

**NOTE: The deadline for applying to the Summer Schools has been extended to March 15, 2024**



**2024 SUMMER PROGRAMS**  
19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY  
ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN, AND THE ARTS

**NEWPORT • CHICAGO • LONDON**

Apply for one of our three summer programs to study 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century architecture, design, preservation, and the arts with fellow students, academics, professionals, and knowledgeable enthusiasts. Enjoy expert guides, lectures by leading scholars, private tours, and behind-the-scenes visits of historic sites and museums.

**FULL AND PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**  
*All applications due by March 1, 2024*

**2024 SUMMER PROGRAMS**

<b>NEWPORT</b> May 31-June 9	<b>CHICAGO</b> June 12-19	<b>LONDON</b> June 29-July 14
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 **VICTORIAN  
SOCIETY**

For more information visit [victoriansociety.org/summer-schools](https://victoriansociety.org/summer-schools)  
or contact the Summer Schools Administrator at  
[admin@vsasummerschools.org](mailto:admin@vsasummerschools.org).



Our 2024 Study Tour will be an escorted tour to Northern Italy from April 23 to April 29, 2024. 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 Forlì 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. Some are considering a pre-tour trip to Milan and the Lake District. The Travel Agent can help with that as well if requested.

Complete details are in the Alumni's eNewsletter No 46. Contact Alumni President David Lamdin at DALAMDIN@gmail.com (703-243-2350) for further info. **Time is of the essence as final plans are now being made with the various vendors.**

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.



The terms of office for the Alumni Association Officers and Directors expire on 12/31/2024. We will have an election for new officers for a three year term beginning on 1/1/2025 and expiring on 12/31/2027 in the fall of 2024. If you have an interest in serving on our Board as an officer and/or Director, please contact David Lamdin at DALAMDIN@gmail.com.



This is membership renewal season for the Alumni Association. If you have not yet done so, please remember to renew your support of the Alumni Association now. 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](#)

Click on an amount that corresponds to the membership level and proceed to enter your credit card info. If you wish to contribute to a scholarship fund in addition to your membership level, click on CUSTOM AMOUNT, enter the total amount of your contribution plus the membership level, and then indicate to which scholarship fund you wish to donate.

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. Please make the check payable to **Victorian Society in America**.

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.

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

**IMPORTANT NOTE: If you have already renewed your membership by PayPal or paper check, in all likelihood, we have received your renewal. Unfortunately, due to his increased professional responsibilities, our new Membership Secretary, Travis Brock Kennedy, has been forced to resign. Our thanks to Travis for his efforts on our behalf. This situation has resulted in our having delays getting your donation recorded and an acknowledgement sent thru our membership system. We are working to get this resolved ASAP. If you need the acknowledgement for tax purposes or for some other reason before we get this resolved, please contact David Lamdin at [DALAMDIN@gmail.com](mailto:DALAMDIN@gmail.com). He will try to send you a personalized acknowledgement letter.**

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



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     
  \$30 Student/Young Professional (35 years of age or younger)     
  \$100 Household  
 \$250 Supporter     
  \$500 Sponsor     
  \$1,000 Benefactor

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)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gavin Stamp Memorial London Scholarship Fund (\$5,500 full scholarship)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicago (\$3,100 full scholarship)	\$ _____
<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.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**MY NEWS** Email updates about new positions, licenses, degrees granted, moves, etc. to [dalamdin@gmail.com](mailto:dalamdin@gmail.com)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_



The Alumni Association is very saddened to report on the passing of **Ian Berke** (Newport 1997). He and Margaret were long-time members of the Alumni Association and one of our most faithful travelers. He frequently hosted recruitment events in his beautifully and authentically restored landmark home, circa 1886, which was full of 19th century furniture, silver plate, glass, ceramics, lighting, folk art, and statuary.

