

HERITAGE

THE UTAH HERITAGE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2013

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Ladies' Literary Club Donates South Temple Building

The Ladies' Literary Club, one of Salt Lake City's most venerable and renowned organizations, has donated their 1913 historic building at 850 E. South Temple to Utah Heritage Foundation. The donation, which included all furnishings, art, and books, is easily the most remarkable gift in Utah Heritage Foundation's history.

Beginning in 1877, the club grew and prospered through the 1970s. However, the last few decades have witnessed a slow dwindling of membership that eventually made it impossible for the club to continue supporting maintenance of the club's building. The club started considering their options ten years ago and got very serious about what to do about three years ago. Though they knew it was going to be heart-wrenching to execute that decision, the

members knew that there were few other options. That's when a club member heard about Utah Heritage Foundation hosting the annual preservation conference. She sent her husband to hear our keynote speaker and when he returned he told her, "I think you've found the right group to give the building to."

"Before the call, it was like any other day at the office," Executive Director Kirk Huffaker recalls. "But after a call where someone asks if you'd be interested in receiving the donation of a building, that day and the rest after that are anything but typical." That interest turned into a formal evaluation process by the club which started with issuing a Request for Proposals in October 2011 that outlined the club's goals in making a donation: 1) the organization should be a nonprofit organization, 2) the building was required to be preserved as the club's legacy to the community, and 3) the club wanted to continue meeting in the building. Utah Heritage Foundation responded positively to that RFP that we were interested in discussing receiving donation of the building and away we went. At four subsequent Board of Trustees meetings starting in December 2011, the foundation discussed at length whether or not we were truly interested in the donation, and each time the trustees were resolved to move forward.

(continued on page 2)



The Ladies' Literary Club Building in 1937. Photo used with permission from Special Collections, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah.

Preserving, protecting and promoting Utah's historic built environment through public awareness, advocacy and active preservation.

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Gail Hensleigh, a member of the Ladies' Literary Club, gives UHF Board Chair, David Richardson, the title to the building during a press event on February 5, 2013 officially marking the gift from the ladies to Utah Heritage Foundation.

Moving forward meant assembling a business plan to make sure our proposed use of the building as an events center penciled out financially. Following acceptance of the business plan by the trustees in the Fall of 2012, Utah Heritage Foundation and the Ladies' Literary Club negotiated a Donation Agreement that was signed on December 31, 2012 with the official deed transfer occurring on January 16, 2013.

The leadership in making this happen has been under the auspices of Utah Heritage Foundation Board of Trustees Chair David Richardson, and respected preservationist Rob White.

Utah Heritage Foundation is committed to performing a minor renovation of the building that will cost at least \$500,000. The foundation has begun a capital campaign in earnest toward raising the funds. The scope of work includes the following:

- Plaster repair throughout,
- General painting throughout,
- Refinish wood floors throughout,
- New furnishings and lighting,
- Stairway restoration in Entryway,
- Historic paint analysis & historically-accurate decorative painting in the Auditorium,
- Paint stripping and staining woodwork in the Drawing Room & Library,
- Restoration of the Drawing Room fireplace,
- Repair and restore function to the Drawing Room patio doors,
- Construction of a bride's room in the basement,
- ADA access ramp and ADA bathroom,
- New landscaping, and
- Addition of a street-level patio in front of the building.

The Ladies' Literary Club

Completing these projects will put the luster back on the Ladies' Literary Club building while allowing Utah Heritage Foundation to re-open the building for full public use.

Prior to renovation, the building's use will be limited to non-profit groups, friends groups, community organizations, and cultural performances. The Ladies' Literary Club has given an amazing gift to Utah Heritage Foundation, but also to the community. To that end, the foundation has pledged to continue the traditions and promote the social and cultural values of the club by hosting events that highlight the history and significance of the organization and the building.

The club has been a wonderful steward for the building's first 100 years, investing countless hours and membership funds in the maintenance of the building even when funds may have been a little short.

