

PIP returns with well-attended party & good cheer

By Amelia Marshall

with photos by Tamara Haw

After a two-year pandemic-induced hiatus, the Partners In Preservation awards program returned in 2022. What a joy to come together again to celebrate historical wins!

The stars of the show were historian and journalist Annalee Allen and Oakland History Center librarians Dorothy Lazard and Kathleen DiGiovanni, all beloved local figures accepting lifetime achievement awards.

Annalee was recognized for her decades of work, including two books and her long-running column in the *Oakland Tribune*. Dorothy and Kathleen both safeguarded the city's historical and cultural collections in the Oakland Public Library (each has retired) and worked to bring that information to Oaklanders. Watch for Dorothy's book, *What You Don't Know Will Make a Whole New World* (Heyday Press), which will soon be available in stores and online. Join us for Kathleen's popular OHA walking tours this summer.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT WINNER

Kathleen DiGiovanni, longtime OHA tour guide, newsletter contributor, and Oakland librarian



DOROTHY LAZARD, center, celebrated a lifetime achievement award with her husband Gerald Chambers and friend Chauna Wiggins, visiting from Maryland.

The October 23 ceremony was held for the first time at the historic Pardee Home Museum, at 11th and Castro streets, where Annalee has been a long-time member of their board of directors. OHA member Kevin Tam of PG&E, in recognition of his fundraising prowess, was the official presenter of award certificates.

Allen Temple Baptist Church, the oldest African American church in Oakland, received a PIP award for stewardship on the occasion of their 103rd anniversary. The Reverend Doctor Jacqueline Thompson, known as "Pastor Jackie," and the Reverend Doctor Martha Taylor, church historian, brought a contingent from the Allen Temple congregation.

Restoration work on celebrated civic architecture was well represented, and recognized with stewardship awards.

For legions of Oaklanders worried about the condition of the Lake Merritt Midcentury Monster, the cavalry rode to the rescue, led by Susan Casentini, Kyle Milligan, and Joe

Guzman of the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club. Peter Birkholz AIA, with the Page & Turnbull architectural firm, and Jon Carden of Western Specialty Contractors, did the renovation work on the Monster, where children can now safely climb.

Friends of the Woodminster Cascade, led by Dale Ridsen, enlisted the help of then-council member, now mayor, Sheng Thao; policy director Brandon Harami; and Craig Pon of the Oakland Public Works Department. With the funding and plumbing expertise thereby provided, once again weddings are being held near the fountains and reflecting pools designed by Juanita Miller and built by the Works Progress Administration in the late 1930s

Ariana Makau, owner and principal conservator of Nzilani Glass Conservation, has won a PIP award for restoration of the stained glass dome skylight at Resurrection Church, at 17th and Franklin streets. Makau, trained at the Royal College of Art, London,

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More photos from Pardee Home event for Partners in Preservation



NAOMI SCHIFF

REV. DR. JACQUELINE THOMPSON of Allen Temple; Top right: Boardmembers Felicia Favroth, Kitty Hughes, and Laine Farley, OHA member and tour leader; Center right, Woodminster awardees included Brandom Harami, Dale Ridsen, Sheng Thao, and Craig Pon; Below right: Kyle Milligan and Susan Casentini, Lake Merritt Monster winners, with Kathleen DiGiovanni, who wrote in *OHA News* about its needing restoration; Below: Councilmember Dan Kalb congratulates Annalee Allen.



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ANNALEE ALLEN, seated, with husband Jim and friend Brooke Levin, was honored with a well-deserved lifetime achievement award.



OUR LEADERS AMELIA MARSHALL AND KEVIN TAM. Below is the venue for the party, the Pardee Home Museum.



FRIENDLY faces at the front table: from left, Kitty Hughes, Lara Amin, and Mary Harper.

PIP

Continued from page 1

led a team who cleaned, repaired, and “daylighted” the 118-year-old window.

Two OHA members were recognized for restoring their historic houses. Allysyn Kiplinger completed tasteful upgrades and restoration of her 1906 Charles “One Nail” MacGregor duplex on Leighton Street. Architect Jerri Holan AIA and owner John Lewis restored his midcentury Monterey Colonial Rancho style home in Upper Rockridge.

Do you know of a project, person, or legacy business that deserves an award? OHA will issue a call for nominations later in the spring for the next round of awards. Keep an eye out for our notice and let us know of these projects! ■



Dorothy Lazard's memoir is a great read

By staff

Watch for the May 16 release of *What You Don't Know Will Make a Whole New World*, written by public historian Dorothy Lazard. In this compelling, beautifully-written memoir, she “shares her origin story and celebrates the catalyzing role of libraries in her upbringing in the Bay Area,” according to her publisher Heyday Books.

