

The 640 Report

640 Heritage
Preservation
Foundation

Issue 19 -Autumn 2013

Preserving the House that Women Built for a Second Century
640 SUTTER STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

Alice Ross Carey “Soul” of the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation

“I view myself, and Carey & Co., as a point on a continuum in the life of an historic building. We briefly intervene and become stewards during the design and construction process. We also prepare the client to assume stewardship.

Most importantly we must always remember that each resource’s raison d’être is for the people it serves. A perfect restoration is worthless if the building cannot be used. Our vision is not only to meet, but exceed the expectations of the owner, the users, the viewer of our projects and the building. The compliments from them are a great reward, but the continued life of the architecture is why I am a preservation architect.”

With these words, Alice Ross Carey tells us almost all we need to know about this remarkable woman. Her words also highlight the tremendous contributions she made to the creation of the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation, the listing of the 640 Sutter Street clubhouse on the National Register of Historic Places, the sensitive renovation of the building to ensure its safe and continued use, and her vision for encouraging the broader community to value the legacy of the Woman’s Athletic Club of San Francisco.

When Alice passed away in July of this year, John King, the architecture editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, wrote about her. Former California State Historic Preservation Officer and current Chairman of the ACHP, the United States’ lead agency on historic preservation, wrote a poem in her honor. On September 27 she received the Preservationist of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award from the California Preservation Foundation. And the awards keep coming.

Just days following the devastating news of Alice’s passing, the Foundation received a check in the amount of \$100,000 from her. We were stunned, humbled and inspired. When we as individuals are faced with our own mortality, will we reach out to make a difference for those organizations whose work we valued and fostered?

We will miss Alice’s vision, her devotion and perhaps most of all her humor. Her “Queen of Clubs” lecture delighted all who heard it. In preparation, she did extensive research to find details on the life of Elizabeth Taylor Pillsbury, founder of the Woman’s Athletic Club of San Francisco. Alice reported that she found much information on Elizabeth’s father (publisher of the *Boston Globe*), her brother, her husband (of Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro renown) but little on the woman herself. Nonetheless, Alice discovered – in a biography of Charles H. Taylor, Elizabeth’s father – the fact that in 1915 Elizabeth was the first woman to speak by telephone across the continent.

The Board of Directors of the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation is committed to honoring Alice, her contributions and her generosity, by matching her donation dollar for dollar in this year’s Annual Appeal. We are the stewards of her vision. Like her, the continued life of the architecture, and of the heritage of the Woman’s Athletic Club, are why we do what we do.

Carol Ann Rogers

We all feel your creative hand in ours,
and see your loving smile and face.
You haven't gone we feel you here,
like a legacy we can't replace.

We think of you as living
in the hearts of those you touched.
Like stories, memories loved are never lost
and you were loved so much.

Wayne Donaldson, Chairman of the US Advisory
Council on Historic Preservation & friend of Alice



Saks Fifth Avenue Fall Fashion Show a Stellar Success!

More fun and photos on page 3...



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Message from the Co-Chairs



Carol Ann Rogers and Karen Rose, Interim Co-Chairs of
the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation

*When the heart weeps
for what it has lost,
the soul laughs for
what it has found.*

-Sufi aphorism

We had just recently assumed responsibility as interim co-chairs of the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation Board of Directors and there we were, conducting our first meeting in that role. It was the group's routine monthly meeting. But, of course, it wasn't routine at all. Someone commented about how involved everyone on the Board is, observing how each individual at the table was so engaged in Foundation matters. The discussion was lively, very lively in fact. The comment, though, made us pause for just a second to remember where we got our high level of energy

and commitment—it was, of course, Alice Ross Carey who had ignited us. Alice Carey—when she was at the helm, no one could sit back. Everyone needed to do her part and everyone needed to be present. After that moment of remembering Alice one more time, we went back to the work of the Board. It was yet another instance of being reminded of her valuable legacy. It is our sincere privilege to help in transitioning the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation to its next phase.

So what's happening at the Foundation? LOTS!!!

By now, you all will have received letters regarding our Fall Campaign. In yet another way, we are indebted to Alice Carey for her most generous \$100,000 gift that has launched our Fall fundraising. We are dedicating this campaign to honoring Alice and all that she did for the Metropolitan Club. Hopefully, our wonderful Club community will step up again as they have done so generously in the past.

Also, the Fashion Show at Saks Fifth Avenue was a superb event with members and friends of Metropolitan Club enjoying a champagne luncheon, the new Resort 2014 collection of Michael Kors, a raffle with terrific prizes and, of course, shopping therapy! The Foundation has many to thank for the success of the Fashion Show, in particular Saks Fifth Avenue in holding the event and donating a portion of all purchases made that day by Metropolitan Club shoppers. Most of all, thanks once again to Metropolitan Club member Cathy Goodman for all her efforts in putting together a terrific program.

