

Delilah Beasley tea honors progressive women

By Annalee Allen

The sixth annual Delilah Beasley Tea was held in the gardens of the Pardee Home Museum on Sunday, September 17. This year's honoree was Alameda County District Attorney Nancy E. O'Malley, a nationally-recognized expert in confronting human trafficking, domestic violence and elder abuse.

Also recognized was the Oakland-based Alliance for Girls, an umbrella nonprofit organization dedicated to providing girls and young women with the tools to overcome barriers to success and advancement.

This annual event was sponsored by Progressive Oakland Women Empowering Reform, or POWER. The ladies of POWER are inspired by the life and work of the late Delilah Beasley who was a journalist and newspaper columnist for the *Oakland Tribune*.

For nearly two decades, from 1915 to 1934, Beasley chronicled the lives and activities of African-Americans both locally and across the country. She researched and published the first treatise on black pioneers. Historians consider her book *The Negro Trail Blazers of California* a work which firmly establishes how pioneers of African descent played key roles in western settlement.

Her biographer says that Beasley was born shortly after the Civil War, and was orphaned at an early age. Circumstances forced her to cut short her formal education, but she was determined to be a journalist.

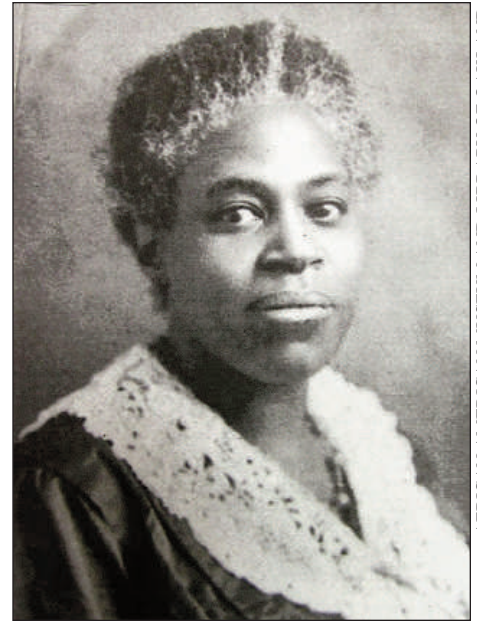
At the age of 44, she came to California, supporting herself as a masseuse in sanitariums and treatment centers, while contributing pieces to local papers like the *Oakland Sunshine*, a publication for African-American readers.

In 1923, she began a column, "Activities Among the Negroes," which ran regularly in the *Oakland Tribune* until her death in 1934.

Her home in North Oakland, a Queen Anne style duplex on 34th Street, still stands. Delilah Beasley is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. She never married and left no direct descendants.

A look at the history files reveals an interesting tie-in regarding George Pardee and the landmark building on 16th Street where Alliance for Girls is located.

The 1919 Beaux Arts style commercial building was originally home to the East Bay Water Company, predecessor to the East Bay Municipal Utility District. Former California governor George Pardee oversaw the establishment of the water district



AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY OF OAKLAND

DELILAH BEASLEY

in the 1920s, and he served on its board of directors from 1924 until shortly before his death in 1941, for a total of 17 years.

He had a daily routine, according to the files, of walking over from his family residence on 11th and Castro streets to the district headquarters. EBMUD would eventually outgrow its headquarters on 16th Street, say the files. Today, its offices are on 11th Street near Chinatown. An emblem over the front entrance depicts the Pardee Dam, named in honor of its founder, George Pardee.

The Morgan Building, as the old headquarters came to be called after EBMUD left, retained its distinctive Gothic Revival facade through the decades, with elegant terra cotta colonettes and Gothic style tracery. Unfortunately, the interior spaces lost most of their distinguishing features.

A 2014 renovation overseen by local architect Anne Phillips successfully brought back many of the 1920s era features. The careful work on the project earned the cur-

See **BEASLEY** on page 2

ANNALEE ALLEN



NAOMI SCHIFF

THE GARDENS of the Pardee Home, at left, the site of the Delilah Beasley tea; at right, the facade of the former EBMUD building, now home to Alliance for Girls.



Beasley

Continued from page 1

rent owners a Mills Act contract reduction in property taxes.

The former EBMUD headquarters on 16th Street received an OHA Partners in Preservation Award in 2014.

For more information on this year's Delilah Beasley Tea honorees, and for more on the activities of POWER, visit www.poweroakland.weebly.com. ■

This is our inheritance. What we do with it is our choice.

—Beth Bagwell
OHA co-founder

Partners in Preservation Awards coming soon

The long-awaited Partners in Preservation evening is here! Please join OHA on October 19 at 7 pm, at the historic First Unitarian Church, 685 14th St. in Oakland, in the Fellowship Hall, to honor and celebrate some of the best recent projects, people, and efforts in Oakland preservation.

