



**Season's Greetings and all the best for the New Year**

**BREAKING  
NEWS**

**UPDATE:** Our Study Tour in April 2024 is scheduled for a busy time for tourists in Italy, hotel bookings are tight, and many hotels are adding a requirement for a non-refundable deposit. The hotels are doing this to protect themselves from the losses they experienced during the pandemic, and frankly, just because they can. Our Bologna HQ hotel, the Royal Hotel Carlton, has advised that they require such a non-refundable deposit by Dec. 20.

Our travel agent has reserved 10 double rooms and 10 single rooms for our group. He will need to reduce the number of rooms reserved to be consistent with our payment of the hotel's non-refundable deposits. For those who have already submitted a deposit and full or partial payment for the tour, please review the acknowledgement letter sent by the travel agent and be sure to comply with the payment deadline instructions contained therein. For those who are still considering joining us on the Study Tour, **now is the time for you to act.** A complete itinerary, terms and conditions, and tour application form was included with our eNewsletter No. 46. The application form is also included below. Please take action now to reserve your place on our Study Tour along with other friends and alumni. If any questions, please give David Lamdin a call at 703-243-2350 or 571-332-4220, or call the travel agent directly at 703-242-4203.

**DEPARTURE POINT TRAVEL**, a division of The Shenandoah Travel Group, Inc. **REGISTRATION FORM**

P. O. Box 3103, Oakton, VA 22124-9103 Tel: (703) 242-4203 / [DeparturePoint@aol.com](mailto:DeparturePoint@aol.com)

PLEASE ASSIST US IN PROCESSING YOUR RESERVATION, PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM (ONE FORM FOR EACH TRAVELER) AND

**MAIL IT BACK OR SCAN AND EMAIL IT TO US. PLEASE PRINT ALL THE INFORMATION.**

ALL TRAVELERS ARE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (PASSPORTS AND VISAS) FOR ALL TRAVEL PROGRAMS.

**PROGRAM: A VISIT TO THE EMILIA-ROMAGNA REGION OF ITALY**

Offered by The Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools

The program begins in Bologna, Italy, on Tuesday, April 23, 2024. The program ends in Bologna on Monday, April 29, 2024.

**1) PARTICIPANT INFORMATION:**

YOUR FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Exactly as it appears [or will appear] on your passport - this is **extremely** important!)

YOUR ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONES: Home: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Work: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR BIRTH DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Citizenship: [ ] USA  
Month Day Year [ ] Other country (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, NOTIFY: \_\_\_\_\_ I am [ ] a smoker  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ I am [ ] NOT a smoker

**2) PASSPORT INFORMATION: NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE OF ISSUE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3) ROOMING REQUEST:**

I REQUEST A: [ ] TWIN ACCOMMODATION [ ] TRIPLE ACCOMMODATION

I REQUEST A SINGLE ACCOMMODATION [ ] (BASED ON AVAILABILITY; SURCHARGE OF \$699 APPLIES)

NAME(S) OF ROOMMATES: \_\_\_\_\_

SINCE I AM TRAVELING ALONE, PLEASE ASSIGN A ROOMMATE TO SHARE A ROOM WITH ME. [ ]

**4) PAYMENT INFORMATION:**

[ ] ENCLOSE IS MY CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF: USD\$ \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Deposit (minimum: \$200)\*  
(Make checks payable to **DEPARTURE POINT**.) [ ] Payment \*\$500 after 11/15/2023

**Please remember that you are requested to make a separate tax deductible \$400 per person donation in a separate check made out to the Alumni Association.**

I WANT MY NAME BADGE TO READ: \_\_\_\_\_

**5) AUTHORIZATION:** I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOUND IN THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT ENTITLED "DEPARTURE POINT'S TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL".

