

SEEN AROUND TOWN

by Lynda Millner

Bellosuardo

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity just happened in Santa Barbara. That mysterious empty mansion, Bellosuardo, on 23 acres just above East Beach and across from the Bird Refuge, was opened up for the first time in more than 60 years for the party of the century. Five hundred guests dressed in formal Great Gatsby attire – feathers, furs, and sequins – could view the entire first floor interior and take pictures to their hearts content. There were a thousand more people on the waiting list for this inaugural gala. WOW!

The mansion has been empty since the early 1950s, with just a caretaker and small staff to maintain the place. Their orders were not to move anything. One did leave a note, saying, "I moved this stool (on a certain date) for safety reasons." Otherwise, everything is the same as when Huguette last visited.

The house was built by Anna Clark, widow of copper king Senator William Andrews Clark in 1937, and then cared for by their daughter Huguette until she died at 104. It is now bequeathed to the Bellosuardo Foundation and will be a place for art and culture in



Sharon and David Bradford by the 1933 Cadillac limo in the Bellosuardo motor court



Ms Millner is the author of *The Magic Makeover, Tricks for Looking Thinner, Younger and More Confident – Instantly*. If you have an event that belongs in this column, you are invited to call Lynda at 969-6164.

SEEN Page 46 ▶

Celebrate the Season with Wine, Art+Seasonal Chef's Menu

Hilton Santa Barbara invites SB residents to sign up for Loved Locals Membership (it's free to join) and enjoy a handful of Fall-themed activities at the resort!

Kids Fall Crafts+Candy Apple Station
(November 3rd, 10th and 17th from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.)
Create fall crafts and then decorate candied apples.

Santa Barbara Zoo Revue
(November 23rd and 24th from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.)
SB Zoo's animal puppet friends tell the tale of a Native American myth from the Tewa Nation.

Indulge in a Cinnamon Maple Full Body Scrub at Spa Del Mar or relax and unwind with a Pumpkin Spice Pedicure or Peppermint Scalp Treatment at Salon Del Mar.

Painting with Cabernet
Please your palate while perfecting your brush stroke in our Tasting Room Tuesday through Saturday, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from Noon to 6 p.m. Brush, wine for painting and watercolor paper included.

***Additionally, Loved Locals Members receive 20 % off food and resort services, including spa, salon and tennis facility.

633 East Cabrillo Blvd. • Santa Barbara, CA 93103
www.hiltonsantabarbararesort.com

Restoring Body & Spirit

Your generosity is needed to revitalize this tranquil oasis – now, when our community needs it the most, and for future generations.

When completed in summer of 2019 the Japanese Garden will feature fully accessible paths and new intimate seating areas with spectacular views of the garden. Visitors may linger in peaceful beauty, relax and meditate among gentle sounds and scents of nature, or participate in new cultural and wellness programs.

Your support matters. Help restore the Japanese Garden so it may revive your body and spirit.

Ganna Walska Lotusland is a local treasure renowned as one of the Top Ten gardens in the world.

For questions about this exciting project and to become involved please contact Gwen Stauffer, CEO, 805.969.3767.

lotusland.org



Bellosuardo event co-chairs Josh Conviser and Sandi Nicholson

named after Andree Clark, Huguette's sister, who died of a disease when quite young.

The estate has been frozen in time but was opened in a blaze of glory at the soirée. As guests arrived in the motor court, there were two of Huguette's cars, a 1933 Cadillac limo and a 1933 Chrysler Roadster. The day before at a Santa Barbara Club luncheon, the daughter of the caretaker of 50 years **Barbara Doran** told us stories of growing up on the estate when Anna and Huguette were still alive. One was of being picked up from school by the chauffeur in full uniform in the limo and how embarrassing it was. After that, the less conspicuous roadster was requested.

That night, we entered into a foyer with a docent to tell us a little history and proceeded down the hall to the formal living room and the stunning dining room. There were portraits of the family members down the hall, including some painted by Huguette, who was quite the fine artist. Barbara had described the house and grounds as magical, like a fairytale. She used to have tea with Anna and Huguette.

There was a music room with a



Flapper girl dancers Tiffany Marzetta and Amy Hessler



Todd and Patti Gutshall with the 1933 roadster that belonged to Huguette

grand piano for Huguette and a harp for her mother. The caretaker's daughter, Barbara, also played the piano. Huguette wanted to give her a Steinway but Barbara's mom said, "It won't fit in our house." Huguette went all over New York trying to find a spinet as good as the Steinway. Barbara still has it with her wherever she lives, including Hawaii. She learned to drive on the lawn and can remember when there were black swans swimming at the Bird Refuge.

