

Acquisition of Gabriel Moulin Historic Photo Images

In July, a generous donor made it possible for the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation to acquire 30 historic images of the original Woman's Athletic Club building at 640 Sutter Street, taken by famed photographer Gabriel Moulin. The images include 8 x 10 and 5 x 7 original glass and film negatives of both the interior and exterior of the 1917 club house.

In the spring of 2016, the Foundation was introduced to Jean Moulin, wife of Thomas Moulin, grandson of Gabriel, in conjunction with the production of the soon to be released Metropolitan Club Centennial History Book. Club President Lisa Harris and Foundation Director Carol Ann Rogers visited Jean in San Rafael where the Moulin Studios photographic collection now resides. They were thrilled to see images that they had never seen before, along with originals of some of the photographs that hang on Club walls currently.



*The original gymnasium, now the
Garden Room*



The original building



*The original dining room, then the
Lounge, and now the Century Room*

Gabriel Moulin, photographer, Moulin Studios

Moulin Studios began in 1909 and continued in operation through three generations of Moulin photographers—Gabriel, his sons Raymond and Irving, and his grandson Tom. Their archives contain over 10,000 photographs, including architectural images, urban skylines, western landscapes, and historic events. Examples of these can be found at www.moulinstudios.com. As the website states, “Nowhere is there a more beautiful historic record of San Francisco from the 1880’s to the present than in their archives.” (See more on the history of the Moulin Family on page five of this Report.)

We are thrilled to have the ownership of these very important images of the Metropolitan Club’s earliest years transferred to the Foundation so that they may be made available to future generations of Club Members, San Franciscans, scholars and the public to study and enjoy. We are working to have them properly scanned and are investigating appropriate restoration and conservation techniques.

A Message from the President, Misty Tyree

Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now. - Alan Lakein

This quote is very apropos because the 640 Foundation has just finished the first phase of its five year strategic plan. Now we are poised to implement the plan and move to the next phase.

The approach to the strategic planning process started with two days of discussion. Based on that discourse, four priorities were identified. The four priorities are:

- I. Ensure the preservation of the historic building known as the Metropolitan Club.
- II. Expand membership and public awareness of the Foundation's role and responsibility.
- III. Maximize the Foundation's fundraising program.
- IV. Institutionalize a continuing strategic planning process.

During the planning process, we also considered the Mission Statement. The mission has not changed and is based on the original Articles of Incorporation. However, it has been reworded into a very concise statement with each word chosen carefully to reflect the Articles of Incorporation. The mission of the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation is as follows:

To preserve and celebrate the history, architecture and heritage of women's athletic clubs in San Francisco, with particular reference to the Woman's Athletic Club of San Francisco, now known as the Metropolitan Club, through research, public education and funding activities.

Outreach and education to the community is a very important part of our mission and our strategic plan. For the third year, the Foundation is partnering with San Francisco Heritage to hold the Alice Ross Carey Memorial lecture. This year, the focus of the lecture will be Bliss & Faville, architects of the Metropolitan Club, and will profile the architectural profession in San Francisco in the early 20th Century. An interesting fact is that Walter Bliss also designed the private homes of four of the founding members.

Additionally, the late, former Foundation President Alice Ross Carey's husband Paul Fisher continues to conduct his "Club Land" tour for City Guides. He highlights many of the downtown clubs starting at the top of Nob Hill and ending in the Union Square area. With Metropolitan Club permission, he brings a small number of people into the Club to view our beautiful fourth floor. For the most recent tour on August 6, there were about 15 happy visitors.

The Foundation is excited to have two brilliant women from First Republic Bank present a financial seminar in the coming months to help women manage their finances and better prepare themselves for the future.

The Foundation is stronger and healthier than ever. We invite all Club Members to become friends of the Foundation.

Misty Tyree



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Remembering Our Loss and Our Good Fortune

The 640 Foundation has lost three very special supporters and friends since our last issue of the 640 Report, with the deaths of Kathryn Kendrick McNeil on May 25, Delia Fleishhacker Ehrlich on July 31, and Roberta Elliott Neustadter on August 1. All were long time members of the Metropolitan Club. They faced a variety of major challenges in their lives, dealt with failures and tragedies, learned from them and grew. They found strength and happiness in family and friendships, worked hard, and had a broad spectrum of philanthropic pursuits. All three lived long and full lives. The opportunity to know and befriend women like these is one of the greatest gifts available to those involved with the 640 Foundation and the Metropolitan Club.



