Heritage will stage creative new “Chair-ity” fundraiser

Heritage is pleased to announce a fun, new fundraising opportunity called Adaptive Re-use: A Chair-ity Auction. Thanks to generous donations from our members, we recently replaced the old wooden folding chairs we have used for years to provide seating in the ballroom and for parties and events in the Haas-Lilienthal House. The old, now surplus, chairs were headed for disposal, perhaps on eBay, when a staff member decided not to take this sitting down, but to stand up and declare that the folding chairs could be turned into folding green stuff.

The idea, the brainchild of Heritage operations manager Barbara Roldan and nurtured by U.B. Morgan, an artist who joined the Heritage board nearly a year ago, is to invite celebrities, artists, writers, politicians—men and women on the scene—to take a chair, or even a pair, and create artworks from them. We will auction these off at a special event whose proceeds will benefit Heritage.

We supply the chairs, the artists donate time and materials. They can be as creative as they would like. They can paint, carve, decoupage or express themselves in any other chair-itable way. We expect that the prospect of picking up an original piece will appeal to our members and attract a new and diverse constituency to the cause of preservation in San Francisco.

Please, do not stand on ceremony. Pull up a chair and get started on your project. Think what you could do with the seat of government, Madam Chair, by the seat of your pants, “chairiots” of fire, “ole rockin’ chair’s got me”, endowed chair, or some original theme (See page 5 to identify Chair-ity subjects above).

If you, or someone you know, would like to take on the chair challenge, contact Barbara Roldan (broldan@sfheritage.org) or U.B. Morgan (ubart@earthlink.net), or call Heritage at 415-441-3000, and arrange to pick up a chair.

Artist or no, you will certainly want to reserve the date, February 10, 2005, to view the artworks and to place your bid at the Chair-ity Event, which will take place at Space 743, a gallery at 743 Harrison Street. It is your chance to acquire a (not quite historic) bit of the Haas-Lilienthal House, transformed by the creative imagination of an artist or other San Francisco celebrity.
Comments From The President

For your board of directors, deliberations at the close of the year always center on budgeting. We take a careful look at our performance during the current year and attempt to project income and expense for the next. In 2004, beginning at our summer retreat and continuing into the fall, we have attempted to be realistic about our forecasts for 2005, and to understand more completely how we are structured.

Heritage receives income from the annual Soirée party; from annual fund appeals to the board, membership and public; from grants, including those supporting education from the city’s hotel tax fund and for advocacy from a private foundation; from rental of the Haas-Lilienthal House; from educational activity including lectures; and from dues. Revenue from all of these sources for the current year is projected at about $520,000.

On the other side of the ledger, Heritage spends money on event production, publications, maintenance of the Haas-Lilienthal House, on overhead expenses such as utilities, license fees and insurance, and on staff, including their salaries and benefits. For 2004 these expenses, despite great effort in limiting spending on the part of Charles Chase, Barbara Roldan and a dedicated staff, have been over $600,000—producing a deficit. The deficit has been met by depleting our very limited unrestricted capital funds.

All of us have acknowledged that the deficit cannot continue. In examining what we do, we have found that certain activities, including particularly rental of the House and the yearly fund-raising event, throw off income. Other work, including participation in planning, advocacy and community government, costs us a great deal of money and produces no income. Maintaining our public stance and participating in the community, then, must be supported by those who believe that how we teach, inform and guide the public is a civic benefit.

For 2005 we will be adopting a budget that is in balance but that calls for additional fund raising. We are offering a new membership structure that rewards increased giving to Heritage. We are inaugurating corporate memberships with participation ranging from $1,500 to $25,000 per year on a three-year basis and benefits commensurate with the amount pledged.

Individual board members are hosting special parties. We are seeking additional grant funding for targeted needs, such as capital improvements to the Haas-Lilienthal House and publication of the new volume in the Splendid Survivors series. We are re-examining our easement program, in which Heritage, for a fee, accepts property easements that protect historic buildings and entitle building owners to tax benefits. And we are promoting planned giving.

Though the home and symbol of San Francisco Architectural Heritage is a splendid 19th-century house, and though we are privileged to have the support and trust of the city’s most prominent property owners, Heritage is not rich. We depend on each of you. As the year comes to an end, we ask you to be generous, and to plan on increasing your support of Heritage in the coming year.

