

640
HERITAGE PRESERVATION
FOUNDATION
The Power of Preservation

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THE 640 REPORT



Treasuring the House that Women Built



There are approximately 188 San Francisco listings in the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program "to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources." San Francisco sites range from Golden Gate Park to historic districts, individual homes and office buildings, public buildings and spaces.

Based upon the successful National Register nomination papers prepared by architectural historian Michael Corbett, 640 Sutter Street was awarded placement in 2004. The nomination detailed its Italian Renaissance Revival architecture by the noted San Francisco architectural firm of Bliss and Faville and its creation as the Woman's Athletic Club, sponsored by many prominent women who conceived, planned and financed its construction and the first such institution west of the Mississippi.

Preservation itself can take many forms, from maintaining archival photos of a building to ensuring its continued historic, architectural and structural integrity to assisting property owners in the care and treatment of historic properties.

The Secretary of the Interior has developed Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, described on its website as "common sense historic preservation principles in non-technical language. They promote historic preservation best practices that will help to protect our nation's irreplaceable cultural resources.... Guidelines offer general design and technical recommendations to assist in applying the Standards to a specific property. Together, they provide a framework and guidance for decision-making about work or changes to a historic property.... Historic district and planning commissions across the country use the Standards and Guidelines to guide their design review processes."

In the 2004 to 2010 seismic upgrade and renovation project of the Metropolitan Club, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards were closely followed. The 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation, a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit, accepts tax-deductible contributions to assist the Metropolitan Club in paying for repairing and rehabilitating qualified historic features and components of 640 Sutter Street. To date, the Foundation has contributed \$6.8 million and with your support looks forward to continuing to do so.

Through this work, the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation and its supporters treasure the role our building has played in the lives of so many women as the site of the first women's athletic club west of the Mississippi. Having chosen prominent architects for the project, the women who built 640 Sutter added to San Francisco's character and rich architectural fabric, enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. As noted by the San Francisco Planning Department, "historic preservation is a strategy for conserving significant elements of the built environment in order to maintain a tangible physical connection to the past."

A Message from the President Barbara Kimport

Dear Friends,

At our March board meeting, we honored Misty Tyree for her unwavering and generous leadership of the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation. To say she has been superb is an understatement.

Misty worked closely with Lisa Harris, Peggy Mitchell and Carol Ann Rogers to produce the incredibly successful Centennial Gala in 2015. Two Saks 5th Avenue Fashion Shows chaired by Cathy Goodman raised funds for the Foundation's mission during her tenure. Our annual appeal increased in both revenue and donor participation from 2014 to 2016.

Our meetings have been thorough and informative and Misty had the foresight to bring in philanthropic advisor Christine Dohrmann to facilitate the development of the Foundation's strategic plan which sets forth priorities for the next four years. Misty has guided us all in a most collaborative and gracious manner through opportunities and challenges. Fortunately, she will continue to serve on the board as a director.

We also recognize Karen Rose for her work on behalf of the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation. Most recently, Karen served as treasurer which involved all the financial details for both the Centennial Gala and the Heritage Fair. Her guidance and expertise were invaluable.

We are grateful for their service and hope you all will have the opportunity to thank them as well when you see them playing bridge, attending an exercise class or enjoying lunch with friends.

In this report, please read about the fun Donor Appreciation Lunch chaired by Peggy Mitchell and the Foundation's upcoming events. More details will be forthcoming over the next few months.

We appreciate your interest and support. Wishing you a good summer!



Barbara Kimport



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The Centennial Oral History Project:

An Interview with Virginia J. Formichi

When Virginia Jeanne Formichi joined the Woman's Athletic Club of San Francisco in 1952, she had just received her JD from the University of San Francisco, the only woman in her class. "I joined," explained Virginia, "because my best friend belonged to the Club. Once a week, she and I would swim in the pool, use the sauna and then head up to Nob Hill to dine at Papagayo, the famous Mexican restaurant in the Fairmont Hotel."