September 18, 1940 -  
February 18, 2024

San Francisco lost one of its most unique and generous residents on February 18, 2024 when Ian

Berke died at the home he loved at the age of 83, following a cerebral vascular event the day before. Ian would be a "Renaissance" man for the scope of his interests and accomplishments, but for the fact that he so favored American Victoriana. His Born in New York City, the son of Solomon and Estelle Berke, Ian grew up in Dayton, Ohio, where a chemistry prize at the state's Science Fair for detecting uranium in minerals led him to the Colorado School of Mines and a degree in Geological Engineering. Immediately upon graduation, he joined the Army, serving in Vietnam as a First Lieutenant in the 46th Engineering Battalion. He remained there as a civil engineer for five years when his service was complete. Ian then joined Bechtel and moved to San Francisco in 1971, but became a real estate broker two years later, specializing in architecturally significant homes, a career he enjoyed for the rest of his life.

His interests were deep, as well as wide-ranging, fulfilled by a passion for collecting venomous snakes for the Ross Allen Reptile Institute, shells from scuba dives all over the world, minerals and antiques. He was a founding member of the American Decorative Arts Forum and the Real Estate Roundtable and served on the boards of the

Northern California Chapter of Architectural Historians and the Pacific Heights Residents Association, where he exercised his unrelenting support for historic preservation.

He dearly loved serious films and documentaries. For the last decade of his life, Ian devotedly saw one or more films a week, writing online reviews for 500 faithful followers, always exhorting them "to see this one on the big screen."

His intellectual curiosity and wit will be missed by scores of colleagues and friends, but most of all by his wife of 39 years, Margaret Ann Berke, the love of his life; and his sister, Elizabeth Berke-Dreyfuss of Moraga, Calif.; and brother, Michael Berke of Rochester, N.Y. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Swords to Plowshares, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 313, San Francisco, Calif. 94102 or Colorado School of Mines, Museum of Earth Science, Geology Department 1812 Illinois Street, Golden, Colo. 80401.

In the Jewish tradition, Ian will be interred before sundown Friday, February 23 at a private burial at the Hills of Eternity Memorial Park, Colma, Calif. There will be a memorial service at Congregation Sherith Israel in the spring.

*Published by San Francisco Chronicle from Feb. 21 to Feb. 22, 2024.*



**Kristen Matulewicz** (London 2017) made a major career change in February 2024. Stepping away from 12 years of museum education experience and leaving behind her position as Director of Education at an art museum in Delaware to take on the role of Curator at Rockwood Park & Museum, a Rural Gothic Revival mansion nestled amongst 72 acres of gardens, winding trails, and older architectural ruins in Wilmington, Delaware. Built in the early 1850s by Joseph Shipley of the London-based private bank Brown Shipley as a retirement villa, it remained in the family until the 1970's resulting in many expansions to the original building and much of the collection, personal letters, clothing, and photographs being accounted for.



## My 2023 London Summer School Experience

Tatiana Gomes Monteiro

The beginning of a dream. Studying with VSA undoubtedly changed the way I see the world, and architecture of the 19th century. I am a 21-year-old young woman of Portuguese nationality, and I was invited to participate in the guided tour with the VSA. I was overcome with emotion when I received the news that I had won the scholarship. In this way, I express my sincere gratitude to all of the responsible members as well as all of the students who participated in the program. I always dreamed of going to study in London, and at 21, I was able to fulfill this lifelong dream.

The program is very well planned; both for the theoretical part by professional speakers in the area, and for the various trips to many monuments throughout England. The VSA takes you on a journey through the 19th century, a long period of peace and relative prosperity for the British people. This period is also known as "British Peace", with the profits gained from the expansion and dominance of the British Empire abroad, as well as the height and consolidation of the Industrial Revolution and the emergence of new inventions. Through the program it is possible to experience this period very well and understand how British society is organized until nowadays.

The entire stage of the program was very surprising, as we had the opportunity to discover not only more urban areas for their buildings, but also the countryside for its architectural and landscape diversity. This journey completely changed my view of England, especially its history and architecture in the 19th century.

This is without a doubt an unforgettable experience that offers incredible access to sites and collections. I recommend the program to anyone interested in 19th century art and architecture.

I want to thank Kit Wedd and Anne Mallek who were with us throughout the program. They captivated me from day one with their way of teaching, they weren't there just to work and leave. They wanted more, they really cared about. I really want to thank my sponsors, **John Martine, Pauline Metcalf, Liz Leckie, Nancy Golden** who, in addition to inviting me to participate, helped me financially with a generous amount throughout my stay in London. Some people mark our lives, leave messages that are never erased from our minds, which become lessons that we take with us forever. Sometimes it's not always through words that we learn. Ethics, generosity, friendship and humility are

attitudes and qualities that are seen in the actions, and that are an example and inspiration. I will be forever grateful to them.