J. Gordon Turnbull, FAIA
President
Mutual Savings Bank Building & Annex

Heritage has reviewed a very tentative, exploratory proposal for a project that would have a significant impact on a historic Market Street building and its 1964 addition, now considered important in its own right.

The Mutual Savings Bank Building at Market and Geary, designed by William Curlett (1902), was one of a score of downtown office buildings to survive the 1906 earthquake and fire. Though the fire gutted the 12-story steel-frame building, it suffered only minor structural damage and was quickly rebuilt, under Curlett’s supervision. It remained largely unchanged until the 1960s. At that time, the owner, Citizens’ Federal Savings & Loan, began planning a new headquarters building.

The bank considered either demolishing and replacing the historic building or refacing it, after the example of the Chronicle Building across the street, at that time recently “modernized” with a veneer of enameled steel panels. The San Francisco firm of Clark & Beuttler took on the assignment, in association with Charles W. Moore and Alan Morgan.

Moore was the lead architect, and he urged retention of the historic structure. In an interview published ten years later he said, “We all had to fight hard to get that to happen . . . .” He succeeded with a plan that cleared the floor area in the existing building exclusively for office use by locating the vertical circulation—elevators and stairs—along with lobbies, storage areas and toilet rooms in a 12-story addition on the neighboring gore lot.

The design of this annex clearly expresses its function as “servant” to the main building. Massive brick-faced vertical piers frame a wall of glass facing the gore point that reveals the elevator lobbies. The south pier contains the stair core, the north pier the elevators.

Upon its completion, the annex received a generally warm critical response. It earned the AIA Award of Merit for Clark & Beuttler and Moore in 1965.

In Progressive Architecture (August 1965), former editor, and partner in the San Francisco firm of Warnecke & Associates, Thomas H. Creighton, observed, “One of the most difficult design problems is to add something new, with contemporary validity, to an older environment. . . . Clark and Beuttler have skirted all the dangers and arrived at a valid relationship (a relationship, and not a similarity, which is important) in color, materials, texture, scale, form, and details. The new is of today, the old remains of its period, and they live well together.”

Here Today, the Junior League survey published in 1968, called it “an excellent example of preservation combined with a thoughtful modern enlargement.” Heritage’s published survey, Splendid Survivors (1979), focused on the historic structure, which received an ‘A’ rating, but took note of the “complementary” addition with its “references to the historic forms of the older structure, notably its mansard roof, dormer, cornice, and floor levels.”

In its historic resource evaluation completed just this year (the source of much of the historical information in this item), Page & Turnbull described the annex as, “the earliest known Postmodern contextual addition to a historic building in downtown San Francisco during the post-war period.” The report further describes it as the early work of a “master” (and perhaps Moore’s only work in San Francisco), who went on to become a national leader in the Postmodern movement.

In response to urging by Heritage and the Planning Department, the project sponsor is reconsidering a plan to replace the Moore annex with a new addition, and will soon offer a revised proposal for the site.

National Historic Landmark

On September 9, 2004, Nancy Pelosi, congresswoman from San Francisco and House minority leader, announced designation of the city’s Swedenborgian Church as a National Historic Landmark. In conveying the news, Pelosi described the church at Lyon and Washington Streets as “a San Francisco gem of exquisite beauty and spirituality.”

The announcement is the culmination of a process that began with exploratory talks between the church and Heritage in 1999. Spearheading the effort were church members John Gaul, a Heritage docent, and Michael Santinauro. Other members of the church who helped guide the congregation toward the decision to seek designation were Jim Land, Bob Morrill, Russ Jaynes, and Ted Bosley. The current minister is Rev. Rachel Rivers.

Bridget Maley and Jody R. Stock of Architectural Resources Group prepared the National Historic Landmark nomination, which went before the National Park System Advisory Board for consideration. In September 2003, the board recommended the listing to the Secretary of the Interior, who makes the actual designation.

Bestowed by the Department of the Interior on sites having national significance, designation as a National Historic Landmark is the highest recognition accorded to historic properties. Fewer than 2400 places in the United States—fewer than 20 of those in San Francisco—share this distinction today.
Golden Gate Park Enters National Register

On October 15, Golden Gate Park entered the National Register of Historic Places. The listing is part of the long-range strategy of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, declared in its 1998 Master Plan for the park, for preserving its historic landscape.

The park met the criteria for listing on several points. Begun in 1871, Golden Gate Park is one of the earliest examples of the large urban park in the United States, preceded only by comparable developments in New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia and St. Louis. By making the bold commitment to develop this urban oasis, the city’s leaders helped to transform San Francisco from a western outpost into a progressive city on the Eastern model.

