Planning New Roof for Haas-Lilienthal House

The Haas-Lilienthal House needs a new roof, and Heritage has to ask for help to meet that need.

The house’s original roofing system was typical of its time. Wood shingles were nailed directly to one-inch-thick horizontal sheathing boards, nailed in turn to the roof rafters several inches apart, to allow ventilation that would reduce rot and mildew of the shingles.

Wood shingles and shakes (thicker, more rustic versions of shingles) have been used for roofing in this country for more than 300 years. Originating in England, milling them involved the radial cutting of large trees, including white pine, hemlock, cedar and other softwoods. They perform best in temperate climates, such as we enjoy in San Francisco.

For many years, because of fire hazard, San Francisco has not permitted combustible roofing materials, like wood shingles. Prior to Heritage’s acquisition of the house a composition shingle roof was installed over the existing roof, with the exception of the corner turret, which was reshelmed in wood. Partial re-roofing during our stewardship occurred in 1977 and 1981-2, again using composition materials. There was additional roof renovation ten years later. A complete replacement of the roofing is, now, long overdue.

This task will require removal of the old existing composition shingles and the even older wood shingles below. The next step will be to cover the existing framing with new plywood sheathing to provide a solid base on which to affix new composition shingles. The plywood sub-roof would also, incidentally, greatly increase the house’s ability to resist lateral loads from such forces as earthquakes and high winds.

For the house and the 1927 garage-apartment addition, we will need approximately 5,400 square feet of new shingles and about two thousand square feet of a built-up roof suitable for low-slope conditions. In addition we will remove the ornamental turret finial and ridge cap, as necessary, and repair, re-paint and re-install them. The complete job will require erecting three scaffold towers to facilitate delivery of materials and access for workers to the high roof areas. Finally, we will have to take measures to protect the windows and the landscaping during construction.

Estimates have placed the total cost at around $120,000. Our aim is to perform the work during the summer of 2006.

Heritage will seek grants and corporate sponsorship to help meet these costs. But we will turn also to our members, friends and visitors to the Haas-Lilienthal House for individual gifts. To provide an opportunity for people to “make their mark” on the roof project, shingles will be available at upcoming events, like the Holiday Open House, for donors to sign on the back. When these shingles are installed, the signatures will remain a part of the house for the next twenty years.

Heritage recognizes that many of you have earmarked additional charitable giving this year to aid the victims of hurricanes in the southeastern United States. We hope you will also see your way to help us meet our obligation to care for this extraordinary San Francisco landmark, as much as you are able.

To get more information on making a donation, contact Barbara Roldan, 415-441-5000; or e-mail broldan@sfheritage.org.
COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Year of Good Beginnings

There seem to be two types of foundations. One type is built upon a significant bequest of money, and its tasks center around locating worthy recipients of grants. The other type is built out of an idea, and it engages in a ceaseless search for support in order to sustain that idea. San Francisco Architectural Heritage is, of course, an example of the second type.

Our central idea is strong and it has never varied: that San Francisco is a unique and priceless assemblage of human talent, beautiful buildings and extraordinary settings. Heritage is often thought of as a “preservation” organization, but that description can carry too much of the sense of looking backward to things as they used to be. “Preservation,” as Heritage applies it, means holding onto the best of what we have, but making room for change, new ideas, new buildings, and new patterns.

When you receive this newsletter, the year will be drawing to a close. It has been an eventful time in the world of Heritage. On the urban level, we are pleased that the Department of City Planning has enlarged and consolidated its staff devoted to historic preservation; that a dispute concerning the former Emporium Building on Market Street (the largest ongoing construction project in the city at this time) has been resolved by creating a special preservation fund; and that the economics of real estate development are causing much-needed housing to be built downtown and in the neighborhoods.

At Heritage, we have reached out to some of our most faithful and tested supporters. These include indefatigable volunteers, a person who has made a significant bequest to us, and former board members, some of whom were here at the very beginning. These wonderful people have been asked to join the Lilienthal Society, and they were honored at a party in early September given by one of our current board members, Roger Walther. Our hope is that the Lilienthal Society will provide a bridge between our wisest supporters and our present activities.

Aside from our daily work in advocacy, we have embarked on two galvanizing projects in the area of education. The first, a new publication in the Splendid Survivors series, has been receiving grant support and printing guarantees, and we believe it will be possible to go to print on a “revenue-neutral” basis. The second project is the repair, alteration, and endowment of the Haas-Lilienthal House, one of our most effective educational resources. Long the symbol of Heritage, the House has been a source of revenue and a home base, but there are times when it must become itself a focus of fundraising and renewed commitment.

