

## OHA presents 2001 Partners in Preservation

The annual Oakland Heritage Alliance Partners in Preservation Awards honor outstanding preservation efforts in our community. These deserving recipients include developers, residents, community activists and institutions. On December 7 at the Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center in the Gold Room, OHA recognizes the contributions to our city of these great people and wonderful projects:

### Buildings

#### HIGH STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—1945 HIGH ST.

Built and dedicated in 1921, the church's architect was Julia Morgan. The congregation re-established the building as their church after a 50-year period of functioning as a parish hall. They moved back in on Christmas Eve, and soon began fundraising and rehabilitation. The project involved repainting the inside, opening up boarded windows, replacing wood windows and refinishing red oak floors. Using the original plans, the effort was always to stay as close to the original as possible. The whole congregation was involved in this labor of love.

#### MELROSE LIBRARY—4805 FOOTHILL

One of the city's Carnegie libraries, this Beaux Arts-derivative structure was cleverly curved to fit the bend in Foothill Avenue. Designed by architect William Weeks, who also designed the Lake Merritt and Leamington hotels, the library was dedicated in 1916.

Under the watch of Roberta Frye, original head librarian, and with the help and support of the Friends of the Melrose Library, the renovation was funded by Bond Measure I. It is a sensitive rehabilitation of both the interior, with its impressive marble and skylights, and the exterior, a new source of pride for the neighborhood.

Alan Templeton



#### OLD PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC BUILDING 1625 CLAY ST.

This handsome downtown brick and terra cotta Renaissance Revival building received a gorgeous renovation. Listed on the National Register and designed by architect Charles Dickey, who also designed the Claremont Hotel, University High and the Rotunda Building. The structure was built in the 1920s as the new PG&E headquarters.

This restoration showcases good attention to detail, sensitive treatment with new materials and loving renewal of the copper window sills. The repair and hand-repainting of the glazed terra cotta on the first level, with its high arched entry, was especially well-done.

#### URBAN BLEND CAFE—333 BROADWAY.

The owners, Ricardo and Sonja Perez, found a need and filled it. While living in the loft district as students who liked to study with a cup of coffee, they lamented the lack of places in the Lower Broadway neighborhood that stayed open late. The little mid-1950s gas station had been vacant for a long time before they bought

Pekin Low at 700 Franklin St. is part of a city-sponsored program under the Redevelopment Agency that is rehabilitating the facades of many beautiful commercial buildings downtown and helping to create an attractive business environment.

and converted it. With the help of lots of family members and a contractor father, the entrepreneurial young couple did all the design and construction work to make this gas station into a hip meeting place for the neighborhood.

### Organizations

#### DOWNTOWN FACADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This city-sponsored Redevelopment Agency program targets specific areas: Uptown, Downtown Historic, Old Oakland, Chinatown and Lower Broadway. It offers matching grants and design assistance to property owners and businesses.

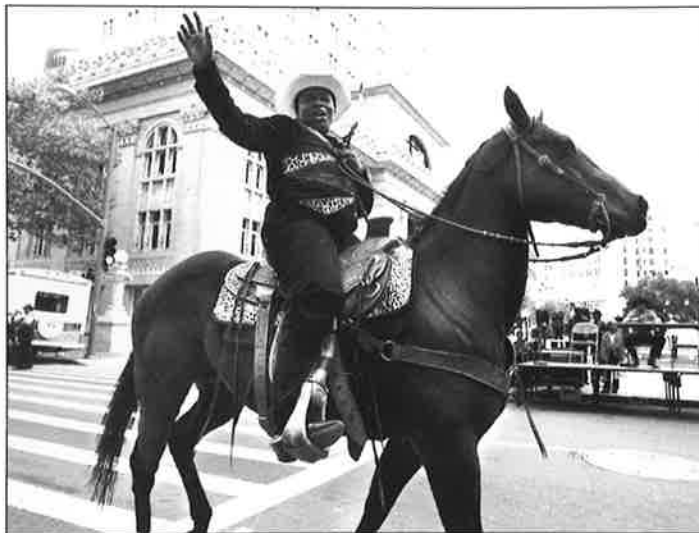
Rehabilitating the facades of many beautiful commercial buildings downtown is helping to create an attractive business environment. We have focused on three specific projects to show the effectiveness of this program:

- 1440 Broadway (office building)
- I. Magnin, 2001 Broadway ( Double Twist, Inc.)
- Pekin Low, 700 Franklin

See AWARDS on page 2



Photo courtesy of Oakland Tribune



Oakland's Black Cowboys Parade showcases black pioneers and rodeo artists and offers a unique perspective into the history of the Old West.

Alan Templeton



One of the homes in Madeline Well's neighborhood. OHA is recognizing Madeline for her continued involvement in gathering neighbors and working with code compliance to clean up her neighborhood.

## Awards

*Continued from page 1*

### THE BLACK COWBOYS PARADE

This event just celebrated its 27th year. Founded and organized by the Black Cowboys Association, the parade is a way to showcase and acknowledge such pioneers as James Beckwourth, pathfinder; Bill Pickett, rodeo artist; and Nat Love, cowboy— and to highlight African-Americans' contributions to the settling of the west.

