

BERKELEY CITY CLUB

BC

CONSERVANCY

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

Now Is the Time to Finish Restoring Morgan's Pool Window Arcade

When our pool windows were installed in 1930, the architect's specifications called for the window arcades to be filled with sparkling diamond-shaped panes of clear leaded glass set into steel frames that were embedded in stucco and concrete. But over the years, the high humidity of the pool area caused the window frames to corrode and the panes to break. At some point in time, many decades ago, the window frames became so corroded that they could no longer support the original leaded glass. At that time, the club replaced the original clear glass panes and their network of lead came strips with plain panels of translucent wire-reinforced glass. While these panels were safer than the broken leaded glass panes, they were not as aesthetically pleasing as the original leaded glass, and furthermore, they cut off some light into the pool. Since then, even these replacement panels have cracked, as the steel window frames further corroded in the humid environment of the pool area (see photo: Corrosion in Pool Window). The problem of humidity was finally addressed with the installation a few years ago of a large fan under the viewing gallery, thus preventing future damage from constant moisture. However, the corrosion damage already done to the steel frames remained, and the cracked replacement window panels are still unsightly and still dim the light into the pool area.

What will it take to restore these window arcades to their original beauty? As a test case, the Berkeley City Club Conservancy funded a grant to replace one set of pool windows, those opening onto the west side of the pool from the Loggia. The winning bid for the restoration went to Susan Wagner Design of Santa



Severe Corrosion in Pool Window. Photo: Trevor Johnson

Cruz, CA. who produced the stunning results seen when the new windows were unveiled (see "Loggia Windows Restoration" in the Spring 2018 issue of the newsletter). Where do we go from here to restore the remaining six window sets along the east side of the pool area? Two architects from the Conservancy provide some answers below.

Claudia Falconer, AIA, and Conservancy President:

"The Conservancy working together with the Club needs to okay this project, and then it has to go out to bid. As for cost, Susan Wagner did the Loggia window for less than \$30,000. That means that we could do the remaining six windows for a total of about \$180,000. The current pandemic of coronavirus will certainly slow down this process, but it seems feasible to plan for 2021. The existing reinforced glass panels reduce the light coming into the pool area and they are unsightly. We want to get back the sparkle of clear panes of leaded glass!" At their last meeting, the Berkeley City Club Conservancy gave the go-ahead to prepare the necessary overview of the restoration needed for the pool windows.

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NEWS FROM THE CASTLE SPRING 2020

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

The Berkeley City Club Conservancy is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve the Berkeley City Club building, and to promote the legacy of Julia Morgan, its architect.

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

♦♦♦

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 p.m.

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.

♦♦♦

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Barbara Westover, AIA, and Conservancy Board Member:

"The Conservancy is blessed with professionals who can oversee and put together a plan for the pool windows restoration. We will also reach out to experts and create: a "white paper," a concise report about a complex issue, and a good plan. The Conservancy Building Committee is working up a cost for a prototype replacement of one set of these windows so as to inform us of the overall cost.

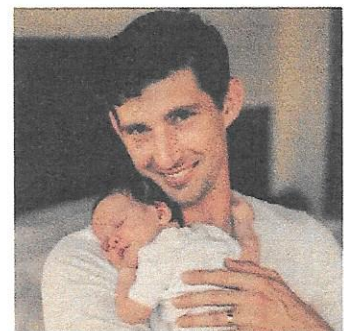
The Building Committee will study the entire pool enclosure and learn why the original design elements failed. It will research the guidelines for historical preservation so that we can restore the windows to their original design: transparent glazing set in diagonal coming, and will include specifications that fit today's code requirements for historical buildings. It will create a plan for the first task of window restoration and will work together with the Berkeley City Club to move forward.

Today we are blessed with materials and techniques that could help us restore the pool enclosure and ensure its longevity. If the stunning original windows with their diamond facets were removed because they were a safety risk, now we can temper each facet, similar to the work in the loggia."

~Contributed by Bob Hamilton, Conservancy Board Member and Sarah Gill, Conservancy Secretary

New Treasurer and New Parent: Daniel M. Komoroske

Recently appointed as Conservancy Treasurer, Daniel M. Komoroske is a new parent as well. He is shown in the accompanying photo holding his daughter, Adeline Komoroske, who was born October 15, 2019. "At six months old in April," he said, "Adeline is already able to sit up, she has two teeth, and is wearing twelve month clothing." Husband John Alexander Komoroske is an equally proud parent, he says. Born in Sacramento, Daniel Komoroske grew up in Folsom and graduated from the University of California in Berkeley, where he majored in Legal Studies and took many science courses. Before taking on his position as Conservancy Treasurer, he was Local Area Network Administrator for Parsons Brinckerhoff/Balfour Beatty, a multinational engineering and design firm, which specialized in global engineering and professional services consulting.



New Parent, Daniel M. Komoroske, Conservancy Treasurer

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

*The total donated to the Conservancy in 2019 came to \$66,988.01.
(This does not include the total raised in the Chocolate & Coffee Faire.)*

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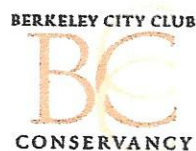
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