

NC Fellows to Celebrate FLLW on June 12

NUMBER 11, MAY 29, 1999

Northern California Taliesin Fellows will meet at Midglen Headquarters on Saturday, June 12, 1999 at 2 p.m. for our annual celebration of the the birthday of Frank Lloyd Wright (June 8, 1869).

We will have a business meeting which will include election of officers and board members and discuss further development of our website and linkage on the internet. We will be looking for new ideas for our future activities, and the Fellows future with Taliesin. Following our meeting we will have a pizza-and-things supper at Westglen. Everybody will have an opportunity to create his own pizzas and bake them in the new outdoor pizza oven on the pool terrace.



All members are welcome and encouraged to bring guests for the festivities. A ten-dollar per person contribution will be expected, and the meeting will mark an opportunity for renewal of yearly memberships.

Please confirm your attendance by June 9. Phone Midglen at 650-369-0416 or fax at 650-369-0417.

. . . and in Malibu

The Taliesin Fellows in Los Angeles have scheduled a celebration of FLLW on June 6, 1996 at Eric Wright's home in Malibu. This event begins at 11 a.m. and will include a pot-luck picnic following a reminiscence gathering where attendees will share their memories and experiences of Taliesin.

All Taliesin Fellows are invited to participate. There will be a \$20 charge which includes a contribution of \$5 to the newly organized 'Wright Way' which is being sponsored by 'Community Partners' of Los Angeles to support Wright activities including the archival preservation of the work of Lloyd Wright.

critics corner . . .



billpatrick

The wave of the future?

The future of the Taliesin Fellows as an alumni organization headquartered at Taliesin West continues in discussion and planning according to the latest reports.

The Los Angeles directors remain divided on the matter of autonomy. The FLLW Foundation remains interested in the establishment of a Taliesin Alumni Association. The disparity stems from the concept that traditionally alumni associations are entities of the institutions that created them. For a number of the directors in Los Angeles such an organization represents loss of control and independence as Taliesin Fellows. The Fellows remain after some eight or more years a struggling group attempting to further the principles of Frank Lloyd Wright with the publishing of the Journal of the Taliesin Fellows, now in its 23rd issue (which features the work of Jack Howe in memorium).

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FURTHERING THE PRINCIPLES OF FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

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Northern California Taliesin Fellows
831 Midglen Way, Woodside, CA 94062
650.369.0416 FAX 369.0417
E-mail: NCFellows @Midglen.com
Website: WWW.Midglen.com/NCFellows

Bill Patrick, Editor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Arthur Patrick, president
Henry Herold, vice president
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FLLW portrait by Robert Kueny

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The Fellows in Los Angeles and in Northern California and perhaps in Florida, remain somewhat impotent in the current incarnation. The danger seen is that control will be held by the financial underwriter — Taliesin. John Geiger and Brad Storrer are two of the original founders of the Fellows organization and are continuing opposition to a Taliesin-based association.

Eric Wright and others constituting a majority of the board believe the future rests with a more institutional approach and that participation in the affairs of Taliesin may best be achieved through a Fellows Alumni organization at Taliesin. There remains the risk of the institutionalized approach of academia.

This is evidenced in the forthcoming Pittsburgh event where the Fellows appear to be exclusively represented by the Taliesin school and its current faculty. Little effort was made on the part of the organizers to include participation by the “anonymous” Fellows beyond Taliesin. And indeed little effort was made on the part of the ‘outsiders’ who seem offended at this oversight.

However, so be it. Taliesin has become an accredited educational institution. Its organization follows largely the line of academia despite its questionable claim to be learning-by-doing in the manner of the time of FLLW. The cause of Organic Architecture must remain the centerpiece in carrying on the philosophy of its originator. Fellows can hardly afford to remain aloof in their proud individuality and should enroll themselves in serving the future — not simply reminiscing the great days of more than forty years ago!

We can do more by joining with Taliesin to make our views a part of the future.

bits and pieces

by archie tekker

The Callister Lecture

Charles Warren Callister, famed architect from Tiburon, presented a talk on his work May 21 in San Francisco at the Unitarian Church Exhibit Gallery, a building of his own design, in connection with an exhibit of his work of many years.

