

NSCDA/PA Staff

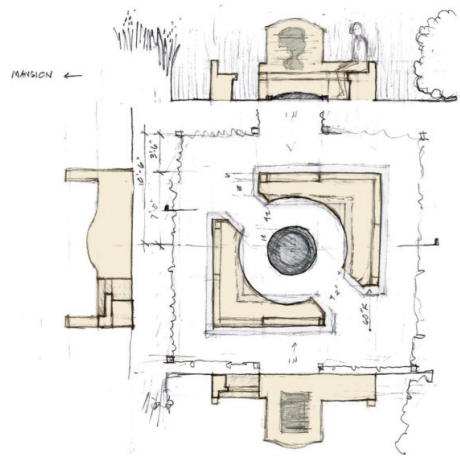
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DINAH MEMORIAL UPDATES

By Dennis Pickeral, Executive Director, Stenton



Across the country, the Black Lives Matter movement has raised questions and provoked debate about our nation's history and the many untold stories of people of color. At Stenton, the Dinah Memorial Project, which commenced in 2018, is one example of how we can begin to address the absence of memorials to African Americans in our public spaces. Despite the shut-down, staff have continued to work with artist Karyn Olivier and a team of consultants and contractors to refine her concept for the new memorial to Dinah, which we hope to construct by the end of this year after some additional fundraising. For more information about the project, visit www.stenton.org/dinah.

HELLO & GOODBYE

By Dennis Pickeral, Executive Director, Stenton

After thirteen years of dedicated service to Stenton and the Society, Director of Education Kaelyn Barr said goodbye in April. She was married on New Year's Eve and is "retiring" to take on the task of managing five young children in their newly expanded family. Kaelyn promises to remain a familiar face at Stenton, volunteering and perhaps providing some supplementary staffing from time to time. The Society recognized her service during the virtual Garden Party with the presentation of a charming needlepoint box featuring an image of Stenton, stitched by Carol Rush.

Rachel Corma, who previously served as Programs and Communications Coordinator, has been promoted to fill the position. Rachel joined Stenton full time in January 2018 after serving as a History Hunters Guide, and was quickly thrown

into the fire when our Development Assistant departed and she was given the task of helping manage the logistics of the James Logan Award Dinner. She holds a B.A. in History and Secondary Education and a M.A. in History from Rowan University. We look forward to the new energy and ideas that Rachel will bring to our programs!



THE PA DAMES 'GO VIRTUAL'

Due to the stay at home order, the NSCDA/PA adapted its Stated Meeting to a virtual format. Over 50 PA Dames tuned in from all over, including Florida and Colorado! It was wonderful to connect with those who are usually unable to attend. As part of the meeting on June 12, **Jane Foster Willson**, HQ Committee Chair 2006-2019, presented "**Stand Here: Photos and Reflections on Headquarters**" via Zoom. Below you will find her poem. To see her full presentation, visit the Members Page of www.nscdapa.org. Also, check out www.stenton.org/programs to view recordings of Stenton's virtual programs.



Stand Here!

One morning in Georgia,
 students embarked on a field
 trip to a
 simple southern home,
 the frowning sag of her porch boards
 received us as if looking away, embarrassed
 at her declined state.

our tall architectural
 history professor strode with
 confidence to the corner of an
 interior room. Turning around, he
 commanded, "Stand Here!"

And look!"

The blank film plate of my mind's eye was
 astonished with what I saw.

I stood there and looked,
 and the soul, the spirit of the house
 revealed herself to me.

Stand Here and Imagine

Peering backwards through the
 telescope

Not as a microscope to capture a detail
 To capture a Memory
 The spark in Yesterday's Sky
 that Ignited the dream

Stand Here and Feel

Echoing forward
 Collapsed and expanded as the sigh of
 Accordions' whispered tunes on the
 Wind
 Hear the expansion released on the timeline

Stand Here and be Inspired

breath held
 Unknowing the surety of the Sound

Stand Here and connect with Joy

Breath held before the leap is taken -
 The excitement of past hearts riding
 on the expanded bellows of time

Stand Here and Connect with Gratitude and Appreciation

- And then the release
- The flow of creation

Stand Here and Connect with Beauty Revealed

The Innovation of plowing the field where
 others saw only fallow soil

Our lungs, now filling with the cool air of the
 Pause

Do not fear to exhale

Stand Here

and Step back

Fearlessly inhaling - filling SO FULL that I
 cannot be still
 and holding my breath I must exhale
 Releasing the Story

And Now

I want to hold my breath to make time
 stand still -

To hold this moment.