Heyday launches the book May 16, but you can preorder it now in paperback or ebook format from any bookstore. See the book cover below.

Here's more of what Heyday has to say: “*What You Don't Know Will Make a Whole New World* is Dorothy Lazard's autobiographical coming-of-age story as a young Black girl navigating race and embracing the world-expanding power of the

written word in the San Francisco Bay Area of the 1960s and '70s.

“Transplanted to the West Coast by way of segregated St. Louis, this engrossing memoir offers Lazard's account, told through her adolescent and teenage eyes, of her dawning consciousness of the dynamics of racism in America and the worlds that opened to her through the sanctuary of public libraries.

“‘The library was a great, seductive classroom,’ writes Lazard of her first heady encounters with the stacks, where she, like Malcolm X, vowed to become an autodidact.

“‘It was during this honeymoon with the public library that I began to see how my life could be radically different from my mother

and grandmother's lives,’ writes Lazard, ‘I could be my own something if I only learned enough.’

“Lazard's journey to become her own something takes us through some of the most tumultuous chapters of the Black liberation struggle—from the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. to the flowering of the Black Arts Movement. Against this backdrop, Lazard points to her intellectual guideposts—James Baldwin, Maya Angelou, Nina Simone, Curtis Mayfield—who guide her quest toward self-determination.

“Today the deeply beloved and now retired doyenne of the Oakland Public Library system, Lazard has built a career carrying the

See **MEMOIR** on page 7



Welcome to our new members!

OHA is pleased to welcome these newest members through January 2023:

Wynne Brown, Linda Carloni,
Leigh Carroll, Patty Donald, Eleanor Dunn,
Gale Garcia, Jane Holland, Stewart Merritt,
Sylvia Smith, William Sturm,
Clarence Thomas, Alexandra Thompson,
Susan Weiss, Matt Werner

We thank our recent donors

Lara Amin, Jo Anne Baca, Paula Baessler, Sally Beck, Colin Busy, Elizabeth Callaway, Kathryn Carroll, Stephanie Casenza, Darlene Ceremello & Jessea Greenman, Evelyn & Earl Dolven, Sara & Emerson DuBois, Alison Finlay, Sally Freedman, Nancy Friedman, Kathy Geritz, Jeannie Graham, Janice Grau & Harold Borkowski, Pieter Hazewindus & Mark Roberts, Fred Hertz, Silvia Hughes, Katherine Jarrett, Mary Kanemoto, John Kunze, Philip Laing, Roger Lambert & Linda Mehren, Mark Liss & Bonnie Burt, Arthur Levy, Norman & Florence Lind, Mary E. MacDonald, Ann Mariposa, Christopher Marshall, Patricia Maulet, Christie McCarthy, Adrienne Morgan, Dawn Muller, Carol & Richard Nitz, Carol Olmert, Diane Resek, Catherine Saunders, Susan Sawyer, Charlton Schwartz, Sally Shaver, Christine Shields, Sylvia Smith, Jim Steele, Bill Sturm, Sonia Tamez & Kenneth Whistler, Laura Thomas, Tom & Winifred Walters, Jay & Terry Wiedwald, Marlene & Steve Wilson

NAOMI SCHIFF LEADERSHIP FUND: Lorraine Heinemann

IN HONOR OF NAOMI SCHIFF: Aileen Frankel

IN KIND DONATIONS: Special thanks to Julie Fry for donating her extensive collection of architecture and preservation books

