



- DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA -

*Entrusted With History's Future*

Newsletter for The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the District of Columbia  
Volume 17, Number 1

Winter 2020

## *March Speaker is David Givens Jamestown Rediscovery's Director of Archaeology*

Thursday, March 19  
Cocktail Reception at 6:30 p.m.  
Lecture at 7:00 p.m.  
Dumbarton House: Belle Vue Room  
2715 Q Street, NW, Washington, DC

Last year marked the 400th anniversary of Virginia's first General Assembly, the first governmental body in English North America. Meeting during an extremely hot July in 1619, twenty-two Burgesses assembled in the second church at Jamestown, a timber frame structure at the center of the growing town. The Jamestown Rediscovery team, under the leadership of Mr. Givens, has spent the last three years excavating the 1617 buildings, and the people, that had been lost to history.



The presentation will highlight the latest work of the Rediscovery team – their findings and ground-breaking discoveries. Many questions have been raised by this project. How did the Europeans adapt to the North American environment? What can we learn about the people whose lives at Jamestown were undocumented? How can material culture describe the relations between the English and the native peoples? What can the archaeological remains tell us about experiments in industry, trade, and agriculture in 1619? Hope you can join us to find out!

To RSVP: Please reply to Farrand "Randy" O'Donoghue by email ([farrand.odonoghue@gmail.com](mailto:farrand.odonoghue@gmail.com)) or telephone (202-297-9920). Guests are welcomed.



### *DC Society Pins*

A new supply of DC Society pins has arrived, and they are \$110 each. They can be picked up from Llewellyn Bensfield, Registrar, or mailed to you for an additional postal fee. The pins are made for us by Wayne Jewelers, supplier of NSCDA badges and several other state pins. For further information, contact Llewellyn Bensfield ([lwben@comcast.net](mailto:lwben@comcast.net)).

## President's Message

I am honored to serve as your DC Society President, following in the footsteps of my predecessor, Ellen Boomer, as well as those of Betsy Nottingham, Bunny Muir, and others who presided before I joined the Dames. They established a pattern of excellence that guides us as we move forward. The strength of the past provides a blueprint for the future. To remain vibrant, an organization has to find new opportunities to grow and succeed. All 292 of us, plus our 56 Courtesy Dames, are partners in this important endeavor.



This issue of the *Newsletter* is a Year-in-Review, as we examine all that has occurred following our Annual Meeting last May. The reports are informative and comprehensive, while being brief enough to permit the use of many photographs, showing as many DC Dames as possible. But, there are some omissions. Unfortunately, there are no pictures from the Decorative Arts Lecture, held annually in memory of our beloved member Linda Mattingly. I wish we had a picture of the many members of the Mattingly family who attended. Another regret is that there are no photos from the festive Christmas Tea and Boutique, beautifully organized by Lynn Keith and Shelley Rodgers. The event was so much fun that we got distracted and no one remembered to capture the moment visually.

I want to thank all the dedicated Officers and energetic Committee Chairs, whose hard work is reflected in these pages. But, it is only early February, and many interesting speakers and local trips will take place before the next Annual Meeting on May 20, 2020. Please see the calendar on page 20, and watch for emails announcing upcoming events.

Finally, let me say that in addition to interesting programs and generous philanthropic efforts, an important feature of our DC Society is the camaraderie and treasured friendships formed through shared experiences. Join us often, and experience the joy the DC Dames will bring to your life.

Marta Miller Dunetz  
President of the DC Society: NSCDA



*Marta Dunetz at WIMSA's annual Memorial Day Ceremony*

# The Year in Review

## *Annual Meeting Marks Beginning of New Year DC Society Met on May 15, 2019*

Each year in May, the Annual Meeting is the time to celebrate another successful year and review the Society's programs, outreach, and accomplishments. Outgoing President Ellen Boomer presided over the ceremonial and patriotic aspects of the meeting before giving an overview of all that happened during the busy 2018-2019 year. Following brief reports by the Treasurer and the Nominating Committee, there was the installation of the new Officers, Board of Managers, and Committee Chairs. The new President, Marta Miller Dunetz, was introduced.

