,000 guests, including Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon. She wore a very sophisticated ivory gown by John Cavanagh, accessorizing with the Dufferin and Ava shamrock tiara, a diamond and pearl diadem dating back to the 1800s.

The couple were joined on their honeymoon by David Hockney - whose talent Sheridan had spotted early - before returning home to Holland Park in London, where they became major movers and shakers on the art and party scene. They also spent some time returning Clondeboye, Sheridan's family seat in Northern Ireland, back to its former glory, hosting parties for the likes of Prince Charles.

After her first show in 1971 at the Harvane Gallery, Lady Dufferin went on to have shows in Paris, Belfast and Dublin, and despite mastering a wide range of styles, was most fond of painting her herd of pedigree cows. After her husband's death in 1988 from AIDS related illness, she inherited Clondeboye, planting a memorial garden in his honor and opening a gallery, not to mention building up her herd of cows, who appeared on dairy products sold by the house. She even installed an 'honesty shop' in which customers could pay for items they took, with no staff (it was once victim to thieves at Christmas, but she played down their malice by claiming that they must not have been feeling very 'Christmassy' that year).



She was still painting earlier this year, and during lockdown produced some wonderful landscapes, with plans for an exhibition. The cause of her death is not known. In a public message from Clondeboye Courtyard, where she often popped over to see newlyweds arrive for their wedding breakfasts, a spokesperson said:



“We regret to announce the death of Lindy, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, after a short illness. She was a friend to so many and was beloved by all. Painting and Clondeboy were her twin passions and we can take some solace that her last months with us allowed her to indulge both and brought her peace and happiness doing the things she enjoyed most. She had a fantastically full life. Given current Covid restrictions there will be a private funeral at Clondeboy in accordance with her wishes but there will follow memorials in celebration of her life at both Clondeboy and London.”

*From the Wednesday Oct 28, 2020 issue of the **Tatler** by [REBECCA COPE](#) and the Oct 27, 2020 issue of **Belfastlive** by Jilly Beattie*



Photo by Fred Golden October 2018

BUTTRICK CHALLENGE DONORS

Contributions processed April 1, 2019 through February 2, 2021. Every effort is made to accurately report all donations. However, there was a flurry of donations at the last minute to meet the 12/31/2020 deadline so this listing may not be complete. Errors and omissions may occur. If you see an error, please bring it to our attention so that a correction can be made in future listings.

\$20,000 and above

Mary Anne Hunting
Anonymous in Memory of Bill Dane

\$10,000 to \$19,999

John Freed Administrative Trust; Don Merrill, Trustee (2)

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Nancy and Fred Golden (2)
Robert Chapman and Frances Sinofsky (2)
Gretchen Redden (2)

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Pauline C. Metcalf's Felicia Fund

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Liz Leckie (2)
Charles Robertson III
Robert Rettig
Joan K. Wells
Sibyl Groff in memory of Richard Reutlinger and Bill Dane
John Martine, AIA
Kristine Steensma
David Lamdin (2)
William D Grasse and Emily Haldeman
John McHugh and Janet Self via
The Henry Lyman Greer Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation (2)
Michael Hendron
Sheila Donahue
Hank Dunlop (3)

\$500 to \$999

Richard Tuck and Neale Grasham
Hank Dunlop (3)
Sara Durkacs
Members of the Washington DC Chapter of the VSA (2)
Jennifer Trotoux
Christopher Forbes
Roger Scharmer (2)
Donald and Elizabeth Roberts

\$100 to \$499

Alan Ruscoe
Richard Merrill
Candace Volz (2)
Peter Trippi
Nancy Evans Hays IMO Gavin Stamp
Nancy Kilpatrick in Memory of C Dudley Brown
Suzanne and Larry Cavazos
Sergei Troubetzkoy (2)
William Ayers
Jane Severance
Jan-Paul Malocsay (2)
Darrell Lemke and Maryellen Trautman
Kerrill Rubman (2)
William and Patricia Eldredge
Phyllis Quinn
Cynthia Casey (3)
Laura Macaluso
Warren Ashworth
Susan Wagg
Phyllis Quinn
Mary Findlay (2)
Janet Geiser
John Simonelli (2)
Ian and Margaret Berke
Wilson Stiles (2)
Jeanne Solensky (2)
Lamar Lentz (2)
Christopher Pollock
Matthew and Jolene Dessert
Donna Ann Harris
Whitney W White
William Hines
Morgan and Megan Pierce
Sarina Forbes
Edward Bosley
Susan Robertson
Yorkman Lowe
Hilda Regier
James Russiello