In planning the park, William Hammond Hall made the first application of Frederick Law Olmstead’s design principles in the West. Golden Gate Park was also the first park created on reclaimed land, effecting an unprecedented transformation of a barren and unwelcoming site. On another level of significance, the park advanced the field of park design by integrating active recreational features into the landscape. Much of the original park remains and enjoys a high level of integrity.

Douglas Nelson, historical landscape architect and principal of Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey, prepared the National Register nomination. It is part of the Mill Valley landscape architecture firm’s work in Golden Gate Park for the past 12 years that has included preparation of the Master Plan, renovation of the park’s lakes and planning for renovation of the Music Concourse.

Port Commission Adopts National Register Nomination

Port staff called it “a milestone accomplishment for the Port.” And so it was, when the Port Commission voted unanimously to adopt the Embarcadero National Register Historic District and authorizing staff to submit the nomination to the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and the National Park Service (NPS).

With that decision, San Francisco is a step closer to realizing an objective of many years’ standing. In 1990, voters passed an initiative requiring the Port to prepare a waterfront land use plan. Part of the process that produced the plan in 1997 included a historic resources report that identified two potential historic districts: the waterfront north of China Basin and Pier 70.

It took a concerted effort on the part of Heritage and many interested individuals and groups to bring the Port around to seeing the value of a formal historic designation. Redevelopment of Pier One and the Ferry Building helped to clinch the argument that National Register listing was more than honorific. It servers the interests of the Port by enhancing the feasibility of waterfront projects through rehabilitation tax credits.

In the end, a broad-based community effort joined with Heritage to make the National Register nomination a reality. These included Telegraph Hill Dwellers, South Beach Citizens Advisory Committee, Fisherman’s Wharf Northeast Waterfront Advisory Committee, Northeast Waterfront Advisory Group, Dogpatch Neighborhood Association, and San Francisco Tomorrow, as well as the city’s labor unions, tenants of the rehabilitated Ferry Building, and other waterfront tenants and developers.

Serving on the Nomination Advisory Committee were: Alice Carey, Charles Chase, Jennifer Clary, Tim Kelley, Bridget Maley, Stewart Morton, Gee Gee Platt, Nan Roth, Nancy Shanahan, Chris VerPlanck, and Joe LaClair, senior planner with BCDC.

At the Port, Monique Moyer, director; Byron Rhett and Diane Oshima, director and deputy director of planning and development; and Mark Paez, preservation planner, worked effectively—with technical support from the OHP and the NPS—to address concerns that arose among the interested parties. After minor revisions to the approximately 500-page nomination document—the work of historian Michael Corbett—it will go before the State Historical Resources Commission in May.
Offering Members New Benefits

As the result of a development study conducted over the last year and a half, Heritage has revised its membership categories and upgraded the benefits of membership. Each of you will receive this information as your renewal date comes up over the next several months.

We thank all our members for continuing to support Heritage. Your contributions have made it possible for us to advocate preservation of San Francisco’s architecturally and historically significant resources, carry on our stewardship of the Haas-Lilienthal House, and expand our highly acclaimed education programs.

Until three years ago, your contributions, plus income from our Soirée fundraiser and from tours and rental of the House, have just met our annual operating expenses. This changed in 2002 under the impact of a slowing national economy. This year, a reduction of nearly 20 percent in our award from Grants for the Arts and a more than 40 percent decline in earned income threaten our effectiveness.

In light of these facts, we are asking each of you to consider increasing your level of support. In encouraging you to do so, Heritage is extremely pleased to offer additional benefits that we believe will strengthen your ties with the organization and enhance your enjoyment as a Heritage member. The new membership categories and benefits appear on this page.

Our study showed that it is no longer cost-effective to offer the senior/student membership category. Accordingly, we have eliminated it as an option.

Heritage needs your help now more than ever to continue our vital role in preservation education, advocacy and stewardship. The board and staff join in asking you to reaffirm your commitment to Heritage by raising your membership level and enjoying the enhanced benefits available to you.

