

# *The Women's Faculty Club Newsletter*

University of California, Berkeley

March 2013

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Dear Members,

I am delighted to announce the election of a new Director of our Club, Professor Karen Christensen, a member of the Department of City and Regional Planning. Christina Gillis and Judy Sykes, current members of the Board, were both re-elected for an additional 3-year term. Your Board looks forward to a busy year in 2013, celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of our John Galen Howard building, as well as planning important improvements to both the Club's structure and grounds.

As I wrote to you last month, I have been delving into the history of the WFC through the Club's oral history. Founded in 1919 by a group of some of the first women faculty on this campus, the Club soon invited women administrators to join as well. In the words of one of the earliest of those members, the women faculty invited just women to join because The (Men's) Faculty Club "was not cordial to even opening the hospitality of their clubhouse to women....This early group wanted their own dignity and their own campus status, and a clubhouse of their own would accomplish that."

Several other women's groups established clubs with their own buildings in the early 1920's including the College Women's Club and the Women's City Club in Berkeley. One participant in the oral history commented that perhaps it was an aftereffect of World War I that these women claimed their professional and social independence.

The Building Committee was perhaps the most important group within the early Boards of Directors. It was in charge of the Club building from start to finish – selecting the original grand design by John Galen Howard (with fireplaces in every room); receiving the construction bids which came in at three-times what was expected; approving the substitute design by Howard of our shingled building, more typical of California; and finally, paying off the mortgage. We owe these founding women a great debt of gratitude.

Eleanor Swift  
President, Board of Directors

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

- **Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 4 – 6 p.m. – “Arts in the Afternoon” –Dr. Gray Brechin – on John Galen Howard**
- **Thursday, March 14, 2013, 4 – 6 p.m. – “Arts in the Afternoon” – Tour of John Galen Howard's House**
- **Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 12 noon – Member's Table**

## PROGRAM AND EVENTS

### February “Arts in the Afternoon”

Thank you once again to String Coach Leighton Fong, pianist Karen Rosenak and the seven students who comprised three different chamber music groups for our February “Arts in the Afternoon.” The students gave wonderful performances of Prokofiev’s *Violin Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op 80*, Dvorak’s *Bagatelles for 2 Violins, Cello and Harmonium, Op. 47/B 79*, and *Sonata for Violin and Piano* by Claude Debussy. The audience was most appreciative. (Stephen Sugarman)

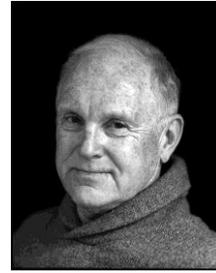
### John Galen Howard Events Continue



(John Galen Howard – 1923 Photograph)

Plan to be with us for the next “Howard” event as Dr. Gray Brechin joins us on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 4:00 p.m. to consider “The Two Hearst Plans for U.C.: John Galen Howard vs Julia Morgan and Bernard Maybeck Across Strawberry Creek.”

Brechin writes that “Phoebe Hearst’s offer in 1896 to finance an international competition to create an ‘ideal city of learning’ opposite the Golden Gate made John Galen Howard the virtual design czar of U.C.’s central campus. When Phoebe died in 1919, her son commissioned the team of Maybeck and Morgan to create a counter campus south of Strawberry Creek. William Randolph Hearst’s choice proved disastrous for Howard’s long and distinguished service to the University to which all three designers bequeathed outstanding structures.” Brechin’s talk promises to provide fresh insights into both Howard’s work and campus design.



(Gray Brechin)

Brechin is founder and Project Scholar of the Living New Deal project based in Berkeley’s Department of Geography. He is the author of *Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin* and (with photographer Robert Dawson) *Farewell Promised Land: Waking from the California Dream* (both U.C. Press, 1999).

Remember to make reservations for the Tour of John Galen Howard’s home on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. This lovely home was designed by Howard for Warren Gregory who then leased the property to Howard for a nominal sum. After the Howard family moved Professor Walter Hart commissioned Julia Morgan to design a library addition. The house was designed in an L-shape to follow the lot line and was one of the few houses in the neighborhood to survive the 1923 fire.

We will send a map to the house and can describe a public transportation route. The home is in the Berkeley hills and is not accessible. A reception will follow the tour. Call the office 510-642-4175 or email [hotel@womensfacultyclub.com](mailto:hotel@womensfacultyclub.com) for reservations.



An exhibit on Howard’s legacy is also planned to open at the Environmental Design Archives in

early May. The opening reception for the exhibit will be held at the Club on Friday, May 3, 2013.

“Arts in the Afternoon” programs and receptions are complimentary and open to the campus community. (Louise Taylor)

### March Member’s Table

Plan to come and enjoy lively conversation and great food at our next “edition” of the Member’s Table on Wednesday, March 20, 12:15 p.m. Board members Christina Gillis and Patty Mead will co-host the “Round Table.”

Board Member Tina Gillis has chaired the Club’s Committee on Program and Outreach since 2007, and has been particularly active in promoting the “Arts in the Afternoon” and “Academic Lives” series. She came to Berkeley in 1988 to serve as Associate Director at the then new Townsend Center for the Humanities, a position she held until her retirement in 2004. Since retirement she has been writing full-time, having published several articles and then a book on place and memory that draws on her experience as a summer islander in Maine. She is now completing a more general collection of essays on how we perceive and experience a small place.



(Christina Gillis)

Board Member Patty Mead has been a staff member on the Berkeley campus for 26 years and is currently Assistant Dean responsible for technology at the College of Environmental Design. Patty was just elected Treasurer of the Board of Directors. She owns a home in Sea Ranch and she heads there to unwind.



(Patty Mead)

### April Open House

Our Annual Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, April 30, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Long-time Club member and Henry J. Vaux Distinguished Professor Emerita Sally Fairfax will be the featured speaker. Fairfax and others have just published *California Cuisine and Just Food* which poses many questions and explores the challenges facing the Bay Area’s diverse alternative food proponents. As always - we will be offering appetizers, wine tastings and tours of the hotel rooms. (Marianne E. Tanner)

### New Board Member and Officers



(Karen Christensen)

Congratulations to Karen Christensen who was elected to a three year term on the Board in addition to two Board members who were re-elected. Christensen is a Professor in the City and Regional Planning and has taught at Berkeley since 1982.

Officers for the Board were elected also. Professor Eleanor Swift continues as President. Judy Sykes is Vice-President; Patty Mead was elected Treasurer and Alma Valencia Recording Secretary.

**HISTORICAL NOTES – WILL BE  
CONTINUED IN THE APRIL ISSUE**

## DINING ROOM NEWS –FEBRUARY 2013



- “Green” Deal – For March –Desserts - \$4.00
- “Tasting Tuesdays” - Join us for lunch on each Tuesday in March – We continue a tradition of small tastings each week. Tastings change each week.
- Thank you program for individual members – Receive a complimentary coupon for the Salad Buffet after every eight luncheons within either six month period:  
January – June or July - December
- Find your (name) within the body of the newsletter and win a \$20 gift certificate
- Join us on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, for a St. Patrick’s Day Special Menu
- The Dining Room will be closed for Spring Break – Monday, March 25 – Friday, March 29, 2013