The featured speaker was Dr. Elisabeth Griffith, distinguished historian and author. Her lecture, titled "Women's Suffrage: From Purple Sashes to Pink Hats," focused on the suffrage campaign that culminated with the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1919 and its successful ratification in 1920. As the author of the highly acclaimed book *In Her Own Right: The Life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton*, Dr. Griffith is particularly knowledgeable on this important period in our Nation's history. She concluded her talk with a brief forecast of what happened after 1920, with a comparison of the 1913 and 2017 women's marches on Washington.

Before adjourning the meeting so attendees could enjoy visiting with one another at the tea under the tent outside the Belle Vue Room, the new President, Marta Miller Dunetz, paid tribute to Ellen Boomer and her three years of dedicated service as President. A portion of Marta's remarks follows: *Ellen is gracious, thoughtful, congenial, efficient, well organized, and a team player who gives unselfishly of her time and many talents. All of us both recognize and appreciate all she has done for our Society. While Ellen will continue her work with the DC Dames, the NSCDA has wisely tapped her for responsibilities at the national level, where we know she will continue to dazzle. I am honored to follow Ellen as your new President.*

The 2019 Annual Meeting was a salute to Ellen Boomer, a celebration of the history of women's suffrage, and an opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie that is created whenever the members of the DC Society gather. This year's event will take place at Dumbarton House on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 from 2-4 p.m. Please mark your calendar.



*First Vice President Gretchen Bukowski presents gift of appreciation to outgoing President Ellen Boomer, thanking her for three years of outstanding service leading the DC Society.*





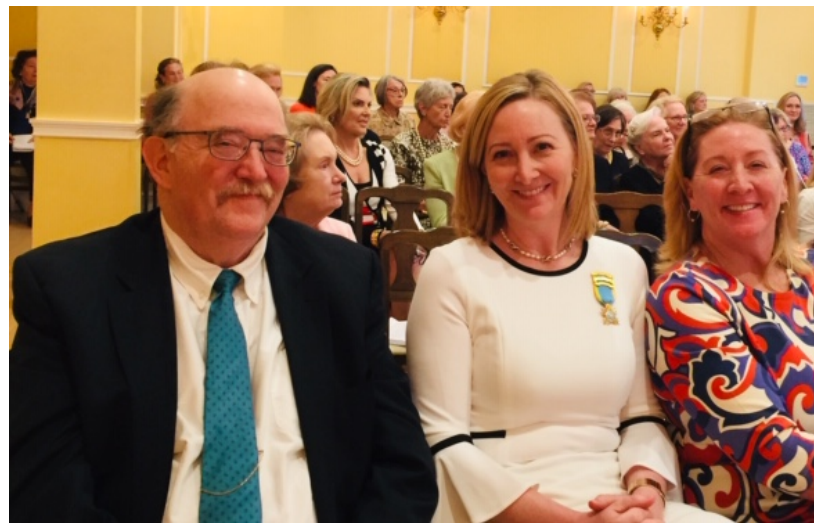
*Four DC Society Presidents (L-R) with speaker Elisabeth Griffith (center): Bunny Muir, Marta Dunetz, Ellen Boomer, and Betsy Nottingham*



*L-R: Doris Dixon and Lee Allen*



*Lea Uhre - National Historian/Archivist*



*The Boomer siblings! Ellen is flanked by Robert and Cackie*



*“Pretty in Pink”: L-R are Gretchen Bukowski, Sandy Webster, Marelyn Sturgeon, and Callie DeLancey.*



*“Boosting the Blue”: L-R are Marta Dunetz, Helen Curtin, and Janet Lindgren.*

*L-R: Allison Beckler, Belle Brent Duchin, and Ellen Carpenter*





## Young Dames Creating Varied Programs

The DC Society's Young Dames (all members age 50 and under) are among the most active in any of the NSCDA Societies. Under the leadership of Whitney Hansen, Brisa Bodell, and Spencer Bridgers, our younger members gathered for a picnic at the summer Jane Austen Film Festival at Dumbarton House, enjoyed a festive holiday happy hour at the Tabard Inn, and served as volunteer docents at the recent Washington Winter Show. In April, the chairs will help coordinate an evening gathering for new and prospective members. Additional group activities are being planned by this creative trio of leaders.

