

Winning can be so sweet

■ 2003 Preservation Awards announced at Sweet's Ballroom

By Allyson Quibell

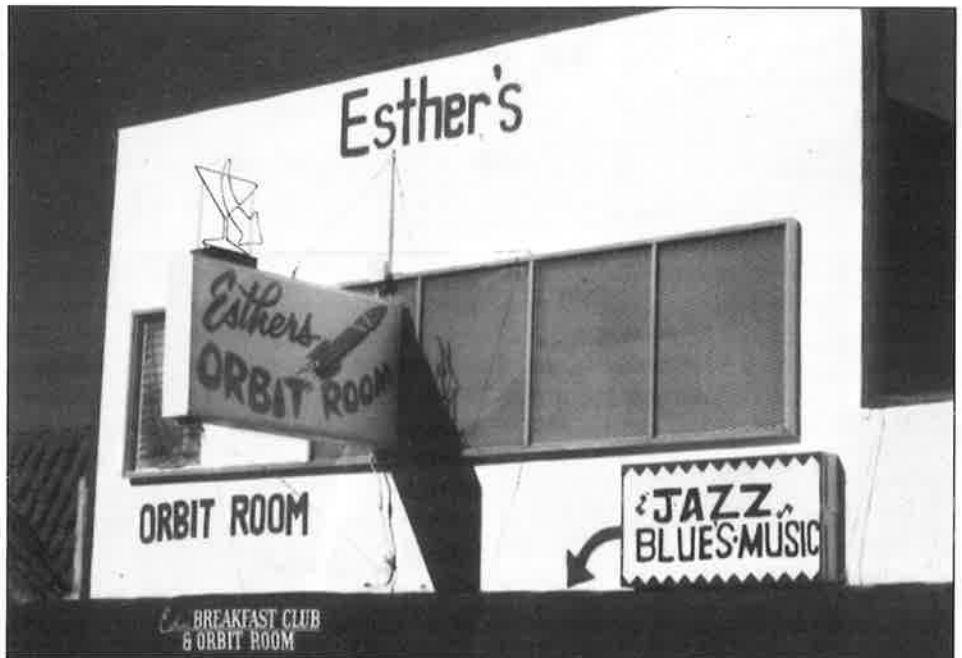
Since their inception in 1995, OHA's Partners in Preservation Awards have celebrated Oakland's rich, varied and dynamic culture, highlighting the benefits of preservation: historic, environmental, cultural and architectural. Award recipients are distinguished for their extraordinary efforts to illuminate our combined histories, promote preservation of resources and contribute to Oakland's unique charm. This year's winners were no exception and represented a diverse group of Oakland institutions and new enterprises.

The following 2003 awards were presented in November during a ceremony at the recently renovated Historic Sweet's Ballroom, in downtown Oakland.

CIVIC PROJECTS

Waterfront Warehouse Historic District Trash Cans: Designed by architect Peter Birkholz, these 20 trash receptacles were a project of the Jack London Neighborhood Association, and provide not only a means of keeping the neighborhood streets trash free, but also serve as a platform for the mounting of "place identifying" and "historical place" education signage. Each can has a "logo"—the image of the Posey Tube Portal, for example—as well as a photographic image and descriptive text of one of the district's contributing buildings, or an historic street scene. The Waterfront Warehouse Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in April 2000.

Awardees: Jack London Neighborhood Association; Designer, Peter Birkholz; committee members: Marianne Dreisbach, Gary Knecht, Jane Lawhon, Robbie Rhendahl and Wilda White.



Alan Templeton

A CULTURAL LANDMARK, Esther's Orbit Room on Seventh Street was one of the winners of a 2003 Preservation Award.

Sausal Creek Restoration & Joaquin Miller Park Native Plant Nursery and Greenhouse: One of Oakland's 15 main creeks, Sausal Creek begins in the Oakland hills and runs through the city, eventually spilling out at the base of the Fruitvale Bridge into the San Francisco Bay. Phase I of the waterway's restoration project, completed in 2001 thanks to the combined toil of city staff and thousands of volunteers, gave new life to a 600-foot reach of Sausal Creek in Dimond Canyon. Funded by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the California Coastal Conservancy and Proposition 13 grants, the \$450,000 project restored Sausal Creek's natural riparian meander. The City of Oakland's Public Work Agency's Watershed Improvement Program (WIP) and the volunteer-based Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) worked together to remove concrete dams and

carelessly dumped garbage, restoring the Creek's natural systems of logs, rock beds and native plants.

Also in 2001, the City of Oakland's Parks & Recreation Department donated underused land at Joaquin Miller Park to FOSC for a native plant nursery and demonstration project. With further support from WIP, the Joaquin Miller Park Native Plant Nursery and Greenhouse was constructed as more than a plant-growing facility; it also serves the community as an education center, providing volunteers with horticultural training and a deeper appreciation of creek life and Oakland's entire ecosystem. In 2002, according to city and FOSC estimates, over 20,000 plants were raised in the nursery and over 10,000 new native riparian plants were planted along creek beds in Dimond Park,

see AWARDS on page 2



President's message

By Mary MacDonald, President

As we go to press, OHA's board of directors is in serious negotiations for a new office location in downtown Oakland. This significant and exciting development grows out of the board's desire for a more central site, close to city offices and public transportation. We hope to report a successful conclusion to the negotiations, a new address, and more details in our next newsletter.

In other good news, the city's Community and Economic Development Agency (CEDA) recently awarded a pedestrian safety grant to OHA for the development of a

brochure for a self-guided walking tour in the Fruitvale that will combine pedestrian safety tips and Fruitvale history. Pamela Magnuson-Peddle, OHA's longtime board member and former president, prepared the successful grant application and will oversee the creation and publication of the brochure. Our next newsletter will have more detail on this project.

