

NOB HILL NOTABLES

ANNOUNCING THE NOB HILL ASSOCIATION'S 82ND ANNUAL MEETING

Good Cheer and Neighborhood Issues Will Characterize This Year's Meeting at the Fairmont Hotel

SFGate writes about Nob Hill: *Some parts of the neighborhood feel frozen in time. The hill is dotted with vintage barber shops, old corner coffee shops and cocktail lounges from bygone decades. Nob Hill has also been home to some iconic San Francisco characters. . . Nob Hill is one of San Francisco's signature neighborhoods, renowned for its city landmarks and the famous hotels that border Huntington Park.*

During 2010, issues on the Hill-Live Nation, the Fairmont conversion and Huntington Park dominated our attention and divided residents; at times we saw Nob Hill not as the finest place to live in the city, but as an area becoming something very different than we had known.

So the annual meeting will not be just a party, although it is a grand evening, the NHA's 82nd Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Fairmont Hotel **November 18 at 6:00 p.m.** with spirit and spirits and tasty treats. The evening promises to be a lovely prelude to the holiday season as well as the annual business meeting of the Association.

The meeting will feature awards to the Firefighter of the Year, the Police Officer of the Year and to Grace Cathedral for their Stained Glass Windows Lighting Project. NHA officers will discuss the Association and the Hill's last year followed by the annual reception. Only Association members are invited to attend the meeting and reception.

NHA Holiday Tree Lighting Will Ring in Official Start of Holiday Season on Nob Hill

The Huntington Park tree lighting will brighten Nob Hill once again on Monday, November 29 at 6 p.m.

The Nob Hill Association and the Huntington Hotel have jointly sponsored the annual Dorothy Fritz Cope Tree Lighting Ceremony for years, making it one of San Francisco's oldest and most enduring traditions. The Nob Hill Association has been helping to keep Huntington Park beautiful since 1928

A no-host cocktail party celebrating the lighting will take place from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Big Four Restaurant of the Huntington Hotel. The San Francisco Girls Chorus will sing carols at 5:30 p.m. The ceremony will be held rain or shine. If the former, festivities will be moved into Grace Cathedral.

COME TO BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING DECEMBER 9 —See President's letter

A Taste of Nob Hill

You could almost hear Tony Bennett singing: "I left my heart in San Francisco" as 174 Nob Hill Association volunteers and guests returned to the fabled Venetian Room of the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco for A Taste of Nob Hill on September 9.

David L. Lefkowitz, President of the Nob Hill Association and Thomas A. Klein, RVP and General Manager, The Fairmont San Francisco co-chaired the event which raised over \$20,000 for the preservation and maintenance of Huntington Park. The evening was a tribute to the late Dame Bella Farrow who had hosted many events for the benefit of Nob Hill over the years. One could almost imagine Bella whispering to Event Committee Chair Phil Alford about her pleasure with the evening, until you realized Bella would have sent him a lovely note on fine stationery instead.

The evening featured an introduction to the fine cuisine of new Fairmont Executive Chef JW Foster, live music by Lodestar, tours of the renewed Fairmont Penthouse and the launch of "Membership Privileges" — a program of discounts for Nob Hill Association members. Guests also enjoyed their winnings from a live raffle.

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RITZ-CARLTON TEA AND 2010 HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

TEDDY BEAR TEA IN THE LOBBY LOUNGE

Friday, November 27 through Thursday, December 24

Children and their favorite stuffed animals gather for traditional Teddy Bear Tea with Binky the Elf. Holiday storytelling, balloons and a visit and photograph with the cuddly Ritz-Carlton Teddy are complemented by a small teddy bear to take home and a special tea of hot chocolate, teddy bear cut-out cookies and assorted sandwiches. A portion of proceeds will benefit The Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation.

*Two seatings daily: 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
\$80 per guest, exclusive of tax and gratuity*

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Wednesday, December 1-- 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The holiday season begins at the Ritz at twilight, when the hotel's 40-foot tree is illuminated by Santa Claus and his little helper from the Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation. This special evening in the porte cochere includes Dickens-era costumed carolers, hot apple cider, roasted chestnuts, holiday confections and visits with Santa after the ceremony.