In recognition of the strength of our local Young Dames, former chair Kathy Prendergast serves as a Co-Chair of the NSCDA Young Dames.



Enjoying the summer Jane Austen evening at Dumbarton are (L-R) Stephanie Green, Whitney Hansen, Brisa Bodell, Ellen Boomer, Kelly Richmond, guest Kathy Strauss, and Dorothy Mayhew.

Dorothy Mayhew (L) and Whitney Hansen were among the docents at the Washington Winter Show, held at the Katzen Center at American University.



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### 2020 Annual Meeting and Tea Wednesday, May 20 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Save the date of May 20 for the Annual Meeting, which will begin at 2 p.m. at Dumbarton House with a short business meeting, followed by the traditional catered Tea. In order to maximize the time for enjoying the camaraderie of visiting with your fellow Dames and their guests, we are not having an outside speaker this year. But, the meeting will incorporate a salute to former Board members of the DC Society, as we recognize their accomplishments and years of dedicated service. The building blocks of the past have created the success of the present and point us toward the bright future that lies ahead. Watch for an email later with additional details.

## *Gala and Silent Auction Celebrate 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment*

In early October, more than 200 members and guests gathered at the historic home of Betsy Nottingham to mark the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and celebrate women's suffrage. Gala Chairs, Gretchen Bukowski and Laura Dreiband, worked tirelessly over many months to make the event a success. Ably assisted by energetic and dedicated DC Society members too numerous to mention, Betsy, Gretchen, and Laura created a night to remember. We were honored that NSCDA National President Anna Duff and other National Officers arranged their schedules to be with us that night.

Sparkling lights set the stage for a magical setting under the tent Betsy provided in her spacious backyard. Underneath the tent were the Silent Auction tables and a long buffet table with an ever-changing display of culinary masterpieces. All this delicious food was provided by various DC Dames and coordinated by Board Member Terrell McDermid. There was brisk bidding on all the 19 Auction items, many saluting the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment theme, but the signature item was a week in the French countryside at "En Chau," the home in Burgundy owned by Edith Stickney, a Florida Dame and Chair of the NSCDA Comprehensive Campaign. Edith, along with Connie Harriman and her husband, Ed Whitfield, donated champagne and wine enjoyed throughout the evening.

Filled with camaraderie, the Gala was a festive "friend-raiser," as well as being an important fundraiser for the DC Society. Our DC Board voted in advance to contribute half of our proceeds to the NSCDA Comprehensive Campaign. Thus, in November, we donated \$15,000 to the Campaign, directing that our contribution be used in support of our National Headquarters at Dumbarton House, which we use for so many of our activities. More information on DC donations appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

While much more could be said about the Gala and the Silent Auction, the photos accompanying this article tell the story more effectively than additional words could do.



*Gala Co-Chairs: Gretchen Bukowski (L) and Laura Dreiband*



*NSCDA National President Anna Duff (L) with Marta Dunetz, DC Society President*





*Connie Harriman and her husband,  
Ed Whitfield*



*Bunny Muir (L) welcomes two Florida Dames, Helen Gill Arnold (with her husband, Andy), as well as Edith Stickney (R), chair of the NSCDA Comprehensive Campaign.*



*The descendants of Thomas Cresap (L-R): Sarah Demarest,  
Louise Beale, Laureen Nicholson, and Judy Stover*



*Mia Grosjean*





*Chris and Ray Rollins*



*Silent Auction table*



*A special Auction display for  
the home in France*



## *And, Gala festivities continued into November...*



*A month after the Gala, noted porcelain designer Anna Weatherley welcomed a group of Dames and their guests to her Studio. Pictured at that special gathering are (L-R) Gretchen Bukowski, Kathy Prendergast, and Anne Randolph. In addition to sharing a portion of the sales profit with the Dames, Anna Weatherley generously donated a statement necklace and a hand-painted cache pot to the Silent Auction.*

## *DC Society Makes Generous Financial Donations*

As mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter, The DC Society made a generous contribution of \$15,000 to the NSCDA Comprehensive Campaign. This donation was made from proceeds of the recent Gala and was directed toward our National Headquarters at Dumbarton House. Additionally, at the most recent Board meeting, the members voted to support vitally important projects at the other two Dames properties. Gunston Hall receives \$5,000 for its Riverside Garden project, which will recreate and restore the beautiful garden established by George Mason in colonial days. Additionally, \$5,000 goes to Sulgrave Manor to create a unique George Washington heritage room as part of the significant Centennial Celebration scheduled for the Manor in 2021. These major contributions are being made through a combination of Gala proceeds and existing funds. They are in addition to the annual ongoing support that we provide to all three of our treasured Colonial Dames properties.

