

JULIA MORGAN AND THE FAIR

A CENTURY AGO, San Francisco celebrated its rise from the rubble and ashes of the earthquake and fires of 1906 with the Panama Pacific International Exposition (PPIE). Officially, of course, the fair celebrated the opening of the Panama Canal. Like so many other organizations around the San Francisco Bay Area, the Berkeley City Club Conservancy is celebrating the centennial of PPIE. We begin with a brief tour of Julia Morgan's buildings at the fair. Please follow us on Facebook and our website to learn about further plans.

Julia Morgan's connection to the fair actually began years before ground broke on the site of the Jeweled City. She joined a coalition of women in Alameda County who wished to build a juvenile court building to handle an anticipated large number of runaway children lured to the region by the excitement of the fair. Morgan presented designs for a single-story frame building intended for a corner lot to the county supervisors. It does not appear to have been built.

The National Board of the YWCA was tasked with outfitting a building that would provide a moral/safe haven for the 1000 women expected to work at the fair as well as thousands of women who were expected to attend. Indeed, the YWCA was supposed to provide the moral compass for the fair. This YWCA building at the PPIE was the most important project of the National Board from 1913-1915, and this is the fair building for which Morgan designed the interior.

In contrast to her approach to designing most buildings, Morgan had to design from the outside in for the main YWCA building at the fair. She squeezed a lot of functions into this multi-use building, which was located just inside the Scott Street entrance, across from the Tower of Jewels. A sweeping curved stairway flanked the information desk. The stairway led to an open gallery overlooking the cafeteria and general seating areas, and proceeded to the second story, where patrons could nourish their minds at a lecture in the auditorium, or lie down on one of the many beds in the resting room.

The National Board decided that all proceeds from the services provided at the main fair building would go to the development of Asilomar, the conference center in Pacific Grove that Morgan designed for the YWCA from 1913-1928. The fair building was wildly successful – so popular, in fact, that it quickly proved inadequate for its primary purpose: to serve as a place of respite for the women employees (whose number reached 2,759). Thus, after the fair opened, a small Club House was constructed in the Amusement Zone. The modest – even utilitarian – wood frame building soon became known as “The Little House of Friendliness.” Female employees ate, socialized, bathed, and sought medical attention and advice at the Club House. Some articles report that this little building was relocated to Asilomar after the fair.

—Karen McNeill



Interior view of the main YWCA building at PPIE.



The House of Friendliness.

The Berkeley City Club Conservancy will soon be offering memberships. Watch your mail.

NEWS FROM THE CASTLE
SPRING 2015

News from the Castle is the official newsletter of the Berkeley City Club Conservancy. The Conservancy 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.

◆ BOARD OF DIRECTORS ◆

Tatjana Haschemi, *President*
Robert M. Hamilton, *Vice President*
Tom Friedland, *Treasurer*
Janice Kelly, *Secretary*

Christopher Adams, Lisa Bruce,
Sharon Entwistle, Karen Fiene,
Anthony W. Hawthorne,
Karen McNeill, Gary Samonsky

◆
Richard West

Berkeley City Club President

◆◆◆
The Julia Morgan Preservation Fund Committee of the Conservancy meets monthly to approve projects and disbursements. The Conservancy Board meets bimonthly. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings; call (510) 883-9710.

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



**BERKELEY CITY CLUB
CONSERVANCY**
2315 Durant Avenue #306
Berkeley CA 94704
Phone/Fax: (510) 883-9710
bccconservancy@att.net
www.berkeleycityclubconservancy.org

The Conservancy office is staffed
Wednesday & Thursday 10am–2pm

An Introduction to the Willers NORMA & WITOLD (*known as “Wit”*)



THE WILLER “TEAM” has been associated with the Club, and later the Conservancy, ever since Norma joined the Berkeley Women’s City Club in 1953. Her membership allowed Wit, an avid swimmer, to use the beautiful Julia Morgan pool (men could not be members at the time). That was the beginning of their 60-plus years of loyalty to the building. For all the years of the Conservancy’s existence, they have faithfully devoted their multiple talents (both are architects) to the work of helping to maintain and preserve the historical features of the magnificent building.

Now, all these years since their introduction to the Club, its building, and its pool, Norma and Wit continue in their dedicated and ardent support of the Berkeley City Club Conservancy’s projects. They want “their” building to be here for years to come.

