



The Women's Faculty Club Newsletter

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University of California, Berkeley

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Dear Members,

You may recall that my columns this year have been focused on the history of the Women's Faculty Club, drawn from the oral history taken of the Club in 1981-82 as part of the University History Series. For the ninety years of our Club's existence, it has been administered by a Board of Directors elected by the membership, and by a succession of Club Managers. In this column, I want to share some of the reflections contained in the oral history of the (evolving) role of the Manager.

Most of you know Mary Remy, our current Manager. Mary is the heart and soul of our Club, as I am sure you agree. She has worked here as the Manager since 1996. Before that, she was the Office Manager and also worked part-time when she attended Seminary. You may have noticed that every detail of the Club's functioning is under her watchful supervision – the staff, the dining, the hotel, the building, the gardens, the arts and academic programs, membership cultivation, and the ever-growing number of special events that serve the campus community. Oh yes, and the finances. She works closely with the Board of Directors and the Board's Committees in our mission to keep the Club financially healthy, to serve our membership, and to make a unique contribution to the Berkeley campus.

This truly managerial role of the Manager was not always thus. Miss Muriel Ransom, the first Manager, was brought to the Club by its Founder and first President, Lucy Ward Stebbins. Miss Ransom served as "*a sort of hostess in general over the club and its activities...she was a very gracious manager, and ... very successful...*" "*a lady in every sense of the word.*" She "*bought the dishes ... and set up the standard of dining room taste that has carried on through*" ... "*the meals were beautifully prepared and beautifully served.*" Remember that in its first decades, many distinguished women were permanent residents of the Club, dined there and viewed it as their home.

The role of the Manager as hostess continued into the early 1960's, when the Club faced serious financial difficulties due to reduced membership and increasing cost in upkeep. "*It was desperately hard to be a manager*"... "*Mrs. Radcliffe and Mrs. Phipps had the same thing...*" if they needed things for the Club, "*there was 'no' most of the time from the Board ... 'we can't afford it.'*" Mrs. Phipps had to bring tablecloths from her home to make a nice luncheon party. Once, she was reprimanded by the Board for opening the Library to small special events!

The most colorful Manager, Gaston Abbo, worked briefly at the Club in the late '60s. *"He was typical French, and he dazzled everybody...had been managing hotels in India, Indonesia and Malaysia."* Abbo and his wife lived in the Club, making an apartment out of two hotel rooms. The presence of a man in residence rattled many of the women. *"He served wine [and cocktails] before dinner ... in the library and then the foyer...this was very popular"* until the residents realized they had to pay for it. Abbo bought dozens of champagne, wine and liqueur glasses which were put to no use when it became clear that the Club could not sell such drinks because it had no liquor license. Under Abbo, the Club's weak finances suffered. When he became ill, *"that gave us the excuse to get someone else."*

Well into the 1990's, Club Presidents and Board Members devoted far more of their time to managerial duties than today. President Uridge managed all the payroll and bills and oversaw many renovations; President Williams inspected every hotel room and oversaw their refurbishment in detail: *"I just couldn't stand back and watch a place with such potential simply be mediocre."* The Managers, Maxine Rockwell and then Elizabeth Waldberger, did not attend the monthly Board of Directors meetings. Instead, the President *"would come to the Board with things that [they] needed and that was enough liaison."* (Andrew Guest)

Today, it would be inconceivable for the Board to hold a meeting without Mary present. The role of Manager, as she has defined it, is indispensable to the functioning of the Club as we know it.

Sincerely,



Eleanor Swift
President
Board of Directors

PROGRAM AND EVENTS

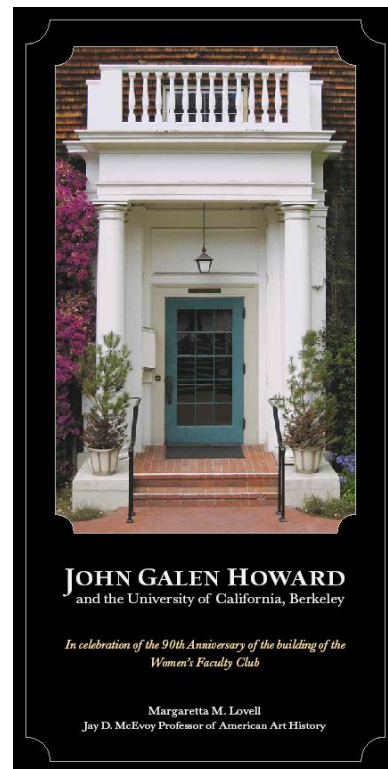
Fall "Arts in the Afternoon" Series

Thursday, September 19, 2013, 4 -6:00 p.m.