Complimentary and open to the community

CHRISTMAS EVE AFTERNOON TEA ~ LOBBY LOUNGE

Enjoy the ritual of Afternoon Tea and the soothing sounds of a jazz-to-classics harpist. Includes a pot of fine tea, finger sandwiches and sweets including holiday cupcakes or macaroons and Traditional, Royal, Premier and vegetarian Teas.

*Friday, December 24 – 3:30 p.m.
\$40- \$59 per guest, exclusive of tax and gratuity
Reservations may be requested at (415) 773-6198.*



THE MARK HOPKINS' THE TOP OF THE MARK

MAGICAL HOLIDAY TEA BUFFET WITH MUSIC AND SONG

Fridays and Saturdays and
All Christmas week until December 24th

12:30pm - 2pm ~ \$48 ++ per person

SPECIAL CHEF'S TABLE DINNERS NEW YEAR'S EVE

At the Nob Hill Restaurant, featuring a four-course dinner in the kitchen with one seating at 8:30 p.m.

*\$250 per person including wine ++ Limited to 20 guests
Reservations required Tel: 4156166941*

The Hill Has A Special Feel at the Holidays !

HUNTINGTON HOTEL

HOLIDAY LIGHTS PACKAGE

You can enjoy the Christmas lights in the trees of Huntington Park directly across from the hotel from the windows of your Park View Room, toast to holiday cheer with some sparkling wine, and cozy up to breakfast for two each day. Available November 29 to December 31, 2010 for \$395 for Park View accommodations, this package includes:

- * One-night stay in a Park View Room
- * Holiday cookies and tea or coffee service upon arrival
- * A bottle of sparkling wine
- * Continental breakfast for two each day in the Big 4 Restaurant or through Room Service
- * Unlimited access to the Nob Hill Spa facilities, including the indoor pool and Jacuzzi, outdoor patio, sauna and steam rooms, workout room, and fireside lounge
- * Chauffeured sedan from the hotel to Union Square and the Financial District (available 8am-4pm Monday to Friday)

*Call (415) 474-5400 and mention the Nob Hill Association rate.
www.huntingtonhotel.com*

NOB HILL SPA

Zen Room

In late November the Nob Hill Spa will be debuting its new "Zen" space (formerly the yoga studio). The quiet space will provide a calming and tranquil environment for spa goers receiving spa treatments to relax, separated from the pool area. Autumn Spice Body Treatment Link to information on the spa's seasonal treatment www.nobhillspa.com/pdf/Sept_2010_Autumn_Spice_Body_Treatment_Flyer.pdf

*(415) 345-2888
www.nobhillspa.com*

BIG 4 RESTAURANT

HOLIDAY PARTIES AND BANQUETS

As part of the Nob Hill Association's Membership Privileges program, the Big 4 is offering the following to NHA members: Book your party of 15 or more people and receive a complimentary one-night stay in a Luxury guest room (\$540 value) , based on availability. Call Simon Harrington at (415) 345-2839 to book your party and please mention the Nob Hill Association offer.

Please call (415) 771-1140 to make your reservations.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ~ DAVID LEFKOWITZ



As 2010 winds down, our usually quiet neighborhood has been buzzing with activity.

The Fairmont Hotel, with its proposed tower renovation, took center stage at the meeting of the San Francisco Planning Commission last October 21. The renovation would include demolishing the 1950s-era Tower, and replacing it with a similar size structure made up of luxury residences. Profits from the eventual sales will be used to renovate the original Fairmont building, and bring it back to that standard of luxury which made it a destination. The Association's Board met September 14, heard a presentation by representatives of, and investors in, the project. The Board voted to recommend the project to the San Francisco Planning Commission. It got really interesting at the Planning Commission, as a continuum of speakers presented their positions on the Environmental Impact Report for the project.

As the votes were tallied, 3 Commissioners voted for, and 3 voted against the project's moving forward (the seventh and deciding vote has not been appointed to the Commission by the mayor), and a follow-up hearing is scheduled in January. These meetings are open to the public, and I encourage you to attend.

