

NOB HILL NOTABLES

California Mille

April 27th 2008

Gourmet food,
fine wines,
great raffle
prizes

in front of The Fairmont Hotel
Mille participants plus 60 classical luxury cars

~ Event Chair, Bella Farrow ~



THE UNIVERSITY CLUB WELCOMES THE ASSOCIATION

Over 150 NHA members turned out for a night filled with tasty appetizers, wine and the music of Randy Craig at the piano at the University Club's social welcoming the Nob Hill Association on January 24.

Held in the 4th floor Club living room overlooking the city, NHA members chatted with University Club Board members about Nob Hill history and the Club's Black Cat bar. The founder of the Bar, Sam McCullagh gave members tours of the Black Cat Bar which features memorabilia from the Press Club including the famous Bufano Black Cat statue.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOB HILL ASSOCIATION!

Watch for your invitations to:

- APRIL 27 — THE 2008 MILLE • JUNE — GALA BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION WITH PETER MINTUN
- SEPTEMBER — DAY IN THE PARK

A STERLING PARTY

On February 21, 2008 The Sterling of San Francisco hosted over 100 Nob Hill Association members at a cocktail party at the Big Four. During the event, Victoria Stone, General Manager of The Sterling announced that the organization will become a life member of the NHA. Additionally, they will donate \$25 when Association members tour their sales models at 1645 California Street. Please call the Association office at 415-346-8720 to receive a card that will guarantee the Association will receive the \$25 gift when you take the tour.

Association Events Chair Bella Farrow and president Torey Presti welcomed guests and thanked The Sterling for a great party. Additionally, The Sterling offered one lucky raffle winner, Christine Ostrovsky, spa services at the Huntington Hotel's Nob Hill Spa. The Sterling offers Nob Hill's seniors condominium ownership combined with senior services. The contact phone number is 415-447-9000

Guests seen enjoying the Sterling's hospitality (complimentary wine and great appetizers) and floor plans included Arlene and Kon Balin, Irene Bechtel, Hazel Blades, Holly Huebel, Hans and Yuri Richter, Anthony and Nancy Tringali and Bob Varni.

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OUT & ABOUT ON
THE HILL

NOB HILL

by Charles A. Fracchia

Nob Hill, despite changing mores and customs...

remains an exquisite urban enclave, watched over and cosseted by the Nob Hill Association.

It was called the Clay Street Hill when Andrew Halliday piloted the first cable car down its slopes in August, 1873. No one knows quite when it began to be called Nob Hill, nor the origin of the name. Nob "nob" means the top of something; or did the designation come from the Anglo-Indian word "nabob," meaning a wealthy and important person.

Wealth and importance can certainly describe the residents of Nob Hill, beginning in the 1870s. The hill, which went steeply down to the Yerba Buena Cove and witnessed the urban beginnings of urban San Francisco in 1835 and the explosive growth of the city after the discovery of gold, had not been settled during the 1850s. Its steep slopes, as with those of adjacent Telegraph Hill, did not invite construction.

This began to change in the 1860s, when some modest dwellings began to be built there, and even more so when the hill began to supplant Rincon Hill as the focus of San Francisco's wealthy and powerful elite.

The Muybridge panoramas of 1877-1878 shows the palatial homes of the railroad magnates - Crocker, Huntington (whose home was formerly the residence of railroad attorney David Colton, Stanford, and Hopkins - bonanza king James Fair, banker Richard Tobin, financiers Lloyd Tevis and James Ben Ali Haggin, and others.

In the late -1870s Leland Stanford constructed a cable car line to traverse Nob Hill - the California Street Cable Car Company - which allowed easier access to the hill.

By the early years of the twentieth century these massive, ornate homes were mostly shuttered. Their owners - or their descendants - no longer favored the baroque Victorian architectural style and had begun the migration westward to Pacific Heights or to estates on the Peninsula.

