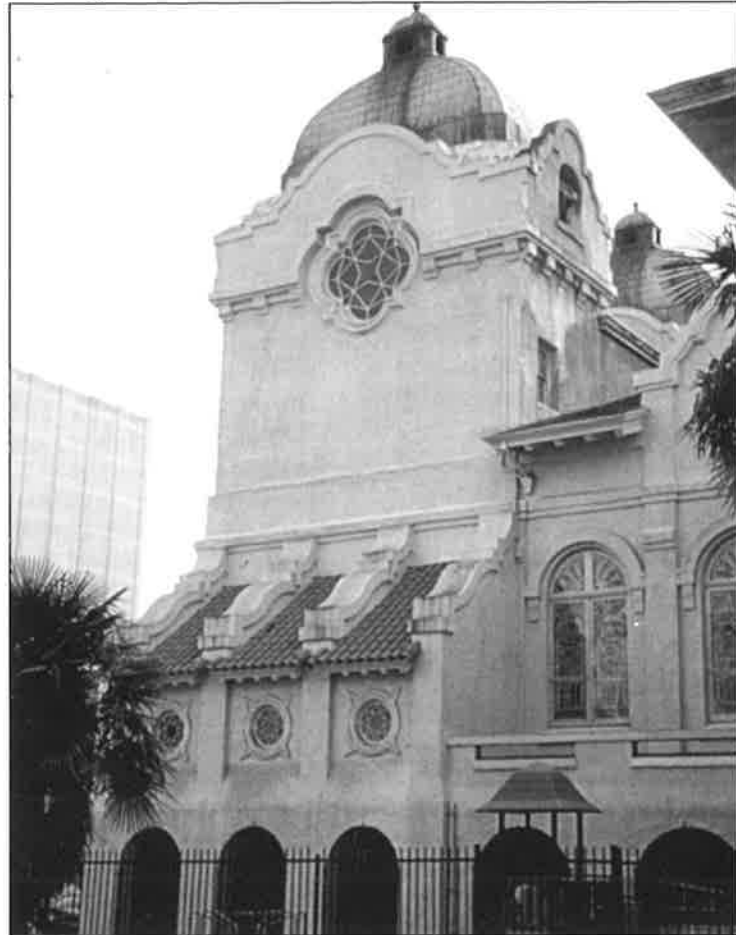


Preservation awards given at Altenheim



Alan Templeton



Alan Templeton

SHIRLEY GEE, above, brought a centuries-old tradition, the Dragon Boat races, to Oakland. This year she won a Preservation Award from OHA. At right is another honoree, the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California. The center, at 15th and Madison, was originally built as a Scottish Rite temple.

By Pamela Magnuson-Peddle

Each year OHA presents its Partners in Preservation awards honoring projects and people symbolic of Oakland's diversity, history, culture and character. Conceived in 1995, the program is designed to celebrate preservation in Oakland and instill a sense of pride in our city. Projects can be downtown or in neighborhoods, large- or small-scale, physical or cultural. The people and organizations honored, through their special efforts, bring to life the combined histories of Oakland's diverse population and promote preservation of the city's rich heritage. The 2002 awards were presented last December during OHA's Annual Meeting and Holiday Party at the historic Altenheim in the Dimond District, a facility rebuilt in 1909 for the elderly of German descent.

Here are the 2002 Partners in Preservation award winners:

CIVIC PROJECTS

Hegenberger Corridor Project: Planned as a gateway design to revitalize Hegenberger Road from I-880 to the airport and the surrounding area. It was a collaborative effort among Oakland's Redevelopment Agency, the City of San Leandro, the Alameda County Transportation Authority and the Port of Oakland. The project includes 75-by-6 foot banners along Hegenberger and 14-by-17 foot banners along a newly designed landscape median with tall palm trees between east-west traffic lanes. Banner images include Oakland's historic buildings, including the Paramount and City Hall, and destinations such as the Lake Merritt Band Shell

and the Chabot Space & Science Center. Other images celebrate Oakland Airport history and famous women aviators Amelia Earhart and Bessie Coleman. Coleman was one of the first African-American women in the United States to earn a pilot's license.

Awardees: For the City of Oakland Community Economic Development Agency: Jay Musante, project manager for redevelopment; Leslie Gould (who worked on the project as head planner for the City of San Leandro), now Oakland's director of planning; and Danny Lau, public works project manager.

Also: Daniel Quan of Daniel Quan Design, banner design; Reed Dillingham, landscape architect for Dillingham Associates.

see **AWARDS** on page 2



President's Message

By Mary MacDonald, President

The OHA Board has taken a collective breath after a year and a half of intense activity, and we are turning our attention to organizing our internal structure, strengthening our membership and outreach efforts, and considering ways to make OHA financially stronger. At all times, preservation action remains in the forefront.

As you know, 2002 saw almost back-to-back major events for the organization. We co-sponsored with the City of Oakland the celebration of Oakland's 150th Anniversary and planned all activities in and around Preservation Park and the First Unitarian Church and assisted with planning for the Pardee Home Museum and the African-American Museum and Library. This involved a sophisticated planning effort and many volunteers.

Our Summer Walking Tours were a success, and the fall brought the impressive

Oakmore Highlands House Tour and the rousing President's Award celebration at the restored African American Museum and Library of Oakland. Partners in Preservation Awards were bestowed at our December Annual Meeting/Holiday Party held at the historic Altenheim, an early 20th Century retirement home whose future is still uncertain.