Mayor Gavin Newsom, recently elected as our Lieutenant Governor, will be taking up the State's business in Sacramento come January; the Nob Hill Association congratulates Lieutenant Governor-elect Newsom, and looks forward to a successful first term in that office. We eagerly await the selection of our next mayor.

In anticipation of the annual Dorothy Fritz-Cope tree-lighting ceremony, preparations have been underway in updating our tree-lighting equipment to accommodate the (often conflicting) positions of green and efficient lighting, against the aging and energy-inefficient lighting equipment we have used for too many years. The park has endured blackouts from under supply of power, past water-leakage in the wiring, giving rise to shorting, and the occasional "City budget problems from the cost of providing power". With a private \$2,500 donation, and a matching amount donated up by the Nob Hill Foundation, Park Lighting Committee Chair Ray Brown secured a bid to replace and install the 12,000 lights for less than \$5,000. NHA directors were pleased with the bid, and approved the expenditure. Turns out that the original vendor bid, which Ray monitored monthly as 2010 progressed, fell through the cracks, and the order was never placed by the vendor. Ray, ever-vigilant and determined to deliver for his committee, secured a last-minute supply of the sought-after white LED lighting, for approximately \$1.00/LED, and has made arrangements to have the trees trimmed and lighting installed in time for our much-anticipated tree-lighting event.

On behalf of Mrs. Lefkowitz and myself, I'd like to wish all of you a peaceful and healthy Holiday season, and a terrific 2011. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, November 18, at the Fairmont for the annuals members' meeting, and again on November 29 for the Dorothy Fritz-Cope Tree Lighting ceremony.

THE FAIRMONT HOTEL

THE VENETIAN ROOM *Reopens*

For the first time since The Venetian Room closed in 1989, The Fairmont San Francisco, in partnership with Bay Area Cabaret, is reviving The Venetian Room as an entertainment destination with a cabaret series showcasing Broadway's greatest vocal talents.

For tickets, please call Bay Area Cabaret at 415-927-4636

CHITA RIVERA ~ Friday, November 5 @ 8 p.m. ~ My Broadway

ADAM PASCAL AND ANTHONY RAPP

Sunday, November 21 @ 7 p.m. ~ The Guys from "Rent"

JOHN PIZZARELLI AND JESSICA MOLASKEY

Sunday, March 13 @ 5 p.m. ~ The Carlyle Show

ANIKA NONI ROSE ~ Sunday May 1 @ 5 p.m. ~ SF Concert Debut

LILLIAS WHITE ~ Sunday May 14 @ 8 p.m. ~ My Guy Cy

CABARET PRIX-FIXE DINNER

The Fairmont's Executive Chef jW Foster has created a three-course Cabaret Prix-Fixe Dinner for \$40 plus tax and gratuity that guests can enjoy prior to the show in The Laurel Court — *Beginning @ 5 p.m.*

For reservations, please call 415-772-5260.



THE STANFORD COURT

"TIS THE SEASON", HOLIDAY 2010

VINA-VERSITY at Aurea

Thursdays 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

An evening of wine tasting and discourse, good for small groups. Please call for reservations and topics. Themes and blind tastings TBA or upon request.

Reservations call (415) 732-4004

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

- President David Lefkowitz • Vice President James Fotenos • Treasurer Lori Lefkowitz • Secretary Joan Moon
- Director of Communications Fran Hildebrand • Publication Contributor Alma Carroll • Photographer Patricia Mazzera

ROBIN WOOLARD PRECIOUS JEWELS

This article is the third in a series we are introducing to our members to better acquaint them with our business members. As residents of Nob Hill we share not only a beautiful neighborhood but one that is blessed to have local businesses that provide a unique array of services. We encourage our members to support them. These articles provide an insight into their history on the hill and to highlight services they offer.

THE PRECIOUS JEWELS OF ROBIN WOOLARD

By Alma Carroll

Throughout history, the beauty, rarity and inherent “magical powers” of jewels have intrigued mankind, and for centuries made them the symbols of kings. Rulers of ancient empires secured documents with jewel-encrusted seals as an expression of their wealth and power. In savage, barbaric races and ancient civilizations, jewelry was worn principally by men as a mark of rank and dignity, and as talismans and religious symbols. Today, jewelry is purchased increasingly by collectors for pleasure, in appreciation of its beauty, and is worn by both men and women.