Receiving this scholarship has replenished the motivation I needed to remain focused on the course. Without the support of sponsors willing to support these causes, young people like myself would not be able to have access to this type of program. I wish all the success in the world to this community. Yours faithfully, Tatiana Monteiro

## **2023 London Summer School Refecton**

Melida Valera

Being a scholarship recipient of the Victorian Society in America London Summer School Program has been a dream come true. Having the opportunity to study Victorian architecture, history, and design in London is an opportunity that I am incredibly grateful for. I would like to express my sincere grattude for being chosen as a recipient of this scholarship and to explore the impact this experience has had on my personal and academic growth. Receiving this scholarship has flied me with an overwhelming sense of grattude. I am grateful to the scholarship commitee for recognizing my passion and potental in the interior design feld. This scholarship not only provided fnancial support but also validated my dedicaton to this feld of study. It was a privilege to be given the opportunity to study and immerse myself in the rich history and architectural marvels of England.

Studying Victorian architecture, history, and design in London has been a transformatve experience for me personally. It has allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and explore a new and unfamiliar environment. Exploring cites with a deep-rooted history and architectural heritage has broadened my perspective and deepened my understanding of the subject. This experience has taught me to appreciate the value of cultural diversity and has nurtured my curiosity to explore diferent architectural styles and design philosophies.

The scholarship has not only enriched my personal growth but has also contributed signifcantly to my academic development. England, with its abundance of 18th and 19th century architecture, provides an ideal environment for studying this period in depth. The oppoortunity to visit iconic landmarks such as the Houses of Parliament, Royal Courts of Justice, and the Victoria and Albert Museum has allowed me to witness frsthand the grandeur and intricacies of Victorian design.

Engaging with and partaking in lectures by renowned experts and scholars in the feld, has broadened my knowledge and deepened my understanding of the subject. My travels throughout England has given me the opportunity to immerse myself in Victorian history and design. Exploring the city's streets, parks, and buildings has allowed me to witness the lastng impact of this era.

This scholarship has provided me with access to exclusive resources, such as libraries, churches, museums, and residences, which have allowed me to understand my design style as a soon-to-be Interior Designer. This experience of studying in the birthplace of Victorian architecture has given me a unique perspective and a deeper appreciaton for



the intricate details, craftsmanship, and social context behind these architectural wonders.

The knowledge and experiences gained through this scholarship will undoubtedly have a profound impact on my future endeavors. Professionally, I aspire to contribute to the interior design field through the preservation and promotion of history and craftsmanship by curating spaces within the built environment. This experience has not only equipped me with the necessary skills and knowledge but has also instilled in me a sense of responsibility to carry forward the legacy of this remarkable era.

In conclusion, I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to study Victorian architecture, history, and design throughout London through this scholarship. This experience has been a transformative journey, both personally and academically. It has broadened my horizons, deepened my understanding, and nurtured my passion for design. As I embark on my final year as an MFA-1 graduate student at the New York School of Interior Design, I am excited to be inspired by the past and apply some of what I have learned to my future design and thesis projects.

### **REPORT of the ALUMNI ASSOCIATION of the Victorian Society Summer Schools for the VSA Annual Board Meeting in March 2024**

2023 207 members

2022: 217 members

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

The Alumni trip to Lisbon which was originally scheduled for 2019 and postponed several times because of Covid was finally completed in March 2023. The trip raised \$12,000 in donations to the scholarship fund and there was an additional profit with the totals to be finalized before the end of the year. The Pittsburgh account is the checking account used to deposit traveler payments and pay trip bills. The account details concerning income, disbursements, and balance is reported and included in the annual alumni financial report submitted to the VSA.

With John Martine's retirement as Alumni Study Tour Director, he will have the final accounting for the 2023 trip completed by the end of the year at which time he expects to transfer the balance in the account to the Alumni Treasurer. The Alumni trip to Northern Italy from April 23 to April 29, 2024 will include day trips to Ravenna with the headquarters hotel located in Bologna and a day trip to Forlì, IT with a guided tour of Peter Trippi's exhibit. 14 people have signed up so far.

