
BERKELEY CITY CLUB



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

A “Historic American Landscape”- Julia Morgan’s Berkeley City Club gardens

To most visitors, the gardens at the Berkeley City Club are a grace note to a building well-endowed with grace. But the gardens are more than a garnish to the visual feast that is the Berkeley City Club. Guests, and even Club members are generally unaware that in 2013 the gardens joined the nation’s most notable landscapes at the Library of Congress in Washington DC, with the acceptance of a Berkeley City Club Conservancy-generated Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) report.

HALS was created by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) to document historic landscapes in the United States. The surveys are created according to guidelines set by the Park Service and assisted by ASLA. The completed, approved documentation is submitted to the Library of Congress which preserves them and makes them available to the public.

Sharon Entwistle, a Conservancy board member at the time and a member of the group -including Club members and other volunteers - that prepared the HALS submission, shared that the entire adventure was the result of a chance conversation between Landmark Heritage Foundation (now known as the Berkeley City Club Conservancy) President and Club member, Mary Beeunig, and Chris Patillo, who was at the time head of the Northern California branch of HALS.

By definition, HALS documents “important touchstones of national, regional, and local identity, fostering a sense of community and place.” Surely, they felt, the gardens at Berkeley City Club met this standard.

Referring to early issues of the Club’s magazine, *The Record*, and the Foundation’s (BCCC) image archives, they initiated a history for the survey. The



East Court with original ferns

gardens and landscaping were included in Morgan’s initial commission, and her design methodology - integrating landscape features with building elements - facilitated the perpetuation of the gardens and their evolution over more than ninety years. Some of the original plants were recommended and donated by Morgan herself, who was working on the gardens and buildings of San Simeon at the time. Here in Berkeley, the garden committee of Berkeley Women’s City Club, which oversaw development and maintenance of the gardens worked with Morgan in their creation.

Continued on Page 2

NEWS FROM THE CASTLE
FALL 2022

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 support the preservation of the Berkeley City Club building, and to promote the legacy of Julia Morgan, its architect.

Board of Directors

Claudia Falconer, President
Mary E. MacDonald, Vice President
Daniel M. Komoroske, Treasurer
Susan Pae, Secretary
Barbara Jacobitti, BCC Liaison

Maureen Behrendt, Mary Bulota,
Dr. Sarah Gill, Robert Hamilton,
Christie McCarthy, Susan Veit,
Barbara K. Westover

Honorary Director
Anne Foley

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.

Docent-Led Tours

Tour the historic Berkeley Club Building, Julia Morgan's "Little Castle"

Public drop-in tours every 4th Sunday of the month from 1:00 to 3:30pm

\$10 suggested donation per person. Private tours upon request, Contact Christie McCarthy at (510) 529-1078

Berkeley City Club Conservancy
2315 Durant Avenue #306
Berkeley CA 94704
Phone/Fax: (510) 883-9710

bccconservancy@att.net
www.berkeleycityclubconservancy.org

The East Court, also referred to as the "Rhododendron Court" initially included thick grass, daffodils, tulips, columbine, and yellow jasmine, as well as pink rhododendrons, laurels, woodwardia ferns, an eight-foot-tall *Aralia papyrifera* ("rice-paper tree"), two *Pleroma splendens*, ("Princess Flower") and a potted *Ficus elasticain* (Rubber Plant). The central lawn was the first to go, a victim of heavy foot traffic. Some of the court's current plants date to the early days of the club; the impressive tree ferns are thought to be more than seventy years old, as well as the *Tetrastigmavoinierumis* (Grape Ivy), and one of several azaleas planted in the western bed. Although not original, the nearly twenty-foot-tall *Strelitzianicolai* (Bird of Paradise) at the north end of the court, and the Norfolk pine were early members' houseplants. The small pond in the northeast corner is original, although it was not until 1969 that its plan was fully realized with the gift of a fountain.

The "Garden Terrace," (the roof of above the swimming pool connecting the Members' Lounge and the Ballroom) initially included a fountain at its north end with planter boxes on the north and south walls. The original pots, once filled with shrubs, are still in use.

The West Court, reached through the leaded glass doors of the first-floor Drawing Room and the Patio Room (now the Theater), was initially known as the "Fuchsia Court," with fuchsias planted along the walls, interspersed with azaleas, begonias, and cineraria. The fuchsias "failed to thrive" and were replaced in 1933 by camellias, and the area became the "Camellia Court." The bas-relief on the west wall was a gift donated in memory of a club member. The central area has always been paved with flagstones, and club members donated moss to plant between the stones. The distinctive, decorative patinated copper downspouts are original. The north end of the Camellia Court, with its original pendant light fixtures, is still a pleasant out-of-doors conversation area. Steps descend from the loggia into to the Yard, now known as the Northwest Garden, where a *Tetrastigmahaas* (another Grape Ivy) grows over the western edge of the steps. Old electrical conduits suggest that lamps must once have lighted the Loggia and the Yard beyond. One of the four original jacarandas remains - only four others were known to exist in Berkeley at the time.

The garden to the north - the Rear, or Northeast Yard - is now a bocce ball court. It was not shown on any plans as destined for plantings, but the club's Garden Committee developed it as an old-fashioned "cutting garden" to provide flowers for the Club.

The East Side yard, - a long narrow strip outside what are now translucent pool windows - was a strip of turf with yellow jasmine along the high wall, and yellow chrysanthemums, daffodils, and yellow tulips, visible both from the street through wrought iron gates, and to swimmers through the leaded glass windows which then lined the east side of the pool.

