



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

Gala Silent Auction - A Success!



The Conservancy held a gala silent auction on October 17th at the Berkeley City Club. It was the centerpiece of our fundraising efforts for 2024. The need to raise money for Conservancy projects at the Berkeley City Club is both ongoing and pressing, and in addition to annual donations, other fundraising events are essential. The auction raised over \$20,000.

The donation of a Steinway baby grand piano to the Conservancy just before the pandemic was the inspiration for the event. It's a measure of the status of Julia Morgan and her architecture that when word got out about an auction to raise funds for conservation of our building, donations began to pour in. There was an 8-foot folding Chinese screen. Jewelry boasting precious and semi-precious stones. An antique doll house and model sailing ship. Original art. Antique furniture. There were rare books and vintage sheet music from the '30's and 40's. Experiences, including performing arts, sailing, club stays and more. In all, there were over 100 items including goods and services.

Momi Assayag, General Manager of the Berkeley City Club, and Linda Twilling representing Berkeley City Club Members, generously partnered with the Conservancy, sharing resources and scheduling the event to coincide with the members' "Roaring Twenties Night." The collaboration filled the Ballroom and Members' Lounge with members dressed to the nines in period costume, along with guests and non-members.

The highest price for the evening went to the Steinway baby grand, which was a bargain at \$3,000. A collection of David Goines prints of Alice Waters' recipes sparked a bidding war and pulled in over \$1,000 – also a bargain. Another closely contested item was a bagpipe concert (Conservancy board member Claudia Falconer is a piper).



Thanks to Natasha Glushkoff, Barbara Westover, Steve Kahlich, Susie Kalich, Charmian Cohen, Mallory Lynch, Barbara Jacobitti, the late Mary Bulota, the late Susan Veit, Bob Hamilton, Gloria Anderson and many other Club and Conservancy members, as well as Momi and his team, for generously giving their time to this effort.

Thank you to the many volunteers who worked to make the event a success, to the generosity of donors for the many valuable items we were able to auction and to the people who purchased - and will enjoy - them. Thank you, everyone, for supporting the preservation of the landmark building and promoting the legacy of Julia Morgan, its extraordinary architect.



STEAM Event for High School and Middle School Girls Returns

The Berkeley City Club Conservancy STEAM panel, an event to draw young women into science, math, engineering and arts programs associated with these disciplines, will re-start this September, after a forced hiatus due to the Covid pandemic.

Launched in 2019 by Conservancy board member Barbara Westover, the panel was designed to serve three purposes. It was a community outreach program, establishing the Conservancy as an active resource. Second, it served the Conservancy's mission of underscoring the status of Julia Morgan and her work as an architect. And finally, it used the example of Morgan's life and work as an opportunity to introduce a new generation of middle-and-high school young women to STEAM careers.

Anita Seralathan, who is heading up the event, and the Conservancy Board have put together a panel of women who will share their experiences of coming into - and working in - these fields, modeling success and leadership. The panel will include Nina House, Managing Editor of the Jepson Herbarium eFlora and Co-Coordinator of the Jepson Public Programs; Paulina Andrade Proaño, Professor of Molecular Virology and Immunology, Founder and Director of BIENSUR (Bienestar Indígena Ecuatoriano en la Salud Urbana y Rural) at the Sustainable Sciences Institute; Amanda Leicht Moore, Director of Product Management, Google Maps; Isabel Conde-Maki, Art Department Head at Pixar; Natasha Batalha, NASA Ames Research Scientist; and Alice Sung, AIA, Architect, Sustainability Professional, Climate Justice Advocate, Founding Principal of Greenbank Associates.

Panelists will introduce themselves and share their stories, then answer questions from the students. Angela Mason, who moderated the first STEAM panel, will also moderate this event, working with the panelists and drawing out questions and comments from the audience. Karen McNeil will provide an introduction to Julia Morgan and the building.

The event is free, but registration is required. It will take place at the Berkeley City Club on Sunday, September 28, from 1:30-4:00 pm and is open to all local high school and middle school-age girls.

Register [here](#) or use the QR code.



Explore the Berkeley City Club with a Docent-led Tour

Are you intrigued by this magnificent landmark and about Julia Morgan, its prolific and innovative architect? The docents of the Berkeley City Club Conservancy would be delighted to guide you through the vaulted halls and arcaded courtyards of this fanciful vision of the late medieval style, designed by Morgan in 1929 as a women's club and residence hotel.

Drop-in tours are offered each month on the 4th Sunday (except for December), between one o'clock and four o'clock. (Tours last 45 minutes, and the last tour starts at 3:15.) A ten-dollar contribution per visitor is requested. (A reduced rate is available for students.) In addition to the monthly Sunday tours, special group tours may be arranged. These run the gamut from visits by school groups, senior centers from near and far, meet-up groups, architects, and a broad range of associations, to hotel guests eager to learn more about the building.

Many special tours are groups of family and friends celebrating milestones together with lunch at Julia's and a tour. Who are our docents? Common factors are a passion for architecture and local history. Current docents include architects, teachers, writers, UC employees, an MD: Many are retired folks. The core of our docent training is "Julia Morgan's Berkeley City Club: The Story of a Building" a remarkable and engaging history by art historian Sarah Gill, Ph.D. Prospective docents will shadow other docents until they feel ready to conduct tours on their own. New docents are welcome!