The publication of *OHA News* fell behind schedule due to turnover of our volunteer staff, the pressure of all our events, and the demands of preservation action activities. We apologize for the delay. We are now re-invigorated, and plan to publish another issue of the newsletter shortly after this one.

On the preservation front, we continue to monitor development proposals that affect historic properties. In addition to monitoring the proposed Central City—East Oakland Redevelopment District, we are currently meeting with City staff and developers on

such proposals as the demolition of the Royal Hotel and the 9th Avenue Terminal. We are pleased to have had an instrumental role last year in preserving City funding for a planner position for the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, a position that ensures City attention to preservation issues.

We are looking for interested, committed volunteers to help with our important preservation action activities. Our Preservation Action Committee meets every other week and helps keep the City on its preservation toes. If you can help, please call our office at 510-763-9218.

Finally, a note of appreciation to our former Administrative Director, Kathy Ferreira, who left our employ last November to take a position with a social policy research firm. Kathy played a major role in our unprecedented level of program and event activity, plunging in enthusiastically and tirelessly. We know that many of you enjoyed meeting and working with Kathy, and we are thankful for her energetic spirit and hard work. We are happy to report that she keeps in touch and loves her

Awards

Continued from page 1

Portview Park, "Room with a View":

The Port of Oakland conceived and created a number of projects as a result of the loss of National Register districts and buildings along the Estuary. One of these is "Room with a View." This comprehensive historical exhibit describes the port's early beginnings and how rail and water transportation

merged in the late 1870s. It is made of illustrated panels and housed in the top floor of a 1910 converted rail transfer switching station. The structure was moved to Portview Park at the western end of Seventh Street. Visitors gain an historical perspective from the panels and have a unique and "up close" vantage point to view the bay and the constantly changing transportation scene of Oakland's busy port facilities. A soon-to-be-realized connecting project is the completion of the Middle Shoreline Park. The Port worked with the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, other cultural resources groups and local historians to commemorate important aspects of Bay Area history. Celia McCarthy, cultural resources planner and project manager for the Port of Oakland, oversaw the creation of the "Room with a View" exhibit and is project manager of the Middle Shoreline Park project.

Awardees: Celia McCarthy, cultural

see **AWARDS** on page 3

Welcome, Esther Hill!

OHA is truly fortunate to have Esther Hill as our new Office Coordinator. Her kind, creative, and professional presence is a wonderful asset for our organization, as is her valuable experience. Esther has a strong background in environmental concerns, having held various professional staff positions with the Environmental Protection Agency. Earlier, Esther was the Canvass Director for the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy (SANE).

During the past few years, Esther devoted her attention to her young children and volunteer activities, including serving as President of the Friends of Kensington Library and Vice-President of the Kensington Education Foundation. Esther's work hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Look for Esther at our events, and join us in giving her a warm welcome.

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resources planner and project manager for the Port; Ross Turner, assistant art director for the Port; and Terry Lim, Terry Lim Graphic Design, consultant to the Port.

INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS

Wakefield Building: Commissioned by Dr. William Howard Wakefield, an Oakland native, the Wakefield building on 17th Street was constructed in 1924 to provide many stories of quality medical offices, with storefronts at ground level. McCall and Davies lead architect Charles McCall designed the building. It features restrained, elegant ornament based on Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance themes. After many years of gradual decline and ill-advised remodeling, the building was purchased and redeveloped by its current owners, Tom Coates, Tim Scherer and Brad Colton. Keith Turner of the Huntsman Architectural Group directed the renovation. The project proved more difficult and more time-consuming than originally foreseen, but all stuck with it to its completion as a welcome contribution to the revival of downtown Oakland. One of the main tenants is the Sierra Club which saw the potential for setting up its legal offices here in an environmentally friendly way, taking advantage of the access to natural light and windows that open. The Wakefield may become a model for other projects, successfully combining both aesthetic and practical considerations.

Awardees: Wakefield Investors LLP, owners Tom Coates, Tim Scherer and Brad Colton; Keith Turner, associate principal of the Huntsman Architectural Group of San Francisco.

Regillus Apartment Building: One of the most distinguished apartment buildings in Oakland, the Regillus, on Lake Merritt, has long been a prestigious address. It was designed in 1921–22 by architect Willis Lowe. This fine Beaux Arts building incorporates many Renaissance and Baroque elements, with high quality materials used throughout. It is reminiscent of some of the great apartment buildings of Europe. It had



Alan Templeton

CHILDREN ENJOY the grounds outside of Portview Park. At right, one of the Hegenberger Road banners proudly proclaims Oakland's aviation history.

last been renovated in the 1970s. The new renovation, by its homeowners association, has reinforced the building's position as one of Oakland's premiere residences.

Awardees: Regillus Homeowners Association; Brent Fischer, project manager, for the Homeowners Association with valuable support from Eileen Lewis, president, and members Romaine Cervarch, Rudy Perez, Paul Saari, Gloria Pieretti, Oliver Gilliland, and James Stofan; Eugene DiLuigi, contractor, DEI Construction, Anaheim, California.

Linden Homes Project: The Linden Homes Project is a restoration of two Victorian homes on Linden Street in West Oakland. The project began when Margaret Majua and Dorothy Noyon were looking for property for a community garden and a solution to the lack of affordable housing in Oakland. They found the two abandoned homes in need of repair on a large lot. They bought the property and, in partnership with the City of Oakland Housing Division and the Northern California Land Trust, and help from the Alameda County Lead Poisoning Program, rehabilitated the houses with sensitivity and limited expense. The units are sold as condominiums, with the land held in trust to keep it affordable. This creative synergy



Alan Templeton

led to rejuvenated, affordable housing with a lovely garden—and the fabric of the Victorian neighborhood remains intact.