Membership Categories

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<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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| $60    | INDIVIDUAL | • Subscription to Heritage Newsletter  
• E-mail Advisory Membership  
• Free Admission to Holiday Open House in December for you and a guest  
• Invitations to all Heritage Lectures and Symposia  
• Free Member Admission to the Haas-Lilienthal House Tours for you and a guest |
| $75    | FAMILY | • All Individual benefits plus:  
• Includes all members of the family |
| $125   | CONTRIBUTING | • All Family benefits plus:  
• Four complimentary guest passes for regularly scheduled tours of the Haas-Lilienthal House and Pacific Heights Walks  
• Guide to Bay Area House Museums |
| $250   | DEFINING | • All Contributing benefits plus:  
• Free admission for one to all Heritage Lectures and Symposia  
• Heritage Tote Bag  
• Eight guest passes for regularly scheduled tours of the Haas-Lilienthal House and Pacific Heights Walks |
| $500   | RESOURCE | • All Defining benefits plus:  
• Complimentary Use of the Heritage Library & Archive Research Assistance |
| $1500  | LANDMARK | • All Resource benefits plus:  
• Invitation to Heritage’s Annual Spring Soirée  
• Private Tour and Tea for six at the Haas-Lilienthal House |
| $2500  | MONUMENT | • All Landmark benefits plus:  
• Private Tour for eight of Pacific Heights and the Haas-Lilienthal House |
| $5000  | ICON | • All Monument benefits plus:  
• Use of the Haas-Lilienthal House for a private event |

Chair-ity subjects on page 1, clockwise from upper left: Chairman of the Board, Hot Seat, Sweet Chair-i-tea, Window Seat, Chair-noble, Chair Lift, Umbrellas of Chair-bourg, Musical Chairs
Old St. Mary’s: Celebrating 150 Years and Looking to the Future

Old St. Mary’s is the tranquil grandmother of San Francisco’s churches.” This characterization in *Sacred Places of San Francisco* may apply today, but the city onto which the church first opened its doors, 150 years ago, was not necessarily a place you would have wanted to bring your grandmother.

The *Annals of San Francisco*, that colorful chronicle of the city’s turbulent Gold Rush years, published in 1855, alludes to “the moral turpitude of San Francisco…whose white bosom was crimsoned with crime.” Yet the authors took hope from the establishment of churches and benevolent societies “that redeems our character from wholesale condemnation.”

One of these churches was St. Mary’s, at that time being constructed at the corner of Dupont (now Grant Avenue) and California. Currently celebrating its sesquicentennial, the church is securing its future with a rehabilitation program that includes a seismic upgrade.

“It will be principally constructed of brick,” the *Annals* noted, “but will have a rough stone foundation, and mouldings of cut stone. The interior will be columned and arched, and the different parts of the edifice finished in the Gothic style… . Altogether this building will be one of the architectural beauties of San Francisco.” A spire, proposed to rise 200 feet high, was not built.

Katherine and John Sullivan, an Irish immigrant who made his fortune in San Francisco real estate and would go on to become founder and first president of Hibernia Bank, donated the land for St. Mary’s. Residents of many faiths contributed money toward its construction, realized in the Gothic Revival style so favored in the Victorian age, according to a design by architects William Craine and Thomas England.

Like the city’s residents, the building materials came from many parts of the world. The brick arrived in ships from New England, the granite stones for the foundation and steps came from China, and the stained glass was from Europe. Sandstone for trim and lumber for beams, floors and other interior work were local.

While not the city’s oldest Catholic Church—being preceded in time by the Mission, St. Francis and St. Patrick—St. Mary’s was California’s first cathedral and the tallest building in the entire state (even without the spire), at the time of its dedication at Christmas Midnight Mass, 1854.

Built on the rising slope of Nob Hill, before the cable car opened the heights to residential development, St. Mary’s stood somewhat above the turbulent city. By the 1870s, however, the neighborhood was becoming a little rough around the edges. In the words of Robert O’Brien (*This is San Francisco*), a “small but lively red-light district” stood opposite its front door, across California Street, and the gambling and opium dens of Chinatown lay just beyond its back door.

