Sensitive Rehab Secures Landmark Church

St. Mark's Lutheran Church generously agreed to host Heritage’s annual members’ meeting, Saturday, June 2, giving us the opportunity to view one of San Francisco’s most beautiful sacred spaces and to learn firsthand of the congregation’s commitment to its preservation. We received an informative account of the church’s seventeen-month rehabilitation and seismic retrofit project that presiding Heritage board member Zane Gresham called “spectacularly sensitive.”

The rededication of the upgraded church in December last year recalled the original opening of St. Mark's, on March 10, 1895. At that time, the Chronicle reported, “According to the old German custom, the builder, Henry Geilfuss, gave the keys to the pastor, Rev. J. Fuendeling,” who welcomed the congregation assembled on the steps and led them into the church.

The decision of the pioneer Lutheran congregation to relocate from its earlier church on Union Square to the Western Addition site on O’Farrell Street proved to be prudent on two counts. First, the proceeds from the sale of the downtown property provided more than enough to acquire the land and build the church at the new site. Secondly, in April 1906, the Union Square property lay wasted, while the new St. Mark’s sat in relative safety, just beyond the Van Ness fire line.

Geilfuss was a versatile German-born and -trained architect with a prodigious output during a long career in San Francisco that began soon after his arrival here, in 1876, and continued into the second decade of the 20th century. The recent retrofit project is, in its way, a tribute to his design skill. More than a century after he turned over the keys to the church—a period that included two significant earthquakes—contractors found the structure in remarkably good condition.

Although there is some steel, St. Mark’s—a San Francisco Landmark—is essentially an unreinforced masonry building (UMB) consisting of brick walls with a timber-framed roof. Facing the requirement to comply with the City’s 1992 UMB ordinance, the congregation carefully considered all the alternatives, including demolition.

In the end, the decision to save the church and ensure its survival for many years to come won the solid support of the congregation. That commitment remained steadfast during the 17-month duration of the project, due at least in part to the care taken to keep the community informed and involved. Gary Schilling, an architect and chair of the church’s renovation committee, posted week-by-week progress reports on St. Mark's web site and arranged periodic tours of the project.

In consultation with the renovation committee ELS Architecture and Urban Design, a Berkeley firm, structural engineer A.T. Merovich and Plant Construction designed a seismic solution for St. Mark’s that would have minimal impact on the building’s historic features. In simplest terms, this entailed building a reinforced concrete structure within the existing brick walls.

Several weeks of site preparation were necessary before actual construction could begin. A work crew removed pews to storage and provided protection for the interior finishes, stained glass windows, decorative woodwork, and other historic features that would remain in place during the project.

Early on, workers injected a chemical grout into the sand that underlay the foundation of the church. The grout bonds with the sand creating a sandstone-like layer that will increase stability in an earthquake.

—continued on page 4
Comments from the Executive Director

I would like to take this opportunity to announce my departure from Heritage on September 15, 2007. It has been a distinct honor to serve San Francisco Architectural Heritage as your director for the past eight years. Together we have increased community awareness of our effort. Today we enjoy a solid reputation in our community working with neighborhoods, government and the development community alike.

Our participation in developing national recognition for our waterfront has been a highlight of my work in San Francisco. Six years working with community leaders, neighborhood and environmental organizations and the Port of San Francisco represents for me the best in historic preservation. We have helped call attention to the importance of our historic waterfront and helped create an opportunity for the private sector to benefit from federal tax credits to rehabilitate our waterfront piers, bulkheads and sheds.

Our efforts to help create the Dogpatch Historic District, the first historic district in more than a decade, brought neighborhood volunteers, city government and Heritage members together to protect a working class neighborhood in our central waterfront. Community and government worked side by side to realize a common goal.

We have become fiscal agents for neighborhood groups from Nob Hill to the Bayview seeking to preserve threatened buildings, spoken up at countless meetings to support preservation-positive decisions, and have helped distribute funds to support neighborhood and citywide historic resource surveys as a part of Mayor Newsom’s Preservation Fund Committee.

As Heritage seeks new leadership, this is a period of great opportunity for the organization to grow from past experiences, be strengthened by them and look forward to the future with a new energy guided by your support and participation.

As of the June board of directors meeting, we are now in the very capable hands of a newly elected executive committee. We are honored to have Charles R. Olson (president), Ben Ladomirak (vice president), David Wessel (secretary). As leaders in real estate law, construction and building conservation respectively, each is well qualified to take up his new role and join Dennis Richards, who continues as treasurer. Each new officer brings a depth of experience and long time dedication to Heritage.