Then, almost as an avenging angel on the "vanities" which crowned Nob Hill, the fire of April 18-20 swept across the hill, destroying almost every structure: only the sandstone walls of James Flood's mansion and the stone walls of the newly constructed Fairmont Hotel, built by the silver king's daughters in his memory, continued to stand. All the rest was rubble.

The rubble was cleared away and the reconstruction of Nob Hill - as that of San Francisco - began. That of Nob Hill seemed to be uncertain. There were to be no more mansions: a few elegant homes would be constructed, but residents would live in hotels, flats, and apartment houses; so the residential character of Nob Hill would be preserved.

But there would be other uses as well. The ruins of the Flood home were purchased by the Pacific Union Club, San Francisco's most exclusive men's club, and were extensively remodeled by architect Willis Polk. The structure continues as the elegant Pacific Union Club to this day.

The site of the Colton / Huntington house was given by Huntington's widow to the city to be used as a park - one that was designed as a classical enclave, dominated by the exquisite Fountain of the Tortoises - a copy of that in Rome.

And, on the site of the Crocker houses, arose the Episcopalian cathedral for the Diocese of California. It was constructed in two phases: 1925-1928 and 1961-1964.

In the year that saw the completion of the first phase of Grace Cathedral - 1928- also saw the founding of the Nob Hill Association - an organization dedicated to preserving the delicate beauty of Nob Hill; and for the past 80 years, with the exception of a couple of defeats, have successfully pursued this objective.

The year 1928 was almost the end of post-World War I construction in San Francisco. Nob Hill would then be unchanged for at least a quarter century. What would have been the profile of the crown of the Nob Hill in 1928?

1928 would be the last year of the U.S.' and Europe's madcap post-World War I society. A prosperous urban elite listened and danced to jazz, went to graceful tea dances, and carried with them flasks of alcoholic beverages, forbidden them by Prohibition.

Much of this activity took place at the four major hotels that had been constructed atop Nob Hill: the Fairmont Hotel, completed in 1907, the Huntington Hotel (on the site of the Tobin house), completed in 1924, the Stanford Court Hotel, completed in 1911, and the Mark Hopkins Hotel, completed in 1925 (the Top of the Mark followed in 1936).

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Our current sense of these hotels is much different than the realities of these hotels in their early decades. The Mark Hopkins, for example, was constructed as a residential hotel; and the other three hotels had a number of permanent residents until the 1960s.

Second, these hotels, along with the St. Francis Hotel at the foot of Nob Hill, were centers of San Francisco social life. Social gatherings were held there, as were the lunches of society women. Men gathered in the various bars after work to socialize. The numerous venues for dancing were quite popular.

Residential occupancy was primarily in multi-unit complexes: apartment houses, condominiums, and cooperatives. Perhaps the most stunning of these is the Brocklebank Apartments (constructed in 1926). A block away, at California and Mason streets are some multiple-unit buildings (1001 California Street and others) that shimmer with elegance, their French-style architecture making them among the most handsome in San Francisco.

And, to symbolize the scatterings of townhouses on Nob Hill there is, next to 1001 California, a discreet three-story townhouse that steps down the hill to a five-story rear. This lovely home was called by one of its previous owners, "my jewel-box."

1928 was the last year of joyous prosperity. 1929's stock market crash helped to bring about the Depression of the 1930s, when many of Nob Hill's buildings were foreclosed upon. Nob Hill hunkered down; and in the 1940s the hotel lobbies and rooms were fitted with military personnel.

The end of World War II saw a return to prosperity and, in the 1950's and 1960s, to an explosion of construction. Nob Hill was to experience two blows to its fragile beauty; the construction of the Masonic Auditorium and of Grosvenor Place. The banal architecture of these two structures is intrusive to the hill's delicate construction.

Nevertheless, Nob Hill, despite changing mores and customs, despite the intrusions mentioned above, remains an exquisite urban enclave, watched over and cosseted by the Nob Hill Association.