For more information about becoming a docent, or to learn more about the 4th Sunday drop-in tours or to make arrangements for special tours, contact the BCCC docent coordinator, Christie McCarthy, at 510 529-1078 (chrisdavemc@earthlink.net).

Swimming Pool Window Project Progresses



The Conservancy has received bids for the replacement of the swimming pool windows. The project has been under way for several years with multiple attempts to analyze and understand the technical aspects of the project, and much discussion on how to fund it.

In 2022, the Conservancy engaged a preservation architect, Frederic Knapp, AIA, to design the repairs. Working closely with then board member Barbara Westover, AIA and current board member Claudia Falconer, AIA, Knapp developed a scope of work to identify which windows would be replaced. He then designed a detail for the installation, which in future would not damage the walls and substrate when the windows are replaced.

As you may recall from previous articles, the window frames have steel flanges that were embedded in the cast concrete during the original construction in 1929. Due to the moist and chemical-laden atmosphere in the pool room, the steel flanges rusted, and when steel rusts it expands. This has resulted in cracking and spalling (deterioration where concrete chips away from the surface) around the window openings. The steel frames are severely corroded, and the original diamond pattern leaded glass glazing (the glass panels and their supporting framework) was replaced long ago with various industrial glazing materials.

Using Knapp's drawings and specifications, the Conservancy team reached out to six general contractors who specialize in restoration work, and on July 8th we received four responsive bids. The bids were formatted to provide several "alternates" which gave pricing on discretionary elements in the scope of work. For instance: Should the rosette windows in the upper wall above the arched windows be replaced? Should the glazing be returned to the original diamond pattern leaded glass? Should the window frames be bronze or steel?



The restoration offers three glazing options: plain glass, simulated divided lights (where the diamond pattern is applied to a single pane), or true divided lights (authentic diamond-shaped panes created by welding individual glass pieces within lead came, as in the original 1929 construction). True divided lights would restore the windows to their historical authenticity and visual impact.

We are currently working with the selected bidder and the Club to finalize project details and funding. We look forward to completing the project, which will return the windows to their original beauty with a clean and stable appearance and full operability of the doors and windows.

The Pool Window Project represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to restore one of our most distinctive architectural features to its original 1929 splendor. Your generous donation will help ensure that future generations can experience these magnificent windows as they were originally intended – with authentic craftsmanship that honors our building's rich heritage. Every contribution brings us closer to preserving this irreplaceable piece of our history.

Donations to the Conservancy in support of the Pool Window Project are greatly appreciated.

Help us Conserve Funds for Important Projects

Printing and mailing our newsletter is one of our biggest expenditures. You can help us reduce the expense by signing up for email delivery. Go green and stay informed by sending us your email address at: bccconservancy@att.net.



2315 DURANT AVENUE
ROOM 306
BERKELEY, CA 94704

Conserving the past, assuring the future.

We would 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.

There are two ways to donate to the Berkeley City Club 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.

DONATIONS TO THE BERKELEY CITY CLUB CONSERVANCY • 2024-25

PLATINUM - \$5,000 to \$10,000

Carol Carman & Richard Muller
Joanne De Phillips

GOLD- \$1,000 to \$4,999

Caroline Haas Kim & Bruce Benedictis
Antoinette & J. Frederick Conrad
Mary Dolven
Sandra & Thomas Friedland
Karen Gabrielson
Mr. & Mrs. Herrick Jackson
Sheila & Toby Schwartzburg
Barbara Westover

SILVER - \$500 to \$999

Catherine Coates & Veronica Selver
Vivian & Craig Fendel
Catherine Gallagher
Leo Kane
Janice Kelly
Mary MacDonald
Ortrun & Gerry Niesar
C. Henry Veit

BRONZE - \$100 to \$499

Marion Abbott
Janet & Jon Bensick
John Beutler
Lisa Bruce
Lorna Byrne
Charlice & John Danielson
Margaretta Darnall
Riley Doty
Fredrica Drotos
Laura Ehlert
Thomas L. & Nancy Ewing
William Foley
Mary Gallagher
Sarah Gill
Jane Gill-Shaler
Laura Hartman
Judith & William Hein
Connie & Robert Hosemann
Shirley Issel
Jewish Community Federation
Barbara & Thomas Job
Germaine LaBerge
David Lindeman
Anne Meyer Korn
Helen Marcus
Karen McNeill
Don & Mara Melandry

Mary Lee Noonan
Janet Perlman
Jo Ann & Paul Price
Peggy Radel
Heather Ripley
Jack Sawyer
Margaret Schaefer
Thomas Schwartzburg
David Shepherd & Al Hoffmann
Bruce & Susan Strangeland
Vea Van Kessel
Karen Yencich & Kyle Davy

COPPER - \$20 to \$99

Valerie Batey
Joanne Bertram
Holly Bieniawski
John Farnkopf
Louise Glynn
Lee Kempf
June Kody
Tim Lundgren
Margaret & Nathan McAlone
Patricia Rougeau
Patricia & Peter Sussman
Kathryn Selleck & Michael Johnson
Richard Wesell