

# NEWS from the CASTLE

BERKELEY CITY CLUB CONSERVANCY, FUNDING THE PRESERVATION OF  
JULIA MORGAN'S BERKELEY CITY CLUB BUILDING

2315 DURANT AVE., ROOM 306 ♦ BERKELEY, CA 94704 ♦ (510) 883-9710 ♦ [WWW.BERKELEYCITYCLUBCONSERVANCY.ORG](http://WWW.BERKELEYCITYCLUBCONSERVANCY.ORG)

## Conservancy Sponsors STEAM Panel to Inspire High School Girls

STEAM is an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. High schools in Berkeley, as well as throughout the United States, have developed STEAM programs.

The Berkeley City Club architect, Julia Morgan, is regarded as an early STEAM mentor. Her story is truly inspiring. Born in 1872, Morgan received an engineering degree with honors at UC Berkeley, and then went on to earn a certificate in architecture at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, the first woman architect in the whole history of the Ecole. She set up her own practice in San Francisco in 1904, and went on to work on more than 700 projects, including the monumental Hearst Castle and the huge Berkeley City Club, at 46,000 square feet, one of the largest women's clubs in the United States.

The Berkeley City Club Conservancy, intending to honor Julia Morgan's legacy, will sponsor a STEAM Panel to inspire high school girls. The panel is organized by Barbara Westover, Conservancy Vice President, who is inviting girls from local high schools to attend the free event in order to learn some of the possibilities of a STEAM education. "We hope the stories of these women will be inspiring!" says Westover, who is herself an architect.

The Conservancy's STEAM Panel will be held on Sunday, March 10, starting at 1:30 pm in the Ballroom at the Berkeley City Club. There are nine panel members, all women in distinguished careers, and all with stories to tell.

*Caroline Adams, MD. Adams began her career as a professional dancer, then switched to medicine.*

*Catherine Wolfram. An economics professor in the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley.*

*Courtney Melbloom. A sustainable farmer from Morrow Bay.*

*Genevieve Graves. Astrophysicist who uses big data to inform businesses.*

*Shawn Lovell. Blacksmith creator of functional art large and small.*

*Sophia Skoda. EBMUD Treasurer. Engineering (and more) background.*

*Beatrice Cox. Archeologist preserving cultural resources in California.*

*Shawn McIntyre. Google driverless car designer.*

This distinguished panel is the first STEAM event to be held in the historic Berkeley City Club, created by a quintessential STEAM mentor, Julia Morgan, architect and engineer.

*By Sarah Gill, Conservancy Treasurer*



STEAM Panel Organizer,  
Barbara Westover

### SAVE THE DATE

The Conservancy will be hosting a Chocolate/Coffee Faire at the Berkeley City Club in the fall on Sunday, October 27, from 11 am to 4 pm. The Faire will showcase local artisans of chocolate and coffee. Tickets for the Faire will cost \$35, which includes admission to all of the exhibitions, as well as to the special demonstrations and performances.



## NEWS FROM THE CASTLE SPRING 2019

*News from the Castle* is the official newsletter of the Berkeley City Club Conservancy.

The Conservancy is a tax-exempt charitable organization dedicated to the conservation of Julia Morgan's community clubhouse that is home to the Berkeley City Club, and to the preservation of her legacy as an architect.

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The Conservancy Board meets monthly, except for August, on the first Wednesday at 7 p.m. The meetings are open to the public. Call (510) 883-9710 for more information.

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Public tours of Julia Morgan's clubhouse, sponsored jointly by the Conservancy and the Berkeley City Club, are held on the Fourth Sunday of every month (except December) from 1-4 pm. The cost is \$10 per person. All proceeds go towards the restoration of the clubhouse. Private tours may also be scheduled. For details, email the Docent Coordinator at [drsarahgill@gmail.com](mailto:drsarahgill@gmail.com).

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### BERKELEY CITY CLUB CONSERVANCY

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## GARDENS: EXQUISITE EXTERIOR SPACES

By Claudia Falconer, AIA, BCC Conservancy Board Member

The exterior world perforates the masses of the Berkeley City Club. Architect Julia Morgan designed courtyards, roof terraces, balconies, and site areas that bring light and air into the building from all sides. – her goal was to “bring the outdoors in.”