With the exception of the recently-awarded pedestrian safety grant, support for all of OHA's activities, programs, events, and administrative costs, such as office space and personnel, comes from one source: **you!**

Membership dues represent the single biggest source of revenue, and we hope to increase our funding through new memberships and donations. **Please consider giving a gift membership in OHA to a friend or relative this holiday season as well as making a year-end tax-deductible donation to OHA.** Such gifts will help keep OHA strong and allow us to continue our important preservation education and advocacy. Please call our office at 510-763-9218 to arrange for a gift membership.

As the year comes to an end, the OHA board sends its best wishes to our OHA family and its appreciation to you for your interest in preservation.

Awards

Continued from page 1

Dimond Canyon, Woodminster Cascades, Joaquin Miller Park, William Wood Park and Cesar Chavez Park.

Awardees: Friends of Sausal Creek: Linda Morse, President; Pete Veilleux, FOSC Coordinator; Kristin Hopper, FOSC field coordinator and manager of JMP Native Plant Nursery; Michael Thilgen, Board of Directors; Karen Paulsell, Volunteer, Restoration Committee. Watershed Improvement Program, Division of Public Works, City of Oakland: Claudette Ford, Director of Public Works; Lesley Estes, Watershed Program Supervisor; Kristin Hathaway, Watershed Program Specialist. City of

Oakland Parks & Recreation Department: Jim Ryugo, Acting Director. Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation District: Hank Ackerman, Principal Civil Engineer and Flood Control Program Manager. California Coastal Conservancy: Amy Hutzler, Project Manager

INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS

Rockridge Masonic Lodge: Built in 1926, the three-story Rockridge Masonic Temple was designed by the well-known local firm Slocombe & Tuttle, which specialized in revivalist styles. The renovation of this classic Renaissance Italian palazzo maintained virtually all of its original architectural integrity while meeting modern needs and building codes. Most of the original architectural elements have been repaired or replaced, including the main entrance double doors, which were stripped and refinished. Other achievements were having a new accessibility ramp installed; aluminum storefront windows replaced; damaged diamond leaded-glass transom windows over the storefronts replaced; and old signage and canopies removed and replaced. The 18,000-square-foot building, which includes an assembly hall and commercial space, remains one of the anchors of the Rockridge commercial district.

Awardees: Architect: Jerri Holan; con-

tractor: Don Terry, Terry Contractors, Inc. Masonic Center Building Committee: John Carter, president

Landmarking of New St. Paul

Missionary Baptist Church: 1011 Martin Luther King Jr., Way. This two-story wood frame (formerly shingled) church with steeple and pitched roof—facing the original 1860 town square (Lafayette Park)—was already listed as a primary contributor to the S-7 Preservation Park Historic District when members of the New St. Paul Missionary Baptist congregation (occupants of the formerly Swedish Lutheran Church) decided to take their historical building to the next level and nominate it to city landmark status. The Oakland City Council granted landmark status in May 2003, which the group hopes will help in efforts to raise funds and obtain grants and technical assistance for a much-needed restoration.

Awardees: Landmark Committee: James Smith, Pastor Henry and Nadine Williams.

Historic Sweet's Ballroom: 1933 Broadway, Oakland. Built in the early 1920s by local architects Schirmer and Bugbee, the 12,000-square-foot Art Deco dance hall recently underwent an \$800,000 renovation. The ballroom was one of the best-known venues for big

see **AWARDS** on page 3

In this issue

History Hearsay	7
Calendar	7
Preservation Action Committee	8
Landmarks Board Summaries	8
Fox Theatre update	10
Library Turns 125	12



Awards

Continued from page 2

band music in the country during the 1930s and 1940s. Among the famous performers who took to its stage were Artie Shaw, Duke Ellington, Paul Whiteman and Benny Goodman. Although the ballroom has had various operators and names over the years, it is now known as "Historic Sweet's," for Bill Sweet who ran the operation in its early days.

Awardees: Friends of Creation Spirituality: Debra Martin, executive director; Matthew Fox, president.

Eli's Mile High Club: 3629 M.L.King Jr Way. Known locally as the "Home of the West Coast Blues," this gem has been part of Oakland's treasured musical history for over three decades, since Eli Thornton and his wife opened the club in the early 1970s. Oakland blues legends Jimmy McCracklin, Sonny Rhodes, Mississippi Johnny Waters, Frankie Lee, Joe Louis Walker and Lowell Fulson all got their start at Eli's. In 2002, with the club's demise almost certain, Claremont Partners decided to rehabilitate the building and worked with then Biscuit and Blues manager Frank Klein to re-open Eli's as a premier blues club. Eli's is now once again an important stop on the national blues circuit and home to warm, home-cooked meals and a culturally diverse crowd.

Awardees: Claremont Partners: Ron Kriss and Mike McDonald; Biscuit and Blues: Frank Klein

Grand Lake Smoke Shop: 3206 Grand Ave. The Smoke Shop has been a fixture in the Grand Lake area since it opened in 1926 (the same year the Grand Lake Theater opened its doors), serving as a newsstand, candy shop, tobacconist, shoeshine stand and pinball arcade during different phases of its 77-year history. Peter Brady has managed the store for the past 14 years without major alterations; its small, decorative inside space offers a particular feel, smell and meaning to those growing up in the area. It has become an Oakland mainstay, standing strong at the center of this constantly changing area.

Awardee: Peter Brady



THE ROCKRIDGE MASONIC LODGE, top, was built in 1926. At bottom left is the restored Sausal Creek trail, and at bottom right is a waterfront trash receptacle.

Esther's Breakfast Club and Cocktail Lounge, also known as Esther's Orbit Room: 1724 Seventh St. Esther's Breakfast Club and Cocktail Lounge began in 1950 as a small restaurant on then-booming Seventh Street in West Oakland, serving breakfast and lunch to workers from the docks, army base, and downtown business community, as well as the ferry and railroad stations. With a liquor license in hand, William and Esther Brown-Mabry launched Esther's Orbit Room in 1960, and it became central stage to rhythm and blues artists. Over the past 40 years, the Orbit Room has hosted such notable performers as Etta James, B.B. King, Lou Rawls, Dinah Washington, Jimmy McCracklin and Willy Bobo, to name just a few. Esther's Orbit Room has earned its place in the Bay Area Blues Society Hall of Fame.

