



LANDMARK  
HERITAGE  
FOUNDATION

# NEWS FROM THE CASTLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE LANDMARK HERITAGE FOUNDATION

*funding the preservation of*

## JULIA MORGAN'S BERKELEY CITY CLUB BUILDING

SUMMER 2013 ♦ 2315 DURANT AVE., ROOM 306 ♦ BERKELEY, CA 94704 ♦ (510) 883-9710



### SECRETS OF THE BCC GARDENS: HALS Survey Discoveries

OUR HALS (Historic American Landscapes Survey) garden documentation project began with a team of landscape designers, horticulturalists and other volunteers peeking into the farthest corners of the Berkeley City Club gardens to find and plot every landscape feature. Besides the trees, shrubs, flowering plants, and ferns, the team even took a close look at the patterned cement walkway behind the Plunge.

For our part, and to flush out the story, we have combed the historical record, from the earliest Berkeley Women's City Club Bulletins in 1927 up through recent Records, from Julia Morgan's plans and drawings through her Building Specifications, as well as the earliest photographs from the Image Archive.

and yellow tulips. The garden area north of the pool was the cutting garden and members were encouraged to donate plants from their own gardens. Flowers from these beds supplied decoration for the Dining Room tables for many years. The West Court was intended for lawn, but a 1930 photograph shows the colorful "Valley of the Moon" natural flagstones that have been there ever since. The northwest garden ("Yard") was prized in the early 1930s for the beauty of its four jacaranda trees and because only four others existed in Berkeley at the time. Flowers, ferns and a blossoming almond tree decorated the space. Later this garden area went into decline, although when the disuse began is not documented. In the 1990s it was



**Above photo: Northwest Yard.**

Photographer: Steven Quiñones-Colón, August 2012

**Left photo: East Court.**

Photographer: Trevor Johnson

And we have made discoveries! A concrete bench for the East Court was a gift from the BCC Garden Section. The huge Bird of Paradise was a member's houseplant. This Court originally had grass until "members' heels sinking into the lawn" led to solid surfacing in the mid-1930s. The Loggia was glassed in at about the same time.

Julia Morgan planned "Lawn and Planting" in the narrow east strip between the pool and current parking lot. Called the "parterre" and visible from the pool's then clear leaded glass tracery windows, it was planted with turf, yellow jasmine along the high wall and yellow chrysanthemums, daffodils

cleared of overgrown bamboo; surviving camellias, rhododendron, and ferns started to make a comeback. Seating was added in 2005 as a memorial to longtime member Robert Irish Brower, and the garden was reborn.

These remarkable discoveries are testimony to what a little digging can reveal. Soon the entire HALS documentation of the BCC gardens will be available through the Library of Congress, along with the histories of other significant landscapes throughout the country. We are grateful to Chris Pattillo, FASLA, of PGAdesign Landscape Architects, for seeing the importance of the BCC gardens and for initiating and guiding our HALS project.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

February 22, 2014 ♦ 6:00–11:00PM at the Berkeley City Club

An evening of fine wine, live music, dinner prepared from freshest local ingredients, dancing and auction. 1920s attire desired but not required.



### GATSBY GALA CELEBRATING JULIA MORGAN

Best of all, event proceeds will help preserve this beautiful landmark.

Details: [landmarkheritagefoundation.org](http://landmarkheritagefoundation.org) or on our Facebook page

NEWS FROM THE CASTLE  
SUMMER 2013

*News from the Castle* is the official newsletter of the Landmark Heritage Foundation. The Foundation is a tax-exempt charitable organization dedicated to the preservation of the unique Julia Morgan-designed building that is home to the Berkeley City Club.

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The Julia Morgan Preservation Fund Committee of the LHF meets monthly to approve projects and disbursements. The LHF Board meets bimonthly. All persons are welcome at these meetings; to attend call (510) 883-9710.

Free public tours are jointly sponsored by the LHF and the Berkeley City Club the fourth Sunday of every month except December. For public tour details or information on group tours, contact the Landmark Heritage Foundation.

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LANDMARK HERITAGE  
FOUNDATION

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LHF Office is staffed  
Wednesday & Thursday  
10am–2pm

## TALENTED FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

*These longtime supporters of the Foundation  
are also accomplished writers!*

LHF DIRECTOR Wendy P. Markel recently presided over a book signing for her book, “Berkeley” (Charleston, NC: Arcadia Publishing, 2009; Postcard History Series.) Working with the numerous postcards belonging to an Oakland collector, Markel researched all the pictured locations or buildings, and provided extensive labels for each. Taken together, the cards provide a useful history of the city of Berkeley. The book – over 200 pages – is literally a snapshot of the development of the city and the University of California, Berkeley. The book may be purchased at the Berkeley City Club.

Last year, recent LHF Director Felicitas Titus, who was born in China, published “Old Beijing: Postcards from the Imperial City” (North Clarendon, VT: Tuttle, 2012.) An interesting history of old Peking (1880s -1937) interspersed with personal memoirs accompanies the postcards. Titus’ reason for taking on this project was to present and preserve the important architecture and culture of that period. She has accumulated several unique and beautiful historic postcard collections of Peking, Shanghai, and other “old world” cities. These photographic images are early photographers’ real views of the period. A reader has remarked, “This book offers a unique look at a vanished China and its storied capital.” Available at UC Press Book Store, Bancroft Avenue, Berkeley.

