



# ***Heritage Happenings***

**March 2025**

**The monthly newsletter published by residents of  
Heritage on the Marina, San Francisco CA, USA**

**Julia Morgan Building ~ Centenary Celebration ~ 03-27-2025**



**We should all look this good at 100!**

This is a special edition of the *Heritage Happenings* to celebrate the wonderful event celebrating the centenary of the Julia Morgan Building.

***Heritage Happenings***

The monthly publication published by residents of  
**Heritage on the Marina**

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**A Century of Care**

As we mark the centenary of the Julia Morgan Building, we reflect on a remarkable blend of change and constancy.

A century ago, the San Francisco Ladies Protection and Relief Society pivoted. After serving as an orphanage, its federal funding ceased. The board repurposed the Society to care for elderly and infirm women, commissioning Julia Morgan to design a building for them.

Over the ensuing 36,800+ days, while many changes have occurred, the core mission of care has remained. Imagine: roughly 110,000 breakfasts, lunches, and dinners served within these walls. Countless interactions – chats with nurses, apartments cleaned, pictures hung – represent consistent dedication across the decades.

This ability to adapt while maintaining steadfast service is the Society's hallmark, a testament to the enduring vision of successive boards, staff, and volunteers. It also honors Julia Morgan, whose design created a structure that has gracefully weathered time and adapted to evolving needs.

Now, as another pivot approaches, may the Board, residents, and staff embrace the future with the same blend of flexibility and consistency that has defined this institution for the past one hundred years.

*Theo Armour*

# Centenary Celebration Sponsors

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## CENTENARIANS

Martha Nell Beatty  
Patti Gallagher  
Alvin Lochan



Mary welcomes the guests to the centenary celebration



Mary thanking SF Supervisor Stephen Sherrill for his proclamation of San Francisco Heritage on the Marina Day



Board member Kevin Gerber with Jeannee Parker Martin from Leading Age CA

## Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Julia Morgan Building

*Mary Linde, CEO*

Welcome, everyone! I'm delighted to have you here as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of this remarkable landmark, the **Julia Morgan Building**. Yes, look around you, she's a beauty!

Before I share a few words, I'd like to take a moment to recognize some special individuals. First, a heartfelt thank you to **Supervisor Stephen Sherrill** for joining us today and for honoring this occasion last week at City Hall. His proclamation officially designates March 27, 2025, as **Heritage on the Marina Day**—a truly meaningful tribute!

We are also pleased to have representatives from the offices of Speaker Emerita **Nancy Pelosi** and Assembly Member **Catherine Stefani** joining us briefly.

A special thank you goes to our dedicated board members, both past and present. Your leadership and guidance are invaluable—not only in preserving Julia Morgan's legacy but also in ensuring that we remain strong stewards of our



A refuge for a century for many women, children, and men



Scanned blueprint: "Front Elevation, Building for San Francisco Ladies Protection and Relief Society. Julia Morgan, October 1923"



Angie Lam, Director of Dining Services extrordinaire

resources and continue to serve San Francisco for another century.

We are gathered here today because, in 1853, the **San Francisco Ladies' Protection and Relief Society** was founded to support women and children in need. As their mission expanded, they entrusted Julia Morgan to design a home—a true refuge for those who lived here. Throughout this building, you'll find symbols of care, compassion, and love, intentionally placed by Miss Morgan herself. In a few minutes, our very own resident, Theo Armor, will share more about these symbols and their significance.

One such symbol is the Tudor rose. If you notice members of our planning committee wearing gold rose pins, please take a moment to thank them for their tremendous work in bringing this celebration to life. I'd like to give a special shoutout to **Angie Lam, our Director of Dining Services**—she's the driving force behind today's incredible food, drinks, commemorative cookies, and even the stunning ice sculpture. Angie and her amazing team deserve a huge round of applause!