The First Unitarian Church, designed by prominent local architect Walter J. Mathews, has weathered earthquakes, world events, and freeway construction since its completion in 1891. Its dedicated and robust congregation has repeatedly raised funds to restore, seismically improve, and preserve the historic structure. For more about this beautiful structure, visit <https://uuoakland.org/about-us/our-historic-building/> or visit https://local-wiki.org/oakland/First_Unitarian_Church_of_Oakland. See photo, page 7. ■

In this issue

Images from walking tours	3
Preservation Action notes	4
Oakland History Room news	5
Books update	6
More trolley poles	8
New Members	10
President's Message	11
Ethel Moore	12

Remembering Helen Lore's love of history

By Dennis Evanosky

Cheerful. Helpful. Interested. Encouraging. Words that come immediately to mind whenever I think of Helen Lore. I was new to Oakland, but not to history, when I first met her so many years ago. I wanted to get involved with the Oakland history community and was exploring how to do that.

Helen was OHA's first staffperson, who established the office and moved the organization out of members' basements and into our first official home. She organized members and volunteers, dealt with the city of Oakland, facilitated events, and persuaded people to do things that needed doing.

"Have you spoken with Helen yet?" two people asked. When I did, her enthusiasm piqued my interest.

When I met her, she gave me direction and imparted her passion for history. "Your timing is right," she told me. The summer walking tours were going on. I went on every history walk available to me that summer. When I spoke to Helen again, I told her how wonderful the tours were. I explained that I had been living in Germany and had run a small history walking tour business there.

Bingo! Helen was in love with Europe. We had struck a chord. And like me, she was a hiker. Through her, I got to know other enthusiastic historians. One of them, Annalee Allen, broadened my horizons, showing me Preservation Park and introducing me to Mountain View Cemetery. Another, Bill Sturm at the Oakland History Room, gave me the solid base I needed to research Oakland history.

Thanks to Helen and her support, I began writing and doing history walks. Through her, I got to know the folks at the Pardee Home Museum, the Cohen-Bray House and the Camron-Stanford House.

Because of Helen, my interest in and love for Oakland history took root and blossomed. For a while, I served as the editor of the *OHA News*. Helen was always interested in the next issue, what I was working on, when it would be out. And when it appeared, my phone would



HELEN LORE'S
warm smile brought many people into the Oakland history fold over the years.

ring. "What a wonderful issue," she would tell me. "I especially enjoyed the story about . . ."

More recently, for the last nine years, I have edited the *Quarterly* for the Alameda County Historical Society. Whenever an issue appeared, the phone would ring. "What a wonderful issue," that especially

friendly voice at the other end of the line would say.

Then something sad happened. I stopped hearing from Helen. I called her once or twice and knew she wasn't the same. Then I learned of her passing. I would like to say something now that I wished I had said earlier. It often, too often, is that way, isn't it?

Thank you, Helen. For without your kind, encouraging words when I first met you all those years ago, I never would have pursued Oakland history with the enthusiasm that I did.

Not long ago, I was at the Oakland History Room, and Dorothy Lazard and I were talking about something that I had written about Mountain View Cemetery. "Part of your oeuvre," Dorothy said with a smile.

Yes, my oeuvre, Helen. None of which would have been done without your cheerful encouragement, your interest, your helpfulness.

Thank you again and again, Helen. ■

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Melrose walking tour a memory now . . . until next year!

KATHLEEN DIGIOVANNI



DANIEL LEVY

BOTH: KATHLEEN DIGIOVANNI



JOE JOHNSTON

THE MELROSE TOUR PARTICIPANTS had a lot of fun exploring the neighborhood. Clockwise from the top, OHA's check-in desk was situated in front of the Melrose Library on Foothill Boulevard; Kathleen DiGiovanni (in hat) and OHA president Alison Finlay welcome walkers; the three-piece funeral sign was set up along E. 14th Street; this little fire truck was seen in a 51st Avenue driveway; and the Talk of the Town sign hovers over E. 14th Street at 45th Avenue. The tour took place on August 19.

Oakmore's walking tour brought huge crowds

LED BY Laine Farley, the popular Oakmore tour, titled Lower Oakmore's Secret Gardens and Storybook Homes, brought out hordes to learn more about neighborhood history. It took place August 13.



BOTH: DANIEL LEVY



Preservation update: mixing the old with the new

By Naomi Schiff

OHA welcomes your participation in ongoing discussions and advocacy about what shape preservation continues to take in Oakland. Here are some updates for important projects we are currently monitoring.