This almost spiritual aura of mystery and timeless opulence is now captured in exquisite creations of high-karat gold, platinum and precious gems by Robin Woolard whose exclusive designs are available at the Fairmont Hotel. Each piece is custom made, employing centuries-old techniques of Italian craftsmanship. Woolard was introduced to the world of fine jewels by his grandfather, whose elegant shop thrived in Los Angeles in the 1920’s and the 30’s, and by his father, who continued the family tradition.

A soft-spoken, courtly man with the subtle nuance of European culture, Robin says he was always “moved to create beautiful things. I’m not driven. There are no forces snapping at my heels, but I have a feeling that my creativity is a mysterious genetic something from another century.”

Woolard apprenticed at the Gold Crucible in Carmel Valley in the early 1970’s where he met Maestro Orlando Feriozzi, the renowned Italian jeweler and teacher, and from whom he learned to view jewelry as an art form, a result of which much of his work carries a strong Italian influence.

In 1979, he moved to New York to create for Carvin French, producing pieces for Cartier, Bulgari, Van Cleef and Arpels and other prominent houses. He then joined the London firm of E. Wolfe & Co., whose clients included Asprey & Co. and Garrard & Co., among many others.

This passion to create uniquely beautiful adornments led him to open Robin Woolard, Goldsmith, in 1992 in Carmel, which is home to many innovative jewelers and artisans, and where he remained for over 14 years. His lustrous creations are now found in fine collections throughout the world. “There is a definite spiritual connection between me and my client, whether they know it or not. It’s on the subconscious level,” he says introspectively, “So my location has never really been relevant. I have referrals from all over the country.”



Ceylon cabochon blue sapphires with diamonds set in platinum

I asked him what entices a buyer. “With some, it’s the symbol of wealth and power, and with others it’s the appreciation of the artist and the craftsmanship. Sometimes the art of the piece supersedes the value of its content,” he continued. “Jewelry is emotional, a personal experience. For many collectors, their pleasure is derived simply from its possession as an art form. Society is reflected in its jewelry, but today much focus is on the display of its material value.”

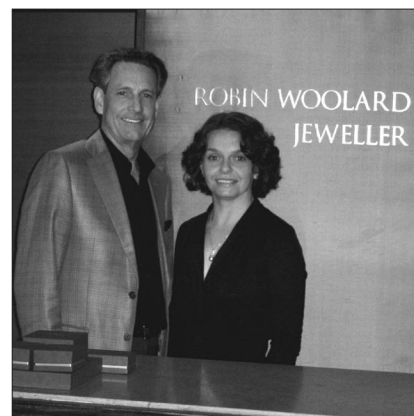
Is there a struggle between his creativity and the ultimate commercialization of his art, the conversion of esthetic to material value? “Perhaps a bit,” he responded, “But I know that when I relinquish a piece for sale, it opens up space for something new. So, when it’s time to let it go, I let it go.”

Herself a lovely creation, Robin’s wife, Galina, who resembles the cameo face of Athena, shares his passion. A classical pianist, she immigrated from Moscow in 2002 and exchanged the adulation of public performance to pursue her husband’s career. She is currently studying jewelry design. “I knew nothing about the art before I married Robin.” she says, “although I was always the last to leave the Hermitage Museum, I always spent at least six hours on my visits. There were fabulous pieces there from Ancient Greece, Etruscan, Faberge, Egyptian, and pieces donated by Catherine the Great. Incredible. And now I have a burning desire to create something very different. In jewelry.”

Despite his enormous success in Carmel, Woolard was overcome with a vague sense of restlessness. “I began to feel I needed growth, creative expansion,” he states, “and San Francisco was like a Lorelei, sophisticated, unfettered, with a wonderful appreciation for the arts. A friend of ours from Jamaica was here in the City and suggested we consider the Fairmont Hotel, which had no jewelry shop at the time. We opened in December, 2009, and the reception has been absolutely wonderful. This is a magnificent hotel, the management is excellent.”