Awardees: Rick Lewis, Northern California Land Trust; Margaret Majua and Dorothy Noyon, Oakland Butterfly and Urban Gardens; John Hudson and Janet Howley, Housing Division, City of Oakland Community and Economic Development Agency; Peter Belanger, lead project manager, Alameda County Poisoning Prevention Program; Bruce Cox, contractor, MBC Construction.

INDIVIDUALS & ORGANIZATIONS

Wendy Markel: Markel, chairperson of Berkeley Oakland Neighbors of the

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Awards

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Claremont Hotel (BONC), has worked tirelessly to elevate the Claremont Resort & Spa to City of Oakland landmark status. Markel is a founding member of the committee whose goal was to see this unique structure receive official landmark designation. She also directed an effort to list the hotel on the National Register of Historic Places.

Built in 1915, the Claremont was designed by noted Bay Area architect Charles W. Dickey and is considered his masterpiece. The handsome, sprawling Tudor Revival Craftsman building, with towers and gables, is prominently sited amidst mature landscape. It was commissioned as a grand destination resort by Oakland real estate developers Frank Havens and Francis "Borax" Smith. The Claremont is famous for the notable guests who stayed there and the Big Bands that performed there. It is one of the few still-standing "grand hotels" and even more rare for its existence in an urban setting. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Markel and the committee, the Claremont's landmark status is now assured.

Oaklandish/City of Dreams—The Nonchalance Collective: The Nonchalance Collective is an affiliation of local artists dedicated to promoting "Original Oakland Charm." Through various street-art campaigns, the collective brings images and voices from Oakland history into public space. The first project was "City of Dreams, an Oakland Love Retrospective," a digital slide show set to original music and projected on the walls of various Oakland landmarks. The next project was the Oaklandish Poster Campaign—eleven black and white designs featuring local legends who have had a broad influence on global popular culture. Intended to represent the sense of renegade innovation occurring throughout Oakland's history, the posters included images of Julia Morgan, Bruce Lee, Sonny Barger, and Rosie the Riveter.



Alan Templeton



Alan Templeton

BUILDINGS THAT CONVEY THE CHARM OF THE PAST: Above is the Regillus Apartment Building, a prestigious lakeside address; at right is the Wakefield Building downtown; and at bottom are two formerly-abandoned Victorian homes on Linden Street in West Oakland.



Alan Templeton

From there, Nonchalance grew to include The Bay Area Aerosol Heritage Society, whose slide show, "The Legendary Eighties," features over 200 masterpieces from the golden-age of graffiti art—a wonderful introduction to the art form.

Nonchalance is motivated by a spirit of civic pride, creativity, and activism. With its concern for the evolving identity of the East Bay area, it attempts to preserve the history and flavor of this beloved place.

The award was presented to the Nonchalance Collective and members Jeff Hull, Leah Roderman, Sean and Katie Aaberg, Geoff St. John, "Fredimac" Macondray, Kemrexx, and Refa One.

Sandy Strehlou: As chair of the Oakland Studio Arts Association, Strehlou has provid-

ed exemplary support to Studio One Arts Center as a participant in classes and as chair of the group, which is dedicated to preserving and promoting the arts center. Studio One is in a 100-year-old former orphanage built with funds raised by the Ladies Relief Society, an early Oakland philanthropic group. The simple two-story masonry building with two flanking wings—one boys' side, one girls'—and a sheltered courtyard is located in the Temescal district. It was converted to a recreation and arts facility in the 1950s when neighbors and local businesses raised funds to buy and donate the building to the city of Oakland. It soon drew East Bay residents with its affordable classes by first-

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rate instructors. After the Loma Prieta Earthquake, the building was listed as an unreinforced structure, which required repair. Strehlou and OSAA were committed to retaining the building and finding funding for its renovation. They were instrumental in making sure that Studio One was included in recent bond Measure DD and then launched a grass-roots campaign for passage of a bond measure that ensured funding for renovation.

Sam Cohen, 2302 11th Avenue: This grand Queen Anne Victorian, built in 1891, was a shadow of its former self when Sam Cohen purchased it in January 2001. Years of deferred maintenance and insensitive modifications had altered its beauty and character. With attention to detail and help from a number of professionals, including carpentry by George DeVecchi of DeVecchi Construction, roofing by Gunter Kitsch of Hans & Gunter Roofing, and painting by Enrique Rodriguez of E. Rodriguez Painting, Cohen restored the house. He also landscaped the grounds and added a decorative iron fence. His labor of love is now a credit to this beautiful neighborhood.



Alan Templeton

CULTURAL

Shirley Gee, California International Dragon Boat Festival: The Dragon Boat tradition dates back 2,000 years to ancient China. Shirley Gee brought the tradition to Oakland. Now in its sixth year, the California International Dragon Boat Festival brings together participants of all ages and backgrounds in sport, teamwork, the arts, and more. It is especially aimed at engaging young people in positive group activities, showing them what they can accomplish through teamwork. For many of them, it encourages them to take their future more seriously and build community spirit and self-esteem.

This year, the organization also successfully hosted the Dragon Boat U. S. Nationals at Lake Merritt to select participants for the world championships scheduled next year in Shanghai. Can Oakland be far behind as the site for a future world



Alan Templeton



Alan Templeton

A VICTORIAN GLEAMS ONCE AGAIN: The Sam Cohen home on 11th Avenue earned an award for its detailed restoration, top. Above left is Jeff Hull of Nonchalance and above right is Studio One.

championship competition? Many people have contributed to the growing success of this project, but the driving force from the beginning has been Shirley Gee.

