The 640 Foundation celebrated the 1915 pioneering creation of the “House That Women Built” with an elegant 100th birthday gala on November 5th in the Club’s historic headquarters. The event honored in every way the foresight and dedication of the original founders to establish the first women’s athletic club in the West at a time when women did not yet have the right to vote in national elections, were generally discouraged from physical activity, and whose ability to build and operate such an institution was often scorned in the press.

The Woman’s Athletic Club of San Francisco (renamed Metropolitan Club in the 1960s) broke the mold of other women’s clubs of the time that tended to be residential in scale. Designed by prominent architects Bliss & Faville, the building at 640 Sutter Street rivaled the finest men’s athletic clubs in size and offerings. What better place to celebrate this historic institution’s birth than its historic and elegant clubhouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004? The event also presented the opportunity to raise significant funds to ensure the preservation of this important institution for another 100 years. The evening featured a very successful Silent and Live Auction. Together with the sponsorships of hundreds of generous donors, funds raised will exceed $300,000.

A proud moment of the evening came when Mistress of Ceremonies, Jan Yanehiro, Bay Area broadcaster and Metropolitan Club Member, presented a plaque to Foundation President Misty Tyree containing the testimony of Congresswoman Jackie Speier read into the Congressional Record on November 5th. (See full text on page 5 of this Newsletter.)

The Co-Chairs of the event were Lisa Harris, current Club president, Peggy Mitchell and Carol Ann Rogers. The latter two are Foundation Board members. They were assisted by an array of Club members who volunteered for the many tasks needed to ensure the evening’s success. Deserving particular thanks are Nora Monfredini, who chaired the Auction Committee and secured an amazing collection of items for the online, Silent and Live Auction. Heading up décor was Club Member Terry Gross whose team transformed the Garden Room (original 1915 Gymnasium) into an elegant reception room with an Art Deco motif. Members Maureen Murray Fox and Gay Yamagiwa recruited and directed the 25+ volunteers who greeted, guided and assisted the more than 350 guests throughout the evening. The Foundation extends its sincerest thanks to the many individuals whose generosity and time ensured the success of this milestone event.
A Message from the President, Misty Tyree

The end of the year is a time to look back and reflect on what occurred during the past twelve months. The year was action packed for many of us. We can look at our own lives and count the wonderful new things that happened; plus the many things that were just a regular part of our life, but were still joyful and fun.

It is the same with organizations. It may be even easier for organizations to reflect. There are year-end benchmarks that require a review, as well as end of year reports, end of year taxes, and end of year appeals. The Foundation is busy with all of these things, but this report will focus on the more exciting happenings.

The year was filled with fun events such as the Saks Fifth Avenue Fashion show, the donor appreciation luncheon, the second Alice Ross Carey Memorial Lecture, and the Gala sponsor party held at the Academy of Art car museum. Not to be left out, the Centennial Gala celebrating the 100th birthday of the Metropolitan Club was the highlight of the year.

After months of planning, and the many hours spent thinking of every contingency and every potential problem that might arise, the Gala was a tremendous success. The outpouring of support from the 121 sponsors was much more than anticipated. The dedicated committee chairs, as well as the gala committee members, who took their assignments very seriously, provided the—early groundwork for success. Then there were the volunteers who worked many hours to help make the event go very smoothly. Let us not forget the loyal Club staff members who helped in every way possible. The Gala turned out to live up to its billing as it was our “party of the century”.

The Gala was successful in another very important way. During the planning process of the Gala, it was thought that the event would generate $100,000. However, due to the generosity of everyone, the Foundation will be granting the Metropolitan Club $300,000 to be used, in keeping with the mission of the Foundation, to continue to pay down the loan that financed the important preservation work on the Club’s historic building.

There have been other successes as well. One deserves to be mentioned. Members are continuing to join the Elizabeth Pillsbury Society for planned giving. Melissa Li and Barbara Johnson are the newest members. We are very thankful for their consideration and forethought.

The Foundation Board of Directors is a hard working crew. Margaret Handelman and Denise Decker are two Foundation Board Members who will be rotating off at the end this year. We thank them for their service, and their many contributions to the Foundation.

The year is coming to an end and the Gala is over. It is a time to rejoice in the wonderful friendships that we have developed at the Club. We should be thankful that the Founders of this great Club did a marvelous job of providing us with our “Home Away from Home!” Happy Holidays to all.
Margaret Handelman & Gladyne K. Mitchell

Lois Ehrenfeld de Buren, Ann Thorsen, Marilee Irwin & Doug Carlson.

Janet Higgins with Terry & Scott Gross.

CENTENNIAL GALA
OUR PARTY OF THE CENTURY
NOVEMBER 5, 2015

Patrice Motley, Suzanne Muntzing & CeCe Gable.

Jud Goldsmith, Patricia Bondesen-Smith & Nancee Rubinstein.

Gee Gee Platt

Lani Pringle, Caryl Parker, Nina Buthee, Ayn McGee & Elise Papazian.

Kimberly & Alison Krause
Year-End Campaign Reminder

Thank you to the many donors who have already reached out to the Foundation in support of our Annual Appeal. As the end of the year approaches, please remember you can make your tax-deductible gift to the Foundation on our website, 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.

Centennial Gala Sponsor Party

On October 1st, the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation thanked our Centennial Gala Corporate Underwriters and our Sponsors at a soiree at the Academy of Art Automobile Museum.
Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 100th anniversary of a landmark in San Francisco that is beloved as an important gathering place for women and as an historic building. The Metropolitan Club at 640 Sutter Street today serves over 1,000 members and countless non-profits that use the beautiful building for meetings and events.