The 12/31/2023 Alumni Financial report was submitted to VSA as required. As of 12/31/2023 the Endowment Fund had a balance of \$222,747. The Checking Account as of 12/31/2023 had a balance of \$45,188. The Pittsburgh Account had \$55,740. This account was subsequently closed and the balance transferred to the main Alumni checking account.

The Alumni Endowment Fund Finance Committee consisting of Sibyl Groff, Bob Chapman, David Lamdin, Jme Russiello, and Jim Buttrick, met several times with the Financial Advisor, eCIO, to discuss the performance of our Endowment Fund and the performance of our Financial Advisors to determine a path forward with recommendations for the Alumni Board on any actions necessary. The Committee recommended that the Board retain eCIO as our financial advisor, that the Board amend our Investment Policy Statement (IPS) to put our Endowment Fund in a better position to accommodate the change in the stock market environment since the last IPS was adopted by the Board, and to take a \$2,500 distribution from the Fund for 2024 scholarships. The Board adopted all of these recommendations with deep appreciation to the Committee or doing its due diligence in monitoring the performance of the Endowment Fund.

The Alumni Association paid our \$100 Chapter Dues and contributed \$250 for a Zoom presentation for a Chicago recruitment event in January 2023.

We contributed \$24,000 for Student Scholarships to the 2023 Summer Schools.

We continued our sponsorship of receptions for the 2023 Summer Schools students and friends. We contributed \$500 for receptions in Chicago and \$500 for a reception in London. Pauline Metcalf graciously sponsored a reception for the Newport students at her summer home on behalf of the Alumni Association. In the Alumni Board's approved budget for 2024 funds for making grants for 2024 summer school receptions was included. Pauline Metcalf will again pay for the reception at her beautiful Rhode Island home.

We joined with VSA national and responded to the call of the VSA NYC Chapter for assistance by donating \$100 for a live, in-person program presenting author Michael Kathrens' lecture on the luxury and splendor of Newport's nineteenth-century summer "cottages," in his most recent book, *Newport Cottages 1835-1890: The Summer Villas Before the Vanderbilt Era*.

We have been in contact with John Cooper, our alumni webmaster, to update our Membership Form on the website. The Alumni Board carefully considered having the alumni website hosted on the VSA website. For a variety of reasons, the Board decided that the Alumni should maintain its own website. We so advised the VSA and we are in contact now with a potential new webmaster to update and maintain our website.

We published eleven eNewsletters in 2023. These well received digital newsletters continue to provide an effective and inexpensive means of informing our members of items of interest to the Alumni. We published a special newsletter on February 29, 2024 to inform about 500 folks on our mailing list of the extension of time to apply for a summer school until March 15, 2024.

Many members of the Alumni Association participated in, supported, and thoroughly enjoyed the excellent video lectures presented by the VSA in 2023.

We continue to experience many issues with our Wells Fargo bank. The most recent issue is that WF will not accept any checks that are not made payable specifically to Victorian Society in America, Inc. I had a check that did not include Inc, and with no other customers there, it took three employees and a phone call and over 20 minutes before they finally decide that they would accept the check for deposit. The Alumni Board decided that we should invest some of our funds which are now in a non-interest-bearing checking account into a CD. I now have some 30 pages of forms for Jackie to fill-out before we can open a CD.

At the 2021 Annual Meeting, a new Board of Directors was elected for the period 2022 through 2024. We will need to have new elections at the 2024 annual meeting. Anyone interested in serving on the Alumni Board or in helping with our administrative tasks should contact the Alumni President.

The Alumni Association expresses its deep appreciation to Sara Durkacs who resigned a Membership Secretary due to the pressing needs of her job. Sara's efforts over the past several years has been crucial to our success and survival. We wish Sara all good fortune in the years ahead. As Membership Secretary, Emeritus, Sara is helping in the training of Travis Brock Kennedy as the new Alumni Membership Secretary. However, because of increased work responsibilities, Travis has not been able to take over Sara's Membership Secretary duties as hoped. James Russiello is meeting with Sara to discuss the duties of Membership Secretary. Unfortunately, this comes at the worst possible time as this is membership renewal season. We notified our membership of the situation and advised them that there would be some delay in issuing acknowledgement letters. We may consider adding a line on the membership form to let people opt out of receiving an acknowledgement letter since so many take the standard deductions now.

