



ADSW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

STEVE KNIGHT – PRESIDENT



Steve joined the ADSW board in 2012 and became president in 2016. He has been involved in ADSW's recent preservation advocacy projects, including landmark designation for Sedgwick Gardens and the Friendship Heights PEPCO Substation. Steve is a practicing architect and has advised on rehabilitation plans of local Art Deco buildings including the Hecht Company Warehouse adaptive reuse and reconstruction of the Waffle Shop. He has

organized and led popular neighborhood walking tours and other architecture-related programs.

Steve is passionate about all things Art Deco: the furniture, decorative arts, music and architecture of the period, as well as vintage clothing from the 30s to the 50s. To help fund his many sinful Art Deco collecting habits, Steve is a Principal with David M. Schwarz Architects in Washington, DC. The firm has designed many noteworthy projects in the area, including the adaptive reuse of the historic Penn Theater on Capitol Hill, one of the first recipients of the Art Deco Society's Preservation Award. Steve lives in a bungalow in Silver Spring where he enjoys

visiting the beautiful AFI Silver Theater, mixing vintage-inspired cocktails and dancing with his wife Karen.

ISABELLE PULEO YERGER – VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL COUNSEL



Isabelle joined the ADSW Board in the Spring of 2012 and serves as Vice President and General Counsel. Her interest in vintage design and architecture began at an early age and she enjoys collecting vintage clothes, jewelry and household items. Her interest in Art Deco began when she served as a tour guide of the historic Fox Theatre in Atlanta, GA in the early 1990s. She is now very pleased to work with ADSW to help in its preservation and education efforts and to bring fellow Decophiles together for social events and activities. An attorney by trade, she works in a small boutique law firm in Washington, D.C. and lives in Maryland with her husband and two daughters.

JIM LINZ – PRESIDENT EMERITUS



Jim is the owner of Deco-Rations antiques and author of five books on Art Deco:

Art Deco Chrome (1990); Electrifying Time; Telechron and GE Clocks (2001); Westclox Electric (2004); Westclock Windupm (2004); Merchant Motors: The Art of R.M. Merchant (2012).

He is the editor/publisher of the Art Deco Society's quarterly magazine, Trans-Lux, and is currently working on a series of books on

automotive design. As an antique dealer, Jim sells primarily at Modernism shows such as 20th Century Cincinnati, the Michigan Modernism Exposition, and the Art Deco Society's own Exposition of 20th Century Decorative Arts, which he helps manage. He recently launched an online store – Deco-Rations.net.

A native Washingtonian, Jim grew up in Kensington. After graduating from Atlanta's Emory University, he returned to Washington, spending almost 30 years as a management and policy analyst for the U.S. General Accounting Office, retiring as an Assistant Director. He has lived in Northern Virginia for the past 30 years, first in Burke and currently in Chantilly.

LOU SIMCHOWITZ – TREASURER



Lou is a devoted admirer of posters and other graphic arts of the Art Nouveau and Art Deco periods. If time travel were possible, Lou would be the first to sign up and arrange a visit to Paris in the 1890's to experience the café and cabaret scene. He became a member of the Society in 2001, shortly after moving to the Washington DC area and has lived in New York, Boston, and St. Louis. Lou wanted to learn more about the rich architectural

heritage of our community and to visit buildings that are living testimonials to that bygone era. Helping to preserve such treasures and delighting in these links to the past are what motivated Lou to join the Board, first as Deputy Treasurer in 2003-2005, and then, after leaving the Board for a few years, rejoining as Treasurer in 2010. Professionally, Lou is an academic, scientific researcher, medical educator, and hospital administrator. Until recently, he worked at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, where he oversaw the research training and career development of young aspiring scientists. He lives close by in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

DAVID LEFEVER – OUTREACH, MEMBERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT CHAIR



The Art Deco period intrigues David – It was a uniquely dynamic time squeezed by two World Wars. Art Deco is more than stylized, modern design. It is an integral part of our country’s culture as we matured in the face of Prohibition, Women’s Suffrage, the Roaring Twenties/Jazz Age, the Great Depression, and the streamlined revolution of architecture, transportation and industry. It is a period worth understanding, enjoying and preserving. Less intriguing, David is an investment banker specializing in mergers &

acquisitions, and his work with ADSW competes for his time with judging competition BBQ and underwater photography.

LINDA LYONS – BOARD MEMBER



Linda is an architectural historian with varied interests. For ADSW she serves as chair of education committee. She researched and wrote a brochure entitled “Metro-Deco: A Guide to Metro-Accessible Art Deco Architecture Of The Washington Metropolitan Area” and has developed, researched and led a variety of bus and walking tours and presented lectures on Washington’s Art Deco architecture. In Maryland, she

has been closely associated with Save Our Seminary’s successful efforts preserve the National Park Seminary historic district site for adaptive reuse. She was associated with the National Building Museum for 10 years as staff member in charge of tours and docents, where she also led architectural tours both inside and outside the walls of the museum, organized public programs, and wrote: “Building a Landmark: A Guide to the Historic Home of the National Building Museum” published by the museum.

KARA BROWN – SECRETARY & PROGRAM CHAIR



Kara is a long time member of ADSW, joining nearly 20 years ago after moving to Baltimore. Originally from Missouri, she moved to Colorado and drive between the two states several times a year. She quickly learned that the amount of time it took her Masda 323 hatchback (for better hauling capacity) to go from 75 to 0 at sight of the word “Antiques” along the highway. Many enjoyable hours were spent following the

hunt in small towns.

A lover of all things from the Art Deco period – architecture, fashion, music and furnishings – her rowhome is adorned with her finds. In addition to the elegance and beauty of the Deco era, Kara is fascinated with the sweeping socio-economic changes that contributed to the evolution of the style. She has traveled extensively to see and learn about Deco in other cities and countries, including attending the last several World Congresses on Art Deco.

DEBORAH CHALFIE – PRESERVATION CHAIR



Debbie joined the ADSW Board in 2019, within minutes of becoming a happy retiree. She has been passionate about art deco and streamline design, and an active member of ADSW, for about 25 years. Debbie is especially interested in art deco architecture and its preservation, deco furnishings and functional household goods, and art deco design in modes of transportation. She has attended 3 World Congresses on Art Deco. She is also a huge fan

of 1950s cars, Doo Wop/Googie architecture, diners, and vintage political buttons. Before retiring, Debbie worked more than 40 years as a public interest lobbyist on employment, civil rights, and economic security issues for a variety of advocacy organizations. She lives in Takoma Park with her partner, also retired, plotting what fun thing to do next.