Heritage is very pleased to announce Shelley Adams has accepted the position as our new volunteer coordinator. She comes from Kentucky with a wealth of experience that is profiled in this edition of Heritage News. I urge you to introduce yourself to her when the opportunity permits. You will find, as I have, Shelley is a welcome addition to our professional staff.

Charles Edwin Chase, AIA
Executive Director
Rehab of Tenderloin YMCA Planned

The YMCA is relocating to a temporary site pending construction of a new facility at 377 Golden Gate Avenue.

Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC), in partnership with AF Evans Development, Inc., has acquired the historic Central (now Shih Yu-Lang Central) YMCA building at 220 Golden Gate Avenue. The Mayor’s Office of Housing helped fund the purchase, along with financing by U.S. Bank. City funds will also aid in the realization of plans for the rehabilitation of the eight-story building to provide about 174 units of affordable housing for homeless men and women.

The building received a “B” rating in Heritage’s survey and is a Category I building in the City’s Downtown Plan. The proposal calls for preservation of historic interior features, including the auditorium and auditorium lobby.

Projected date of completion for the rehabilitation is 2010, just a century after the official opening of the Central YMCA. McDougall Brothers designed the steel-frame brick structure, which the Chronicle announced in July 1907, “will be one of the finest association buildings in the world...a model, up-to-date club, where every creature want will be supplied to the members.” President Taft laid the cornerstone in October 1909.

The modern facility replaced the Y’s previous building at Mason and Ellis, opened in 1894, that was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire. The general secretary went east soon after the disaster to raise money for a new building. Major donors who contributed to a fund that grew to more than $500,000 included John D. Rockefeller and J.P. Morgan. San Franciscans contributed $75,000 to furnish the facility.

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Market & Octavia EIR Appeal Fails

Heritage joined other community groups and interested neighborhood organizations in an unsuccessful appeal to the Board of Supervisors of the Planning Commission's certification of the Market and Octavia Neighborhood Plan Final EIR.

The appellants contended that the EIR’s discussion of the plan’s impact on historic resources was inadequate because it was not based on a comprehensive and current survey of the plan area. Consequently, the EIR’s conclusion that the plan will have no significant impacts on historic resources—and that therefore no mitigation measures are needed—lacks substantial factual support.

The Supervisors turned down the appeal, voting 8-to-1 to affirm the Commission’s certification.

In calling for the vote, however, Board President Peskin agreed that, as a matter of policy, it would have been preferable if the Planning Department had completed a comprehensive survey prior to the EIR. However, he argued, failing to do so does not make the Market-Octavia EIR defective.

Acknowledging outstanding issues of the appellants with the current plan as well as future area plans, Peskin stated that concerned parties can work to ameliorate those and to ensure that in the future the City will conduct surveys before completing environmental review of neighborhood plans.

Preservation advocates will pursue these goals with the supervisor’s help.

Extension Campus Nomination Vote Appealed

The Issues Committee of the Heritage board of directors voted unanimously to support the designation of the UC Berkeley Extension Campus as a landmark. In the spring, the Landmarks Board voted 6-to-1 to recommend designation. The Planning Commission, however, acting on the recommendation of staff, turned down the nomination on a close, 4-to-3 vote.

The Landmarks Board and the Preservation Consortium appealed the decision, as allowed by the Planning Code, to the Board of Supervisors. Heritage threw its support behind the appeal, noting that the organization early on endorsed the proposed housing development for the site and continues to support that plan.

Both the historic resource consultants engaged by the developer and the proponents for landmark designation have found the campus to contain structures that may be eligible for the National Register. Intoning the mantra of the need for more housing in San Francisco, opponents have perpetuated the misinformation that designating a property as a landmark will prevent—or at least significantly retard—its development.

Many historic buildings in San Francisco have been successfully converted to other uses, including housing. What designation does is ensure protection and appropriate treatment of significant historic features during rehabilitation and adaptation.

In our view, the Planning Commission, in rejecting landmark status for the UC Berkeley Extension, voted for housing instead of acting on the question before them, which was whether the site has sufficient historic architectural significance to merit designation.

At press time, the Board of Supervisors was scheduled to hear the appeal at its August 14 meeting. They may either affirm the decision of the Planning Commission or override it and enact an ordinance designating the campus a landmark.
**St. Mark’s**  
*continued from page one*

Principal components of the seismic solution included construction of shear walls in the lower level of the church, the application of a grid of steel reinforcing bars and shotcrete to the interior face of perimeter walls in the nave and towers, and center coring of the wall areas between each pair of stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Center coring requires drilling holes vertically through the masonry, inserting a steel reinforcing rod in each and pressure-injecting epoxy grout, which binds the steel and the brick, in effect, into a column within the existing wall.

