

# The 640 Report

640 Heritage  
Preservation  
Foundation

Issue 21 - Spring 2014

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

## Donor Appreciation Luncheon Featured Camilla Smith

On April 4th, the annual donor appreciation luncheon was held in a warm celebratory atmosphere to honor the most generous donors to our 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation via the 2013 Tribute and fall campaigns and the Elizabeth Pillsbury Society. Gorgeous tables and ladies dressed to celebrate gathered to dine on a delectable menu and to listen to our guest speaker, Camilla Smith, longtime friend of the Foundation, who was presented and led in conversation by Foundation Co-President Carol Ann Rogers.



*“Learning is a  
lifelong obligation”*

Camilla has the distinguished honor of serving on several national and Bay Area Boards including the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, the Teachers College, Columbia University, the National Public Radio Foundation (NPR), and on the Library Advisory Board at the University of California at Berkeley. Camilla’s daughter and Club Member, Sarah Smith Jones, and daughter-in-law, Sunya Smith, came in support of this remarkable woman.

Memorable words from this busy mother of five and grandmother of 9 included “I was busy with them (her young children) and then just remained busy...it seemed the natural thing to do.” She also noted “Learning is a lifelong obligation” as a reason of her support of educational organizations.

Robust applause greeted her insightful comments, and it was easy to catch the pride guests felt for having such a remarkable woman as a fellow member of the Metropolitan Club.

The real stars of the event were our many guests whose continued generosity helps to keep the “House that Women Built” a San Francisco cultural and architectural treasure. The Foundation continues to wish them a warm thanks.



CO-PRESIDENTS

*Carol Ann Rogers  
Karen Rose*

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

*Misty Tyree*

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

*Margaret Handelman*

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FOUNDATION DIRECTOR

*Megara Vogl  
415.928.6925 ext. 201  
director@640hpf.org*

## Message from the Co-Presidents



As the 640 Foundation enters its second decade, and as we approach the centennial of the Woman's Athletic Club of San Francisco, now known as the Metropolitan Club, we are excited to be planning more and more activities in pursuit of our institutional mission. These activities are possible due to the incredible energy and momentum we've gained from the support of so many of you for our continuing work.

This issue of the 640 Report describes many of those endeavors. Some of these events will be familiar, some new. Read on for more information on the following:

- Spring [Donor Appreciation Luncheon](#) and highlights from [Camilla Smith](#)
- Oral History Project – [Delia Ehrlich](#), long-time, third-generation Metropolitan Club Member who served on the Foundation's Stewardship Campaign Committee and opened her Greene & Greene designed home in Woodside for a VIP Landmark Gala Sponsor and Patron Party. Delia is the recipient of many honors for her community service, including the SF Arts Medallion by the San Francisco Museum of Performance and Design.
- Club Author Series featuring [Olga Carlisle](#), whose rich life of smuggling novels out of Russia and delivering messages to the French Resistance army is as compelling as her works of art.
- Preview of inaugural [Heritage Fair](#) taking place October 1-2, 2014
- The First [Alice Ross Carey Memorial Lecture](#) taking place Tuesday, November 11, 2014
- We hope that in addition to reading about some of our very accomplished fellow Club members, you'll find time to join us on one or more of these upcoming occasions. There's lots happening!!

In other news, the 640 Board approved support for the California Historical Society's proposal that 2015 be named the "Civic Centennial" by the City and County of San Francisco, celebrating the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, City Hall, and the birth of the modern city. Based on this approval, the Foundation will collaborate with other local organizations celebrating centennials in 2015, sharing information about each other's plans, and providing mutual support for these activities. In particular, the Board looks forward to involvement in plans for the Centennial of the Panama-Pacific International Exhibition in which many of the Woman's Athletic Club's founding members participated as members of the Woman's Board of the PPIE.

Also, as we celebrate these exciting ventures, we ask that you join us in honoring the memory of one of our founding directors, Olga (Ollie) Dollar who passed away in March. Ollie was a woman who embraced the vision and determination of the Woman's Athletic Club's founders. She was an inspiration to us all and will be greatly missed. More about Ollie can be found on page 6.