Up to \$99

Jennifer Mary Wood

Laura Parrish

Marilyn C. Scott

Alessandra Merrill

Margaret Starr (2)

Duane Myers (2)

Suzi Barbee

Dale Wheary

Anne-Taylor Cahill

John Faust

Judith Martorelli in memory of Dudley Brown

Theodore Sawruk

Andre Hoek

Catherine Olasky

Max Sinsteden

Alexis Mucha

Jaclyn Spainhour

Mitzi Mogul

Keith Letsche in memory of Richard Reutlinger

The Heritage Society of the Alumni Association was established to allow the Alumni Association to recognize those 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 huge 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** made provisions for a bequest to the Alumni Association

Including the Alumni Association in your estate plans is an effortless way to support the Schools. Please consult with your attorney and consider this sample language: *I give and devise to the Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools 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) 243-350 or at dalamdin@aol.com.

The Officers and board members of the Alumni Association are extremely grateful to all alumni who help support our mission. We offer our special thanks to those listed below who made additional contributions—above and beyond their membership dues—to the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

Paul Duchscherer Memorial Scholarship

Endorsed by Sibyl McCormac Groff and John Martine

Patricia Eldredge

Mary Findlay

Sibyl McCormac Groff

Adam Klafter

David Lamdin

Elizabeth Leckie

Don Merrill

John Martine

Phyllis Quinn

Roger Scharmer

Joseph Svehlak

Richard Tuck and Neale Grasham

Gwen Koch Newport Memorial Scholarship

Charles and Sheila Donahue

Sibyl McCormac Groff

David Lamdin

Duane Myers

Danae Peckler and Michael Spencer

Charles Robertson III

Marilyn C. Scott

Prof. Richard Guy Wilson Newport Scholarship

Suzi Barbee

Edward Bosley

Mary Costabile

Mary Findlay

Sarina Forbes

Willie Granston

Sibyl McCormac Groff

David Lamdin

Gretchen Redden

Katherine Seale

Dale Wheary

Richard Guy Wilson

Chicago Scholarship

David Lamdin

General Scholarship

Christopher Adams and Christy Szczesny-Adams
Suzi Barbee
Lydia Brandt
Cynthia Casey
Robert Chapman and Florence Sinofsky
Mary Findlay
Merrily Gumpel
Kathryn Hannan
David Lamdin
Lamar Lentz
Stephen Byrd and Jill Lord
John McHugh and Janet Self
Susan Robertson
Barnett Shepherd
Jeanne Solensky
Kristine Steensma
Joseph Svehlak
Allan and Angela Vagner
Martha Vicinus
Linda Weld
Samantha Wiley

London Scholarship

Laura Camerlengo
Caroline Giddis
David Lamdin
Richard Guy Wilson

Special thanks also to those members at the Supporter (\$125) level and above.

Benefactor (\$600)

James Buttrick
Robert Chapman and Florence Sinofsky
Merrily Gumpel
David Lamdin
Katherine Seale

Sponsors (\$250-\$350)

Louis Aubert
David Blackburn
Jennifer Carlquist
Nancy and Fred Golden
Hank Dunlop
Sibyl McCormac Groff
Darrell Lemke and Maryellen Trautman
Stephen Byrd and Jill Lord
Janie Petkus
Gretchen Redden
Katherine Seale
Linda Weld

Supporter (\$125)

Louis Aubert
Suzi Barbee
Jennifer Baughn
Ian and Margaret Berke
Gray Brechin
Nancy Connors
Steven Erisoty
Mary Findlay
Vivian B. Fisher
Stephen Haigh and Shelley Meagher
Nancy Hays
Sally Kinsey
Darrell Lemke and Maryellen Trautman
Lamar Lentz
Stephen Byrd and Jill Lord
Laura Macaluso
Jan-Paul Malocsay
James McPartlin and Elise Kelly
Don Merrill
Nancy Naeve
Catherine Olasky
Samuel Olshin
Gerald and Helena Peters
Roger Reid
Robert Rettig
Donald and Elizabeth Roberts Jr.
Charles Robertson III
Roger Scharmer
Max Sinsteden
Richard Tuck and Neale Grasham
Allan and Angela Vagner
Daniel Visnich
Linda Weld
Kristina Wilson

List as of June 15, 2021. 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 or Membership Secretary Sara Durkacs at membership@vsaalumni.org