I hope to see many of you at the Holiday Open House, and I urge you to contact me or any member of the Heritage staff or board if you would like to participate in our work.

J. Gordon Turnbull, FAIA
President

SAN FRANCISCO ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE
Since 1971, a non-profit member-supported organization dedicated to the preservation and adaptive reuse of architecturally and historically significant buildings in San Francisco.

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Housing Proposal for Reuse of Mission Armory

Some historic buildings present so many challenges that finding a reuse that is both appropriate and economically feasible can be difficult. The Armory is one of those buildings. It is large, with a footprint of more than 68,000 square feet, and includes two very different structural components. One is a four-story administration building, and the other—the drill court—reputedly contains the largest enclosed volume in San Francisco, spanned by 170-foot curved steel trusses rising to a height of 65 feet.

Furthermore, the Armory—a landmark and listed in the National and California Registers—has been vacant for some 30 years, during which time it has received poor care. And it sits over Mission Creek, or some other natural source, whose flow, estimated at 30,000 gallons per day, ensures perpetual water in the basement.

In recent years, developers have gamely tried to rise to the challenge, proposing uses that include offices for the “dot com” industry and an internet farm center. These have all fallen victim to a combination of some neighborhood resistance and economic hard times. The current owners have put forth a conceptual plan to develop the site for residential and community use. Parking will be in the basement.

Currently, the project calls for 173 studio, one- and two-bedroom units, 129 of them to be in a new, free-standing seven-story structure within the drill court. A rectangular form built around a large open area, the new building would be set back from the existing walls in a range from about 15-18 feet on the north and south to 30-35 feet on the east and west.

The existing roofing and monitor of the drill court, in poor condition, will be entirely removed and only partially replaced to allow light and air for units in the new building and the units in the administration building that face inward. A rooftop addition to the latter will provide eight two-story housing units.

Office use—intended for nonprofit community organizations—will occupy a portion of first and second floors of the administration building.

Retention and rehabilitation of four historic offices on the first floor will preserve original features, including terrazzo flooring, marble baseboards and trim, oak doors and door and window trim, and lighting fixtures. Similar features in the entry hall, stairs and stair lobbies of each floor will also undergo rehabilitation.

While it will be necessary to alter some other significant interior features, the developer anticipates that, overall, such changes will have little adverse impact.

Other preservation elements of the proposal include restoration of the historic building’s characteristic clinker brick walls and rehabilitation of all windows and doors, replacing in kind only where originals are beyond repair. The project anticipates no new openings in any of the historic principal façades. The exposed structural system of roof trusses and original wall configuration of the drill court will remain intact, allowing some perception of the space’s original use.

While this proposal for the adaptive reuse of the Armory appears promising in its conceptual stage, Heritage will await more detailed plans before offering an evaluation.

Catching Up on Church Issues

Two breaking news stories rendered the item on St. Brigid Church in our last issue, as well as its passing reference to the unsettled state of Sacred Heart, quickly out of date.

The item observed that Archbishop Levada was soon to depart San Francisco, leaving his successor to resolve the issue of Sacred Heart. Late in July, we learned that Fred Furth, an attorney and winemaker, had purchased the historic Western Addition church at Fillmore and Fell for use by the Megan Furth Academy—the combined Sacred Heart and St. Dominic schools that have recently been beneficiaries of Mr. Furth’s generosity.

Supervisor Mirkarimi, whose district includes the church, has facilitated meetings between the owner’s representative and members of the community, including Heritage. We have received assurances that there will be no demolition of significant structures, and any adaptive use will respect the site’s historic character.

In the case of St. Brigid, we noted the announcement by Archbishop Levada that any sale of the church at Broadway and Van Ness would include a deed restriction prohibiting demolition for ten years. This was to allow a new owner and the preservation community to reach agreement on a suitable reuse and preservation plan for the structure.

Interested parties were discussing whether to seek a more airtight
arrangement, when an announce-
ment from the archdiocese hit the
daily papers that the Academy of Art
University would buy St. Brigid. The
San Francisco-based school would
reportedly commit $7 million to re-
toration and seismic upgrading of
the building, which it would use for
school and community events.

The Committee to Save St. Brigid
Church reacted with caution, say-
ing only that much depended on the
degree to which plans for the build-
ing will respect the church’s cultural
heritage, and expressing a willingness
to work with the university to ensure
that level of respect is achieved.