*Carol Ann Rogers & Karen Rose*



# SAVE THE DATE

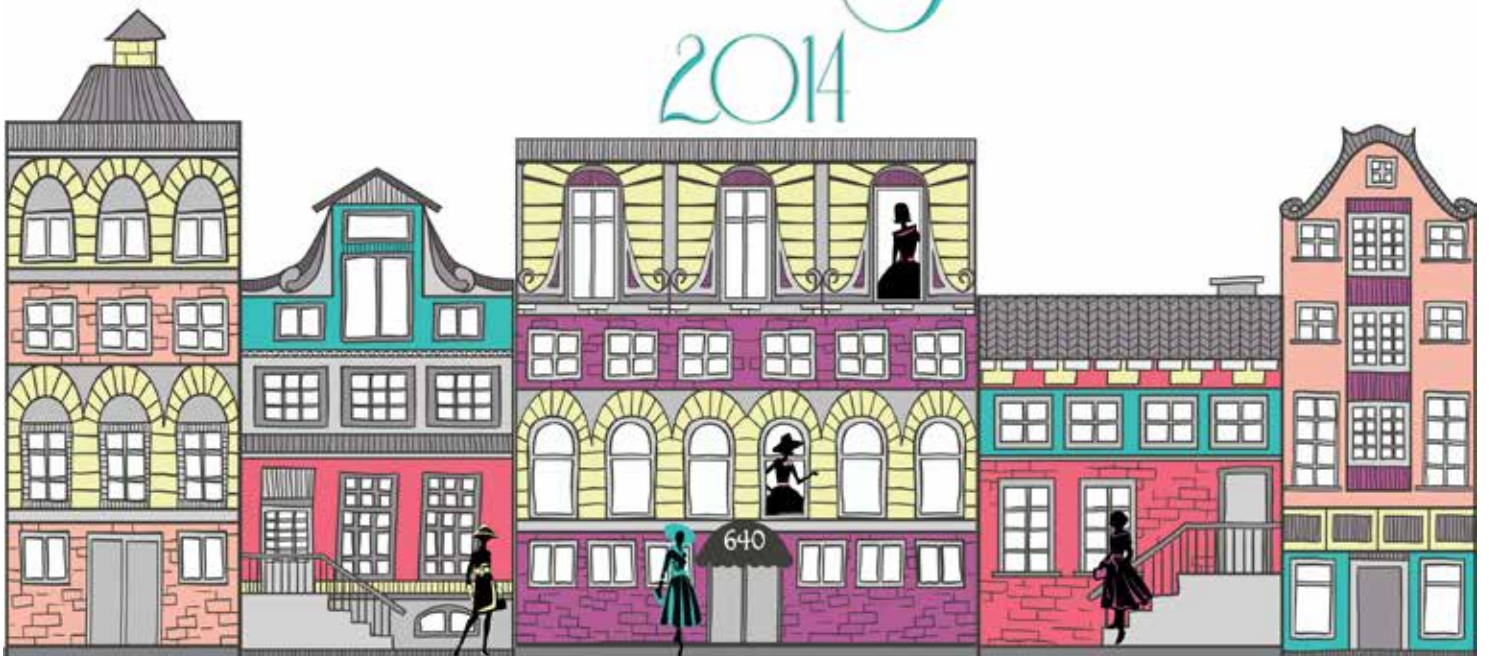
OCTOBER 1-2, 2014  
640 SUTTER STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO



A shopping extravaganza,  
featuring unique merchandise from national and European boutique vendors

Sponsorship opportunities available. Benefits include tickets to the Fair, Preview Party, Sponsor Reception, valet parking and more. Reserve by July 15 to be included in the invitation printing.