Eleanor and Doris inspecting the Resident Art Gallery



Woody LaBounty from SF Heritage



Cathy Wilson, oldest living person to have lived here as a child

Today, we not only honor this extraordinary building—where so many of us live and work—but also the vibrant life that has flourished within its walls for the past century. I encourage you to visit the **second-floor Resident Art Gallery**, where our residents have created a beautiful and inspiring display reflecting the heart of this community—a vision that began with Julia Morgan herself. A special thank you to **Doris Howard, Margaret Jacobs, Eleanor Bissel, and Board Director Cynthia Barton** for making this exhibition possible.

We are also here to ensure that this legacy continues. Your generosity sustains our mission, allowing us to serve future generations in this magnificent building. I am deeply grateful to our many event sponsors—please now refer to the back of your program for a full list as I acknowledge each of them.

Thanks to their generosity, this event raised almost **\$51,000** in sponsorship funds. A huge thank you to all our sponsors!

I also want to extend our gratitude to **Woody LaBounty and SF Heritage** for featuring us in their March newsletter.

A particularly special guest today is **Cathy Wilson**, who



Carm Arbura ~ born in 1925

~ ♀ ~



Sabrina scanning the minutes of the Board meetings of the past century

lived in the Julia Morgan Building from 1947 to 1949 when it was a convalescent home. We believe Cathy is the last living person to have resided here before our transition to serving seniors in retirement. Cathy, we are truly honored to have you here today to celebrate your former home.

And finally, before introducing our next speaker, I want to acknowledge someone very dear to us. Like this beautiful building, our beloved resident **Carm Arbura** is also celebrating 100 years this year. **Carm, you are a treasure—just like this place we call home.** We are fortunate to have three more centenarians living here (they are all well past 100!): Betty Dowell, Enid Leff, and Margaret Johnson.

Now, it is my pleasure to invite **Carolyn Kiernat, Principal at Page & Turnbull**, to the podium to speak about our landmark design.





Theo Armour asking the questions



Gardens running from Francisco to Laguna to Bay



Finial at the front of the slate roof

## What is Julia Telling Us?

*Theo Armour*

Greetings **Supervisor Sherrill**,  
Felicitations Architect **Kiernat**,  
Hello Chairman **Randy**  
and board members, distinguished  
residents, team members and  
fellow citizens

Many of you have walked past or  
even inside this building countless  
times. But have you ever - truly -  
looked at it? Have you noticed how  
unique and special this **mansion**  
is?

- Have you noticed that the  
garden extends the entire length  
of a city block? It has fronts on  
three streets. Francisco, Laguna,  
and Bay. There's no other mansion  
with a garden like this in northern  
San Francisco.

- And did you ever imagine that  
the fence, gates, the path, the  
planting, the steps all remain  
exactly as they were — back in  
**1925**?

- Did you ever consider that the  
roof is made of **stone slates**  
imported from Belgium? Not just a  
fake front slate roof. The entire  
roof is slate!

- Have you ever felt that the  
building might be **earthquake-  
resistant**? Tom! Can you knock  
on that column? What's it made  
of? Tom says: "It's solid!" The  
bricks wrap around a core of  
reinforced concrete.



View of the back of the building from McGinley terrace



Terracotta panel above front door



Margaret admiring our photo of Julia Morgan

- Did you ever walk around the building and say "Gee, it's lovely on every side of the building"? Most houses in San Francisco have a nice fancy front but, on the sides and back, it's just cheap siding. Not in this place!

- Did you notice the building offers hundreds of examples of works of art? The terracotta decorations are part of what is called the "**golden era of California art pottery.**"

- And you probably didn't know that the final construction price was **\$20,000** under budget.

Well, how did all these lovely things happen? It happened because there was this interesting woman who happened to live on 2229 Divisadero Street between Washington and Clay, about a mile from here. **Julia Morgan**, a Bay Area native, a San Francisco resident, first woman architect in California, first woman to graduate from the École des Beaux Arts in Paris.

She did so much, but unfortunately, we know more about her personal life than we do about her professional life. She gave few interviews. As she said:  
**"My buildings will be my legacy... they will speak for me — long after I'm gone."**

Over the past five years, as I've walked this campus, Julia has been speaking to me. Julia is a supremely talented "**building whisperer**". What are some of



Shield above the front door



One of the roses in the three Tudor roses panel



Corinthian column capital with two rosebuds

the special things she whispers about? The style of the building is known as Tudor Revival, just like a proper sixteenth century English manor house. That means the decorations are more than just aesthetic. They must carry historic or symbolic meaning. You can think of old-time decorations just as **emojis for buildings**.