YOUR SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**6) ADDITIONAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS:**

[ ] I WOULD LIKE **DEPARTURE POINT'S** ASSISTANCE IN MAKING MY TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS. [ ]  
[ ] **DEPARTURE POINT** IS PLEASED TO ASSIST YOU WITH PRE-PROGRAM AND/OR POST-PROGRAM TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS IN EUROPE OR ELSEWHERE. PLEASE NOTIFY **DEPARTURE POINT** OF YOUR INTEREST [ ]

**PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM WITH YOUR DEPOSIT.**

Harry S. Benjamin, MA, STL, SSL, Owner and President, *Departure Point Travel*  
PP form for Victorians with Dave Lamdin for April 2024.

Plans and registrations for the Alumni Study Tour to Northern Italy from April 23 to April 29, 2024, are moving forward. Detailed Study Tour information is in Alumni eNewsletter #46 or call David Lamdin at 703-243-2350. Our 2024 Study Tour will be an escorted tour to Northern Italy. We will be headquartered in Bologna known as the Fat City for its rich cuisine! We will stay in Bologna at the 4-star Royal Hotel Carlton in the center of Bologna, near the train station. There will be day trips to Forli where Peter Trippi will offer us a guided tour of the exhibit he co-curated (***Pre-Raphaelites: A Modern Renaissance***). There will also be a day trip to Ravenna (a World Heritage site known as the capital of mosaics), and other places of interest as shown on the itinerary. The itinerary also includes information on costs, single supplements, meals, transportation, what's included and what is not, etc. Airfare is not included. The Travel Agent will assist those who need help in arranging flights, etc. A few in our group are considering a pre-tour trip to Milan and the Lake District. The Travel Agent can help with that as well if requested.

The Alumni Associations organizes these Study Tours not only as an educational experience for our members, but also as a fund raiser for Summer School student scholarships. We sincerely request a tax-deductible donation of \$400 per traveler payable to the **Alumni Association** and sent to David Lamdin at 901 N Monroe St #607 Arlington, VA 22201- 2356. Depending on your tax situation, you can send the check either before 12/31/2023 or shortly after 1/1 2024.



This is Membership Renewal Season for the Alumni Association. **Travis Brock Kennedy**, the new Membership Secretary for the Alumni, is busy learning the membership software and processing renewals. For info on how to sign-up or renew your membership online, please visit and scroll down on the Alumni page on the VSA website at:

[Alumni Membership - Victorian Society](#)

Your prompt renewal using the **Donate** link is the fastest and easiest way to renew and is the easiest for our all-volunteer staff to process your renewal.

If you prefer to renew by check, please print out and complete the Membership Renewal Form below, follow the instructions on the form, and mail it along with your check to the address indicated.

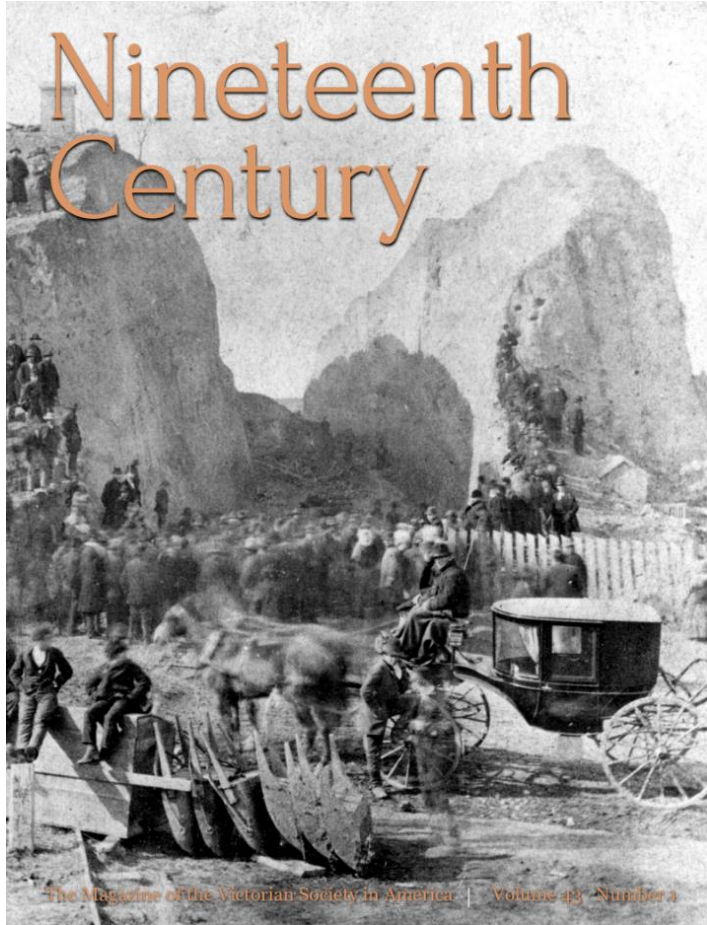
All donations are tax-exempt as provided by law. Donations at the Supporter level and above level are recognized in our eNewsletters and donations in any amount to the individual Scholarship Funds are also recognized.