Although only 27 years old at the time, Virginia had already achieved a B.A. in Sociology from Dominican College, and an MSSW from Catholic University of America. She pursued her law degree by attending evening classes while working full-time at Catholic Social Service. At the recommendation of her supervisor

at Catholic Charities, she also pursued post-graduate work at UC Berkeley from 1953 to 1955 while continuing employment as a social worker in San Francisco. In 1955, Virginia was asked to go to Rome and direct an adoption agency for children in Italy, Malta and Lebanon. Between 1955 and 1962, the agency provided placements for almost 3000 children on a one-by-one basis with families all over the United States. One of the agency's tasks, once a child had been approved for adoption and a visa, was to provide adult escorts to accompany the children to their new families. She recalls that one successful source of escorts was airline employees, especially those from TWA. She herself brought several children to their new homes in Northern California on her annual visits home. The adoptive family of one of them, a four year old girl, kept in touch with her regularly, eventually inviting Virginia to the girl's wedding many years later.

In 1962, still based in Rome, Virginia made a

career change to socio-economic development with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) serving Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and India. Among her responsibilities was making sure that U.S. foodstuffs were being efficiently distributed in the various recipient countries. Toward that end, she recalls, there was a need to help local agencies understand how to use foods with which they were not familiar. There was no such problem in Italy. They immediately converted shipments of flour into pasta which was readily usable and accepted! As a child welfare specialist, Virginia was asked by the U.N. High Commission for Refugees to conduct studies concerning unaccompanied Hungarian youth in Austria which also included a two month stay in Yugoslavia to work at a camp for refugee children who had come across the border to escape the effects of the revolution. "There was no electricity and no running water," recalled Virginia. "Every two weeks they would send a car out to take me to Belgrade so that I could take a real bath. But it was amazing how clean I could be with just my daily pitcher of water, every morning and every evening. Talk about rationing!"

On another occasion, Virginia was included on a papal flight organized by the Holy See to survey the damage from civil strife in Jordan. As the CRS representative, her assignment was to ascertain how stored U.S. foodstuffs had fared. She accompanied a representative of the Knights of Malta, a physician, who brought some medications and supplies and was to determine future needs. Unexpectedly, the war had not terminated! She stayed in the home of a CRS colleague, sleeping on mattresses on the floor. Bombs were constantly being lobbed over the house. "The only food we had was flour and water, so we ate pancakes for every meal. After that, I never wanted to see another pancake." When they finally went out, they traveled under the protection of the papal flag which afforded them "laissez passer." "We managed to travel the whole of Jordan. There were many religious orders taking care of children and the elderly," she explained. "It was appalling to see children on the floor of those institutions, arms off, legs off. When you see war, it is not pleasant. We made a list of supplies needed and fortunately when we got to Aqaba we located a supply that could be distributed and others were ordered."

Continued on page 6

The Annual Donor Appreciation Luncheon



Event Moderator Sharon Woo, Patricia Sughrue Sprincin, Sallie Huntting and Event Chair Peggy Mitchell.



Outgoing 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation Board President Misty Tyree presided over the event.

On April 6th the Metropolitan Club and the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation hosted the annual major donor luncheon, which this year was highlighted by guest speakers Patricia Sughrue Sprincin and Sallie Huntting in a session moderated by long-time Metropolitan Club member Sharon Woo. Patricia and Sallie are two of the most prominent leaders in Bay Area philanthropy, and together have orchestrated over 80 highly successful fundraising events.

The speakers' additional accomplishments are astonishing in their breadth. Patricia is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Opera Guild, Chair of Opening Night at the Opera and a member of the Board of Governors of the San Francisco Symphony. A highlight was her service as Chair of the Black and White Ball in 2005, 2008, 2010 and 2012. A daughter of the late Kansas State legislature representative Kathryn Sughrue, who served from 1976 to 1991, Patricia attributed much of her drive and talent to her mother.