Utah Heritage Foundation is dedicated to launching the building's second century as only an organization that loves historic architecture could do – in sparkling fashion! **We invite the public to participate in this community project with us – to share in our progress, our discoveries, and our challenges ahead by attending an upcoming event and making a generous contribution towards renovation.**

To make a donation, please visit www.utahheritagefoundation.org. If you are interested in using the Ladies' Literary Club for a community-related event, contact Carolynn Bottino at (801) 521-7969 or carolynn@memorialhouse-utah.com.



Thank you to those who have committed to donate to the Ladies' Literary Club Restoration Project.



American Heritage Windows, SLC
Pete Ashdown and Robin Ballard, SLC
Silvana Belliveau, SLC
Janis and Richard Bennion, SLC
Bob and Suzy Bolte, SLC
Brian and Carolynn Bottino, North
Salt Lake
Elizabeth Bradley-Wilson and Mark
Wilson, SLC
Capitol Hill Construction, SLC
City Home Collective, SLC
The Corner Station, Fairview
E.R. and Katherine Dumke, SLC
Alison and Shane Flanders, SLC
Lewis Francis and Dana Costello, SLC
Brett and Shannon Garner, Centerville
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Rob and Connie White, SLC
Whitney Advertising and Design,
Park City

Members of the Ladies' Literary Club after the official gift of the building to Utah Heritage Foundation on February 5th, 2013.

The Grande Dame of East South Temple

BY CAROLYNN BOTTINO

In February 1877 a small group of broad minded and forward-looking women met in the home of Mrs. Tina R. Jones and laid the foundation of the Ladies' Literary Club. It was one of twelve chapters founded in America and the first one West of the Mississippi River.

From the very beginning, the Ladies' Literary Club took an active interest in the matters of community welfare, even though its primary purpose was self culture. To be a club woman was an adventure in those days, requiring great courage. The new organization had an open door policy to all women interested in literary pursuits and the development of mental culture.

For the first twenty-one years the club led a nomadic life, holding their meetings in many different homes and buildings. In December 1882 the club was incorporated under the laws of the Territory of Utah. It was in the beginning years of the club that they aspired to own a clubhouse and to be able to transact business.

A milestone of notable importance was reached in 1892 when the club joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Maine was the first state to form a State Federation, Utah was second, followed by Iowa.



*Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the building and the history of the Ladies' Literary Club at the annual Blue Tea.
Saturday, April 27th
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.*

*More info on page 12 or online
www.utahheritagefoundation.org*

Above: 1913 photograph of the newly completed Ladies' Literary Clubhouse. This photograph was taken by Shipler Commercial who were based in Salt Lake City taking photos from 1903 to 1980.

Photo Courtesy of the Utah State Historical Society.

Left: This picture shows the Ladies' Literary Club meeting in their first clubhouse located on 300 East in Salt Lake City. The photo was found in the club's Centennial Scrapbook with nearly fifty other photographs of club members and various events.



The Ladies' Literary Club



*Looking at the leaded-glass windows from inside the auditorium.
Photo by Sam Scholes.*

clubhouse auditorium. On Wednesdays, the members spent the day making hospital clothes for disabled soldiers and clothing for Belgian children.

One of the important community welfare projects of the club was to bring about the first Free Public Library. This was done in support of the Masonic Library that later merged into the Pioneer Library Association. The club held a huge fair and carnival in the Exposition Building (now the site of Trolley Square) and raised \$3,100 to purchase two thousand books. The members worked for the passage of the Library Bill, passed by the State Legislature in 1896 providing support of the Library by the city.

Other projects sponsored by the club have included establishing the first free kindergartens, placement of art in local schools, traveling libraries, early closing of department and dry good stores, high school art and music contests, and a scholarship fund at the University of Utah.

The club has a full slate of activities for its members.

On January 7, 1898, the formal opening of their first clubhouse took place. The clubhouse was located on Third East, between South Temple and First South and there were 132 members. It was the first Women's clubhouse in the West. It was built at a cost of \$4,700 (\$1,500 for the lot and \$3,200 for the building). The club conducted its activities there for the next fifteen years.

In 1913, the club built and moved into its attractive home at 850 East South Temple. It was designed by local architecture firm Ware and Treganza who won the commission in a design competition. Built at a cost of \$32,500 (\$7,500 for the property and \$25,000 for the building), it is considered one of Salt Lake City's finest examples of prairie style architecture. With its restrained ornamentation like the wood inlay on the porch ceiling and the exquisite leaded glass windows the home showcases the exquisite elements for which the prairie style is known.