Next, please join us in welcoming Megara Vogl as Development Officer of the Foundation. Some of you may already be familiar with Megara in her work with the Garden Club. She is now bringing her extensive experience to support the work of the Foundation. In addition to jumping in and working on the Fall Appeal Campaign and the Fashion Show, Megara has started putting our website in order. She hopes to have it up and functioning by the end of October. Not only is Megara a warm and charming personality, she gives new meaning to the phrase "hit the ground running." Please stop by the third floor office to introduce yourselves. We know you'll be as impressed as we are. (Ed. Note: Megara succeeds Conor Tung who departed in June to take a new position with the Katherine Delmar Burke School's Development Office.)

You will see more about all of these activities elsewhere in this report. Most importantly, you will also see an updated list of recent gifts to the Foundation. As always, we are very grateful for your generosity in supporting and celebrating the Foundation.

Fall Fashion Show a Huge Success

A fabulous runway show, delicious lunch and a charitable reason to shop at Saks made for a delightful day for all who attended.



All photos courtesy of
Moanalani Jeffrey Photography



Thank you to Event Chair Cathy Goodman for organizing, and to all who supported our cause by purchasing tables, tickets, raffle tickets and with donations of wine, champagne and dollars!

Kathryn McNeil's Purchase Knob: essays from a mountain notebook

This article is the first in a series about the Metropolitan Club's own published authors

San Francisco writer Kathryn McNeil first became a member of the Metropolitan Club in the 1920s at the age of six. It was here that she learned to swim, and where she is a member today. Kathryn's written work, however, including *Purchase Knob*, published in 1999 and available in the Club's library, speaks primarily of her 30 nearly idyllic years spent in the Great Smoky Mountains of southern Appalachia.



Kathryn, at her former home in North Carolina with Cold Mountain in the background

Purchase Knob: essays from a mountain notebook, is a lyrical and enchanting memoir of Kathryn's time in North Carolina, where she raised five children, three girls and two boys. She speaks of her love of her mountain home in the book's opening passage: "There's a summer place, a farm, forever imprinted on my memory, spacious in its views, lovely in its close-ups, on the gentle slopes of Purchase Mountain in the southern Appalachians. These are ancient mountains, some of the oldest on earth. Worn down by the ages from water, frost and the work of the wind, they are gentle, livable mountains. Having a home on the top of one is as close to heaven as you can get."

World War II was partially responsible for Kathryn's love of the Appalachians. She met and married Voit Gilmore, a Naval Officer, in 1945, while he was stationed in San Francisco. In 1946, shortly after the war ended, they relocated to North Carolina, where Gilmore became involved in his family's lumber business. They built two homes, one in the mountains and one in Southern Pines. Although the marriage did not last, her lifelong passion for the flora and fauna of the mountains and the beauty and serenity of her remote country home shines through on every page.

Kathryn's mother, Mrs. Charles Kendrick, was Kathryn's initial sponsor for the Metropolitan Club. Mrs. Kendrick, an early Club member, was one of a handful of members who purchased bonds to help finance the expansion of the Clubhouse (completed 1923) and then forgave them. Members today continue to be the beneficiaries of the extraordinary generosity of these early members. These early donors and philanthropists are acknowledged in a framed calligraphy list on the second floor, across from the large calligraphy panels acknowledging donors to the Stewardship Campaign.

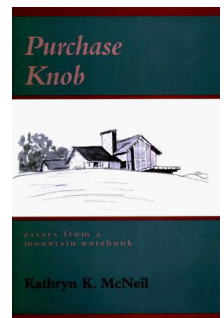
Mrs. Kendrick was an inspiration to Kathryn. While active at the Women's Athletic Club (now, the Metropolitan Club), she also served as President of the Francisca Club and President of the Western Hemisphere division of the Girl Scouts.

Kathryn returned to San Francisco in 1974, still retaining her Purchase Mountain property. Here she married Don McNeil, the widower of a longtime friend. They blended their families to become a new family with ten children. She rejoined the Metropolitan Club in the early 1980s, where she served on the Library and House Committees.

Kathryn honed her writing skills through a writing group of 14 notable San Francisco women, under the tutelage of the late Mary Jane Moffat, formerly a creative writing instructor at Stanford University under Wallace Stegner. Two additional books published by the writing collective, *The Subject of Our Lives* (1999) and *Proust, Pickles, and Paychecks* (2003) include additional stories by Kathryn McNeil about her years in the Great Smokies.