## The Heritage Fair 2014



CELEBRATING "THE HOUSE THAT WOMEN BUILT"

A benefit for the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation

To learn more visit [www.640hpf.org](http://www.640hpf.org)

To volunteer, please contact Megara at the Foundation: (415) 928-6925 x201 or [director@640hpf.org](mailto:director@640hpf.org)

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# Olga Carlisle: Life in the Path of History

*This article is the second in a series about the Metropolitan Club's published authors*

Olga Andreyev Carlisle, painter, author, editor and translator, is a longtime resident of San Francisco. She moved here in 1975 with her late husband, author and former Knopf editor Henry Carlisle, but in many ways, her heart is still divided between San Francisco, Paris, France, where she was born and raised, and Russia, the land of her cultural heritage. She has lived a life few can imagine, directly in the path of history making individuals and events.

Olga studied art as a young adult in New York with Robert Motherwell and other influential painters of the time, but was strongly influenced and enchanted by the classic and Impressionist paintings from the Louvre and other museums of Paris that she haunted in her youth. Unwilling to compromise her artistic integrity for the modern trends of the early 50s, she stuck with her principles. Her colorful paintings have withstood the test of time and are still sought after today.



It was in Paris, while studying painting and living with French friends, that she met and fell in love with Henry Carlisle, an American with roots in Nantucket and San Francisco. They married, and their son, raised in France and New York, followed in their rich literary heritage, and today practices his craft as a literary agent in New York.

In addition to writing six books and innumerable magazine articles, Olga collaborated with Henry on the translation of Dostoyevsky's *The Idiot*, as well as co-writing a novel with him. Together they taught at the Squaw Valley Community of Writers.



Olga, Henry and her father and brother helped bring the works of Alexandr Solzhenitsyn to the western world. His first novel, captured on film, was smuggled out of Russia in camera equipment. Olga and Henry also played a large part in bringing part one of *The Gulag Archipelago* out of Russia and making his works available to the rest of the world.

Olga's family was forced to leave Russia following the Bolshevik revolution of 1917. Mrs. Carlisle's mother also was a writer and painter, her father an activist poet, and her grandfather a famous Russian playwright. The family was again displaced from their home in Paris during World War II, exiled to the island of Oléron, near Bordeaux, France, from 1939–1945. Mrs. Carlisle's 1982 memoir, *An Island in Time*, recounts the hardships, hopes and risks of the time, when she, but a teenager, delivered messages by bicycle to the French Resistance.

Much of Olga Carlisle's writing was done at the Metropolitan Club, which she credits for "the opportunity to write in perfect tranquility and comfort, among good friends." Two of her books, *Far From Russia* (St. Martins Press, 2000) and *An Island in Time* (Henry Holt & Co., 1980) can be found in the Club library, as well as her mother, Olga Andreyev's, memoir, *Cold Spring in Paris* (1972).

*Fleurissant*, a show of Olga Carlisle's paintings, was on display in April at the Piccolo Press, 703 Columbus Avenue.

Marcia Schneider



# The Centennial Oral History Project:

## *An Interview with Delia Ehrlich*



An adult member of the Metropolitan Club since 1960, Delia Ehrlich enjoys a multi-generation relationship with both the Club and the city of San Francisco. Her grandmother, Mrs. Mortimer Fleishhacker, was the 57th woman to sign the Woman's Athletic Club Member Registry when the Club doors opened in January 1917, and her mother, Janet was also a member. Delia herself was a junior member and swam with Hamlin School classmates in the Club pool. She also recalls participating in aquacade performances during those years. "I thought the Club was wonderful and elegant, with its beautiful pool."

Delia is named after her great-grandmother who traveled across the Isthmus of Panama on a donkey at the age of 18 with her new husband, Aaron Fleishhacker, who had come to San Francisco during the gold rush. "She was an amazing woman," Delia says. "The trip must have been God awful, but all she did was talk about how beautiful the flowers were. Then she had all these children and was living in the Gold Country."