But I cannot.

The stars pull and the sun beckons and what is
 next is unknown.

Cushioning my heart with lung filled sacks of
 love - I expand and hold the bellows full
 & then release with a sigh

We Stand Here

Yesterday's Stars are there, behind,

today's Sun.

Tomorrow's breath is yet to be drawn.

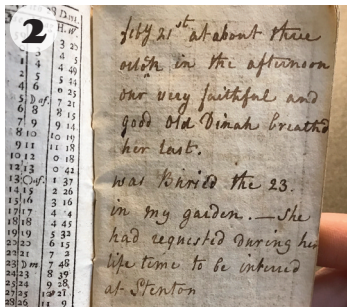
Deep & long

These stars, this Breath Unknown - I breath
 & wait as we pause

STENTON SHORTS



1) For years we have lacked adequate museum signage at Stenton. Thanks to grants from Historic Germantown’s Sustaining Our Sites Fund and the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage we now have new exterior signs installed at the corner of 18th Street and Windrim Ave, the reopened south entrance gate, & our new Stenton Park pedestrian gate. 2) Dinah’s death date & burial place have been unknown until Stenton staff recently discovered Deborah Norris Logan’s 1805 almanac at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. In it, Deborah wrote “February 21st at about three o’clock in the afternoon our very faithful and good old Dinah breathed her last. Was buried the 23 in my garden. She had requested during her lifetime to be interred at Stenton.” 3) Impressions of the “marriage marks” ~ the carpenters’ numbering system for the roof rafters. Stenton hosted a webinar with Sara Gdula, an Architectural Conservator at Materials Conservation, about the firm’s recent roof and chimney research at Stenton. The project was part of the winter re-shingling of Stenton’s hipped roof and dormers by Kurtz Roofing and Construction. To view the webinar, visit www.stenton.org/programs.



MEET THE GARDENERS

By Carol Rush, The Stenton Garden and Landscape Committee Chair



The Stenton Garden and Landscape Committee was revitalized by former Stenton Chair Lisa Street in anticipation of the Centennial celebration of The Garden Club of America (GCA) in 2013. As Lisa’s successor, I shepherded a then leaderless garden committee through the period of our application to the GCA’s Founders Fund Award (2015). When Kristin Cahn von Seelen became Stenton Chair in 2016, I agreed to chair the garden committee - despite having no gardening knowledge beyond my own flower bed! But I had learned a great deal through the rejuvenation and urban meadow projects. The Stenton landscape has 3 primary environments: meadow, woodland and Colonial Revival Garden. We have expertise in each of these areas:

The Urban Meadow is primarily overseen by landscape architect **Claudia Levy**, of Levy DiCarlo Partners. Claudia has worked with Stenton for over 10 years and was the principal designer of, and oversaw, the “Rejuvenation” of the Colonial Revival Garden in 2012-13. Next, she designed and shepherded our Urban Meadow Project, which received the GCA Founders Fund Award in 2015 and was planted in 2016. Claudia is currently working with artist Karyn Olivier on the installation of the Dinah Memorial in the Meadow area. The Woodland is primarily overseen by **Patrick McGinty**, of Leo Garden Design LLC, the newest addition to the committee. Patrick cares for the boxwoods and woody ornamentals, provides much of the heavy labor, and most recently created the path to the newly installed gate on the park side of the property aligned with the location of the Logan family cemetery. He helped install the Logan Memorial. “I enjoy contributing to, and I’m motivated by, the collective energy of so many Stenton stewards - staff, volunteers, landscape architects, historians, and archaeologists - working to preserve

and enhance this important, beautiful place. I love Stenton for many reasons, but I particularly enjoy observing the changes in the landscape from season to season. Thank you, NSCDA.” Colonial Revival Garden is primarily the purview of **Susan Yeager**. Susan first became involved at Stenton when GCA celebrated its 100th anniversary during which she organized a tour for meeting attendees. “Gardening is a passion of mine, self-taught during years in my vocation as an insurance executive, but delightful now as my full time work in my business, Garden Tending LLC. My love for Stenton is born of the GCA connection and my immense regard for the work of the Colonial Dames. Enhancing color in the garden while working within the historic parameters is a wonderful challenge.” Susan is currently president of The Garden Club of Philadelphia. Other members of the Committee include our resident caretakers Jeff Eckel and Dawn Reid, Denis Lucey, Dennis Pickeral, Laura Keim, Ken Robinson, and Dora Rogers. **Please contact Carol to join this committee or to join us on a garden workday. No experience necessary!**