A crowd of some fifty or sixty attended to hear Callister mumbling non-amplified over the clacking of some three trays of slides, half of which flashed on and off the screen with no comment whatsoever.

While the presentation was somewhat disappointing, the exhibition mounted more than a hundred photos of a prodigious and gifted designer, never an apprentice of Wright, but an inspiring deliverer of organic architecture.

Roots and Murphy's Law

Earl Nisbet, one of our NorCal directors, reports on his recent journey to England and Holland in search of his roots, visiting the sites of his father and grandfather's past.

He tells the titillating tale of rambunctious rains for two weeks both in England and in Holland, coupled with motorists who insisted on driving on the ‘wrong’ side of the road, (according to Earl), of sleeping in his rented Peugeot when no lodging could be found in Stratford-on-Avon, of being booted from his hotel in London when his reservation ran out, of giving up the car rental after 23 hours when he could no longer see the road in torrential downpour, of scaring the local citizens out of their British aplomb as he kept running over the curb of medians on the way to Stonehenge (which he never found), of escaping to Holland only to find the deluge pursuing all the way.

He cancelled out after two weeks and returned from the worst vacation he has ever had!

Woe to directors seeking their roots. It was sunny in California!

Gold Mountain Trek

Member Henry Stein will report at our next meeting on his visit to the Gold Mountain Project where Taliesin Architects are recreating FLLW's famed boathouse on Gold Mountain lake. He also visited the 1997 ‘dream’ house designed by John Rattenbury for Life Magazine.

The Pittsburgh Symposium

Jerry Morosco, secretary of the Taliesin Fellows in Los Angeles, has been the prime mover for a big-scale FLLW event in Pittsburgh next month, June 23-June 27. With support of the local Pittsburgh AIA chapter and with participation of architectural students from both Taliesin and Carnegie-Mellon University the event will be staged at several venues in Pittsburgh.

Taliesin Fellows are invited to provide slides of their work to be displayed at one of the galleries in Pittsburgh.

The Fellows work and the various events appear to be largely that of the current Taliesin Architects, and in fact, no other presenter participants are listed. Most of the speakers represent academia and staff members of the FLLW School of Architecture. The event features the work of Cornelia Brierly and Peter Berndston, early apprentices of Wright, as well as that of Heloise Crista, Val Cox, and Susan Jacobs Lockhart who represent allied arts and crafts at Taliesin. Visits to Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob are included in the program.

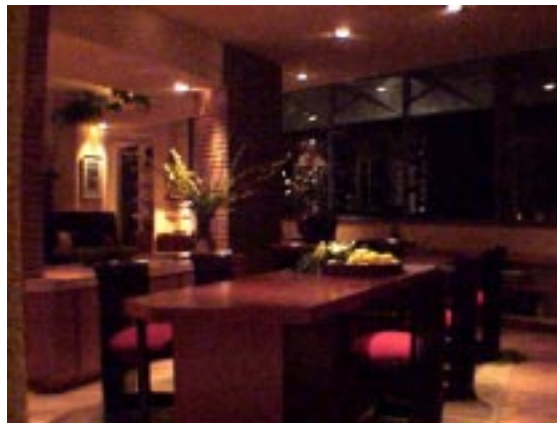
Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer, Taliesin Archivist, will present a keynote address entitled 'Olgivanna Lloyd Wright: Her Life, Her Words, Her Works' at the Carnegie Museum at a gala evening following cocktails and dinner.

The student work will be a part of the event as a result of a semester of study of

Wright and various apprentices by the CMU students. A number of former apprentices were interviewed as a part of the study and their commentaries are available on the internet at <http://www.arc.cmu.edu/taliesin/>. This webpage links readers to our Northern California Fellows website as well and includes our last **Newsletter**. Details of the input from the Taliesin students were not available.



Year' awards by Metropolitan Home Magazine.



Pictured are views of the Frank Lloyd Wright apartment design which was part of a stunning project for Edgar J. Kaufman in the 1950s.

The apartment tower was to have been erected on the famous Pittsburgh Point site at the confluence of the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers which forms the Ohio. Davey Davidson's night view rendering enlarged to full scale was used as virtual reality as the view from the apartment windows.

Photos by Jerry Morosco