Except for some required administrative expenses, all of your membership fees and donations goes to student scholarships. These scholarships mean so much to the students. We recently received these notes from students about the scholarship:

***“I have no words to describe how happy I am, I never thought this could happen in my life, this is one of the best things that is happening in my life, it's a blessing for me. I'm very emotional. Thank you for everything.”***

***“I would like to end by expressing my immense gratitude to the Victorian Society in America for their generous scholarship program. While I have been extraordinarily blessed in my academic and professional experiences, these endeavours have also contributed to financial hardship, and I would not have been able to participate in this program without the scholarship I received.”***

In 2023, the Alumni Assoc donated \$24,000 for scholarships. **THANK YOU for your continued support.**



From **Warren Ashworth, Editor**

***Nineteenth Century*** Magazine is published biannually by the VSA. Scholarly articles are encouraged in the fields of culture and social history of the United States dating from 1830 to 1917.

***Nineteenth Century*** publishes regular features reflecting current research on architecture, fine arts, decorative arts, interior design, landscape architecture, biography, photography, and material culture. We regularly consider the work of graduate and doctoral students. Articles should be 1,500 to 6,000 words in length, with illustrations and notes as appropriate. Manuscripts should conform to the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and submitted as a Microsoft Word document. Illustrations should be submitted as either .jpg, .tiff, .eps or .pdf, 300 dpi or greater. It is the responsi-

bility of the author to secure the rights to publish all images. The VSA and the editors assume no responsibility for the loss or damage of any material.

**Submissions for the Spring 2024 issue are due by January 1, 2024.**

Email submissions to: Warren Ashworth, Editor  
NineteenthCenturyMagazine@gmail.com

From the November 13, 2023 issue of **Art & Object** by Kathleen Cullen

After a \$70 Million Renovation, the National Museum of Women in the Arts Reopens  
The Museum Makes a Case for Preserving the Legacies of Women Artists



[After a \\$70M Renovation, The National Museum of Women in the Arts Reopens | Art & Object \(artandobject.com\)](https://artandobject.com)



**The 2024 Newport, Chicago, and London Summer Schools will be in session this summer!**

Be sure to visit the VSA website for complete details on the 2024 schools:

[Summer Schools - Victorian Society](https://www.vsa-usa.org/summer-schools)



The Alumni Association needs our members to share their personal and professional information that would be of interests to your classmates. It is a great way to keep up with the new friends that you made during the Summer Schools. Got a new job? Have a new book published? Know of a job opening which members of the Alumni might be interested? Need to publicize an event which you think might be of interest to Alumni members? Please send these items to [DALAMDIN@gmail.com](mailto:DALAMDIN@gmail.com) for inclusion in our eNewsletter. Networking through the Alumni Association is a valuable part of your membership and our mission.



### **Victorian Society in American Chicago Summer School 2023**

Megan Carleton

In June of 2023, I had the privilege of attending the VSA's Summer School program in Chicago, where we delved deep into the city's rich history and architecture. Through a variety of insightful lectures, fascinating tours and memorable site visits, the program immersed me in world of Victorian Chicago.