Awardee: Owner Esther Mabry.

Historic Temescal Beach House: Built by the Works Project Administration in 1938, this charming two-story stone and wood structure was designed by local architects Williams and Wastell and embodies the western regional style of park buildings. It is, in fact, the oldest example of the National Park Service rustic style in the East Bay Regional Park District. Set amid a rose garden and a cascading waterfall landscape, the facility affords a delightful view of Lake Temescal and the wooded hillsides that surround the 44-acre park. Closed in 1992 due to its dangerous proximity to the Hayward fault, a successful \$1 million restoration project began in 2002. California Coastal Conservancy grants, Measure AA bonds and federal transporta-

See AWARDS on page 4

All photos this page: Alan Templeton



Awards

Continued from page 3

tion funds paid for the work to seismically retrofit the structure, as well as to improve its facilities and disabled access. The newly-renovated building opened its doors last fall to accommodate social functions and business meetings on a rental basis.

Awardees: East Bay Regional Park District: Mike Anderson, Asst. General Manager, Planning and Design Stewardship; John Sutter, Director, East Bay Regional Parks District Board of Directors; Pat O'Brien, General Manager; Diane Althoff, Chief of Design. Burks Toma Architects: Karen Burks, Principal; Marc Toma, Principal; Lisa Trugillo, Project Architect. Juri Komendant, Structural Engineer

COMMERCIAL

Adeline Lofts: 1131 24th St. Adeline Lofts began life in 1929 as the Hommel Machine Works, a manufacturer of special machinery for aeronautical work. The two-story Utilitarian/Industrial decorative brick building in West Oakland has since been rehabilitated into affordable housing for artists, artisans and entrepreneurs—one of the first such projects in the city. A corrugated metal third floor addition on the Chestnut Street side of the building gives it a modern feel while using materials reflecting its industrial past.

Awardees: Developer: Affordable Housing Associates (AHA): Ali Kashani, founder & executive director; Kevin Zwick, project manager; Angela Cavanaugh, senior property supervisor. Architects: Kava Massih Architects. General Contractor: J.H. Fitzmaurice Co. City of Oakland Assistance: Nancy Nadel, City Councilwoman - District 3. Roy Schwyer, Housing Division Director. City of Oakland, Housing & Community Development.

SYMPATHETIC INFILL

A new category was added this year to accommodate what OHA felt was an important preservation issue—new develop-



THE HOME OF THE WEST COAST BLUES, Eli's Mile High Club is on Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, top left. At top right is the New St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. Sweet's Ballroom has an unassuming entrance on Broadway, bottom left, and an interesting dance board inside that once showed the lineup of the dances.

ment that contributes to neighborhood character. Sympathetic infill is constructed with quality materials, using quality craftsmanship, and it is compatible in feeling, scale and association with its built surroundings.

Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza Housing Project: 727–743 58th and 720–732 Aileen streets. This project was developed in conjunction with old Merritt College. The plan called for 11 units of housing with park area included. The goal was to develop low- to moderate-income housing in attractive single family dwellings, mandating good fit for neighborhood context. Designed by local architect Kirk Peterson & Associates, with RCD of Berkeley, this project offers low-income housing that does not separate itself off from the neighborhood. These bungalow-esque, Craftsman-like homes—alternating stucco and lap siding, porches and big columns—are two stories with street-front garages and gabled roofs. With their gardens and framed windows, they fit right in to the neighborhood, creating a fresh new addition.

Awardees: Architect: Kirk Peterson & Associates; Jack Backus. Developers: Resources for Community Development, Berkeley; Michael Allen, housing director; Betsy Wilson, project manager.

Work/live complex at 5275 James St.: Jennifer Cooper and Thomas Dolan purchased this abandoned storefront building at James and Clifton streets in Rockridge in the fall of 1999. The building hadn't been lived in for 10 years and was in serious disrepair. After making minor repairs to the apartments upstairs, they spent a month in Oaxaca, Mexico, and crystallized the design for the first floor, addition and courtyards. Jennifer and Tom totally redesigned the storefront, converting it into a colorful, bright great room and kitchen; renovated the apartment behind the store as a child's bedroom, laundry and home office area; and added an ell to the house in the form of a modified bungalow-style master suite with a deep loggia. Both open

See AWARDS on page 5

All photos this page: Alan Templeton



Awards

Continued from page 4

directly onto the luscious Spanish style courtyard, sheltered from the street by a new stucco wall, an arbor, and the rest of the gardens beyond. The building is a great example of a creative conversion, one that respects the property's historical roots while creating a totally new beautiful environment—inside and out.

Awardees: Owners/architects: Tom Dolan and Jennifer Cooper. Contractor: Tom Dannenberg. Lead builder: Ken Mitchell. Builders: Jose & Leonardo.

INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

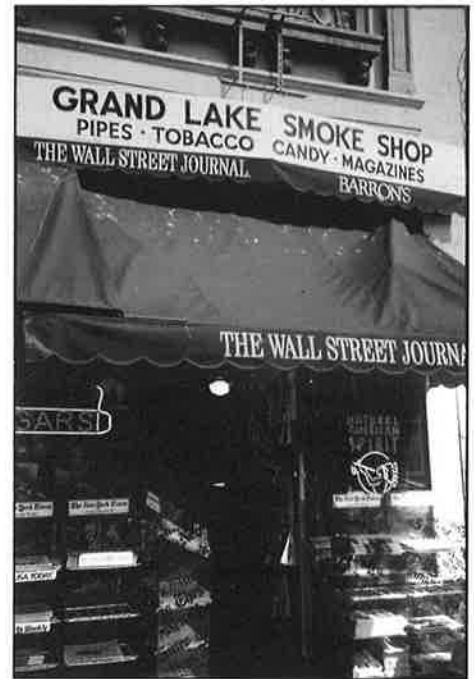
The following individual homes and one apartment building reflect two different approaches to preservation of old buildings.