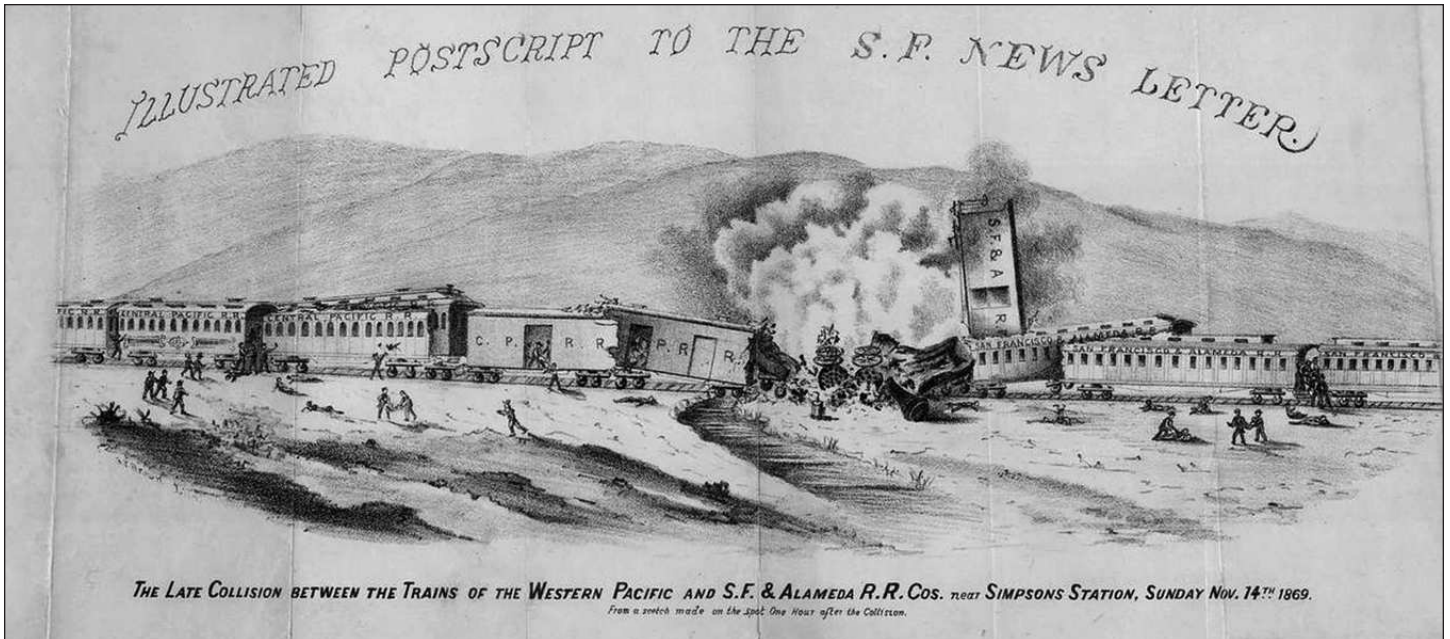
ANNUAL APPEAL: Ralph Anderson, Eve Arbogast, Fari Barzegar, Phil Bellman & Betsy Yost, John Bliss, Stephanie Casenza, Andrew Carpentier, Charles Chapman, Charles Citron, Sam Cohen, Diane Daley-Smith & Barry Bennett, Tom Debley, Ann Del Simone, Kathleen DiGiovanni, Mary Catherine Dino, Arvi Dorsey, Merle Easton, Jane Erwin, Sandra Fini, Alison Finlay, Eileen Frankel, Cathy Garrett, Christine Gouig, Tim Hallahan, Tom & Tamara Haw, Jamin Hawks, Lorraine Heinemann, Heinold's First & Last Chance Saloon, Joyce Hendy, Neil & Robin Heyden, Lisa Hire, Don Holmgren, James Holst, Kathryn Hughes, Laura Ingram, Lesley Johnson-Gelb, Jason Kaldis, Daniel Keller, Cynthia Koenigsberg, Beverly Kraut, Joanne Lafler, Marcia Larsson, Maureen Lenahan, Brooke Levin, Daniel Levy, Martin Levy, Tim Little, Peter Lomhoff, Pamela Magnuson-Peddle, Janet Mangini, Natalie Martina, Daniel Marvin & Alison Zarembo, Henry Massie & Bridget Connelly, Susan Masuret, Christie McCarthy, Margaret & Denis McGuirk, Laurie McHatton-Burke, Karen Merritt, Bonnie Meyer, Allen Michaan, Sarah Miller, Joel Miroglio, Cliff Moser, Virginia Murphey, Barbara & Jack Nagle, Raburn, Sandra Rauch, Adrienne Richardson, Chris Roberts, Kathy Rogers, Susan Schacher, Ben Schiff & June Goodwin, Naomi Schiff, Daniel Shoup, Harlan Simon, Linda Taylor, Sandy Threlfall, Maria Jeanne Vermiglio, Victoria Wake, Dave Weinstein, Elaine Yamaguchi, Anonymous (1)

IN MEMORIAM:

Hale Zukas, OHA member and daring visionary of the disability rights movement



Disaster at Simson's Switch: a historical train collision in 1864



ARTIST'S RENDITION of the tragedy "from a sketch made on the spot one hour after the collision"

By Dennis Evanosky

In 1864, the San Francisco & Alameda Railroad tracks crossed the Chittenden and Simson Compromise Line at High Street

near today's Coliseum Way. The trains traveled first to San Leandro and later, on to Hayward. In 1869, the Central Pacific Railroad's transcontinental trains traveling to and from Oakland met the SF&A's tracks there.

For safety reasons, the CPRR controlled traffic with "Simson's Switch." On Sunday morning, Nov. 14, 1869, a west-bound transcontinental train was waiting at the switch. "All right, go ahead," the man at the switch told the engineer. Too late, he realized that his inattention had allowed the west-bound train to slam into an SF&A train bound for Alameda. The *San Francisco News Letter* sent a sketch artist to memorialize the tragedy, the image you see above.

