



The Alumni Association extends best wishes for the holiday season and best wishes for a healthy and happy new year!

The Alumni Association's annual membership renewal season is underway. Many thanks to all those who have already renewed! Your faithful, consistent, and significant support is sincerely appreciated. Your membership and donations will enable the Alumni Association to continue its support of VSA Summer Schools students with scholarship money. With the schools starting up again in 2022, the Alumni Association hopes to provide significant scholarship support to students in 2022.

It's easy to renew online via our Pay Pal portal. Further information concerning membership renewals is available at: vsaalumni.org. Just click on the "donate" button and follow the instructions to pay with your credit card or PayPal account. If you encounter any problems, please try a different browser.

Cognizant of the difficulties encountered in our country stemming from the pandemic, the Alumni Board has authorized **a special one-time reduced membership rate of \$25** for 2022 to encourage all to renew their memberships. Please take advantage of this special rate or renew at the current rate beginning at \$55 for an individual.

The source of the Alumni Association funds includes the annual membership fee (which is a separate membership fee from the VSA), and largely from generous alumni who donate at the Supporter and above membership level, to the special scholarship funds, and to honorary and memorial donations.

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 the Alumni Association Study Tour.

As you consider your yearend giving options and as a further incentive to donate to the charity of your choice, and while **you should contact your tax advisor for information on any issues with your taxes**, the Alumni Association notes that certain provisions of the CARES Act, which went into effect in 2020 have been extended for 2021 donations.

Ordinarily, individuals who elect to take the standard deduction cannot claim a deduction for their charitable contributions. The law now permits these individuals to claim a limited deduction on their 2021 federal income tax returns for cash contributions made to certain qualifying charitable organizations including the Alumni Association. Nearly nine in 10 taxpayers now take the standard deduction and could potentially qualify to claim a limited deduction for cash contributions. These individuals, including married individuals filing separate returns, can claim a deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made to qualifying charities during 2021. The maximum deduction is increased to \$600 for married individuals filing joint returns.

As a chapter of the VSA, the Alumni Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Contributions are deductible as provided by law. 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**)

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, other articles of interest to our members, and career advancements would be most welcomed. Please send to David Lamdin at dalamdin@aol.com

Your faithful support of the Alumni Association and its primary mission to raise funds for student scholarships is greatly appreciated. For the summer schools in 2017, 2018, and 2019, the Alumni Association was able to provide about \$72,500 in scholarships to some 31 Summer Schools students who otherwise might not have been able to attend. In 2020, the Alumni Board also authorized a donation of \$16,000 to help the Summer Schools cover some of their fixed costs while the schools were shut down because of the pandemic.

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. As you think about your legacy, please remember the summer school experience, the life-long benefits you received from the VSA Summer Schools, and remember to support the Alumni Association in its efforts to provide scholarships to future summer school students.

Including the Alumni Association in your estate plans through a simple bequest in your will, or as a beneficiary of a life insurance product or retirement plan is an effortless way to support the Schools. If you are considering a bequest to the Alumni Association, please consult with your attorney about including the following sample language in your will:

I give, devise, and bequeath to the Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools Chapter of the Victorian Society in America, EIN 23-1710978, 24 Wilkins Ave Fl 1, Haddonfield, NJ 08033, 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 do make a legacy provision for the Alumni Association, please let us know the details so that you can be included in our listing of **Heritage Society** members. 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.



An alumnus from the Chicago Summer School recently suggested a book for our consideration “that might be a fun read this time of year! It is a story of Victorians that come back to life and are not very pleased with the way “their” city developed in the 20th century. A short read perfect for a gloomy October evening.”

[A Mighty Word: Rex, Joshua: 9781735454115: Amazon.com: Books](#)

Kevin Heartstone is a past-obsessed tenth grader grieving the loss of his father, an architect and restoration specialist, and struggling with his mother’s new relationship with the owner of a demolition company. While visiting his father’s grave, Kevin encounters Jane Cardinal, a fifteen-year-old girl who has been dead for over a century and a half. Jane, along with her contemporaries, have recently been re-animated by the by-product of an anti-depressant produced by Still City’s leading employer—Preventative Solutions—which has been illegally dumping the waste into the decaying area neighborhoods and cemeteries. Jane will be Kevin’s link to a time for which he longs, while Kevin himself will become central in his fractured hometown’s survival, and the dilemma of reconciling its past with its present by conciliating the dead with the living.



The Alumni Association recently learned of the passing of Susan (Susie) Wagg (London, 1981). Susie was a long-time member of the Alumni Association. Susie died at her home in Hanover, New Hampshire, on November 28, 2020. Susie was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on June 26, 1938. She attended Wellesley College and majored in History of Art. After graduating in 1960, she married Timothy Wagg of London, England. They moved to Montreal, Quebec, in 1961, following his graduation from Harvard Business School.

In her early years in Montreal, Susie briefly ran the Museum of Fine Arts program for the Protestant School Board. She then stayed home for a number of years to raise their two children, Sandra and Geoffrey. When they were in elementary school, Susie obtained a Master of Fine Arts from Concordia University in Montreal, specializing in Canadian architectural history.

Susie's love of architecture and architectural history led her and her family on many architectural pilgrimages. She traveled throughout Canada, the United States, and Europe. She had a particular interest in Canadian architecture and used her gifts for research and writing to bring appreciation and recognition to several notable Canadian architects. She wrote four books and co-authored several other books and articles on architects. Susie was elected to the Royal Society of Arts in 1987 for her work in bringing recognition to Canadian architects and architecture.

A full obituary can be found at:

[Obituaries | Rand - Wilson Funeral Home](#)

An obituary in the newsletter of the Society of Architectural Historians can be found at:

[Obituary: Susan Waterous Wagg, 1938-2020 \(sah.org\)](#)



The Victorian Society in America has announced a second season of free Zoom lectures which will continue to explore the themes of great nineteenth-century styles, modern masters, and artists and architects at home, while also including lectures addressing craft and conservation and women artists, designers, and architects. For more detailed info see: [Lectures 2 - Victorian Society in America](#)

Don't miss the next lecture this Saturday, December 4th, at 2pm ET - "Not Above Borrowing from Tradition - Keeping the Crafts Alive." British stone carver, sculptor and letterer Rory Young will be speaking about his life and work, and the unification of art and craft. Rory has been involved in a wide range of art and architectural projects across the United Kingdom, from ecclesiastical sculpture to building a traditional stone wall. He is an elected member of the Art Workers' Guild and frequently works with the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (both founded by prominent members of the English Arts and Crafts Movement).

If you have not already registered for the lecture, you can do so here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_03irdG19S6Oh0KY3xHoehQ

Should you be unable to attend this or any other lecture in the series, all lectures will be recorded and available for viewing for **two weeks** following the live presentations. Please visit the VSA web page for recording links, and for more details and registration links for other lectures in the series <https://victoriansociety.org/lectures-2/>

Don't forget, online applications are now available for the 2022 Summer Schools in Newport, Chicago, and London!

<https://victoriansociety.org/summer-schools/>

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 Florence 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, devise, and bequeath to the Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools Chapter of the Victorian Society in America, EIN 23-1710978, 24 Wilkins Ave Fl 1, Haddonfield, NJ 08033, 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).* For further info, please contact 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