The lovely Victorian on 15th Street in downtown Oakland was in desperate shape. But with structural work to fix a sagging floor, cleaning and repairs of its exterior and careful work to maintain its original glass windows, it has been rehabilitated. Its original details are now highlighted with fresh paint in rich colors. Its resurrection has served as a catalyst for the other Victorians on this street.

The buildings on Filbert Street and the apartment on International Boulevard have been treated to what one Partners in Preservation committee member refers to as the “can opener” approach to preservation. Removal of unsympathetic siding added later, such as vinyl, stucco or T-111, has brought these buildings back to their original siding and integrity.

Awardees: 627 15th Street: Sheila Wells. 1427 Filbert Street: Uy K. Ngoy & Chhun-Thavon. 160 International Blvd: Felix & Asuncion Aberouette.

Oakland, A Photographic Journey: Bill Caldwell's book, a tribute to Oakland, was conceived in recognition of Oakland's 150th birthday. Using maps, drawings, old postcards and aerial views, Bill creates a portrait of our city then and now, juxtaposing images taken



THE TEMESCAL BEACH HOUSE, top, is a rustic 1938 park building overlooking Lake Temescal. At right is the familiar sight of the Grand Lake Smoke Shop, in force on Grand Avenue since 1926. At bottom right and above are the two “unwrapped buildings” on Filbert Street.

from as close to the same location as possible. Bill mined the resources of the Oakland History room in the Main Library and the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey of the city's Planning Department for his research and worked with many local historians for information and veracity of facts.

His fascinating work reveals Oakland's past and present through images of its

See AWARDS on page 6

All photos this page: Alan Templeton



Awards

Continued from page 5

mayors, baseball teams, historic homes, and transportation systems through time.

Awardees: Photography, Editor: Bill Caldwell. Photography: Hasain Rasheed. Contributors: Dennis Evanosky, Betty Marvin, Gail Lombardi, the staff at the Oakland History Room, Captain Dave Hector of the Oakland Fire Department.

The nomination process for the 2004 Partners in Preservation 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.

AWARD WINNERS: Clockwise from top left: 627 15th St., 5275 James St., the Adeline lofts, Oakland, *A Photographic Journey*, 160 International Blvd., and 720-732 Aileen St.



All photos this page: Alan Templeton

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Carolyn Douthat: Although Carolyn Douthat is certainly not retiring, she recently stepped down as president of the California Preservation Foundation (CPF), and her contributions to preservation in Oakland have been so significant that OHA felt her efforts needed to be recognized.

Carolyn was an early member of Oakland Heritage Alliance, serving on the board from 1982 to 1986, some of that time as vice president. While with OHA, she was part of a group formed to develop an historic preservation element for the city of Oakland.

In the aftermath of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, she helped form a collaboration between OHA, the Board of Realtors, the AIA, city staff, property owners, the National Trust and CPF to track damaged historic buildings. This cooperation led to her participation in the renovation of City Hall and drafting of

regulations for retrofitting historic buildings throughout the city.

During the mid 1990s, Carolyn served on Oakland's Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. She has been a member of CPF's Board of Trustees for six years, serving as board president from July 2000 until July 2002. She was a tireless chair of CPF's Legislative & Advocacy Committee in 2002-03, when CPF was leading the California Heritage Coalition in support of Proposition 40 and, thereafter, took the lead in forming a statewide advocacy network. Her work with CPF continues: she's a valued member of three committees.

She has also authored a publication on the economic incentives of historic preservation and co-authored, with attorney Michael Buhler, one of CPF's most popular publications on the Mills Act. On top of all of this, Carolyn will serve as CPF's Interim Executive Director (effective Nov. 15, 2003) until



THE INITIMABLE CAROLYN DOUTHAT

a permanent director is appointed by the CPF Board.

Carolyn helps OHA and other preservation groups as a key advisor who can think of innovative and subtle ways to achieve historic preservation objectives. She is sought out for her good sense, encyclopedic knowledge, understanding of CEQA as it pertains to historic resources, her excellent dry sense of humor and her astute political instincts. Congratulations and thanks, Carolyn!

Mausoleum for sale and other infamous intelligence

We're happy to announce a new column providing gossip on Oakland's historic front: History Hearsay. Compiled by an anonymous, vigilant preservationist, the column is sure to pique your curiosity.

■ Oakland native Clint Eastwood was recently profiled on A&E's *Biography*. According to the program, Eastwood went to high school in Piedmont. Someone forgot to tell Oakland Tech that they are in the wrong zip code and city.

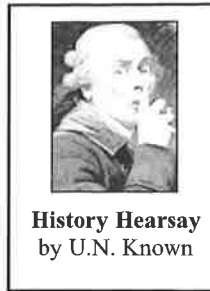
■ Interesting plots: As reported in the *S.F. Chronicle*, John Schiffler has put up for sale his family mausoleum on Millionaires Row in the Mountain View Cemetery. Other resident neighbors include the Ghirardelli chocolate and Bechtel engineering families. Price, \$250,000.

■ The Willowbrook Creamery is back on the market (2515 San Pablo Ave.). Awarded a Partners in Preservation Award in 2000, the building was built by George Sellon, the first State Architect of California and architect of San Quentin Prison. Of note: Sellon also served a prison term in his own building (San Quentin).

■ Speaking of crime: some terracotta architectural decorations that were stolen from a city warehouse were found being sold in a College Avenue shop in Rockridge. The "reason for their existence" was a mystery to the shop owner. No charges filed.

