

Alumni Association Annual Dinner

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.

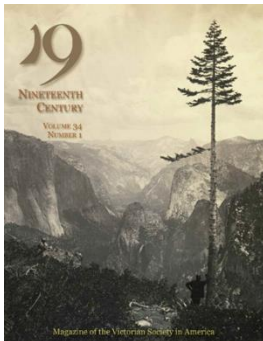
[Home - University Club of Denver - Denver, CO \(uclubdenver.com\)](http://uclubdenver.com)

The cost will be about \$85 per person including tax and tips in the private room. Further info will be provided to the 11 individuals who reported their intent to attend the 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. 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.

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



Alumni of the Newport School will recognize this building from the day trip to North Easton, MA. In early March 2022, severe deterioration was uncovered in a truss supporting the roof of the 1881 HH Richardson designed **Oakes Ames Memorial Hall**. That condition has created "a state of structural disrepair and potential instability that could lead to partial collapse [of the roof]" The structural engineers have moved quickly and have finalized their plans. Bids have been solicited and the work will begin as soon as possible.

Given the immediate need to stabilize the structure, traditional sources of public funds and foundation grants are not going to be available soon enough to cover short-term costs. They have begun an intensive fundraising effort and are asking for financial help or referrals to those who could use their resources to avert a disaster from happening to this famous National Historic Landmark building in North Easton, MA.

Please make donations payable to "OAMHA, Inc.". The mailing address is Oakes Ames Memorial Hall P.O. Box 34 North Easton, MA 02356 or by PayPal at Oakes Ames Memorial Hall Association, Inc.

OAKES AMES MEMORIAL HALL ASSOCIATION is a 501 c3 tax-exempt non-profit. The EIN is 04-6054525

For further info contact Fred Ames at frederick.ames@verizon.net 978-902-0084



[l to r: Charles Robertson (London 2003); Kathleen Murphy Skolnik (Newport 1991); David Vespa (Newport 2015, London 2016, Chicago 2018); Sibyl McCormac Groff (London 1982); David Lamdin (Newport 2015, London 2017, Chicago 2018)]

On April 1, 2022, several alumni met for dinner in Washington, DC in anticipation of the world premiere of the first two videos in the new Hildreth Meière documentary series, a DOCYOURSTORY production. The program also included a panel discussion with scholars, artisans, and preservationists.

[Watch the trailer here.](#)

Kathleen Murphy Skolnik (Newport 1991), Associate Producer for the production, teaches art and architectural history at Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois, leads seminars on Art Deco design at the Newberry Library, a private research library also in Chicago, and lectures for the Scarsdale Adult School. She is the co-author of *The Art Deco Murals of Hildreth Meière* and a contributor to the recently published *Art Deco Chicago: Designing Modern America*. From 2008 to 2016 she was the editor of the *Chicago Art Deco Society Magazine* and currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Art Deco Society of New York and is a Board Member of the International Hildreth Meière Association.

A recording of the program can [be found here](#). It will be available to watch through Sunday, April 24.

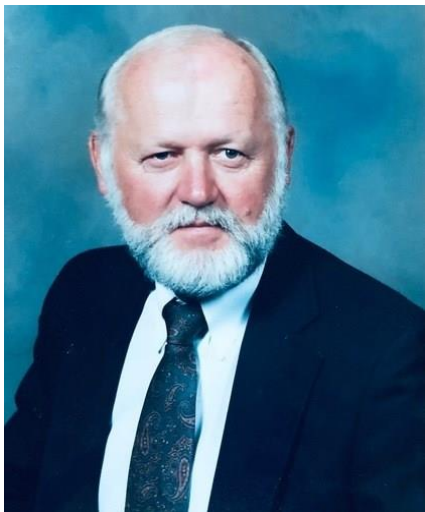
While the NAS building remains closed to the public, there are special visiting hours on Wednesdays. You can [sign up here to visit](#) on April 6, April 20, or May 4.

Learn more about the [International Hildreth Meière Association here](#).

Learn more about the [Art Deco Society of Washington here](#).

Explore the [NAS Great Hall iconography in detail here](#).

To purchase a Hildreth Meière book or exhibition catalog, [visit this page](#). [International Hildreth Meière Association Inc. \(hildrethmeiere.org\)](http://hildrethmeiere.org)



William D. "Bill" Grasse (Newport 1991)

June 3, 1940 - March 15, 2022. Bill passed away unexpectedly on March 15, 2022. He was born on June 3, 1940 in Watertown, South Dakota. He was raised in rural South Dakota until the sixth grade when he, his brothers (Richard and Mark Grasse) and his mother (Gladys (Kittelton) Grasse) moved to Aberdeen, South Dakota. Bill graduated from Aberdeen Central High School in the class of 1958 among many classmates who remained his friends for life. Following graduation he attended the University of New Mexico under ROTC. He joined the Navy, and was on the verge of becoming a fighter pilot, when he developed rheumatoid arthritis. This condition left him unable to fly, so he returned to the University of New Mexico where he earned an MBA. After graduation, Bill moved to San Francisco where he worked as a banker. During this time he began purchasing and improving apartment buildings all over the City. His drive to succeed and Midwestern work ethic was relentless, and during this time in his life, he amassed a valuable real estate portfolio.

Bill lived his life with unadulterated grace. He spent much of his life studying the world through books and extensive world travel. He loved to entertain (which he did elegantly and effortlessly) for his wide circle of beloved friends. Bill had a deep appreciation and love of Victorian architecture. He was a member of the Victorian Alliance, graduate of

the Victorian Society in America Summer School and friend of the Artistic Alliance. During his travels he often studied Victorian style architecture, and he transformed his own Victorian home in the City into an exquisite Victorian masterpiece that was filled with beautiful things and was featured in many magazines and other publications.

Bill retired to Sonoma County. There he created a stunning home and returned to his farming roots, raising sheep, goats, and chickens. He loved to play bridge (which he played to win). He also loved to fish, hunt and cook. If you were lucky enough to be invited to Bill's home for dinner, you could expect to be treated to pheasant or duck (often with buck shots) or other game from his yearly hunting trips back to South Dakota with his brothers.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, brother Richard, and his infant brother Timmy. He is survived by his loving partner of 20 years Ranjeet Bijay, brother Mark (Janet) Grasse, niece Blythe (Greg) Libbey, nephew Brett (Jenn) Grasse, seven great nieces and nephews, and even one great great nephew. Bill is also survived by the wide circle of lifelong friends he collected from every facet of his fascinating and well-lived life. Bill will also be sorely missed by his beloved dog, Morgan.

A Celebration of Life took place in Watertown, South Dakota on April 9, 2022. A second Celebration is being planned for a later date at his home in Sebastopol, California.

(Published by San Francisco Chronicle on Mar. 23, 2022.)