Black Nativity, Allen Temple Baptist Church: In 1981, looking for something Afrocentric to celebrate Christmas, Betty Gadling, Minister of Art and Music at Allen Temple Baptist Church, secured permission to perform Langston Hughes' "Black Nativity" from the publishing company holding the rights. Described as a gospel song play, "Black Nativity" had its debut in 1961, but then was lost. It was rediscovered in the 1970s. Gadling, after she received permission to perform the play, discovered that there was no music for it, only a list of suggested songs.

She took it upon herself to compose music that would capture the spirit of the play. Over the years the production has grown from a small performance with home-made costumes to an annual performance with rehearsals starting in August that includes children and adult dancers and 45 singers. It draws audiences of more than 1,000. An important piece of American tradition has been rediscovered, revived and recognized as a holiday "must attend" for families from Oakland and throughout the East Bay.

Awardees: Betty Gadling, minister of arts and music, and Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., senior pastor.

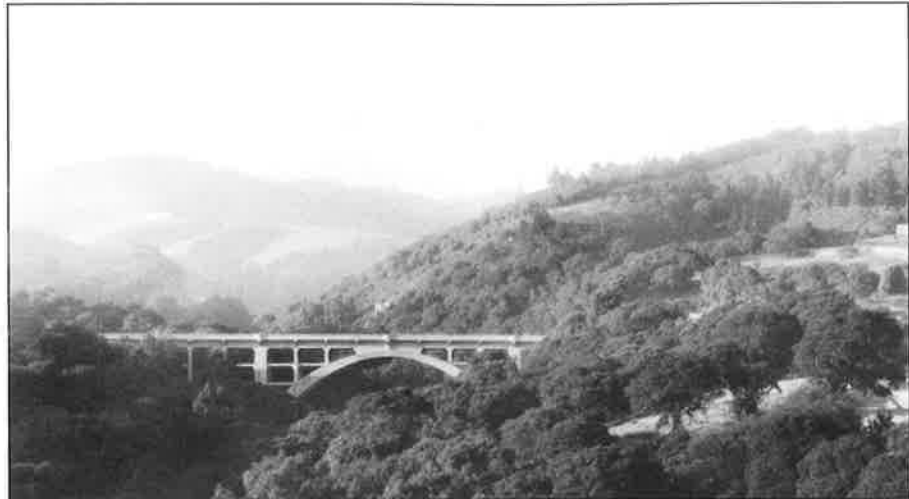
See AWARDS on page 8



Oakmore opens up its doors

The first-ever Oakmore house tour drew hundreds of walkers and drivers to hilly terrain to view a richly varied group of houses, which ranged from the eccentric to the fabulous. House tour chair Cindy Haines orchestrated a terrific event, preceded by the unveiling of a historic plaque at the Leimert Bridge. Longtime City Councilmember Dick Spees and an impromptu visit from Mayor Jerry Brown added to the event. The plaque ceremony was sponsored by the Oakmore Homeowners Association, which also lent its great support to the tour.

The Grubb Company's sponsorship of the September 29 tour gave a big boost to the day. The Grubb Company helped with widespread publicity and contributed enormously to make the event a real winner. Tourgoers enjoyed a garden reception at Bettina Balestrieri's wonderful home



Oakland History Room

THE LEIMERT BRIDGE spans the creek in this early photo of the Oakmore District. Today the bridge bears a plaque placed by Oakland Heritage Alliance, sponsored by the Oakmore Homeowners Association.

on a perfect sunny afternoon. Food provided by A. G. Ferrari and floral arrangements from Glenview Florist were much appreciated contributions. The driveways of houses on the tour were graced with wonderful automobiles of the 20s and

30s, from the Packard International Motorcar Club.

Plans are currently underway for another tour in spring 2004. If you would like to help plan it, please call the OHA office at 763-9218.

Notes from OHA's Preservation Action Committee meetings

By Joyce Roy

Oakland Army Base: OHA commented on the historic resources section of the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Oakland Army Base and, indeed, some of the changes we requested were incorporated into the final EIR.

Although the city has no development plans for the base, its EIR seemed to be a rationalization for razing all the structures on the site—historic and non-historic.

We stated that EIRs will be needed to ascertain actual environmental impacts of real projects as they come forward. Demolition of historic resources should only be considered if specific development plans make their reuse infeasible. And certainly there should be no demolition before there are approved, permitted projects.

These conditions were included in the final EIR. Since then, in an effort to proceed with toxic remediation, the army headquarters building has been demolished.



Tom Lea

CAL CREW'S Ky Ebright Boathouse (1924) is significant in the rowing world as the source of 27 Olympic gold rowing medals (in 1928, 1932, and 1948) and nine world championship medals.

Altenheim: Last summer when the Altenheim closed its doors, neighbors were so concerned about its fate that OHA's phone was ringing off its hook. To insure public input for any plans for the property, we filed an "Intent to

Landmark." The owners are working with a developer to convert it to senior housing. Both the owner and the developer say they will preserve the garden and as many of the historic structures as feasible.

Landmarks Board Secretary: When Helaine Kaplan Prentice retired as Landmarks Board secretary, the city wanted to eliminate the position. We lobbied hard for continuation of the position and won. Joann Pavlinec now very ably holds the position.