■ More crime: the Jack London Redevelopment project which seems to be steaming forward with no one paying attention has caused some consternation to the owners of Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon, a designated historical landmark. It appears that the building would be encased within a 1 million square foot edifice. For you Raider fans, this would equal approximately 21 football fields.

■ More Jack London news: Mayor Brown's live/work/study/discussion loft is rumored to be on the market for \$4.5 million. Jerry would have to recuse himself from any votes regarding the Port's redevelopment project in the adjacent area due to



History Hearsay
by U.N. Known

conflict of interest. Jerry's current digs are at the Madison Park REIT Telegraph Lofts (formerly the Sears Building at 27th and Telegraph). Madison Park REIT President John Protopappas is also the president of the Board of Commissioners for the Port.

■ Long-time OHA supporter Everett & Jones BBQ has recently opened up a new restaurant in Modesto on 9th Avenue. Drop by and say hello if you are in the neighborhood. The city fathers of Modesto were originally going to name the city after William Ralston, but he declined. When they heard the news, they named it for his "modesty." FYI, Ralston's 80-room mansion is now part of the Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont.

■ Old news not reported: in order to celebrate the first 100 years of the Buddhist Church of Oakland, master craftsmen came from Japan to dismantle and crate parts of the altar and furniture for shipment to Japan. Upon completion of the work there, they returned to Oakland to install everything in time for the Centennial Party. *If you have any information for us, e-mail hearsay@oaklandheritage.org.*

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 info@oaklandheritage.org. All phone numbers in 510 area code unless indicated.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 12, 2004: Come celebrate Jack London's 128th birthday at his old hangout, Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon, 48 Webster St. at Jack London Square. The Last Chance will feature a drink special in the author's honor, and possibly a birthday cake. This January also marks the 100th anniversary of the initial publication in monthly installments of his classic novel, *The Sea Wolf*, which begins on a foggy, January day as a ferry crosses San Francisco Bay.

April 28–May 1, 2004: California Preservation Foundation's 29th Annual Conference, held at The Presidio, San Francisco. For more information, visit www.californiapreservation.org.

TOURS AND EXHIBITS

African-American Museum and Library is open in its renovated home, the historic Charles Greene Library at 659 14th St. Hours are Tues. through Sat., noon to 5:30 p.m. 637-0200 or www.oaklandlibrary.org.

Antonio Peralta House was built in 1870 on the original hacienda site of the 1820 Peralta Spanish land grant. Located in the Fruitvale district of Oakland, this beautifully-restored Italianate Victorian is a city and state landmark and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The historical park includes the footprints of the 1821 and 1840 Peralta adobes, marking the first non-native settlement in the East Bay and the birthplace of Oakland. 2465 34th Avenue at Coolidge and Paxton. Docent-led tours are \$3, 1–3 p.m. every first Saturday, as well as 2–4 p.m. every Wednesday. Free to Fruitvale residents. 532-9142 or 569-7023.

Camron-Stanford House, an 1876 Italianate house museum on Lake Merritt offers tours 11 a.m.–4 p.m. on Wednesdays and 1–5 p.m. on Sundays. \$4/\$2 (free first Sunday). 1418 Lakeside Drive, 444-1876.

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

Mountain View Cemetery offers free docent tours at 10 a.m. on second Saturdays. 5000 Piedmont Ave. 658-2588.

Oakland 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.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Friends of the Oakland Fox, second Thursdays, 6–7:30 p.m., 229 Harrison St., at 3rd. 869-3519.

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.

Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, second Mondays, 4–8 p.m., City Hall, Hearing Room 1. 238-3941.

Preservation Action Committee news

By Naomi Schiff

OHA's Preservation Action Committee has been busy researching and discussing many current issues. Here are some of them.

Jack London Square: Ellis Partners is proposing to do a huge project at JLS. OHA commented extensively on a draft EIR, and at the same time, design review is moving through the Planning Department. We have successfully begun a design dialogue with the developer about changing the design to keep Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon from being encased in a gigantic glass atrium, part of a proposed eight-story "Harvest Hall" building (described by a Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board member as the "snow globe effect"). OHA and other citizens' groups raised concerns about project impacts on Oakland's historic Produce Market, the Waterfront Warehouse Historic District, and the general threat of overwhelming traffic congestion.

Uptown project: OHA has been advocating the reuse of some small 19th-century storefronts on San Pablo at 20th, and has been raising concern about the effects of an planned adjoining high-rise upon the historic Western Power Building (formerly Navlet's nursery) on 20th Street. This building's new owner is eager to restore it and has already begun work.

Oak to Ninth Avenue: Members and community are extremely concerned about this proposed project, which could obliterate the Ninth Avenue Terminal, the last historic marine terminal building in Oakland. It could also supplant, demolish or alter the Avenue artists' colony, and raises issues of the most appropriate use and development of our waterfront. Without clear plans to review, it has been difficult to make specific comments.

Royal Hotel: The Thomas Berkley Square Project may involve demolition of two well-known buildings: the Royal Hotel and the Post Newspaper buildings, which may stand in the path of building a gigantic new county building. OHA will be commenting extensively on an EIR. OHA boardmembers Joyce Roy and James Branch are researching to see whether the hotel could be reused as housing, instead of being demolished.

12th Street reconfiguration: Because Oakland's generous voters passed Measure D in 2002, bond funds are available to begin the reconfiguration of the 12th Street dam area between Henry J. Kaiser Auditorium and the lake. Proposals for the design have been submitted. The collaboration between OHA and other community groups, first with the Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt, and now following the



Alan Templeton

HEINOLD'S IN A GLASS ATRIUM?
Shiver Jack London's timbers. See text.

projects with the Measure DD Coalition, has been incredibly productive; Studio One has embarked on its restoration and improvement project, and the 12th Street plan will make an enormous improvement to that end of Lakeside Park.

14th and Madison: Neighbors of the proposed Affordable Housing Associates project have been meeting with Councilmember Nadel and the developers in hopes of obtaining design revisions to make the project more sensitive to the neighborhood and to adjoining historic buildings, such as the neighboring Islamic Center.