In anticipation of a future need, we are awaiting more information from the Historical Activities Committee about possible support for the historic Mount Zion/Female Union Band Society Cemetery adjacent to Dumbarton House. Please see the HAC article elsewhere in the Newsletter about this promising endeavor. The Patriotic Service Committee continues to study and evaluate the generous donations we make annually to a wide range of worthwhile causes from the Congressional Essay Contest for high school students and the Indian Nurse scholarship program to a varied group of military-related organizations.

Finally, in addition to our financial outreach to the community, we are studying the best way to allocate funds to improve the design and function of our DC Society Website.



## *Patriotic Service Committee Extends Community Outreach*

Following the Annual Meeting in May, the very busy Patriotic Service Committee immediately launched in with a series of important community activities that extend our DC Dames profile throughout the region. The PSC chairs, Ann Thompson and Molly Peacock, oversaw events as varied as Naturalization ceremonies and a wreath laying. They were ably assisted by a committee that included Belle Brent Duchin overseeing Fisher House participation, and Cici Hughes, whose patriotic centerpieces were thoughtfully created for several occasions.

Additionally, the PAC oversees the DC Society's annual financial contributions to a wide variety of patriotic community projects such as Canine Companions and Operation First Response, as well as supporting the National's Indian Nurse Scholarship program.

Photos help capture the importance of the following events: the traditional Memorial Day wreath laying at WIMSA (Women in Military Service for America) at Arlington Cemetery, June and September Naturalization Ceremonies at Gunston Hall, a Children's Citizenship Ceremony at Dumbarton on August 1, and the June afternoon reception and roundtable discussions with high school winners of the NSCDA Congressional Essay Contest. Later, members attending our annual Christmas Tea were encouraged to make gifts to Fisher House (at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center), and the committee is meeting now to make its future plans.



*Pictured (below) at the Naturalization Ceremony at Gunston Hall in September are (L-R) Ann Schaeffer, Cici Hughes, Ann Thompson, Sandy Webster, Hannah Cox, Nancy Hill, and Marta Dunetz.*

*Pictured with George Mason at the Naturalization Ceremony at Gunston Hall in June are (L-R): Mia Grosjean, Laura Dreiband, Nell Payne, Cici Hughes, Anne Randolph, Hannah Cox, Virginia Martin, Amelie Cagle, Ann Thompson, Ann Schaeffer, Ellen Martin, Elizabeth McCallie, Helen Curtin, and Helen Bragg Cleary*







*A new citizen!*



*L-R: Gwinneth Clarkson, Amelie Cagle, Bunny Muir, and Kae Dakin*



*L-R: Molly Peacock, Anne Randolph, and Dorothy Nagle busy in the Dumbarton Kitchen at the August 1<sup>st</sup> Children's Citizenship Ceremony*



*Ann Thompson*

*Judith Robinson and her granddaughter, Logan*





## Congressional Essay Reception Highlights June Calendar

Join other DC Dames and our Patriotic Service Committee for the Round Table Discussions and Reception at Dumbarton House on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 23 from 3-5 p.m. The guests are the 60 high school students from across the country who are the winners of the Congressional Essay Contest sponsored by the NSCDA. Individual State Societies select their state winners and sponsor their participation. While the DC Society does not have a local winner, we sponsor two students selected at-large by the NSCDA. In 2019, we sponsored two NJ students at a cost of \$1,300 each.

The Essay Topic for the 2020 Congressional Seminar is: *Why is history important? Why should we preserve our national treasures and how should we, as a nation, continue to preserve our lands and historic buildings?* Children and grandchildren of Colonial Dames members are not permitted to enter the contest, but can be sponsored by the member, who pays the fee for them to attend. The NSCDA Chair of the Essay Contest is Libby Siskron of LA.