Example: Just above the front door, there are two shields. Unadorned. Just shields. Like for a knight. Well, why do you carry a shield? To protect yourself, of course. But why here? The shields whisper the answer: "Come inside — and the **San Francisco Ladies Protection and Relief Society** will protect you!"

I've spent much time thinking about the largest decorations: The two large terracotta panels on both wings of the second floor. Each plaque contains three images of a special flower. It's called the Tudor Double Rose. It's the family crest of the Tudor family. This rose symbolizes the end of the War of the Roses, the reuniting of the Houses of York and Lancaster. So, a Tudor rose on a Tudor building makes sense.

But there are more than just two of these roses. As you walk around the building, you begin to see roses everywhere: I can count at least twenty examples of roses in different media: in terracotta, cement, stone, metal, lacquer, wood - and brick. I'm not talking



Stone double roses on the Morgan Parlor fireplace



Dining Services prepared lovely cookies with edible symbols of love



What would Julia say about the Julia Morgan Building as an ice sculpture?



about dozens of roses. I'm talking about hundreds of roses. On every wall of the building, even the Brutalist-style building at the back has roses.

So why does Julia obsess with the rose? What is she whispering? Here is my theory: **The rose is an ancient symbol of love.** On Valentines Day, what do you send to someone you love? A dozen roses, of course! Robert Burns the Scottish poet wrote: "O my Luve — is like a red, red rose."

In designing this home for women in need, Julia Morgan wrapped them — and us today — in a quiet message of safety, comfort — and love.

And indeed, this message resonates to this day. After these talks, kindly go up to the art gallery on the second floor. There's an exhibit on the history of the building and the art of its residents. The exhibit is a love letter to the building. From a community filled with love. Julia still speaks to us. Julia is whispering, "You are standing in one of my **loveliest buildings in San Francisco.**"

Let us return the compliment. Let us speak to Julia. Kindly raise your glasses. "Julia Morgan: May your legacy continue to speak to us for many years to come! **Thank you, Julia Morgan!**"

Thank you and have a **lovely** time!



Carolyn Kiernat presenting the San Francisco Landmark Designation



Randy Gridley, Chairman of Board of Directors of the San Francisco Ladies Protection and Relief Society



Laura Wagner board member and lead on the successful fundraising event.

## Randy Gridley

Thank you all for joining us in celebrating one hundred years of service to San Francisco in this beautiful building. The Morgan Building is a monument to the community we all are a part of, not just at Heritage on the Marina but also the entire City of San Francisco. In its 172-year history the San Francisco Ladies Protection and Relief Society has been both supportive of, and supported by, the San Francisco community. We are a testament to the spirit that makes our city so great. With your help we look forward to many more years ahead serving the San Francisco community and its seniors. Thank you.

## Laura Wagner

Laura spoke about Heritage on the Marina being the best retirement community in San Francisco and how proud she is to be a Board Member. She thanked all the sponsors for their generous contributions and put in another plug to donate to Heritage on the Marina!

# Julia Morgan



Julia Morgan (January 20, 1872 – February 2, 1957) was an American architect and engineer. She designed more than seven hundred buildings in California during a long and prolific career. She is best known for her work on Hearst Castle in San Simeon, California.

She designed many edifices for institutions serving women and girls. From 1922 to 1925, Julia Morgan was enlisted to design a boarding home to house elderly women in San Francisco. The beautiful Julia Morgan building is owned and operated by the San Francisco Ladies Protection and Relief Society, one of California's first philanthropic organizations, established in 1853. Today the building is home to Heritage on the Marina, San Francisco's premier Life Plan Community.

