



## 640 Fund Has Strong Kick Off

Can you imagine the meetings in 1915 of the founders and builders of 640 Sutter Street as they chose architects and conceptualized the building? We like to think these women with their incredible foresight imagined this House That Women Built as it is today – historically preserved, beautifully maintained and so well loved.

Now it's our turn to build on their ingenuity in establishing an amazing architectural and historic space and preserve it for the next one hundred years of women through the 640 Fund.

The 640 Fund was initiated in October to most satisfying results. Letters from Misty Tyree, the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation President, were mailed to the membership in October and following our annual meeting, a round of follow up telephone calls were begun by the members of the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation Board to prior donors and event sponsors. This year the gifts received for the 640 Fund will bridge the period between last year's celebrated Centennial Gala and our next major fundraiser, which is now in the planning stages. As announced, funds from the 640 Fund will be used to safeguard the historic integrity of our building and further support our ongoing research and education activities that highlight the significant role our Club played in the women's club movement of the early 20th century.

As we kicked off, 100% of the Board members had generously contributed to the Fund. Within days, checks flooded the 640 Development Office, with gifts ranging from \$5,000 to \$100. We are gratified with this strong showing of loyalty and support. The Board fully understands that members have many competing obligations for their discretionary gifts, and values the gifts for our Club's preservation all the more. A heartfelt thank you to all who have given to date. It is the hope of the Board that 100% of our members will give this year. A second round of letters will be mailed this month to remind those who have yet participated of the tax advantages of doing so. Gifts large and small are deeply appreciated.

If you have questions about the Fund you would like answered, we urge you to call Michelle Mitchell in the Development Office at 415-872-7272.

The Board members wish to thank those who have stepped up to support our 640 Fund to date. We look forward to hearing from everyone prior to the end of 2016.

# A Message from the President, Misty Tyree



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### **Foundation Director**

Michelle Mitchell

415.872.7272

[director@640hpf.org](mailto:director@640hpf.org)

[www.640hpf.org](http://www.640hpf.org)

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*Misty Tyree*

# Alice Ross Carey Lecture

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*Architectural Historian Michael R. Corbett presents Bliss & Faville: Architects of the Metropolitan Club, featuring photos of the Metropolitan Club.*



*Members of the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation Board attended the lecture. From left to right, Maria Hilakos Hanke, Barbara Kimport, Carol Ann Rogers, Event Chair Gee Gee Platt, Molly Brant, Jo-Ann Rose and Misty Tyree.*

## Wine, Women & Financial Wisdom

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*Miranda Holmes, Event Hostess Helene Ettelson & Pam Royer*



*First Republic Bank prepared & presented this vital financial presentation for women by women.*



*Jan Casey, Patricia Smith & Lisa Harris.*



# The Centennial Oral History Project:

An Interview with Caroline Littman



*Caroline Littman*

Born Caroline Jane Russell, 30 year Metropolitan Club member Caroline Littman will celebrate her 90th birthday early next year. “The hardest thing about being 89,” she explains, “is that ev-

eryone is gone.” Caroline talks about the losses in her life with both a mixture of sadness and sense of being blessed, sharing stories of her father who lived to 98, her mother who had been promised she could go to college and then was not able to, her adored and “incredibly handsome” brother who was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease at age 50, and more recently the deaths of her beloved husband Allan and their daughter Victoria.

Caroline has an infectious laugh which surfaces often in conversation. Her engaging gaze sometimes wanders in response to a question and you feel that she is going back through the years, remembering. But mostly she looks directly at you, connecting in a very special way. You feel what she is feeling; you see the memory, share the emotion.



Her childhood in the farming community of Wayland, Massachusetts was almost idyllic. Her grandparents owned and worked a large farm that grew flowers and vegetables. Caroline recalls that Wayland had about four businesses and a school “downtown” and she live close enough to walk everywhere. “I was very much a part of a very large family,” she recalls. They attended the local Congregational Church every Sunday without fail, followed by Sunday dinner that included her maternal grandmother and two maiden aunts who lived together in Cambridge.

Caroline had lots of chores to do early Sunday morning before Church, getting ready for the family dinner at a table set with linen tablecloth, silver and china.

Thinking of her family, Caroline notes that “Duty was the most important thing for them.” Her father was working in Boston when both of his parents came down with pneumonia. His mother died and his father never recovered his health, so he had to return to Wayland to run the family farm.

Caroline’s mother had always wanted to go to Mt. Holyoke, a liberal arts college for women located about 70 miles from Wayland. Unable to do so herself, she encouraged Caroline who remembers taking the bus into Cambridge to take the entrance exam given at Harvard University. When she arrived at Mt. Holyoke for her freshman year in 1944, it was her first sight of what would be her home for the next four years. She reports that “my first six weeks at Mt. Holyoke could not have been worse.” The academics were tough and her roommate uncommunicative. “I had to work awfully hard.”

