

November 19, 2017

Dear Member of the Board of Directors of the Bellosguardo Foundation

This is momentous and an exciting time for Bellosguardo— after many years of waiting, the estate of Mrs. Huguette Clark (Mrs. Clark) is being transferred to the Bellosguardo Foundation. This means that the Bellosguardo Foundation is now in the position to begin to carry out the legacy of Mrs. Clark, a legacy that she anticipated as early as her first will in 1964. Even at that time, her vision for Bellosguardo was that it be gifted as a foundation to foster the arts and be maintained to continue her legacy of giving through a property that she held very close to her heart. She was keen on entrusting Bellosguardo to those who understood her vision, to help her establish something that would benefit Santa Barbara, while at the same time maintaining her legacy.

Indeed, as early as 1964, in an unsigned will Mrs. Clark bequeathed Bellosguardo in its entirety to the “Santa Barbara Foundation”—a corporation to be organized in memory of her mother Anna E. Clark. The Santa Barbara Foundation was to use the property “in the development of the arts, music, and other cultural purposes.” More recently, she seriously considered leaving Bellosguardo to the Music Academy of the West, but she decided against this because she was concerned about cars spoiling the grounds. And then, in her final will signed in 2005, she again bequeathed Bellosguardo and all of the personal property therein to the Bellosguardo Foundation whose primary purpose would be “fostering and promoting of the Arts.”

Indeed, Mrs. Clark has a lifelong legacy of supporting property, arts, and people. In gifting Bellosguardo to become a Foundation for the arts, she would have expected that the Foundation would be a conscientious and loving steward of her legacy. This would necessarily entail the stewardship of her property, her art, and her employees.

Property as a legacy—at the time of her death Mrs. Clark owned many properties, including 3 apartments on Fifth Avenue overlooking Central Park in New York, one on 52 acres in New Canaan, Connecticut (Le Beau Chateau), and one on 24 acres overlooking the ocean here in Santa Barbara (Bellosguardo). Additionally, Mrs. Clark gifted Rancho Alegre to the Boy Scouts of America in memory of her mother and the development of Andree Clark Bird Refuge to the City of Santa Barbara in memory of her sister Andree. In her last will, the only property that she gifted as a legacy moving forward was Bellosguardo—from among all of her collections and treasures, Bellosguardo held a very special place in her heart!

Art as a legacy—throughout her life, art was an interest and passion for Mrs. Clark. Both personally and as a collector, she was invested in painting, music, miniature wood architecture, as well as illustrators and artists, especially in the US, France, and Japan. Indeed, in addition to her widespread support of individual artists, she also provided financial support for their families for decades after an artist’s death.

People as a legacy—although various types of art were a passion for Mrs. Clark, the people (and their families) who created that art were equally if not more important to her. Likewise, the people who cared for her properties were very important to her. Let’s look at how this applies to Bellosguardo.

People as a legacy at Bellosguardo—because Mrs. Clark’s wish was to maintain a high level of privacy, many only see Bellosguardo as an incredible house on a spectacular piece of property, a jewel in Santa Barbara that has been a mystery and an intrigue to all. And now, this amazing piece of property and house are ready to be developed as a Foundation for the arts. But that is

only a part of the legacy that Mrs. Clark would have expected. Although property and art held a paramount place in her heart and day-to-day activities, the people who maintained her properties and created the art also held a paramount place in her heart. At Bellosguardo, these have included the following:

- Walter Armstrong—Scottish chauffeur for the Clarks. After he retired, Mrs. Clark paid him his full salary until he died in the 1970s. Mrs. Clark then continued to pay this salary to Alma, his widow, until she died in the 1990s.
- Sylvia Morales—maid for 30 years, given a salary of 92 percent of her regular pay until her death.
- Albert Hoelscher—resident manager of Bellosguardo from 1938 until his death in 1982; was provided both a full salary and a residence through the day he died.
- Lorraine Hoelscher—wife of Albert and bookkeeper for Bellosguardo for 44 years; when she was no longer able to fulfill work responsibilities, Mrs. Clark continued to pay her full salary and authorized her to live in her home at Bellosguardo, with paid help, until her death.
- John Douglas—current resident manager of Bellosguardo. Mrs. Clark provided me a salary, annual bonus, and a home at Bellosguardo for nearly 30 years through her date of death. It was my expectation, both for myself and for those currently working at Bellosguardo, that we would continue working and living (for some) here for as long as Mrs. Clark's legacy continued to be maintained.

