



640  
HERITAGE PRESERVATION  
FOUNDATION

THE 640 REPORT

ISSUE 25 | SPRING 2015

## A Day of Flowers and Friends at the Annual Donor Appreciation Luncheon



In April, the Foundation was privileged to host our honored donors from our 2014 campaigns at a beautiful and inspiring luncheon. The group ate and chatted happily, and were treated to an entertaining and educational program given by Elizabeth Bailey, renowned LA-based floral designer and daughter of our own Lisa Harris.

Elizabeth demonstrated her signature rose-opening techniques and encouraged the attentive guests to go through their china and silver and use the pieces that they have and love. By the end of her presentation, she had filled the room with a glorious display of blooms in a variety of vases, urns, silver tea sets and even salt and pepper shakers. Her talents were enthusiastically applauded and many lucky guests even left with some of her work.

The Foundation happily thanks the many who were able to enjoy this day with us, as well as Elizabeth for sharing her wonderful skill with our delighted guests!



# A Message from the President, Misty Tyree

This is our centennial year. With that in mind, we take the opportunity to reflect on the Club's beginnings. In the Sutter Room, which originally was called the Games Room, there is a Latin phrase that was inscribed on the mantle 100 years ago. It comes from the Epistle of Horace written in approximately 85 B.C.E. There are several translations found in the Metropolitan Club Archives for this inscription.

A contemporary translation is:

*Escape from your workday and social obligations, by joining me in compelling conversation at the Metropolitan Club. There will be room for the spontaneous inclusion of others.*

The meaning of this translation is still apropos for the Club. It is a place for "compelling conversation". This was certainly true at the 640 Foundation's donor luncheon which is held annually as a thank you to major donors who have supported the Foundation in the past year. The Century Room was a beautiful backdrop for Elizabeth's Bailey's engaging lecture on floral design. There were more donors attending this year than previous years. Foundation Board Member **Peggy Mitchell** did a wonderful job planning the event for us to enjoy and "escape from the workday and social obligations".

Attendees were also able to view the Member Art Show that was organized by **Gay Yamagiwa**. Congratulations to all the Club Member artists who exhibited their work. Artists in the show generously contributed a percentage of their sales to the Foundation. Thank you **Addie Shevlin, Adrienne Sherman, Cecy Jones Korematsu, and Therese Pouliot**.

Another lovely day was spent at the Second 640 Foundation Fashion Show at Saks Fifth Avenue on March 19. This event began with a lovely champagne reception, followed by lunch and an exciting runway show which debuted the Armani Collezioni Fall 2015 Collection. Our guests were the very first to see this chic collection and shop the new styles. Thank you to event co-chairs Denise Decker and Cathy Goodman for your work in organizing this spectacular day. (See photos on page 7.)

In other news, our talented Foundation Director Megara Vogl will be leaving us in order to spend more time with her family. We are grateful for her support to the Foundation programs and we wish her the very best. We also welcome Michelle Mitchell as our new Director. Look for our introduction to her on page 7.

We are looking forward to the Centennial Gala that will be held November 5. The Gala Committee is working very hard on all of the details to ensure that this Gala will be the event of the century. I look forward to celebrating the Club's beginnings with you at the event!



## 640 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### Foundation Director

Michelle Mitchell

415.872.7272

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THE 640 HERITAGE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION  
INVITES YOU TO JOIN IN CELEBRATING THE 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY OF  
THE METROPOLITAN CLUB AT

# THE CENTENNIAL GALA

ON THE EVENING OF  
NOVEMBER 5, 2015



## BENEFITS OF SPONSORSHIP

WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR SPONSORSHIP LETTER IN THE MAIL NEXT MONTH, CONSIDER JOINING US AS A SPONSOR OF THE GALA. BENEFITS INCLUDE VALET PARKING, EARLY ENTRY AND PREFERRED SEATING, AS WELL AS TICKETS TO THE SPONSOR PRE-PARTY AT THE EXCLUSIVE ACADEMY OF ART UNIVERSITY AUTO MUSEUM. THIS VENUE IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC BUT WILL OPEN ITS DOORS TO OUR LUCKY GUESTS ON OCTOBER 1. TICKETS ARE LIMITED SO DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

SPONSOR PRE-PARTY: OCTOBER 1, 2015



## ENTICING AUCTION ITEMS

WHETHER YOU ARE LURED BY TRIPS TO EUROPE, A WEEK IN CALISTOGA, A CHEF-PREPARED DINNER IN YOUR HOME OR FINE WINES, OUR AUCTION IS SURE TO TEMPT. SOME ITEMS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE IN ADVANCE OF THE GALA, SOME JUST AT THE EVENT AND SOME WILL BE AUCTIONED OFF LIVE. DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE UNIQUE ITEMS!