It is the only such parade and celebration of its kind in the United States.

### EBALDC'S SCATTERED SITE HOUSING, WEST OAKLAND

This East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation's program rehabilitates Victorians for affordable housing in West Oakland. Work is performed in phases, in partnership with Jubilee West.

The projects successfully meet the challenges, including finding sympathetic and affordable solutions to construction costs and replacement materials. Houses just completed include 1430-10th St., and 963 and 1442-48 Center St.

### FAIRYLAND

Opened in 1950, Fairyland is considered America's first amusement park for children and the inspiration for Disneyland. Fairyland became a nonprofit in the mid-'90s and began its rehabilitation with funds from Bond Measure I and from its original benefactor, the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club.

Conducted under executive director Nancy Stark, the first phase of renovations is now finished, with a new entryway guarded by a topiary dragon, a new cafe, and restoration of the pumpkin building which was the original office.

### People

#### MIRON MURCURY

Like a love letter to a neighborhood, Miron's CD of 555 color photos offers a

complete tour of the restored Grand Lake Theatre and the surrounding business district, from Interstate 580 to the Piedmont border, with the Rose Garden included.

There are 300 photos of the theater alone, many of behind-the-scenes areas the audience could never otherwise see. The artist has lived in the neighborhood for over a decade and his CD was completed with donations from neighbors and local businesses.

### MADELINE WELLS

Madeline is a long-time neighborhood activist and preservation advocate. She is continually involved gathering neighbors and working with code compliance to clean up her neighborhood.

She has worked tirelessly with the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey in her efforts to monitor and save the Calou house and hold the owner accountable for a sensitive rehabilitation of the building. She grew up in the neighborhood and moved back to the family home in 1979.

Since then she has supplemented her work on city-wide preservation efforts by setting a great example with her own beautiful historic home. She also leads an occasional walking tour, and is continuing her work to safeguard the Calou House.

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# Looking back at 2001: It was a very good year

By Erika Mailman

This year was a banner year for OHA, as befits our 20th year of existence.

Our walking tours attracted record numbers of participants, we partnered with the mayor's office to honor the successful restoration of the Rotunda Building, the once-popular house tour event was resuscitated and the Halloween at the Mansion with the Pardee Home Museum more than doubled its attendance.

The walking tours program provides a chance for residents to walk through different neighborhoods of Oakland and learn their history each Saturday and Sunday in June and July. This year, hordes of people took advantage of the opportunity to explore nooks and crannies of their city.

The Mountain View Cemetery tour attracted over 100 people. A brand-new tour of the Oakmore District attracted 129 people. This tour was of so much interest to the people who lived in the area that we will hold next year's House Tour event there.

## Claremont Pines House Tour

Speaking of the House Tour event, OHA was delighted to feature the Claremont Pines neighborhood this October, when eight homeowners opened their doors to curious and admiring visitors. Despite inauspicious timing—on the morning of the event it was announced that the U.S. had begun bombing Afghanistan—people still supported this nonprofit fundraiser.

Refreshments were served at the garden patio of one of the homes, and we thank our generous food donors:

- Acme Bread
- DonSueMor, Inc.
- Cheese Board
- Village Market
- Horizon Beverages
- Monterey Market
- Safeway—Montclair



Dennis Evarosky

The Rotunda Partners receive OHA's Presidential Award at the gala celebration of the dedication of the Rotunda Building on September 7.

- Albertson's—College Avenue
- Albertson's—Montclair
- Italian Colors
- Market Hall Catering
- Berkeley Bowl
- Bay Cities Produce
- West Coast Produce

## A proud moment

One of OHA's proudest moments was September 7, when we hosted the dedication of the Rotunda Building. The gorgeous 1913 building with its enormous elliptical dome was lovingly restored by

See **LOOKING BACK** on page 5

# ...thanks to our volunteers

## Special Events (Walking Tours ●, Rotunda ▲, House Tour ✳, Halloween at the Mansion □)

- Annalee & Jim Allen ▲ ✳
- Greer Alley ✳
- Adele Amodeo ✳
- Tom & Carolyn Armour ✳
- Margaret Bahan ✳
- Renie Bartolini ✳
- Laura Bajuk □
- Joanna Beam ✳

- Summer Bei ▲
- Sandra Biasotti ✳
- Gloria & Steve Blackstone ✳
- Barbara Blake ✳
- Bob Brokl ✳
- Jane Brown #
- Rodger H. Buehler #
- Trish Buresh #

See **VOLUNTEERS** on page 7



## LANDMARKS BOARD UPDATE

*Compiled by Annalee Allen*

### JUNE 2001

**Director's Report:** Leslie Gould outlined main points of the proposed state legislation that would authorize expedited environmental review for new projects in downtown Oakland.

There is concern that this could adversely affect adequate analysis of historic resources located within the project's scope.

**Certificate of appreciation** was presented by the Board to outgoing Board member Janet Benson for four years of service

**Secretary's Report** on proposed structure to be built next to historic University High/Old Merritt College building—concern that the project is incompatible and that there are community objections.