**FOR CURRENT EVENTS ON THE HILL GO TO
[HTTP://WWW.NOBHILLASSOCIATION.ORG](http://www.nobhillassociation.org)**

The Nob Hill Association

*Founded in 1928, the mission of the Nob Hill Association
is to preserve the beauty and history of Nob Hill and Huntington Park*

OFFICERS

President - **Torey Presti**
Vice President - **David L. Lefkowitz**
Treasurer - **Bob Baxter**
Secretary - **James Fotenos**
Assistant Treasurer - **Lori Lefkowitz**
Director of Communications - **Fran Hildebrand**
Publication Contributors - **Tom Horn, Bella Farrow**
Photographer - **Caesar Alexzander, Pat Mazzer**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



By Torey Presti

We started the New Year with the induction of the new members of the Board of Directors. Please join me in welcoming Philip Alford, Ray Brown, Phil Hogan, Lori Lefkowitz and Lee Meyer. Thanks to Stephen Patton and Lorraine Baxter for facilitating the nominating process.

This year we have plans for celebrating our 80th Anniversary. In addition to the California Mille on April 27th (Bella promises to outdo herself once again), we are planning a dinner in June at one of the Nob Hill hotels to celebrate our 80th! We are also planning a fall picnic in Huntington Park. Bob and Lorraine Baxter have graciously volunteered to chair what promises to be fun event.

In January the University Club hosted a lovely cocktail party for our members. It was a beautiful evening with a backdrop of 'The City' framed from the 4th Floor. Our members were also treated to a lovely evening at the Big-4 hosted by one of our new neighbors, the Sterling Group. The Sterling Group, part of the Sunrise Corporation is building a new condominium complex on Van Ness and Clay due for completion in 2010. Victoria Stone of Sterling gave members a presentation of the new complex which includes a full support staff to meet the needs of the complex.

Our main project for this year and next will be the renovation of the Huntington Park. As you know, the Park accommodates everyone from 2 year olds to seniors and their pets. Trying to meet the needs of each group in the small area we have is challenging at best. We have employed a landscape architect who will provide us with drawings and a cost estimate to complete. By the April board of directors meeting we will have a better idea of the scope of the project.

On a serious note, we have experienced an increasing incidence of vandalism, graffiti, car break-ins and even some home burglaries in our neighborhood. We have reported these incidents to Central Station. With the help of the Nob Hill hotels and other concerned residents we are planning to study the feasibility of having a dedicated security officer on duty for the night hours.

In closing, may I wish all the members a very happy and healthy 2008!



COOL AND CRISP FOR THE HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

The Dorothy Fritz Cope Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony sponsored by the Nob Hill Association and the Huntington Hotel was held on Monday, Dec. 3, 2007 in Huntington Park. In a ceremony that rang in the official start of the holiday season on Nob Hill, Yomi Agunbiade, general manager of the Recreation and Parks Department, threw the switch lighting the Christmas trees at 6 p.m. as the bells of Grace Cathedral chimed. "The Nob Hill Association has been helping to keep Huntington Park beautiful since 1928", said Torey Presti, president of the association.



Santa stopped in to greet Nob Hill's children and the San Francisco Girls Chorus sang carols of the season.

The ceremony is a truly local event, embracing family and the city's can-do, pioneering spirit. In 1945, real state developer Eugene Fritz turned his Huntington Apartments into the Huntington Hotel, and five years later stunned the male-dominated industry by transferring ownership to his daughter, Dorothy Fritz. It was Dorothy Fritz's hard work that made the Huntington Hotel the must-stay address for generations of royalty, celebrity, and people with supremely good taste. Today, the ownership and operation of the landmark hotel remains in the hands of a third generation of family members.



Santa + Lights = Happy Children



Catherine MacMillan with Stephen Patton and Dean Jones



NHA President Torey Presti and his wife Virginia



Robert and Lorraine Baxter

ANNUAL MEETING

Ritz-Carlton Hotel ~ Monday, November 19, 2007

The Nob Hill Association commemorated its 79th year with a packed Grand Ballroom at the Ritz Carlton Hotel for its annual meeting of member on November 19, 2007. Numbering now nearly 800 members, more than 200 attended the meeting to review the Association's accomplishments for the last year and to acknowledge two outstanding public servants and numerous individuals all of whom give of their time, talent and resources to the City and to the Nob Hill neighborhood.