As someone new to the city, I appreciated beginning the course with a brief history and overview of how Chicago was formed, and how this impacted the growth of architecture in the city and beyond. Understanding the growth of industry (meat, lumber and grain), access to transit and the railroad, the advent of the city grid, as well as the topography gave me a greater understanding of how the loop and waterfront of Chicago was developed.

I appreciate the range and breadth of knowledge of the lecturers that taught throughout the program. Topics ranging from the World's Columbian Exhibit and building technology, to Impressionist art and department stores provided variety and depth to the lecture series. I learned a lot from these lectures and found it particularly interesting to learn about Marshall Fields and how the development of department stores (and the wealth it created) influenced architecture and design in the city.

Through some of the lectures there was an attempt made to include women's roles at the time, but I would have like to have seen more of a focus on historically significant women and their contributions to the Victorian era in Chicago.

In addition to the lectures, there was a nice variety of types of spaces and sites that we toured. One of my favorite stops was Crab Tree Farm, a dairy farm turned museum and artist collective in Lake Bluff. Crab Tree Farm was both an unexpected and amazing addition to the summer school. Seemingly out of place, it felt like we had traveled to a both a different time and country. The impeccably maintained grounds (along with some errant peacocks!) served as a bucolic backdrop to the amazing American and English Arts and CraXs furniture and decorative objects, tucked away in each of the different buildings designed by Solon Beman. We also had the opportunity to visit the impressive workshop of contemporary woodworker, Mike Jarvi, whose masterful steam bent wood furniture seemed right at home in the old dairy farm.

I also especially enjoyed the visits to the private homes we toured during the summer school. An interesting juxtaposition of historic Victorian architecture mixed with modern day living proves how timeless these types of buildings can be.

Exploring the many Frank Lloyd Wright homes in Oak Park, including a tour of the Laura Gale house (which seems to be a precursor to Fallingwater) provided an interesting contrast to the homes we visited that were museums, unlive in and untouched.





This was my first trip to Chicago, and it was a memorable one. I joined the summer school program to learn more about the city itself, its rich history and architectural significance, and of course, historic preservation. In my current role as an interior designer at a firm that does a fair amount of historic preservation work in the city of Pittsburgh, this enriching experience renewed my passion for preserving my city's historically significant buildings.

The program also provided me the opportunity to network with a diverse group of other like-minded individuals who share a common love of architecture and history. Engaging with the other students was an important part of the program for me, as these new contacts will serve as valuable resources in the future. This transformative experience allowed me to see more of Chicago than I thought possible in a week's time. I will value this time spent experiencing Chicago through the lens of the Victorian era, and I would highly recommend this program to others with a love of preservation and interest in architectural history.

### **The 2023 London Summer School**

#### Holyfield

The London summer School has been invaluable in enriching my scholarship and teaching. My current projects focus on two brothers, William Poole Bancroft and Samuel Bancroft, Jr., of Wilmington, Delaware. Although they were born in the United States, they were sons of an English Quaker immigrant, Joseph Bancroft. Their textile business became known as Joseph Bancroft & Sons, and the family maintained close ties to their English relatives, including John and Jacob Bright of Rochdale.

Business and family connections meant that they had deep ties to England that stretched over several generations. Those ties were further compounded when William Poole Bancroft's daughters married Englishmen Roger Clark of Clark Shoes and Alfred Gillet, an Oxford professor. Both brothers spent a considerable amount of time in England as wealthy men.

As a lover of Pre-Raphaelite art, Samuel Bancroft, Jr. relentlessly pursued pieces with the help of Alfred Darbyshire. Before his death, he had acquired the largest Pre-Raphaelite collection outside England. Several of his paintings are in the recent exhibition at the Tate. Every site, exhibition, or collection related to the Pre-Raphaelites was useful. I particularly enjoyed the stained-glass windows at All Saints. Seeing Fanny Cornforth's face on Eve and several angels was a delight.