In 1881, Archbishop Alemany announced his intention of relocating the cathedral to a safer place. Ten years later, a “new” St. Mary’s opened at Van Ness—then a grand and fashionable avenue—and O’Farrell. Its predecessor was relegated to a parish church and became known as Old St. Mary’s. It languished for three years, until the archbishop invited the Paulist Fathers to take over the church, in 1894. The Paulists, who still serve St. Mary’s, had made progress in reviving the church’s challenging pastoral work among its neighbors, when the 1906 earthquake struck. The solidly built church survived the temblor but fell victim to the fire that swept up Nob Hill. Only the tower and three walls remained standing, and for a time, there was a question of whether to demolish the historic structure. The Paulist Fathers pushed for restoration, and a year after the earthquake, with insurance proceeds in hand, the archdiocese acceded.
The reconstruction, completed in 1909, added steel trusses cantilevered off steel columns in the roof and in the floor. *The Architect & Engineer* (September 1909) took note of the new windows, donated by the son of John and Katherine Sullivan (St. Mary’s original benefactors), Senator Phelan and others prominent in the city’s Irish Catholic community. The California Art Glass Company, “oldest institution of the kind in San Francisco” (established 1879), fabricated all the windows.

The boom times of the 1920s put a strain on the church’s capacity, as it ministered to the large core of downtown workers as well as nearby residents. In response, the Paulists enlarged Old St. Mary’s in 1929, adding another 50 feet to the rear of the structure and extending the sanctuary to accommodate a sacristy, three chapels and a transept. This increased seating to 2000, and construction of an auditorium with a stage, beneath the church, could seat another 500. A library and a lecture room for public programs were added, also below the church, on the Grant Avenue side of the building.

Through depression and war and the joys and sorrows of day-to-day living, Old St. Mary’s has continued to serve its community and to grow in the affection of San Franciscans. In 1968, in recognition of this pioneer church’s historic and architectural significance, the City designated it San Francisco Landmark #2, preceded on the list only by Mission Dolores.

Today, as in 1906, the Paulists have assumed the role of preservation advocates. Faced with the requirements of the City’s unreinforced masonry building ordinance either to retrofit or to demolish Old St. Mary’s, the Fathers launched a major fundraising campaign to ensure that this landmark, beloved of generations of San Franciscans, would remain.

The first phase of the seismic program, designed by Architectural Resources Group, was completed about a year ago. This work included new shotcrete foundation and auditorium walls, as well as core drilling of the nave brick walls and insertion of steel reinforcing rods and grout. A supplementary truss system added above the vaulted crossing of the church and linked to the steel columns that were added during the post-1906 reconstruction, and a plywood roof deck and reinforced floor to act as diaphragms, combine to increase the building’s seismic strength.

Also completed in phase one were the retrofit of the bookstore and other areas in the space beneath the church added in 1929 to house the library. While early foundation work has helped to stabilize the bell tower, it will still be necessary to apply shotcrete to the tower’s interior walls to increase their resistance to lateral movement.

Additional future work will upgrade fire and other life safety systems and bring the church into ADA compliance. Finally, there will be restoration work on the pipe organ, made by Hook and Hastings Company of Waltham, Massachusetts, and installed in 1909, as well as some new interior finishes and modifications to accommodate modern liturgical practices.

—continued on page 11
Has Anyone Seen This Lost House?

Last seen at 2005 Franklin Street, this building was the reverse twin of 2003 Franklin Street. We are asking for your help to locate it.

Anyone who has sought information from Heritage about a building’s history, its date of construction, its architect, almost surely has come into contact with William Beutner of our staff. Bill is the primary channel to our survey files.

When he is not occupied with public inquiries or any of his several other tasks, here, he is poring over Sanborn Maps, block books and city directories to supplement our file data. He has become particularly adept at locating houses moved to new sites. This one has stumped him, so far.

Architect Wildrich Winterhalter designed both 2003 and 2005 Franklin (1891) for Sophie Wieland of the Wieland Brewery family. He made something of a specialty of designing breweries and malt houses—one of which are extant—including a series of buildings for Wieland at Second and Howard Streets. Winterhalter was also the architect for the Englelander House, still standing at 807 Franklin Street.

Originally, 2005 occupied the lot immediately to the south of the house built by William Haas in 1886 (the present Haas-Lilienthal House). It was linked with its mirror-image twin at 2003, toward the rear. In 1898, Haas purchased 2005, and family tradition is that he had it demolished in order to create his south-facing sideyard garden.

But was it demolished? It remained standing at least until 1905, because we know that Max J. Brandenstein, brother of William Haas’ son-in-law, lived there through 1904. Ample evidence indicates that San Franciscans of the Victorian and Edwardian eras resisted demolishing buildings—especially one so recently built—preferring to move them to other sites if new development was planned to take their place. The Western Addition still offered many vacant lots at the turn of the 20th century to receive such a building.

