

November 2024

End-of-year mail-out by the  
Alumni Association  
of the Victorian Society Summer Schools



As we approach the end of the year, I am excited to share the remarkable achievements of the **Alumni Association of the Victorian Society Summer Schools**. Thanks to your generous support, we repeated our 2023 pledge of \$24,000, which enabled us to provide substantial financial assistance to the 2024 class of aspiring scholars. This has translated into over eight full scholarships for London, more than four for Newport, and over three for Chicago, benefiting deserving students in architecture, decorative arts, design, and museum studies.

One student wrote of her experience: *“Attending the VSA Summer School was a transformative experience that deepened my appreciation for architecture, art and history. I look forward to staying engaged and continuing to learn through future opportunities with the Victorian Society.”*

The application deadline is March 1 for these prestigious summer schools: Newport (May 30-Jun 8), Chicago (June 11-18), and London (June 28-July 13). To ensure we continue offering these invaluable opportunities, we need your continued support. Your donations are crucial for meeting the financial needs of our upcoming scholars and sustaining the excellence of these programs.

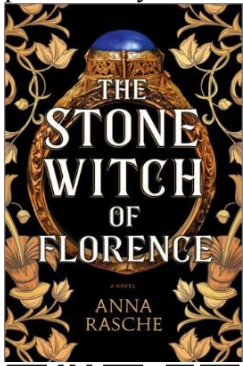
Our **Alumni Association** thrives on the strength of its community—a network that fosters lasting connections and supports new alumni in engaging with a global network of peers. I encourage you to renew your membership and contribute to our mission. This year, our relaunched **VSAAlumni.org** website will soon feature membership verifications, directories, member biographies, and an archive of summer school history. *Send us your class photos and share your memories!* Remember, as a 501(c)3 organization, all donations are fully tax-deductible, and you will receive an acknowledgment letter for your generosity.

Please renew your membership and consider donating through **PayPal** or by mailing a check using the enclosed form. Your support not only helps sustain the legacy of these summer schools but also enriches the lives of future alumni, like yourselves.

Thank you for your continued commitment and generosity.

**December 2024 Alumni Publications:** (See the newsletter for more.)

In July, **Debra N. Mancoff**, Ph.D. (Newport '15) published *The Pre-Raphaelite Language of Flowers* (Munich: Prestel, 2024), examining great works and portraits by Rossetti, Millais, and Hughes, among others, with a full-page reproduction of the painting, details, and engaging text.



In October, gemologist and jewelry historian **Anna Rasche** (Newport '16, [@by\\_AnnaRasche](#)) published her first novel *The Stone Witch of Florence* (New York: HarperCollins, 2024) to rave reviews. Set in 1348 as the Black Plague ravages Italy, it's a captivating tale of Ginevra, a woman tasked by city elders with using her collection of jewels to track down a ruthless thief who is ransacking Florence's churches for priceless relics—the city's only hope for protection. If she succeeds, she'll be a recognized physician and never accused of witchcraft again. But as her investigation progresses, Ginevra discovers she's merely a pawn in a much larger scheme than the one she's been hired to solve. Anna and preservationist architect husband **William R. Canup** (London '15, Newport '16, & Chicago '18) welcomed their daughter and future Young Victorian, Beatrice, in 2022.

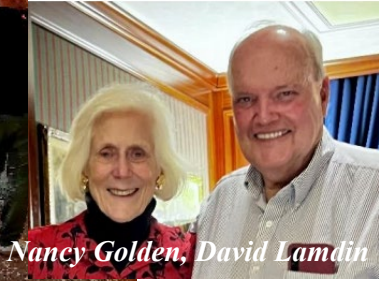
**Richard Brandi** (Newport '09 & London '13) followed up his book, *Garden Neighborhoods of San Francisco: The Development of Residence Parks 1905-1924* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., 2021), with a thorough examination of one of San Francisco's oldest roads, *Portola Drive*, which is due out early in 2025. Richard traces the events and people who used the road to shape the western half of San Francisco. First constructed to link Spanish settlements, it was subsequently used as a Mexican cattle trail, a Civil War era macadamized toll road, an early 20<sup>th</sup> century scenic boulevard with garden city suburbs, and a post-WWII high-speed boulevard providing access for midcentury development.