Through the establishment of the Foundation, she expected the Foundation to be her voice in continuing her legacy, and especially in the continuance of Bellosguardo as her most beloved property. Her vision for her legacy most certainly was that the Foundation would foster and maintain the arts and her property, with all the people whom she had chosen and approved to maintain Bellosguardo under her tutelage.

Although I've been given notice that the estate is passing to the Foundation and my employment and the employment of all the other Bellosguardo employee's will terminate on the date of the transfer, I have not yet heard from the Bellosguardo Foundation about plans to continue Mrs. Clark's legacy. I am reaching out to the Board directly because the continuity and stewardship of Bellosguardo as it existed for over 80 years is about to end—a most unprecedented event. It has been my role for 35 years to prevent something like this from happening. I am attempting to fulfill my duty to Mrs. Clark and to Bellosguardo to ensure the stewardship of the property continues at the level she required and envisioned.

As the resident manager of Bellosguardo for over 35 years, I have been a loyal, diligent, and honorable employee. I have also lived at Bellosguardo for all of those 35 years, so it is much more to me than just a place of employment—it is also my much loved home. There is not a building, system (plumbing, electrical, security, fire-safety, structural), tree, bush, or even blade of grass at Bellosguardo that has not been thoughtfully administered to under my supervision and tutelage during the last 3 decades. Additionally, I have developed and worked with an amazing team of 6 employees who assist with landscape maintenance, bookkeeping, and housekeeping for the property—all of whom are also dependent of the Bellosguardo Foundation for the continuance of their jobs.

The Petition for Final Distribution of Bellosguardo (the real property and the personal property) to the Foundation is set for hearing on December 14, 2017, in the Santa Barbara Superior Court, at which time it is expected that the court will sign the order. On or about that day the property will transfer to the Foundation, and my employment as well as the employment of the entire staff of Bellosguardo will end. The estate has given us notice and we all have signed separation agreements regarding the same.

At this time, if the Foundation does not act quickly and expeditiously, I will lose both my job of 35 years, and also my home of 35 years—both within the next 30 days, before the end of the year and just 2 days before Christmas (based on the estate's requirements, I must move out by December 23). Mrs. Clark would be profoundly dismayed and saddened had she known that I, and the other employees at Bellosguardo, would face this sort of stress at a time when she was expecting her legacy to become even more firmly established—as her final gift to Santa Barbara.

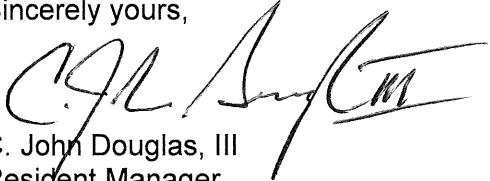
I implore you, the current members of the board of directors of the Bellosguardo Foundation and stewards of Mrs. Clark's legacy, to make the commitment to keep the current staff at Bellosguardo employed, and that those who currently live here can continue to do so. I look forward to working with the Foundation to continue a life of stewardship, both of Mrs. Clark's property, but also of her legacy—to developing a foundation at Bellosguardo to foster and promote the arts, and also to support people as Mrs. Clark did so passionately throughout her life.

Those with whom I have worked over several decades and with whom I have become acquainted can vouch for my character, quality of work, loyalty to Huguette Clark and sincere appreciation for and knowledge of Bellosguardo and its place in and impact on the Santa Barbara Community.

As a Member of the board of directors of the Bellosguardo Foundation, I'm asking you to contact the Chair of the Board and the President to let them know that you support the continuance of Mrs. Clark's legacy by retaining the current staff at Santa Barbara.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this request by a loyal, diligent, and exceptional employee of Mrs. Clark for over 35 years.

Sincerely yours,



C. John Douglas, III
Resident Manager
Bellosguardo, estate of Mrs. Huguette Clark

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