

NOB HILL NOTABLES

HUGE CROWD ATTENDS ANNUAL MEETING

The largest crowd anyone could remember turned out for this year's annual meeting, held at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. NHA Association members watched attentively as the Captain of Central Police Station, Captain James Dudley presented the Association's Police Officer of the Year Award to a team of deserving SFPD officers, Mario De Fina and Martin Garay. San Francisco Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White presented the Firefighter of the Year Award to Firefighter-Paramedic Patrick D'Arcy and also to the SFFD Toy Program, coordinated by Sally Casazza. Each award carries a cash gift as well as a beautiful framed certificate. The Mark Hopkins also presented gift certificates to the award winners. Alan Jones, now celebrating his 20th year as Dean of Grace Cathedral, accepted a contribution from the Association to the stained glass lighting project at the Cathedral.

Catherine MacMillan, completing her first year as President of the NHA, gave the traditional "State of Nob Hill" address. Noting that the Association has been in existence now for 77 years, she spoke of the progress that has been made in the last year to improve the Nob Hill neighborhood by beautification of Huntington Park and improvements made to the Jones Street Tank Project. She commended NHA board member Fran Hildebrand on her initiative to develop and preserve the archives of Nob Hill and invited all members and guests to search their own files for photos and records relevant to the history of Nob Hill.



Chief Joanne Hayes-White and Honoree Fire Fighter Paramedic Patrick D'Arcy

Following the meeting, a sumptuous buffet and bar was graciously provided by General Manager, Cameron Black, and staff of the Mark Hopkins Hotel. Chef Luis Martinez presided over the pasta buffet. A special thanks to Paul Kuen, Director of Catering, who helped make the 2005 annual meeting one of the best ever!



Officers Mario DeFina, Capt. James Dudley and Martin Garay

Emergency Preparedness for Nob Hill

Over 60 Nob Hill residents attended the emergency preparedness seminar sponsored by the NHA Saturday morning, January 14. Speakers from the Office of Emergency Services and Homeland Security, the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team, the American Red Cross and SF Safe emphasized the need and resources available for disaster preparedness. NHA Board President Catherine MacMillan and Board member Syndi Seid co-chaired the event. Seid thanked Pam Matsuda of SF Safe for her help in putting the seminar together.

Joe Caruso, Office of Emergency Services and Homeland Security will be working with the Association to schedule a brief training on neighborhood preparedness later in the year.

<p>2 - 3 HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING</p>		<p>4 - 5 ANNUAL MEETING</p>		<p>6 NOTABLE EVENTS</p>		<p>7 CZAR OF PARK & REC</p>
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Huntington Park Tree Lighting

BEAUTIFUL WEATHER REIGNS OVER HOLIDAY CEREMONY

After two years of rain and wind, the annual Dolly Fritz Cope Tree Lighting Ceremony in Huntington Park was blessed with clear skies and dry weather. It might have been a bit frisky, but that didn't stop several hundred neighbors and friends from attending the yearly tradition atop Nob Hill. The Huntington Hotel provided hot chocolate to keep everyone's hands and tummies warm. This year, thanks to the vision of NHA President Catherine MacMillan and the contacts of NHA board member Gregory Cheng, a musical trio with Nolan Gasser on piano, Roger Glenn on the marimbas and flute and Bob Steele on the double bass, entertained the assembled group before and after the tree lighting. As has become tradition, the San Francisco Girls Chorus, under the direction of Elizabeth Avakian, sang holiday carols to everyone's delight. Dean Alan Jones of Grace Cathedral gave an ecumenical invocation and Catherine MacMillan made moving remarks in tribute to her father, Newton Cope, who had passed away just days earlier and had played such an important role in the life and history of Nob Hill. As Mayor Newsom was still in China celebrating the 25th anniversary of the San Francisco & Shanghai Sister City agreement, the giant switch illuminating the trees was thrown this year by the new general manager of the Recreation and Parks Department, Yomi Agunbiade, with the help of SF Fire Department Chief Joanne Hayes-White. Then it was back to the music.



Yomi Agunbiade and Chief Hayes-White throw the switch



S. F. Girl's Chorus with Director Elizabeth Avakian



Bob Steele on the double bass and Nolan Gasser at the piano



Roger Glenn playing in the lights



Simi Barjesteh, Irene Bechtel, Bella and Sylvia Clough

Lisa McDonell and son



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



By Catherine MacMillan

Happy 2006! I hope you all had a chance to attend our Annual Meeting at the Mark Hopkins. Thanks to the Mark for giving us a great venue and outstanding service and food. We had a great time. The Annual Dorothy Fritz Cope Tree Lighting was also a big success. The weather was so great, albeit very cold! Ten gallons of Hot Chocolate helped to warm the crowd. At the event, I took the liberty of honoring my father, Newton Cope Sr., who died on November 26th. Mr. Cope and the Huntington Hotel, which he headed, helped rebuild Huntington Park in 1982. Dean Alan Jones gave a blessing, and Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White and Yomi Agunbiade, GM of the Recreation and Parks Department “flipped” the switch to turn on the tree lights.