Development of Estuary from Oak to Ninth: The developer chosen by the Port for this area, Signature Properties, has so far presented only one proposal to the public, and it would scrap both the Ninth Avenue Terminal and the Fifth Avenue Artisan Village. Signature says a scheme that reuses the 1920s portion of the terminal is in the works. Both proposals, which

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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 oaklandheritage@california.com. All phone numbers in 510 area code unless indicated.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Saturday and Sunday in July and August: Walking tour season is here again! See page 9 for the full calendar. Be guided through an Oakland neighborhood by someone equipped with lots of good, historical information!

Sunday, August 24, 7 p.m.: Alameda Architectural Preservation Society general membership meeting, including a historic neighborhood walking tour by Woody Minor. Call 986-9232 or visit www.alameda-preservation.org.

Sunday, September 21: Alameda Legacy Home Tour, "Victoria's Heritage in the Gold Coast." Tour the architectural gems located in and around Alameda's famous Gold Coast neighborhood. Call 523-5907 for more information.

TOURS AND EXHIBITS

Bike Tours of Historic Oakland: A leisurely paced 5-mile bike tour led by the Oakland Museum's bike-tripping docents, focusing on Oakland's history and architecture. Tours are Sundays: June 15, July 20 and Aug. 17. Meet at 10th Street museum entrance at 10 a.m. Reservations: 238-3514. Free.

Black Panther Legacy Tour conducted by the Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation. Eighteen sites significant in the history of the Black Panther Party, last Saturday of each month,

noon-2:30 p.m. Advance tickets required (\$25). Call 986-0660 or visit www.blackpanthertours.com.

Oakland City Tours: Discover Oakland's changing skyline, landmarks, churches and high-rises on one of the many free guided walking tours. Call the tours hotline, 238-3234, or visit www.oaklandnet.com and click on the sightseeing/tours link.

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.

Action

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are for housing, are at odds with the Estuary Plan that designates the Ninth Avenue Terminal for "Waterfront Commercial Recreational" uses.

Forest City Uptown Project: In the scoping letter for this project's EIR, OHA urged developers to incorporate the few historic properties on the site into their project. This would give it the character of growing more naturally within the city, rather than appearing to be a completely new project inserted into the location. Evaluation of the effect of the project on adjacent historic properties such as the Fox Theater was also requested.

The revitalization of the Fox Theater as an entertainment venue may depend on adjacent development that encourages entertainment uses, with a buffer between these activities and the housing.

Royal Hotel: The owner of this historic hotel located at 20th Street and San Pablo Avenue proposes to demolish it and construct a building that Alameda County would lease for welfare services. He says that seismic retrofitting would be too costly. We will respond to the Notice of Preparation for the EIR.

Central City East Redevelopment Plan: Because redevelopment in the 1950s and 1960s was responsible for replacing much of the historic fabric of neighborhoods with badly-built projects, OHA is keeping a watchful eye as this plan materializes. Fortunately there are now active public advisory committees whose major concern is rehabilitating existing structures, and they have the Preservation Element as a tool.

Cal Crew Boathouse & Iconco industrial building (at Derby and Glascock streets): This was almost a disaster. The city told the developer, Signature Properties, that these buildings were only "C" properties that did not count-so the company planned to demolish them for a housing project on the estuary. By the time we became aware of this project, it had already gone through design review. A compromise was reached. The Iconco building on the site of Cal Crew's proposed new facility, will be demolished, but the front portion of the boathouse will be moved to the site and reused. For historical footage of UC crews rowing on the estuary, OHA members might be interested in "All for One," a movie available on video at www.all-forenomovie.com.

Mountain View Cemetery: The city was poised to approve a new chapel and mausoleum in the cemetery until the public reminded city staff that a new structure added to a Landmark property is subject to review by the Landmarks Board. The board's design concerns have yet to be addressed.

If you would like to get active and join the Preservation Action Committee, call Joyce Roy at 510-655-7508, or email her at joyceroy@earthlink.net.

Thanks, Dennis!

A special, heartfelt thank-you to Dennis Evanosky, who edited and laid out the *News* for two years and advised the publications committee. Dennis continues to help OHA with his excellent photographs and as a tour leader and stalwart volunteer. He also publishes a local historical calendar each year, which is available at his interesting website, www.oaklandhistory.com.



Awards

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Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California: Originally known as the Scottish Rite Cathedral, the majestic structure at 15th and Madison is a distinctive, Mission Revival masterpiece designed by Carl Werner and Matthew O'Brian and built 1908–9. The interior features rich, Gothic-inspired detailing and Corinthian columns. The building is also known for its many fine stained-glass windows with graceful, geometric designs. After years of deterioration, it has come back to life as the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California. It is a center for cultural, social, religious and educational activities. Over time, its board of directors has been overseeing the building's restoration and making good use of this important piece of Oakland architecture.

Awardees: Dr. Hamid Rezapour, chair, construction committee; Kazem Jabbari, chair, board of directors; Ali Zareh, chair, board of trustees

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Helaine Kaplan Prentice: OHA's lifetime achievement award honors Helaine's 28 years of service in the Planning Division of the City of Oakland, which includes 12 years as secretary to the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. Her work has had a pro-

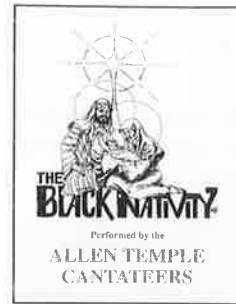
found effect on Oakland. As the city's first woman planner, she has covered every possible design issue and helped the city recover from the Loma Prieta earthquake. In 1976, she published *Rehab Right* with her architect husband Blair Prentice. This award-winning publication is a classic guide for correct and sensitive home rehabilitation solutions.