The site survey was done by volunteer HALS members, and a professional photographer was engaged for the required contemporary photographs. Chris Patillo forwarded the completed document for submission and approval to the Library of Congress in 2013, where it is available to the public on their website; search for "CA HALS-46 Berkeley Women's City Club."

By Karen Yencich, Friend of the Conservancy

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 DONORS!

Your generosity helps to support the preservation of our landmark building and to promote the legacy of its groundbreaking architect, Julia Morgan

COPPER

\$20 to \$499

Amazon Smile Program
Annalee & James Edward Allen
Betty Ames
Susan Austin
Gillian Bagwell in memory of Dick Bagwell
Maria & Scott Beamer
Janet & Jon Bensick
Caroline Beverstock
David & Eva Bradford
Robert Brower in memory of Linda K. Townsend
Lisa Bruce
Lorna Byrne
Craig Casebeer
Henrietta Cohen in honor of Jackie Jackson
Susan Muscarella & Robert Cole
Natalie Balfour & John Cove in memory of Mrs. Robert (Doris) Balfour
Audel & Lynne Showers Davis
Mary Dean
Riley Doty
Rebecca Parlette-Edwards & Thomas Edwards
Laura Ehler
John Farnkopf

Harold Feiger
Vivian & Craig Fendel
Susan & Stephen Fisher
Kathleen & Patrick Fitzpatrick
Anne Foley
Catherine Gallagher
Dr. Maryl Gearhart
Sarah Gill
Peggy Goodale
Gretchen & Thomas Griswold
Mona Halaby
John Leathers & Robert Hamilton
Richard & Valerie Herr
Paul Herzoff
Shirley Issel
Victoria Kastner
E. Suzanne Klein
June Kody
Anne Meyer Korn
Germaine LaBerge
Judith Lehman
Eldene Lucchese
Tim Lundgren
Margaret & Nathan Malone in honor of Alice & Tom Malone
Karen McNeill
Jean & Roger Moss
Robert & Nancy Mueller
Mary Lee & John Noonan

Mary & David O'Neill
Lyn & John Oliensis in honor of Ellen Oliensis
Jo Ann & Paul Price
Peggy Radel
Heather Ripley
Jack Sawyer
Ivanaron Scarinzi
Marilyn Schwartz
Kristie & Ronald Smith
Marilyn Snider in honor of Barbara Westover
Bruce & Susan Stangeland
Dawn Swanson
Marianne Tanner
Lynn & Jeff Veit
Betty & William Webster
Sheri & Tim Wedlake
Richard Wesell
Baird Whaley
Dianne Whitaker
Kyle Davy & Karen Yencich

Gerry & Ortrun Niesar
Jana Olson

GOLD

\$1000 to \$4999

Christopher & Jane Adams
Joanne De Phillips
Mary Dolven
Claudia Falconer
Sandra & Thomas Friedland
Daniel & John "Alex" Komoroske
John Lineweaver
Rosemary Mucklow
Teresa & Mike Olson
Jean Reilly
Daniella Thompson
Susan & C. Henry Veit
Catherine & Richard West
Barbara & Christopher Westover
Daniel Zimmerlin

SILVER

\$500 to \$999

Carol Carman
Antoinette & Dr. J. Frederick Conrad
Caroline Haas Kim & Bruce De Benedictis
Margaret & Emmett Eiland
Mary MacDonald
Don & Mara Melandry

This list includes all donations deposited by December 31, 2021. Donations received in 2021, but deposited after that date will be recognized with donors for the calendar year 2022.

Venetian Room Vignettes, Member's Lounge Stenciling restorations

Several of the original vignettes in the ceiling of the Venetian Room, hand painted on parchment in Julia



Damaged ceiling coffer to be repaired

Morgan's workshops and seated

in the ceiling coffers, have been damaged by water or disfigured. Oakland, California restoration firm, Sistine Chapel, will restore 12 of the panels, and completely recreate and reseat another in its coffer - in addition to addressing other portions of the ceiling which will need to be re-stained, shellacked and sealed.

Stenciling in a corner of the Members' Lounge ceiling will also be restored, along with a number of stains in Morgan's Lounge and the Drawing Room. Damage to some of the ceilings in the Ballroom will be rehabilitated and resealed as part of the same project.



2315 Durant Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94704

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OAKLAND, CA.
PERMIT NO. 2508

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Conserving the past, assuring the future

As the year winds down and you begin to address your end-of-year giving, we hope that once again you'll remember the Berkeley City Club Conservancy. There are three ways to donate to the Conservancy. You may **send a check** to: Berkeley City Club Conservancy, 2315 Durant Avenue #306, Berkeley, CA 94704, or **donate online** - at berkeleycityclubconservancy.org and click on the "Donate" button. You may also **join Amazon Smile program**, and Amazon will donate and will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the Berkeley City Club Conservancy. There are no fees, and these donations, over the course of a year, really add up for us. Go to smile.amazon.com to sign up.

As we plan ahead for our 2022 end-of-year giving, we'd also like to look back and recognize the people, programs and organizations that shared our affection for Julia Morgan's beautiful Berkeley City Club building, and are committed to its conservation and continued service to the city of Berkeley and the larger East Bay community, by supporting it with their donations in 2021.

Receive News from the Castle as an email

This will be a resource-saver for the Conservancy, bypassing the costs of paper, printing and postage - money that can be redirected to conservation efforts. It's also one less piece of paper for you to dispose of. A digital publication will make it easier for you to share your comments and to add to our knowledge about Julia Morgan and her work.

Best of all, we'll be able to share news in a full-color format enabling you to see the building, historic drawings and compelling restoration projects in color. Subscribe to our email distribution list - contact Claudia Falconer: falcondraw@aol.com.