From the beginning the club has generously shared the building for charitable and educational purposes. It has been made available for many communities, civil and social needs. During World War I a charter was granted by the Salt Lake chapter of the Red Cross to the Ladies' Literary Club Auxiliary. Sewing machines were set up in the



Photo taken from the archives of the Ladies' Literary Club building showing an event in the auditorium ca. 1966.

Eleanor Carlston: One Outstanding Lady

BY ALISON FLANDERS

Eleanor Carlston was introduced to the Ladies' Literary Club by her mother, who was also a member. She remembers her mother taking her to several meetings and events and says she remembers always being impressed by the women and their dedication to the club and each other. Mrs. Carlston joined the Ladies' Literary Club in 1970 while she was working as a teacher in Salt Lake City. Claiming to be an "inactive member" for almost fifteen years, she was always up to date on all the activities in which the club was involved. After becoming a more active member of the club, she served on many of the subcommittees but her favorite committee and Ladies' Literary Club event is the annual Birthday Breakfast Celebration.

The Annual Birthday Breakfast happens every February and Mrs. Carlston remembers each birthday being a more elaborate party than the last year. To celebrate the founding of the Ladies' Literary Club, the committee would plan special entertainment, usually in honor of the current president, and the entire program would be kept a secret until the very last



Betty Hanson and Eleanor Carlston at the February 5th event at the Ladies' Literary Club Building.

minute. All the ladies knew that the Birthday Breakfast also served at the fashion event of the season. Every year the ladies would purchase a new hat to wear to the event. Mrs. Carlston remembers how the local store owners would be sure to advertise that they had all the newest hats in stock in time for the ladies to shop before the breakfast.

Since joining the Ladies' Literary Club, Mrs. Carlston has held many positions within the organization including: Birthday Breakfast Committee, By-Laws Committee Chair, Treasurer, and from 1987-88 she served as the Club's president. Still very active in the Ladies' activities she has also taken an interest in helping Utah Heritage Foundation with her positive attitude and contributions to our new endeavor.



This photo was found in the archives of the Ladies' Literary Club and shows the 100th birthday celebration of the clubs founding.

Utah Preservation Conference & Heritage Awards Ceremony

Utah Heritage Foundation hosts its seventh annual preservation conference, **Saving the Past | Sustaining the Future**, looking at preservation of structures that make up Utah's landscape - from pioneer-era through the midcentury.

Tickets and information are available online. Be sure to check date and time as our event schedule has changed from last year.

THURSDAY, MAY 9

Heritage Awards Ceremony and Fundraising Dinner

6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at The Leonardo, 209 East 500 South

FRIDAY, MAY 10

Breakfast and Brainstorming

7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m., Salt Lake Masonic Temple, Banquet Hall

Education Sessions

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Salt Lake Masonic Temple

Ladies' Literary Club Building Tour

2:45 - 4:00 p.m., Meet at the Salt Lake Masonic Temple

SATURDAY, MAY 11

42nd Annual Historic Homes Tour: The Avenues

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Avenues After Hours

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

Salt Lake Modern Tour: Olympus Cove

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

REGISTER TODAY

Registration received before **Friday, May 3**, will receive discounted rates.

www.utahheritagefoundation.org





It's Tour Time

The Avenues is considered one of Salt Lake City's first neighborhoods. Originally, all of the streets had names. The streets running north to south were named for trees, and streets running east to west had names like Fruit, Garden, Bluff, and Wall (now Second Avenue through Fifth Avenue respectively). By 1885 the streets gained their current alphabetical designations, however, the east to west streets were not renamed into Avenues until 1907. Before the avenues name was coined, the area was known as "the dry bench" for the obvious reason that it lacked water.

The Avenues has proven to be an attractive residential neighborhood from the very beginning. Full of eclectic architecture by some of Salt Lake's most prominent architects and builders, the Avenues has personality. You can find several large Victorian homes designed by Walter E. Ware, who arrived in Salt Lake City in 1889 and began designing mostly residential architecture but quickly became involved in large civic projects. In 1905, Ware began one of the region's first architectural firms (Ware & Treganza) with Alberto O. Treganza as partner. Other prominent architects' designs can also be found in the Avenues.