As secretary to the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, Helaine's advice forged directly or indirectly a wide variety of projects including Frank Ogawa Plaza, the Rotunda, Peralta Hacienda, Seventh Avenue Missionary Baptist Church and Old Oakland.

Helaine and her husband helped plan the birth of Preservation Park; they conceived the essential elements of the project's streetscape, plantings, color schemes and the fountain of Diana.

Helaine also added her imprint and influence to new buildings—the city's future landmarks—such as the Federal Building, the State Administration Building, and Chabot Space & Science Center.

In her farewell speech, Helaine commented on the importance of Oakland's identity as a product of its heritage and as an economic force. She said: "Oakland's identity is found in its downtown and neighborhoods, creeks and hillsides, its oak trees and bay woodlands, its waterfront, its churches and vernacular houses, theaters, libraries,



Dennis Evanosky

HELAINE KAPLAN PRENTICE, top right, won a Lifetime Achievement Award. At left is a poster for the Black Nativity at the Allen Temple Baptist Church.

markets and parks, its new high-rises, creative new housing and old commercial buildings. In your vision for Oakland, make the most of these assets."

Helaine's work has always been marked with intelligence, wit, grace, humor and a generous dollop of diplomacy. She has set a high standard for all to follow.

The nomination process for the 2003 Partners in Preservations awards is open to the public. OHA encourages members and others interested in preservation to contribute ideas and suggestions. A small committee conducts the program every year and is always looking for help. If you would like to join, or if you have any suggestions, please call the OHA office at 763-9218.

Volunteers make things happen!

Thanks to everyone who has helped OHA throughout the last year.

WALKING TOURS 2002:

- Annalee Allen ♦ Phil Bellman
- Barbara Bye ♦ Ernie Chann ♦ Cliff Cline
- Bill Coburn ♦ JoAnn Coleman
- Deborah Cooper ♦ Jamie Cross
- Michael Crowe ♦ Kathy Dadey
- Pipi Ray Diamond ♦ Riley Doty
- Dennis Evanosky ♦ Kevin Flynn
- Cindy Haines ♦ Marilyn Hesser
- Norman Hooks ♦ Bob and Dottie Howell
- Ann Killebrew ♦ Jane King ♦ Diane Levy
- Ruby Long ♦ Craig Lyall
- Mary MacDonald ♦ Pamela Magnuson-Peddle ♦ Peggy Martin ♦ Betty Marvin

- Sharon Moore ♦ Bill Moys
- Vivian Perry ♦ Monica Praba Pilar
- Fred Reichman ♦ Joyce Roy
- Barbara Smith ♦ George Strauss
- Alan Templeton ♦ Rachele Sherris Watt
- Barbara Westover ♦ Randi Wood
- Dean Yabuki

AAMLO EVENT:

- Eleanor Alperton ♦ Renie Bartolini ♦ Patti Busk
- Phyllis Carter ♦ Yanie Chaumette ♦ John Dalal
- Hilda Hansen ♦ Daphne Knowle ♦ Bill Moys
- Geraldine Mctigue ♦ Rina Nicolchev ♦ Allyson Quibell ♦ Joseph Taylor ♦ Lani Taylor

In our next issue, we'll list more volunteers, new members and our generous donors.



Dennis Evanosky

EVERYONE IS ALL SMILES at the event at the African American Museum and Library. With a new landmark plaque from left are Councilwoman Nancy Nadel; Melvin Terry, trustee of the Northern California Center for African American History and Life; and AAMLO Director Rick Moss.

It's walking tour season! Walk (or ride your mule....)

It's the 23rd annual walking tour season. Grab some sunscreen and a sturdy pair of shoes and get out to see your city! All tours are \$5 for OHA members and \$10 for non-members. Reservations not required. For more information, call 763-9218 or visit www.oaklandheritage.org.

■ **Oak Center Historic District**, 2-4 p.m., Saturday, July 12. Meet: DeFremery Park, corner of 16th St. and Adeline St.

■ **Mountain View Cemetery**, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sunday, July 13. Meet: Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave.

■ **Borax Smith**, 10 a.m.-12 noon, Saturday, July 19. Meet: Redwood tree, McKinley Ave. & Home Place East (one block off Park Blvd.)

■ **Hidden Haddon Hill**, 2-4 p.m., Sunday, July 20. Meet: Grassy triangle, Kenwyn Rd. at McKinley Ave.

■ **Oakland Airport North Field**, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, July 26. Meet: Sierra Academy of Aeronautics, east end of North Field (West on Hegenberger from 880, cross Doolittle, right on Earhart)

■ **Piedmont Avenue**, 2-4 p.m., Sunday, July 27. Meet: Key System marker at 41st St. and Piedmont Ave.

■ **Modern Downtown Oakland**, 10 a.m.-12 noon, Saturday, Aug. 2. Meet: 11th St. and Broadway, in front of the Marriott Hotel

■ **Montclair Village**, 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 3. Meet: Thornhill Dr. and Mountain Blvd., across from Montclair Women's Club

■ **Splashpad & Grand Avenue**, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 9. Meet: Parking lot, Lakeview Branch Library, 550 El Embarcadero, off Grand Ave., west of 580 Freeway

■ **Lakeshore/Trestle Glen**, 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 10. Meet: Parking lot, Lakeview Branch Library, 550 El Embarcadero, off Grand Ave., west of 580 Freeway

■ **Leona Heights**, 10 a.m.-12 noon, Saturday, Aug. 16. Meet: Mountain Blvd. and Leona St., site of old Chabot Observatory



Oakland History Room

FRANCIS MARION "BORAX" SMITH helps his son make the acquaintance of a mule. Smith was famous for his 20-mule-team Borax. To learn more about Oakland millionaire Smith, see the July 19 walking tour.