• **1100 Broadway: Key System Building:**

In a series of meetings with the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, Design Review Committee of the Planning Commission, and a joint subcommittee, OHA argued for a more sensitive redesign of the building planned for the vacant lot just north of 1100 Broadway, the Key System Building. The landmark building was once a bank, and is part of the Downtown National Register District. Planning staff and appointees agreed with many OHA points, and urged the developers, Ellis Partners, to modify the design. The proposed tower cantilevers over the historic building by about twenty feet—how to minimize the appearance of “looming” or “leaning”? The original Ellis proposal showed “bay windows” protruding 4 feet out from the parcel edge over the Broadway sidewalk; the redesign eliminated them. Treating the façades in a calmer way was the third big issue; the original proposal showed a busy “checkerboard” approach. OHA was able to transmit some ideas from local architects who were alarmed by renderings they had seen. This project restores the exterior of 1100, seismically stabilizes it, and preserves what interi-



OHA AND OTHER COMMENTERS urged Ellis Partners to redesign its project. At left, earlier iteration, at right, August version.



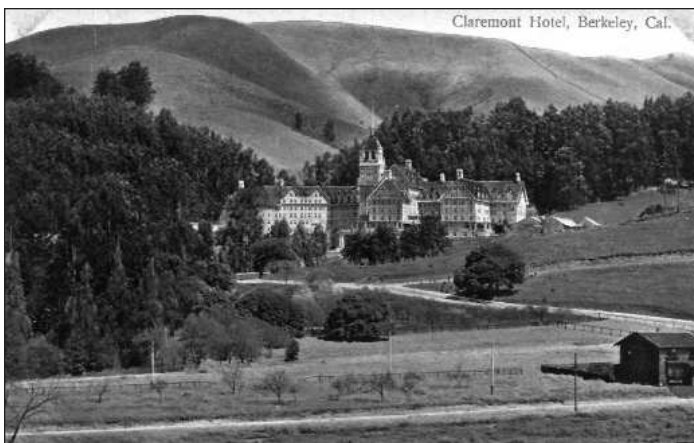
BOTH: ELLIS PARTNERS/GENSLER ARCHITECTS

or features remain after decades of stalled proposals, weather damage, and deterioration. The plan goes to the full Planning Commission this fall. In the meantime, the streetcar mural panels have been removed; if you can suggest a new home for the mural, please contact OHA.

• **Claremont Hotel:** A 43-unit condominium development for the parking lots to the south of the landmark Claremont Hotel is now going through environmental review, and is expected to return to public hearings in the fall. Neighbors are advocating for modifying the project or scrapping it altogether, on various grounds such as traffic, firezone safety, appearance, and views. Oakland Heritage Alliance has weighed in on the historic aspects, including preserving iconic views from public spaces, streets, and sidewalks. A Historic Resources Evaluation draft came in for much public criticism when it appeared to suggest re-opening the discussions about historic districts and designations. The idea of landmark designa-

tion for the hotel first arose in the 1980s during Lionel Wilson’s mayoral term. It was finally designated in 2002, but the grounds around it were not included.

• **CCA Campus:** Questions are swirling about the planned relocation of most California College of the Arts (formerly CCAC) activity to San Francisco, and the potential fate of the historic college campus at College



EARLY HISTORIC VIEW of the Claremont Hotel, from a postcard photo around the time of its construction. The proposed housing would be built in the area to the right of the hotel, as seen from this orientation.

https://localwiki.org/oakland/Claremont_Hotel, image provided by JL



TREADWELL HALL, also known as Macky Hall, is a designated landmark.

and Broadway. The CCA administration has hired consultants to consider how the campus might best be used, while surrounding neighbors, OHA, and other groups are keenly interested in making sure that historic green space and landmark buildings survive no matter what comes next. OHA representatives met with CCA staffers last fall, and another meeting is expected once the consultants make their reports.

GENE ANDERSON

See **PRESERVATION** on page 9



Quentin knew the streets like no one else

By Dorothy Lazard

In early December 2016, the Oakland Public Library lost one of its most valued and tireless former employees. We knew him by Quentin. Just Quentin.

He worked in all reference departments here at the Main Library—Children’s Room, History & Literature, Art/Music/Recreation, Magazines and Newspaper Room, and the Oakland History Room.

He was a highly skilled librarian who spoke Spanish, could communicate in American Sign Language, and was an intrepid indexer.

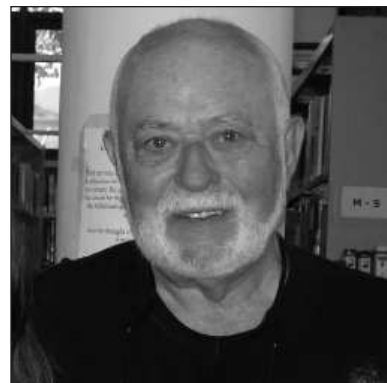
Here, he provided our patrons with astute and enthusiastic reference service. During his time working in the Oakland History Room he compiled two of our most important directories: *Street Name Changes in Northern Alameda County* and *Quentin’s Guide to the*

Streets of Northern Alameda County which tells the story of how the streets got their names.