On the assumption 2005 was relocated, where did it end up? Is it extant? If so, is it recognizable, or has it been the victim of misguided alterations? We have printed a photograph of its twin, 2003 Franklin, in a flipped image, hoping to spark recognition among our readers by giving an approximation of what it might look like, if in its original state but at some other location.

Share any thoughts you have on this subject with us by calling Bill Beutner, 415-441-3000, or e-mail wcbeutner@sfheritage.org.

Preservation Advocate Joins Heritage Staff

Heritage is pleased to introduce a new staff member, Erin Grucz. Thanks to a generous three-year grant from the Bland Family Foundation, she joins us as preservation advocate.

A Michigander, Erin received a degree in public history from Western Michigan University. She recently moved to San Francisco from Colorado, where she worked at the State Historic Preservation Office as an architectural information specialist. In that position, she participated in preservation grant evaluations, chaired the education committee, assisted national and state register historians, mapped thousands of historic sites using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and generally worked on all aspects of site recording and preservation. In addition, Erin worked on several archaeological survey and excavation projects and conducted research for Fort Laramie National Historic Site.

Erin’s background and experience should serve Heritage well. Her role here will be primarily to assist the executive director in the organization’s advocacy role. This may include appearing as a spokesperson before City boards and commissions to increase the awareness of Heritage’s positions on preservation issues, tracking environmental review of projects affecting historic resources, and serving as liaison with neighborhoods and neighborhood associations to increase their understanding of preservation issues and assist them, as needed, with advocacy.

We welcome Erin and look forward to having her with us.

—Notice

In order to offset a substantial budget deficit projected for 2005, Heritage is making some changes.

We will operate on a four-day week. Beginning January 3, the office will be open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This will not affect tour schedules or availability of the Haas-Lilienthal House for event rentals.

We will publish Heritage News, offered bi-monthly since 1990, on a quarterly schedule. Instead of six issues per year, four issues will appear during 2005.
Inscriptions at the Old Public Library of San Francisco
Jack W. Stauffacher, Editor
The Book Club of California
San Francisco Public Library, 2003

This fine book is the product of what one of the contributors has called “a quasi-guerrilla operation.”

The time was March of 1997. The property transfer of the Old Main Library to the Asian Art Museum was about to take place. The museum had already indicated its intention to remove the Piazzi murals from the gallery embracing the main floor landing of the grand staircase, but it was unclear what the fate of the inscriptions in that gallery—and elsewhere in the building—would be.

At the request of Jack Stauffacher, a San Franciscan engaged in the art of fine printing since 1934 and therefore no stranger to typography, the library arranged a private tour for a small group of people. It was a “hurried” tour and somewhat furtive. A security guard accompanied the party, and Dennis Letbetter had to photograph each of the inscriptions under less than ideal conditions. Time was limited and so was the lighting.

Once the party left the premises, a plan began to take shape among the group to make some kind of “a commemoration that would honor a loved building and the words within it.” The result is Inscriptions, although at the time of its conception, it was not clear whether the book would be a celebration or a memorial. It is a little of each.

An essay by Gray Brechin provides the historical, cultural and architectural context of the library as an institution and as a building. He traces its architectural pedigree in a line of descent from the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève in Paris, through the Boston and Detroit public libraries. In separate essays, Michael Harvey tracks the lineage of architectural inscriptions from ancient Rome, and Sumner Stone offers a personal reflection on their letter forms.

Letbetter’s photographs make up the heart of the book. The 25 interior inscriptions appear in fine, clear individual images—“wondrous images of a left-behind world.” Of those, 24 are quotations from classical and contemporary sources selected by Edward Robeson Taylor, one of the founders of the public library in San Francisco (1878) and former mayor (1907-1910). Taylor did not provide attributions for any of them, and one of this book’s contributions is the identification of sources for all but two of them.

Photographs of the exterior inscriptions complete the documentation. Despite the worst fears of those who made that foray into the empty library in 1997, all remain exposed to view, except for the inscription on the Larkin Street façade identifying the building and bearing a dedication Taylor himself composed. It remains in place but concealed beneath a sign identifying the Asian Art Museum.

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Tales From the Blue Ox
Written & Illustrated by Dan Brett

The California Book Club honors the art of fine printing. The Blue Ox Millworks Historic Park celebrates another sort of tradition, that of Victorian era skills and techniques.