In the coming months, I will be exploring the Bancrofts' English connections more thoroughly. I will also be pursuing research on the fine houses they built in Wilmington in the 1890s. William Poole Bancroft is the father of the Wilmington Park System and the Woodlawn Trustees, an organization dedicated to preserving land for future generations. He sought advice from Frederick Law Olmsted, but I suspect there were English influences on his designs as well. I have a clearer understanding of the transatlantic influence of architectural styles, the Arts and Crafts movement, garden design, and matters of taste in the Victorian Era.



In addition to **Standen** and all of the other beautiful historic houses, I particularly appreciated the industrial sites in Liverpool and Manchester because of the business and textile connections. It was exciting for me to be in the region of Joseph Bancroft's birth and education. Even the Crossness Pumping Station tied into my past scholarship and a course on

epidemics. I have been working Joseph Bazalgette and his sewer system into lectures for many years. To actually see, smell, and touch the Crossness Pumping Station was magnificent.

One of my goals in attending the London Summer School was to refresh and expand my public history and historic preservation skills. In the fall semester, now only a week away, I will be teaching an introductory public history course for the first time in several years. I am far more confident in my ability to speak knowledgeably about collections, exhibits, historic preservation, and historic architecture. My syllabus now includes several readings from international perspectives. Next year, I will likely teach an upper-level course on the Gilded Age and Progressive. The London Summer School will again be invaluable for providing context and detail in my lectures. I have gained a great deal of insight into Victorian class and consumption and have a great deal of new material to incorporate.

I must also note that the diversity of disciplines in my cohort added another dimension to the experience. I was pleased to learn from architects, architectural historians, curators, and designers. In sum, my scholarship and teaching are far richer. As a result of attending the London Summer School and research in the Alfred Gillet Trust Archives, I have been invited to deliver a paper at the Delaware Art Museum in January when the Pre-Raphaelite exhibition in the Tate moves to Delaware. Finally, on a personal note, it has been gratifying to recognize dozens of cultural references in novels and films that I would have missed before.

## **Reflections on the Victorian Society of America's Newport Summer School, 2023**

### Forest

As a curator at Biltmore House, a Gilded Age mansion in Asheville, North Carolina, attending the Newport Summer School is a rite of passage. It is viewed as necessary to understanding the context in which Biltmore was conceived, designed, constructed, and inhabited. In this essay, I will delve into these concepts in greater depth while also sharing my pleasant surprise at the additional personal insights the Newport Summer School provided me.

I begin, as one must, with the marvelous houses into which I was welcomed during the course. Naturally, I found the most professional resonance with the homes operated by the Preservation Society. This was more acute in the Breakers and Marble House as Vanderbilt family homes. Witnessing firsthand how other professionals interpret the

Gilded Age, from the logistics of delivering an audio tour to many guests to the treatment of possibly contentious histories, had a profound impact on my work at a similar site. In fact, it immediately influenced my involvement in a complete re-interpretation of our audio tour.

While the large houses were impressive both historically and operationally, I was amazed by the historical significance of the smaller Newport cottages. From the charm of the colonial period to the expansive-yet-intimate interiors of the smaller houses, there was something new to learn around every door jamb. Through the course, I gained valuable insight into American History and was able to draw meaningful parallels with my experience today. I was especially grateful for those kind enough to welcome our group into their private homes; that kind of privileged access made for a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience. It was heartening to see so many homes filled with love and preserved with care.

Accompanying me on this journey was a group of colleagues I am deeply grateful to have met and shared ideas with. It was an absolute honor to learn from **Dr. Richard Guy Wilson**, whose lifetime of research has been so pivotal to the site in which I work. I echo my high praise for **Dr. Ted Bosley**, who balanced a keen mind with consistent good cheer and approachability. It was doubly delightful to spend time with both instructors outside of the classroom, which I found the largest benefit of staying in Ochre Lodge.

The camaraderie and intellectual exchanges with my colleagues were not only excellent professional connections but also an opportunity to engage with multi-faceted and complex perspectives. Conversations during the course and after hours were enjoyable and enlightening. Stepping outside my professional milieu and connecting with others in the wider world was refreshing and humbling. The Newport Summer School encouraged me to sharpen my scholarly acumen and presentation skills while fostering connections between my own work and that of my colleagues. As an early-career museum professional, these inspirational and invigorating conversations were invaluable.