"(The trains) came together with a fearful

crash, entirely demolishing both engines and making a sad ruin of four passenger cars—two on each train," the *Sacramento Daily Union* told its readers the next day. "The two passenger cars of the respective trains were telescoped, one entirely within the other, making a fearful wreck."

Thirteen people lost their lives, including the engineer aboard the CPRR locomotive; 35 injured people were taken to the Alameda Park Asylum, a refuge for people who were at the time termed "insane," near today's Park Street. The railroad tried to blame the man at the switch. When it was learned that this man was a semi-literate train-car washer with no experience controlling a switch, the courts placed the blame on the shoulders of the railroad. ■

Interested in a wonderfully geeky historian's deep dive from Dennis Evanosky? See page 7 for a map which dispels the myth that the Chittenden and Simson Compromise Line was a single line on a map running along 81st Avenue and nothing more. It was more! A tale from older times when women were not allowed to inherit property, the Compromise Line is near where this railroad disaster took place.



ATTORNEY ROBERT SIMSON (of "Simson's Switch") lived in this home not far from Mills College from the mid-1850s until his death in the early 20th century. Simson and his partner Nathaniel Chittenden managed to obtain large sections of Luis Maria Peralta's land grant in return for their legal services. Now hemmed in by other homes and winding streets, Simson's home was originally surrounded by acres of fields dotted with oak trees.



Zoning changes, campus lands and a train station

By Naomi Schiff

Here are a few of the items our Preservation committee has been monitoring.

■ **Zoning:** It may change in your neighborhood: To encourage development of more housing, city planners and consultants are working on a program to increase density in many residential neighborhoods and along heavily-traveled corridors. OHA is advocating for attention to neighborhood context, especially in historic areas; for re-using existing buildings wherever possible, and for encouraging use of the new ADU (accessory dwelling units) to provide new units. Neighborhood groups may want to request presentations from the city, or to be included in ongoing meetings and focus groups. Changes to the development process may include less public notice, as many activities could be reclassified as “ministerial”—subject only to staff review, not to public discussion. Information is available at <https://www.oakland-ca.gov/topics/oakland-2045-general-plan-zoning-amendments>. To be added to lists or to make inquiries, email: generalplan@oaklandca.gov.

■ **OUSD administration buildings:** Long-time members may remember several previous periods of extended discussion about the reuse of OUSD properties on 2nd Avenue near the channel between Lake Merritt and the Estuary. Two buildings, the Ethel Moore building and the Paul Robeson building, have been empty for years. The

Moore building was the original public health building for Alameda County, named after a pioneer in public health and in recreation programs for Oakland. The Paul Robeson building has a storied past, and was the site of the tragic terrorist assassination of Marcus Foster in 1973. Foster was the first Black school superintendent of a major school district in the US. Both buildings are cultural resources under CEQA.

A recent news story described a potential use of the site as a hub for teens and young adults who have experienced homelessness, juvenile detention, or foster care, but it is unclear whether the buildings themselves will avoid demolition.

■ **16th Street Station:** OHA has heard that City Ventures, a housing developer, is purchasing the historic 16th Street Station. The station has been the subject of worry and proposals ever since the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989, and the rerouting of 880, which cut it off from the main railroad tracks. Built by noted architect Jarvis Hunt, the building is too large to ignore, is of great historic value, and stands in an area slated for increasing residential development. It was the headquarters of the West Coast Railway Porters Union, headed up by A. Phillip Randolph and C. L. Dellums, and thus a locus of national labor and political organizing for Black citizens. In 2005, Bridge Housing proposed demolishing the Baggage Wing, but a loud outcry saved that part of the building. It turned out this was an integral part of the structure, not an addition.



THE GEORGE MCCREA HOUSE was built near a Native American encampment.



THE ETHEL MOORE Building has stood empty for years.

The 1912 16th Street Station was an early multi-modal center; Southern Pacific’s East Bay Electric lines used an elevated platform on the second story, which still stands, and Key System cars traveled the tracks in front of the station. A signal tower a little further north is part of the historic complex.

■ **College lands face transition:** As hard times have hit local private nonprofit colleges, their lands are becoming the focus of development dreams. In addition to our ongoing concern about the Area of Primary Importance at the former California College of Arts (and Crafts), now Mills College has been acquired by Northeastern University, and the city has been contemplating a rezoning that might allow for residential development. Meanwhile, Holy Names

See **PRESERVATION** on page 7



THE SIGNAL TOWER is visible north of the 16th Street Station’s baggage wing



A perfect match



ALTHOUGH PG&E has moved its headquarters from San Francisco to 300 Lakeside, the former Kaiser headquarters, it is no stranger to Oakland. The handsome 1922 building at 1625 Clay St. was designed for PG&E by C. W. Dickey.