She had never been away from home for longer than a week. Although just 70 miles away, Caroline only returned home for major holidays. She and her mother would write each other one letter weekly. When laundry needed to be done, Caroline boxed it up and sent it home, with her mother mailing back the clothes when they were clean.

After settling in, Caroline loved Mt. Holyoke. “It was a beautiful place,” she recalls, adding, “I feel strongly that Mt. Holyoke helped me develop into my adult self, the person I was meant to be.” The experience raised her expectations about the world and her role in it. She studied Economics and Sociology, a combination she valued in later years. She would also tell Allan, commenting on CEOs she had met or heard, “They made bad decisions because they just studied Economics and not how people lived.”

When she graduated in 1948, Caroline went to live in an apartment in Cambridge with three other young women whom she had known in college. One of them was enrolled in graduate school at Harvard.

*Continued on page 5*

Caroline got a job at the Old Corner Bookstore near the State House in Boston. It was during this period that she met Allan Littman who was attending Harvard Law School on the G.I. Bill. They married in April of 1951 and he graduated cum laude in 1952.

Allan was born in England, the son of an American father and Austrian mother. In 1929, his father put Allan, then 10 years old, and a younger brother on a boat to America to stay with relatives until his mother and five other siblings could get to America from Portugal. At age 16, Allan went back to London and attended the University of London.



*Honeymoon? Some caption here.*

Allan saw a notice on the school bulletin board seeking someone to help drive a new car from Detroit to the West Coast. Allan thought this was a great idea and volunteered. They drove night and day and, Caroline reports, as they reached the Golden Gate Bridge, Allan said, "This place looks pretty good. You can drop me off any place." Within weeks he had secured a job at Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro law firm (where he eventually practiced for 42 years) and sent for Caroline, then pregnant with their first child, who travelled by train through Chicago and on to San Francisco. "San Francisco was a wonderful town," recalls Caroline. They eventually moved to Marin County, first Larkspur and then Tiburon, where they raised three sons and a daughter.

In addition to her Mt. Holyoke experience, Caroline credits her brother and her relationship with Allan for

her positive outlook.

Upon learning of her brother's Parkinson's diagnosis, she asked him, "You have had some bad things happen to you and yet you don't complain." Her brother responded, "Nobody likes anybody who complains about their life."

"I was very lucky marrying Allan. We had a very good relationship." Married for 59 years until Allan's death in 2010, they traveled frequently to Europe, and

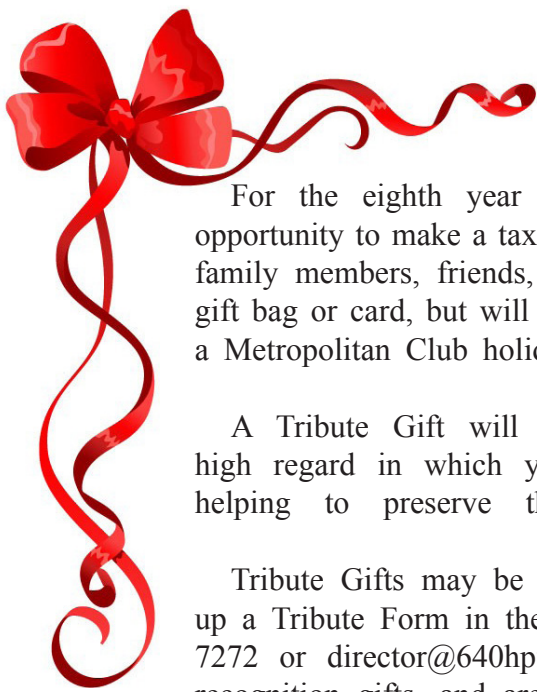


*Where are they? Some caption here.*

enjoyed their children and grand-children. Caroline was also involved in a number of volunteer activities, including being a founding Board member of Alumnae Resources which provided career resources and networking opportunities to women liberal arts graduates seeking their first jobs, career advancement or re-entry into the job market.

In 1987 Caroline joined the Metropolitan Club which she describes as a "wonderful place." She plays bridge weekly at the Club and attends other activities when she can.

Thinking back over her life Caroline remarks, "Remembering is great, but of course you remember all the things you did wrong as well." She doesn't dwell on the negative. "I know I have made mistakes. I haven't let it make me feel that I've had a terrible life." In fact, Caroline concludes, with a twinkle in her eye and her signature smile, "I've had a fabulous life."



## Holiday Tribute Program

For the eighth year the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation is offering a special opportunity to make a tax-deductible Holiday Tribute Gift to the Foundation in honor of special family members, friends, colleagues or staff. The recipients will not only receive a lovely gift bag or card, but will also have their names displayed on miniature gift bags hanging from a Metropolitan Club holiday tree in the main lobby for all to see during the holiday season.

A Tribute Gift will never break, get lost or go out of style. It symbolizes the high regard in which you hold the recipient. And, it is a gift that keeps giving by helping to preserve the Metropolitan Club's elegant facility and proud heritage.