In October, with a landmark
nomination pending at the Planning
Commission, it was reported that the
archdiocese began removing artwork
from the interior of the church. The
Building Department stopped the
work, which had no permit, but con-
cern remains for the integrity of the
interior.

LANDMARKS WORK
Program, 2005-06

At its October 19 meeting, the
Landmarks Preservation Advisory
Board established its landmark desig-

From a working list of more than
two dozen prospects—some put for-
ward by board members, others sug-
gested by individuals or neighborhood
organizations—the board winnowed
eleven candidates. They include some
familiar buildings, singled out in sur-
veys or otherwise widely recognized.
Among these is the 1907 Del Monte
Warehouse, at 1620 Montgomery
Street, rated “B” in Heritage’s survey,
recently proposed for demolition.

Also on the list are the Musicians
Union Hall, a B-rated structure at
230 Jones Street, designed by Sylvain
Schneider and built in 1924; the A-rat-
ed San Francisco’s Union of the Pacific,
at First and Harrison, whose architect
was William Gladstone Merchant
(1950); and the former religious school
for Congregation Emanu-el, at 1337
Sutter Street. Also A-rated, it is the
work of architect Alfred Henry Jacobs
(1910).

Plan for UC Extension Campus

A development proposal for the for-
erm UC Extension campus has evolved
together since Heritage first had the
opportunity to review it last year. We
are pleased to report that the changes
have been in the direction of greater
preservation.

Initially, the plan to construct
400-plus units of housing on the site
bounded by Hermann, Buchanan,
Haight and Laguna called for reten-
tion of Woods Hall and Woods Hall
Annex, which wrap the northwest
corner of the property, and a portion
of Richardson Hall, which defines
the campus’ southeast corner, facing
toward Market Street.

While details remain incomplete at
this time, the overall master plan calls
for retention of Richardson Hall in its
entirety. Its use will be for assisted
senior living. The developer will also
undertake restoration of the existing
auditorium in this building, which
would be available for a variety of
community uses.

Another welcome change of plan
would introduce openings in the wall
that encloses Richardson near Market
Street (shown here in a partial view)
to accommodate residential or retail
uses at street level. Such treatment
would enliven the corner significantly
without compromising the historic
profile that has defined it for 75 years.

Still proposed for demolition are
Middle Hall, a gymnasium and class-
room building near the center of the
campus built in 1924, and the
Richardson Hall Administration Wing
on Laguna Street, a later addition and
altered over time.

The project’s detailed treatment of
the historic features of the structures
to be retained remains to be worked
out. Heritage will review those plans
when they are available.

Much of the credit for moving the
project toward greater preservation
goes to Hayes Valley Neighborhood
Association and grassroots organi-
sations like Friends of 1800. With
Heritage’s participation they have
worked with the developers, A.F.
Evans and Mercy Housing, who also
deserve credit for being responsive to
preservation concerns. The Friends
continue to research the historic and
architectural value of the site and are
preparing a National Register nomina-
tion.

There are also advocates in the
community for a proposal by New
College of California to relocate its
campus to this site, continuing its edu-
cational use. Such a plan could result
in retention and reuse of all existing
historic buildings.

Three sites at the western edge
of the city appear on the list. They
are the Mothers Building at the San
Francisco Zoo (George Kelham,
1925), the bath house for the legend-
ary Fleishhacker Pool and a popular
icon, the Doggie Diner Head. Another
West of Twin Peaks prospect is
the Maybeck-designed Forest Hill
Association Building (1919).

Completing the list are the resi-
dence and storefronts at 557 Haight
Street, the 21st Street Transit Shelter
(at Chattanooga Street), and the Arab
Cultural Center at 2 Plaza Street.

None of the historic districts on the
original working list made the final
cut. The board cited as a reason the
lack of staff time for preparing a dis-
trict nomination. However, members
conceded they would not preclude
designation of a district, if presented
with a completed case report that
could pass muster at the board.
In nearly 35 years since the founding of Heritage, hundreds of individuals have generously served the organization as unpaid members of its board of directors and as volunteers leading tours and performing various other tasks. Scores of friends and donors have provided substantial long-term financial support, as well.

This fall, in order both to recognize their extraordinary contributions and to provide a means for the organization to benefit from this dedicated and talented pool of individuals, Heritage has formed the Lilenthal Society. We welcomed the inaugural members of the society, on September 8, at a special reception hosted by Heritage board member Roger Walther and his wife Anne, at the historic San Francisco Gaslight Company/Merryvale Antiques building (San Francisco Landmark #58).

