

**Alumni Association Annual Dinner**

Pre-pandemic, the Alumni Association held its Annual Meeting in connection with VSA Study Tours. The Alumni either held its meeting with the VSA annual meeting or we held it during our Annual Dinner. Since the pandemic, the Alumni Association has held its last two Annual Meetings as part of the VSA Annual Meeting on Zoom. In view of the increased attendance and other factors, the VSA has decided to continue to hold its Annual Meetings on Zoom in November of the year. For 2022, the Alumni Board recently decided to continue to join the VSA Annual Meeting via Zoom in November. Further details will be provided as the November date draws near.

The VSA will be sponsoring a Study Tour to Denver in May 2022. The Alumni Board has decided to continue the Annual Alumni Dinner as a community building event in connection with the VSA Denver Study Tour because the tour will attract the largest alumni gathering. The dinner will be held on Friday May 20 from 7:00 pm to 9:00pm at the University Club of Denver located just two blocks from the tour headquarters hotel.

[Home - University Club of Denver - Denver, CO \(uclubdenver.com\)](http://uclubdenver.com)

The VSA has requested that all reservation for the tour and hotel be made by April 1. Accordingly, advance reservations for the Alumni Dinner will also be due by April 1. Depending on the number of people who reserve for the Alumni Dinner by April 1, we will either get a private room at the Club with a preselected plated dinner or make reservations at the club member dining room. If we engage the private dining room, once we give a final number of people to the club, we have to pay for those dinners whether people show up or not.

A sample menu would include a University Salad with heritage greens, crumbled goat cheese, dried cranberries, and candied walnuts; a main course choice of a 6 oz bistro tenderloin with green peppercorn demi-glace or a Pan-seared Norwegian salmon with ratatouille ragout (both come with a ruby red and wild rice pilaf and the chef's mixed vegetable medley); and NY cheesecake with seasonal fruit compote.

The cost will be about \$85 per person including tax and tips in the private room. Cost will vary if we go to the member dining room depending on entre selection and drinks ordered. **Please make your reservations for the Alumni Dinner by April 1 by contacting David Lamdin at [dalamdin@gmail.com](mailto:dalamdin@gmail.com) or call him at 703-243-2350.**

Shortly after April 1, we will determine the number of people who want to attend the Alumni Dinner and the appropriate venue. We will also then advise those who are attending how they can pay for their dinner reservations. Apologizes for this bifurcated plan, but we are just not sure how many folks will attend the tour or dinner. We do not want to commit the Alumni Association to a private room at the University Club until we are sure that all those who want to attend the dinner will be paying for their dinner.

### **Membership Renewals**

**Please remember to renew your Alumni membership now!** With the 2020 and 2021 schools having been cancelled because of the pandemic and its additional economic and other adverse effects, our membership numbers have taken a beating. Please be sure to take advantage of our onetime special membership renewal rate of \$25 for 2022. It's easy to renew online via our Pay Pal portal. Further information concerning membership renewals is available at: [vsaalumni.org](http://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. THANK YOU for your support.

### **Excerpts from the February 2022 Reports to the VSA Board**

**Anne Mallek, VSA Summer Schools Administrator**

### **UPDATES from the Summer Schools**

After weighing the pros and cons posed by covid, it was decided to proceed with all three Summer Schools this year. 2022 will be Jo Banham's final year as the London School Director although she plans on remaining active with the program as an occasional lecturer. 2022 will also be Liz Leckie's final year as Assistant Director which means that beginning with the 2023 program there will be new leadership.

Kit Wedd, a former co-director of the London School, has enthusiastically agreed to be the next London Director starting next year. Kit is the Director of Spurstone Heritage, a London-based consulting firm that provides advice on conservation and development of historic sites and buildings.

Leslie Klingner, a member of the VSA Summer School Committee who has been the Curator of Interpretation at Biltmore Estate for many years, has agreed to be the next Assistant Director of the program starting in 2023.