■ **Oakland's Cable Railways**, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 17. Meet: Former Cox Cadillac showroom, 2500 Harrison St. at Bay Place

■ **Between Two Creeks: Upper Fruitvale Residential**, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 23. Meet: Peralta Hacienda Park, corner of 34th Ave. and Paxton St.

■ **Twenties Timewarp: Mills Gardens to Picardy Drive**, 10 a.m.-12 noon, Sunday, Aug. 24. Meet: Brann St. and 58th Ave., not far from Mills College

■ **Northgate**, 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 30. Meet: Corner 20th St. &

Telegraph (one block west of north end, 19th St. BART station)

■ **Wholesale Produce Market and Waterfront Warehouse District**, 10 a.m.-12 noon, Sunday, August 31. Meet: Third and Franklin Streets.

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LANDMARKS BOARD ACTIVITIES

Compiled by Allyson Quibell

JUNE 2002: *Director's Report:* Status report on Oak Center Historic District nomination. Goal is for the City Council to act on the nomination by year's end.

Discussion: Oakland Army Base subcommittee presented comments on the draft EIR. Discussion emphasized the importance of preserving actual buildings.

Board Reports: Peralta Hacienda History Park subcommittee reported they had met with applicants discussing various issues. A new design for the Cohen-Bray House fence has been submitted.

JULY 2002: *Special Presentation:* Sunshine Ordinance training.

Design Review: Cohen-Bray House, 1440 29th Ave. (City Landmark): Revised design for fence was approved. Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, 2465-2511 34th Ave. (City Landmark): Revised phase 3 of the park master plan was approved.

New Business: Claremont Hotel: John English presented the National Register nomination submitted by BONC. The board strongly endorsed listing the entire property.

Special Meeting: Board had a joint tour of Oakland Army Base with Planning Commission on July 25.

AUGUST 2002: No meeting held

SEPTEMBER 2002: Special Tour led by Betty Marvin covered the proposed Oak Center Historic District.

Director's Report: Introduction of new board Secretary, Joann Pavlinec. City Council acted to pass the Planning Commission's recommendation to landmark the Claremont Hotel with one change to design review criteria. CEDA representative reported on Keystone Hotel project. New developer may be needed. City is working on a Broadway master plan. Key element is expansion of Latham Square where Telegraph meets Broadway. Hoped that construction will start by September 2003.

Actions taken: Board approved the recom-

mendation to adopt the S-20 Historic Preservation District Combining Zone for the Oak Center District; resolution to be forwarded to Planning Commission.

Board Reports: Landmark plaque ceremony held at St. Augustine's Church.

Secretary's Report: Building owners at 2521 San Pablo Ave (Willowbrook Creamery) need technical assistance; ad-hoc subcommittee will contact them.

Elections: Una Gilmartin is new Chair, John Bliss new Vice-Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, 2002-03.

OCTOBER 2002: *Director's Report:* Oak Center Historic District nomination is tentatively scheduled for Planning Commission on Nov. 20. Oakland Base Reuse Authority: Demolition of Building One may be possible as soon as Oct. 18. Chair Una Gilmartin reappointed to the board.

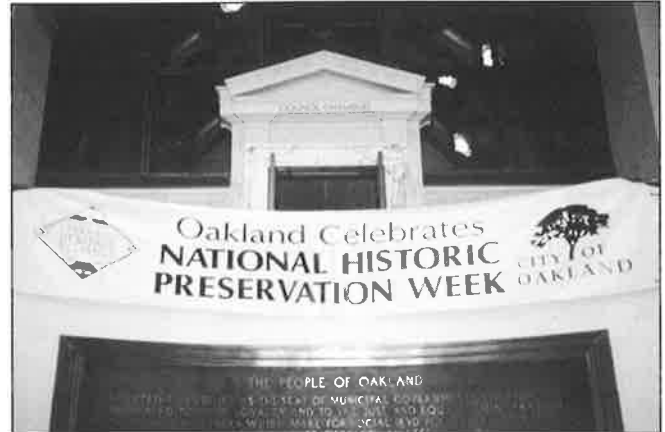
Old Business: Board passed a motion to adopt a resolution initiating landmark designation for the St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church.

New Business: Report presented on the 300 Harrison Street draft environmental impact report—located in the Waterfront Warehouse National Register Historic District. Board discussed adequacy of draft EIR and design of building with respect to historic district.

Board Reports: Pending landmark nominations: Southern Pacific Car Paint Shop may come by year's end.

NOVEMBER 2002: No meeting held

DECEMBER 2002: *Director's Report:* Planning Commission action: approval of master plan for Peralta Hacienda Historic Park. One condition of approval modified per request of OHA. Oak Center Historic District designation and rezoning headed to City Council for action, likely on the February agenda. Council will also likely



OHA'S BANNER, hung in City Hall for Preservation Week.

Alan Templeton

review St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church.

New Business: From OHA: a notice of intent to submit an Oakland Landmarks and S-7 Preservation Combining Zone application for 1720 MacArthur Blvd. (Altenheim). Five speakers addressed the board regarding this item and board discussed and moved on several recommendations. Board will continue action on notice of intent in 2003.