The Fleishhacker family became deeply involved in civic activities, supporting the symphony, opera and the arts, a tradition that continues today. "My mother would get up and be ready to go out the door every day at 8:30 AM. She would go out and work in the community. At dinner my parents would share what they had done. . . So we learned to do that too." Describing her own activities, Delia explains, "What I do is try to get money for nonprofits, especially the arts."

Delia's parents met while trying out for a play at Temple Emmanuel. Her mother had been a student at Hamlin School when it first moved to Stanwood Hall on Broadway, but then studied for 3-4 years in Europe becoming fluent in French and Italian. Not knowing a lot of young people when she returned to San Francisco, she was advised by a friend that the temple might be a good place to meet young men. Delia's father had just turned 22 years old when he married, much against his family's wishes, but the result was a long and very wonderful partnership. Their first home was above the Stockton Street tunnel, across from what is now the Ritz Carlton Hotel. They moved to 2416 Broadway, a house owned by the Fleishhacker family, and then built their home at Pacific and Pierce where they moved when Delia was about eight years old.



The oldest of three children, with two younger brothers, Delia remembers idyllic summers at her grandparents' home in Woodside. "We were told to go out and amuse ourselves – 'be back in time for lunch, be back in time for dinner, don't bother us and don't get in trouble.' So we made up and performed plays."

Looking back, Delia comments, "I think I've had a really good life. I treasure the opportunities that I have had, the people who have been there for me, and I for them. And I've had the opportunity to do and discover new and different things."

Delia's father died the same year that she and her husband divorced. "I had to go to work." So she started with Macy's and worked her way up. She created and headed its Personal Shopping Service, ran its Community Relations Department and helped establish Macy's Passport program. These allowed her to combine a career with the commitment to community service she acquired from her parents.

"Everything hasn't been easy. But sometimes the bad things that happen teach you in ways that the good things cannot." Delia lost two children; her first child died from Tay-Sachs disease while she was expecting her second. "That was the most terrible thing that ever happened to me."

"I cried, but then I said, 'Tomorrow the sun comes up just the same.' Life is going to go on. You might as well go with it. You can't wait for something to come along. You have to say, 'it's going to be OK.' I had to learn that. It's made me what I am today."

*Carol Ann Rogers*



# Remembering Ollie Dollar

Olga Malatti Dollar, Mrs. J. Harold Dollar, Ollie – our Ollie died in March 2014. We miss her very much. Ollie joined the Metropolitan Club, then the Woman's Athletic Club, in 1955 and served as president from 1975-1981. She embraced the concept of the 640 Foundation early in its consideration and became a founding member and Board member at its inception in 2004, serving until 2007.

Always a faithful supporter herself, Ollie played a key role in bringing other supporters to the Foundation. Never afraid to ask the hard questions, she worked tirelessly with us to find the answers. Her caring and her interest never waned when she stepped down from the Board. We shall be eternally grateful for her establishing the Club archives during her Club presidency and her attention to the artworks and furnishings of the Club.

Ollie grew up in Marin County and resided there all her life. She attended Dominican College, now Dominican University, and was an emeritus trustee. Ollie credited her father's collection of California art and teachers at the Dominican school with awakening her interest in art, and particularly abstract and modern art. She was active on the San Francisco gallery scene from the mid-1940's and had her own gallery in the Shreve Building for a number of years. Club member and artist Adrienne Sherman had many shows at the gallery, including its last before closing in late 2000.

Always fond of dining at the Club, Ollie enjoyed lunch in the Café Met often, especially after closing her gallery. She shared tales of the art world, travels and jewelry, and she was always current with the most effective new orchid fertilizers. Lunch always ended with a single scoop of chocolate ice cream.

Ollie was devoted to her daughter Lisa, her four grandchildren and her great grandchildren to whom we have expressed our deepest sympathy and condolences.