NHA president Torey Presti reported on the benchmarks for 2007 which included the Association's participation in the state of the art renovation of the St. Francis Hospital emergency room. He also reported on the ongoing efforts of the Association and the Huntington Park committee to update and modernize maintenance procedures for the Fountain of the Tortoises in the Park and the efforts to beautify the Jones Street Tank property.

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the Association's awards honoring San Francisco's Firefighter of the year and Police Officer of the year. Fire Department Chief Joanne Hayes-White presented the Firefighter of the year award to Assistant Deputy Chief Thomas Siragusa who serves as deputy chief in charge of training. He was also recognized for leading a team of firefighters to southern California during the massive coastal fires. Police Department Chief, Heather Fong, was also present as Central Station Captain Jim Dudley gave the Police Officer of the year award to Officer Matthew Fambrini, a fourth generation San Franciscan. Both award recipients made moving remarks in accepting the awards, particularly thanking their colleagues in the Fire and Police departments for their support. President Presti also made presentations to the Firefighters' Toy Program and for the lighting of the windows at Grace Cathedral, accepted by Grace Cathedral Dean Alan Jones.

Instituting a new tradition, President Presti made three Citizen Recognition awards to individuals who make a difference in the neighborhood. He recognized Jeannette and Tom Hsieh for organizing a cleanup of Huntington Park the first Saturday of every month; Susan Crossley and Timothy Collins for volunteering to clean the streets on the Hill; and John Doremus for his work cleaning off graffiti in the neighborhood.

Following the meeting, the Association hosted a lovely reception for the members and the award winners and their families and supporters. Wines and assorted waters and soft drinks were offered by Ritz Carlton staff to members while they nibbled on such succulent hors d'oeuvres as caramelized pear with Roquefort cheese and walnut on brioche, tuna tartare wakame and Colorado grilled lamb chops; caramelized onion, mushroom and goat cheese tartelette; and mini bouchée "Wellington" stuffed with beef mushroom duxelles and foie gras truffle. It was an exceptional and fun evening and has everyone looking forward to 2008.