Quentin had a sunny disposition and an indefatigable curiosity. A history buff, he would raise a flag outside his apartment every day and quiz co-workers about what flag he might be flying on a particular day to see if we were paying attention to world events and history.

Born Lawrence Wing (Lon) Rand in 1933, Quentin was a founding member of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Band & Twirling Corps. He played flute, piccolo and sousaphone. He served as the group’s first archivist, chronicling the band’s early history. He was well-traveled and a great lover of music and opera.

Well past retirement age when he retired to Oregon in 2005, Quentin remained happily



DOROTHY LAZARD

QUENTIN was an expert on Oakland street names and their history.

occupied, occasionally sharing with us, by email, his memories of working for the Oakland Public Library.

He will be truly missed. ■
The Oakland History Room is on the second floor of the main library, 125 14th Street.

View World War I exhibit in the Oakland History Room

By Dorothy Lazard

The Oakland History Room has mounted a new exhibit, “Oakland and the Great War: World War I centennial, 1917-2017” to mark the centennial of America’s entry into the First World War. The exhibit will focus on Oakland before and during the international conflict. Many of the issues raised during this war—nativism, acculturation of immigrants, national security—continue to challenge us today. The exhibit will feature photographs, books, scrapbooks, posters, and ephemera showing how Oaklanders responded to the call of duty. The exhibit will run from September 1 to December 2, 2017.



OAKLAND HISTORY ROOM

Thanks to our volunteers

SPEAKERS (Walking tours):

Phil Bellman, John Bosko, Amelia Marshall, Dennis Evanosky, Stuart Swiedler, Daniel Levy, Phoebe Cutler, Kathleen DiGiovanni, Valerie Winemiller, Betty Marvin, Ray Kidd & West Oakland Neighbors, Andy Carpentier, Kara Nielsen, Laine Farley, Ruby Long, Pamela Magnuson-Peddle, Woody Minor

VOLUNTEERS (Walking tours):

Charles Bucher, Tom Debley, Terry Kulka, Kathleen DiGiovanni, Alison Finlay, Jinhee Ha, Joyce Hendy, Wally Holmen, Daniel Levy, Amelia Marshall, Hugh & Sue West

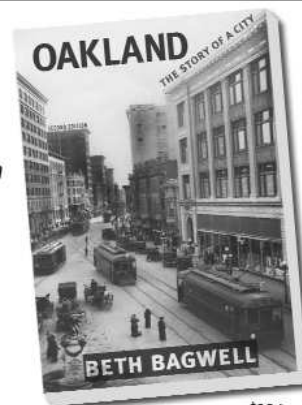
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Pardee Home serves as eerie literary inspiration

By Erika Mailman

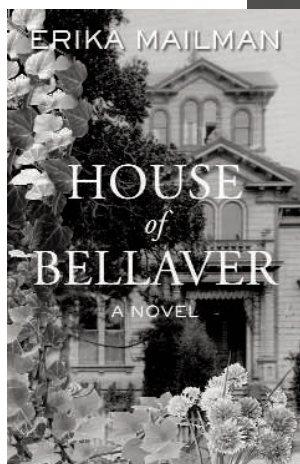
From the moment I set foot in the Pardee Home Museum, my imagination was captured. The fact that most of its furnishings remained intact from the turn of the century fascinated me, as did the idea that the two surviving Pardee sisters left money to establish the home as a museum after their death. They were proud of their father, George Pardee, former Oakland mayor and California governor, and felt his home should be preserved for posterity. It didn't hurt the house's case that it's reputed to be haunted.

I became friends with the director and caretaker David Nicolai and with curator Vicki Wiese. I spent many hours in the home, preparing for the first of many Halloween at the Mansion events. We decorated the house, purchased special flashlights to enable visitors to go through the house without the lights turned on, and created a special spooky script for the volunteers stationed in each room. My now-husband built a special séance table with a hole cut in the middle and enlisted a friend to do a psychic medium shtick replete with goofy accent. They set up in the side porch gift shop. He had hidden himself unseen beneath the table and at a prearranged moment reached his hand up through the hole and reached out for the séance attendees. I could hear the screams from across the property. The glass crystal ball broke in the pandemonium.

There were moments during the lead-up to the event that I found myself alone in

the house. It gave me a very eerie feeling, and I felt that perhaps the rumors of the hauntings were true. Vicki Wiese played ouija in the cupola and is convinced she made contact with a spirit there, and in the upstairs portion of the coach house.

Vicki now works at a museum in



Coos Bay, Oregon, and David teaches English in China. I haven't been in the Pardee Home much in the last few years,

but it still held sway over me. I ended up writing a novel based on a fictionalized version of the house, titled *House of Bellaver*. I merged George Pardee with another early governor, Henry Markham (1891–95), who vetoed school suffrage after it had passed the House and Assembly. I began wondering what it was like for Markham to go home and tell his wife and four daughters he didn't value their knowledge or opinions. (Blanket suffrage passed in California in 1911, nine years before it passed nationally). I created a character named Governor Henry Bellaver, gave him twin daughters, a son and a secret suffragist wife. I let the son die under mysterious circumstances in the 1800s, and a modern-day docent claim to see the family's spirits at the property.