## Links of Interest



[\*\*Heritage on the Marina\*\*](#)

Website home page



PDF: [\*\*Julia Morgan Building ~ Centenary Celebration ~ 03-27-2025\*\*](#)

This publication, a special edition of *Heritage Happenings*



PDF: [\*\*Heritage on the Marina Turns 100 as Landmark\*\*](#)

Reprint from *SF Heritage Newsletter*, Jan-March 2025



PDF: [\*\*San Francisco Heritage on the Marina Day\*\*](#)

March 27, 2025, San Francisco Supervisors Certificate of Honor proposed by Supervisor Stephen Sherrill



Book PDF: [\*\*Inasmuch...\*\*](#)

The One Hundred-Year History of the San Francisco Ladies Protection and Relief Society, 1953



Book PDF: [\*\*A History of the Heritage ~ 1853 - 1970\*\*](#)

By Carol Green Wilson



Book PDF: [\*\*Our Heritage\*\*](#)

San Francisco Ladies Protection and Relief Society ~ 1853-2003  
~ The First 150 Years.



Wikipedia: [\*\*San Francisco Ladies Protection and Relief Society\*\*](#)



Wikipedia: [\*\*Julia Morgan Building\*\*](#)

**California State Legislature Certificate of Recognition  
Signed by California assemblymember Catherine Stefani**



**Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition**

**Signed by Member of Congress Nancy Pelosi**



*Certificate of Special  
Congressional Recognition*

*Presented to  
Heritage on the Marina*

*Celebrating 100 years of impactful service, support and care to the San Francisco Senior Community*

*in recognition of outstanding and invaluable  
service to the community.*

March 27, 2025

DATE

  
Nancy Pelosi

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

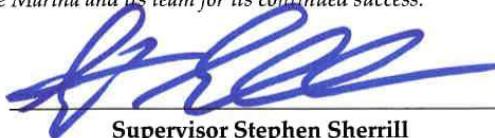
# Certificate of Honor

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
City and County of San Francisco

*The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby issues, and authorizes the execution of, this Certificate of Honor in appreciative public recognition of distinction and merit for outstanding service to a significant portion of the people of the City and County of San Francisco by:*

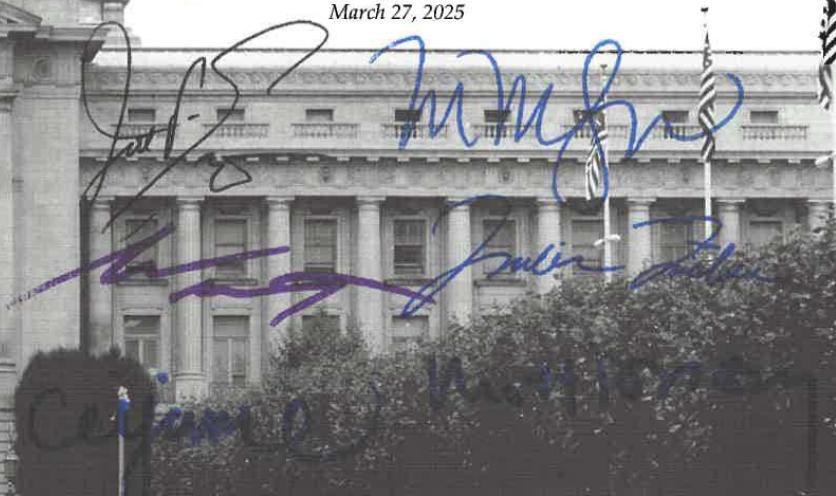
## **Heritage on the Marina**

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors congratulates Heritage on the Marina on its commitment to community and social change for the past 100 years. Heritage on the Marina, which opened in 1925, is an organization that has continued to support elderly residents in San Francisco. The organization has continued to uplift residents which is why, in San Francisco, March 27, 2025 will be named Heritage on the Marina Day. The Board extends its best wishes to Heritage on the Marina and its team for its continued success.



Supervisor Stephen Sherrill

March 27, 2025

  
Bill Mandel  
Eric Chan  
David Chiu

**Mockup of the bronze San Francisco Landmark Plaque  
to be installed to the right of the front door of the  
Julia Morgan Building**