Current board president Jay Turnbull and Charles Chase, executive director, welcomed the charter members of the Society. Mr. Turnbull read a mayoral proclamation making September 8, 2005, San Francisco Architectural Heritage’s Lilenthal Society Day, in recognition of “the extraordinary efforts of San Franciscans who have dedicated their time, talent and resources to preserving our city. . .”

A committee identified for membership in the Lilenthal Society individuals who have not only made past contributions to Heritage in a variety of ways, but who have amply demonstrated their continuing interest in and support of our mission and our activities. The inaugural class of fourteen includes three persons who were present at the creation: Charles Hall Page, Harry Miller and Stewart Morton. Mr. Page and Mr. Miller conceived the idea of Heritage, and Page was the organization’s first president. A founding board member, Mr. Morton spearheaded seventeen Soirée events.

Other past board members received into the Lilenthal Society are Linda Jo Fitz, David Hartley, Craig W. Hartman, John McMan, Alexandra Marston, Rebecca Lilenthal Schnier, Robert A. Thompson, Sue Honig Weinstein and Jacqueline Young.

Ms. Fitz began her association with Heritage as a staff member, served briefly as executive director and joined the board in 1988, where her fundraising skills proved invaluable. David Hartley, for years travel editor of Sunset Magazine and now development director for SPUR, was a board member in the 1980s who helped guide development activities. Craig Hartman, principal design partner for Skidmore Owings and Merrill, brought his considerable skill to Issues Committee deliberations. Mr. McMan, active in the real estate industry, is a past board president who guided Heritage through some organizational changes.

Alexandra Marston left the board this year after nearly 25 years of service, much of it devoted to oversight of the Haas-Lilenthal House. Rebecca Lilenthal Schnier, an architect, was, until last year, a Lilenthal family representative to the Heritage board. She has agreed to serve as the first chairperson of the Lilenthal Society.

Attorney Bob Thompson served on the board 1988-2005, and guided the Issues Committee through its deliberations over scores of preservation projects in the city. Operating her own catering business for many years, Sue Honig Weinstein lent her expertise to planning Soirée dinner menus and other events during a record-setting 25 years on the board. Jackie Young was a walks guide before Heritage enlisted her talent and resources as a board member.

Charter members of the Lilenthal Society who are not board alumni are William Fries, II, and Harold and Janet Montano. Mr. Fries, related.

—continued on page 11
Queen Anne Restoration Garners Preservation Award

California Preservation Foundation (CPF) handed out its 2005 Preservation Design Awards, on September 17, in a ceremony in the rotunda of San Francisco’s City Hall. Each year since 1984, CPF has single out for recognition the finest examples of preservation practice in its many expressions across the state. Among this year’s 24 honorees was the exterior restoration of the Spencer House, a San Francisco property that entered the National Register earlier this year.

John C. Spencer had a fine Queen Anne residence built at the northeast corner of Haight and Baker, in 1895, on a site that is equivalent to about three standard San Francisco residential lots. The architect was Frederick P. Rabin. The record of the water connection, and a listing in the California Architect and Building News, confirm the year of construction.

Spencer appears in city directories as co-proprietor of The Wonder, a hat, flower and feather store on Market Street. In 1908, he sold the Haight Street house and moved his family to Pacific Heights. The purchaser was James Costello, president of O’Connor and Moffatt, a San Francisco department store acquired by Macy’s in 1945. His widow lived in the house until her death in 1951, and it sat vacant for three years.

From 1954 to the present, the Spencer House has passed through five different owners. During most of those years, it suffered from lack of care, until the Chambers family acquired it in the mid-1980s and began a 15-year restoration and conversion to a bed-and-breakfast inn. Remarkably, through the years of neglect, the house retained most of its historic detail, inside and out—a tribute to the quality of the materials and the care taken in its original construction.

Structurally, the house is note-worthy. It rests on 13-inch-thick concrete foundation walls (unusually large for a residence) encompassing a full basement. Continuous thirty-foot-long 3x11 joists constitute the floor framing that sits on the foundation. Because of such stout underpinnings, after more than a century, the house shows little sign of settling or sagging. Complex roof framing uses scissor trusses to span the enormous attic. According to the house lore, the Spencer children used the attic as a tennis court.

The Chambers completed some interior remodeling, including converting closets in upstairs bedrooms to bathrooms, but took care to maintain original finishes and to replace missing or damaged features with stylistically appropriate high quality finishes compatible with the historic character. The present owner bought the house in 1999 and has modernized the electrical, plumbing and heating systems without compromising historic interior finishes.