I cast Gov. Bellaver as a huge Shakespeare fan and peppered the estate with follies based on the plays—of course, inspired by Joaquin Miller's follies in Joaquin

Miller Park. Within the book, there are many nods to Oakland history; for instance, in one scene the Bellaver family gardener decides to visit the public library for the first time, and there sees Ina Coolbrith talking with a young Jack London.

Currently, the book is only available in ebook form, but for a special event at the Pardee Home in October, I'll be doing a limited print run of a paperback edition.

The event will be called "Two House Museums, Three Murders" and will also include the launch of another novel, *The Murderer's Maid: a Lizzie Borden Novel*. The connection between the two books is the occasion of both being set in homes that are now preserved as museums. I visited the Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast in Fall River, Massachusetts, a year ago to gather material for the contemporary storyline in my novel. The historical part tackles the infamous murder of Lizzie Borden's father and stepmother from the point of view of the Irish maid Bridget Sullivan, the only other person in the house that day.

The event at the Pardee Home takes place from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 27, and will involve refreshments, a slideshow lecture on both homes, and the chance to take a self-guided tour of the Pardee Home. Both books will be for sale at the event, for which ticket sales will be online when the date draws nearer. If you wish to be on the mailing list to be alerted when they go on sale, please email me at erika@erikamailman.com. ■

PARDEE HOME



THE REAL Governor George Pardee and his family. Are any of them still haunting the property?



OAKLAND HISTORY ROOM

JOAQUIN MILLER'S tower in the Oakland hills shows up in *House of Bellaver*, recast as Macbeth's castle. Photos such as these pepper the pages of the novel.



New book looks at Oakland's dark side

By Erika Mailman

A new book, *Oakland Noir*, provides a glimpse into the city's gritty underside. This collection of 16 short stories was co-edited by the "Czar of Noir," Eddie Muller and bookstore



owner Jerry Thompson, and each story takes place in a different neighborhood. Writers include Nick Petruklakis, Kim Addonizio, Keenan Norris, Keri Miki-Lani Schroeder, Katie Gilmartin, Dorothy Lazard, Harry Louis Williams II, Carolyn Alexander, Phil Canalin, Judy Juanita, Jamie DeWolf, Nayomi Munaweera, Mahmud Rahman, Tom McElravey, Joe Loya, and Eddie Muller. Our own Dorothy Lazard (see page 5) contributed a story titled "A Town Made of Hustle," which is set downtown and involves D.A. corruption. Other Oakland spots that are featured include the Fruitvale Bridge, Mills College, Pill Hill, Hegenberger Road and many others.

In the book's introduction, Muller writes, "These days, writers and readers aren't denying the darker parts of our existence as much as they used to, especially in crime fiction. Some writers just do it for fun, because it's become the fashionable way to get published. You know, "gritty violence" and all that bullshit. The genuine darkness in noir stories comes from two places—the cruelty of the world's innate indifference, and the cruelty that people foster within themselves. If you're not seriously dealing with one, the other, or both, then you're not really writing noir." The book came out in April from Akashic Books.

Bookstore in historic Wilson Building needs help

By Erika Mailman

This fall, Laurel Book Store owner Luan Stauss made a plea on social media: "Help me find a business partner so I can keep our store open." The bookstore had begun in the Laurel district in 2001 and relocated downtown to the Lionel Wilson Building near City Hall in 2014. Business wasn't booming in the new location, however. After Stauss's

appeal, customers made a point of stopping by to support the store, and enough sales took place to keep the bookstore afloat, at least temporarily.

The bookstore is housed in the Flatiron building

(also known as the Broadway Building) that cuts a sharp angle at Broadway and 14th. It's eight stories of Beaux Arts Classical styling, an Oakland landmark renamed the Lionel Wilson Building for our late mayor. It was built in 1908 to house the First National Bank of Oakland, established at another site in 1874. It's partially inspired by New York City's famous Flatiron Building, and was significantly damaged during the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, which caused its closure for nearly a decade.

"Doing business in a historic building lends some stability and tradition to the store," says Stauss. "To be in a building built and maintained since the turn of the century is an honor and delight every day. It's a landmark that people recognize and feels like a solid part of the city that I get to take care of for however long I'm here."

If you love books and brick-and-mortar bookstores, add the Laurel Book Store to your list of businesses to frequent.

Laurel Book Store, 1423 Broadway, 510-452-9232. Open Monday - Thursday 10-6, and Friday & Saturday 10-7. www.laurelbookstore.com



LAUREL BOOK STORE is on the ground floor of the Lionel Wilson Building.