Kathryn McNeil

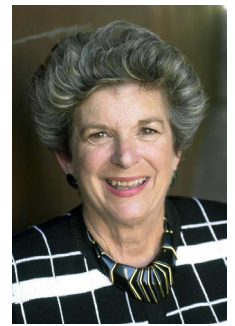
At the age of six, Kathryn McNeil first joined the Metropolitan Club, where she learned how to swim. Her sponsor, her mother Mrs. Charles Kendrick, was one of a small group of women who purchased bonds to help sponsor the expansion of the clubhouse in the early 1920's and then forgave them.

Kathryn graduated from Vassar in 1943 and late in World War II married Naval Officer Voit Gilmore. They soon moved to Southern Pines, North Carolina, where he became involved in his family's lumber business. She raised five children, and developed her lasting love of the Great Smoky Mountains of southern Appalachia, where they had a summer home on Purchase Mountain. Although the marriage did not last, Kathryn's affinity for the flora and fauna of the mountains and the serenity of this remote area is reflected later in her writings. *Purchase Knob: essays from a mountain notebook*, published in 1999, is available in the Club's library.

Kathryn returned to San Francisco in 1974. She reconnected with old friends with whom she pursued her writing, love of books, and hiking, and she married Don McNeil, the widower of a long time friend. She rejoined the Metropolitan Club in the early 1980's, serving on the House and Library Committees, and enjoyed the library and the dining room. She and her former husband donated Purchase Knob and its 600-acre site to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. It is used as a science

center, hosting groups of school children.

Delia Fleishhacker Ehrlich also enjoyed a multi-generational relationship with the Metropolitan Club. Her grandmother, Mrs. Mortimer Fleishhacker, was the 57th woman to sign the Woman's Athletic Club Membership Registry when the Club opened in 1917, and her mother Janet was also a member. During her Hamlin School days, Delia was a junior member. She re-joined as an adult member in 1960.



Delia Ehrlich

After attending Bryn Mawr College, Delia married John Ehrlich. They had six children, two of whom died in infancy. The marriage ended, and Delia went to work at Macy's. She created and headed its Personal Shopping Service, running its Community Relations Department, and helping to establish Macy's Passport Program. Community service was indeed in the Fleishhacker genes and was evident in Delia even then.

Delia was resilient, energetic and enthusiastic. She had a passion for raising funds for non-profit organizations, particularly the arts. Delia shared her grandparents' home and lovely gardens in Woodside with the 640 Foundation during the Stewardship Campaign, hosting events for donors and prospects. The lovely English manor-house Green Gables was designed by architect Charles Sumner Greene, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Delia was always the 640 Foundation's ready advisor and cheerleader. And, she helped so many others.

Our third friend and supporter, Roberta Elliott Neustadter died at the age of 102. She was born and raised on a small farm outside of Throntown, Indiana. She graduated from Ball State University and taught at a two-room schoolhouse for four years.



Roberta Neustadter

She met her first husband Arch Monson when his family moved from Indianapolis back to their family farm nearby. Arch had moved to California where he had a

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Metropolitan Club

Please join us for the third annual

THE ALICE ROSS CAREY
MEMORIAL LECTURE



Saint Francis Hotel

Bliss & Faville Architects of the Metropolitan Club

presented by Michael R. Corbett, Architectural Historian

Architectural historian Michael Corbett will survey the work of the venerable firm Bliss & Faville, designers of the Metropolitan Club, as a way of looking at the architectural profession in that formative period in the City's development.

Thursday, October 27, 2016

6 to 8 p.m.