**Board Reports** that it is still waiting for report on Army Base historic structures.

### JULY 2001

**Director's Report:** Secretary to the Board Helaine Kaplan Prentice will take a six-month leave. Betty Marvin is acting secretary in her absence (voice mail: 238-6879)

**Landmark Nomination:** Claremont Hotel. Neighborhood group applicants (BONC) presented their report with emphasis on the urban garden resort setting as an essential element to the city designation.

A representative of the owner (KSL) reiterated a preference for landmarking main building only. Board moved to recommend entire site, identifying the open space of the grounds as a character-defining element.

**Elections:** Una Gilmartin elected chair, Annalee Allen re-elected vice chair. Reminder that several board

members' terms are up. Prospective applicants should apply by contacting the mayor's office.

### AUGUST 2001

No report (board recess)

### SEPTEMBER 2001

**Design Review:** Discussion of Cox Cadillac site development proposal (176 residential units and 3,800-square-foot commercial space) and Board comment on DEIR to Planning Commission.

Board expressed concerned that an unavoidable impact of the project will be the demolition of the rear auto shop portion, which served as the cable car barn.

Proposed possible mitigations, improvements to nearby public stairways, HABS documentation and salvage plan for trusses. Board heard report on the restoration of the Cadillac showroom part of the project.

Board upheld previous vote to recommend entire site for landmarking, thereby maintaining potential National Register eligibility.

Board also recommended diverting money earmarked for salvage to historical interpretation such as a plaque, exhibit, and/or tour materials.

**Design review:** for new structure at Old Merritt College site. Public objection were heard—project is not in conformance with previous Section 106 agreement. However, Board did move to recommend approval to Planning Commission (Allen abstained).

**Old Business:** Resolution formalizing board motion recommending Claremont Hotel and grounds for landmark designation.

Owner's position is still to landmark the hotel's main building only. Nomination will now be forwarded to the

Planning Commission for the next step in the process.

**Director's Report:** Update on Lake Merritt Master Plan status. Board member Lythcott to monitor and report back to board.

Report on RFP issued by City on developing Kaiser Auditorium parking lot site for a possible new cathedral. Concern for adverse affect to historic auditorium as the cathedral would block views and eliminate present parking lot.

Report on uncertainty of status of Studio One (on the Board's Study List) possible health and safety violations might force closure.

Retrofitting fund-raising campaign not yet off the ground. Board requests that a Parks and Recreation staff member come to next meeting and advise.

Report of request for demolition application by Union Pacific of the pre-1900 car paint shop buildings in West Oakland. This action would require an EIR because these structures are historic URMs).

A member of the community is considering submitting a landmark nomination on these structures.

Report on AB436 (the legislation that calls for focused EIRS for downtown) is on governor's desk for signature. Leslie Gould says potential impacts on historic resources would be adequately considered.

*To view a copy of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board minutes, contact Helaine Kaplan Prentice, at 238-2978.*

*We are in need of a volunteer to write this column. If you would like to donate your time to help cover the Landmarks Board, call OHA at 763-9218 and ask for Pamela Magnuson-Peddle.*



# Looking Back

*Continued from page 3*

Rotunda Partners, who received OHA's President's Award at the gala.

Mayor Brown led off with dedication remarks; Phil Tagami dedicated the building to the many who worked on the project; architectural historian Don Choi gave some fascinating background on domed buildings. Excellence in Preservation awards went to Alan Dreyfuss, KP a Consulting Engineers, Pankow Special Projects, L.P., and Architectural Dimensions. The President's Award was accepted by Rotunda Partners Tagami, Len Epstein and Mark Moss.

Master of Ceremonies Sherry Hu of KPIX introduced a long string of congratulatory speakers, including Congresswoman Barbara Lee, City Council President Ignacio Delafuente, former Mayor Elihu Harris, and many City Councilmembers.

### Thanks to our Rotunda sponsors

None of this would have been possible without our sponsors:

#### GOLD (\$1,000 OR MORE)

- Architectural Dimensions
- KPa Engineers
- Men's Wearhouse
- Pankow Special Projects, L.P.
- Rotunda Partners

#### SILVER (\$500)

- Geoffrey Haines Family
- Rick Holliday
- Dee and Joe Knowland, Pacific Union Residential Brokerage

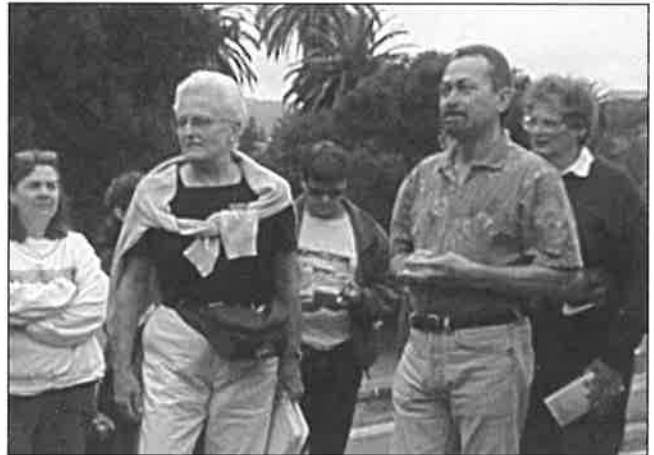
#### FRIENDS OF OHA (\$250)

