



the colonial dames of america

The Colonial Dames of America
Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden Virtual Benefit
Saturday, January 14, 2023
4-5 PM Eastern



MVHM&G Benefit Program

Welcome Remarks by Rebecca Howard Madsen, President General

Recognition of Special Attendees by Laurie Aldinger, Benefit Chair

Museum Introduction by Brantley Bolling Knowles,
Museum Committee Chair and Past President General

Garden Updates by Liane “Lili” Neuhauser, Garden Liaison

Remarks by Nancy Hinkel, MVHM&G Director

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Introduction of Speaker by Laurie Aldinger, Benefit Chair

Presentation of Program by Donna Ganson:
“Alice Recknagel Ireys: Pioneering Landscape Architect”

Moderated Q&A

Concluding Remarks by Nicole Scholet, CDA Assistant Director



President General

Rebecca Howard Madsen

Chair

Laurie Aldinger

Benefactors (\$1000+)

Anonymous	Jeannette Keatts	David B. Rich III
Laurie Aldinger	Ann Robinson King	Dianne Robinson
Jane Campbell	Brantley Bolling Knowles	Christine Rother
Chapter XXXI – South Carolina	Jocelyn Lance	Laura Sheehan
Kathi Chulick	Carolyn Levin	Kathleen Elizabeth Springhorn
John Chulick	Rebecca H. Madsen	Ellen Tozer
Robin Dougherty	Stephen S. Madsen	Christine Tredway
Anne Farley	Angela Masand	Rachel Tribble
Ashley Ganz	Pamela Pate	Sharon Vaino
Connie Grund	Sandra Pearl	Jaan Vaino
Sharon Hare	Laura Ramsay	Toni K. Wirth
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Patrons (\$500+)

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Chapter VIII – Houston	Mary Lois Johnson	Nancy Schultz
Chapter XXXVIII – Santa Barbara	Donette Kranz	

About the Presenter

Donna Ganson, Corresponding Secretary—Executive Board, Garden Club of America—grew up on Long Island, the youngest of four. Her early gardening inspiration came from her father who, in addition to growing an extensive vegetable garden, continuously kept items in bloom for the enjoyment of Donna's mother. When her parents retired to Arizona, her father dug one hundred holes in the caliche to plant roses for her mother.

Donna and her husband of over 40 years have three daughters and four grandchildren. They have lived in Brooklyn since their first child was born and their brownstone features small gardens in the front and back.

While working at American Express for 25 years, Donna was fortunate to indulge her passion for travel. After retiring in 2002, she joined the Garden Club of Lawrence, a community close to Atlantic Beach, where she and her husband spend their summers.

She has served in many capacities for her garden club, including President at the time the club celebrated its centennial. She has also served at the national level, and is currently both a horticulture judge—a lifetime appointment-- and is the Corresponding Secretary serving on the Executive Board of the national organization. She was a member of the GCA Scholarship Committee, was vice-chair of the Horticulture Committee, served two terms as the GCA Historian, and was Zone III Director. She is also a member of the New York Junior League, the DAR, the Brooklyn Heights Garden Club and is active in her church community.

About CDA and the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden

The Colonial Dames of America (CDA), founded in 1890, is the oldest colonial lineage society for women in the United States. In 1924, CDA purchased the property that was to become the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden (MVHM&G). Opened to the public in 1939 after extensive restoration, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 after a second restoration. MVHM&G is accredited by the America Alliance of Museums (AAM).

Today the site transports visitors back to the days of the Mount Vernon Hotel, a 19th-century country respite for Manhattanites escaping the crowded city below 14th Street. Built in 1799, it is one of the few remaining 18th-century buildings in Manhattan and is the only surviving example of the many country day hotels that flourished after 1825, as the city became the nation's commercial center. MVHM&G celebrates life in 19th-century New York and educates the community through relevant interpretation and preservation of its structure and collection. The Museum is wholly-owned and operated by CDA.

Through MVHM&G and other projects, The Colonial Dames of America carries out its mission to honor American history through preservation and education. CDA has chapters in the United States and Europe.