The final element in the church’s new structural system entailed the insertion of horizontal steel trusses the length of the east and west walls at the parapet. Bolted to the north and south walls and attached to the existing roof trusses, they will act together with the shotcreted walls and the center-core-reinforced walls as a structural unit in resisting earthquake forces.

The beautiful historic stairways to the choir loft in the east and west towers presented an interesting challenge. Even with the removal of one wythe, or vertical layer, of brick from the interior face of the walls, applying steel rebar and shotcrete adds depth to the walls, narrowing the enclosed space. The solution taken was to remove the stairways completely, carry out the shotcrete work and reinstall the stairs after master stair builders had modified them to fit the new dimensions in the towers.

Another problem area was the choir loft, or balcony, at the rear of the nave. The beautifully curved, column-free horseshoe structure was minimally buttressed against the north wall. It did not meet current code requirements and could fail in an earthquake. Plant Construction uncovered a further complication: during the original construction, workers had apparently bent one of the steel buttress beams to get it to fit. Fortunately, this condition did not prove a weakness in earlier earthquakes.

The project’s structural engineer, A.T. Merovich, developed a comprehensive balcony-strengthening solution in the form of a system of steel cables installed parallel to the historic wood framing on the underside of the structure, tying it back to the reinforced wall of the church. New plaster conceals the work, and the balcony appears to float gracefully, as it always has, only now more securely.

In the course of construction, few other unanticipated conditions presented themselves. An expected beam did not exist at the main floor level; the east and west brick walls had moved outward, away from the steel beams supporting the nave floor, enough to break some of the connecting steel ties; there was a major crack in one of the roof trusses; and the east tower showed evidence of twisting and movement, probably the result of the 1906 earthquake. In addressing these conditions, the seismic project ensures that they will not be the cause of failure in a major earthquake.

Withal, the surprises were relatively few and their scope limited. That meant that the large contingency cost factored into any construction project did not have to be expended. The church decided to put those monies toward some restoration work they had always hoped to accomplish.

Notably, the church was able to replace the original slate roof with a new one of the same material, rather than a less expensive composition shingle roof. New lighting and repainting of the worship space were other “bonus” projects. After patching, repair and replacement of plaster removed during construction, Evergreene Painting Studios, of New York, repainted the sanctuary, returning it to the original 1895 colors and stencil pattern. While there were not sufficient funds to pursue a full restoration of stained glass, Fiammata Architectural Stained Glass did replace broken or missing pieces.

Exterior work included patching and painting of wood window frames and trim, repair or replacement of metal flashing and decorative trim, repointing brick and replacing much of the cement-based mortar used to imitate stone trim.

The results of the work by a stellar project team supported by a dedicated congregation are there for all to see. St. Mark’s appears much as it did on that dedication day in March of 1895, its towered red brick exterior standing like a mighty fortress and its intimate jewel of an interior warm and welcoming. Only today, it stands more securely.

Fifteen years after the City enacted the UMB ordinance, a number of architecturally significant churches still face the difficult choices St. Mark’s faced: bring their church up to current standards of seismic safety, sell the property (perhaps to be adapted for a new use), or demolish the building. St. Mark’s offers them an inspiring example.

—Thanks to Gary Schilling for his generous assistance with this article.
Beneath the placid surface of San Francisco’s bayside Marina District is a compelling story of land speculation, earthquake refugees, filling and grading operations, a major world’s fair and rapid residential development.

Unlike many neighborhoods in the city where multiple layers of built fabric resulted from different eras of development, the Marina was largely built out within a single generation, during the 1920s and 1930s. It is home to one of the city’s most cohesive collections of Mediterranean Revival and Art Deco architecture, and although very few individual buildings rise to the level of architectural distinction, the neighborhood retains the character of a well-preserved 1920s-era streetcar suburb.

The Marina lies north of Lombard Street between the Presidio and Van Ness Avenue. With the exception of Fort Mason, whose very different history ties it more closely to the Presidio, the area is quite flat.

The recorded history of the Marina district began when Spanish military authorities established the Presidio, in 1776, and a battery at Punta Medaños, 1797, now Fort Mason. Little of note occurred in the shallow tidal flats between the two military installations during either the Spanish (1776-1821) or the Mexican periods (1821-1848).