- George Dedekian Architect,
- Fred Hertz & Randolph Langenbach
- FinanceStaff, Inc.
- The Grubb Company
- Seventeenth Street Studios, Inc.
- Swinerton Builders

#### FOOD DONORS

- Á Côtè Restaurant
- Audubon Cellars

Barbara Smith and Michael Crowe led over 100 participants through Mountain View Cemetery in this year's OHA tour



Dennis Evansky

- Bison Brewery
- Chefs on Site Catering
- Class Act Catering
- Everett & Jones Barbecue
- Le Cheval Restaurant
- Market Hall Catering
- Melons Catering
- Ratto's Deli & International Market
- Rosenblum Cellars
- Rossi's Flowers
- Savoy Catering
- Spettro Restaurant
- Tully's Coffee

#### ROTUNDA HISTORIC HEROES ( \$100)

- Dan Akol
- Alarcon Bohm Corp.
- Steve Anderson, S.C. Anderson Inc.
- Randall Berger
- G. Pete Encinas
- C.R. "Buz" Gibb
- Hearst Corporation
- Phillip Harris
- Wayne Hui
- Jack Janzen, S.C. Anderson Inc.
- David Nicolai
- Ratcliff Architects
- Elliot Spruill
- Peter Zouras

### Halloween at the Mansion

And the second annual Halloween at the Mansion, an event set at the haunted Pardee Home Museum in downtown

Oakland, brought in approximately 250 guests fully prepared to turn a corner and see an apparition.

Cricket Deetz of Spettro generously donated all the refreshments for the event; her brother Geoff Deetz of Bison Brewery gave the impromptu donation of the very popular "hard iced tea" thanks to Cricket) and Jay Esparza of Chiodo Arts created a gory scene in the potter's shed for visitors to shine their flashlights onto.

Volunteers Alan Howard and Shane Etzenhouser produced high-paced drama in the basement Autopsy Room, where some visitors probably couldn't believe their eyes (and shouldn't)! OHA is pleased to co-sponsor the event with the Pardee Home Museum.

Mark your calendar for Oct. 27, 2002: reservations will be important because this year we ended up turning people away, a pleasant and yet very unpleasant thing to have to do!

As you might imagine, these events don't take place without a lot of behind-the-scenes efforts. We would like to thank all of our volunteers who make these events possible—and fun! Please see the list starting on page 3 for the volunteers' names.

If you would like to volunteer your time to any of OHA's events, please call the office at 763-9218 and let Kathy know where your interests lie, or e-mail OHA at [info@oaklandheritage.org](mailto:info@oaklandheritage.org).



# PRESERVATION ACTION

By Joyce Roy

## Action Alert: CEQA Threatened

The most effective tool we have for the protection of historic resources is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). It provides for public participation in development decisions that affect the built and natural environment through an EIR (Environmental Impact Report) process.

State legislation, AB 436 (Chan), has just passed that would exempt four areas of downtown Oakland full EIR process, that is, singles out Oakland for less protection than the rest of California.

It states: "No discussion shall be required of alternatives to the project, cumulative impacts of the project, or growth inducing impacts of the project."

In other words, the heart of the process is removed. This stealth bill, which suddenly surfaced on August 20, was conceived by Jerry Brown and carried by Wilma Chan. There was little public discussion.

Mayor Brown is the only Oakland citizen listed in favor of the bill. In the short time frame of three weeks between introduction and passage of the bill, six organizations, including OHA, and nine individuals managed to be listed as opponents to the bill. To go into effect, the City Council has to approve it. It comes to the Community & Economic Development Committee Tuesday, Dec. 4 and the full City Council Tuesday, Dec. 11. You can help defeat this gutting of CEQA by asking your councilmember to vote against it.

To help or get more information, call Joyce Roy, 655-7508, or e-mail: joyceroy@earthlink.net.

## S. P. West Oakland Diesel Shop

Union Pacific, the present owner of this structure, which is being used as a diesel repair shop, has filed for a demolition permit. It was built in 1874 and has been in continuous railroad use since then. It is the last of a group of buildings



Oakland History Room

Legislation that threatens Oakland's historic downtown could gut CEQA, an important preservation tool.

built just after the continental railroad arrived in Oakland.

Although it is in the midst of a rail yard and so, not open to the public, it is an impressive structure very visible from the freeway and BART. It is A-rated and is on the Landmarks Board study list. The old definition of an A rating is that it is the kind of building that stops you in your tracks!

Harry Wong, a railway buff, will be preparing the Landmark Nomination.

To help or get more information, call Harry Wong at 918-8810, or e-mail: tracktime@hotmail.com.

## Studio One

The city's threat to close Studio One has been lifted for now, but the 1000 Friends of Studio One and the Oakland Studio Arts Association, OSAA, the community advisory board to Studio One, are not relaxing.