*Ken Cuccinelli presented the children's citizenship certificates.*



*Some of the DC Dames attending the wreath-laying WIMSA ceremony on Memorial Day are (L-R) Mary McLean, Hannah Sears, Sandy Webster, Ellen Martin, Marta Dunetz, Belle Brent Duchin, Mary Johnson, MaryKay Ruwe, and Molly Peacock (holding Lulu, a future Dame).*



*Marta Dunetz flanked by the two NJ students sponsored by the DC Society for the Congressional Essay Contest*

## Historical Activities Committee Active in Many Areas

The Historical Activities Committee is essential to the mission of the NSDCA. Under the leadership of Sarah Demarest and Betsy Nottingham, our DC HAC has broadened its outreach in many areas. In fact, the responsibilities are so wide that the leadership circle has been expanded to include Judy Stover overseeing the Archives and Mary Johnson as Book Clubs Coordinator.

The Historical Activities Committee sponsored the September Membership Meeting, where guests sat at tables indicating their ancestors' Colonial states. Mary Calvert (visuals) and Judy Stover (narrative) presented a Power Point illustrating many of the markers and plaques throughout the area placed by the DC Dames or the NSCDA over a period of many years. This program showed how material from the Archives can be brought to life in ways that capture our imaginations while educating us at the same time.

A variety of trips and "pop-up" events are offering our members opportunities to visit historic locations. A summer walking tour of Old Town, led by Dorothy Nagle, and a late afternoon tour of George Washington's Distillery in the fall were followed up by a popular all-day trip to Fredericksburg to visit Ferry Farm and other sites central to the Washington family. More trips are being planned.

All three book clubs (Evening Explorers, History Hounds, and Literary Ladies) continue to thrive. The HAC also is exploring other projects, including a strong interest in working with an invigorated committee seeking to restore and improve the neglected Mount Zion/Female Union Band Society Cemetery, just east of Dumbarton House. See the explanatory article on page 16.



*DC Dames enjoying the autumn trip to Fredericksburg are pictured at Ferry Farm.*



*Mary Calvert (L) and Judy Stover present their captivating program on Dames plaques.*





*Weezie Owen (L), who has a Massachusetts ancestor, visits with Connecticut descendants Bunny Muir, Madelyn Sturgeon, Mary Revenis, and Mary Johnson.*



*Sharing Virginia ancestors are Lynn Shirey, Hannah Cox, Gin Bell, Llewellyn Bensfield, and Leigh George*



*Sharing ancestors from the Carolinas are (L-R) Gwinneth Clarkson, Sandy Webster, Ellen Boomer, Liza Chapman-Memery, and Ellen Martin*



*Shown in George Washington's pew at Alexandria's Christ Church are (L-R) Janet Binder, Weezie Owen, Kay Glenday, Betsy Nottingham, Mia Grosjean, Eleanore Boyse, Hannah Sears, Maude Williams, and Dorothy Nagle.*



*Sarah Demarest (L) and Betsy Nottingham*



*Dorothy Nagle describes the dining room of her home, the historic Peake-Fairfax House in Old Town.*

## *Historical Activities Exploring Cemetery Project*

The Historical Activities Committee is establishing a new subcommittee to focus on assisting the historic Mount Zion/Female Union Band Society Cemetery, which is located next to Dumbarton House, directly east of the parking lot. The cemetery history is both fascinating and important. Active from the early 1800s until the mid-1900s, the predominantly African-American cemetery is the final resting place of thousands, many of whom were enslaved. An existing building on the property was likely a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Today, the nonprofit foundation managing the preservation and commemoration of the cemetery has a new Executive Director. Our HAC is communicating with them and exploring ways in which we can be of assistance as they restore the site and educate the public about its history. If you want to learn more about this interesting project, please contact Sarah Demarest at [bealesarah@gmail.com](mailto:bealesarah@gmail.com) or 301-452-6944.



## Program Committee Plans Speakers and Excursions

Our dynamic Program Chairs – Lee Allen and Farrand “Randy” O’Donoghue – have arranged Dumbarton House events with a variety of speakers that have captured the interest of our members and their guests. In response to questionnaire responses requesting more day trips, Board member Terrell McDermid has joined Program’s leadership team to organize Excursions.