You’ll have to wait for the full Willer story in issues to follow. In the meantime, take a look below at the partial list of projects that Norma and Wit promoted and were deeply involved in over many years.

High on the list of current Conservancy efforts is the pool project (see page 3). The pool is especially dear to the Willers, and they urge you to support this project by contributing generously to the Conservancy.

WILLER PROJECTS

For decades, Norma and Wit Willer have dedicated themselves to the Berkeley City Club and the Landmark Heritage Foundation/Berkeley City Club Conservancy. This is a very short list of the many projects they have initiated and supervised to protect and preserve the building:

- Repair and rehabilitation of Oriental carpets, first and second floors –
- Design and installation of unisex “accessible” restroom, ground floor –
- Restoration of Venetian Room’s coffered ceilings, floor, doors, furnishings –
- Repair of the building’s domestic water piping system –
- Restoration of leaded glass windows, first and second floors –

And the list goes on. We have much to thank them for.

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE 2014 DOCENTS

THEY WERE *Dick Bagwell, Donna Barnes, Mary Breunig, Carol Carman, Shannon Carroll, Sarah Gill, Tatjana Haschemi, Janice Kelly, Tecia Ryan, Robin Shourie, Betsy Smith, Bonnie Stiles, Felicitas Titus, Kate West, Barbara Westover.* On the 4th Sunday of each month and on special group tours in 2014, these wonderful Docents introduced more than 500 people to the beauty and wonders of the Berkeley City Club building. ∞ We couldn’t do without them.

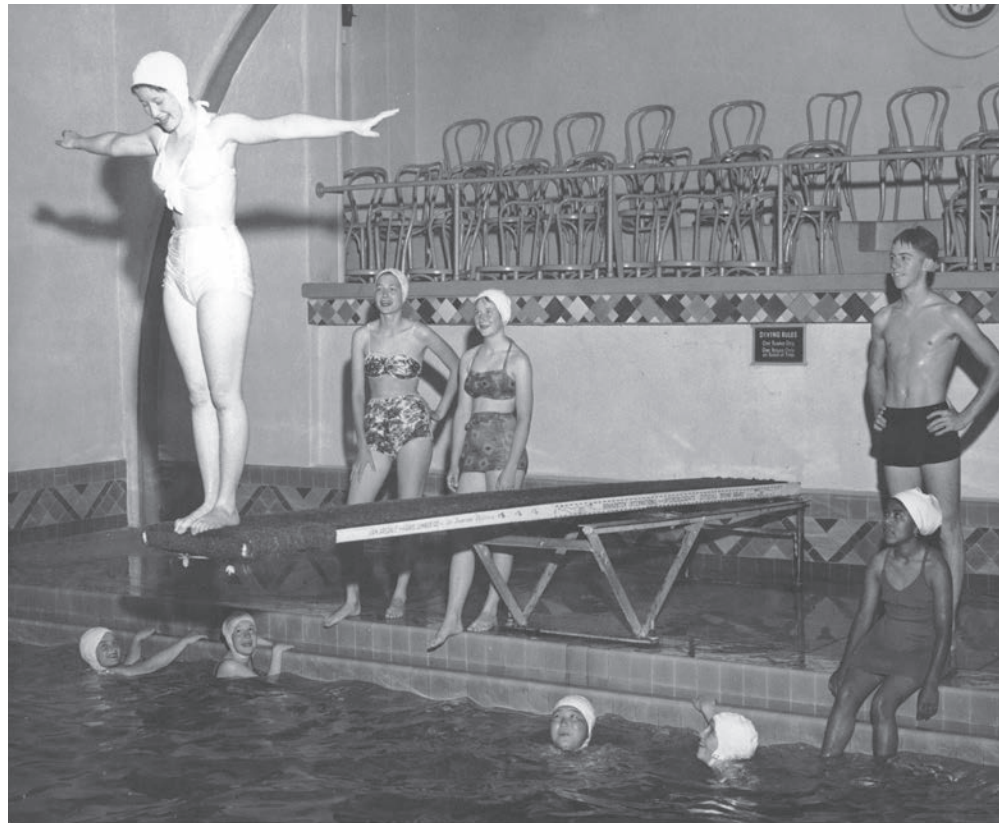
.....
BECOME A DOCENT. To find out more, just email the office.

THE PLUNGE

THE BERKELEY CITY CLUB Conservancy's primary focus right now is remediation of the pool environment in preparation for interior restoration, casement window replacement and repair of the exterior façade. The pool's excessively humid environment is damaging surfaces.