Elizabeth Pillsbury Society members Misty Tyree, Lynn H. Thompson, Carol Duncan Ede, Margaret Handelman, Peggy Mitchell, Patricia Bondesen Smith, Melissa Li, Eveyln David, Courtney Clarkson, Barbara Johnson, Chong Cook, Judith Branch, Dr. Cecile Julia Eggens and Chair of the Elizabeth Pillsbury Society, Helene Ettelson.





Marie Berggren, Margaret van der Reis, Gerri Riordan and Metropolitan Club President Elizabeth J. Folger.

Sallie has served on the Executive Boards of the San Francisco Opera Guild, the San Francisco Red Cross and chaired the SF Opera Ball, the Symphony Supper, the Papillion Ball and the Fashion Show for the Bay Area Arthritis Auxiliary. She has worked as Chief Development Officer for the Ronald McDonald House in San Francisco and Executive Vice President of the Academy of Art University.

The guests for the luncheon were those who contributed leadership gifts to the Foundation in the 2016 year as well as the members of the Elizabeth Pillsbury Society. The guests enjoyed seeing one another in a lovely setting and enjoyed hearing Patricia and Sallie tell “backstage” tales which included meeting celebrities such as Richard Gere, the Dali Lama and Truman Capote, effectively managing volunteers and in Patricia’s case, keeping an elephant from ruining the ambience of an over-the-top gala. It was a luncheon to remember.



The Centennial Oral History Project, cont'd.

Continued from page 3



Virginia (right) with a friend in Rome

Describing her life abroad, Virginia remembers, "I enjoyed life in Rome like you would not believe." She had friends among the ex-pat community as well as many "very interesting" Italian friends. "My spoken Italian was not great," she says, "But I had a very good reading ability." During her stay, she translated and edited a book on Italian social work. "When I was president of the European Chapter of Social Work, we sold copies to many universities as a fundraiser." Thinking about her experiences of those years, Virginia says, "If I had it to do over, I would do it all again. I had such joy in seeing those children go off to their new lives. I personally went to many of those departures. I have a picture on my desk of myself with a little baby in arms waiting at the airport to depart for the U.S. with two nuns."

Virginia's work abroad received commendations from the governments of both Italy and Malta. Pope Pius VI conferred on her the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross and she was named a Dame of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, a papal order. She was also listed in "Who's Who in America," "Who's Who in California,"

and "Who's Who in Human Services Professionals."

In 1972, Virginia's life took a major turn when her mother died and she returned to San Francisco permanently to help her father with his expansive real estate business. She obtained her real estate broker's license and reconnected with friends from her earlier life. "My father was a renaissance man. He came to this country from Pisa, Italy with only a grammar school education, but he was so accomplished. He was musical and could play any instrument that had a string." Her father had acquired properties in four Bay Area counties during the Depression. Describing her mother, a native San Franciscan, Virginia said, "She didn't push me and she supported what I wanted to do. She even paid my dues at the Metropolitan Club all those years I was away!"

Virginia was asked to serve on the Mother Mary Raymond Scholarship Fund Board at her alma mater Dominican College in 1974 and continues in that work today. She was president of the Dominican Alumni Association President from 1984 to 1987. Virginia has served on the Metropolitan Club's Board of Directors and is a regular bridge player. She has seven nieces and nephews and 11 grand-nieces and grand-nephews. This year marks her 65th year as a Metropolitan Club member and in November she will celebrate her 92nd birthday.

What has Virginia learned from her amazing life experiences? "You don't learn just one life lesson. You learn a lot about the generosity of individual people. They do so many good things and they go out of their way to do them. They give so abundantly. I know so many stories of people who have done such good acts, and not to their own advantage."