Let us know what's happening in your area! This committee usually meets on alternate Wednesdays at noon: email oha@oakland-heritage.org or call 763-9218 to be informed of upcoming meetings.

LANDMARKS BOARD ACTIVITY SUMMARIES

By Jordan Harrison

AUG. '03: Director's Report: Planning Commission affirmed the Administrative Approval, with the recommended modifications to clarify the Initial Study cumulative impacts for Mountain View Cemetery. Conversion of Cotton Mills Studio, 1091 Calcot Place: Planning Commission approved project to convert mini-storage to 74 live-work units. LPAB will oversee the new process for commemorative street renaming to honor Oakland's outstanding citizens.

Actions Taken: Recommended adoption of the Marks Building (380-388 12th St.) EIR to the Planning Commission with the revisions to mitigation measures regarding impact of construction activities and addi-

tion of measure to contribute to façade improvement fund. Design Review: Recommended approval of Marks Building design with some changes.

SEPT. '03: Actions Taken: Recommended measures to gather information about 9th Ave. Terminal related to a landmark application and possible future development. Approved color scheme to repaint Pardee House, 672 11th St., without use of gold leaf.

Election of Officers: Una Gilmartin, chair. Barbara Armstrong, vice-chair.

OCT. '03: Actions Taken: Board commented on the Jack London Square Redevelopment DEIR: EIR should include alternative which keeps Heinold's separate from new development, does not address

impact of project on Produce Market and Warehouse districts, and redesigns the project with a public square incorporating Heinold's, the statue and the cabin. Board commented on the Uptown Mixed-Use Project DEIR: EIR should include alternative that avoids demolition of Great Western Power Building and San Pablo commercial buildings; concerned the project would adversely affect integrity and function of Fox Theater. No motions on either EIR.

Board Reports: Board directed staff to revise and update Landmark Designation nominations for the following three city-owned buildings: Alice Arts Center, 1426 Alice Street; Municipal Boathouse-Parks and Recreation Administration Building, 1520 Lakeside Drive; Broadway Building, 150 Frank Ogawa Plaza.



Spread holiday cheer! Give the gift that truly gives

By Esther Hill

Looking for an original gift idea for friends, family, and associates on your holiday shopping list? Consider a gift membership (which comes with all kinds of goodies) to OHA, a gift that will help preserve and protect Oakland's architectural, historic, cultural, and natural resources. See below for the different membership packages.

- ♦ The \$35 individual gift package includes a handsome membership certificate, a set of Oakland postcards, the two most recent back issues of *OHA News* (as well as a year's subscription) and notification of all OHA events.

- ♦ A family gift membership for \$50 includes the same, plus an Oakland Walking Tour map.
- ♦ A gift membership at the \$75 or above level includes all of the above items, plus a T-shirt or tote bag.

Other gift items are available separately through the OHA office:

- ♦ Oakland Map. Guide to walkways, neighborhoods and landmarks. \$3
- ♦ *A Walk Through Temescal* Map. A closer look at the district. \$5
- ♦ OHA logo T-shirt. 100% cotton, dark green. M, L, XL, XXL. \$10
- ♦ OHA logo hat. Sage green, one size fits all. \$10

- ♦ OHA logo tote bag. Dark green, roomy. \$8
- ♦ *Oakland: A Photographic Journey*, by Bill Caldwell. Winner of this year's preservation award. \$27
- ♦ *Bungalow Bathrooms*, by Jane Powell. The latest in the popular Bungalow series. \$35
- ♦ *Architecture of Northern California*, by David Gebhard et al. Glossy guide to beautiful buildings. \$19
- ♦ Set of 12 Oakland postcards, from original paintings by Anthony Holdsworth. \$6

Contact our office (763-9218) to order a gift. Prices do not include tax or shipping.

Members making a difference

Oakland Heritage Alliance thanks members who renewed at a higher level, or joined us for the first time at a significant level. You have our gratitude.

\$300 OR ABOVE

Earl & Bonnie Hamblin

\$200 OR ABOVE

Steve and Terry Beck ♦ G. Pete Encinas

Mrs. Henry Kaiser, Sr. ♦ Phil Tagami
Burlington Willes

\$100 OR ABOVE

Christopher Buckley ♦ Bennett Christopherson ♦ East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation ♦ Arvi Dorsey Sally Freedman ♦ Matthew & Jane Gabel Valerie & Stephen Garry ♦ Russell Gates Naomi Schiff & Randall Goodall

Frederick Hertz ♦ Les & Linda Hausrath Sally & John Kemmerer ♦ Arthur Levy Stoner Lichty, Foxfire Properties J. Elaine Macey ♦ Janiele Maffei, Degenkolb Engineers ♦ Pamela Magnuson-Peddle & Courtenay Peddle Mary Jane McConville & Peter Carlson David Nicolai ♦ Roy & Melinda Samuelson ♦ Sarah Shaver ♦ George & Helene Strauss ♦ Steven Weinberg & Georganne Ferrier

Order your 2004 History Calendar
"Alameda & the Estuary"
featuring the Alaska Packers

\$12.50

(\$10 plus \$2.50 postage and handling)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____



Make check payable to Dennis Evanosky and mail to:

Dennis Evanosky
P.O. Box 19055
Oakland, CA 94619



New plan for Fox Theater involves 'visiting the ruins'

■ Update for abandoned theater on Telegraph comes from Friends of the Oakland Fox group

by Naomi Schiff

Phil Tagami, of California Commercial Investments, has put together a proposal to reopen the Oakland Fox Theater without doing the complete \$60-million renovation contemplated in a master plan prepared by consultants Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer.

Tagami, who was involved in the restoration/redevelopment of the Rotunda Building, suggests that the theater could be reopened on a "visit the ruins" basis. This would entail fixing basic systems, making the building safe, and fitting out the auditorium so that the main floor and stage areas could be used, while postponing renovations to the interior finishes and the large balcony areas.

