

# NOB HILL NOTABLES

## Surprises at 2009 California Mille

The 19th annual California Mille held Sunday, April 26, had a few surprises for the hundreds of car fans, Nob Hill Association members and neighbors who attended. The basic Mille stayed the same, of course. Vintage sports cars buffs from all over California showed off their cars all across Nob Hill: in Huntington Park, in front of the Fairmont Hotel and on side streets all around the hill. The annual Mille Sunday reception, a benefit for the Nob Hill Association, unites an international group of rare sports racing and production cars dating from 1927 through 1957 for a 1000 miles journey through Northern California patterned after the world-famous Italian "Mille Miglia," which ran from 1927 through 1957 from Brescia in the North of Italy to Rome and back.



Everyone is invited to view the cars, taking photos and asking questions, even sitting in the cars when the owners approve. But in addition to this free event, hundreds of friends of Nob Hill and of Huntington Park contribute generously to benefit the Nob Hill Association's efforts to beautify all of Nob Hill and preserve its history. The event netted \$10,000 for the maintenance and improvement of the park.

This year, unlike years past, the sumptuous Italian buffet and reception was moved into the Fairmont Hotel into the beautiful Gold Room. Hosted by the Fairmont and its regional manager, Tom Klein, guests sipped on bloody Marys, fine California wines and dined on an exquisite Italian buffet prepared by the fine chefs at the Fairmont. Additionally, exciting raffle prizes were offered courtesy of the Fairmont Hotels & Resorts.

And if the car show and reception weren't enough, this year featured a legendary San Francisco personality, Kjell Qvale, owner of San Francisco's British Motors (Jaguar, Land Rover, Lamborghini, Bentley, Lotus) who mingled with the guests and signed copies of a book he has written about his colorful life, "I Never Look Back." Although Kjell is almost 90 years old, he was happy to pose for pictures in front of the two cars, a Jaguar and a Bentley, that he had brought into the Gold Room for the occasion. Qvale donated all proceeds from the sale of his book that day to the Nob Hill Foundation.

This was truly one of the best California Mille's ever. Special thanks go to Chair Bella Farrow and her Assistant Chair, Fran Hildebrand, as well as the Co-Chairs Tom Klein, Lois Lehrman and Martin Swig.



Kjell Qvale,  
owner of  
San Francisco's  
British Motors

Save  
the Date

- **Vampire Tour of Nob Hill**  
Saturday, August 15  
5:45 PM
- **Annual Meeting**  
Mark Hopkins Hotel  
Monday, November 23
- **Tree Lighting**  
Huntington Park  
Monday, November 30

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MILLE PHOTOS



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PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE



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EVENTS  
ON THE HILL



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WICKED TEA

# ANNUAL MILLE ENJOYED BY ALL!



## SAINT FRANCIS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

### HOB NOB ON THE HILL

Tuesday December 1, 2009 *Save the Date*

## GRACE CATHEDRAL

### ANNOUNCES SPECIAL EVENTS

Visit [www.gracecathedral.org/calendar](http://www.gracecathedral.org/calendar) for other events

**Friday, September 18, 7:30 p.m.**

#### Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge

One of the leading mixed-voice choirs in the UK, led by Stephen Layton, their music has been hailed as “precise and exuberant ... wonderfully expressive ... elementally exciting” (Daily Telegraph). Featuring the music of British composers from all ages, including Tallis, Byrd, Stanford, and Elgar, alongside European greats such as Bach and Mendelssohn.

Cost: \$15/\$20 [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or 800-838-3006.

**September 21 - 27**

#### Tools For Peace Mandala Project

Grace Cathedral and Tools For Peace, a Tibetan-based non-profit, host an incredible week-long special event, the Mandala Project, whose mission is to provide practical methods to cultivate compassion, peace, and well-being. Schoolchildren from four Bay Area schools will spend five afternoons (September 21 to 25) creating a Community Sand Mandala in the cathedral, alongside a traditional Sand Mandala created by Tibetan Lamas. Mandalas are ancient Tibetan art forms symbolically representing a microcosm of the universe from the human perspective. This week-long creative collaboration culminates in a Gala celebration on September 26 at 6 p.m., that includes a champagne reception, an introduction of the project by student participants, a specially chosen short concert by the astonishing multi-Grammy Award-winner k.d. lang, a simple yet elegant dinner by influential chef Alice Waters, and a live auction—event proceeds to benefit Grace Cathedral and Tools for Peace. On September 27, there will be a dissolution ceremony for the mandalas performed at the 11 a.m. service.