It is difficult to know when attempts were first made to remediate the pool environment; however, last year, Berkeley City Club archivist Dr. Sarah Gill discovered a 1933 Morgan blueprint for a proposed fan installation in a vault located under the pool's viewing stand. Sometime in the 1940s a series of six fans were installed over the east windows. The progressive failure of these fans prompted the Conservancy to review replacement.

Bringing the pool room environment under control is the first step for further pool room restorations. Berkeley City Club Conservancy board director Karen Fiene, who is the campus architect for Mills College (a place well known for a number of fine Morgan buildings) produced a study with proposals for improving the room's air handling and its environment. This study became the basis for the Conservancy's decision, in conjunction with the Berkeley City Club's Building Committee, to eliminate all the existing fans. The Pool Room Fan Project eliminates noisy fans which are an eyesore and replaces them with a single blower hidden in the same vault shown in Morgan's 1933 proposal. The Berkeley City Club Conservancy approved funds for the project, and contracts have been signed with a structural engineering firm and an HVAC contractor to begin this work. The Conservancy, in cooperation with the Berkeley City Club, will complete this task in 2015. The pool room will have a better environment provided by a hidden, quiet ventilation system, and we will be ready to move forward with further pool restorations.



Youth take the plunge in the Berkeley City Club pool. New fans will be installed in the vaults below the viewing gallery and behind the old diving board.

Berkeley City Club Conservancy 2015 Lecture Series

New Landscapes of Preservation presented by Christopher Hawthorne

May 21, 2015 | 7:30pm | \$15/person

Christopher Hawthorne, architecture critic for the Los Angeles Times, will discuss some of the ways the historic preservation movement in California has become slow and reactive and some of the ways it can get back ahead of the curve of public taste. The talk will feature a number of case studies (both encouraging and discouraging) from Southern California, including the happy story of the Annenberg Community Beach House in Santa Monica, the remnants of the once vast William Randolph Hearst/Marion Davies beachfront estate. Since being brought back to life, a pool and guest house of the Julia Morgan-designed estate have been opened to the public.

Christopher Hawthorne has been the architecture critic for the Los Angeles Times since 2004. He is also professor of practice at Occidental College, where he directs the Third Los Angeles Project, a series of public discussions on architecture and civic affairs in Southern California. Read his great article, "Gold Medal: Julia Morgan," at www.architectmagazine.com/architects/gold-medal-julia-morgan.

Next in the series: Architect and writer Lucia Howard, July 16 at 7:30pm

PLANS FOR 2015

We have committed \$50,000 toward pool ventilation, \$3,000 toward garden lanterns, and \$1,500 toward piano restoration.

The Conservancy's attention now turns to restoring the building façade, which is expensive and badly needed. Please give generously to the Berkeley City Club Conservancy so that current projects can be completed and façade restoration can begin.

And remember that whenever you shop at AmazonSmile, if you have designated the Berkeley City Club Conservancy as your preferred organization to support, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the Conservancy. Bookmark the link www.amazon.com and you'll support us every time you shop.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL! GO GREEN AND KEEP INFORMED.

◆ *In Appreciation: Donors 2014* ◆

The Berkeley City Club Conservancy acknowledges these generous donors. Thank you all!

◆ GOLD DONORS ◆
 [\$5,000 to \$30,000]

Anonymous I

◆ SILVER DONORS ◆
 [\$2,500 to \$4,999]

Mary Breunig

Mary M. Israel

◆ BRONZE DONORS ◆
 [\$1,000 to 2,499]

Robert Browne, Rainbow
 Waterproofing & Restoration
 Sharon Entwistle

Sandra & Thomas Friedland
 Sarah Gill

Bob Hamilton &
 John Leathers

Trish & Tony Hawthorne

Janice Kelly &
 Carlos Kaslow

Erica A. Kelton

Wendy Markel

Anne Middleton

Rosemary Mucklow

Judith & Joseph Workman

Daniel Zimmerlin

◆ COPPER DONORS ◆
 [\$500 to \$999]

Mechthild (Meg) Cranston

Joanne De Phillips

Tatjana Haschemi

John Lineweaver

Mara Melandry

Jean K. Reilly

Steve Schneider

Betsy Smith

◆ IRON DONORS ◆
 [Up to \$499]