As project manager, Chris Yerke oversaw the recent exterior restoration and “hundred-year tune up” that garnered the CPF award in the category of craftsmanship. A former site superintendent with Paragon General Contractors in San Francisco, Yerke

Original roofing and 3 subsequent layers removed

This and remaining photos by Chris Yerke

Laborious task of stripping old paint from ornamental details
holds a BFA in metalsmithing from Southern Illinois University. He has tended to work for large estate owners for extended periods, and through his years of experience has mastered a range of skills from operating heavy equipment to delicate woodcarving. Operating out of a basement workshop in the house next door, where he lives, he has devoted four years to the Spencer House.

According to Chris, the house retains better than 90 percent of its historic exterior woodwork. Given the sheer size of the house and the fact its full exposure on all four elevations provided the builders with an ample canvas for ornament, that still left plenty of restoration work to be done. Chris estimates that there are well over three miles of moldings, alone, that girdle the exterior. The usual preservation principle—repair and restore wherever possible, replace in kind only where necessary—grew out of the work. This entailed architectural casting, custom milling and epoxy restoration.

It was necessary to cast replacements for three large cartouches using molds made from original that survived intact. One remaining historic balustrade served as a model for rebuilding exact copies to replace poor quality reconstructions above the first floor bay windows that had been made in years past.

The entry portico, with its elaborate oak wainscot, door and trim, suffered from a combination of weather, inept past alterations and multiple coats of paint. Yerke’s team rebuilt the interior of the portico, creating an exact recreation of the original, but executed in mahogany.

Five of the house’s eight large stained-glass windows, all in autumn tones that reflect the interior golden oak woodwork, required restoration. They display elaborate Celtic knot patterns with large three-dimensional prisms whose weight was causing them to sag. Skilled craft workers disassembled, re-leded, braced, and returned them to their places. In addition, twenty double-hung window sashes original to the house also required repair or restoration.

Some aspects of the project entailed substituting more durable materials for existing. In the case of the roof, the replacement material is a 50-year artificial slate, a high-quality product made from recycled plastics. According to Yerke, this is its first use on the west coast. Twenty-ounce copper has replaced original tin sheet metal on all window drip caps, water tables and bay window roofs. The historic massive redwood gutters, which drain the 4,700 square-foot roof, were retained, with the installation of copper lining to ensure them a longer life. Capping the contribution of the metal trade is the addition of a new period-appropriate copper finial on the witches cap, a replacement for the long-vanished original.

Characterizing the balance of the exterior restoration, Chris noted, “We did thousands of spot repairs and reversed some silly quick-fix things that had been done over the years.” But then there was the painting. Complete stripping of all exterior paint generated eight 55-ton drums of lead waste. After thorough sanding and double priming of all surfaces, the house received several new coats of paint in a palette of 15 colors, along with 23 karat gold leaf.

In submitting the Spencer House for consideration by the CPF jury, Chris noted, with justifiable pride, “The completed project was the sum of thousands of painstaking individual restoration and preservation tasks and decisions performed by over forty individual artisans and tradesmen.” It has ensured an extended life for a historic house that he describes as “a stunning testament to all the talented, anonymous artisans that labored in its creation, and it deserved no less love from us.”

CPF recognized the award-winning team: Christopher Yerke, Restoration Workshop, project manager; Fellmore Management, L.L.C., owner; Ian Keay, The Experts, painting contractor; Michael Tunsen, Tunsen Designs, color consultant; Ted Henry, Kelly Roofing, superintendent; Steve Wang, Young’s Sheet Metal; Steve Wilson, Looking Glass Collage, stained glass replacement front door.
Planning Extends Mission Survey

The San Francisco Planning Department, as a participant in the Federal Certified Local Government Program (CLG), is the recipient of a $22,500 CLG Grant from the State Office of Historic Preservation to continue survey work in the Inner Mission North neighborhood. This is the sixth year the State has awarded a CLG Grant to the Planning Department’s survey program, and the present grant brings the total received to $112,500.

The department began to inventory the city’s historic resources in 1999, and in 2000 completed the Central Waterfront Survey, complementing the survey by the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association. In extending the inventory of the Inner Mission North neighborhood (shown as Phase V on the accompanying map), the survey will evaluate nearly 1000 buildings in three adjacent areas of the Mission, mostly located between Duboce, 20th, Guerrero and South Van Ness Avenue.

The 1906 earthquake and fire destroyed nearly all of the buildings in this area. Research to date has shown that half of the extant buildings on blocks that were leveled date from between late 1906 and 1913, a time of massive reconstruction.

