



# Mini Connections

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

## A WOMAN OF VISION: ALICE LEA TASMAN TO BE HONORED AT UPCOMING JAMES LOGAN AWARD GALA

By Dennis Pickeral, Executive Director, Stenton

On November 4, the NSDCA/PA will host the fifth James Logan Award Gala at the new Logan Hotel in Philadelphia. The James Logan Award Gala, held every two years, was established in 2008 and honors an individual who embodies the spirit of inquiry, leadership and excellence that William Penn's Secretary James Logan demonstrated, making a lasting impact in Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia region. Past James Logan Award recipients include Luther Brady, Gail Harrity, Jane Pepper and Dodo Hamilton. The gala also raises crucial operating support for the Society's mission and programs. Proceeds benefit our museum property Stenton, supporting educational programs like *History Hunters* and the preservation of its historic buildings and grounds.

This year we have the great honor of celebrating the many accomplishments of Alice Lea M. Tasman. Her contributions to the philanthropic, medical, and cultural communities in Philadelphia, spanning more than fifty years, are nothing less than extraordinary. Alice Lea is well-known to many of you as a Past President of the NSCDA/PA and as our Development Chair, where she was responsible for spearheading our highly successful capital campaign (2007-11), which raised more than five million dollars for the Society and its programs.

In addition to her work with the Dames, Alice Lea has dedicated much of her career to ophthalmological organizations. Too numerous to list here in their entirety, they include her roles as Development Consultant

for Wills Eye Hospital for over 20 years and President of the Women's Board of Wills Eye Hospital from 1986-1988. She coordinated the Wills Eye Ball for almost 40 years, and for 26 years she has served as the Chairman of the annual art show at Wills Eye for *Form in Art*, a program from the Philadelphia Museum of Art for adults who are visually impaired.

Alice Lea has supported many other causes as well. She is a founder and a past president of the Chestnut Hill Historical Society and has served on the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Board of Councilors since 2007. She also serves on the Women's Board of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, the Chestnut Hill Community Center, and is an honorary trustee to Sulgrave Manor. Mrs. Tasman has been presented with a number of distinguished honors in recognition of her charitable work, and in 1997, she was named a Distinguished Daughter of

Pennsylvania by Governor Tom Ridge.

In this 125th anniversary year when Dames across the country are celebrating the NSCDA's Women of Vision, the Gala Committee is thrilled to honor one of our own Colonial Dames and Woman of Vision with the James Logan Award, and we are looking forward to a spectacular evening at the Logan Hotel. We are pleased to report that to date, the Gala Committee has raised over \$105,000 in sponsorships for the event! Gala sponsors receive a number of benefits, including the opportunity to place an ad in the gala program book. For information about how you can become a sponsor, contact NSCDA/PA Development Associate Sarah Hoffeditz at 215-329-7312, or email [development@stenton.org](mailto:development@stenton.org).

Look for an invitation in your mailbox at the beginning of September. We hope you will join us on November 4 and help make this our most successful Gala ever!



Rob and Dora Rogers, James Logan Awardee Dodo Hamilton, Alice Lea Tasman and Dr. Bill Tasman at the 2014 James Logan Award Gala.

## Warm Greetings, fellow Dames,

And how warm it *is* as I write this column in late July, at the start of another “excessive heat advisory” in Philadelphia. I hope that, like me, you’re looking forward to the return of cooler days this autumn ~ and an exciting season of NSCDA/PA programs and events!

Welcome to our first “mini-Connections” issue in several years. We’re trying out this model again, hoping to provide these short updates in between our larger full print issues. This is certainly a time of transition and change in the world of communications among nonprofit organizations. Many are moving almost entirely online, as they weigh the increasing costs of administration, printing and postage against their mission-based service and educational goals. We will be exploring a menu of options for our NSCDA/PA members, and would like to hear what you think: about the mini-Connections (re: content, frequency); about our full color print issues (produced 2 to 3 times per year); and about possibilities for more online communication formats. We invite you to email your

thoughts to Adriana ([adriana@nscdapa.org](mailto:adriana@nscdapa.org)), myself ([anneburnett221@gmail.com](mailto:anneburnett221@gmail.com)), or our Development and Communications Associate Sarah Hoffeditz ([development@stenton.org](mailto:development@stenton.org)).

A few special acknowledgements are in order as I look back on the wonderful 2015-2016 program year that concluded this spring. I’d like to thank all of you who were able to attend and/or support our glorious 125th Anniversary celebration events in April! Kudos and thanks as well to our wonderful staff and volunteers, including my event co-chair Sally Congdon, who helped make the anniversary weekend such a success. And special thanks to our staff, who helped arrange a delightful offsite NSCDA anniversary-related tour and April Stated Meeting in and around Independence National Historic Park. What fun to visit the Senate chambers of Congress Hall – the very first PA Society preservation project!

With all best wishes,

*Anne L. B. Burnett*

## PRESIDENT’S CORNER



National President Marcy Moody, NSCDA/PA President Anne Burnett, and past National President Stuart Cobb at the 125th Anniversary cocktail party.

### Want to stay up-to-date with Dames happenings between Stated Meetings and issues of Connections?

- Visit the “Members Area” at [www.nscdapa.org](http://www.nscdapa.org), PW: PADames1891
- Like the NSCDA/PA on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nscdapa](http://www.facebook.com/nscdapa)
- Like Stenton on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stentonmansion](http://www.facebook.com/stentonmansion)



## ANNOUNCING BOARD OF MANAGERS FOR 2016-2017

The 2016-17 Election of NSCDA/PA Officers and Managers took place at our Annual Meeting on May 18th. (See complete list below.) As you’ll note, the slate reflects a revised board structure that was approved by vote of our membership in December of last year. In June, both incoming and outgoing Board members participated in a Board Retreat & Luncheon at Stenton, co-facilitated by President Anne Burnett and Stenton Director Dennis Pickeral, focused on Best Practices in Boardmanship. We extend our deepest appreciation to the ladies of our Board of Managers past and present, and special thanks to the Nominating and Governance Committees.