**Tour of the John Galen Howard Exhibit-
Environmental Design Library – 210 Wurster
4:00 p.m.**

**Reception and Celebration of the Publication
"John Galen Howard and the University of
California, Berkeley"
Women's Faculty Club – 5:00 p.m.**

Join us for a very special edition of "Arts in the Afternoon" as we celebrate the opening of the Club's doors 90 years ago with the publication of a brochure "John Galen Howard and the University of California, Berkeley."



Written by Club member Professor Margaretta Lovell the brochure is designed to provide a walking tour of the Berkeley campus and the existing twenty-two buildings - including our own Club - which

Howard designed. The brochure is a beautiful and fitting tribute to Howard's lasting legacy on the Berkeley campus and an elegant celebration of our own anniversary. Professor Lovell has managed to infuse the brochure with "design knowledge and artistic sensitivity." The images are striking and all will learn more about the creative genius who designed our Club. (Rebecca Parker)



(John Galen Howard –City of Learning)

Start the afternoon with a last chance to experience the excellent guidance of curator Miranda Hambro through the Environmental Design Library's exhibit on Howard. The exhibit titled "John Galen Howard: Crafting Campus, Continuing Practice," explores Howard's work on the campus and beyond. The exhibit and the brochure were designed to be a part of our year long celebration of Howard and the Club's opening. The exhibit closes on Friday, September 20th.

Thursday, September 26, 2013, 4 – 6 p.m.
"Women Who Left: Giving Voice to Silent Women"



(Melanie O'Reilly and pianist Frank Martin- photo – Doug McKecknie)

"Arts in the Afternoon" explores new territory with this "Song-cycle" created by Melanie O'Reilly (vocalist and songwriter) and Frank Martin (pianist) which explores the immigrant experience of Irish women. (Kathleen Burgess)

Melanie O'Reilly, celebrated singer/songwriter and music educator presents a concert of original songs which were inspired by her research of Irish women who immigrated to North America in the 19th century. During the presentation, Melanie will demonstrate, with Frank Martin, on piano, the creative process of arts and research interweaving and working together.

Melanie O'Reilly is one of Ireland's foremost jazz singers and has created her own unique style of Celtic Jazz. Her work has been described as "gorgeous sound..Celtic Cadence with a jazz sensibility. " (Contra Costa Times) and "Breathtaking,...sheer virtuosity" (Irish Times). Melanie is creator and host of an award winning radio show "Jazz on the Bay" for the Irish National Broadcasting station, RTE. **Frank Martin** is on the Jazz Faculty of UC Berkeley and is also an instructor at the Jazz School Institute. He has performed and recorded with a variety of jazz and popular stars including Sting, Herbie Hancock, Bobbi McFerrin, James Taylor and Chaka Khan.

Thursday, October 17, 2013, 4 – 6 p.m.
"Baroque Lute and Archtop Guitar" – Franklin Lei

Tuesday, October 29, 2013, 4 – 6 p.m.
"Spaces of Their Own – Julia Morgan: Making Architecture for Women – Karen McNeill

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Board President Eleanor Swift has appointed Professor Karen Christensen as Chair of this year's Election Committee. Board Members elected for this term will begin serving in February 2014 and will serve for three years. Members are encouraged to consider nominees for these positions as well as self-nomination. The Board meets six times a year and is responsible for setting and reviewing policy for the Club. Nominations may be sent to the office to the attention of the Election Committee Chair Karen Christensen.

DINING ROOM NEWS –September 2013



- **September Dining Room Special – Complimentary cup of soup with purchase of entrée each Wednesday**
- **“Tasting Tuesdays” - Join us for lunch on each Tuesday in September – 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**