Email [rbrandi@earthlink.net](mailto:rbrandi@earthlink.net) for more information on the book's availability.

The long-awaited study of NYC Schools Superintendent CBJ Snyder's public school designs by **Jean Arrington**, Ph.D. (1946-2022, Newport '11) was posthumously published as *From Factories to Palaces: Architect Charles B. J. Snyder and the New York City Public Schools* (NYC: Fordham University Press Empire State Editions, 2022), edited by Cynthia Skeffington LaValle, and with a forward by the NY Landmarks Conservancy President Peg Breen. It was awarded the Publication Award from the Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America. **Send us your news! Email updates about new positions, licenses, degrees granted, moves, etc., to [dalamdin@gmail.com](mailto:dalamdin@gmail.com)**



*The porticoes of Bologna*



*Nancy Golden, David Lamdin*



*Sergei Troubetzkoy*

**2024 Alumni in Action:** This past April, the Alumni Association enjoyed the culture and cuisine of **Northern Italy**, the spectacular mosaics of **Ravenna**, and the making of Balsamic vinegar in **Modena**. Based out of the Royal Hotel Carlton in the historic center of **Bologna**, the group toured the Basilica of San Petronio, and traveled an hour out to **Forli's** Musei di San Domenico, a museum located within an adaptively reused 13th century Dominican convent. There, the group toured the exhibition, *Pre-Raphaelitism: A Modern Renaissance*, co-curated by **Peter Trippi** (London '92, Newport '05, & Chicago '15), who personally guided everyone through the exhibit that traced the profound impact of historical Italian art on the Pre-Raphaelite movement between the 1840s and 1920s by placing British works alongside their Italian prototypes.

The 2024 summer schools went off without a hitch. The 18 **Newport** scholars, led as always by **Richard Guy Wilson**, peeked through paneling at the hidden ceiling construction at the Breakers (R.M. Hunt, 1893-95), toured Kingscote (Upjohn, 1838-41, enlarged 1881, McKim, Mead & White)



*Breakers, Newport*



*Kingscote, Newport*

*The 2024 Newport Summer School Class posed in front of the 1860 granite moon gate on the grounds of Chateau sur Mer (1851), the residence of China trade merchant William Wetmore.*



*Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, North Easton*



see some of the five buildings designed by H.H. Richardson and commissioned by the Ames Family, including Oakes Ames Memorial Hall (H.H. Richardson, 1879-81), as well as a visit to the La Farge window at the town's Unity Church (H. Vaughan, 1875). Touring **Providence's** Fleur-de-Lys Studio (1885, Edmund R. Wilson, assisted by Sydney Burleigh), "an exceptional monument to the Arts and Crafts movement," which remains in use as an artist's studio. Burleigh was a Paris-trained painter, and leader of the art community in Rhode Island. The group relaxed at Cloud Hill (Wm. R. Walker, 1872-77) in **East Greenwich**. The 12 **Chicago** scholars posed at the foot of Daniel Chester French's Statue of the Republic in Jackson Park, dined at the Glessner House, climbed up in the light court with restoration architect **Gunny Harboe** of the Rookery Building (Burnham & Root, 1885-88, updated 1905 by Frank Lloyd Wright), and soaked in the Unity Temple (1906-09), one of Wright's first major public designs. **Sally Kalmbach** led the tour of the Art Institute, and the group caught their breath under the proscenium of the Auditorium Theatre (Adler & Sullivan, 1887-89). The 16 **London** scholars, including VSA's own president, **Cindy**



*Fleur-de-Lys Studio, Provide, RI*



*Unity Temple, Oak Park, Chicago*

*Statue of the Republic  
Jackson Park, the  
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*Dining at Glessner House*