The survey’s focus will be threefold: (1) documenting one of San Francisco’s most dense concentrations of residential-over-commercial, pedestrian-oriented buildings; (2) connecting the survey areas with the existing Liberty-Hill Historic District (designated 1985); and (3) continuing to document the Mission’s Latino community, home to this population since the 1930s.

“By continuing its survey work,” stated N. Moses Corrette, whose duties include working on the current survey project, “the Planning Department strengthens its commitment to preservation as an integral—and critical—part of the planning process.” The support and guidance of the State Office of Historic Preservation jump-started and have sustained the program, and now, the City has taken on the responsibility.

The budget for the City’s 2005-2006 fiscal year, which has just started, provides $400,000 for preservation activity, including survey, and will fund two new preservation positions in the Planning Department. The recent $2.5 million Emporium settlement (see the last issue of Heritage News) further committed City agencies to survey work.

“The Planning Department looks forward to working with neighborhood and community groups,” observed Corrette, “to establish a comprehensive survey program, and foster more cultural resource surveys in San Francisco.”

“Old Ruin” in 19th Century S.F.

A routine search of Heritage’s files turned up the following piece from the Examiner (December 16, 1889) that addresses a preservation issue of that day and in doing so points up the classic conflict caused by increasing property values and the “old ruin” that sits on the land.

“The last of the old adobe houses surrounding the Mission Dolores and built 1773 [sic] years ago, is rapidly falling to pieces. The house is numbered 567 Sixteenth Street, and the number is the only modern thing about it. The tiles on the roof are almost covered with moss, while the walls bear the scars made by the storms of nearly six score years. When the Mansion House, on the corner of 16th and Dolores streets, was pulled down it left the house at 567 the only remaining specimen of the architecture of the year 1773 [sic] in San Francisco, for while the old Mission Dolores still stands, it has been repaired a number of times in order to preserve it. The recent storm made more of an inroad on the old house than the wind and rain of a hundred years had done, and now something must be done at once if it is to be preserved, as otherwise it will soon crumble down. The cracks at the four corners of the house, which were insignificant before the recent storm, have widened and pulled apart. The house is in a locality which is rapidly building up with modern dwellings, and the owner of the land on which it stands will soon find the lot too valuable to allow it to remain occupied by an old ruin. Besides, the front of the house is exactly on the gutter line of the street, thus covering the whole of the sidewalk, and when the contemplated improvements in 16th street are begun the old house will have to go.”
NEW BOARD MEMBERS

There are three new Heritage board members to introduce. Norma Garcia-Kennedy comes to us with a background in finance. After receiving an MBA, in 1979, from the William E. Simon School of Business Administration at the University of Rochester, she worked for various money center and investment banks.

From 1986 to 1989, Ms. Garcia-Kennedy served as manager of multinational corporate finance for Bank of America Investment Bank. She joined McKesson Corporation, in 1989, as assistant corporate controller and in 1993 became senior vice president for business development.

Since 1995, in her own words, she has been “a stay-at-home mother and volunteer.” She lives with her husband, Dr. Richard Garcia-Kennedy, and their 10-year-old son, Ian. As a volunteer, Ms. Garcia-Kennedy has served on the boards of the McKesson Foundation and The Heritage, a residential facility for elderly women, located in a Julia Morgan-designed building. She has also volunteered for the San Francisco school district and for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Mark Sarkisian, PE, SE, is a partner at SOM, where he is in charge of structural engineering. In that capacity, working with the architectural design team, he incorporates structural engineering design concepts with planning, architectural and other required systems.

He graduated from the University of Connecticut, in 1983, with a BS in civil engineering. After receiving a master of science degree in structural engineering from Lehigh University, in 1985, he joined SOM, where his work has encompassed the design of structures for heavy industrial use, as well as many high-rise and mid-rise structures for a variety of functions.

Among Mr. Sarkisian’s signature projects are the 38-story NBC Tower at Cityfront Center, Chicago, and the 88-story Jin Mao tower in Shanghai. Locally, he provided engineering services for the new 42-story St. Regis Museum Tower, incorporating the historic Williams Building, at Third and Mission, and Almaden Plaza in San Jose.

David P. Wessel, AIC, FAPT, is an architectural conservator with a specialty in the documentation and conservation of historic building materials and finishes. As a principal with Architectural Resources Group (ARG), he directs conservation projects and oversees the firm’s in-house conserva-

HERITAGE PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

In a grand tradition now more than 30 years old, Heritage will host its Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 4, between the hours of 12 noon and 3:00 p.m. An imposing, richly decorated 13-foot tree—on order since October—will greet visitors in the front parlor of the Haas-Lilienthal House. Live holiday music and festoons throughout the house will convey the warmth and joy of the holiday season.