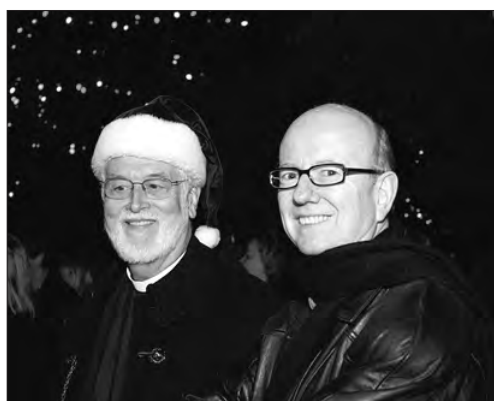
2006 will be a very exciting year for Nob Hill Residents. As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Earthquake and Great Fire, the focus will be on Nob Hill as the area that lost the most dramatic buildings. Nob Hill lost all but one of its mansions that sat overlooking the empire that the Big Four helped build. The homes of Stanford, Crocker, Huntington, Hopkins and so many others were destroyed, along with countless treasures. Everyone across the world was horrified and fearful of what damage an earthquake could cause. What could be a better reminder than this anniversary that we all need to be prepared! The Nob Hill Association did its part by starting the year off with its Disaster Preparedness Fair on January 14 at the Masonic Center. In spite of rain, it was a big success. All participants were very pleased with the quality and quantity of information they received. Thanks to Syndi Seid for doing such a great job organizing this event.

Your Association has three new board members: Harriet Quarré, Joan Lawrence and Theodore Brown. We look forward to working with them! Please let me and your board members know how your organization can do a better job of serving and enhancing Nob Hill!



Caesar Alexander and Chief Joanne Hayes-White

SFFD's “finest” Firefighters



Dean Alan Jones with Tom Horn

Future NHA members enjoying the “Magic of the Music”



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 - Catherine MacMillan

Vice President - Torey Presti

Treasurer - Bob Baxter

Secretary - James Fotenos

Publication chairperson - Sylvia Clough

Publication contributors - Fran Hildebrand, Tom Horn

Photographer - Caesar Alexander



Phillip Elissetche, Serena Fritz-Cope, Judge and Mrs. William Stein



Holly Huebel, Cynthia Bradford and Jane Koss



SFPD Cpt. Taccini , Bella Farrow, SFFD Chief Joanne Hayes-White

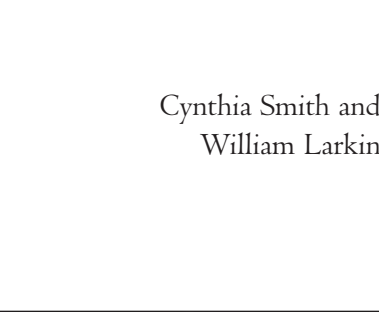


Patricia Ditzel, Hazel Blades, Pat Thompson and Lola Bugatto

ANNUAL M



Robert Varni with Catherine MacMillan



Cynthia Smith and William Larkin



Meg Ruxton with Gregory Cheng



Officer Garay's children enjoying the festivities



Caryl and Roland Peterson



L E E T I N G



Mac McCroskey and
Dorothy Trulsen



Jeannett and Tom Hsieh with Sylvia Blumenfeld



Dianne and Charles Paskerian with Catherine and
Hubert Hsuan

NHA President
Catherine MacMillan



Pauline Robert
and Christine Selle



Theodore Brown, Carole Robinson and Ellie Brown

Tom Horn and
Gary Gielow



Phillippe Gshwind, Tom Horn, Jaleh Jordan, Germain
Gshwind, Mary Sagan, Sylvia Clough and Bella Farrow

FORMER SF ARCHIVIST ADDRESSES NHA BOARD



Gladys Hansen and Linda Breitstone

Linda Breitstone, NHA program chair, invited city archivist Gladys Hansen, who worked at the San Francisco Public Library for 47 years, to speak to the Association's Board of Directors at its January meeting. Her talk was one in a series of brief presentations for the board begun by President Catherine MacMillan and under the leadership of board member Linda Breitstone. Hanson's talk was particularly appropriate given the fact that San Francisco will be commemorating the centennial of the 1906 earthquake and fire this coming April 18.

Considered the City's leading expert regarding the great earthquake and fire, Hansen has been studying the earthquake since 1946. She has particularly focused on attempting to determine the true number of people who died. Originally thought to number in the hundreds, Hansen has uncovered proof that the death toll well exceeds 3,000. She calls her project the "Survey of the Dead."

Now that she has retired from the San Francisco library, Hansen spends most of her time as curator of the "Virtual Museum of the City of San Francisco," a fascinating website containing more than 4,000 pages that can be found at www.sfmuseum.org. The object of the website is to "bring the fabled history of San Francisco into the light of historical accuracy." The site functions as a general multi-media website utilizing text, graphics and sounds. While primarily a research and educational site for scholars, young and old, the site features the interesting, the amusing, and the unusual in San Francisco's history. It is definitely a must for anyone interested in learning more about San Francisco's fascinating past.