Tickets are available at www.sfheritage.org or 415.441.3000, ext. 22

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

Optional Dinner \$65

Co-presented by



HERITAGE &



Michael Corbett Provides Lecture Details

Renowned architectural historian Michael R. Corbett has been selected as the 2016 Alice Ross Carey Lecturer by co-sponsors San Francisco Heritage and the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation. Mr. Corbett, who prepared the Metropolitan Club's 2004 National Register nomination, had since that time, hoped to delve more fully into the lives and body of work of the Club's architects Bliss and Faville, a project never before undertaken. With a grant from the 640 Foundation, his extensive research is essentially complete and a manuscript under way. His lecture will share aspects of his findings as he has summarized below. - Gee Gee Platt

Bliss and Faville, architects of the Metropolitan Club, were among the most prolific architects of early twentieth century San Francisco. More than most major firms of the time, the overwhelming majority of their work was in San Francisco itself. Among their best known buildings were the St. Francis Hotel, the Bank of California, the Matson Building, the Southern Pacific Building and the S.P.'s China Basin Building, the Metropolitan and University Clubs, the State Building in the Civic Center, and the Masonic Temple on Van Ness. They also prepared a competition entry for the Chicago Tribune Tower, and

plans for the University of Nevada and the Atascadero Colony (home of the Women's Republic) and its major buildings. Faville designed more of the buildings of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition than any other architect.

What accounted for the success of the firm? The partners were talented individuals who were well trained; both studied at M.I.T. before a university education for architects was common. Bliss's extraordinary family connections brought in most of the firm's work throughout the life of the firm. Faville's skill in design competitions and his involvement in professional activities gave them a national reputation. Perhaps most of all, they were an articulate architectural voice for a vision of the city and its evolving social structure that was both top down and progressive.

This talk represents work in progress and includes much new information about the architects and a fascinating window on San Francisco in the early twentieth century.

MOULIN STUDIOS

Moulin Studios was founded in 1909 by Gabriel Moulin at the age of 27. Born Charles Peter Gabriel Moulin in San Jose in 1872, he was the son of a French immigrant who had arrived in California, accompanied by his mother (Gabriel's grandmother), in 1852. When Gabriel was in grade school, the family moved to San Francisco where he remained until his death in 1945.

Compulsory education did not extend at that time to high school, so Gabriel was apprenticed to work in 1884 with Isaiah West Taber at \$12 per week; although, he eventually finished high school at night. Taber was at the time San Francisco's leading commercial photographer. In 1891, Gabriel worked briefly for photographer Max Karas, and then for R.J. Walters under whom he photographed the 1894 California Midwinter International Exposition in Golden Gate Park.

The entire collection of Walters' negatives was destroyed in the Great Fire that followed the 1906 earthquake. Gabriel's photographs include many well-known images taken of San Francisco immediately following the earthquake. Three years later, Gabriel founded his own commercial photographic studio, eventually locating it at 153 Kearney Street. He soon became sought after as the official photographer for the Bohemian Club, the Palace of Fine Arts at the Panama Pacific International Exposition, the Golden Gate and Bay Bridge construction in 1937 and the Golden Gate International Exposition (Treasure Island) in 1939 to 40. Gabriel was a member of the Bohemian Club and the Family Club and was friendly with many of the most important architects in San Francisco. Likely, he knew both Walter Bliss and William Faville, architects of the 640 Sutter Street Woman's Athletic Club.

According to the biography included in the Bancroft Library collection of Moulin's Views of the Bohemian Grove, "Moulin's photographic technique is characterized by highly detailed and carefully composed settings. He was particularly well-known for his meticulously crafted home interior photographs." His popularity, along with his experience in architectural subjects, made him the ideal photographer for the Woman's Athletic Club's enlarged and remodeled clubhouse at 640 Sutter Street when it opened in 1923. He had previously photographed the interior and exterior of the original 1917 building. The original negatives of the Club were recently acquired by the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation (see article on page one). According to the Bancroft biography, Moulin Studios "is credited with preserving many gelatin nitrate negatives and

glass plates from this era" (early 1900s). The Woman's Athletic Club collection includes a number of glass plates. In addition to architectural photography, Gabriel was interested in nature photography and extensively photographed redwood forests, Lake Tahoe, Yosemite and other California landscapes. The Bancroft Library has 54 photographic prints of Bohemian Grove activities from 1906-1909.