By staff

A great big thank you goes to all the generous contributors who stepped up and fully funded the PG&E 2022 Matching Grant effort put together by our energetic supporter and PG&E employee, Kevin Tam. Our loyal contributors got us to the \$5,000 limit! PG&E will match these donations, and we will endeavor to use the funds well to preserve and enhance our wonderful city. ■

Preservation

Continued from page 6

College has announced it will cease operations, and it is not clear what the fate of that hilly campus will be. In addition to the college facilities and buildings, the campus is home to a landmark, the old George McCrea house, which was built near the site of a Native American encampment and later, a chapel serving the Rancho San Antonio land grant. Preston Hollow Community Capital, the lender, is willing to work with the city to find a win-win solution, according to *The Mercury News*. ■



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

What was the Chittenden and Simson Compromise Line?

This 1912 Realty Union map defined the Chittenden and Simson Compromise Line as a single line in the flatlands running toward, and then along, what became 81st Avenue. There are, in fact, two such lines. They define a struggle for the Peralta family's most valuable asset, real estate. Family patriarch Luis Maria Peralta left his land to his sons. His daughters rebelled and hired attorneys Nathan Chittenden and Robert Simson, who asked for a compromise, proposing that the sisters receive the lands between two lines they drew on the map. The compromise line to the west ran up today's High Street and then jogged further west at today's Brookdale Avenue. It ended at the crest of the hill just north of where Mountain Boulevard meets Redwood Road today. Had the sisters won their case, the line on the 1912 map would have partially defined their holdings on the east. That line continued to the crest of the hill to a spot near where Skyline Boulevard intersects with Keller Avenue. The Peralta Hacienda website informs us that "(t)he court case, known as the 'Sisters Title case' was eventually resolved in the brothers' favor by the California Supreme Court in 1859." The attorneys were the only winners, taking large blocks of property as their fee. —Dennis Evanosky

Memoir

Continued from page 4

torch for the potent role of libraries as a haven for the ever-curious, the underserved, and the often marginalized. This memoir is her origin story, charting her journey from a Missouri orphanage to her adopted hometown of Oakland, revealing along the way how her early love of learning opened her young eyes to herself, her society, and ultimately her future as a change-maker and memory-keeper."

Lazard told *OHA News*, "I started working on the memoir, technically, 25 years ago

when I was an MFA student at Goucher College; I wrote an essay about discovering the Western Addition branch library as a 10-year old. And I kept working on it and a few other personal essays. Then, as 2018 neared, I wanted to do something to commemorate my 50th year in California, a place I thought, as a kid, I'd only live for a brief time. Around that time a dear friend suggested I write about my life which she considered unique. I accepted the challenge and began the memoir project in earnest in 2019. By the time I retired from OPL, I was mostly finished with the manuscript."

Kirkus Reviews calls it, "compelling and memorable." ■



Remembering longtime member Hale Zukas's power

Note: OHA member Hale Zukas was one of our frequent tour and lecture attendees. We celebrate his groundbreaking life.

By Joan Leon and Pam Mendelsohn

Hale Zukas, who helped to redefine accessibility for people with disabilities, died of heart failure Nov. 30 at age 79.

He was born with cerebral palsy, which significantly impaired his mobility and speech. Zukas's mother was advised to put him in an institution. Instead, his parents facilitated a full, productive life for him.

Zukas traveled through life in a motorized wheelchair. He used a pointer attached to his helmet to operate his wheelchair and to spell words on a word/letter board. Most people could not understand his speech. An assistant often translated for him, supplementing by reading from his letter/word board.

Graduating with honors from UC Berkeley, where he majored in mathematics and minored in Russian, Zukas began his life work as a disability rights advocate. In 1970, he effectively lobbied for California's In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program, the first consumer-directed program to provide attendants in the home to people who needed them. This program has since become partially Medicaid-funded and a model for the nation.

In 1973, when there were protests for the ratification of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Zukas was one of the movement's leaders. He did a 20-day sit-in at San Francisco's federal building and joined other activists to get the Carter Administration to release its regulations.

An engineer at heart, Zukas designed the first curb cuts in Berkeley and convinced BART to become fully accessible. He co-founded BART's accessibility advisory group in 1975 and even designed BART's elevator buttons for easy access for wheelchair users.

In 2012, the passageway between BART and the Ed Roberts Campus was named after him, and a plaque was placed there by BART in his honor.



JOE JOHNSON

HALE ZUKAS, seen here at the PIP awards in October 2019 with boardmember Alison Finlay as he uses his letter/word board. His wheelchair's bumper sticker reading "They hate us because we're pretty" illustrates his sense of humor.

