

## The Remodel of the De Young Memorial Chapel

One special place comes to mind for Stockton families on the loss of their loved ones – De Young Memorial Chapel on California Street celebrating seventy years at this location in November. The long running history of this Stockton funeral home dates back to 1888 starting as The James Ford Livery Stable and Undertaking Parlor located at 31 S. Center Street.

C. C. De Young married into the Ford family in 1913 and joined his father-in-law's newly relocated business at 407 E. Lindsay Street the next year. Ford retired in 1917 and turned his interests over to his son-in-law. De Young with his new partner moved the mortuary to Fremont and American Street. The Ford/De Young tradition developed to give the best service possible in time of need at an affordable price.

In 1937, when the De Young Memorial Chapel was built in its current location, it was a reflection of its times based on ideas C. C. De Young gathered from a national mortuary tour, including many Pacific Coast cities. The Chapel's Spanish Mission building style echoes the history of the landscape witnessed by De Young, and is indicative of his understanding and appreciation of architecture. The plan of the building offers a great deal of flexibility, where rooms can be combined or divided depending on the amount of space required for each particular funeral. It is this type of sensitivity and consideration

that has made the De Young Memorial Chapel a success. Stewart Enterprises has since purchased the business and continues to carry on the 119-year-old family tradition.

In 2004, Derivi Construction and Architecture, Inc. (DCA) was hired to assist in a broad remodeling effort. The remodel involved two buildings on the site of California Street and Oak Street: the main building (which includes two chapels, four visitation rooms, a casket display room, and numerous offices) and a separate two-story building with a garage. The secondary building was used to park hearses on the first floor and included a small apartment on the second floor, which at one time housed resident staff.

The project began with the remodel of the smaller two-story building. The garage was converted into a multi-purpose room, which is now used for family arrangements, receptions, and staff training. During this time the second floor was remodeled to become a conference room and manager's office. The space is a pleasing addition for many families and staff members, who enjoy the natural light that enters through the three sets of newly installed French doors and the warmth of the new interior color scheme.

The second phase of the project was the interior remodel of the main

building. Construction was actually performed in a number of phases so that the De Young chapel could continue to provide a high level of service without disruption. Work in this building included a general overhaul of the interiors, the addition of a new elevator in the lobby, and architectural improvements to the lobby and main family arrangements office, which were expanded to provide more space and light and to create a more pleasant atmosphere.

A Spanish Mission style "bell tower" was added to the roof of the main building, to accommodate the new elevator structure. DCA designed this structure to blend with the original style of the building and enhance the character of the facade. The windows of the lobby were replaced and modified to provide more light and offer improved sound and heat insulation. Great care was taken to ensure that these windows matched the existing design to maintain the original architecture.

Dated, inefficient light fixtures were replaced with more efficient wrought iron light fixtures to bring the building up to today's energy standards. Tired and dark carpets, wall coverings, and ceiling finishes were replaced in the Lobby, Reception Area, Family Arrangement Office, Visitation Rooms, and Drawing Room with a



*De Young Memorial Chapel Interior Lobby*



*De Young Memorial Chapel Façade—Street View*

*Continued—next page*

## The Remodel of the De Young Memorial Chapel—*continued*

lighter, more contemporary color scheme. Except for the replacement of the carpet, the Chapel was left as is to maintain the original historic quality of the building. The walls of the Chapel are adorned with a series of wall murals depicting life from birth to old age and were created by renowned Stockton artist Oscar Galgiani (1903-1994). Galgiani was the second president of the Stockton Art League (1938-39) and is well known for his landscape paintings, portraits, and most importantly his wall murals located in the San Joaquin County Courthouse (1964).

Other adornments included the addition of new crown and base moldings, to unify the interior spaces and create a more home-like ambiance. DCA selected new furniture for many of the rooms (provided by Durst Office Interiors), as well as new art which depicts scenes of the California landscape (provided by 1st Street Frame Company in Turlock).

Overall the staff members of the De Young Memorial Chapel are pleased with the interior and

exterior refurbishments. Chapel managers Tim Cordova and Eldon Nice greatly assisted Mundy Kumar, DCA Project Manager, and Lauren McColl, DCA Intern Architect responsible for the interior design of the project, with the important decisions and feedback necessary for the success of the remodel. An aged building has new life while maintaining and respecting its unique and historic character.

*Submitted by  
Joy Neas and Lauren McColl  
Derivi Construction Architecture  
(DCA)*

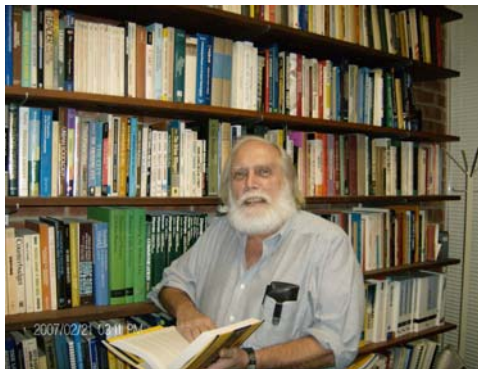
## Midtown/Magnolia Advisory Group—Meet the Members

### *Roy Childs*

Roy Childs has been with the University of the Pacific teaching sociology and urban affairs since coming to Stockton in the early 1970s. He fell in love with the City soon after his arrival, impressed with the cultural diversity present. The combined rural/urban flavor of the Central Valley, proximity to the Sierras and the coast, meant that Stockton turned out to be a great place to raise his family.

Roy has been involved in a number of civic initiatives over the years, serving on housing committees in the 1970s, working with WorkNet (then CETA and then PIC) on labor force research, and others. Roy has been able to involve his students in many

civic initiatives, providing good experience for the students and good human effort for needy projects. He has also conducted research on population change, public perceptions of social problems, school integration and the overall quality of community life.



Coming to the Midtown Project early on he helped acquire a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development that has funded tutoring and after school programs in Midtown schools as well as a variety of cultural events, health and employment fairs and youth activities.

*The Midtown/Magnolia Advisory Group has 21 community members. Meet one member in this issue. Watch for biography information about other members in future newsletters.*



The City of Stockton is challenging the residents of each City Council

District to read more and more often!

### Will you take the challenge?

In a 2006 survey of *America's Most Literate Cities*, Stockton ranked 70 out of 70 cities in the United States with populations over 250,000. We are challenging everyone in Stockton to read and improve our literacy rate.

Beginning May 20, 2007 residents of Stockton—all ages—were called upon to pick up a book, magazine or newspaper and read. All residents are asked to record the number of items read through September 22, 2007. Just log onto the City of Stockton web site at [www.stocktongov.com](http://www.stocktongov.com) and click on "Stockton Reads" to register what you are reading, register your book club, enter a book review, check out recommend reading lists, and much more!

### Cesar Chavez Central Library 605 N. El Dorado Street

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Mon - Thur. | 10AM—8PM |
| Fri         | 10AM—6PM |
| Sat         | 10AM—5PM |
| Sun         | 1PM—5PM  |

- Get help with your reading.
- Free one-on-one tutoring.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help.
- Call us at the Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library (209) 937-8362.