They want to put the institution and its building on solid ground by locating

funding to upgrade the structure and nominating it as a city landmark.

To help or get more information, call Sandy Strehlou at 652-8084, or e-mail: strehlou@mindspring.com

## Lake Merritt

CALM (Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt) responded to the city's RFP (Request for Proposals) for a project on the Kaiser Convention Center parking lot and adjacent land at the southern edge of Lake Merritt. Their proposal called, "The Lake Merritt Boulevard Plan," would rationalize the present spaghetti road system with an attractive with an attractive pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly grand boulevard with accessibility to greatly increased park land at the lake's edge.

The other proposal was a cathedral. The RFPs were submitted on Sept. 8 but the selection committee has not yet been selected. To get involved or for more information, call John Klein, 835-3041.



Dennis Evansky

This Mediterranean Revival home—featuring a Prohibition-era “social hall”—was one of eight stops on this year’s Claremont Pines house tour.



Erika Mailman

Serving up a heady meal at the Pardee Home Museum’s Halloween at the Mansion.

## Volunteers

*Continued from page 3*

- Gary Goss ✱
- Aaron Graf □
- Dorothy Graham ✱
- Cindy Haines ▲
- Daryl Halverson ✱
- Elizabeth Hansen ✱
- Julie Hardgrove ✱
- Jordan Harrison ●
- Jim Hill ✱
- Sara Holmes ✱
- Alan Howard □
- Bob & Dotty Howell ●
- Polly Jacobson ✱
- Jere Johnson ✱
- Nicole Jones ▲
- Phyllis Kalechman ✱
- Ann Killibrew ✱
- Eric Kos □
- Marianne Laouri ●✱
- Monica Leigh □
- Diane Levy ●✱
- Joshua Long ▲●
- Esther Lowe ✱
- Yorkman Lowe ✱
- Anna Luong ✱
- Craig Lyall ✱
- Ann MacDonald ✱
- Marianne Madison ✱

- Pamela Magnuson-Peddle ✱□
- Erika Mailman ✱●□
- Shirley Mannette ✱
- Gloria Martin ✱
- Peggy Martin ●
- Yvonne Martinez □
- Cheryl Maslin @
- Pat McClosky ✱
- Karen McKinney □
- Margaret McGuirk ✱
- Geraldine McTigue ▲
- Suie Meinke ✱
- Bill Moys ●▲
- Dawn Mueller ✱
- Val Mumford ✱
- Thomas Murray ●
- David Nicolai ▲✱
- Ortrun Niesar ✱
- Rina Nikolchev ✱
- Bev Oschner ●✱
- Courtenay Peddle □
- Anita Pender ✱
- Mia Perkov □
- Vivian Perry ▲
- Gloria Pieretti □
- Aida Peterson ✱
- Janet Rahn ✱
- Kelda Rinklieb ✱
- Glen Robinson ▲
- Joyce Roy # ▲●
- Lisa Ruhland ✱
- Mayra Rivas □

- Barbara Roscoe □
- Joyce Roy □
- Nancy Sales ✱
- Aaron Sauberan ✱
- Ellen Seltzer ▲
- Rachelle Sherris ✱
- Sam & Barbara Skelly ✱
- Cathy Sponseller ▲
- George Strauss ●✱
- Natalie Taylor ✱
- Alan Templeton ✱
- Sharon Thomas ✱
- Shirley Thoren ✱
- Sandra Tillin ●
- Annie Troung ✱
- Gary Turchin □
- Don Tyler ✱
- Lou Vrenneman □
- Madeline Wells ✱
- Kristin Williams ✱
- Randi Wood ●▲✱□

### OFFICE AND MAILING VOLUNTEERS

- Maya Alyassini
- Diane Atwood
- Jerry Bowling
- Jamie Cross
- Nicole Jones
- Bonnie Killip
- Joshua Long
- Caterina Nerney Moran
- Sue Wong



## OHA THANKS ITS DONORS

### PATRON MEMBERSHIP (\$250)

Steve & Terry Beck  
 Marina Carlson  
 G. Pete Encinas  
 Michael Roster

### SPONSOR MEMBERSHIP (\$125)

Rene Campos  
 Steven Weinberg & Georganne Ferrier  
 Burlington Willes

### BENEFACTOR/ORGANIZATION

#### MEMBERSHIP (\$75)

Amos & Marilyn Goldhaber  
 Sherrie Horner, HKH Design Inc.  
 Sharon Priest

#### DONORS

Mary Commanday  
*(in honor of Bill Sturm)*  
 Adrienne Debisschop  
 Amos & Marilyn Goldhabe  
 Bill Hellendale  
 Marie Lothrop

#### EMPLOYEE MATCHING GIFTS

*(Additional donations that OHA supporters asked employers to match or double)*

Susan G. Duncan, *William & Flora Hewlett Foundation* (\$70)  
 Matthew Gabel, *Bank of America Foundation* (\$35)  
 Diane Levy, *Charles Schwab* (\$25)

#### ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

Riley Doty, *Doty Tile \$100 (Walking Tour fund for tour guide reimbursement of copy expenses.)*  
 Diana Williams, *Irvine Foundation Employee Discretionary Grant Program \$1,000 (for Walking Tour fund)*

Thanks to all those who contribute time, money, and spirit to OHA, as we fight to ensure that the Oakland renaissance includes a renewed appreciation for our architectural heritage. We welcome contributions at any time.