After the United States acquired California, in 1848, and admitted it as the thirty-first state two years later, President Millard Fillmore reserved a swath of land encompassing the Presidio, Punta Medaños (renamed Black Point because of its dense chaparral cover), and all the land between for military use. The following year, Fillmore specifically excluded the tidelands that comprise the Marina from the reservation, allowing the dry land to revert to city ownership and the submerged lands to the California State Tidelands Commission.

In 1862, the State of California built the Marina’s first significant structure, a wharf that extended from Bay Street along the Fillmore Street right-of-way, out into the large natural lagoon that sat at the center of the district. Named the Fillmore Street Wharf, it was the area’s economic lifeline, allowing locally grown produce and dairy products to be shipped throughout the Bay Region.

When the Tidelands Commission began selling off its holdings in the area in 1864, the Northern California Homestead & Railroad Association purchased one of the largest tracts, 448 acres of submerged tidal lands, for one dollar per acre. Homestead associations were cooperative enterprises that bought large tracts of land for resale in small lots to working-class people on the installment plan. Unfortunately, the foul-smelling tidal marshes discouraged potential buyers, and very little sales activity appears to have occurred.

Resisting large-scale residential development for several decades, what is now the Marina evolved into a remote community of truck farmers, dairymen, fishermen and crabbers. Early photographs from the 1860s and 1870s illustrate a rural landscape of mud flats, shanties, pastures and compact farms. Unwilling to give up so easily on real estate development, private investors constructed a macadamized toll road, known as the Bay Shore & Fort Point Road, between North Beach and the Presidio in the early 1860s. It skirted the southern end of the lagoon.

The road reduced the isolation of the Marina, and by the mid-1860s, the area had begun to attract beer gardens. One of the first, established in 1864 by a German immigrant named Rudolph Herman, was Harbor View Park. It offered saltwater baths, a shooting range, a hotel, a restaurant, and shaded picnic gardens. The park was so popular that the entire area between Fort Mason and the Presidio took its name.

Incompatible as these uses may seem today, industrial development of the Harbor View district occurred hand-in-hand with the amusement parks. Victorian-era industrialists found its large parcels of bay-front property to be ideal for shipyards, docks and power plants. The first industry to locate in the area was the San Francisco Gas & Light Company. In the early 1870s, the company constructed a large plant on the southern edge of the Harbor View Lagoon, on a block bounded by Francisco, Steiner, Bay, and Fillmore Streets.

The company built a second and much larger plant at a site adjacent to
Fort Mason (the present location of the Marina Safeway). Its mammoth gas tank (shown in 1897 photo above), the largest such structure west of Chicago, was visible from much of the city until the 1950s. The company’s main office building remains at the corner of North Point and Buchanan Streets.

Another major early industry at Harbor View was Fulton Iron Works. Started by silver baron and industrialist James G. Fair in 1893, the complex occupied a section of Strawberry Island, a sandy spit located east of what is now Crissy Field (approximate location today of the St. Francis Yacht Club). Next door to Harbor View Park, the Fulton Iron Works manufactured mining and railroad equipment, and steel-hulled ships.

Other industries in Harbor View included the California Pressed Brick Company, the Pacific Ammonia Chemical Company, and Charles Lillie’s Soap and Tallow Works. These industries attracted hundreds of unmarried immigrant workmen to the area. Some squatted on vacant land in hastily built shacks, while others rented rooms in boardinghouses along Tonquin (now Marina Boulevard) and Bay Streets.

Despite the arrival of these industries, agriculture persisted in the Harbor View district until the twentieth century. The 1900 Sanborn map shows several blocks, including the block bounded by Chestnut, Pierce, Scott and Lombard, containing “Chinese vegetable gardens”.

By the last decade of the nineteenth century, larger forces began to interfere with the organic evolution of the Harbor View district. During the early 1890s, James Fair began quietly buying up lands belonging to the Northern California Homestead & Railroad Association. Within a few years, he controlled all but five of the forty-nine blocks bounded by Chestnut, Baker and Webster Streets and the Bay, planning to fill the tidelands and sell the lots for industrial use.

In 1892, Fair began constructing a seawall along the northern end of Harbor View Lagoon as a first step in this scheme. Seeking to protect access to the Fillmore Street Wharf, which would be closed off behind the seawall, San Francisco’s city attorney obtained an injunction against the project. For Fair, a politically astute figure, this was only a temporary setback.