As previously mentioned, I work at Biltmore, a site spiritually very similar to the large “cottages” along Bellevue Avenue. I found resonance with my site almost everywhere I turned! Tracking Richard Morris Hunt’s professional career, I am now much more able to pick out the discrete design influences of Biltmore House and marvel at the genius of how they cohere in Hunt’s final major work. I am also to speak with more authority on the ways in which the personality of the resident of the house in question influenced its design, contrasting George Vanderbilt’s introverted bookishness with Willie K. and Alva Vanderbilt’s conspicuous opulence. I also formed a deeper understanding of the context surrounding domestic service, the impact of contemporary service management literature, and the meaningful differences in servant life literally built into the houses in which staff resided alongside those they served. While I had a passing familiarity with these topics prior to the course, discussing them with fellow professionals in the course and at receptions significantly enriched my ideas.

My experience at the Newport Summer School was truly wonderful. The intellectual connections I made have enriched my work and enhanced my ability to contribute competently to conversations with my co-workers. This directly correlates with my growth as a more skilled interpreter. I also cherished the opportunity to take time out of my hectic professional life to focus on learning, networking, and immersing myself in beauty. There is so much to learn and love about Newport, from its rich history to the attitude and pride of its current residents. It was a privilege to have the Newport Summer School anchor my journey of discovering the region, and I hope to return in the near future!

**RENEWAL / ENROLLMENT FORM**  
**Alumni Association of The Victorian Society Summer Schools**



[www.vsaalumni.org](http://www.vsaalumni.org)

Mail completed form along with your payment to:  
 David A Lamdin,  
 901 N Monroe St #607,  
 Arlington, VA 22201-2356  
**Questions Call: 703-243-2350**

**CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIPS LEVEL**

- \$55 Individual     
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  \$100 Household  
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TODAY'S DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**ADD SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT**

**YES!** I am providing additional contributions to support scholarships for deserving students of architecture, design, and preservation!

<input type="checkbox"/> Gwen Koch Memorial Newport Scholarship	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Duchscherer Memorial Scholarship endorsed by Sibyl McCormac Groff and John Martine	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Prof. Richard Guy Wilson Newport Scholarship (\$3,500 full scholarship)	\$
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<input type="checkbox"/> General Scholarship Fund <i>where needed most</i>	\$
<b>Total Scholarship Support</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>+ Membership Dues from above</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>= TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	<b>\$</b>

**YOUR INFORMATION**  *I/We have included the Alumni Association in my/our estate plans. Kindly print.*

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**PAYMENT** *Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.*

ONLINE [www.vsaalumni.org](http://www.vsaalumni.org) PayPal, MasterCard, VISA, Discover, American Express accepted

CHECK payable to ALUMNI ASSOCIATION enclosed for the amount above of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_



As we enter giving season you probably know that December is often the busiest time of year for donations. Appreciated stock is a great way to make a tax-advantaged donation to the Alumni Endowment Fund. Stock gifts can be transferred to our Schwab account and our investment advisor will provide us with reporting to share with you for your records. For further information, contact David Lamdin at [DALAMDIN@gmail.com](mailto:DALAMDIN@gmail.com) or call him at 703-243-2350.



## **The Heritage Society of the Alumni Association**

**The Heritage Society of the Alumni Association** supports our efforts to provide scholarships to the Summer Schools in the future. Join this special group of Alumni by making a planned gift such as a bequest in your will or beneficiary designations of IRAs or retirement plans.

**Hank Dunlop** has joined the Society with an RMD designation from his IRA.

**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. These gifts and designations help ensure that current and future generations of students will be able to attend the educational opportunities presented by the VSA Summer Schools.

## **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND DONORS MEMBERS**

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.

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Thomas Jayne and William Cullum  
Lamar Lentz  
John Martine, AIA  
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Gretchen Redden

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*Contributor list as of April 30, 2023*