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER GUIDE

The Oakland Tours Program is seeking volunteers to help with school tours and lead tours. If you are interested in joining the program, call 238-3234.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ray and Marie Alberti  
 Diane & Guy Atwood  
 Jacqueline Beggs  
 Betty Lou Bradshaw  
 Joan Catherine Braun  
 Susan Brookes  
 Alice H. Brown  
 Roxanne Bruns  
 Rene Campos  
 Nancy Capell  
 Dixi Carrillo  
 Linda Chisholm  
 C. Clayton Clark  
 Lynn Crosby  
 Lynn Crossman  
 Anne Culbertson  
 Tamilmaran Devadas  
 Dom Dimento  
 Mr. Arvi Dorsey  
 Susan G. Duncan

Valerie K. Garry  
 Steve Geller  
 Ruth Gillard  
 Connie Hartung  
 Bill Hellendale  
 Gail Hillebrand  
 Kathy Hirsch  
 Claire Jeanette  
 Ann Killebrew  
 Susan Kubica  
 Melissa Lagusis  
 Tom Lea  
 Sharon Lizotte  
 Ray Long  
 Allan Mann  
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 Kathleen McCarthy  
 Bev Ochsner  
 Edmund Ord  
 Lisa Orta

Linda Perry  
 Sharon Priest  
 Holy Redeemer Center  
 W. Morgan Roberts  
 Gary Rodgers  
 Ruth Shibley  
 Maryly Snow  
 Eric Sovish  
 Carola Stalker  
 Tes Temelso  
 Lise Thogersen  
 Claire Tomkins  
 Laura Truscott  
 Sofia Tselentis  
 Josefina Vazquez  
 Matthew & Sarah Weisman  
 Michael & Susan Wester  
 Andres Williams  
 Keira Lee Williams  
 Bob Wolfson

### YOUR LIVING LEGACY CAN ENSURE OAKLAND'S HERITAGE

Donate outright gifts of cash, real estate and other appreciated assets, including stocks and bonds to OHA. You may also choose to give through charitable bequest by mentioning OHA in your will or naming OHA as beneficiary to a life insurance policy.

In addition, commemorative gifts provide unique opportunities to memorialize family, friends or loved ones and offer lasting testimony to your generosity and concern for Oakland's heritage.

All contributions to OHA are deductible for tax purposes to the extent permitted by current law.

- YES, I would like to learn more about ways that I may ensure Oakland's heritage!
- I have already named OHA through a charitable bequest and/or will and would like for OHA to contact me for further details.
- Please contact me so that I may learn more about naming OHA as beneficiary to a life insurance policy.
- YES, I would like to learn more about establishing a commemorative gift to memorialize family, friends and/or loved ones. Please contact me.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_





## At home with the Peraltas



Andrea Ferreira

Antonio Peralta's 1870 Italianate house recently opened to the public as a museum celebrating Oakland's birthplace. Read more about this historic home in "The Peraltas and Their Houses." (see below).

### For your reading pleasure

*The Spirit of Oakland*: sixteen writers on Oakland history, illustrated with photos from the Oakland Museum of California. *Heritage Media Corp.*, \$49.95. *museum gift-shop and local bookstores.*

*The Peraltas and Their Houses*: nicely bound booklet from the Alameda County Historical Society. Maps and line drawings. \$8.50 at *selected bookstores and museums.* Order from the Society at 484 Lake Park Ave., #307, Oakland, 94610. Please add \$1 for shipping.

*Bungalow Kitchens*: advice for faithful restorations. Call OHA 763-9218; also available at *local bookstores.*

*Oakland, the Story of a City*: Beth Bagwell's invaluable resource on Oakland history. \$12.95 *paperback*, \$22.95 *hardbound*. Call OHA, 763-9218; also available at *local bookstores.*

## A look at the Convention Center



Horse-, engine- and manpower team up to put the finishing touches on what we know today as the Kaiser Convention Center, the site for this year's OHA annual meeting and holiday party.

### ■ The story of the site of this year's OHA festivities

*By Ron Deziel*

Erected by the city during 1913-1915, the Convention Center is a steel framework construction "with the simple form of a great tent of concrete, . . . rejecting classical masquerade or gingerbread" (Hege-mann, 1915). There are no pillars inside; therefore, no blind spots.

To list all its grand features or fascinating statistics would fill a brochure.

The greatest cost was for steel scaffolding and for driving sufficient pylons deep enough in the mud to anchor the frame and stabilize the filled-in marsh (and ersatz garbage dump) on which it was built.

Three months into construction, the concrete foundation in the south-east corner turned over in the mud, sending two steel columns and four girders crashing through a network of iron and steel. "Miraculously," no

one was killed, but five workers were seriously injured.