He sat on a number of national and regional committees dealing with accessibility. In 1979, President Carter appointed him to the then U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, on which he later served as vice chair. For many years, he worked with the American National Standards Institute and served on the AC Transit Consumer Advisory Board.

A documentary called *Hale* focused on his life and work as a disability rights pioneer. It received a gold medal for student documentaries from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 2017.

Zukas was the fourth member of the team that started the World Institute on Disability in 1983, working there for 30 years, making important contributions to attendant services, and fixed rail, bus, and airplane accessibility.

This is excerpted from an article that originally appeared in Berkeleyside. We are grateful to the authors and to Berkeleyside for allowing us permission to use it.

Thank you to our volunteers who make all our events possible!

2022 PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION AWARDS: Lara Amin, Bill Blakely, Alec Borokowski, Charles Bucher, Kathleen DiGiovanni, Laine Farley, Feliciai Favroth, Alison Finlay, Suo Fong, Mary Harper, Tom & Tamara Haw, Neil Heyden, Kitty Hughes, Alan Imler, Bill Imler, Rosalie Imler, Joe Johnston, Ann Killebrew, Amelia Marshall, Dan Melvin, Garrett Murphy, Janet Noble, Naomi Schiff, Kevin Tam, Linda Taylor, Maria Vermiglio

PIP COMMITTEE: Amelia Marshall, Chair, and Charles Bucher, Kitty Hughes, Alison Finlay, Naomi Schiff

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Pardee Home Museum: Richelle Lieberman & Paul Silberstein; Graphics Design and Production: Naomi Schiff; Flowers: J. Miller Flowers; Food: Piedmont Grocery, Alison Finlay, Kitty Hughes, Ann Killebrew, Janet Noble, Linda Taylor; Video Production: Tamara Haw; Wine Expert Extraordinaire: Bill Imler; Advanced Organizing and Major Production Skills: Amelia Marshall

LECTURE PRESENTERS/SPEAKERS: Wynne Brown: "Following the Footsteps of a Forgotten Botanist: Sara Plummer Lemmon's Life of Science and Art." Thanks to Lara Amin for introducing the speaker and to Charles Bucher and Alison Finlay for fielding audience questions; Clarence Thomas: "The International Longshore & Warehouse (ILWU) Local 10's Reclaiming of May Day in the US Labor Movement," with Host Mary Harper; Aaron Goldstein: "Virtual Tour: The Lost Urban Tank Houses of Oakland, Berkeley and Alameda," with Host Daniel Levy; Patty Donald: "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: The Story of the Cohen Bray House," with Host Daniel Levy; and Mary McCosker: "Building the Caldecott Tunnel," with Host Charles Bucher.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Lara Amin for providing technical support for the lectures.

Want to read other people's mail? The History Center invites you to!

By Emily Foster, Oakland History Center
Did you know that we keep junk mail in the Oakland History Center? We're selective about our junk, but when we see something that gives us valuable information on an Oakland-related topic, we're likely to save it.

Many pieces of junk mail and business correspondence from the past have found a second life in the our letterhead collection. The collection includes stationery, invoices, and receipts from all sorts of businesses and organizations operating in and around Oakland. Lumber companies, auto manufacturers, undertakers, masonic temples, and more are represented.

The letterheads are visually enticing for anyone with an interest in graphic design. They often include helpful information for researchers, like the addresses of various locations, names of company owners or board members, and lists of products for sale.

They're also fascinating because most of the items in our letterhead collection are not blank stationery. Many of the letters were sent to the library, filed away, and then eventually saved by some past librarian who recognized them as more than just junk mail.

In addition to viewing the informative and beautiful letterhead, you can learn how much it cost to repair the windows or buy furniture for the library. Below the Mountain View Cemetery's illustrated letterhead, you can find out how their business office worded a letter to a widow who needed to pay for funeral expenses. If you know German, you can read about a party planned by the United German-American Societies of the East Bay in 1930. The collection is a treasure in part because the things you'll find in it are somewhat random.

If you'd like to view some selections from the letterhead collection from the comfort of your home, head over to our Calisphere page (calisphere.org/collections/27966/) where we've recently uploaded 87 items from the collection. There are about 1,700 items in the full letterhead collection, so these are just a few highlights. Or stop by the OHC to see the rest in person.

Also new: The Black Press in Oakland, an exhibit co-curated by OHC and the Main Library's Magazine and Newspaper Department, is on display through April 30. ■



THREE LETTERHEADS from the newly digitized Oakland Letterhead Collection.