The Alumni Board approved a 2024 Budget which included up to \$25,000 for scholarships for 2024 students.

The Alumni Board approved, and the Chapter submitted on time, all of the annual reports as required by the VSA.

Last but far from least, our enduring and deep gratitude to John Martine who successfully led the Alumni Study Tour Program. After over 30 years of extraordinary effort and service to the Alumni Association as the volunteer director of the Alumni Study Tour Program probably raising approximately a quarter of a million dollars to fund Alumni Scholarships, John Martine (London 1979 and 2013, Newport 2007, and Chicago 2016 and 2019) has decided to step back from that role but will continue to serve the Alumni as the Study Tour Director, Emeritus, providing the Alumni with his expert advice and assistance on future trips. The Alumni Association has solicited interest about this position and has received several notices of interest. We will address this issue as soon as the planning for the Italy trip is concluded.

It has been a very active and exhausting few months for the Alumni Association. We very much appreciate the efforts of its officers and directors whose active participation enable the Alumni Association to be an entirely volunteer organization except for the webmaster. We also deeply appreciate the support of Sue, John, and Cindy at the VSA for their support and guidance in helping us navigate and stay afloat these past few months.

<b>VSA ALUMNI ASSOC Main, Pitts, &amp; Endowment Fund Acts Inc/Exp 12/31/2023</b>				
	<b>Main</b>	<b>Endowment</b>	<b>Pitts</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Balance 1/1/2023	<b>49,772</b>	<b>188,845</b>	<b>38,444</b>	<b>277,061</b>
<b>2023 INCOME</b>				
Membership Dues	15,113			
Donations to our AA Scholarship Funds	6,969			
Events (Lisbon Tour Deposits)			99,690	
Dividends and Interest	558	4,226		
Donations		350		
Change in Value of Investments		35,487		
<b>12/31/2023 TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>22,640</b>	<b>40,063</b>	<b>99,690</b>	<b>162,393</b>
<b>2023 EXPENSES</b>				
Brokerage Fees		1,586		
Membership solicitation	132			
Gnosis Membership Software	1,260			
Member communications				
Website Maintenance	223			
Donations: VSA Annual Chapter Dues	100			
Bank Charges	159			
Summer Schools Receptions	1,000			
Summer Schools Scholarships	24,000			
Summer School Recruitment Events	250			
Miscellaneous	100			
Portugal Trip (see Expense Sheet)			82,394	
Income Reinvested		4,574		
<b>12/31/2023 TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>27,224</b>	<b>6,160</b>	<b>82,394</b>	<b>115,778</b>
<b>12/31/2023 NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>-4,584</b>	<b>33,903</b>	<b>17,296</b>	<b>46,615</b>
<b>ACCOUNT BALANCE 12/31/2023</b>	<b>45,188</b>	<b>222,748</b>	<b>55,740</b>	<b>323,676</b>
<b>(BOTH BANK BALANCES)</b>				
End of 2012				35,273
End of 2013			20,507	39,250
End of 2014			38,352	58,952
End of year 2015				42,481
End of year 2016	18,810		42,364	61,174
End of year 2017	33,090		17,364	50,454
End of year 2018	49,692		30,340	80,032
End of year 2019	108,791		12,910	121,701
End of year 2020	152,189		46,580	198,769
End of year 2021 (Main & Endowment)	288,528		45,330	333,858
End of year 2022	49,772	188,845	38,444	277,061
End of year 2023	45,188	222,748	55,740	323,676
Balance as of 1/1/2024	100,928	222,748		323,676
Tangible assets ..... laptop and software Purchased 1/25/2018 for \$459 plus tax and shipping charges				
David A Lamdin				
703-243-2350 home				
571-332-4220 Cell				
dalamdin@gmail.com				
<b>NOTE: At the beginning of 2024, the Pittsburgh account balance was transferred to the Main Account. The Pittsburgh account is closed.</b>				