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Sally Shaver



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PUBLIC DOMAIN

OAKLAND HISTORY ROOM



Happy news for Brooklyn Presbyterian Church

By Kathleen Leles DiGiovanni

Brooklyn Presbyterian Church, the largest and most conspicuous building in Brooklyn, has good news to announce: an emerging new life. An Oakland landmark (#84) since 1984, the church building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in August.

Situated at the corner of E. 15th Street and 12th Avenue, Brooklyn Presbyterian Church was dedicated on Christmas Day, 1887. It was the second, bigger home for the congregation that was formed in 1861.

Designed by George Bordwell in the Gothic Revival style, the church was thoroughly up-to-date, featuring electricity and central heating, a commodious kitchen, library, Sunday School, and ladies lounge in addition to a beautifully appointed, octagonal sanctuary with gleaming redwood and sparkling stained glass. A gallery was added a few years later, in 1891.

The congregation remained in existence here until 1972, at which time its remaining members regrouped at spin-off churches like Park Boulevard Presbyterian and Fruitvale Presbyterian and the building was sold to Grace Temple Baptist Church.

Grace Temple members worshiped here until 2016 when they moved to a smaller building and sold the landmark church to musician Fallon Blaser.

Blaser has big plans to reuse the building as a community resource. Read about it at www.brooklynpreserve.com.

While she raises money to fully restore the building, things are happening there.

Oakland's Ubuntu Theater Project performs in the gallery, musical events are being scheduled there, and plans are in the works to bring a Waldorf-style community preschool to the complex.

Catch a show there or listen to some music, contribute to the restoration project, and check out this terrific example of creative reuse at work. ■

*A thousand leaves on every tree,
and each a miracle to me.*

—Joaquin Miller
Oakland poet



OAKLAND HISTORY ROOM

BROOKLYN PRESBYTERIAN has a new lease on life. This historic photo shows it as it appeared around 1900.

TROLLEY POLE UPDATE! For those of you who read the article on trolley poles in our last issue, we have a few updates. Betty Marvin of the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey alerted us to the poles near 26th Street and Adeline. Another tipster told us about a single remaining pole just across the border in Piedmont at Fairview and Dale for the #12 streetcar line. —Daniel Levy



BOTH: DANIEL LEVY



Preservation

Continued from page 4

• **I Call It Capwell's, You call It Uber, Some Call It Sears:** Uber is calling the whole thing off! The company plans to sell the iconic Uptown building that has been through so much. A nearly-finished major reconstruction project has recreated window openings, clad the exterior in a terracotta rainscreen system, and installed a structural support system within the building. Intended to house Uber employees with retail on the ground floor, the building awaits a new owner for its next phase of existence.

The Capwell's/Emporium department store was once an anchor of Oakland's Broadway shopping district. The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake damaged the building, and its owners installed metal shearwall elements, permanently damaging the brick and terracotta facade, closing off many of its windows and covering it all with a foam-type EIFS cladding after knocking off protruding decorative elements.

• **Webster and 15th:** A highrise residential project is proposed for the southwest corner of 15th and Webster streets, across from the landmark Julia Morgan-designed YWCA building.

OHA has been advocating design modifications to make the new building more compatible with its surroundings. It will likely block views toward City Hall from the east side of Lake Merritt, at the 18th Street Pier. We have pushed for compatible



NAOMI SCHIFF

COVERINGS are coming off the Emporium/Capwell's building, so passersby can see the restored cornice, new siding, and restored pattern of window openings.

materials, window treatments that relate better to the context, and improved overall shaping of the tower.

• **Newsom Apartments under repair:** The apartments on Valdez at 24th Street suffered damage when a huge fire broke out at an in-progress construction project next door. The B-rated Newsom Brothers building survived, but some tenants have still not moved back in their units, pending repairs.

In the meantime, tests are being carried out to see if the concrete underpinnings of the destroyed building can be reused. ■



NAOMI SCHIFF

2011 PHOTO OF the Newsom Brothers apartment house on Valdez at 24th Street.

NAOMI SCHIFF



DESIGN EVOLUTION at 15th & Webster: Currently, City Hall and the Tribune Tower are visible from the 18th Street Pier at the edge of Lake Merritt, as seen above. At right, a proposed highrise will block views of City Hall from the same vantage point.



RAD BUILD



Moore

Continued from page 12

children as a living monument to Miss Moore's life of service," according to the *Tribune*. More than 700 people attended the groundbreaking.

The building was designed by Charles W. Dickey who gave Oakland such other buildings as the Claremont Hotel; the old University High School building; Kahn's Department Store, now the Rotunda Building; and three of our Carnegie branch libraries: Golden Gate, Alden/Temescal, and 23rd Avenue. Dickey designed it in the Italian Renaissance style with two stories and a basement. It was wood-framed, because it wouldn't serve in-patients. It was meant to be the first phase of a massive public health complex for the county. Plans published in the newspapers projected a grand U-shaped building, of which the Ethel Moore Memorial would be one wing, facing the estuary on First Avenue, and spanning a full city block. It was dedicated December 3, 1922. Later phases of the complex were never built and the rest of the block was later used for the school district headquarters.