Dear Fellow Dames,

Our NSCDA/PA is facing this unprecedented time in our country with courage and creativity. Please take a moment to see in this issue what the Pennsylvania Society is doing this summer, and join me in thanking those who are making this happen, especially our dedicated staff members. Two quick reminders: First, as you know, we rescheduled both our postponed Garden Party and Annual Meeting for this September. However, while we monitor a continually volatile

world, we’ll keep you informed about any changes through e-mail updates. Second, we are all familiar with the adage that with every closed door comes an open window. This year’s open window is our Virtual 2020 Biennial Council. I hope you will take full advantage of it. No need to pack, no need to decide what to wear (!), just tune in to the 2020 Biennial Council in October. You already received an e-mail message from our National President Anna

PRESIDENT’S TWO CENTS

Duff introducing it. Please be on the lookout for more as the fall approaches. You will be able to participate in informative workshops, learn more about our National HQ, and meet Dames from throughout the country. Meeting fellow Dames (even if only virtually) is the best fun of all! With Warmest Regards, *Barbara Band Rogers*

CHECKING IN WITH PA DAMES


By Anne Burnett, Communications Chair

During these strange, socially-distanced days, we all miss the friendly catching up - and hugs! - that are a special part of Dames' meetings and programs. So, for this issue, we asked a random sample of our membership from across the state (and beyond) what they've been up to during the pandemic. We hope it provides a bit of an update - and an uplift - as we all work to stay connected. Virtual hugs to you all!

- From Lisa Street: “Greetings from Memphis, TN, to my fellow PA Dames. Life has been different but I’ve kept busy...with a virtual Russian history class; serving as Moderator of Presbyterian women via Zoom; painting; reading; enjoying water aerobics; and helping to plan (from afar) our daughter Julie’s wedding: May, 2021.”
- In Zurich, Switzerland, Kristin Cahn von Seelen and family have kept busy "swimming in Lake Zürich; eating ice cream; marching for Black Lives; celebrating graduations; celebrating birthdays; sewing face masks; critiquing hand sanitizers; gazing down upon the Aletsch Glacier from the Jungfrauoch (11,333 ft. above sea level); savoring summer wines—a fragrant Auxerrois with asparagus and strawberries, a pale ruby Trollinger with grilled salmon and watercress salad; painting toenails on the balcony; painting portraits in the living room; walking the dog in the park; eating more ice cream; discovering new running trails.....”
- Gina Whelan shared a wonderful COVID-related story from CA Dame Lea Uhre, whose daughter and and grandchildren are staying with her. "Lea mentioned how difficult it was to keep the children occupied. Little did she know that they love polishing silver! After an afternoon of polishing, the kids woke up the next day and asked if they could do it again. They got the magnifying glass out and are learning about hallmarks, distinguishing sterling and silver plate."
- Ann Gregg and her husband Bill have a full house again with both their daughters working from home. Ann runs or walks every day and has loved having time for oil painting (see photo, above), reading Dickens and watching Britbox plus various movies and documentaries. Ann sends her "best to all!"



- From Boiling Springs, PA: "My family has taken me on long rides in the country and once we drove to our home in Florida, still isolating. Despite not being in the actual family lineage, I'm delighted to be in the mix of things!" Best, Moe [See photo, below]part of the Carolyn Holt family!



Members' book recommendations:

- The Silent Patient and The Dutch House- "I recommend both."
- John Bolton's The Room Where It Happened - "Interesting!"
- Shakespeare in a Divided America - "fascinating analogy betweensome of his plays and current events"
- Rush: Revolution, Madness, and Benjamin Rush, the Visionary Doctor Who Became a Founding Father - "...couldn't put it down!"
- The Vanishing Half - "Powerful novel about racial identity and crossing the color line."