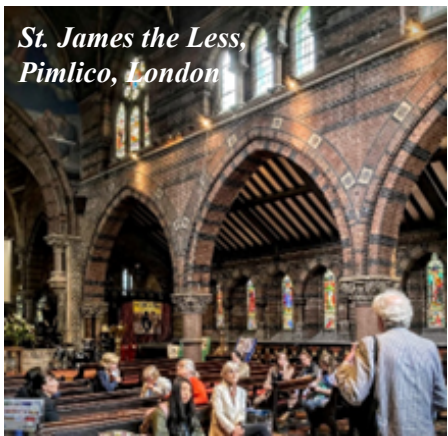
*Climbing up the Rookery Building*

Casey (Newport '14 & Chicago '16) were led by director **Kit Wedd** London '91). Tate Britain curator Dr. **Amy Lim** immersed the class in the Victorian collections, **Neil Jackson** spoke in James the Less in Pimlico (G.E. Street, 1858-61), and **Ian Dungavell** (Newport '98 & London '95), CEO of the Friends of the Highgate Cemetery, discussed the challenges of managing and conserving a world-renowned 200-year-old active cemetery, and the class gathered their wits at the peaceful Kelmscott Manor, the 17<sup>th</sup> C manor that Wm. Morris rented from 1871 until his death in 1896. At Pusey House, Oxford, **Peter Howell** unearthed some archival

*Ian Dunagavell, Highgate Cemetery*



*St. James the Less,  
Pimlico, London*



drawings to study, and tour through **Manchester** were led by conservationists **Ken Moth** and **Steve Roman**. Within **Birmingham**'s St. Philip's Cathedral (T. Archer, 1709-25; J.A. Chitin, 1883-4), the class gathered to marvel at the four recently conserved and reinstated Morris & Co. windows (1885-97) designed by Edward Burne-Jones. Ending the course in **Surrey**, the class strolled the landscapes and long gallery of Munstead Wood (1896-97), which was designed for influential garden designer Gertrude Jekyll by the young architect Edwin Lutyens, visited the recently restored Norney Grange (C.F.A.Voysey, 1897) and had a final high tea outside the Watts Cemetery Chapel.



*Pusey House, Oxford*

*Birmingham Cathedral*



*Kelmscott Manor*



*Welcome to the newest alumni of the Victorian Society Summer Schools!*

**2024 Newport Summer School:** **Carter Burns**, Natchez, MS; **Kathleen H. Crowther**, Cleveland, OH; **Noah Duell**, Charlottesville, VA; **Elizabeth Eder**, Washington, DC; **J. Wes Fields**, Julian, NC; **Laura Hershner**, Evanston, IL; **Dale Hilton**, Barboursville, VA; **Doug Jacobs**, Washington, DC; **Hadley Jones**, New York, NY; **Lisa Jones**, Fort Lauderdale, FL; **Melissa Jones**, Gaithersburg, MD; **Nicholas Knowlton**, Chicago, IL; **Tatiana Monteiro Moscavide**, Lisbon, Portugal; **Robert Oimette**, New York, NY; **Divya Pai**, Jackson, MS; **Jenny Seeman**, Victoria, BC; **Betsy Thomas**, New York, NY; and **Max van Balgooy**, Rockville, MD.

**2024 London Summer School:** **Cindy Casey** (Newport '14 Chicago '16), San Francisco, CA; **Marriotte Credle** (Newport '90), Savannah, GA; **Julie Fuller**, Ph.D., New York, NY; **Katelyn Alice Jones**, Ph.D., Verdun, QC, Canada; **Beverley Alma Kallstrom**, Victoria, BC, Canada; **Sarah Kathleen La Rocca**, College Park, MD; **Rui Sousa Martins**, Lisbon, Portugal; **Nancy S. Meade**, Los Angeles, CA; **Mariana Montes-Staines**, Troy, NY; **Anne Stewart O'Donnell** (Newport '10), College Park, MD; **Allison Margaret Piccone**, Princeton, NJ; **Xinrou Qiu**, New York, NY; **Kristina Shatkhina**, London, UK; **Margaret Starr**, San Francisco, CA; **Annie Storr**, Silver Spring, MD; and **Martha Vicinus**, Ph.D., (Newport '14), Boston, MA.