A pamphlet published by the Public Health Center of Alameda County in the late 1920s identified the Ethel Moore Building as home to an array of public health services including a diagnostic center, special clinics treating asthma, diabetes, cardiac and dental health, "child guidance" (psychiatry), and social work. The center also coordinated and housed the work of other agencies like school nurses, the Visiting Nurses Association, and the Alameda County Tuberculosis

Association. Over the decades, as Alameda County Health Department services moved to other buildings, the Ethel Moore Building became home to health-related nonprofit organizations.



AMELIA MARSHALL



DANIEL LEVY

A SUMMER OF WALKING THROUGH HISTORY: a group examines Victorian buildings in the thriving Brooklyn neighborhood, top. At the side, fog makes for a moody amble through Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve in the Oakland hills. Whether urban or natural is your pleasure, the summer walking tours provide a chance to meet your neighbors, learn about well-researched history from an experienced and passionate presenter, and stretch your legs for some extra steps. Watch your mail next summer for our fridge-able flyer that keeps you on track for at least two walking tours per weekend throughout August and September. See you next year!

Welcome to our new members!

OHA is pleased to welcome these newest members through the end of August:

- Linda Andrade, Helen Bell & Gary Larsen, Susan Blumstein, Shari Kurota & Sean Boyle, Joan Catherine Braun, Tamar Brott, Brooklyn Basin Bar Group, Judy Casey, Bruce & Huong Corbridge, Diane Dailey-Smith & Barry Bennett, Nicole Diaconoff, Kenneth Donnelly & Catherine Bishop, Mary Hackenbracht, Conor Hickey, Lillian Hsu, Edward Kaplan, Dr. Joanne W. Lafler, Lichen, Michael D. Manning, Jane Meyer & Carol Campbell, Judith Myers, Rose E. Mitchell, Jeffrey Neidleman, Anand & Sarita Nene, Sheila Rubin & Bret Lyon, Robert Millar & Seed Interiors, Harlan & Mary Simon, Barney Smits & Theresa Nelson, Jane Stebbins, Marguerite C. Stricklin, Charlotte Yip

NAOMI SCHIFF



STAIRWELL in the Ethel Moore Building.

Among the many organizations housed there over the decades were Planned Parenthood, Easter Seals, the Heart Association, the International Institute (a refugee resettlement agency), a pro-fluoridation group, the Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls, and the Mental Health Association. Beginning in 1964, the school district began leasing space in the building for special education projects, and in 1969 it bought the building from the county. For quite a few years the Ethel Moore Memorial was the district's administrative annex, but more recently it has been vacant and semi-derelict. Here's hoping this memorial to a selfless life of service can be given its own new life.



Walking tours, new website and other successes!

By Alison Finlay, *President*

Our walking tour season is completed for 2017, and we love thinking about how successful it's been for . . . wait for it . . . 37 years now! It's amazing. A lot of people turned out for our tours this summer. It's great to have so many people engaging in local history. A few tours had record attendance, like Stuart Swiedler's which had almost 90 people. Thanks to everyone who attended, walked, listened—and put up with our popularity! One member this summer loved the tours so much she sent a lovely note and generous donation to OHA, stating it was specifically because of her enjoyment of the tours program.

We have a new person in the OHA office: welcome, Sandy Burnett! She's been with us for a few months now. Sandy has a degree in journalism and is a professional organizer. She took one look at our office and marked us for a transformation. After a heartfelt "Oh boy," she dug in and purged our paper and boxes and reduced our clutter. She's made a real difference for us, and we give her props.

Our website is also looking more spiffy these days. We had been meaning to update

it for a while and now it has a fresh new look. We thank Naomi Schiff, Daniel Levy and Amelia Cass for their efforts to make a more streamlined site. Did you know you can read old *OHA News* editions online in PDF form? This wonderful archive is being rebuilt as well, so those editions will be forever at your fingertips.

We want to send a special thanks to Joyce Hendy, who volunteers with us every Thursday. She's been a great help for over a year now. She's pretty great—and she even walks to us from the Oakland hills, getting in 14,000 steps a day doing that!

We are announcing a rate change for family/household memberships. The individual membership remains at \$45, but we need to slightly increase the family membership to be in keeping with the individual rate. It is moving from \$65 to \$75. However, if you renew (or newly subscribe) before the end of the year, we will honor the old rate. That means if you're considering buying a membership for another family—maybe a new family in your neighborhood?—this is the perfect time to do it.