Secretary's Report: Still unable to contact owners of Willowbrook Creamery in regards to code compliance. Request received for Landmark Designation for Victorian Legal Center, 653 11th Street.

Special Presentation: Annalee Allen and Andrew Carpentier received a resolution of appreciation.

Announcements: Alan Dreyfuss, an Oakland preservation architect, has joined the LPAB.

JANUARY 2003: Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League requested board look at the proposed Mt. View Cemetery addition application regarding tree removal/ protection issues.

Director's Report: Status of application for Cal Crew Boat House and Iconco building. Historic architect Alice Carey is working with city to address CEQA determination and develop formal recommendations.

Discussion: of site visit to Altenheim, 1720 MacArthur Blvd. Presentations made for and against landmarking.

Board Reports: Board members met on site with owners of Willowbrook

See **SUMMARIES** on page 11



Summaries

Continued from page 10

Creamery. Working on code compliance issues. Architect hired to help.

FEBRUARY 2003: Director's Report: Status for notice of intent to submit an Oakland Landmark and S-7 preservation application and report on meetings with developer, members of the Altheim, and LPAB and staff to discuss project process for reuse of the Altheim. Discussion of Ky Ebright Boathouse relocation and partial demolition and the Iconco facility demolition.

Design Review: Mt. View Cemetery, application for conditional permit to construct new chapel and mausoleum and columbarium; subcommittee has concerns.

Secretary's Report: Request for board member to attend monthly city meetings concerned with the 'ruins project' for the Oakland Fox Theater.

MARCH 2003: Director's Report: Status report on pre-application meeting with Altheim developer. Follow up on board's recommendation on moving and demolition of Ky Ebright Boathouse, 2909 Glascock St., and review of application for new UC Crew proposal.

Board Reports: Mt. View Cemetery subcommittee report on design review referral of application for conditional use permit to build new structures (see Feb. 2003). Major concerns outlined.

Discussion: Motion to select the following buildings to initiate for Landmark Designation in 2003: I. Magnin Building, 2001-15 Broadway, 450 20th St.; Studio One, 265 45th St.; Julia Morgan Building, Piedmont Ave.; Broadway Building, 1401 Broadway; Old Boat House, 1520 Lakeside; Alice Arts Center, 1418-40 Alice St.; Fire Alarm Building, 1310 Oak St. Friendly motion to add the Floral Depot, 1900-32 Telegraph.

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OHA News welcomes contributions: research projects large or small, historic photos and reports on preservation issues or events. Submissions by e-mail may be sent to news@oaklandheritage.org.

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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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OHA is planning to publish a second edition of Beth Bagwell's classic *Oakland, the Story of a City*. We are looking for donors to support the writing of new chapters (covering Oakland history from 1981 to the present) and to sponsor the printing of this new edition. Call 763-9218 to contribute.

The Necklace of Lights: a stellar attraction

By Kathleen Leles DiGiovanni

The beautiful Necklace of Lights surrounding Lake Merritt found its inspiration in a display of colored lights constructed by the city to welcome a convention of Shriners in June 1922. Oaklanders were so enchanted by the lights that they clamored for a permanent display of lights around the lake.

Conceived as a memorial to local soldiers lost in World War I, the Necklace of Lights was unveiled as a permanent feature of the lake August 27, 1925 during the Dons of Peralta Festival. It was originally made up of 126 goose-necked Florentine electroliers supporting a string of 3,400 light bulbs encircling the lake. Consulting electrical engineer Romaine W. Myers designed and managed the \$71,202 Necklace of Lights project for which the city provided about \$56,000; the remainder was raised through private subscriptions. Monthly operating costs for the lights were anticipated to be \$270.

Former city councilman Felix Chialvo recalled in 1986 that when he was a boy, Fourth of July fireworks were shot off from the Harrison Street and Grand Avenue side of the lake while people gathered around the lake to watch them.

The lights went dark in 1941 in compliance with wartime blackout orders. At that time, the light bulbs between the electroliers were taken down. These strings of smaller

bulbs were considered temporary features—and known as the Festival of Lights—and by 1941 they were frayed and in need of replacing. Only the darkened light standards remained. In 1946, Dr. Velva Brown, a Cowell Memorial Hospital physician, bought the original strings of lights from a West Oakland junk dealer and shipped them to a Baptist mission in Swatow, China, where she had worked before the war. Powered by a diesel generator, Oakland's lights lit the mission, the mission hospital and the neighboring village. The lights were reportedly still in use there in 1987.

Intermittent efforts had been undertaken since the 1940s to relight the necklace, all of which failed because of the scope and cost of the project. In 1944, a proposal made by the parks board to restore the necklace included a plan to replace the strings of light bulbs with neon tubes. Board member R. C. Bitterman was quoted in an August 18, 1944 *Oakland Tribune* article as saying, "Modern lighting will bring out the beauty of the lake, like the setting brings out the value of a jewel."

In a 1984 speech to the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club, Tribune executive and civic leader Emelyn Jewett proposed a project to restore the lights. LMBC spearheaded a fundraising campaign that netted over \$1.25 million to rebuild the necklace and provide it



Oakland History Room

THE NECKLACE OF LIGHTS, in its pre-war incarnation.

with an operating fund. On May 7, 1985, the Necklace of Lights was declared a city landmark and, finally, on July 13, 1987, the night before the Major League Baseball All-Star game—after 46 dark years—the necklace was re-kindled, accompanied by a spectacular lakeside fireworks show.

Kathleen Leles DiGiovanni is a librarian at the Oakland History Room of the Oakland Public Library.

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