Roland
Petersen
and Caryl
Ritter



Simi Barjesteh
and
Kamran Amjadi



Pat Collins
and
Hazel Blades



John Doremus and Patricia Pyle



Mary Sala and Peggy Montgomery



Brian Gilbert
and
Ann King



President Torey
Presti presenting
Citizenship award
to Tom and
Jeanette Hsieh



Firefighter contingent and friends



Citizenship award
for
Susan Crossley

Ellie and Theodore Brown
with
Gretchen and Bob Leiff



Tom Siragusa and Chief Hayes-White



Bella
and
Marie
Mitchell

Stephen Farrand
and
Dorothy Frantin



Matt Fambrini receiving award



Caesar Alexzander and
Giselle McKellar

Bob Wilhelm
with
Claudine Cheng
and
Irene Wilhelm and
Damon Raike



Lee Meyer with
Paul May
and Rachelle Reyes

Tom Horn and
David Lefkowitz



Dean Jones and Torey Presti

A STERLING PARTY



Nancy & Anthony Tringali



Dr. and Mrs. Manoyan, Pearl McFarland and Carolyn Baulsier



Bella, Carole Robertson, Tom Berry and Victoria Stone



Stephen Patton and John Doremus



Daniel Lee and Philippe Nguyen



Betty and Ed Norris



Syndi Seid and Ron Hildebrand



Leonore Karp and Tom Biscardi



Torey Presti, John Doremus and Robert Varni



Doris Tumey, John and Joyce Rothschild



John Rosin and Irene Bechtel



Veronica LeBeau, Tom Berry



Tom Foutch and Milton Mosk



Mary Kay McNulty and Kitty Wallin



Hazel Blades and Ludmila Eggleton



Phyllis Quinn, John Redmond, Victoria Stone



Frank Stein, Agnes Chen Brown, Paul May



NOB HILL ASSOCIATION AND UNIVERSITY CLUB



Club Vice President Owen O'Donnell welcomed guests and recounted how the University Club and the NHA had worked together as long ago as the 30's to defeat a planned helicopter pad at the Fairmont Hotel. Special Event Chair Bella Farrow thanked the Club for a fabulous evening and NHA President Torey Presti thanked Bella and Fran Hildebrand for putting the evening together.

Members seen in the crowd included Jean-Francois Gatti of the Mark Hopkins, Agnes Chen Brown, Gail Mejeur, Cathy Candelaria, Mary Ann Collier, Dr. Karl Ludwig, Lee Meyer and Doris Tumey (who brought new members to both this and The Sterling event-congratulations Doris!)

NHA members interested in their own tour of the Black Cat Bar should call Sara Isenhour at the University Club at 415-781-0900.



Joel Goodrich, Fran Hildebrand, Bella Farrow, and John Nicolai, Food & Beverage, University Club

DON'T MISS OUT ON ANY NOB HILL ASSOCIATION EVENTS FOR OUR 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

BECOME AN NHA MEMBER AND SUPPORT NOB HILL!

The Nob Hill Association invites any individual or business that shares our mission to preserve and improve the Nob Hill neighborhood and Huntington Park to join.

Please fill out the information, and mail to:

The Nob Hill Association, P. O. Box 475698, San Francisco, CA 94147

For more information visit our website: www.nobhillassociation.org

☐ I am paying by Check (Please make your check payable to the Nob Hill Association)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip Code _____

Telephone No. _____

☐ Annual Dues \$60

☐ Business \$80

☐ Life Membership \$500

☐ Donation \$ _____

☐ I am paying by credit card, Please complete the following information:

Card Type: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Cardholder Signature _____

Thank You!

OUT AND ABOUT ON THE HILL

GRACE CATHEDRAL

For more than a decade, top writers, scholars, entertainers, theologians and public servants have appeared at The Forum on Sundays 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., unless otherwise noted, for free, open, unrehearsed conversations with Alan Jones, Dean of Grace Cathedral, unless otherwise noted. The Forum is held in Gresham Hall on the lower level of Grace Cathedral. For a schedule of Forum guests go to: www.gracecathedral.org/calendar.

- **Sunday April 13**

Messiaen At 100:

A Life of Music, A Life of Faith

A special forum with a panel discussion of music and spirituality.



- **Sunday April 20**

2008 Pico Iyer: The Open Road

One of the most acclaimed and perceptive observers of globalism and Buddhism gives us the first serious consideration-for Buddhist and non-Buddhist alike-of the Fourteenth Dalai Lama's work and ideas as a politician, scientist, and philosopher.



- **Sunday April 27**

Mary Reath: Rome & Canterbury

A discussion of the determined but little known work being done to end the nearly five hundred year old division between the Roman Catholic and the Anglican/Episcopalian Churches.



- **Sunday May 4**

Marion Nestle: What To Eat

Dr. Nestle, professor of nutrition at New York University and author of Food Politics, Safe Food, and the recent What To Eat, shares her views on current controversies about food, for both humans and their pets.



THE UNIVERSITY CLUB, located at 800 Powell Street, invites NHA members to some special events. This historic private club will celebrate its 100th birthday on Nob Hill in 2008-2009. Members interested in these events or the University Club should contact 415/781-0900.

SAN FRANCISCO HISTORIAN CHARLES FRACCHIA

Mr. Fracchia continues his monthly talks on San Francisco history at the University Club. He will be offering his witty and informative insights about our city to Club and Nob Hill Association members on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 18 Tuesday, April 15 Tuesday, May 20

All talks begin with complementary appetizers which are included in the \$20 price per attendee. No host cocktails, wine and beer and non-alcoholic beverages are available.