42nd Annual Historic Homes Tour: The Avenues

Saturday, May 11, 2013

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

\$15 In advance

\$20 day-of tour

Avenues After Hours

Saturday, May 11, 2013

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

\$50 In advance

\$65 day-of tour

Ticket includes four additional homes, food and cocktails.



Salt Lake Modern Tour: Olympus Cove

Saturday, June 8, 2013 • 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

\$15 In advance - \$20 day-of tour

Olympus Cove is a Salt Lake City neighborhood built on the alluvial plane of Neff Creek. The cove is on the northwestern slopes of Mount Olympus of the Wasatch Range and was developed with homes beginning in the early 1940s.

Don't Forget!

Free Summer Tours Begin June 1

- *Kearns' (Utah Governor's) Mansion*
- *Salt Lake City and County Building*
- *Meditation Chapel*
- *Memorial House*
- *Summer Specialty Tour TBA*

Tours run from June through August. Check online for tour dates and times as some of them have changed!

www.utahheritagefoundation.org

The homes pictured on this page are not necessarily the homes that will be open on our tour days.

SPRING | 2013

Preservation Issues

BY KIRK HUFFAKER

Utah Theater, SLC

The Redevelopment Agency of Salt Lake City recently distributed Request for Proposals seeking programming services for the Utah Theatre site. Utah Heritage Foundation fielded questions from the public regarding our position on preservation and reuse of the historic theater space as part of a film and media center. The following is our position statement:

Utah Heritage Foundation firmly believes that preservation and rehabilitation of the historic Pantages (Utah) Theatre is possible and should be pursued by its owner, the Redevelopment Agency of Salt Lake City and its potential project partners.

There is a tremendous amount of original Beaux Arts style ornamentation that remains intact on the interior that should be preserved and restored. All of the primary public spaces in the building – entry hallway, lobby, and theater space – include this ornamentation. Known as one of the best stained glass ceiling in any Pantages Theatre in the country, the ceiling is also a major character defining element of the building that should be preserved. We believe that the floor added to create two theaters should be removed in order to give the public exposure to the original theater space from ground level to ceiling.

Due to irreversible and unfortunate major alterations by previous owners, the building is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, rehabilitation would not qualify for the federal rehabilitation investment tax credit at the 20% level. However, because the building was constructed before 1936, rehabilitation would qualify for the federal rehabilitation investment tax credit (FRITC) at the 10% level.

Knowing that the building will need to meet some basic preservation tests in order to qualify for the 10%



The lobby of the Utah (historic Pantages) Theater. Photo by Todd McKinley.

FRITC, possibilities for modernizing and configuring the space in unique ways without removing existing ornamentation and decorative elements should be explored. These may include creating a new, more modern proscenium alongside the existing historic fabric and considering alternative uses for the balcony area other than seating.

We believe there may not be a better time in the near future for the Redevelopment Agency to harness the opportunity to rehabilitate the historic Utah Theatre. There are interested potential partners that have creativity at the center of their mission, we have motivated parties to make something happen at the site, there is tremendous public sentiment for the theater, and downtown revitalization has taken off. Separating the land from the theater in this deal could easily render the theater a white elephant. It is critical that the Redevelopment Agency leverage this opportunity into a partnership that will utilize both the land and the theater, resulting in a tremendous public benefit.

Preservation Issues (cont.)

Federal Rehab Tax Credit

The theme for this year's Preservation Advocacy Day is "Preservation Keeps U.S. Together." One of the major topics of discussion this year will be the federal historic tax credit, a little known federal program outside of the professional preservation field that has made a big imprint across our state. And now it's in danger.

Between 2001 and 2011, this tax incentive has worked (in some cases with our state historic tax credit), to transform 63 formerly vacant or underutilized historic buildings in Utah, totaling nearly \$200 million in project costs, at a cost of only \$31.5 million to federal taxpayers. I can personally attest to the importance of this credit in making such projects possible. Without it, historic rehabilitation projects that preserve Utah's history while creating good paying, skilled jobs would simply not happen. It is hard to imagine downtown Salt Lake without the Market Street Grill, the Ken Garff Building, or the Big-D Headquarters. They should not be taken for granted. Without the credit to make the higher costs of historic rehabilitation feasible, these places could easily be rubble.