The park, located in Eureka, is the product of a gradual 30-year evolution, whose guiding spirit is Eric Hollenbeck. Eric started Blue Ox with a brother and a couple of friends, in 1973, as a logging company. Finding it difficult as a small operator to compete in the timber trade, he soon turned to other enterprises. After some false starts, the idea of a “craftsmen’s village” began to take form, early in the 1980s.

Hiring on to provide material for restoration of the Eagle House Inn, in downtown Eureka, Eric encountered Victorian craftsmanship and began to acquire the traditional skills of that era, as well as the original tools and machines to practice them. With an emphasis on custom jobs rather than mass-production, he soon gained a reputation as “the man to go to for custom Victorian woodwork.” Among Blue Ox’s projects are the California Governor’s Mansion and the White House.

Tales From the Blue Ox tells this story and more. Billed as “a hands-on manual of traditional skills,” the book leads the reader through the trades employed in the construction of the typical Victorian residence. In doing so, we learn all about woodworking, from the forest to the spindles on your stairway. The book also introduces us to the museum quality collection of hand tools of the period 1870-1900 at the Blue Ox.

Want to make your own nails or ornamental metalwork? There’s a chapter on blacksmithing. Learn all you need to know to make decorative plaster elements. There are detailed recipes for various types of paints, varnishes and dyes, paste and glues, ink and soap, as well. We have not tested out any of these in the Heritage kitchens. You will just have to try for yourself.

—continued on page 11
Bay Area Tours

ALLIED ARTS GUILD
Menlo Park, 650-322-2405

CAMRON-STANFORD HOUSE
Oakland, 510-836-1976

CITY GUIDES WALKS
San Francisco, 415-557-4266

COHEN-BRAY HOUSE
Oakland, 510-532-0704

CYPRESS LAWN CEMETERY
Colma, 650-550-8810 or 8811

DUNSMUIR HISTORIC ESTATE
Oakland (April–September) 510-615-5555

FALKIRK CULTURAL CENTER
San Rafael, 415-485-3328

LATHROPS HOUSE
Redwood City, 650-365-5564

LUTHER BURBANK HOME & GARDENS
Santa Rosa, 707-524-5445

MCConAGHY HOUSE
Hayward, 510-276-3010

Meyers House & Garden
Alameda, 510-522-8897

OAKLAND TOURS PROGRAM
510-238-3234

OCTAGON HOUSE
San Francisco, 415-441-7512

PALO ALTO-STANFORD HERITAGE
650-299-8878 or 324-3121

PARDEE HOME
Oakland, 510-444-2187

SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL
415-554-5780

STRYBING ARBORETUM
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco 415-661-1316, ext. 312

Heritage Tours

HAAS-LILIENTHAL HOUSE TOURS
WEDNESDAYS 12 NOON TO 3:00 PM
SATURDAYS 12 NOON TO 3:00 PM
SUNDAYS 11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

WALKING TOURS
• Pacific Heights, Sundays 12:30 pm
• City Beautiful & the Civic Center
  First Saturday each month, 1:30
• A Walk Along Broadway
  Second Saturday each month, 1:30
• Beyond Union Street: A Walk Through Cow Hollow
  Third Saturday each month, 1:30
• Walk the Fire Line: Van Ness Avenue
  Fourth Saturday each month, 1:30

Heritage tours are free to members and their guests, $8 for the general public/$5 for seniors & children 12 and under.

TO ARRANGE GROUP TOURS
Call Natasha Glushkoff, 415-441-3000

TOUR/EVENT INFORMATION
Call 415-441-3004 or go to: www.sfheritage.org/events+tours.html

Heritage programs supported in part by City of San Francisco Grants for the Arts.

January

THROUGH JANUARY 16

THROUGH APRIL 16
Exhibition: Poetry and its Arts www.californiahistoricalsociety.org 415-357-1848

JANUARY 7, 11:00 AM
Tour: The Berkeley City Club
BAHA. Reservations: 510-841-2242 www.berkeleyheritage.com

JANUARY 9 - MARCH 15
Exhibition: Irreducible: Contemporary Short Form Video California College of the Arts www.cca.edu

January 11, 8:00 PM
ADAF Lecture: Art Pottery, Bungalows and Atascadero
Legion of Honor. www.adafca.org

January 19, 6:00 PM
Heritage Members Meeting
Haas-Lilienthal House. Speaker TBA 415-441-3000

January 22
Gala Celebration, 150th anniversary of Old St. Mary’s Cathedral (See page 11)