Historic church needs help after fire

OHA sends our deepest condolences to the First African Methodist Episcopal Church (FAME) for its devastating fire, and urge Oaklanders to help the congregation restore this historically significant church to serve its community once again. FAME is history that cannot be lost. For over 100 years, it has not only served Oakland's Black community, but was the first school in Oakland for Black and other minority students, when California

schools only educated white students. This is no small feat and a tremendous value not only to Oakland, but to U.S. history. With many Black churches in the Bay Area closing due to congregations being displaced, it's important that we preserve these historic communities that are an integral part of Oakland's story. Please visit FAME's website, fameoakland.org, for information about how you can help with rebuilding. ■

OAKLAND HISTORY CENTER



Sign o' the times at the Paramount's men's room: is this actually a train?

By David Boyssel

The lower mens' lounge at the Oakland Paramount is rarely given much notice. It's a simple room by comparison to the ladies' lounge across the way, with three fantastic rooms, or the large public lounge with the bar. Over several years I've written about the mens' lounge with cerused, adzed oak paneling, its floor of tiles made by Gladding McBean, and the return of an exact copy of the original art print, *The Heythorp Hunt*. I've written about the furniture, both original and filled in.

One of the interesting details in the room is the lighted mens' room sign just over the door. It's actually from a train.

First, the blueprints for the lounge show no sign on that spot, so it was just one of a handful of last minute additions late in the design process and construction, because there is no doubt that a lighted sign was there in 1931. No historic photo showing the original sign has turned up; the 1932 photo of the lounge shows the opposite wall, with the framed print.

Whatever the original sign looked like, it had vanished by the time of the Paramount restoration in 1973, without a trace.

The current lighted sign was given to the Paramount in 1973 by Southern Pacific, headquartered in Oakland. The sign was from a car on the Coast Daylight, the train with service between Los Angeles and San Francisco. The Coast Daylight was originally the Daylight Limited, running on the coastal route. It was advertised as the "most beautiful passenger train in the world," having a distinct orange, red and black color scheme. It operated from 1937 to 1974.



When the sign was installed in 1973, it was too small for the sign opening in the lounge wall, so a pressed metal sign frame was used to fill the gap and mount it. In 1997, Peter Botto asked me to find a better solution so I made a wooden mounting with a much simpler profile, which blends in better with the oak paneling. Here's another fun fact: the wooden sign frame is my graining, painted to blend with the cerused oak, one of a few secret faux effect areas in the theater, intended not to be noticed.

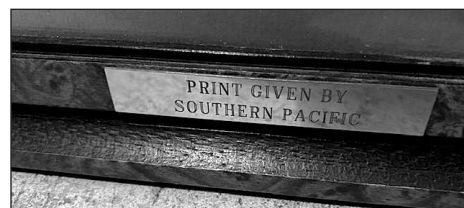
When the Coast Daylight sign was installed, so was a limited edition print of the train, which was hung on the small wall to the right of the door. I removed the print years ago; it was not authentic to the room or even period to the theater, and docents just couldn't get the story right; it created confusion. The print is safely in storage, but it is a fun story. ■



THE MEN'S ROOM SIGN, far left, appears more train-like than theaterlike; there's a reason for that! At left is the men's room entrance, and below is a limited edition print showing the Coast Daylight.



ALL: DAVID BOYSSEL



Sometimes preservationists win!



2019 LISTING IMAGE FEATURED IN SFGATE



NAOMI SCHIFF

Bandstand

Continued from page 12

1914. In September 1918 the new bandstand, then under construction, was dedicated to the memory of the first chairman of the board of park commissioners, James P. Edoff, whose dedication to music in the park led him to fund the inaugural 1911 season himself. The new bandstand held its first concert in 1920 and our tradition of music in the park continues more than a century later. ■

In a previous issue, we saw that *SFGate* described the "transformation" of "a dilapidated Victorian" with its beautiful detailing lost. Our writer Daniel Levy updates the story with this: "I am sure you all know about this already, but I saw 863 Willow listed for sale and was pleasantly surprised by how the house looked! I have no doubt that staff knew about this already and was key to this work, but just wanted to recognize this change. Thank you for working to get this house back on track." Check out the latest version and how it looks after the city required a better effort! ■



What I love about OHA and Oakland

By Mary Harper, President

I love Oakland. The weather is great, not too foggy and not too hot. The food is great as well, from Italian Colors to the corner taco trucks. Standing in the express lane at the Lakeshore Trader Joe's the other morning, I realized that I also love Oakland's diversity. My daughter lives in Connecticut and when we visit Trader Joe's there, I feel vaguely uncomfortable; everyone looks like me, a white woman.

Oakland is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the US. It ranks 4th with a diversity score of 91.4. The 2020 Census QuickFacts for Oakland Race and Hispanic Origin show that Latinos make up 27.2 percent of Oakland's population; African Americans make up 22 percent and Asians make up 15.7 percent.

It was through OHA walking tours that I learned about Latino/a, African American, and Asian neighborhoods and how they helped form Oakland today.