Tribute Gifts may be made in any denomination (suggested minimum \$50). Simply pick up a Tribute Form in the lobby, or contact Michelle in the Foundation Office at (415) 872-7272 or [director@640hpf.org](mailto:director@640hpf.org). Remember, these make ideal hostess gifts and committee recognition gifts, and are a unique and meaningful way to honor or memorialize a special person in your life during the holiday season. Let us help simplify your holiday giving!

## Tribute Program: May to October 2016

### In honor of Helene Ettelson's Birthday

Dawne Bernhardt  
Molly Brant  
Peggy Brown  
Virginia Formichi  
Maureen Murray Fox  
Barbara Kimport  
Kathryn Lawrence  
Sue Molinari  
Marion Robertson  
Jo-Ann Rose  
Misty Tyree  
Gay Yamagiwa

**In honor of the new  
Metropolitan Club Board**  
640 Heritage Preservation Foundation  
Board

**In honor of Nora Monfredini's  
Birthday**  
Jo-Ann Rose

**In memory of Roberta Neustadter**  
The Devlin-Fowler Family

**Thinking of Nancy Noakes**  
Misty Tyree

**In honor of Murphy Robins'  
Birthday**

Maureen Murray Fox  
Marion Robertson  
Misty Tyree  
Gay Yamagiwa

**In honor of Kellie Abreu's  
Birthday**  
Jo-Ann Rose

**In memory of Lola Bugatti**  
Lynn A. Jacobs  
Sue Molinari

**In memory of Delia Ehrlich**  
Molly Brant  
The Devlin-Fowler Family  
Nadia Ilyin  
Nancy Johnson  
Jo-Ann Rose  
Misty Tyree  
Lynn Armstrong Winkel

**In memory of Lawrence W. Jones**

Molly Brant  
Misty Tyree

**In memory of Loretta Juhas**  
Virginia Formichi

**In memory of Kathryn McNeil**  
Carol Ann Rogers



## Elizabeth Pillsbury Society Testimonial: Peggy Mitchell

*"I first joined the Club in 1985. For several years the fact that my work had long hours and its location hampered my ability to fully participate in Club activities. Since retirement, I have had the enormous pleasure of making far better use of the Club and it of me as I have co-chaired both the Landmark and Centennial Galas and joined the Board of the 640 Heritage Preservation Board. The Club has truly become a second home for me. When my husband and I decided to redo our wills, the natural thing for me was to add the 640 HPF as a beneficiary of my will. I even plan to add to the gift in the near future, as I am grateful for the experiences I have had and hope that the Club is around for generations to come for its members."*



*Peggy Mitchell  
EPS Member*

## Elizabeth Pillsbury Society for Planned Giving

*We thank these women for their thoughtful foresight:*

**Mary Louise Anderson**

**June Arney**

**Drue Ashford**

**Judith Branch**

**Alice Ross Carey**

**Mildred Centanni**

**Courtney S. Clarkson**

**Chong Cook**

**Evelyn R. David**

**Christine Dohrmann**

**Carol Ede**

**Dr. Cecile Julia Eggens**

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**Patricia Bondesen Smith**

**Lynn H. Thompson**

**Misty Tyree**

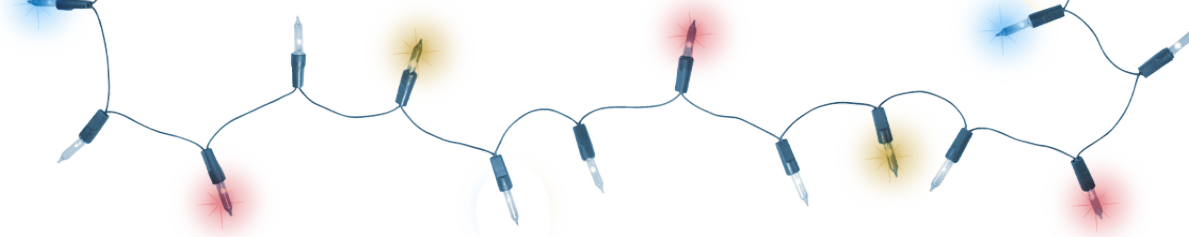
**Margrethe Ann Welch**

**Nancy Weston**

**Renate-Karin Wunsch**

**Mary Yetter**

*If you would like to receive more information about joining the Elizabeth Pillsbury Society, please contact the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation office at 415.872.7272 or [director@640hpf.org](mailto:director@640hpf.org).*



## Year End Campaign Reminder

Thank you to the many donors who have already reached out to the Foundation in support of our 640 Fund. As the end of the year approaches, please remember you can make your tax-deductible gift to the Foundation on our website, [640hpf.org](http://640hpf.org). Our secure site is a fast and convenient way to contribute to any of our campaigns, with immediate confirmation of receipt. Simply hit the “Donate” button from any page and fill out the form.

[www.640hpf.org](http://www.640hpf.org)

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\*Our Leadership donors with gifts of \$1,000 and above will be invited to our Annual Donor Appreciation Luncheon.



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