Gabriel and his wife, Lenore Morrill, had three children, Evelyn, Raymond and Irving. They lived in the Buena Vista Terrace area on lower Twin Peaks. Gabriel used his daughter Evelyn as a model in many of his redwoods photographs. His sons Raymond and Irving became photographers, with Irving working on the editorial staff of the Daily Californian at UC-Berkeley where he took most of the paper's photographs. According to Moulin-Studios website, "Though Gabriel took many of the panoramic shots of both bridges (Golden Gate and Bay), Raymond did most of the photography on the bridges themselves. Fearlessly climbing up towers and daring to negotiate catwalks, Raymond captured innumerable priceless photographs. One of his shots of the Bay Bridge was used on a postage stamp issued in 1942."

When Gabriel died, Raymond and Irving took over Moulin Studios and moved its headquarters to 181 Second Street. The studio was huge and could be used as the setting for interior commercial shots as well as house the finest of photographic equipment. In 1950, they added a complete motion picture studio.

In 1977, Gabriel's grandson, Tom Moulin, and his wife Jean, bought Moulin-Studios from Raymond, Irving having previously moved to Southern California. Jean recalls that she was doing a lot of volunteer work at the time but, "We lost our son in a car accident so I needed to work." Regarding her increasing involvement in the studio, she explained, "I just fell in love with the collection. The more I delved into it, the more I realized how much history it contained."

With the onset of digital photography, Jean reports, the studio was not getting enough film work and it became "a museum" with equipment just sitting around. Reluctantly, they closed the San Francisco studio and continued the business from their home in San Rafael where it remains today.

(On Wednesday, November 9, Jean Moulin will be giving a lecture at the Metropolitan Club on the Moulin photographic collection.)

What's the perfect gift for the woman who has everything?



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. 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!

Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. We will promptly and gratefully send you a receipt for your records.

501(c)3 Tax ID: #20-0608904

Tribute Program: May to August 2016

In memory of Delia Ehrlich

Molly Brant
The Devlin-Fowler Family
Nancy Johnson
Jo-Ann Rose
Misty Tyree

In honor of Helene Ettelson's Birthday

Molly Brant
Peggy Brown
Virginia Formichi
Barbara Kimport
Kathryn Lawrence

In honor of Helene Ettelson's Birthday

Sue Molinari
Marion Robertson
Jo-Ann Rose
Misty Tyree
Gay Yamagiwa

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

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

Misty Tyree
Marion Robertson
Gay Yamagiwa

Remembering Our Loss and Our Good Fortune

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theater job, and she took a Greyhound bus and followed him. Although the marriage ended in divorce, Roberta remained in California and treasured her friendship with his four nieces. She worked as Personnel Manager for Crown Zellerbach Corporation until she married Newton H. Neustadter, Jr., in 1953.

Roberta's mother-in-law was a Metropolitan Club member and regular swimmer. Although she joined the Club in 1971, Roberta never used the pool. She served on committees and the Board, and loved

meeting friends for lunch.

Roberta's time was filled with philanthropic work, circles of friends and clubs. She was president of her P.E.O. chapter five times and enjoyed acting in plays at the Century Club. She was a volunteer at the old Cooper Medical College that eventually became California Pacific Medical Center, and she helped to establish their Mini Medical School in Integrative Medicine, which bears her name. Roberta was a member of the 640 Foundation's Elizabeth Pillsbury Society.

Editor's Note: To read more about these wonderful women, visit the Foundation website homepage: www.640hpf.org.

Elizabeth Pillsbury Society Testimonial: Patricia Bondesen Smith

"Estate planning is a daunting process. Mastering the challenge effects great satisfaction. Since joining in 1986, The Metropolitan Club has been an integral part of my life. The Elizabeth Pillsbury Society proffers the perfect venue to express gratitude for the joie de vivre the Club affords its members. The Society provides an opportunity to manifest visible support, thus elicit interest, and, subsequently, inspire others to participate in preserving our facility, enriching our programs and perpetuating the Club for future generations."



*Patricia Bondesen Smith
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

Chong Cook

Evelyn R. David

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Carol Ede

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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.

Wine, Women, & Financial Wisdom

Wednesday,
November 2
5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

\$10.00 Advance Tickets
\$15.00 Tickets at the Door
Complimentary Wine

Hostess: Helene Ettelson



Are You Prepared?

Please join us for this
informative and
educational discussion led by
women for women.

*To register, please call 415.872.7272 or
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