As usual, around 2:00 p.m., that jolly old elf, Santa himself, will make his appearance to enthral the children. Parents will want to note that time to be sure their little ones do not miss him. The working display of antique trains is another “must see” feature of the Holiday Open House that children of all ages will enjoy.

In addition to nourishing the holiday spirit, we will nourish the body, as well, offering light refreshments, wine and hot cider. Speaking of the holiday spirit, we hope it will put you in the mood for some shopping. The Haas-Lilienthal House bookstore will feature a variety of special holiday items and special bargains on books, cards, giftwrap, stocking stuffers and ornaments. Heritage members may take advantage of a 20 percent discount on all purchases.

While there will be no guided tours that day, trained docents will move among the visitors, available to satisfy your curiosity about the house and its history.

The Holiday Open House is free to Heritage members and their guests. The charge for non-members is $10 and $5 for non-member seniors and children 12 years of age and under. R.S.V.P. 415-441-3000, or info@sfheritage.org.

OCTAGON HOUSE

Octagon House will offer an expanded schedule to accommodate visitors during the holiday season. Open hours in December will be noon to 4:00 p.m., Sunday the 4th, Thursday the 8th and Sunday the 11th.

The 1861 San Francisco landmark is at 2645 Gough Street, near Union. The #41 and #45 bus lines stop right at the corner. Visitors will enjoy a leisurely and informal tour of the house, admiring its old-fashioned holiday decorations and partaking of warm cider and cookies.

Reservations are not necessary, and admission is free, although contributions are welcomed. Visitors are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy to place under the Christmas tree for the San Francisco firefighters’ annual toy drive. For more information, call 415-441-7512.
HERITAGE TOURS

HAAS-LILIENTHAL
HOUSE TOURS
Wednesdays 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.
Saturdays 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.
Sundays 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WALKING TOURS
• Pacific Heights, Sundays, 12:30 p.m.
• 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, $5 for the general public and
for seniors and 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

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, 510-852-0704

CYPRESS 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

LATHROP HOUSE
Redwood City, 650-365-5564

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

MC CONAGHY 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

Strýbing Arboretum
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
415-661-1316, ext. 312

December

Through February 5
De Young reopening exhibition:
Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh
415-863-3330; www.thinker.org

Through February 12
Exhibition: Masterworks of American
Photography: de Young Museum
415-863-3330; www.thinker.org

Through March 17
Exhibition: Treasures of the Society
of California Pioneers. 415-957-1849
www.californiapioneers.org

Through April
Exhibition from the SOMASF architec-
ture & design collection includes
Pfleuger drawings for California movie
houses. (See page 11)

December 4, Noon - 3:00
Heritage Holiday Open House
(See page 9)

December 4, 8, 11
Holiday Season at Octagon House
(See page 9)

December 6, 7:30 PM
Lecture: The Balloon Boy of San
Francisco. S.F. Museum & Historical
Society. 415-775-1111
www.sfhistory.org

December 8, 9, 10
Remains to be Seen: Christmas Tour and
Tea in Downtown San Francisco.
www.californiahistoriesociety.org
415-357-1848

December 13, 8:00 PM
ADAF Lecture: To the Table: Food
Preparation, Presentation and Plea-
surable Partaking. Legion of Honor:
www.adafca.org

December 16 - March 15
Exhibition: Todd Eberle: Architectural
Abstractions. SFMOMA
415-357-4000. www.sfmoma.org

December 17 - June 4
Exhibition: After the Ruins, 1906
and 2006: Rephotographing the
San Francisco Earthquake and Fire.
Legion of Honor. 415-863-3330
www.thinker.org

January

January 18, 6:00 PM
Heritage Members’ Meeting
(See back page)

January 21 - April 30
Photo exhibition: 1906: A Disaster
Documented. SFMOMA
415-357-4000. www.sfmoma.org

January 24, 7:30 PM
Lecture: Author Lorri Ungaretti, The
Richmond District. S. F. H. A.
www.sanfranciscohistory.org
415-750-9986

February

February 8 - May 27
Exhibition: Jack London and the
Great San Francisco Earthquake &
Firestorms of 1906. 415-357-1848
www.californiahistoriesociety.org

—Correction:
The last issue of Heritage News
mistakenly implied that Gee Gee Platt
was responsible for getting the Junior
League to sponsor the Here Today
survey. In fact, as she has explained
her relationship to the project, it was
already in the works when she arrived
in San Francisco, in 1962. A member
of the League, she decided it was a
good way to get involved with the
local chapter and, incidentally, a great
way to learn her way around her new
city.
Lilienthal Society 
continued from page 5

to the Lilienthal family, is a philanthropist committed to supporting San Francisco’s history and its major cultural organizations. Visitors to the Haas-Lilienthal House, as well as attendees of Soirée and Holiday Open House will recognize our very own dynamic duo, the Montanos. As dedicated docents and volunteers they have welcomed guests to Heritage events since the 1980s.