Cost: Viewing the creation and dissolution of the sand mandalas is free. \$50 for the reception, program, and concert on Saturday; \$250 also includes the dinner and auction. Attendance is extremely limited. For more information contact 415-749-6355.



David Lefkowitz

A love of tradition has never weakened a nation, indeed it has strengthened nations in their hour of peril; but the new view must come, the world must roll forward. (Sir Winston Churchill, *speech in the House of Commons, November 29, 1944*)

In my previous message, I wrote about change coming to the Hill, and how we must prepare for it and decide how to respond to that change.

Three months later, your Membership has heard all the arguments in favor, and against, the physical and a operational changes being proposed at the Masonic Auditorium. Opponents and proponents have lobbied heavily to influence the NHA membership (and, indeed, the entire community). When the lobbying stopped, your Board debated the matter, and voted overwhelmingly against the Conditional Use Permit currently under consideration. A strongly worded letter, reflecting the Board's position, has been delivered to the Planning Commission.

We are advised that the Fairmont has disclosed plans for converting its tower into luxury condominiums. The San Francisco hospitality market has changed during recent years, rendering the Fairmont Nob Hill a luxury tourist destination, while the lucrative convention business has shifted to the trendier SOMA hotels. The plan calls for retaining and re-constructing the original Fairmont tower structure, plus building out amenities that will serve both transient and permanent residents.

We look forward to a presentation by the Fairmont to the entire NHA membership, permitting the neighbors to see for themselves the proposed project, and have opportunity to make inquiries of those who will direct the project's execution.

After all facts are known, and all voices are heard, we will convene the Board again, to debate the matter, and decide on an official position. This position will be delivered to the Planning Commission for its consideration of the Fairmont's Conditional Use Permit application.

In closing, I wish everyone a peaceful San Francisco Summer.

### 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, David Lefkowitz • Vice President, James Fotenos • Treasurer, Lori Lefkowitz • Secretary, Joan Moon  
Director of Communications, Fran Hildebrand • Publication Contributors, Bella Farrow and Tom Horn • Photographer, Tom Horn

## RITZ-CARLTON

### EXPANDS LOBBY-LEVEL DINING

#### *The Terrace to Serve Meeting Spaces on Lower Floors*

Nob Hill residents are nostalgic for the Terrace but are enjoying dining in the Lobby Lounge. The hotel's Lobby Lounge, a central gathering and dining spot providing floor-to-ceiling panoramas and immediate access from the hotel entrance, is now offering breakfast and dinner service at view-side tables, while the nearby Dining Room has become the new venue for the hotel's Sunday Brunch. The Terrace, the hotel's alfresco dining venue located on the lower, courtyard level of the hotel, has been repurposed for meetings usage tied to nearby hotel event space. All public dining is now located on the Lobby Level, following a successful six-week test of the lobby-focused offering:

*Dining reservations The Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco*

*(415) 773-6198*



## NOB HILL SPA

### "NOB HILL NEIGHBORS" OFFER

The Huntington Hotel would like to offer our wonderful Nob Hill neighbors 20% off treatments at the Nob Hill Spa (excluding Saturdays, through 8/31/09, not valid for packages or with SpaFinder gift certificates). Come over and enjoy the tranquil oasis of the award-winning Nob Hill Spa – just named the #1 "Best Pamper Spot" in the San Francisco magazine 'Best Of' Reader's Poll.

As a reminder...the Nob Hill Spa offers Day Passes for \$35 (available for use Monday-Thursday), or a series of 10 uses for \$300. Day Passes enable guests to use the indoor infinity pool, Jacuzzi, steam and sauna rooms, outdoor patio, fitness room, and yoga studio.

*For more information call (415) 345-2888*



## BIG FOUR RESTAURANT

WILD GAME WEEK will be back at the Big 4 this November 3-7. Mark your calendars! If you'd like to be added to the Big 4 email list, please contact Kellie Samson at [ksamson@huntingtonhotel.com](mailto:ksamson@huntingtonhotel.com)

## FAIRMONT NEWS & NOTES

### *the Nob Hill Good Neighbor Discount*

Experience the city's favorite tiki bar with complimentary cover and 10% off of your food bill in the Tonga Room and Hurricane Bar for neighbors of the Fairmont San Francisco Just mention that you are a neighbor of the Fairmont San Francisco and you will get the Good Neighbor discount.

*Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays*

### EXPERIENCE A TEA SO GOOD

#### .....IT IS WICKED

Fairmont San Francisco announces Wicked Tea in alignment with the renowned musical. Enjoy signature teas and cookies alongside Fairmont's famous afternoon tea.

#### AFTERNOON TEA MENU

Green Apple Sorbet • Flying Broom Finger Sandwiches • Cucumber and Sonoma Goat Cheese • Sun Dried Tomato Tapenade • Black Walnut Bread, Smoked Salmon and Chive Cream Cheese Pinwheel on Rye Bread • Five Spiced Beef Tenderloin, Black Olive Baguette • Lady Apple Slaw • Coconut Curry Chicken on a Mini Herb Roll • Dungeness Crab and Mango Salad on a Corn Muffin • Suspensefully Scary Scones • Traditional Fairmont San Francisco Scone with Devonshire Cream and Lemon Curd • Possessed Petit-Fours • Chef Jason's Assorted Spellbound Small Bites ~ Tea Selection ~ Fairmont English Breakfast • Jasmine Butterfly #1 • and Willow Stream Spa Blend\*

*\* indicates a caffeine-free selection*

*Saturdays and Sundays throughout July, August and September*

*1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.*

*Call (415) 772-5260 for information and reservations*

#### To Our Neighbors:

Beginning June 29th, The Fairmont San Francisco will begin a six-month project to maintain and beautify the exterior of the hotel along California Street. We believe this work will enhance the appearance of the hotel and the neighborhood in general.

The project will take place in various phases concentrating on limited segments of the Facade in order to minimize any impact on the surrounding area. During this time-frame, a canopy will shelter the sidewalk along California Street. Work will occur Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thomas A. Klein

*Regional Vice President & General Manager*

## “WICKED TEA” WITH “SLIP INTO SOMETHING WICKED”

An afternoon affair at the Fairmont San Francisco on June 18 featured a performance by Angel Reda of “Wicked” as well as informal modeling of the little black dress as presented by Saks Fifth Avenue. Hotel Executive Chef is James Pedro and the Pastry Chef is Jason Etzkin.

Now through September 30, enjoy The Fairmont’s “Wicked Tea” in The Laurel Court  
Every Saturday and Sunday from 1:30 to 3:30



Photographs by Laura Morton of Drew Altizer Photography

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, 235 Montgomery Street, Ste. 930, San Francisco, CA 94109

For more information visit our website: [www.nobhillassociation.org](http://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. \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Card Type:  Visa  Mastercard

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

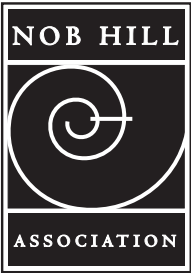
Annual Dues \$60

Business \$80

Life Membership \$1,000

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU!



Nob Hill Association  
235 Montgomery Street, Ste. 930  
San Francisco, CA 94104

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US POSTAGE  
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San Francisco, CA  
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Look for your  
invitation to the  
Huntington Park fundraiser  
coming in the fall!

For current events on the Hill go to:  
<http://www.nobhillassociation.org>

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# NOB HILL NOTABLE MEMBERS

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## BUSINESS MEMBERS

American Concrete  
Club One at the Fairmont  
Ron Crosetti Design Studio  
Ellis-Brooks  
Falcon Associates, Inc.  
Friends of Dorothy Travel  
LeBeau Nob Hill Market  
Lefkowitz & Co. CPA  
D. J. Mehler Collections  
Mark Hopkins Rental Condos  
Muratore General Contractors  
Nob Hill Florist  
Nob Hill Gazette

## HOTELS

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

Nob Hill Masonic Center, Inc.  
Recharge Spa of Nob Hill  
S. F. Community Music Center  
San Francisco Residence Club Inc.  
Saint Francis Hospital Foundation  
Sproule Lane Property Group  
Swan Oyster Depot  
The Comstock Apartments  
Twins Hill  
1200 California Corp.  
University Club  
Vendetta Men's Apparel &  
Vintage Cuban Cigars  
Xavier & Hahn, CPA

## SPECIAL MEMBERS

Pacific Union Club  
Saint Francis Memorial Hospital

## NEW MEMBERS 2009

John Burns  
Linda Clark  
Paul Crane & Valerie Dorfman  
Evelyn David  
M/M Jerry Gibbons  
Anthony Malandra  
Chelsea Stafford  
M/M Harold Vignoles

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

John Macon

*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](http://www.nobhillassociation.org).*