DINNER ON THE HILL FOR THE HILL

Typical menu offerings include clam chowder, cobb salad, kobe beef burger, fresh fish, meatloaf. NHA members are invited to come to this casual dinner at the University Club on Thursdays 6:00-8:00 pm. Reservations are required. Call 415/781-0900.

HAPPENINGS AT THE RITZ CARLTON

Sunday Jazz Brunch in The Terrace

Sundays - 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

\$78 for adults; \$39 for children five to 12, exclusive of tax and gratuity.

San Francisco's only hotel alfresco brunch offers an extensive buffet and the music of some of the Bay Area's finest jazz performers.

A Champagne "Flight" in The Ritz Bar

Wednesday evenings - 6 to 9 p.m.

\$39 per guest, exclusive of tax and gratuity.

Enjoy three Sparkling Wines paired with three "tastes" from Dining Room Chef Ron Siegel followed by three dessert temptations by Pastry Chef Alexander Espiritu.



THE FAIRMONT HOTEL AND THE COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER

Relive history and support arts education in San Francisco right here on Nob Hill! The Venetian Room of the Fairmont Hotel will reopen for one night only on Monday, May 5th, 2008 with celebrated jazz vocalist Paula West headlining a lovely evening of food, wine, music and laughter.

Call 415-647-6015 ext. 76 for event information.



The Nob Hill Association
P. O. Box 475698
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94147

Save the Date
Mille 2008 April 27

NOTABLE MEMBERS

BUSINESS MEMBERS

American Concrete	Nob Hill Florist
Asseman Sky Travel Agency	Nob Hill Gazette
Californian Bar & Restaurant	Recharge Spa of Nob Hill*
Cathedral Apartments	S. F. Community Music Center
City Park*	San Francisco Residence Club Inc.
Ron Crosetti Design Studio	Saint Francis Hospital Foundation
Norman Eichelmann, Attorney at Law*	Sproule Lane Property Group
Ellis-Brooks	Swan Oyster Depot
Falcon Associates, Inc.	The Comstock Apartments
Friends of Dorothy Travel	The Sterling of San Francisco*
Gomez & Patton, Inc.	Twins Hill
LeBeau Nob Hill Market	1200 California Corp.
Lefkowitz & Co. CPA	University Club
D. J. Mehler Collections	Vendetta
Mark Hopkins Rental Condos	Wells Fargo Insurance Services
Muratore General Contractors	Xavier & Hahn, CPA

* New Member

SPECIAL MEMBERS

Pacific Union Club
Saint Francis Memorial Hospital

HOTELS

The Fairmont
The Huntington
Inter-Continental Mark Hopkins
Renaissance Stanford Court
The Ritz-Carlton

2008 NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Ross Anderson	Mr. Brian Gilbert
Mrs. Carolyn Baulsler, Esq.	Mr. Marcel Kapulica
Mr. John Brattesani	Mr. Gordon Lahti
Mr. Scott Burgner	Ms. Caren Lorber
Mr. Thomas Cardellino	Mr. John Hummel
Mr. Michael Cassidy	Mrs. Pear McFarland
Ms. Claudine Cheng	Mr. Rasender Nanavati
Dr. Carolyn Cline	M/M Allen Morton
Ms. Sandra Ferguson	Ms. Marnay O'Neal
Mr. John Gannon	

Mary Kay McNulty is the recipient of the 2008 drawing to receive a NHA membership for 2009. Congratulations Ms. McNulty!

NEW LIFE MEMBERS 2008

- Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Held • Ms. Paula-Jo Husack
- Dr. & Mrs. John Manoyan • T. Otis Paul, M.D.

NEW BUSINESS LIFE MEMBER 2008

- The Sterling of San Francisco

We appreciate the support of the mentioned business members and are delighted to list our new individual members. For membership information about the Nob Hill Association please call (415) 346-8720 or visit our website at www.nobhillassociation.org.