PROCEEDS FROM THIS CELEBRATION WILL BENEFIT THE 640 FOUNDATION  
AND ITS MISSION TO PRESERVE THE CLUB'S HISTORIC BUILDING AND HERITAGE.

# Carol Green Wilson, Club Historian and Biographer

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

Carol Green Wilson may not be as familiar to Club members today as she was during her membership tenure, but this former Club member, who passed away in 1981 at the age of 89, was a respected historian and writer who played a significant role in the history of the Metropolitan Club. She was the author of *The First 50 Years of the Woman's Athletic Club of San Francisco*, published in 1962. This elegant gold book was designed and printed by the famous typographer and printer Lawton Kennedy.

“Woman's Faith in Women” – that is how Mrs. Thomas Driscoll, one of the Founders of the Woman's Athletic Club of San Francisco, characterizes the genius of this organization,” reads the opening of Mrs. Wilson's history. “Born into a world that has never returned to the peaceful era of its inception, the Club has grown and prospered despite two world wars, depression and spiraling inflation.”

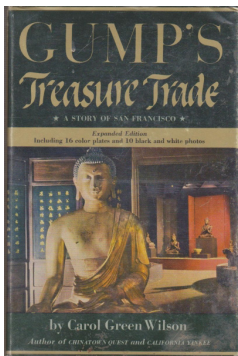
Carol Green Wilson also made significant contributions to capturing the history of people and institutions throughout the Bay Area. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University in 1914, and served as editor of the Stanford Alumni Review for ten years. She served as the national historian of Kappa Alpha Theta, and was married to George Osborne Wilson, whose pioneering grandfather sailed through the Golden Gate in 1850 and is the subject of one of her biographies.



Carol Green Wilson

Club member Betty Lampen has fond memories of Carol Green Wilson, who was a friend and fellow Club member of her mother. As a child, she visited Mrs. Wilson's house for tea, but did not have the opportunity to see her famed dollhouse. Betty has read all of Carol Green Wilson's books, many of which are in her family's personal library, collected over five generations. “She was a wonderful writer,” she said, “very much a product of her day.”

Among Mrs. Wilson's works is *Gump's Treasure Trade: A Story of San Francisco*, first published by T.Y. Crowell in 1949, then again in 1965. This history of the storied department store, founded in 1861 by Solomon and Gustav Gump and renowned for its exquisite, Asian-influenced jewelry, furniture and household items, reveals the significant influence the Gump family had over contemporary retail. An autograph party was held at the Club, with speakers including Mr. Richard Gump, son of one of the founders, and Mr. Jack R. McGregor, then Director of the de Young Museum.



Other works by Mrs. Wilson include *Chinatown Quest: One Hundred Years of Donaldina Cameron House, 1874-1974*, published by the California Historical Society in 1974; *Alice Eastwood's Wonderland: The Adventures of A Botanist*, published by the California Academy of Sciences in 1955; and many others.

Perhaps Mrs. Wilson's most significant work was a biography of Herbert Hoover, published in 1968 by Evans Publishing Company, with a forward by Richard M. Nixon. Her extensive research included personal interviews with Herbert Hoover's brother Theodore Hoover and their sister, May Hoover Leavit. Carol Green Wilson traveled extensively to interview individuals who influenced the President's life, including trips and interviews in each of the countries he had visited during his tenure as President.

Despite its gold cover, *The First 50 Years* is not only a history but also an honest assessment of the difficulties faced by the Club in the early years. These included the need to raise capital to expand the footprint of the building to satisfy demand, and to keep it in repair, removing dangerous exterior rosettes, replacing pipes – a whole litany of the needs of a then aging building. She included loving tributes to the pool, the library, the dining room and other gracious features of the Club that members continue to enjoy to this day. But mostly, this is a story of the courage and foresight of the members who established and fought for this haven, our home away from home, despite the challenges along the way.

As we celebrate the centennial of our extraordinary Club, let us pause for a moment to pay tribute to those who worked so hard to create it, and to Carol Green Wilson for recording its early history.

