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Some of my favorite childhood memories are from exploring basements and attics. I loved going through my grandma’s paraphernalia and discovering old family pictures and souvenirs. I unearthed embarrassing photos of my dad when he was a kid, and my grandma always had a healthy supply of photo albums for me to pore over. I enjoyed reading old newspaper clippings, cookbooks, magazines—just about anything I could get my hands on. The *Reminisce* magazines were a personal favorite. I fell in love with the stories they contained: romances and weddings, wars and coming-of-age, the Great Depression, recipes, and more. There’s something special about exploring history in such an intimate way. From stuffed animals to swords, cookbooks to trophies, every item has a story, and these are the stories that made me fall in love with history.

In this year’s eighth edition of *Tenor of Our Times*, we replicated the sensation of exploring an attic. This concept is reflected in our cover art, which incorporates elements of each section of the journal into its design. We invite you to explore this virtual attic with us and learn about Christine Darden and NASA, food and culture, war and diplomacy, literature and its influence.

I am delighted to present you with Volume VIII of *Tenor of Our Times*. Our hope is that it will encourage you to keep exploring. What’s in your attic?

Makyra Williamson