Now Congressional tax reform debates will bring a critical eye to all federal tax incentives. **Please call upon Utah's delegation, particularly, Sen. Orrin Hatch, to stand up for the federal historic tax credit.** This program helps preserve our heritage, creates jobs, attracts investment and turns the places we live into places we love.

Sen. Orrin Hatch

104 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5251

8402 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84138
(801) 524-4380

For additional contact options, please visit Orrin Hatch's website.



Utah's Preservation Heroes

Through generous contributions from our donors and sponsors Utah Heritage Foundation is able to fulfill our mission and bring historic preservation to the public. The Board of Trustees, volunteers and staff sincerely thank these Preservation Heroes.

\$10,000+

Big-D Construction, *SLC*
Division of State History, *SLC*
George S. & Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, *SLC*
National Trust for Historic Preservation, *Washington, DC*
Salt Lake City Community and Economic Development, *SLC*
Salt Lake County ZAP Fund, *SLC*
Utah Transit Authority, *SLC*

\$5,000+

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Susan Ileene Wirthlin Foundation, *SLC*
Zions Bank, *SLC*

FOUNDATION

Lawrence T. & Janet T. Dee Foundation, *SLC*

\$2,500+

INDIVIDUAL
Bob Evans and Martha Bradley*, *SLC*
Muffy and Michael Ferro, *SLC*
Rob and Connie White, *SLC*

FOUNDATION

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Foundation, *SLC*
The PI Fund, *SLC*

\$1,000+

INDIVIDUAL

Michael Begue*, *SLC*
Jim and Lyn Christopher, *SLC*
E.R. and Katherine Dumke, *SLC*
Mike Evertsen, *SLC*
Anne Milliken, *SLC*
Helen and Dennis Pearce, *SLC*
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Cedar City Brian Head Tourism Bureau, *Cedar City*
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Park City Historical Society & Museum, *Park City*
Preservation Painting*, *Riverton*
Specialty Linen and Chair Covers*, *SLC*
SUU Regional Services, *Cedar City*
The Corner Station*, *Fairview*
Washington County Historical Society, *St. George*
Utah Humanities Council, *SLC*

FOUNDATION

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Downtown Alliance, *SLC*
M Lazy M Foundation, *SLC*
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Schmidt Family Foundation, *SLC*
Weber County Heritage Foundation, *Ogden*
Wheeler Foundation, *SLC*
Wilcox-Smith Charitable Foundation, *Kaysville*

*Denotes in-kind donation

Thank you for choosing Memorial House to host your Special Event

December

Surgical Intensive Care Unit, University of Utah
Utah Cultural Alliance
Intermountain Healthcare – Urban Central Region
Pathology Department, University of Utah
Radiation Oncology, University of Utah
Department of English, University of Utah
Jaclyn Stuker & Shawn Shahan
Elizabeth Daun & Matthew Brigham
Marynn Sundwall & Spencer Look
Melissa Fudge & Alex Speiser
Jordan Barrus & Louie Cibrian
Abby Hammond & James Burch

January

Taeler Herr & Michael Houlberg
Karly Porterfield & Mitch Harrison
Brooke Jensen & Ben Lee
Patrice Clark & Brian Johnson
Mang Family

February

Datamark
ARUP Laboratories

Utah Heritage Foundation
Memorial House in Memory Grove Park
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Join us for a founding
tradition of the
Ladies' Literary Club

BLUE TEA

Saturday, April 27
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Ladies' Literary Club
850 East South Temple

\$10 suggested donation

Blue Tea

The name Blue Tea came from the Blue Stockings, a group of 18th-century intellectuals who met in London. The Blue Stockings were defined as "serious, intellectual or scholarly women". It was said that the group in Salt Lake City was a "regular blue-stockings gathering", and since they met over tea, it became "Blue Tea".

The ladies have held the Blue Tea for several decades. They would use the finest silver and have a tea party to celebrate the history and founding of the Ladies' Literary Club. Utah Heritage Foundation is proud to continue on the tradition and preserve the history so vital to the club's early beginnings.