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ENCORE PETER!

Peter Mintun, returns to Nob Hill for an encore performance at the *Salute to the Joy of Making Music* party this spring. His 2006 appearance will be at the University Club, 800 Powell, Monday, May 8 at 6:00pm.

The late Herb Caen called Mintun *the Vladimir Horowitz* of cocktail pianists. Whether playing at the Huntington or Fairmont hotels in San Francisco or the Carlyle in Manhattan, the New Yorker's observations fit: *Peter Mintun is in charge...elegant, agreeable and reassuring...A genuine throwback to a gentler time.*



The event, sponsored by the Board of Directors of Community Music Center, is a benefit for their scholarship program for disadvantaged children and teens. In addition to Mintun's performance, the evening will feature wine and soft drinks, a light supper prepared by the University Club's Carême Award winner John Kane. Dessert and coffee follow. No-host cocktails are available. Fred LaCosse and Terry Lowry will emcee the event. For more information call 647-6015 ext 76.

CZAR OF REC AND PARK

HAS HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Yomi Agunbiade became general manager of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department two months ago, after serving as its acting manager for more than a year.

From his spacious office in McLaren Lodge, he oversees a department with a \$100 million dollar budget, 1,100 employees and 200 playgrounds and parks, from the tiny Cow Hollow Playground in the Marina District to Monster Park, home of the 49ers.

Like McLaren, Yomi Agunbiade — pronounced YAWme AhgoonbeeahDEY — is an immigrant.

He is the second born son of a Nigerian diplomat who shuttled his family - a wife and three sons - to consulates and embassies around the world, including London, Mauritania, Senegal and Venezuela.

The Agunbiade family arrived in San Francisco in 1984.

Agunbiade, a self-described “dorky African kid” in high school, attended San Francisco State University, where he majored in mechanical engineering, inspired by the example of “family heroes”, uncles who were dedicated to improving living conditions in Nigeria by designing roads, buildings and water systems.

While in college, Agunbiade landed a student-trainee position in the Department of Public Works. The agency hired Agunbiade as an engineer in the fall of 1992, after he graduated from S. F. State.

He was assigned to the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant, where he worked alongside engineers and architects during the last five years of the 15-year construction project.

Later, Agunbiade oversaw the installation of a state-of-the-art telecommunications systems at City Hall, part of the \$300 million project to restore and upgrade the historic building, which was damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. It reopened with great fanfare in January 1999. That same year, Mayor Willie Brown established the Office of the City Architect, and appointed Agunbiade as its capital project director. In 2003, Brown chose Agunbiade to manage the \$400 million capital improvement program for the Recreation and Park Department.



Yomi Agunbiade

In 2004, Mayor Gavin Newsom selected him as the department's acting general manager. Two months ago, he removed “acting” from Agunbiade's title.

As a general manager, Agunbiade has many masters: the mayor and board of supervisors, athletic leagues that use the city's courts, diamonds, gyms and soccer fields; kids, teens and adults who enroll in recreation center programs; residents seeking simple solace in the city's open spaces.

In a city where people are passionate about their parks, it's hard to keep everyone happy.

“In this job, you collect enemies quickly,” Agunbiade said, in a matter-of fact tone.

“Maybe it's silly and naive on my part, but I would rather people care than not,” he said. “I really don't have a problem with getting a phone call from someone saying, ‘I was in Lafayette Park or I was in Alta Plaza Park and the planter beds looked shabby. I would rather get that call any day than have that person just walk by.’”

*~ Reprinted in part from S. F. Chronicle, October 7, 2000.
Staff writer Kathleen Sullivan*

NOB HILL NOTABLE MEMBERS

BUSINESS MEMBERS

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The Comstock Apartments
The Vampire Tour of S. F.
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1200 California Corp.
University Club
Wells Fargo Bank - Union Square
Xavier & Hahn, CPA
* *New Member*

HOTELS

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

SPECIAL MEMBERS

Pacific Union Club
Saint Francis Memorial Hospital

2006 NEW MEMBERS

Ms. Carol Jean King	M/M Neil Mussallem	M/M Stephen Friedkin
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M/M William Larkin	Ms. Patty Jo Ruthland	M/M James Hickey
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NEW LIFE MEMBERS 2006

- Ellie & Theodore Brown • Pamela & Theodore Deikel
Susan O'Sullivan • Suzy & Bennett Katz • Barbara & Daniel Mount
- Gail & Carmen Policy • Judy & Richard Guggenhime
- Lisa Ramsey & Ray Siotto • Ms. Joan Zimmerman

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.



The Nob Hill Association
1177 California St. Suite A
San Francisco, CA 94108

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
Don't forget 2006 membership
renewal is due!