

The Women's Faculty Club Newsletter

University of California, Berkeley

February 2013

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Dear Members,

Happy New Year! As you may know by now, the year 2013 marks the 90th Anniversary of the opening of our Club in its current building, an architectural and historical gem designed by architect John Galen Howard. As this year progresses, the work of John Galen Howard will be the focus of several programs at the Club, with tours on campus and in Berkeley.

My goal for this Anniversary Year is to share with Newsletter readers some of the insights I have gained from reading the Oral History of the WFC, a manuscript that is part of the University History Series and that was compiled in a series of eleven oral interviews in 1981-82.

This manuscript is a treasure! It offers a glimpse into the lives of the first group of women professors on this campus; it paints a picture of life within the Club for its resident members – yes, women faculty and administrators lived here – and for the “summer residents” - women faculty from all over the United States who came to Berkeley to do research over the summer and who also lived in the Club; and it tells the story of the two attempts in the 1970s to merge the Women's Club with The Faculty Club next door.

The WFC has a rich history, and I look forward to sharing it with you this year.

Please take a look at the ballot and vote in this year's election of three members of the Board of Directors. It's important!



Sincerely,
Eleanor Swift
President, Board of Directors

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Friday, February 15, 2013 – Deadline for return of Election Ballots**
- **Thursday, February 21, 2013, 4 – 6 p.m. – “Arts in the Afternoon” – Piano Chamber Music**
- **Wednesday, February 27, 2013, 4:30 – 6 p.m. Women's Faculty Club Annual Meeting**
- **Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 4 – 6 p.m. – “Arts in the Afternoon” –Dr. Gray Brechin – on John Galen Howard**

PROGRAM AND EVENTS

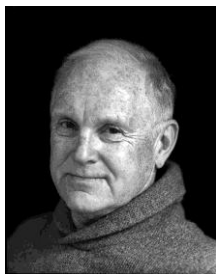
A Year of John Galen Howard



(John Galen Howard – 1923 Photograph)

Thank you to Margareta Lovell, Eva Hagberg and the students of Hagberg's Fall 2012 Class who studied the work of John Galen Howard in a class on *Access, Archives and Architecture*. The seventeen Freshmen students ably researched and presented their findings on Howard – architect of both the Club and much of the campus. Their intriguing work was presented at our December "Arts in the Afternoon" and kicked off a series of events designed to explore Howard's work as part of our 90th Anniversary celebration. The other goal of the class is to produce a brochure which will be a self-guided tour of Howard's work on campus. We hope to complete this during the Spring semester. (Jill Woolums)

Other events include the March "Arts in the Afternoon" program with Dr. Gray Brechin, a tour of John Galen Howard's Berkeley home and an exhibit on Howard's legacy at the Environmental Design Archives. The opening reception for the exhibit will be held at the Club on Friday, May 3, 2013.



(Gray Brechin)

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 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).

February "Arts in the Afternoon"



Fans of chamber music will want to be at the Club for our February offering on Thursday, February 21, 4:00 p.m. String Coach Leighton Fong returns with a several groups of students. The afternoon will feature 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.

"Arts in the Afternoon" programs and receptions are complimentary and open to the campus community. Please invite friends and potential members to these events. (Eva Rivas)

April Open House

The date has been set and we can now announce that long-time Club member, Henry J. Vaux Distinguished Professor Emerita and champion of women's rights, Sally Fairfax will be the featured speaker at our Open House on Tuesday, April 30, 2013, 4:00 p.m.

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.



Fairfax's event at the Commonwealth Club sold out in October so plan to come early! As always - we will be offering appetizers, wine tastings and tours of the hotel rooms.

PROJECT PRIDE /HOLIDAYS

Thank you to all members for your continued generosity to the children of Project Pride! Once again we were able to deliver a "sleigh-full" of holiday presents. Each child also received their own personalized holiday stocking created by members of our office staff. Thank you to all from the mothers, children and staff of Project Pride. (Elizabeth Fitzsimmons)

We were pleased to host a holiday reception honoring Chancellor and Mary Catherine Birgeneau in December. All enjoyed the Club and festivities.



(Members of the WFC Board of Directors, Chancellor and Mary Catherine Birgeneau)

HISTORICAL NOTES

In honor of the 90th opening of the Club we are featuring a series of short biographies of our "leading ladies" – the women whose foresight

and vision first established the Club. The first to be featured is Jessica Peixotto. It was in Peixotto's Cloyne Court apartment that the first organizing meeting was held on September 22, 1919. Later she would be elected the first Vice-President of the fledgling organization.



(Jessica Peixotto)

Early Years

Born in New York in 1864 Peixotto was the only daughter and oldest child of a prominent Sephardic family distinguished for its long history of intellectual and philanthropic contributions. The family moved to San Francisco in 1870. In keeping with Bay Area tradition Peixotto lived her life breaking gender boundaries throughout her career as both a social economist and professor.

Though her father disapproved of her desire for higher education Peixotto continued to study at home after graduation from high school in 1880. In 1891 she enrolled at UC Berkeley, graduating in 1894. Her path was then set for graduate study in Political Science and Economics.

In 1896 Peixotto set off on a journey to Paris with her long standing Berkeley school friend Julia Morgan. Morgan was going to pursue her dream of enrolling in the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. She was not able to realize this dream until two years later in November 1898 when Morgan became the first woman ever to gain admission to the academy. In the meantime Peixotto wasted no time. She spent her year in Paris pursuing independent research at the Sorbonne. She returned to Berkeley and received her Ph.D. in 1900, the second doctorate awarded to any woman at the University of California. Her year of research in Paris formed the basis for her thesis *The French Revolution and Modern French Socialism* which was published in 1901. (To be continued in March)

DINING ROOM NEWS –FEBRUARY 2013



- **Sweetheart Deal – For February – Coffee - \$1.95 per cup**
- **“Tasting Tuesdays” - Join us for lunch on each Tuesday in February – 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 Valentine’s Day for a special menu, champagne and truffle!**