For \$25 million, which also includes renovation of the wrap-around commercial portion of the complex, the theater could function as a 650-seat venue, and the potential for a complete restoration in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards would not be impaired. Income would be derived from leasing the office and retail wings of the building, which are structurally separate from the theater itself.

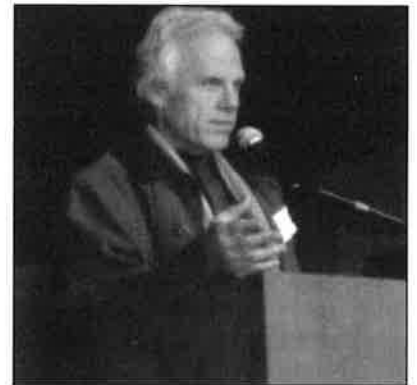
The proposed tenant and possible partner in the venture is the Oakland School for the Arts. Management and programming of the theater would be provided by the Paramount Theatre, which already has theater expertise and could foster synergy between the two facilities. The city council is considering the plan and will decide whether to approve an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement with Tagami's group and to release some limited funds for the initial planning stages, during which feasibility could be explored.

For more information, contact Friends of the Oakland Fox, 869-3519, or visit www.foxoakland.org.

Annual Meeting held at Sweet's



MEMBERS OF THE OAKLAND Youth Orchestra warm up the crowd before the awards ceremony starts, playing under the lip of the "marquee," top. At center, Phil Tagami (dark suit) and other guests sample the goods at the buffet table. At bottom, Jeff Chew addresses the audience. Well over 130 guests attended the evening's festivities in the elegant old dancehall. As well as the presentation of the Preservation Awards, attendees voted to elect Renie Bartolini, Michael Crowe, Sally Kemmerer, Naomi Schiff and Joseph Taylor to the OHA Board of Directors.



All photos this page: Joyce Roy

If you are interested in office space at the Camron-Stanford House, please call 444-1846 for information.



Many thanks to our volunteers!

OFFICE/MAILINGS

Jerry Bowling ♦ Patti Busk ♦ Hilda Hansen ♦ Bonnie Killip ♦ Ruby Long Erika Mailman ♦ Dawn Mueller ♦ Betty Thomas ♦ Sandra Tillin ♦ Elizabeth Way

WALKING TOURS 2003

Annalee Allen ♦ Holly Alonzo ♦ Diane Atwood ♦ William Bankhead ♦ Renie Bartolini ♦ Phil Bellman ♦ John Brennan Patti Busk ♦ Barbara Bye ♦ Andrew Carpentier ♦ Deborah Cooper ♦ Michael Crowe ♦ Pat Dedekian ♦ Kathleen DiGiovanni ♦ Riley Doty ♦ Dennis Evanovsky ♦ Gary Flanders ♦ Kevin Flynn Mary Harper ♦ Esther Hill ♦ Don Holmgren ♦ Bob Howell ♦ Ann Killebrew ♦ Gary Knecht ♦ Gordon Laverty ♦ Diane Levy ♦ Ruby Long Mary MacDonald ♦ Pamela Magnuson-Peddle ♦ Courtenay Peddle ♦ Gloria Martin ♦ Peggy Martin ♦ Betty Marvin Ellen Michael ♦ Paulina Miner ♦ Woody Minor ♦ Bill Moore ♦ Jane Powell Sharon Priest ♦ Marga Riddle ♦ Naomi Schiff ♦ Pat Schlesinger ♦ Barbara Smith George Strauss ♦ Joseph Taylor ♦ Alan Templeton ♦ Sandra Tillin ♦ Sylvia Turner ♦ Judy Velardi ♦ Randi Wood

Ellen Wyrick-Parkinson ♦ Dean Yabuki Dr. Page Yarwood

TOURS BROCHURE SPONSORS

John Forrest Bell ♦ Ortrun Niesar Orange Coast Title Company ♦ Prudential California Realty—Grand Lake Office The Claremont Office of Prudential California Realty

HALLOWEEN AT THE MANSION

Renie Bartolini ♦ Patti Busk ♦ Barbara Bye ♦ Kathleen DiGiovanni ♦ Riley Doty Alison Finlay ♦ Cindy Haines ♦ Mary Harper ♦ Don Holmgren ♦ Bob Howell Diana Hume ♦ Judy Jacobs ♦ Sally Kemmerer ♦ Ann Killebrew ♦ Bonnie Killip ♦ Carole Klyce ♦ Elaine Koerner Michael Kristoferson ♦ Diane Levy Ruby Long ♦ Pamela Magnuson-Peddle Gloria Martin ♦ Betty Marvin ♦ Ellen Michael ♦ Dawn Mueller ♦ Courtenay Peddle ♦ Jeanne Porter ♦ Marga Riddle Barbara Skelly ♦ Sam Skelly ♦ Sylvia Turner ♦ Jim Welcenbach ♦ Randi Wood