Banned from constructing the seawall himself, he successfully lobbied the Board of Supervisors to commit the City to build it. Locked in the tight grasp of the Depression of 1893, many San Franciscans welcomed Fair’s proposal, believing that the filling operations would create hundreds of jobs and that thousands of manufacturing jobs would surely follow.

Warren & Malley, under City contract, began filling the tidal marshes to the level of the city grade in late 1893. Steam dummies hauled fill material from sand dunes at Fort Mason and dumped it into the marshes at the edge of Harbor View. Men with shovels and wheelbarrows manually leveled the fill, and began the grading of streets.

Meanwhile, lawsuits against the seawall gradually worked their way through the courts, and on October 15, 1894, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court issued a ruling in Fair’s favor. The City directed Warren & Malley to close the last remaining gaps in the seawall. Once the bay waters were sealed off, the contractor resumed filling in the shallow Harbor View Lagoon with mud from the bottom of San Francisco
Bay by means of the newly perfected suction dredge.

Doubts about the viability of the proposed industrial park among the heirs of James Fair (who died in December 1894) brought filling operations to a halt, leaving a good portion of the lagoon north of Bay Street and east of Divisadero Street. Nevertheless by 1900, Fair’s project had resulted in completion of a substantial stone seawall and filling of almost sixty acres. A panoramic 1912 photograph taken from Pacific Heights shows the area, including the still unfilled section of the lagoon (see photo at bottom of previous page).

The 1906 earthquake was an important watershed event in the history of the Harbor View district. Its vacant lands and proximity to the destroyed portions of the city made it a primary destination for refugees from the devastation. Eventually, four refugee camps were established in what is now the Marina. There were tent camps at Lobos Square (now Moscone Recreation Center), Fort Mason, Harbor View Park, and a site that straddled the boundary of the Presidio. Wood shacks quickly replaced the tent city at Lobos Square.

By the time the last camp closed in 1908, many refugees had decided to remain in the Harbor View district, which witnessed the early stages of concentrated residential development. Many achieved homeownership on the cheap by purchasing an inexpensive lot and moving onto it an earthquake shack or two—available for $50 each.

Many of the newcomers to Harbor View were Italian immigrants and their American-born progeny. The district attracted Italians from densely populated North Beach even before 1906. Some worked at the Ghirardelli chocolate factory near Black Point Cove, while others made their living as truck farmers, growing fresh vegetables for sale in the wholesale vegetable markets of San Francisco.

Harbor View’s halcyon days as a quasi-rural retreat for earthquake refugees and Italian truck farmers would not last long. After less than five years of fevered reconstruction, San Francisco’s merchant princes began planning for a party to demonstrate to the world the extent of the city’s recovery from the 1906 disaster.

A meeting at the Merchants’ Exchange on April 28, 1910, resulted in the subscription of over four million dollars for the purpose of acquiring a site for a world’s fair. The following year, the Exposition Company’s board of directors announced selection of 635 acres along the northern waterfront, including 330 acres of Harbor View.

Beginning in 1912, the Exposition Company painstakingly assembled the exposition site. The company entered into short-term leaseholds with the Fair daughters (Virginia Vanderbilt and Theresa Oelrichs), the biggest landholders in the area, and initiated condemnation and eviction proceedings against hundreds of poor and less powerful landowners and tenants, displacing a thriving community of former earthquake refugees and Chinese and Italian truck farmers.

After the land was cleared of occupants and structures—including what remained of Harbor View Park, the Fulton Iron Works and most other industrial uses—suction dredges pumped sand and mud from the bay floor to fill the remaining seventy acres of submerged land behind James Fair’s seawall. The dredges worked for 146 days, pumping over 1.3 million cubic yards of materials into the lagoon.

Contrary to oft-repeated lore, Harbor View Lagoon was not filled with earthquake debris. Most of that rubble ended up in Mission Bay and further south near the San Mateo County line. Photos taken well after 1906 (see bottom previous page) show the lagoon intact.

After completing the fill, the Exposition Company installed water, sewer and electrical lines and began grading streets. Construction of the fair grounds and buildings got underway in late 1912. An extension of the State Beltline Railroad from the Northeast Waterfront through a tunnel beneath Fort Mason built that same year facilitated the work by bringing materials to the site.

When the Panama Pacific International Exposition opened to great fanfare in February of 1915, visitors marveled at magnificent pavilions laid out in a palm-studded landscape, divided into a grid of streets and avenues intersected by magnificent courts (photo on following page). Despite the darkest days of war in Europe, the ten-month run of the fair was a great success, tallying more than 18 million visitors.