Today, at the age of 92, Kathryn enjoys the Metropolitan Club dining room, the library and hopes to return to swimming. Her San Francisco home has a grand view of the Bay, affording her a bird's eye view of the recent America's Cup races. She and her former husband donated Purchase Mountain and its 600 acres to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where it is now used as an education and science center, hosting groups of school children. She enjoys her large family, including eight great grandchildren.

Marcia Schneider, Club Archives and History Committee



View a copy of Purchase Knob in the glass display case in the Club Lobby which currently features Club authors and their works. Working with the Club Archives, the Foundation will organize rotating displays of memorabilia and historic documents several times a year.

The Centennial Oral History Project:

An Interview with Helen Culiner

Helen B. Culiner was born in Quebec City. She fondly remembers walking along the boardwalk that borders the St. Lawrence River and then climbing the steep stairs of the old city, fascinated by its history. “That was my great delight as a child.” She was raised bilingually and remembers how she used to love to tease the tourists who would ask her questions in fractured French and were then astonished to hear her respond in perfect English.

“I adored my father,” recalls Helen. “He must have been the first feminist that existed. He had complete confidence in my ability to do anything and everything. He liberated me before anyone ever thought of the word.”

A student at the University of Toronto, she was studying psychology when she met her husband Norman and moved west with him and finished her studies at the University of California at Berkeley. “I really wanted to study mathematics,” Helen recounts, “but my brother, whom I adored, convinced me that as a woman I would never find a job in that field. Frankly, I never really liked psychology because I found the thinking too loose for me. Mathematics was much more precise.”

Helen and Norman had two children, a daughter and a son. Tragedy struck when their 16 year old son contracted meningitis and died within a day. It was after that time that Helen decided to enroll at Hastings School of Law. “I loved it the very first week. It was perfect for me because all of the professors were older, and I was older.” This was in the late 1960s and there were only two other women in her class, and only five in the entire school.

After graduating, Helen began the search for a job. Rather than opportunity she found many of the law firms asked to interview her out of curiosity. “Remember, this was after the Civil Rights legislation,” she recalled. “The law firms were slow to catch onto that law.” Eventually Helen was hired by Melvin Belli as a litigator. There she had to deal with her own personal experience with discrimination when she discovered she was being paid less than her male colleagues for the same work. After three years, she started her own practice, specializing in employment discrimination. More than two decades later she switched to arbitration and mediation which she found “a superior way to resolve conflict.”



Helen on a trip to Italy.

“I was reading Herb Caen,” recounts Helen, “and he talked about the pool, so I just came over to the Club and said I was interested in joining.” Becoming a member in 1973, Helen swam daily. “It was really a lifesaver for me.” She had developed lupus while in law school and, not wanting to encounter the side effects of steroids, she began the discipline of lap swimming and the lupus went into remission permanently. “I also can’t tell you how many legal conclusions I came to while doing the backstroke.”

Asked by then President Penny Mallen to join the Athletic Committee, Helen started her involvement in the committee system, culminating in her serving as President of the Club in 1991. During those years, the Club went through a difficult time over the issue of whether to adopt gender neutral bylaws. “The City – in fact the whole country – was gung-ho on the issue of private club discrimination,” recalls Helen. “I was very conscious of the fact that so many members had limited incomes and that if we weren’t careful they would have to leave the Club, which could change the nature of the Club.”

Helen points to three strengths that she values at the Club. The first are the athletic facilities, which are unique. The second is the camaraderie among Members. “Once you become involved in the committees, you make friends who are very dear.” Third, Helen cites the convenience and the feeling of home. “You have an ownership interest and the pleasantness of the employees is really from an era gone by.”

“I am very lucky,” admits Helen. “I love certain people and I love that they love me back.”

Carol Ann Rogers

Tribute Program

THE 640 HERITAGE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES
THE FOLLOWING TRIBUTE GIFTS TO THE FOUNDATION:
JUNE–SEPTEMBER 2013

IN MEMORY OF:	DONOR:	IN MEMORY OF, cont:	DONOR:
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Tracy Hibbs	Jessica Hibbs	Nancy Raznick	Joyce Rose
Tracy Hibbs	Janet McLaughlin Higgins	Nancy Raznick	Marcia Schneider
Tracy Hibbs	Connie Hoiberg	Nancy Raznick	Susan Molinari

Holiday Tribute Gifts

For the fifth year the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation is offering a special holiday opportunity to make a tax-deductible 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 (minimum suggested \$50). Simply pick up a Tribute Form at the Front Desk, or call Megara in the Foundation Office at (415) 928-6925 ext. 201 or 640hpf@metropolitanclubsf.org. Remember, these make ideal hostess gifts and committee recognition gifts, and are a unique and meaningful way to remember a special person in your life during the holiday season. Let us help simplify your holiday giving!