PRESERVATION LECTURE

Michael Crowe ♦ Mary MacDonald ♦ Sandra Tillin ♦ Alan Templeton

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

Melanie Archer ♦ Jeffrey Asher ♦ Susan Berge ♦ Mitchell Bart ♦ Jack & Cynthia Beers Leslie Bialik & Gene Tucci ♦ Peter Birkholz Michael Bowen ♦ Elizabeth Callaway ♦ Dana Cordeiro ♦ Dawn & Mark Daly Hawk Joseph Dashiell, Jr. ♦ Joanne Devereaux & Donald Keeley ♦ Diana Downton & Jason Patton ♦ East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation ♦ Laine Farley & Ray McCandless ♦ Nellie Fung ♦ Jim & Myrna Gavin ♦ Rosemary George ♦ Bill & Jan Ghirardelli ♦ Alan Glube & Ken Tom Sim Gurewitz ♦ Pieter Hazewindus Tamra Hege ♦ Lisa Hernandez ♦ Richard Hewetson ♦ Esther Hill & Pat Schlesinger Louise Hill ♦ Patricia Holland ♦ Larry Holmes ♦ Nona Hungate ♦ Toni Hurst ♦ Alice Jones ♦ Mrs. Henry Kaiser, Sr. ♦ Sally & John Kemmerer ♦ Eric Klocko ♦ Martin & Diane Kuhrt ♦ Elaine Lyford-Nojima ♦ Janiele Maffei ♦ Tom McCusker & Therese Dunn Sharon Micklas ♦ Loree Monohon ♦ Anna Naruta ♦ Marjorie Nicholson & Bud Sisson Eve Norman ♦ Paige Nues ♦ Joann Pavlinec & Michael Boone ♦ Heidi Price & James Cook ♦ Allyson Quibell ♦ Dominique Quilici Patricia & James Quinn ♦ Liz Rebensdorf Sharon Riley ♦ Adelaide Rule ♦ Eric Saijo Jane & Roy Sandstrom ♦ Linda Sanford ♦ Jon Schmidt ♦ Amy Nelson Smith ♦ Sarah & Jim Souther ♦ Linda Taylor ♦ Robert & Jane Viator ♦ Susi Vogler ♦ Katie Whitmer Andrew & Billie Wiesenthal ♦ Cristin Williams ♦ Derrick Yee & Tara Widmer-Yee M.D. Young

Join OHA today!

Your annual tax-deductible membership dues include the OHA newsletter.
Your contribution helps make OHA a more effective organization.

Name _____
Address _____
City, Zip _____
Phone (h) _____ (w) _____
Fax _____ e-mail _____

- I would like to help with:
- Programs/Tours
 - OHA News
 - Development/Fundraising
 - Membership
 - Preservation Action
 - Mailing/Office
 - Other _____

Membership new renewal

- \$35 Individual
- \$50 Family
- \$75 Organization/Benefactor
- \$125 Sponsor
- \$250 Patron
- \$15 Limited Income
- \$ _____ Publications
- \$ _____ Add'l contribution

Oakland Heritage Alliance
P.O. Box 12425
Oakland, CA 94604
510-763-9218
www.oaklandheritage.org;
info@oaklandheritage.org

OAKLAND HERITAGE ALLIANCE has been a 501(c)(3) organization since 1980.
Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible, under IRS regulations.

CONTRIBUTORS: Kathleen DiGiovanni, Kevin Flynn, Jordan Harrison, Esther Hill, Mary MacDonald, Allyson Quibell, Joyce Roy, Naomi Schiff, Alan Templeton

PRODUCTION: Erika Mailman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary MacDonald, *President*
Naomi Schiff, *Vice President—Preservation*
Pat Dedekian, *Vice President—Programs*
Renie Bartolini, *Treasurer*
Kevin Flynn, *Secretary*
James Branch
Michael Crowe
Pamela Magnuson-Peddle
Sharon Priest
Joyce Roy
Joseph Taylor

Public library celebrates 125 years of expansion

By Kathleen Leles DiGiovanni

On Nov. 7, the Oakland Public Library observed its 125th birthday as a free public library. The library as an Oakland institution had its origin 10 years earlier, in 1868, when a group of local notables, among them Samuel Merritt, Frederick M. Campbell, and H.D. Bacon, formed the Oakland Library Association. \$6,000 was promptly pledged for a building and books. A lot was soon acquired at the southeast corner of 12th and Washington streets, and plans were drawn up for a two-story building with two storefronts on Washington Street and a stairway leading up to the library rooms above. The plans envisioned a two-story brick structure with reading rooms, a chess room, a "Ladies' Parlor," an auditorium, committee room and storage. In the end, a wood-frame building went up, on a more modest scale. Annual dues were \$6 with a \$2 initiation fee.

By 1874, the Oakland Library Association found itself in debt. Expenses for books, maintenance, and salaries exceeded its income from dues. The Board of Trustees conceived a plan to ask the City Council for land on the City Hall grounds, at 14th and Washington streets. The library building could be moved there and the old lot sold to pay the debts. A sympathetic council, led by Henry Durant, himself a member of the Library Association, agreed to the plan. The building was moved—or the top floor of it

only, as the sale of the 12th Street lot included its first story storefronts. When it re-opened for business at the end of September, it also boasted a new librarian, Ina Donna Coolbrith, the person we associate most closely with the library's earliest years.

By the early 1870s, Californians wanted libraries that were free to the public. The Rogers Free Library Act, enabling cities to levy taxes for public libraries, was ratified by the state legislature on March 18, 1878. Two weeks later, at its April 1 meeting, the Trustees of the Library Association wrote a resolution that the assets of the Association be turned over to the city of Oakland—books, building, and cash. The general membership approved the resolution, and on June 1st the transfer was completed. The city's first action was to remodel and expand the building before opening as a public institution. It was raised and a new first floor was built. The ground floor was the new reading room and the second floor became the library proper. On the evening of Nov. 7, 1878, the Oakland Free Library opened its doors to the public for the first time.

The building at 14th and Washington served the public well, but by the 1890s it



OAKLAND'S FIRST LIBRARY was a modest affair.

Oakland History Room

was beginning to burst at the seams. It was widely regarded as a dangerous firetrap and had also become structurally unstable. In 1895, city engineers advised against storing more books on the second floor gallery, which was already propped up with iron rods as the building began to sag noticeably.

After the library moved into the new Carnegie building at 14th and Grove streets in 1902, the Board of Health and — ironically — the city engineer moved into the rickety old building, staying until 1910 when it was torn down to make room for the new City Hall.

For information on the campaign to build the Charles S. Greene library, see Kathleen DiGiovanni's Spring 2002 OHA News article.

Oakland Heritage Alliance
P.O Box 12425
Oakland, CA 94604

Forwarding Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S POSTAGE
PAID
Oakland, California
Permit No. 31