The original bond authorization had to be supplemented with another. The second bond failed on May 19, 1914, but then passed in a special election only a month later, on June 12th.

The final cost of the auditorium was almost \$1 million, leaving \$40,000 of the bond fund to improve and landscape the surrounding grounds.

The north elevation, facing Lake Merritt, is granite. The monumental niches in the facade, those awesome recessed archways, are modeled with the figurative art of Alexander Stirling Calder (1970-1942) and finished in cream glazed terra cotta to relate with downtown's brand new city hall.

Calder was the Acting Chief of Sculpture for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco's unimaginable commemoration of the opening of the Panama Canal (1913-1915).



## OHA CALENDAR

The OHA Calendar lists events, activities, and meetings related to history and preservation that may be of interest to our members. To submit items, call 763-9218, or e-mail [news@oaklandheritage.org](mailto:news@oaklandheritage.org). All phone numbers in 510 area code unless indicated

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Candlelight Tour at the Pardee Home Museum**, 6:30–8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18. An 1868 Italianate villa in Oakland \$4–\$10. 444-2187 or [www.pardeehome.org](http://www.pardeehome.org). Reservations required.

The Alameda Museum's "Visit Holidays Past," Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 15 and 16, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. an event displaying holiday baubles on view at the historic Meyers House, 2021 Alameda Ave., Alameda. \$5. 523-5907.

**"Our Houses: Residential Architecture in Alameda."** 7 p.m. Thursday, March 28 Slide Lecture by Woody Minor: The Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda. \$5. 748-0796.

**"Kids & Queen Victoria"**: 1–3 p.m. Saturday, April 13, a show devoted to elementary students' about Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, who will appear in the flesh to dance the polka. Have your photo taken with the royal couple. Free. The Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda. 748-0796.

**"A Passion for Pattiani."** Slide Lecture by Paul Roberts: 7 p.m. Thursday, April 25. The Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda. \$5. 748-0796.

**"Radiant Panes: Alameda Windows from the Victoria Era to the Time of Arts & Crafts."** 7 p.m. Thursday, May 30 Slide Lecture by Ken Matthias: The Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda. \$5. 748-0796.

**"Neon: The Living Flame."** Slide Lecture by Michael Crowe: 7 p.m. Thursday, June 27. The Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda. \$5. 748-0796.

**Alameda Legacy Home Tour**: 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Sept. 15, eight homes on display, hosted by the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society and the Alameda Museum. \$20 advance/\$25 day of tour. Mail check payable to ALHT to the Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda, 94501. 523-5907.

### TOURS

**Black Panther Legacy Tour**; the Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation. Eighteen sites significant in Black Panther Party history, last Saturday of month, noon–2:30 p.m. Advance tickets: \$20 adults, \$15 students. Day of tour: \$25. Departs from West Oakland Branch Library, 1801 Adeline Ave. 986-0660.

**City Tours**. Walking tours sponsored by the Oakland Tours Program and the Community and Economic Development Agency are offered on Wednesdays and Saturdays, May through October. All tours start at 10 a.m. Reservations are recommended but not required. Groups of five or more can go on any of the tours by special arrangement. Call the 24-hour hotline 238-3234 for more information or log on to [www.oaklandnet.com](http://www.oaklandnet.com) and click on the community link for map, dates and starting places.

**Camron-Stanford House**, an 1876 Italianate house museum on Lake Merritt, offers tours 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Wednesdays and 1–5 p.m. Sundays. \$4/\$2 (free first Sunday). 1418 Lakeside Dr., 836-1976.

**Cohen-Bray House**, an 1884 Stick Eastlake with original interiors intact, 1440 29th Ave. Tours 2 p.m. fourth Sunday or by appointment. \$5. 532-0704.

**Dunsmuir House & Gardens**, a neoclassical Revival mansion, offers free access to its grounds 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Tuesday–Friday, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court. To learn about the grounds and mansion tours, (there is a charge), 615-5555 or [www.dunsmuir.org](http://www.dunsmuir.org).

**Mountain View Cemetery** offers free docent tours at 10 a.m. on second Saturday of each month. 5000 Piedmont Ave. 658-2588.

**Paramount Theatre**, an art deco movie palace, offers \$1 tours of areas not usually open to the public. Learn the theater's history, at 10 a.m. on the first and third Saturday. 2025 Broadway. 893-2300.

**Pardee Home Museum**, an 1868 Italianate villa home to two Oakland mayors and one California governor, offers tours at noon on Fridays and Saturdays, reservations recommended. Schools and private groups may arrange a special tour. \$5 adults, children 12 and under free. 672 11th St. 444-2187 or [www.pardeehome.org](http://www.pardeehome.org).

### MEETINGS OF INTEREST

**Friends of the Oakland Fox**, second Thursdays, 6–7:30 p.m. 229 Harrison St. Call Gary Knecht at 893-9829 to verify location.

**Oakland Planning Commission**, alternate Wednesdays, time varies, City Hall. 238-3941.

**Oakland City Council**, every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. City Hall, Council Chambers. 238-3941.

**Oakland Heritage Alliance**, Board of Directors, first Mondays 7–10 p.m., Camron-Stanford House, 1418 Lakeside Drive. 763-9218.

**Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board**, second Monday, 4–8 p.m., City Hall, Hearing Rm. 1. 238-3941.

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Working for preservation in Oakland is an exciting task. As Oakland grows into its skin with new growth, a potential 10,000 new residents and new industry, OHA supports that growth by ensuring the best of the past is taken into the future.

Join us by working on one of the following committees: newsletter, Preservation Action, house tours, summer walking tours, Friends of the Oakland Fox, programs or membership.

Call us at 763-9218 or e-mail us at [volunteer@oaklandheritage.org](mailto:volunteer@oaklandheritage.org).

## OHA NEWS

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OHA News welcomes contributions—research projects large or small, historic photos and reports on preservation issues or events.

Submissions on disk should be in Wordperfect or Word for PC. Submissions by e-mail may be sent to [news@oaklandheritage.org](mailto:news@oaklandheritage.org)

OAKLAND HERITAGE ALLIANCE, a California nonprofit corporation since 1980, was formed to bring together community groups and individuals sharing an interest in the history of Oakland, and in the preservation of the city's archaeological, architectural, cultural, environmental and historical resources. Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible, under IRS regulations. Oakland Heritage Alliance is a 510(c)3 organization.

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We need to replace and augment some outdated equipment. Can you or your company donate well-functioning, fairly recent vintage items? All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed under IRS regulation.

OHA needs a photocopier, a plain-paper fax machine, a postage meter or digital scale, a space heater and a flat-bed scanner. We particularly need a meter or scale that can handle packages that weigh 10 pounds or more. Please call Kathy at 763-9218 for more information.

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If you are interested in advertising in the OHA Newsletter or are interested in a position selling advertisement for the newsletter, please call Kathy at 763-9218.

# Oakland History Notes: California Military Academy

By Kathleen Leles DiGiovanni

Oakland's new military academy opened at the old Army base to fanfare and controversy this summer. One hundred and seventy seventh graders put on uniforms and began drilling as well as studying at California's first public military charter school. But the Oakland Military Institute is not Oakland's first military school. Over 130 years ago another military academy opened in Oakland.

On Jan. 9, 1865, Rev. David McClure, a Presbyterian clergyman, opened the Oakland Military Academy in quarters located on 9th Street between Broadway and Franklin. It was the first military academy for boys to be established in California. The school proved an immediate success combining military discipline and rigorous academics. In 1867 Dr. McClure bought a site on Academy Hill, now Pill Hill, and erected new buildings that looked out over Telegraph Avenue between 29th and 30th streets. By 1870 the school had grown to include 100 boys and nine instructors.

In 1872 the name was changed to California Military Academy. The legislature designated the commandant of the Academy a major in the California National Guard and authorized him to "furnish the cadets with arms and accoutrements."

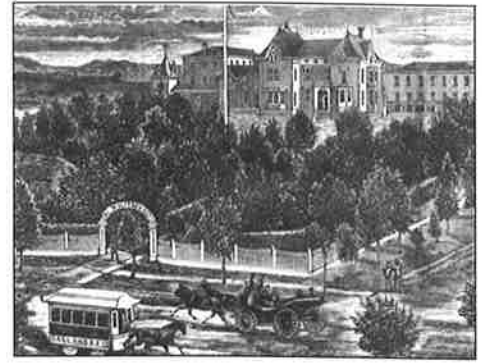
In September 1873 a disastrous fire leveled the armory and most of the other

wood-framed school buildings. While the campus was being rebuilt the Academy made use of the recently vacated University of California building in downtown Oakland, which had been placed at Rev. McClure's disposal by University President Gilman. The school was rebuilt in an astounding two months time at a cost of \$22,000.

Cadets could elect to undertake the Classical course of study, principally comprising ancient and modern languages and literature, a course that in the 19th century would prepare a student to enter a university. The more practical-minded could enter the Business course or the English and Scientific course. Academic work was rigorous in all fields of study, as Rev. McClure envisioned a California school that could be favorably compared with West Point.

Discipline and drill were part of the cadets' routine. A school catalog declared, "The real object of military discipline in the academy is not to make soldiers only of the students, but to give them strength of body, vigor of constitution, and manliness of bearing, to fit them not merely for the field of battle, but for all employments and departments of life which demand vigor, energy, and endurance."

According to M.W. Wood's "History of Alameda County," student expenses in 1883 amounted to \$180 for a 20-week



California Military Academy

Oakland History Room

term, two terms per year. That paid for instruction in the English and scientific course, bookkeeping, Latin and Greek, board, washing, gas and fuel. Students paid extra for piano lessons and for instruction in drawing, painting, French, German and Spanish.

Colonel W. H. O'Brien replaced Rev. McClure as principal around 1884 and moved the school to 1020 Oak Street in 1891. It closed the following year.

The Academy Hill buildings are long gone, replaced by hospitals and medical offices. All that remains to remind us of the school today is one-block long McClure Street, on Pill Hill right where Rev. McClure's Academy buildings once stood.

In 2001, at the old Army base, young Oaklanders are donning uniforms and drilling once again.

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