Elizabeth Pillsbury Society Testimonial: Mary Louise Anderson

The Metropolitan Club has been important to me for a number of reasons: the friends I've made, the beautiful pool, the dining facilities, the library, and also the wonderful staff and the lovely facilities. It truly feels like a home away from home to me.

As I considered my will and trust, I decided that a bequest to the Foundation would be an important way for me to give back to the Club and to help ensure that the Club will always be available to women who are interested in the wonderful opportunities offered by the Club. I hope my contribution will help ensure the long term success of the Metropolitan Club.

I am pleased and proud to be a member of the Elizabeth Pillsbury Society and am always so happy to see new members listed. The Elizabeth Pillsbury Society is an important part of the Club and Foundation.

Mary Louise Anderson
Elizabeth Pillsbury Society Member



The 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation is most grateful to Mary Louise Anderson for her philanthropic vision and generous support. If you are interested in finding out more about how to include the Club and/or Foundation in your estate plan, please contact our office at 415-928-6925 x201 or me.

Helene Ettelson, Chair, Elizabeth Pillsbury Society

Elizabeth Pillsbury Society for Planned Giving

Mary Louise Anderson
June Arney
Judith Branch
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Nancy G. Raznick
Susan D. Scannon
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Nancy Weston
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Mary Yetter

IRA Charitable Rollover Reminder

When Congress passed the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 late last year, they included an extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover law through December 31, 2013. The law allows individuals who are over 70-1/2 years of age to transfer up to \$100,000 directly from their IRAs to qualified charities like the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation in 2013.

This distribution is called a "qualified charitable distribution." The amount of the gift qualifies for all or a part of the individual's required distribution and does not need to be included in the individual's gross income. Although there is no charitable income tax deduction for this type of distribution, it can be a very tax-efficient way to make a charitable contribution.

Before proceeding, be sure to consult your tax advisor to discuss your particular situation, including any impact of your state's tax laws.

Join us in welcoming Megara Doorly Vogl

The Foundation Directors invite you to join us in welcoming our new Development Officer Megara Doorly Vogl who came to us in August. She has fifteen years of experience as an event management professional, having been responsible for logistics, fundraising, marketing and strategic planning for large and small scale projects in a variety of non-profit organizations.

Born in New York, Megara spent her early years in Connecticut and graduated from the University of Vermont with many honors. During her college years, she spent one term studying the Spanish language, literature and culture at the Universidad de Sevilla in Seville, Spain. Megara and her husband Marc live in San Francisco with their redheaded three-year old son Felix (pictured with her at right.) The three enjoy traveling together, having been to much of Europe and even Cuba in the last year, in addition to destinations in the US.



You may know Megara from her work as Event Manager for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco where she was planner and producer of the museum's largest fundraiser Bouquets to Art in 2006 and 2007. She also spent a few months in Washington, D.C., where she planned and executed a portion of President Obama's first inaugural parade. Megara was with the American Academy of Ophthalmology in San Francisco for five years, as Marketing and Promotions Manager, and has her own event planning and management business. All this in addition to a full complement of volunteer activities.

Returning to work part time after Felix was a year old, she began her association with the San Francisco Garden Club, planning and producing their annual gala fundraiser and lecture lunches, and designing and producing their monthly newsletter. You may have met her coming and going to their office in our building.

We are extremely happy to have Megara in the Foundation Office Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 9:30 AM until 5:00 PM. She has already made great strides toward constructing a new Foundation website and has given strong support to the Saks Fashion Show, the Fall Appeal Campaign and the 640 Report. Megara's name, which sounds especially appropriate for a lady of Irish heritage, is actually of Greek derivation and is pronounced to rhyme with "Sara" and "era". She is a very important and welcome addition to the 640 Foundation team.

Excerpts from Early WAC Minutes

At its October 9, 1916 meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously approved a policy that "Members wearing other than Club bathing suits should be charged for the care of said suits." (The approved Club bathing suit, chosen at another meeting, was a black one-piece with a blue and white stripe at the bottom.)

At its February 14, 1917 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the following motions:

- "To have one afternoon class and one evening class a week free to members."
- "That men be allowed to come to the Club for dinner one night per week; that the one night be Wednesday."
- "To allow the members to sit in the steam room and hot room without extra charge."

And the impact of war ...

At a special meeting on May 18, 1917, the Board of Directors approved a motion:
"That all Members going to the Front for active service be put on a no dues list."

At a special meeting on June 4, 1917, the Board of Directors approved a motion:
"That in observance of Federal Law it be prohibited to serve liquor of any kind in the Club when there is a man in uniform present."