Please mark your calendars for the Partners in Preservation awards ceremony tak-



OAKLAND HISTORY ROOM

OAKLAND'S CIVIC HISTORY begins in 1852 with Horace Carpentier's bridge across San Antonio Creek. Today the Oakland A's are exploring the Peralta administrative headquarters site along the creek for a baseball stadium.

ing place at 7 p.m., on Thursday, Oct. 19, at the First Unitarian Church. We will cheer for people who have enriched Oakland by their work and with their lives. We'd love to see you there; it's bound to be a delightful evening!

Watch your mail for our annual appeal, which will go out next month. Please also keep us in mind with your estate planning. A gift to OHA is a gift to the Oakland of the future, that continues your love and caretaking of this city. ■

CONTRIBUTORS:

Annalee Allen, Kathleen DiGiovanni, Dennis Evanosky, Alison Finlay, Joe Johnston, Dorothy Lazard, Daniel Levy, Erika Mailman, Amelia Marshall, Naomi Schiff

PRODUCTION: Erika Mailman

MISSION STATEMENT: OHA is a nonprofit membership organization which advocates the protection, preservation and revitalization of Oakland's architectural, historic, cultural and natural resources through publications, education, and direct action.

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Monument to a life of service

By Kathleen DiGiovanni

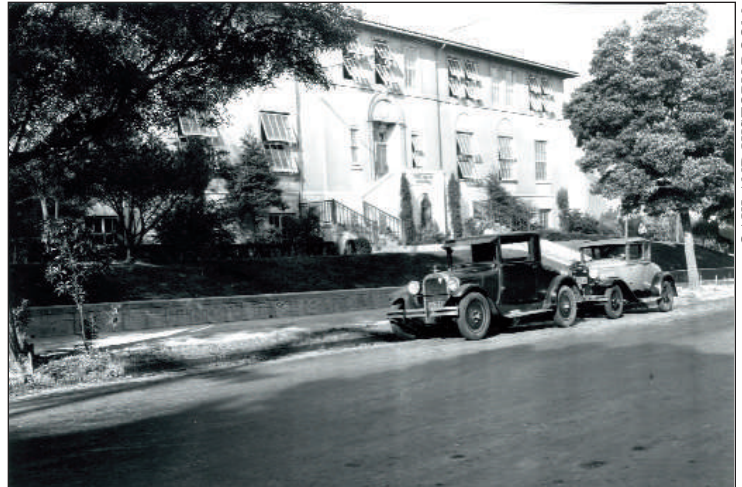
Tucked unobtrusively behind the school district headquarters on Second Avenue is a lovely but neglected green stucco building identified by the shadows of the letters that used to read “Ethel Moore Memorial.” Reports have come our way recently that the school district, which has owned it since 1969, is now working with an architect to restore and reuse the building.

Who was Ethel Moore and why was this building built?

Ethel Moore was born in Oakland in 1872, daughter of A.A. Moore, a prominent Oakland attorney and one-time Alameda County District Attorney. After graduating from Oakland High School, she attended the University of California for two years before graduating from Vassar in 1894. When she returned to Oakland, she threw herself into social work. Her Vassar obituary related that she “always claimed that Vassar gave her her first enthusiasm for life.” As a member of the Oakland Club, she worked to build playgrounds in West Oakland so children could have safe places to play outside. Her work in the playground movement led to her becoming one of the founding members and president of Oakland’s Playground Commission when it was created by Mayor Frank K. Mott in 1908. When that commission later became the Recreation Commission, she was reappointed. Her interest in public health led her

to work on behalf of children and public playgrounds, work for which she was nationally recognized during her lifetime.

Beyond her signal work in recreation, her contributions were many. At her death, the *Oakland Tribune* observed that she “has for many years been a recognized leader on the Pacific coast.” She was one of the founders of the Oakland Social Settlement and served on its board for 20 years. Concerned about public health, she helped create the Alameda County Anti-Tuberculosis League. She was an activist in the fight for women’s suffrage; during World War I, she was a member of the California Belgian Relief Board and on the Food Committee under Herbert Hoover; and she was one of only two women to be named to the state council of defense. In 1915, she was appointed to the board of trustees of Mills College, which later named a dormitory in her memory. So great was her leadership that a 1914 announcement of a talk she was to give to the California Civic League described her as the “Jane Addams of Oakland.”



THE ETHEL MOORE BUILDING on East Eleventh Street.

OAKLAND HISTORY ROOM

Moore died of cancer on Oct. 4, 1920, at the age of 48. In an article the following day, announcing her death, the *Tribune* reported that a meeting had been planned to create some permanent memorial to her life and work. That movement gained steam immediately. Because she had been involved in planning for a county health center, her memorial would be the first unit of the Alameda County Public Health Center, housing clinics to address the needs of the county’s children. Her friends began a fundraising drive to get it built.

On what would have been her 49th birthday, March 6, 1921, ground was broken on the building that would be her memorial, a “gift of the citizens of Alameda County to its

See **MOORE** on page 10