*Marcia Schneider*



# The Centennial Oral History Project:

## *An Interview with Margaret Miller Kaplan*

Margaret (Peg) Kaplan, also known professionally as Dr. Margaret Miller, celebrates her 93rd birthday this month, as well as her 45th year as a Metropolitan Club member.

Peg's Club membership evolved through different phases of her personal life. When she first joined in 1980, she was attracted to the swimming pool. Then serving as Medical Director of the Golden Gate Regional Center, which provides services to Bay Area individuals with developmental disabilities, she was close enough to swim during an occasional long lunch hour. She used a small inheritance for her initiation fee. She already knew a lot of Club members and was enthusiastically sponsored by Mary Anne Grady, Jo Wallace and Pat Hoffner. She served on the Club Board under President Ruth Klompus, participated on the Bridge Committee where she helped inaugurate Monday Drop-In games, and became a regular attendee of the Club's Aqua Fit classes. For years until his death in 2012, Peg's husband Bill went to the Olympic Club three days a week while she came to the Club.

"I am so lucky to have this club as a place to entertain," explains Peg. "I don't have to look elsewhere. This is my entertainment home." The Kaplans celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, their son Paul's wedding reception, and she recently hosted a baby shower for her first great grandchild (Will) at the Club.

Peg arrived in San Francisco from Colorado as a preschooler, age 4. The family moved into an apartment on Pine Street just a block south of Grace Cathedral, and not far from what was *then* the Woman's Athletic Club on Sutter Street. Amazingly, Peg's mother and her future husband's mother met at Huntington Park on Nob Hill where they took their respective 4 year olds, Peg and Bill, to play. The two children attended Kindergarten at the Peabody School on Bush Street. They would not meet again until adulthood.



After Peabody, Peg attended Alamo Elementary, Presidio Middle School and George Washington High School where she was a member of its first graduating class. An excellent student, Peg attended UC Berkeley on a Cal Alumni Scholarship. In her second year, at the urging of her mother, Peg became a volunteer nurse's aide at St. Francis Hospital. "War broke out and everyone was expected to do their part." One day, a woman in labor came in and Kaplan observed the birth. She was deeply impressed, and she considered the impact of the experience on her life as she walked from the St. Francis to the street car to her parents' home near Sea Cliff. The next morning at breakfast she told her parents that she would like to change her major and go to medical school. Despite the fact that this meant at least one extra year of undergraduate education to prepare, and then the extra years of medical school, her parents' response was, "Whatever you want to do, we will try to support you."

Peg finished high school in 1939 at the age of 17, UC Berkeley in 1943 and the University of Nebraska Medical School in 1949 where she was one of 4 women out of a class of 80 students.

During medical school, Peg and Bill were reacquainted through their parents and a long distance relationship ensued. They married in 1950, bought their house and had two children: a son in 1954 and a daughter in 1956.

Peg's professional life is extraordinary. Working for the SF Department of Public Health, she became the city's first district health officer. She describes her work in public health as "anticipatory guidance," offering preventative services, such as the well-baby program, rather than specific treatment. Peg "pushed the button" to fluoridate the water in San Francisco for the first time. In the SF Medical Society she proposed starting pre-natal classes. Eventually, through her work with the Golden Gate Regional Center, she became an expert on services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

As the 21st century dawned, Peg began to shift her focus from children to seniors. In 2004, she was appointed by then Mayor Newsom to the Advisory Committee on Long-Term Care and Services for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities, a position she held until 2012. According to Peg, the most constant issue they hear from seniors is transportation. Peg's group is sponsoring a fair on June 6 at the St. Francis Church which will focus on special transportation services.

At age 93, Peg commented on what gives her joy. Music has always been at the center of her interests, as well as family. Most recently, Peg recalls her Mother's Day outing. Her son picked her up at noon and a family group including his wife, daughter, son-in-law, son-in-law's mother, and Peg's new great grandson traveled in one of two solar-powered boats on San Francisco Bay to McCovey Cove. They arrived about the 5th inning of the Giants' final game in the series against the Miami Marlins. There were plates of bread, cheese, artichokes. The sun came out. They could follow the action by the sounds of the crowd floating out of the ballpark. The Giants won in the bottom of the 9th. As I spoke with Peg about the day we both agreed that life doesn't get much better than that.

