

The Colonial Dames of America Celebrates a Century-Long Relationship

Sharri Whiting De Massi



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Sharri Whiting De Massi, Chair, Communications Committee, The Colonial Dames of America

AS THE OLDEST women's lineage society focusing on the colonial period, The Colonial Dames of America (founded May 23, 1890) treasures its long relationships with other organizations devoted to American history and social culture. Among them are the Social Register Association (1886) and the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (1869).

On October 11, 2017, the Dames celebrated the Social Register Association (SRA) at its annual Fall Benefit, with an evening at Doubles in Manhattan. The highly successful event benefited the educational initiatives of the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum (MVHM), wholly

owned and operated by the CDA and one of the oldest buildings in New York City.

Speaking on the theme of "The Social Register: An Enduring Legacy," SRA Chairman Christopher Wolf delighted the audience with tales of SR history and plans for the future. Brantley Carter Bolling Knowles, CDA first vice president general, served as co-chairman, along with Jane Told, CDA board of managers member and former CDA treasurer. Vice chairmen were board members Sandra Pearl and Kathleen Springhorn, who also serves as CDA hospitality chairman. Lise Honoré-Wolf was honorary chairman of the benefit. Auctioneer Stephen Madsen conducted the bidding for a trip to Rome

and Umbria, Italy, donated by Chapter X—Rome, which generated a sizeable donation for the MVHM.

CDA Leadership

2018 is an especially pivotal year for the Dames, as Sharon Worthing Vaino steps down as the 37th president general after six highly productive years in office. The position of president general of The Colonial Dames of America is a three-year term; Sharon was the first PG to serve two terms in office.

Sharon has been honored at various events, including a cocktail party in New York given by board member Caroline McLain and a dinner at a private club



1. Brantley C. B. Knowles, 2017 CDA Fall Benefit Chair/ CDA President General 2018-2021.

2. (l-r): Eleanor Penniman – Past President General; Sharon Vaino – President General 2012-2018; Annette Geddes – Past President General.


3. Charlotte Squarcy.

4. (l-r): Susan Meyer; Joseph Meyer; Lise Honoré-Wolf; Heidi Druckemiller; Christopher Wolf.

5. (l-r): Brantley Knowles; Ruth Hunt; Errol Green.





organized by incoming PG Brantley Knowles, where Sharon was presented with a diamond-studded past president general's pin by the board of managers and committee chairs. Sharon received a warm send-off and standing ovation during the annual meeting of the CDA in New York, April 29–May 1, 2018. 

1. (l-r): Kathleen Springhorn, Benefit Vice-Chair; Nancy Stratford; Lise Honoré-Wolf, Honorary Benefit Chair.
2. (l-r): Sarah Boston; Carol Lynch and Michael Lynch.
3. Pegi Ivancevich and David Roberts.
4. Christina and John Morris.