I learned about the Californios when I went on the Peralta Hacienda tours. I learned about Horace Carpentier's land grab when I took the Rail meets Water tour. I learned that the Fruitvale neighborhood, now considered the home of the largest Latino population in



THIS BEAUTIFUL MURAL at Elmhurst Middle School isn't visible from the street, but you can see it at <https://oaklandmurals.com/celebrate-oakland/>

Oakland, once consisted of orchards and nurseries and that many of the early settlers were German, when I took the Fruitvale and Jingtletown tours.

When I took the Oakland Point, the Seventh Street and Prescott tours, I learned that the first official Black Panther Headquarters was on Peralta Street, and that Seventh Street with its jazz and blues clubs was known as the Harlem of the West. I learned about the devastation of the neighborhood caused by the building of the Nimitz Freeway in the 1950s and about the neighborhood's successful resistance to rebuilding the freeway after the "Big One."


Through many Chinatown tours, I learned that Oakland's Chinatown is made up of many Asian cultures—Japanese, Koreans, Filipinos and Southeast Asians, all of whom are reflected in the shops and restaurants.

Best of all? The events celebrating different cultures, like Cinco de Mayo and Día de los Muertos, the Black Cowboy Association Parade and Festival in DeFremery Park, the Black Joy Parade and Festival, Lunar New Year festival, the dragon boat races, and the Moon Festival. Thank you, OHA, for the wonderful and wide-ranging education you've given me. And thank you, Oakland, for being diverse. ■

ART: VISUAL ELEMENT, EAST SIDE ARTS ALLIANCE, ET AL.
PHOTO: OAKLANDMURALS.COM/CELEBRATE-OAKLAND

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Learn the lore of our first bandstand

By Kathleen Leles DiGiovanni

Visitors to Lakeside Park usually know of the Edoff Memorial Bandstand, home of the Oakland Municipal Band and its summer concert series. Less familiar to most, though, is that it was not the first bandstand in the park.

From the very start, a bandstand was part of the plan for Lakeside Park. The city commissioned an overall design for the park by landscape architect Oscar Albert Prager, who proposed a bandstand to be situated in a Music Court very near the “cove,” today’s sandy beach, with an adjacent path leading to a landing so music lovers could conveniently arrive by boat or listen to music from the water. Native oaks would provide a backdrop and protect music lovers from the afternoon sun and breezes. Prager published his proposal in the September 1909 *Architect and Engineer*, complete with diagrams and dreamy illustrations. His Music Court was to take the shape of an amphitheater built into the hillside, surrounded by a balustrade that would provide extra seating.

Alas, all that beautiful design came to naught, and Prager’s Music Court was never built. As they so often do, published accounts vary as to why, but it seems to have come down to money. On Sept. 3, 1909, even as Prager’s plans were being published, the *Tribune* reported that the city was abandoning plans for a bandstand due to budget constraints.

So, what did serve as Lakeside Park’s original bandstand? The first bandstand was

a repurposed leftover. What you see in the photo accompanying this article is the stage built for President Taft’s speech at the laying of the cornerstone of City Hall in October 1911. Once those festivities were over, Taft’s stage was carted off to the park and sited more or less where today’s bandstand is. The inaugural concert took place at the end of the month.

Band concerts were a big draw in these early days. A published estimate of attendance in 1914 was 320,000, based on an average of 8,000 over a season of 40 Sunday concerts. Oaklanders braved inclement weather to hear the band, too. The concert season, especially in the earliest years, continued into the winter: in 1911 the band held a concert on Christmas Eve Day attended by an estimated 3,000.

Then, as now, concerts began with the “Star Spangled Banner.” Programs reflected the popular taste of the period, with a little high-brow thrown in. Today you’ll get American Song Book standards, movie and musical tunes, Souza and some Handel. In the ‘teens of the last century, audiences would hear Victor Herbert and Wagner.

Some concerts offered extras. Attendees on Oct. 24, 1915, were treated to a demonstration of Lake Merritt water rescue protocols during intermission, at a concert



ONE HAD TO DRESS DAPPER for the band concerts

where they heard the “Yale Boola,” selections from “The Merry Widow,” and Strauss’s “Artist’s Life” waltz.

The bandstand was used for other, non-musical events during these years. Fraternal and civic organizations held outdoor gatherings there. At the Shakespeare tercentenary in April 1916, the bandstand hosted royalty. Queen Elizabeth (the first one) was to alight from her boat near the bandstand and be serenaded there by “ukelele choruses and glee clubs.”

By 1917 the bandstand, which was never intended to be more than temporary, was wearing out and described as “makeshift.” Plans were underway and funds budgeted for a new, permanent structure to be designed by Will Corlett and modeled after one seen by conductor Paul Steindorff on a trip to Italy in

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