On closing night, December 4, 1915, thousands crowded the fair grounds and surrounding streets and hillsides to watch the lights go out. The dismantling of the Exposition grounds began the following Monday.
The vast majority of the fair buildings—wood-frame structures with lath and plaster exteriors finished to resemble expensive permanent materials—were intended to last only for the duration of the fair and no longer. The Exposition Company offered up for sale anything that could be moved, including furniture, automobiles and sculpture. A few buildings were salvaged and moved elsewhere.

Whatever could not be salvaged or sold was demolished. After removal of the debris additional dredging and grading occurred. When work was concluded, only the Yacht Harbor, the North Gardens (now Marina Green), the Column of Progress and the Palace of Fine Arts remained. The column, crowned by a sculpture, “The Adventurous Bowman,” stood at what is now the intersection of Marina Boulevard and Cervantes Boulevard until it was deemed a traffic hazard and demolished in the mid-1920s.

A significant legacy of the exposition was greatly enhanced public transportation. Prior to the creation of the San Francisco Municipal Railway (MUNI) in 1912, a variety of private companies provided transportation to and from the Harbor View district. Henry Casebolt’s horse-powered streetcar began service from North Beach in 1866. The 1880s and 1890s witnessed the arrival of other private transit providers, the Presidio & Ferries Railroad cable car line on Union Street, and the Fillmore streetcar line in 1895.

By 1914, the Municipal Railway had opened three new streetcar lines to serve the fair and upgraded service on the Presidio and Ferries line, which it acquired. This was prelude to the next stage of the history of the Marina District—its development as a streetcar suburb.

**Sources for this article**
Donna Ewald and Peter Clute, San Francisco Invites the World: The Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915
Dr. William Lipsky, San Francisco’s Marina District

—This is the first of a two-part article generously provided by Christopher VerPlanck. Chris was architectural historian at Heritage from 1997 until 1999, when he joined Page & Turnbull. Early this year he formed a historical resources consulting firm with former Landmarks Board president, Tim Kelley.
Heritage notes with sadness the death of James Mack Gerstley, on June 2nd, just a few months shy of his 100th birthday.

Mr. Gerstley served on the Heritage board between 1976 and 1979. His wife, Elizabeth Lilienthal Gerstley, who survives him, grew up in the Haas-Lilienthal House, and with her brother and sister, Ernest Lilienthal and Frances Lilienthal Stein, donated the historic family residence to Heritage.

James Gerstley was born and raised in London, the son of an English father and a mother from San Francisco, Adele Mack. After receiving his education at Cambridge, world travels brought him to San Francisco in his early 20s. He settled here and worked for Great Western Electric Chemical Company.

In 1953, Mr. Gerstley relocated to Los Angeles to work for the Pacific Coast Borax Company and soon rose to its presidency. Under his leadership the company grew significantly and evolved into the U.S. Borax and Chemical Corporation. Its trademarks—Twenty Mule Team and Boraxo—became widely recognized.

After retiring to the Bay Area in 1963, James Gerstley devoted much of his time and talent to the service of cultural and charitable institutions, including the Asian Art Museum, the Judah L. Magnes Museum’s Western History Center and the University of California’s Bancroft Library. In recognition, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce designated him Business Leader for the Arts (1989).

In 2003, he was named to the Western Mining Hall of Fame.

The family has generously included the Haas-Lilienthal House among preferred recipients of contributions in Mr. Gerstley’s memory. The board and staff of Heritage extend sincere condolences to Mrs. Gerstley, son James, daughter Anne, and their families.

New Events Marked Winter Calendar

Two new events brightened Heritage’s winter calendar in February. Playing off the Chinese New Year, we designated 2007 the Year of the House and staged a fundraiser to benefit the Haas-Lilienthal House roof replacement project.

On February 10, friends and members of Heritage gathered for dim sum at the New Asia Restaurant, on Pacific Avenue. They received a map and site descriptions for a self-guided walking tour highlighting the architectural treasures of Chinatown that they could pursue after lunch. Our thanks go to Alice Coneybeer for underwriting The Year of the House as a sponsor. Barbara Roldan was event manager.

Nearly two weeks later, Heritage, in cooperation with the Balboa Theatre, presented excerpts from a documentary film, The Pure Eccentrics: San Francisco. Billy Clift wrote and directed the film, which he co-produced with Richard Sharon.

The documentary is a visual and oral history in which five gay men share their passion for historic architecture and its preservation. The subjects are James Beach Alexander, John Gaul, Wayne David Hand, Richard Jordan and Richard Reutlinger.