Members of the Lilienthal Society will enjoy a unique relationship with Heritage, receiving periodic updates of the organization’s work and invitations to special events throughout the year. Their involvement will not require attendance at frequent meetings, but we will be seeking their advice and counsel informally on matters of importance to the organization.

Heritage expects to add members to the Lilienthal Society annually and will entertain nominations for this honor from our general membership.

New Board 
continued from page 9

There are two exhibitions at SFMOMA of particular interest to Heritage members. Currently, through April 2006, the museum is displaying a suite of fourteen drawings of California movie palaces by Timothy Pfueger. Included are plans for San Francisco’s Castro and Alhambra theaters. Opening December 16, and running to March 7, 2006, Todd Eberle: Architectural Abstractions will showcase twelve large-format photographs that focus on details of ceilings and other architectural surfaces of buildings by such architects as Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe and Philip Johnson. www.sfmoma.org, 415-357-4000.

On the evening of September 20, Architectural Resources Group hosted a fabulous reception at the Top of the Mark to celebrate the date twenty-five years ago when founding principals Stephen J. Farneth, FAIA, and Bruce D. Judd, FAIA, formed their partnership. Today, award-winning ARG has a 50-person staff and offers comprehensive architectural, planning and preservation services. Just this year, the firm received recognition for its rehabilitation of the Conservatory of Flowers from the AIA and from the California Preservation Foundation.

The deadline for submitting nominations for the 2006 America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list is January 18, 2006. The National Trust has issued this list every year since 1988, and it has proven to be one of the most successful tools in the fight to save the nation’s irreplaceable architectural, cultural and natural heritage. The lists have drawn national attention to 168 significant buildings, sites and landscapes, in some cases leading to a swift rescue of a resource or giving impetus to a long preservation battle. Primary criteria for selection of the eleven sites are significance of the resource, urgency of the threat and potential solutions. For more information and to download application, go to www.nationaltrust.org/11Most/nomination.html or call 202-588-6141.

On August 1, Arnie Lerner, AIA, founding principal of Lerner + Associates Architects, was appointed to the five-member San Francisco Access Appeals Commission (AAC). Staff architect for Heritage in the 1980s, Arnie has been in private practice for the past seventeen years, specializing in accessibility, preservation and residential work. Since 1996, he has served on the Disabled Access Sub-Committee of the Department of Building Inspection’s Code Advisory Committee, of which he is vice chair. The AAC conducts hearings to approve or disapprove DBI’s interpretations of disability access regulations and actions taken to enforce regulations and abate violations.

Restore America: A Salute to Preservation, a partnership between the National Trust and Home & Garden Television, has made a grant of $50,000 to the Presidio Trust for rehabilitation of “Pilots’ Row,” a group of 13 houses in the Presidio built in 1921 for pilots and their families. The project is one of twelve nationwide to receive Restore America funding this year, and the Presidio Trust will offer the homes for rent at market rates when they are ready for occupancy.

On September 15, the San Francisco Public Library received $9.7 million in state matching grants. The funds, provided by a state bond measure approved by California voters in 2000, and matched by City bond proceeds, will finance the rehabilitation and expansion of the Richmond/Senator Milton Marks Branch Library and construction of a new Ingleside Branch. The award resulted from a competitive process in which just twelve projects from a total of 72 applications statewide received approval. The Richmond Branch, designed by Bliss & Faville and built in 1914, is one of seven Carnegie libraries in the city that have undergone or are slated for various upgrades, including seismic and access, and being designated San Francisco landmarks.
January Members’ Meeting

Wednesday, January 18, 6:00 p.m.
Haas-Lilienthal House Ballroom

Featured speaker will be Paul Groth, Professor of U.S. Built Environment History at UC Berkeley. His illustrated lecture will be “Ordinary Storefronts of the 20th Century: Articulating the Lines between Shoppers and Retailers.” Members will receive a detailed announcement in the mail.

San Francisco Architectural Heritage
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San Francisco, CA 94109

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