By Carol Ann Rogers

Tribute Program: January to May 2017

In honor of
Marie Berggren
Ruthie Conway

In memory of
Don Burns
Helene Ettelson

In memory of
William Edlund
Molly Brant

In honor of
Dee & Rich Eva's
50th Wedding Anniversary
Helene Ettelson

In honor of
Elizabeth J. Folger
Lynn H. Thompson

In memory of
H. Greig Fowler
Aimee Fowler Carlson
Elizabeth & Robert Devlin

In memory of
Mary Ann Fullilove
Molly Brant

In honor
of Caroline Littman
Nancy Johnson
Carol Ann Rogers

In honor of
Ayn McGee's Birthday
Helene Ettelson

In honor of
Misty Tyree
Barbara Kimport

New President Barbara Kimport

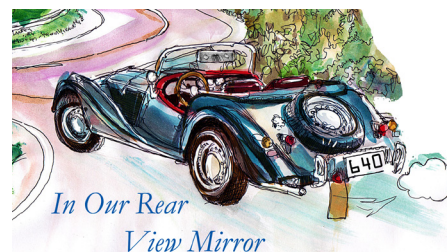
Barbara Kimport joined the Foundation Board in June of 2015. This April the Foundation welcomed her as its new President. In her time on the Board she has made significant contributions to its progress, both as a leader and as a team player. She spearheaded development of guidelines for operating an effective board, and fully supported creation of a strategic plan and our chosen methodology for completing it. She was an active participant in its development and is committed to its future as a living framework document for the Foundation. In the fall of 2016 Barbara was Co-chair of the 640 Fund Annual Appeal.

After pursuing a legal career for several years, Barbara moved on to community volunteer opportunities, while raising her three daughters. A former vice president of the San Francisco Junior League, she also headed the boards of trustees of the Katherine Delmar Burke School, the Urban School and the Homeless Prenatal Program. She is also a highly respected and accomplished professional in philanthropic and non-profit leadership roles, including heading development efforts for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the San Francisco YMCA, the San Francisco Zoo, and the San Francisco Art Institute.

The Board looks forward to working with Barbara to meet the challenges it faces today.

Special Thanks to Elaine Lugo

The 640 Foundation Board of Directors sends special thanks to Metropolitan Club member Elaine Lugo for researching and writing the last four installments of our "History is Fun Series" In Our Rear View Mirror. These lighthearted, brief glimpses of past life in the historic Metropolitan Club are sent to Foundation supporters in the months when the 640 Report is not published. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with her.



Elizabeth Pillsbury Society for Planned Giving

We thank these women for their thoughtful foresight:

Planned Giving Society Members

Mary Louise Anderson

Drue Ashford

Judith Branch

Courtney S. Clarkson

Chong Cook

Evelyn R. David

Christine Dohrmann

Carol Ede

Dr. Cecile Julia Eggens

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Kathleen M. Meagher

Peggy Mitchell

Suzanne Muntzing

Nancy G. Raznick

Susan D. Scannon

Patricia Bondesen Smith

Lynn H. Thompson

Misty Tyree

Margrethe Ann Welch

In Memoriam Contributors

Estate of June Arney

Estate of Alice Ross Carey

Estate of Mildred Centanni

Estate of Ilse Gaede

Estate of Shirley Hucklin

Estate of Effiellen Jefferies

Estate of Elizabeth Lippitt

Estate of Chrissie Martenstein

Estate of Jo Martinoni

Estate of Elizabeth

O'Shaughnessy

Estate of Mary E. Phillips

Estate of Emilie Plake

Estate of Nancy Weston

Estate of Mary Yetter

If you would like to receive information about joining the Elizabeth Pillsbury Society, please contact the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation office at 415.872.7272 or director@640hpf.org.

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THE ALICE ROSS CAREY
MEMORIAL LECTURE

Ruins to Redemption: Historic Preservation Fund Committee

Learn how a small band of preservationists held the City and a developer accountable to create the Historic Preservation Fund Committee in 2005. The grants awarded since have helped protect thousands of historic buildings. Planning Commission President Rich Hillis will examine the origins, legacy, and future of the HPFC.

Join us on October 19, 2017

Co-Sponsored by: San Francisco Heritage and
the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation.
640 Sutter Street, San Francisco

SF Heritage Member, \$10; Non-SF Heritage Member, \$15
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