# Tribute Program: January - April 2014

THE 640 FOUNDATION  
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES  
THE FOLLOWING TRIBUTE GIFTS:

## Memorial Gifts

**In memory of "Dr. Bob" Bills**  
Lynn H. Thompson

**In memory of Alice Ross Carey**  
The Auxiliary of the Society of  
California Pioneers

**In memory of Olga "Ollie" Dollar**  
Molly Brant  
Beverly Eden  
Susan Gearey  
Margaret Handelman  
Carol Ann Rogers  
Adrienne Sherman

**In memory of Dr. Marcus Krupp**  
Helene Ettelson

**In memory of Elli Sax**  
Drue Ashford  
Amy Corbett  
Barbara Feduska  
Susan Gearey  
Nancy Johnson  
Gerri Riordan  
Carol Ann Rogers  
Susan Steer

## Honorary Gifts

**In honor of Charlene Harvey**  
Carol Ann Rogers

## Elizabeth Pillsbury Society Testimonial:

*I have always been in support of women's issues. That is what first brought me to the Metropolitan Club. It is an institution created by women for women.*

*By including the Metropolitan Club in my estate plan, I hope to aid in the Club's future, so that women can continue to have a place to support one another in this male dominated society. I know that with enough support we, as a Club, will be able to stand out amongst our male counterparts.*

Chong Cook  
Elizabeth Pillsbury Society Member



## Elizabeth Pillsbury Society for Planned Giving

*We thank these women for their thoughtful foresight:*

Mary Louise Anderson  
June Arney  
Judith Branch  
Alice Ross Carey  
Mildred Centanni  
Chong Cook  
Evelyn R. David  
Carol Ede  
Dr. Cecile Julia Eggens  
Helene Ettelson  
Susan J. Gearey



Elizabeth O'Shaughnessy  
Mary Elizabeth Phillips  
Emilie Plake  
Nancy G. Raznick  
Susan D. Scannon  
Patricia Bondesen Smith  
Misty Tyree  
Margrethe Ann Welch  
Nancy Weston  
Renate-Karin Wunsch  
Mary Yetter



We were happy so many of our EPS members could join us for the Donor Appreciation Luncheon on April 4th.

*From left to right:* Carole Ede, Susan Gearey, Peggy Mitchell, Patricia Smith, Helene Ettelson, Ann Welch, Nancy Raznick, Pria Graves, Margaret Handelman, Chong Cook, Linda Hannawalt

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# Wine, Women & Financial Wisdom

## *Instilling Financial Values in Children*



On April 30 the 640 Foundation sponsored a lively and informative evening program on teaching children and grandchildren financial expectations and priorities, organized by 640 Foundation Board Member Helene Ettelson. She introduced two experts in the field, Pam Royer, Managing Director and Senior Trust Officer, and Miranda Holmes, Managing Director and Senior Financial Planner, both from First Republic Bank, who shared their thoughts about the challenges involved.

Pam addressed managing the expectations of children of all ages and responding to their questions with age appropriate answers, while Miranda spoke of the impact of passing on money to children. Both stressed the need for being clear on one's own perception of money and its degree of importance and for setting good examples. The concepts of giving, saving, budgeting, and spending can all be introduced at an early age, and can be refined as children mature and encounter the complexities of growing up in our world.

Particularly helpful were the questions Pam and Miranda suggested to ask about one's own "money personality" and the list of questions to expect to be asked. We walked away with sample budget formats, suggestions of books for additional study—including some to share with teenagers—and inspiration that we can meet the challenges with a little work and some advance planning. Club Finance Committee Member Amy Corbett who was unable to attend shared a piggybank for children with multiple slots to accommodate savings, donations, spending money and the like. It was a happy and valuable program.

### THE ALICE ROSS CAREY MEMORIAL LECTURE

In July 2013, the City of San Francisco lost an important preservation advocate; the 640 Heritage Preservation Foundation lost one of its three founding members and immediate past president, and the Metropolitan Club lost a Member who played a critical role in its seismic and life-safety renovations.

Please save the date for a lecture honoring the memory of Alice Ross Carey

Featuring Anthea M. Hartig, Ph.D.

Club Member & Executive Director of the California Historical Society

**Tuesday, November 11, 2014**

The Metropolitan Club

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