January 22 - April 3

January 27, 7:30 PM

January 29 - April 30

February

February 4, 11:00 AM
Tour: Hearst Memorial Mining Bldg.
BAHA. Reservations: 510-841-2242 www.berkeleyheritage.com

February 8, 8:00 PM
ADAF Lecture: Duncan Phyfe: Legendary Cabinetmaker
Legion of Honor. www.adafca.org

February 10
Heritage Fundraiser: Adaptive Re-use: A Chair-ity Auction. (See page 1)

February 12 - June 5

February 24, 7:30 PM
**Isis, 1983-2004**

Isis, the great grey eminence of the Haas-Lilienthal House, died in early September. She lived nearly all of her 21 years at the House. Chris Van Raalte adopted the longhair cat, as a kitten, from an SPCA outreach booth at the Polk Street Fair in the summer of 1983, shortly after he became house manager. She was a discrete resident who rarely appeared outside her quarters in Chris’ apartment on the top floor of the House. Isis died on the eve of her relocation, with Chris, to her new residence. The Haas-Lilienthal House was her home, and she was not leaving it. Her memory lives on.

**Architectural Fragments**

A black-tie gala celebration of the 150th anniversary of Old St. Mary’s Cathedral takes place on January 22. Beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Mass, said by Archbishop Levada, it continues with cocktails, dinner, and a concert by the New Century Chamber Orchestra, and concludes with champagne, desserts and dancing. An auction and raffle are also planned. For tickets call 415-288-3800.

With the sponsorship of the California Historical Society and the Columbia Foundation, writer Gray Brechin, photographer Robert Dawson and filmmaker Christopher Beaver have undertaken a two-year project to document the legacy and impact of Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal on California. It will result in a book, a photographic exhibition and a film documentary, as well as a web site and database on the federally financed programs that put millions back to work during the Depression. Those who know of New Deal projects, participants or records may contact Gray: gbrechin@berkeley.edu.

The National Trust has bestowed a National Preservation Honor Award on the Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA), San Francisco, in recognition of the restoration, rehabilitation and adaptation of the former Chinatown YWCA for use as a museum and learning center. Julia Morgan designed the Clay Street building in 1932, integrating Chinese motifs and Western architecture. After acquiring the property in 1996, the CHSA engaged Barcelon & Jang Architects to effect the transformation, which was completed in 2001.

Applications are due March 10, 2005, for the summer schools of the Victorian Society in America. The annual American Summer School is at Newport, Rhode Island; the annual session in England is based in London. Scholarships are available. For more information go to www.victoriansociety.org/summerschools.html.

On October 27, San Francisco Beautiful (SFB) presented its 2004 Beautification Awards at a dinner in the Palace Hotel. The theme of this year’s competition was “New Beginnings: Preservation, Sustainability and Innovative Design.” Among those receiving recognition were two preservation projects: the Conservatory of Flowers, which received the Friedel Klussmann Award (which honors the memory of SFB’s founder), and Pier One on the Embarcadero. To review the complete list of 2004 SFB award winners, go to www.sfbeautiful.org.

Marking the 20th anniversary of the publication of Spiro Kostof’s A History of Architecture: Settings and Rituals, the College of Environmental Design at UC Berkeley will host a two-day symposium titled Constructing Architectural History: Canons, Texts and Surveys. The event will take place on the Berkeley campus, March 4-5, 2005. More information is available at www.ced.berkeley.edu.

The exhibition, Robert Bechtle: A Retrospective, will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art from February 12 through June 5, 2005. Featuring 90 works—paintings, watercolors and drawings—it will be the first full-scale survey of the work of this important San Francisco-based artist. SFMOMA, which is originating the exhibition, will produce a major monograph with University of California Press.

The City of Belvedere has added a new incentive for preservation of its historic architectural resources. By waiving 50 percent of building fees, up to $10,000, for properties on its landmark list, the city hopes to encourage rehabilitation rather than demolition. Former Heritage board member, Marty Gordon, who has led the preservation movement in Belvedere for many years, thinks the new program may prompt more owners to designate their properties.
Heritage Members’ Meeting
Wednesday, January 19, 2005
6:00 p.m.
In the Ballroom at the
Haas-Lilienthal House
Members will receive meeting
notice with program details
in the mail

The historic Haas-Lilienthal House, a
property of San Francisco Architectural
Heritage, is a great venue for your wed-
ding or your next corporate or personal
event. The house can accommodate up to
150 guests. For more information, call
415-441-3011.