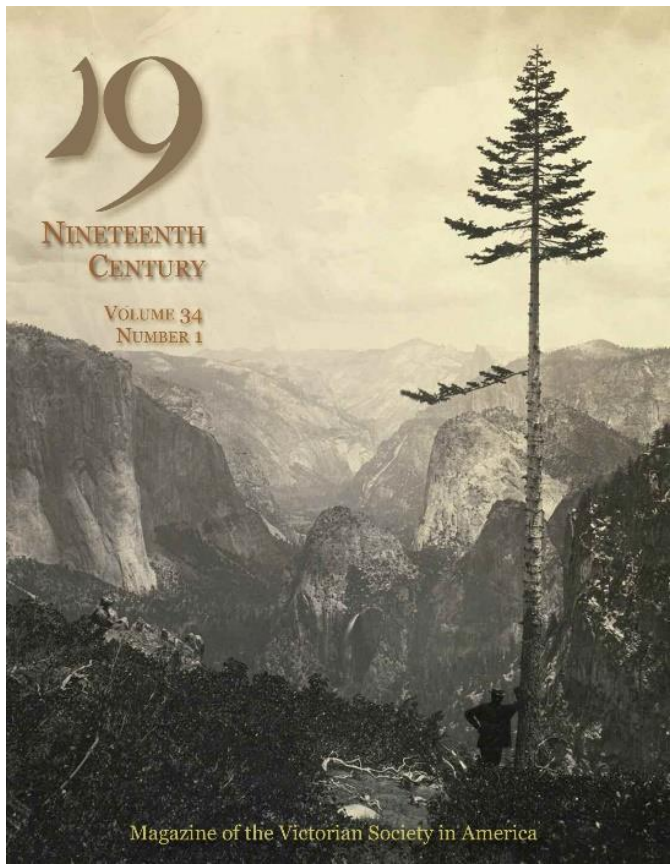
### **Report on VSA Online Lectures Series, Season 2**

Following the postponement of the three VSA Summer Schools and Study Tours in 2020 and 2021, it was decided to inaugurate a series of online lectures, sponsored by a grant from the Victorian Society Scholarship Fund. The first season, which ran from February through August 2021 saw an average attendance of just over 200 people for each of the twelve free lectures, from all over the United States and abroad. The

content of the three summer school programs was the inspiration for the subject matter addressed within the series, and a number of lecturers either lectured for one of the summer schools or served as director.

The series of 19 lectures launched in September 2021, were once again administered and moderated by Summer Schools Administrator Anne Mallek. They variously addressed the themes of “Great 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Styles,” “Modern Masters,” “Craft and Conservation,” “Women Artists, Designers, Architects,” and “Artists and Architects at Home.” To date, there has been an average attendance of just over 100 for the lectures in this second series, and an average registration of 244. Although the number of live attendees is frequently half that of the number of registrants for any given lecture (this was also true of the last series), this is generally made up in the number of recording views (averaging 146 per lecture).

The VSA has also seen an increase in memberships and donations over the past year, likely due in large part to the lecture series.



Call for Papers: ***Nineteenth Century Magazine***, published biannually by the Victorian Society in America is seeking scholarly articles on the subject of Transportation: River, Road and Rail in the Nineteenth Century with a particular emphasis on steam power.

Articles should be 1,500 to 6,000 words in length with illustrations and notes as appropriate. Submissions related to the subject are encouraged in the fields of architectural history, landscape architecture, fine arts, design, biography, photography, and material culture.

**Submissions for the fall issue are due by June 15th, 2022, and should be addressed to Warren Ashworth, Editor at [NineteenthCenturyMagazine@gmail.com](mailto:NineteenthCenturyMagazine@gmail.com)**



**FRAMPTON TOLBERT** (London 2013 and Newport 2009) After a nationwide search, Frampton has been appointed as the next Executive Director of the Historic District Council (the advocate for all of New York City’s historic neighborhoods) based on his extensive experience in historic preservation advocacy and community outreach, fundraising, communications, and deep knowledge of New York City’s architectural and cultural history.

**Dr. Gray Brechin (Newport 1987) will present:**



**“*Necessitous Men Are Not Free Men*”:** The Influence of Ruskin and Settlement Houses on the New Deal” by Gray Brechin. *Pres. Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal programs were not just an unprecedented effort to extricate the U.S. from the Great Depression but a concerted effort to use government to create healthier individuals and society in the process. Many of the leading New Dealers including Frances Perkins, Harry Hopkins, and Eleanor Roosevelt had worked in settlement houses earlier in the 20th century which were themselves inspired by the moral suasion of John Ruskin. Settlement houses were closely connected to the Arts & Crafts Movement as seen in the Mary Ward House in London’s Bloomsbury neighborhood.*

[01/20/22 “Necessitous Men Are Not Free Men’ with Gray Brechin - YouTube](#)



The Alumni Assoc has received information that long-time VSA member **William D (Bill) Grasse** (Newport, 1991 and many Alumni Study Tours) has passed away. We will provide further information as it becomes available.



**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.

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@gmail.com](mailto:dalamdin@gmail.com).

**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.



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. The list will be updated following the conclusion of our membership renewal season.*** 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@gmail.com](mailto:dalamdin@gmail.com) or Membership Secretary Sara Durkacs at [membership@vsaalumni.org](mailto:membership@vsaalumni.org)