*By Carol Ann Rogers*

*This version has been edited from the original. To read the full interview and to see more photos, please visit [www.640hpf.org](http://www.640hpf.org)*

# Elizabeth Pillsbury Society Testimonial



*"Being a member of the Metropolitan Club has been the cornerstone of my social life since moving to San Francisco."*

*Joining the Elizabeth Pillsbury Society for Planned Giving is a natural thing for me. Our Club, our traditions, the many fine women I have met at the Club inspire me everyday to continue to contribute to my community at the Metropolitan Club and my city, San Francisco."*

*Linda Hannawalt*

Linda was a recent recipient of the Jefferson Award which is a prestigious national recognition system honoring community and public volunteerism in America. Congratulations, Linda!

## 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

Carol Ede

Dr. Cecile Julia Eggens

Helene Ettelson

Susan J. Gearey

Pria Graves

Margaret Handelman

Linda Hannawalt

Janet McLaughlin Higgins

Shirley Hucklin

Effiellen Jefferies

Mrs. Wayne Johnson III

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

Misty Tyree

Margrethe Ann Welch

Nancy Weston

Renate-Karin Wunsch

Mary Yetter



WE ARE HAPPY SO MANY OF OUR EPS MEMBERS COULD JOIN US AT THE RECENT DONOR LUNCHEON!

## Tribute Program: January - April 2015

THE 640 FOUNDATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING TRIBUTE GIFTS:

### **In memory of Gene Gilmartin**

Barbara Backer

### **In honor of Janet Higgins**

Lynn Thompson

### **In honor of Carol Ann Rogers**

Nancy Johnson

### **In honor of Drue Ashford**

Helene Ettelson

### **In honor of the 10th Anniversary of Ayn McGee & Chris Rillo**

Helene Ettelson

### **In honor of Karen Rose**

Nancy Johnson

### **In honor of Linda Hannawalt**

Nancy Johnson

### **In honor of Gladys Mitchell**

Adrienne Sherman

### **In honor of Misty Tyree**

Nancy Johnson





Thanks to all those who supported the  
Second 640 Foundation Fashion Show!

ARMANI  
COLLEZIONI



All photos courtesy of Moanalani Jeffrey



## A Warm Welcome to Michelle Mitchell

In mid-May, we welcomed Michelle Mitchell as our new Foundation Director. A self-described “military brat,” Michelle lived in Germany, Japan, and England, moving to San Francisco in 1995. Again in her words, “and has rarely crossed water ever since.” She received her B.A. from San Francisco State University in Theatre Arts, with an emphasis in Dramaturgy and Play Development.

Michelle’s impressively broad professional experience includes work in theatre arts, event planning and management, coordination of volunteers and cross-functional teams, operations management, facilities management, and budget management. She worked first for Z Space Studio, managing the day-to-day operations of their artists-in-residency program, and she produced their monthly newsletter. Michelle worked as a dramaturg for one of their incubator projects, Word for Word, and for another incubator, AfroSolo. At the California College of the Arts (formerly California College of Arts and Crafts), as Office and Events Manager, she coordinated up to 150 regional and local recruitment events annually.



At retail marketing firm H&L Partners (formerly Hoffman|Lewis), this multi-talented woman was Director of Office Services for nine years. And, for the last 14 years, she has also worked for the San Francisco Sketch Comedy Festival (SF Sketchfest), managing the internal cross-functional team as well as hundreds of volunteers for their annual three-week events schedule every winter.

Working with professionals and volunteers, many of whom she recruited, Michelle has an impressive record. She is also a freelance writer, developing everything from websites to public relations campaigns, and has her own eco-friendly greeting card company.

We are delighted to welcome her to the 640 Foundation. Now in our eleventh year, we look forward to working with Michelle on our developing programs and undertakings, and to getting to know this creative and friendly lady.



640 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94102

## THE ALICE ROSS CAREY MEMORIAL LECTURE

In July 2013, the City of San Francisco lost an important historic 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 Erin Garcia,

who will profile five remarkable women who shaped, or were shaped by, the PPFE

**Thursday Evening, September 17, 2015**

The Metropolitan Club

This event is co-sponsored by  **SF** HERITAGE

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

Erin Garcia is an independent curator and writer, who most recently was the guest curator of the ongoing exhibition *City Rising: San Francisco and the 1915 World's Fair*, which has installations at the California Historical Society and the Palace of Fine Arts. She is currently organizing an exhibition for the SF chapter of the American Institute of Architects.