### OFFICERS

President	Anne L. B. Burnett
Vice President	Barbara B. Rogers
Governance & Nominating Chair	Virginia J. Whelan
Recording Secretary	Catherine S. Klaus
Treasurer	Margaret M. Conver
Registrar	Constance A. Taylor
Associate States Registrar	Sharon D. Holt
Stenton Chair*	Carol Rush
Patriotic Service Chair*	Elizabeth R. Mills
Historical Activities Chair*	Katherine D. Bieniosek

### MANAGERS

ACC Chair	Genevieve M. Ebbert
LDY Chair	Margaret Broussard
Program Chair*	Josephine de Rosset Heyward
Development Chair*	Alice Lea M. Tasman
Membership Chair*	Rebecca S. C. O’Neill
Assistant Treasurer	Barbara S. Wood
Member at Large	Elizabeth R. Marshall
Member at Large	Gayla McCluskey**
Serving out term during transition:	
To serve until 2017	Lee Manonian
To serve until 2017	Julia M. Ward
To serve until 2017	Eleanor Peterson
To serve until 2018	Cornelia G. Schaefer
To serve until 2018	Wendy Wells-Finn

### HONORARY MEMBERS

Historian	Elizabeth M. Laurent
Lady of Dumbarton House*	Elise W. Carr
Regent of Gunston Hall*	Kristin S. Cahn von Seelen
Associate Trustee, Friends of Sulgrave*	Lisa R. Street
All former NSCDA/PA Presidents	
Stenton Exec. Director	Dennis S. Pickeral
NSCDA/PA Exec. Assist.	Adriana Robinson

\* Appointed positions

\*\* Board-appointed to fill a vacancy occurring after the Annual Meeting

# STENTON SHORT SUBJECTS



We've been busy at Stenton this spring and summer, with many family friendly programs and restoration projects in the mansion and on the grounds: 1) Stenton's meadow project, winner of the Garden Club of America's Founders Fund Award, included restoration of an early 20th century driveway that will bring visitors in front of the mansion. 2) Neighborhood children were treated to egg dyeing, face painting and fun at the Easter Egg Hunt in March. 3) Elise Carr, Dora Rogers, DeeDee Heyward and over 200 others turned out for Stenton's annual Garden Party in May. 4) Construction of a reproduction flying tester bed in Stenton's Yellow Lodging Room is well underway. The new bed installation will be unveiled this fall. 5) Stenton celebrated July 4th with hot dogs, hand-made ice cream, and a visit from Benjamin Franklin. Many thanks to our volunteers, including Susanna and Celia Cahn von Seelen pictured above. 6) Volunteers from the NSCDA/PA and Wissahickon and Weeders Garden Clubs gathered at Stenton on May 17 to plant a demonstration garden in the area of the new meadow.



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### NSCDA/PA Staff

Executive Assistant: Adriana Robinson  
Curator: Laura Keim  
Stenton Director: Dennis Pickeral  
Site Administrator & Director of Education:  
Kaelyn Barr  
Development Associate: Sarah Hoffeditz  
Museum Assistant: Kevin Lynch, Jr.  
HQ Facilities Manager: Kenneth J. Robinson  
Stenton Site Managers: Dawn Reid and  
Jeff Eckels  
Stenton Resident: Jeffrey Story

#### *About Connections...*

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Stated Meeting  
info and  
Calendar of  
Events inside!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Lend your skills and interests to the Colonial Dames! As we approach the fall, we have a number of fun opportunities for you to serve the Society. Some are “once and done,” and some can be regularly scheduled, based on your availability. Look for a more detailed, revised Member Interest & Skills Survey, coming your way this fall – we hope you’ll fill it out!

#### Thursday - September 8

Stenton Garden Cleanup Day –  
Late summer and early fall weeding and tidying is always needed and very much appreciated! Join us on the 8th, or arrange to help at your convenience. Email [programs@stenton.org](mailto:programs@stenton.org) or call 215.329.7312 to sign up.

#### Newsletter & event postcard mailings

Have an hour or so to spare in Center City? Help us with labeling and metering at Headquarters. Periodic, based on schedule of mailings. Contact Adriana at 215.735.6737 or [adriana@nscdapa.org](mailto:adriana@nscdapa.org).

#### Saturday - October 1

Revolutionary Germantown Festival:  
A great opportunity for Young Dames and families! Lend a hand at the Stenton activities table on the festival grounds opposite Cliveden (in Mt. Airy), take in the entertainment for all ages, watch the battle reenactments at noon or 3 PM. Afternoon shift volunteers can make their way down the Avenue to Grumblethorpe’s popular Oktoberfest with music and traditional foods and drink – a great way to close out an autumn afternoon! Email [programs@stenton.org](mailto:programs@stenton.org) or call 215-329-7312 to sign up.

#### Stenton Guides

The Pennsylvania Colonial Dames have been operating Stenton as a museum since 1899! Be a part of this proud tradition by signing up for docent/guide training this fall. Learn how to present tours, and/or assist with mansion traffic flow, registration and ticketing during our busy “Second Saturdays” and special events. For more information and to sign up, email [programs@stenton.org](mailto:programs@stenton.org).

Help with the NSCDA/PA’s Parade of Flags presentation at New Citizen Ceremonies, held twice yearly at the federal courthouse. For more information, contact Adriana.