After viewing the film, the audience welcomed the “pure eccentrics” in person, who, with the filmmaker, formed a discussion panel moderated by television reporter Mike Sugerman of Channel 5. It was a lively encounter providing insight into the motives that put these men in the vanguard of preservation in San Francisco. A reception in the theatre lobby, courtesy of Chateau Tivoli, closed the event.

Lisa Podos, a Heritage board member, and Kaleene Kenning, Lilienthal Society member, co-chaired the program, working with Heritage volunteer coordinator Natasha Glushkoff.

Generous support came from Gary Meyer, operator of the Balboa Theatre; Dr. Stephen and Geraldine Shohet, owners of the Chateau Tivoli; and Janet and Hal Montano, members of the Lilienthal Society.

We extend our gratitude to them and to Chris Yerke, Kyle Pollock and Steven Kahlich for critical volunteer services. Also deserving of acknowledgement are Mike Neumann, former Heritage board member, who introduced the program; Lorri Ungaretti, who handled publicity; Monnica Burgess and staff of the Tivoli; and Roger Paul and other Balboa staff members.

A special thank you goes to Billy Clift for sharing his illuminating film with us; to his subjects, Messrs. Alexander, Gaul, Hand, Jordan and Reutlinger for taking the time to participate so engagingly in our panel, and to Mike Sugerman for drawing them out so skillfully as moderator.

Proceeds of The Pure Eccentrics benefited education programs at the Haas-Lilienthal House.
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 & 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 and children 12 and under.

TO ARRANGE GROUP TOURS
Call Shelley Adams, 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.

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

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

DUNSMUIR HISTORIC ESTATE
Oakland (Apr-Sep), 510-615-5555

FALKIRK CULTURAL CENTER
San Rafael, 415-485-3328

FILOLI HOUSE & GARDEN
Woodside (Feb-Oct), 650-364-8300

HANNA HOUSE
Stanford, 650-725-8352

LATHROP HOUSE
Redwood City, 650-365-5564

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

McConaghy House
Hayward, 510-276-5010

Meyers House & Garden
Alameda, 510-521-1247

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

McConaghy House
Hayward, 510-276-5010

Meyers House & Garden
Alameda, 510-521-1247

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

McConaghy House
Hayward, 510-276-5010

Meyers House & Garden
Alameda, 510-521-1247

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

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

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

DUNSMUIR HISTORIC ESTATE
Oakland (Apr-Sep), 510-615-5555

FALKIRK CULTURAL CENTER
San Rafael, 415-485-3328

FILOLI HOUSE & GARDEN
Woodside (Feb-Oct), 650-364-8300

HANNA HOUSE
Stanford, 650-725-8352

LATHROP HOUSE
Redwood City, 650-365-5564

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

McConaghy House
Hayward, 510-276-5010

Meyers House & Garden
Alameda, 510-521-1247

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FALL 2007
Exhibition: Bayview’s Historical Footprints. Bayview Branch Library
5075 Third St. Call 355-5757 for dates.

THROUGH OCTOBER 12
Exhibition: The City Redeemed: The Life and Times of Edward Robeson
Taylor. Main Library, 6th Floor

THROUGH OCTOBER 31
Exhibition: The Architect’s Sketch: Vision and Documents
UC Environmental Design Library
510-642-4818

APRIL 3, 2008

SEPTEMBER 11, 8:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 25, 8:00 PM
Lecture: The Market Street Railway
SF History Association. 415-750-9986
www.sanfranciscohistory.org

SEPTEMBER 29, 2:00 - 4:30

OCtober

October 5 – 6
Program: Voltaire and the French Enlightenment. Humanities West
415-391-9700; www.humanitieswest.org

October 10, 8:00 PM
Lecture: New Perspectives on Old Rooms: The Reinstallation of the 18th Century Period Rooms at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
ADAF, de Young Museum
415-249-9234; www.adafca.org

October 13 – March 16
Exhibition: Artists of Invention: A Century of CCA. Oakland Museum of California. 510-238-2200
www.museumca.org

October 21, 1:00 – 5:00 PM
Victorian Alliance House Tour featuring Noe Valley. 415-824-2666
www.victorianalliance.org

October 23, 8:00 PM
Lecture: San Francisco in World War II
SF History Association. 415-750-9986
www.sanfranciscohistory.org

October 28
House tour: Oakland’s San Antonio Neighborhood. Oakland Heritage.
510-763-9218; www.oaklandheritage.org
New Faces on Board

Heritage welcomes four individuals who joined the board of directors in July. We profile two in this issue of Heritage News.