Our October event was the Third Annual Decorative Arts Lecture in memory of our beloved member Linda Mattingly. An overflow audience gathered for a presentation by prominent collectors Morgan Delaney and Osborne Mackie. We were delighted that so many members of the Mattingly family were able to join us. In November, attorney and author Gregory May discussed his book *Jefferson’s Treasure: How Albert Gallatin Saved the New Nation from Debt*. A bonus for us was that Greg’s wife, Anna, is a member of the DC Society.

As we go to press, the committee is preparing for a morning lecture on February 19 by Susan Schoelwer of Mount Vernon on *George and Martha Washington’s Mount Vernon: New Looks for an Old House*. The evening lecture, scheduled for March 19, is announced on page 1 of this Newsletter.

All three fall Excursions were fully subscribed with waiting lists. There was a trip to Glenstone in Potomac, followed by two special afternoon visits to the White House. The photos from those trips show how much they were enjoyed. Upcoming Excursions in the spring will be announced via email.



*DC Dames pictured in the White House East Room in front of the portrait rescued by Dolley Madison during the War of 1812*



*Author Gregory May (husband of Anna May) was our November speaker.*



*L-R: Melissa Carey, Laura Dreiband, Kay Glenday, Liz Marr, and Martha Crosland outside the White House*



*Enjoying Glenstone are (L-R) Dede Petri, Terrell McDermid, and Janet Lindgren*



*L-R: Shelley Ross-Larson, Suzanne Duvall, and Marta Dunetz, before entering the White House*



*Examining one of the Goldsworthy Clay Houses at Glenstone are Anne Falatko (front) and Wray Muoio.*



# *There is Nothing Like a Dame!*

*Ellen Martin*



*Weezie Owen (L) with Mary and Peter Johnson*



*Gretchen Bukowski (L) leads the Pledge of Allegiance*



*Cici Hughes and one of her patriotic centerpieces*



*L-R: Nan Whalen, Dorothy Nagle, and Alma Paty, three members of the Literary Ladies*

# DC Dames Calendar

## FEBRUARY

Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup>: Colonial Ball with the Society of Colonial Warriors (Sulgrave Club)

## MARCH

Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup>: David Givens evening lecture (see page 1)

Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup>: Board Meeting (Send candidate files to Membership Chairs by March 11<sup>th</sup>)

Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup>: Hunt Brunch with Society of Colonial Warriors (Chevy Chase Club)

## APRIL

Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup>: Membership party for new and prospective members and candidates. Co-hosted by Membership Committee and Young Dames Committee.

Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> until May 1<sup>st</sup>: Second Annual NSCDA Day at Dumbarton

## MAY

Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup>: 2020 Annual Meeting and Tea (see page 6)

Monday the 25<sup>th</sup>: WIMSA Memorial Day event at Arlington National Cemetery

## JUNE

Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup>: Board Meeting (Send candidate files to Membership Chairs by May 20<sup>th</sup>)

Exact date not yet set: Naturalization Ceremony at Gunston Hall

Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup>: Congressional Essay Contest Winners Round Table Discussion and Tea

## AUGUST

Week of August 3<sup>rd</sup>: Children's Citizenship/Naturalization Ceremony

## *Welcome to New Members!*

As 2020 began, the membership of the DC Society stood at 292 members. We also have 56 Courtesy Members from 22 states, and 13 Candidates working on their Lineage Papers.

The seven New Members joining us between June 1 and December 31, 2019 are: Virginia Blackmarr Banchoff, Doris Lewis Dixon, Leigh George, Elizabeth Ann Gerber, Parthenia "Nina" Russell Randolph, Madelyn Brinker Sturgeon, and Katherine Elizabeth Talmadge.

Four new Transfers to the DC Society are Carolyn Breen Harris from IL, Ainsley Doll Holyfield from LA, Emily Maletta from NY, and Rae Brann Wine from VA.

We have welcomed five new Courtesy Dames: Tippen "Tippy" Harvey Anderson (AL), Emily Kistler Lawson (TX), Ann Taylor Schaeffer (VA), Margaret Schutrumpf (ME), and Joanne Seale Wilson (TX).