Anonymous II

Anonymous III

Elizabeth & James Adams

Jane & Christopher Adams

Marian K. Altman

Patricia V. Angell

Donna Brazzi Barnes

Maria Beamer

Janet & Jon Bensick

Helen Bersie & Chris Hadley

Joanne G. Bertram

Alice & Robert Bishop

Nancy Blachman &
 David desjardins

Ragna Boynton &
 Elizabeth Raymer

California Historical Society,
 tour group

Carol Carman

Kathryn Carroll

Susan Cerny

Mrs. Alfred Childs

City of Cupertino,
 Senior tour group

Evelyn Cohen

Charli & John Danielsen

Lynne & Audel G. Davis

Daytripping, tour group

Blair Dean & Robert Cooter

Mary P. Dolven

Riley Doty, Doty Tile

Fredrica Drotos

Lynne Dal Poggetto &
 Burton Peek Edwards

Thomas W. Edwards

Margaret and Emmett Eiland

Vivian & Craig Fendel

Susan & Stephen Fisher

Andrea & William Foley

Anne Foley

Pam Garcia

Maryl Gearhart

Stuart M. Gold

Evelyn B. Goodman

Roberta Grant

Carol & Christopher Gray

Kass Green

Gretchen & Thomas Griswold

Dian Grueneich &
 Stephen Passek

Paul & Peggy Grunland

Michelle Hachigian

Haggin Museum, tour group

Valerie & Richard Herr

Inge S. Horton

Roxann Jacobus

Jarvis Architects

Virginia Jenner

Bill Jetton

Barbara & Thomas Job

Carol & Walter John

Roberta C. Johnson

Julia Morgan School for Girls,
 tour

Linda Kanat

Herma Hill Kay

Diana & Robert Kehlmann

Suzanne Klein

J. Kori Kody

David J. Kundtz

Germaine LaBerge

Almon E. Larsh Jr

Margaretta Lovell,
 UC student tour

Claire M. Lucas

Timothy Lundgren

Thomas J. MacBride Jr

Helen Marcos &
 David Williamson

Marlon Maus

William McClung

Diane & Steve McIntyre

Eloise (Billie) McKig

Karen McNeill

Polly Moore

Jean & Roger Moss

Mrs. Dalloways

Julie Nachtwey

Karen Nelson &
 Guy Benveniste

Donna & Robert Oliver

David S. Petta

Judy & Fred Porta

Evan Pugh

Carmelita Reyes &
 Jeffrey Johns

Diana & Charles Rixford

Barbara Robben

Dorothy K. Robinson

Helen E. Rogers

Deborah Rudolph &
 John Hawley

Jack Sawyer

Thomas C. Schwartzburg

Suzanne Geier Seton

Glenna & Alan Seyfer

Brenda Shank

Darryl Shaper

Robin & Harry Shourie

Daniel Smith & Assoc.,
 Architects

Grace Geyer Smith

Susan & Bruce Stangeland

Alexander Stec

Jane Sterzinger

Ruth & David Stronach

Brendan Sullivan-Sariñana

Dawn Swanson

Marianne (Poppy) Tanner

Jean Thomas

Daniella Thompson

William Thor

Erin Uesugi &
 Douglas Clough

Susan & C. Henry Veit

Betty & William Webster

Judith & Richard Wesell

Bracken White

Sarah W. Whitecotton

Kathryn S. Whitmer

Widowed Person Assoc.

Sacramento, tour group

Norma & Witold Willer

Charles W. Wolfram

Jennifer Yelland

◆ GIFTS IN MEMORY ◆

Natalie Balfour &
 John Cove Jr.

in memory of

Dr. Robert V. Balfour

Laura & Keith D. Fisher

in memory of

Rev. Colby Cogswell

Margaret & Thomas McAlone

in memory of

Alice McAlone

◆ GIFTS IN RECOGNITION ◆

Anonymous IV,

for Mary Breunig

Susan J. Austin,

for Betsy Smith tour

Sheila & Arthur Brauffman,

for Janice Kelly tour

Sharon Entwistle, *for Lisa Bruce*

Elvira (Dolly) Freese,

for Phi Gamma Delta

Trish & Tony Hawthorne,

for Marlon Maus

Mandy MacCalla,

for Sharon Entwistle

Heather Ripley,

for R. Lee Patterson

David Trachtenberg,

Trachtenberg Arch.,
for Mitzi Trachtenberg

All donations are appreciated. The Conservancy endowment and the unrestricted fund are the most important funds.

The unrestricted fund allows the Conservancy to direct monies where they are most urgently needed.