The scope of her architectural services included the design of the outdoor spaces that would enhance and augment the use of the clubhouse. Morgan placed two courtyards in the middle of the building to bring daylight into all levels. She added an open loggia to each courtyard, and placed fountains in both. The open loggia in the East Courtyard was soon enclosed to make another meeting space, but the loggia at the end of the West Court is still as the architect planned it.

She also designed three roof spaces – the Terrace over the swimming pool, and two sundecks – for use as gathering spaces for events and activities. Only the Terrace is still used. Initially, glass block skylights in the Terrace floor provided daylight into the swimming pool, but leaks through the glass block assembly prompted the addition of deck-coating waterproofing over the skylights. Various glazed planters brought greenery to the Terrace, and a fountain once graced the north wall.

Originally, an awning stretched just along the center of the Terrace, but later replacements covered the entire space and even included side curtains to keep out the rain. These improvements made the Terrace usable in all weathers.

In all, Morgan designed fifteen exterior spaces, and indicated on her drawings the planting concepts that were intended for the areas. Both the East Court and the smaller West Court featured lawns in the center with shrubbery around the borders. She used the same approach along the Durant Street façade, with lawn next to the sidewalk and shrubbery or trees at the building walls. This method reflects the English Garden aesthetic of flowing natural landscape forms, as opposed to French Gardens, which had tightly controlled geometric enclosures made of hedges or walls.

Julia Morgan did not specify plant selections, except for a few tree species. But the Club had a very active Garden Committee, which had begun planning even before the clubhouse was built. These avid gardeners selected most of the plants that went into the exterior spaces. The plants seen today that may have survived from the beginning include the chain ferns under the windows of the East Court, and the enormous Australian tree ferns growing up past the Terrace.



*The East Court from above. It originally had a lawn at center*



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### SPECIAL THANKS TO LUANNE BRADLEY!

The Conservancy owes a special vote of thanks to former Board Member Luanne Bradley, whose parting gift to the Conservancy was a new Dell computer for the office. The new computer is much faster than the old one, and is making the tasks of record keeping for the Conservancy far easier. Luanne resigned to take on a new volunteer opportunity as a docent for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

We wish you luck, Luanne, and we will never forget you!



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## Financial Report for 2018

Sarah Gill, Conservancy Treasurer

The Conservancy's main project in 2018 was the complete restoration of the Loggia windows overlooking the Club Pool, at a total cost of \$24,294. Undertaken by Susan Wagner Designs, LLC, under the supervision of Conservancy Board Member, Mary Hardy, the project included repairing the steel window frames, and replacing the old opaque glass panels. Those opaque panels had been installed earlier to replace the original leaded glass panes and steel frames dating to 1930, which had rusted out. The replacement windows were leaded as specified by the architect, Julia Morgan, and the new transparent glass panes were tempered for safety. These new Loggia windows provide a clear view into the pool area, and allow reflected light from the pool to flow into the Loggia, as Julia Morgan originally intended.

Thanks to our many donors (see Page 3 for the Donor List), the Conservancy's total revenue in 2018 came to \$57,150.24. This amount also included revenue from the docent tours of \$1,725; the sale of notecards for \$120; and a royalty donation for the sale of books for \$480. As of January 2019, the Conservancy's bank accounts included the following: Mechanics checking, \$21,057; Charles Schwab investments (in CDs), \$51,799; Charles Schwab, cash account, \$32,360.88; Vanguard endowment funds, \$172,552.84.

The Conservancy's total expenditures in 2018 came to \$66,993.96. This was \$9,843.72 over the amount collected in revenue. Apart from the usual office expenses of \$10,713.30, there was a one-time expense of renovating the office of \$10,568.36. Much of this was covered by a donation of \$8,000 from two Conservancy Board Members. There were also fundraising expenses, including the printing and mailing of three newsletters in 2018 of \$5,426.39, and a fundraising workshop expense of \$2,150. The remainder of the expenditures derived from tax preparations and payments, fees for computer consultation, and the payroll for one part-time staff member and two work-study students. (The Conservancy Board Members and Officers are all volunteers.)