Director Dr. Sarah Gill, an art historian, is working on the first extensive guide entitled “Julia Morgan’s Berkeley City Club.” The book will include descriptions of the special elements of Morgan’s style, and the importance of the building to the early Women’s Movement in the United States. A large number of pictures of the chandeliers, sconces, flowers, animals, and other features will fill pages of close-up images by the talented photographer, Trevor Johnson. Felicitas Titus will prepare drawings for the book. This guide will be available soon at the Berkeley City Club.

Board director and historian, Dr. Karen McNeill, is the leading expert on our building’s architect, Julia Morgan, focusing particularly on her significance to gender issues in the architectural profession and reform movements of the Progressive Era. She has published multiple articles, including “Women Who Build: Julia Morgan & Women’s Institutions,” which features our Little Castle (California History, Summer 2012). And she can’t wait to give you a publication date for her book, tentatively titled *Julia Morgan: Building the California Women’s Movement*. Stay tuned!

### *What An Opportunity!*

ARE YOU TIRED of looking at that precious painting or valuable vase on the mantel? Why not donate it to our up-coming Gala auction. Look through your old treasures and see if you could part with that art-deco bracelet for someone else to enjoy and help to preserve our “Little Castle” at the same time. Give us a call 510-883-9710 or let us know by email. We will provide you with a donation form so you can claim your tax deductible contribution.

## 2013 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

“Everybody wants to create something great, awe inspiring...but nobody wants to do maintenance. Nobody wants to make sure that that great thing still exists in our grandchildren’s time. Greatness requires upkeep. But ...we are flawed, for we do not recognize this.”

—Kurt Vonnegut on architectural custodianship, from *Hocus Pocus*

WHY DONATE? Architecturally the Berkeley City Club building is a gem and donors are the key to our success!

Please make a generous Annual Fund gift today. Your support helps us qualify for grants, continue our preservation work and promote Julia Morgan’s legacy. Use the enclosed envelope or donate online at [www.landmarkheritagefoundation.org](http://www.landmarkheritagefoundation.org). Thank you for your support.

## NEW VIEWS OF THE “LITTLE CASTLE”

**S**TRIKING VIEWS of Julia Morgan's Berkeley City Club are featured in the current photographic exhibit in the Club's Loggia Gallery. Most notably is a view of the clubhouse from an unusual angle: high up from the southeast. How did the photographer achieve this view?

The photographer, Trevor Johnson, explained that he had permission from the First Congregational Church, the Berkeley City Club's neighbor across the street, to climb up into their belfry. "It was a steep ladder, and there were cobwebs," Johnson said. But he succeeded in taking a photograph of the clubhouse that allows the viewer to grasp, perhaps for the first time, just how monumental the building really is.

The exhibit includes plenty of unusual photographs of the club building, plus a few of flowers and some vacation shots taken in Guanajuato, Mexico. The exhibit demonstrates Trevor's excellent "eye" – his ability to capture a particular view or texture or play of light. He says he uses a Canon 7D Digital SLR camera. While Johnson regards himself as primarily a landscape and nature photographer, his photographs of the club demonstrates his deep feelings for the clubhouse. "This is a special place," Johnson said. "I can see the need to preserve the club for future generations." He has worked at the Berkeley City Club for seven years, and is the Club's Operations Manager.



Photo by Trevor Johnson

Panoramic East View.

### POPE BEQUEST

THE LANDMARK HERITAGE FOUNDATION *is pleased to announce that Patricia Pope, long-time Berkeley City Club member and stalwart swimmer, left a generous bequest to the LHF.*

*∞ In addition to her generous annual gifts, Miss Pope's thoughtful planned gift is very much appreciated. Five thousand dollars have been directed to the LHF endowment and the remainder of the gift is the first donation to the Next Large Project Fund. ∞*

*If you love the building as Miss Pope did please consider including in your estate plans a bequest or other planned gift to the LHF.*

*– Thank You –*

### *Sitting Pretty* VISIT THE JULIA MORGAN HISTORY ROOM

where you will see two beautiful fan-backed chairs recently donated to the Landmark Heritage Foundation. Mrs. Yvonne Rand, donor and past member of the Berkeley City Club, has told us the chairs were commissioned by Julia Morgan for the Emanu-El Sisterhood Residence in San Francisco in 1922.

It is fortunate that the two chairs, now in the Berkeley City Club, have survived over 90 years. The original fabric had deteriorated and was replaced three years ago by Retrospect Furniture Upholstery in San Francisco.

In-kind gifts, such as these chairs, are much appreciated by the Foundation and support our promotion of the legacy of Julia Morgan.





◆ *In Appreciation: Donors 2012* ◆

*The Landmark Heritage Foundation acknowledges these generous donors. Thank you all!*

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*All donations are appreciated. The LHF endowment and the unrestricted fund are the two most important funds. As the endowment grows, its interest will provide much-needed annual maintenance monies that insure the building's preservation. The unrestricted fund allows the Foundation to direct monies where they are most urgently needed.*