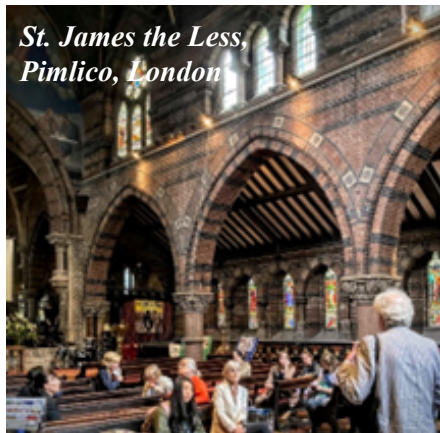
**2024 Chicago Summer School:** **Vendula Hnídková**, Ph.D. Prague, Czech Republic; **Petr Janáč**, Prague, Czech Republic; **Morag Kersel**, Ph.D. (Newport '98, London '00), Chicago, IL; **Madeleine Markle**, Athens, GA; **Nancy McCoy**, Marengo, IL; **Erin Kay McGrath**, Dubuque, IA; **Jonathan Prandy** (Newport '23), Brooklyn, NY; **Laura Russell Purvis** (Newport '10 & London '12), Waynesboro, VA; **Stuti Shah**, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India; **John Simonelli** (Newport '96, London '99, '06, Midlands '13, & Chicago '15), Paterson, NJ; **Gloria M. Smith**, Chicago, IL; and **Sam William Wigglesworth**, Jackson, MS.

Finally, the Alumni Association was saddened to learn of some recent passings: **William "Bill" D. Grasse** (1940-2022, Newport '91) of Sebastopol, CA, a longtime Alumni study tour regular, had transformed his earlier San Francisco Victorian home into a masterpiece. **Fred R. Casteel** (1940-2024, Newport '11) of Dallas, TX, recipient of the Albert Gallatin Award, the US Treasury Department's highest award for career service, and donor to the Newport Scholarship fund. Collector **Ian Berke** (1940-2024, Newport '97) of San Francisco, CA, was a founding member of American Decorative Arts Forum (board member from 1988-2002) and the Real Estate Roundtable. Ian served on the boards of the Society of Architectural Historians Northern California Chapter, the Pacific Heights Residents Association, and was a member of the Association for Gravestone Studies. Trained as a civil engineer, he followed his calling as a real estate broker, restoring three Victorian homes, and published his collection of American Stone Books at [americanstonebooks.com](http://americanstonebooks.com). Margaret Ann Berke, his wife of 39 years, survives him. Full notices are on [VSAAlumni.org](http://VSAAlumni.org)'s In Memoriam page.



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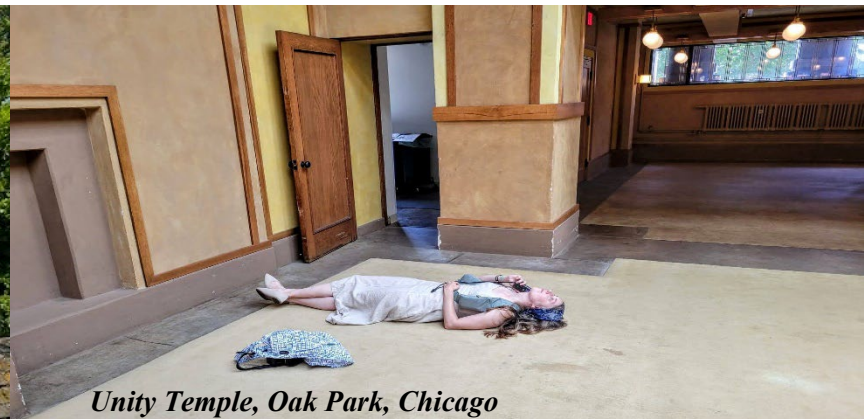


*Breakers, Newport*



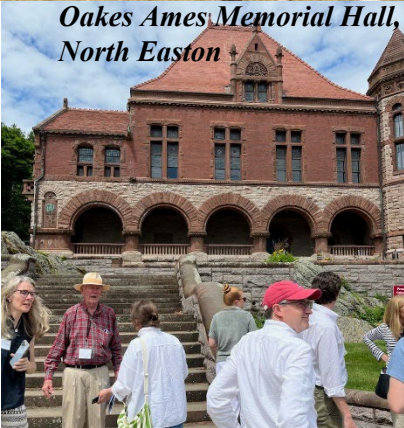
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*Statue of the Republic Jackson Park, the original centerpiece of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.*



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Dear James - thanks so much for your commitment  
and at such a busy time of year too. I love the  
accounts of participants, wishing I could have  
been there.



Alumni Association of the  
Victorian Society  
Summer Schools  
Attn: James Russiello



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