Kathleen Burgi-Sandell has extensive experience in all aspects of financial investment and commercial property asset management. She currently oversees a portfolio of nearly 6 million square feet of property as a vice president/regional asset manager with The James Campbell Company, a Hawaii-based real estate investment company. Previous career experience includes running her own historic preservation consulting firm.

Her expertise lies in developing strategies to maximize value performance for institutional clients. Some of this work has involved historic properties in San Francisco, including 1000 Van Ness, Two and 48 Stockton, and the Audiffred Building.

Ms. Burgi-Sandell holds a BA in anthropology with an emphasis in archeology from UCLA, and an MA in history from UC Riverside with an emphasis on cultural resource management, historic preservation and adaptive reuse. Her memberships in professional organizations currently include the Urban Land Institute, where she serves on a Council, and Lambda Alpha International, an honorary land economics society.

Born in San Francisco and raised in Marin County, Scott Haskins studied finance and math in college and began working in real estate in 1986. He received his Masters in Real Estate from the University of Wisconsin in 1993. He first became interested in historic preservation while researching the Hotel Nacional in Havana (built in 1930 by McKim, Meade and White) for a study on the emerging hotel industry in Cuba.

In 1996 Scott formed Sierra Maestra Properties, providing development services to owners, including nonprofit and government agencies. Recent high profile projects he has worked on include the Public Health Service Hospital in the Presidio and 690 Market Street—formerly the Chronicle building, now the Ritz Carlton Club and Residences.

Scott remains active in the Wisconsin Real Estate Alumni Association and, following in his grandfather’s footsteps, The National Tropical Botanical Garden. His wife Timmie gave birth to their first child, Lucia, on July 10. A passionate long distance swimmer, Scott completed the English Channel crossing in August of 2006, and most mornings he enjoys a swim in the bay at the Dolphin Club.

Profiles of new board members Carolyn Kiernat and Mark Paez will appear in the next issue.

New Volunteer Coordinator

Heritage is pleased to introduce a new volunteer coordinator for the Haas-Lilienthal House, Shelley Adams.

Born and reared in Kentucky, Shelley has a BS in Elementary Education from the University of Louisville and an MAT in Museum Education from George Washington University. While she has worked as a classroom teacher, most of her career has been with museums. She worked for several years at The Navy Museum in Washington, D.C., and did contract work for The Smithsonian and Save Outdoor Sculpture. Shelley served as program director for Historic Locust Grove, a National Historic Landmark 1790s home in Louisville, Kentucky.

She moved to San Francisco in 2003 and worked in Bayview creating arts programming for SFLearn!, an educational nonprofit. Shelley and her husband, Edmond Melkomian, married at the beginning of the year just before she started training as a Haas-Lilienthal docent. They are expecting their first child in November.

Shelley succeeds Natasha Glushkoff, who served in the part-time post since 2000. Natasha decided to leave Heritage in order to complete her work in museum studies in a fulltime graduate program she began last year at John F. Kennedy University. Her tenure here saw many innovations, including new weekly walking tours, an expanded Heritage Hikes program, and Saturday openings for the Haas-Lilienthal House. We wish her every success as she moves on.

On Saturday, September 30, San Francisco City Guides will stage its fifth annual treasure hunt. Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Summer of Love, this year’s event will have teams scouring the gardens, streets and alleyways of the Haight-Ashbury district.

Solutions to a series of street puzzles will lead contestants to the places, spaces and objects that shaped the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood. Put together your own team, or join a group on the day of the event. You don’t have to know a lot about San Francisco history to play, but you will surely learn some along the way!

The Summer of Love Treasure Hunt is the primary fundraiser of San Francisco City Guides in 2007. Recruit your team today and support the nonprofit that provides free walking tours seven days a week, rain or shine. For more information or to register on line, visit www.sfcityguides.org.
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New Volunteer Coordinator

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Make checks payable to:
San Francisco Architectural Heritage
2007 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

Or, charge by phone:
415-441-3000

Contributions are tax-deductible.

The historic Haas-Lilienthal House, a property of San Francisco Architectural Heritage, is a great venue for your wedding or your next corporate or personal event. The house can accommodate up to 150 guests. For information, call 415-441-3000, ext. 14.

HERITAGE BALLROOM LECTURES

September 20 - Arthur Bloomfield
Gables and Fables: A Portrait of San Francisco's Pacific Heights

October 11 - Michael Crowe
San Francisco Art Deco

November 8 - Christopher VerPlanck
To Helsinki in a Handbasket

Save the dates and look for details in the mail.