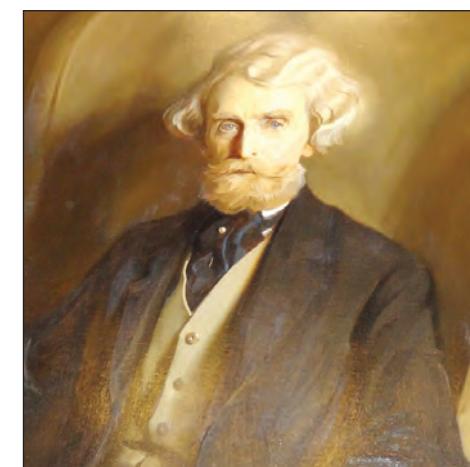
Then it was time to exit and walk



A mural just outside the back entrance of Bellosuardo



The daughter of longtime caretaker of Bellosuardo, Barbara Doran, with Dana Newquist and Pulitzer Prize winner Bill Dedman, who wrote *Empty Mansions*, shown at the Santa Barbara Club lunch and lecture about the estate



A portrait of Huguette's father, the copper king Senator William Andrews Clark, once one of the richest men in America

by the orange trees and the reflecting pond to the site of the fête. What a sight to behold! Merry Brown Events and Revelry Event Designers had woven their magic with an art deco scene straight from the *Great Gatsby* era. It was all in black and white – black tablecloths, huge globes of white orchids and roses, glass tables, large white sofas, and fabulous crystal chandeliers over the bar. All the help were dressed in black and white.

At one end was a light supper buffet you could pick up at any time, all catered by the Biltmore. The band was playing and there was a dance floor laid out on the grass. There were opportunities to bid on having 30 guests to the Carriage House turned into a Speakeasy, or an evening with **Kenny Loggins** at the beach house, or a candlelit dinner in the dining room. The monies garnered from the auction will go to the foundation, somewhere

25th Annual Holiday Open House

November 3 & 4
10am - 5pm
Refreshments served
20% off ornaments
Gift with \$20 purchase

805.684.5085 · Mon-Sat 10-5
4488 CARPINTERIA AVE
www.susanwillislt.com



15th MESA ARTISTS STUDIO TOUR FREE - OPEN TO PUBLIC

November 3 & 4, 2018
11 am - 4 pm

Visit the artists in their working environment

Karin Aggeler, Danuta Bennett, Wendy Brewer, Morgan Green, Sally Hamilton, Bill Hull, Nancy Hull, Lynn Humphrey, Carissa Luminess, Myla Kato, Meg Ricks, Sara Woodburn, Ellen Yeomans



For a Map and Brochure visit the website
www.santabarbaramesaartists.com



An oriental robe made for Huguette that now belongs to the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, shown with a painting done by Huguette



Four more flappers:
Stephanie Maxwell,
Shari Liu,
Jet Martin,
and Ursula Nesbitt

Diana Starr Langley,
Decker Sadowski, and
Denice Decker at the soiree



presenting sponsors. The platinum sponsors were **Geri and Jerry Bidwell**, **Ronna Hitchcock Huffman**, **Betsy and John Moller**, **Sharon and David Bradford**, **Folded Hills Winery/Kim and Andy Busch**, **Michael Hammer/Armand Hammer Foundation**, **Lucille and Richard Janssen**, **Sandi and Bill Nicholson**, **Leslie Ridley-Tree**, and **Susanne and Gary Tobey**.

If you want to learn all the fascinating details of Huguette's life, read *Empty Mansions, The Mysterious Life of Huguette Clark and the Spending of a Great American Fortune* by Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Bill Dedman** and Huguette's cousin co-author, **Paul Newell**.

Tempting tidbits include: Huguette had a ticket on the Titanic for the return trip. As she said, "We'll have to take another boat." She lived her last 20 years in a hospital room; she wasn't sick but said she felt safe there. She didn't want to come back to Bellosuardo after her mother passed

away because she had built it and it made Huguette sad. She also had a doll collection of 5,000 and dollhouses valued from \$30,000 to \$80,000. When she died, there was a court battle over her \$300 million estate. While her father was in the Senate, he was known to have some paternity suits against him. What's new?

And so our enchanted evening came to an end, but it will be long remembered by all of us lucky enough to have attended the historical soiree.

I think I'll read the book again. I'll also keep looking for Barbara Doran's book, *Inside the Gates of Bellosuardo – My Enchanted Childhood*, due out soon. There is a Restoration Society, which will be vital to the revival of this historic mansion. Among other benefits, you will receive early access to purchase tickets to all public events at Bellosuardo through October 2019. Tiers are from \$500 to \$5,000. More info on their website, www.bellosuardo.org.

•M

GIVE THE GIFT OF JOY

Adopt a Family

Make this season a special one for a CALM family in need through our annual giving program.

**SIGN UP AT
CALM4KIDS.ORG**

1. We will match you with a family and send you their wish list.
2. You shop and wrap gifts, then return them to CALM.
3. CALM therapists will deliver the gifts to the family.