His parting pearls of wisdom: “My presence and purpose of being here is to appreciate creation. We are all flowers that are a manifestation of life. Our true essence is unseen though we appear in physical form. So the pursuit of beauty in its many forms is a means of feeding one’s soul.”

Robin Woolard Precious Jewels provides a 15% discount as well as free jewelry cleaning to card members of the Nob Hill Association.



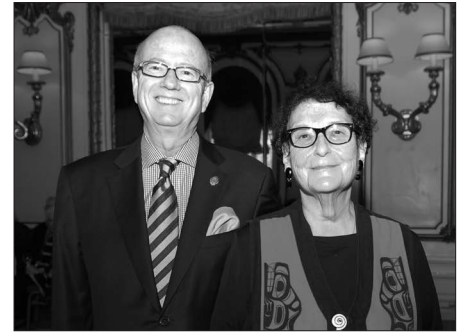
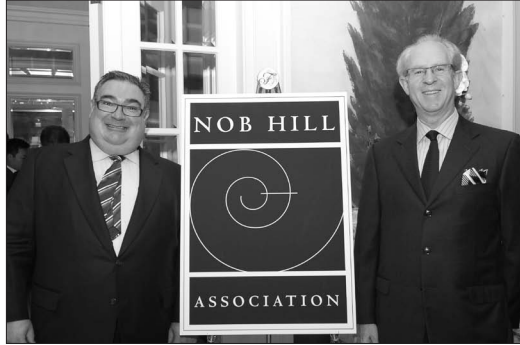
Robin and Galina Woolard



Rubies and diamonds set in 18kt gold

(A member of the Nob Hill Association and an award-winning, quasi-retired journalist, Alma Carroll is a past staff writer for PBS and a former special assignment feature writer for the San Francisco Chronicle. Her work has also appeared in other publications too numerous to mention.)

A Taste of Nob Hill



JOIN The Nob Hill Association

Please fill out the information, and mail to: The Nob Hill Association, 235 Montgomery Street, Ste. 930, San Francisco, CA 94109

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For Dues please make your check payable to the Nob Hill Association

For Life Membership or Donations please make your check payable to the Nob Hill Foundation

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THANK YOU!

For more information visit: www.nobhillassociation.org



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NOTABLE MEMBERS

BUSINESS MEMBERS

American Concrete	Nob Hill Masonic Center, Inc.
Asseman Sky Travel	Recharge Spa of Nob Hill
Brownies Hardware	Robin Woolard Precious Jewels
Brugger & McCormick Int.	Russian Hill Dog Grooming
Club One at the Fairmont	S. F. Community Music Center
Crest Royal Apartments	San Francisco Residence Club Inc.
DeRose Travel LLC	Saint Francis Hospital Foundation
Eduardo P. Dolhun, M.D.	Sproule Lane Property Group
Ellis-Brooks	Swan Oyster Depot
Falcon Associates, Inc.	The Comstock Apartments
Joel Goodrich	The Nob Hill Condominium Assoc.
Jubilee Hair Studio	Twins Hill
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Lefkowitz & Co. CPA	Vendetta Men's Apparel &
Lewetzow Real Estate Group	Vintage Cuban Cigars
Mark Hopkins Rental Condos	Wells Fargo Insurance Services
Muratore General Contractors	Whole Foods
Nob Hill Florist	Xavier & Hahn, CPAs
Nob Hill Gazette	

HOTELS

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

SPECIAL MEMBERS

Pacific Union Club
Saint Francis Memorial Hospital

NEW MEMBERS

• Dick Behrewdt & Ricki Pollycovo • John Ellis
• Lisa Frost • Eric & Doreen Griffith • Barbara Keller
• Mrs. William R. Kimball • Cheryl Lessman
• Marsha Monro • Thomas Naughton • A. Thampy Thomas
• Kathryn A. Pardini • Mauricio Santana • Amy Weaver

*We appreciate the support of the mentioned business members
and are delighted to list our new individual members.*

*For any membership questions please contact our
Membership Director: Mary Kay McNulty at (415) 771-1787.*