The Metropolitan Club started in 1912-1914 as a vision of a group of Bay Area women who were determined to build an athletic club for women similar in size, grandeur and services to those available to men. These ladies were active in civic and charitable organizations & the preparations for the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition.

On October 25, 1915, their vision became a reality and the Woman's Athletic Club of San Francisco was incorporated as the first women's athletic club west of Chicago. For a century now, the club has been a special place for women of all ages to pursue physical and intellectual fitness.

The historic building was designed by Bliss & Faville, a prominent architectural firm that is responsible for landmarks such as the Bank of California, the Geary Theater, the Masonic Temple, Southern Pacific Headquarters, China Basin, the Marine's Memorial Club and the University Club. After a major addition to the clubhouse was finished in 1923, the San Francisco Chronicle lauded the Club as “unlike anything in the United States maintained for and by women.”

The unique character of the Metropolitan Club has made it a desirable place for historic events. It became the unofficial headquarters for visiting women journalists who covered the signing of the United Nations Charter in San Francisco in 1845. In 1948, it was the only local club represented at the first Western meeting of UNESCO.

In 2004, the Metropolitan Club received one of the most prestigious honors from the U.S. Department of the Interior; it was nominated to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places which is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. The Metropolitan Club was described as a “place where the women who formed the club and generations of San Francisco women after them have met their friends, exercised, dined, played cards, celebrated holidays, attended lectures, entertained others and engaged in all the activities of the club.” The same year, the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation was created as a 501(c)3 with the mission to preserve the club’s historic building and important heritage.

Major seismic and life-saving renovations were completed in 2009 to prepare the club for its second century as the “House that Women Built.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join me in saying happy 100th birthday to the Metropolitan Club which has touched the lives of countless San Francisco families and helped shape the history of our beautiful city by the bay.
GIVING STOCK IS SMART

Many donors make gifts in the form of appreciated marketable securities which they have held for at least one year. This method of giving is attractive because of the substantial tax advantages to the donor.

Acct. Name: 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation
Fed ID #: 20-0608904
Transfer to: First Republic Securities Company
Acct. #: Pershing LLC #33L042620
DTC #: 0443

Giving stock held by your broker or commercial bank is easy. We ask that you provide the Foundation a copy of the instructions to your broker or banker for our records and tracking purposes.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

for the upcoming
Spring Fashion Show & Luncheon

St. John at Saks Fifth Avenue
MARCH 10, 2016
10% of the proceeds benefit the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation.

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
Christine Dohrmann
Carol Ede
Dr. Cecile Julia Eggens
Helene Ettelson
Susan J. Gearey

Pria Graves
Margaret Handelman
Linda Hannawalt
Janet McLaughlin Higgins
Shirley Hucklin
Effiellen Jefferies
Barbara Johnson
Mrs. Wayne Johnson III
Melissa Li
Elizabeth Lippit
 Chrissie Martenstein
Kathleen M. Meagher
Peggy Mitchell
Suzanne Muntzing

Roberta Neustadter
Elizabeth O’Shaughnessy
Mary Elizabeth Phillips
Emilie Plake
Nancy G. Raznick
Susan D. Scannon
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.
Holiday Tribute Program

For the seventh 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. 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: June to Date

The 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following tribute gifts

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of Keith Wentz
Ruth Cowan
Virginia Formichi
Nancy Johnson
Misty Tyree

In memory of Claire Moon
Molly Brant
Virginia Formichi
Mary E. Phillips
Misty Tyree
Gay Yamagiwa

In memory of Sue Paul
Darla Bastoni
Molly Brant
Ingrid Gilette
Carol Ann Rogers
Misty Tyree

In memory of Brian Robbins
Misty Tyree

In memory of Ilsa Gaede
Misty Tyree

HONORARY GIFTS

In honor of Dave Ring
Lynn Thompson

In honor of the graduation of Olivia Clopton-Foster
Janet Higgins
Carol Ann Rogers

In honor of Lisa Harris
Melissa Li

In honor of the 30th Anniversary of Jillian Wood & Connor Duffey
Helene Ettelson

In honor of Peggy & Tim Brown’s Anniversary
Gay Yamagiwa

In honor of the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation Board
Misty Tyree

In memory of Dina Puccinelli
Virginia Formichi

In memory of Dorothy Kraus
Nancy Johnson

In memory of Helen Culin
Molly Brant
Carol Ann Rogers
Misty Tyree

In memory of Roland K. Perkins
Ingrid Gilette

In memory of Sue Paul
Darla Bastoni
Molly Brant
Ingrid Gilette
Carol Ann Rogers
Misty Tyree

In honor of Helene Ettelson
Jillian Wood
Eva Bloch
Melissa Li

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Louis Golm’s Anniversary
Helene Ettelson

In honor of Anne MacKenzie
Melissa Li
Special thanks to our wonderful Gala Co-Chairs, Lisa Harris, Peggy Mitchell and Carol Ann Rogers, and our Gala Committee, Lucy Buchanan, Deihleen Claffey, Maureen Murray Fox, Terry Gross, Patty McCrary, Nora Monfredini, Stephanie Reynaga, Jo-Ann Rose, Karen Rose, Ann Simon, Patricia Smith, Misty Tyree, Sylvia Wilkerson, Maureen Wright & Gay Yamagiwa.