



# PAST News

Vol. 25, No.3

P.O. Box 308 • Palo Alto, California 94302

Winter 2013

## The Hamilton Avenue Post Office

The community spirit shown by PAST's membership, docents, donors and Board produced a spectacular Holiday House Tour on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Your time, effort and financial support made historic preservation visible to over 500 attendees.

Our next effort involves the sale of the Hamilton Avenue Post Office. The USPS has asked PAST to hold a preservation covenant for this 1932 Birge Clark building. The covenant will be bound to the deed and will ensure the preservation of the Mission Revival exterior including the roof and arcade as well as the interior lobby.

Holding a covenant is both an honor and a responsibility. Non-profit preservation groups are normally paid a stewardship fee by the seller which covers all of the non-profit's expenses, both foreseen and unforeseen. The former include participating in the City permit approval process, monitoring the construction/remodeling and conducting an annual inspection. Unforeseen expenses include hiring independent construction experts, consultants and attorneys.

PAST is currently discussing a stewardship fee with the nearly bankrupt USPS. Should this fail, we'll request such a fee from the buyer, the City of Palo Alto. PAST has worked well with the City as a gratis covenant holder for the Children's Library. Because this project involved an enormous amount of work and had potential fiduciary liability, PAST requested a stewardship fee from the City when later asked to hold the covenant for the College Terrace Library remodel. The City refused, but we still monitored the construction carefully and independently hired a structural engineer to correct an element which would have marred the historic interior design of that WPA building.

The Hamilton Avenue Post Office resonates on many levels with Palo Altans. PAST's goal is to work diligently in a professional manner to preserve this landmark building and to avoid mishaps such as the ones at Edgewood Plaza, 433 Melville or 564 University. We hope the community will support PAST in this effort.⌘

*Margaret Feuer*

*Palo Alto–Stanford Heritage President*

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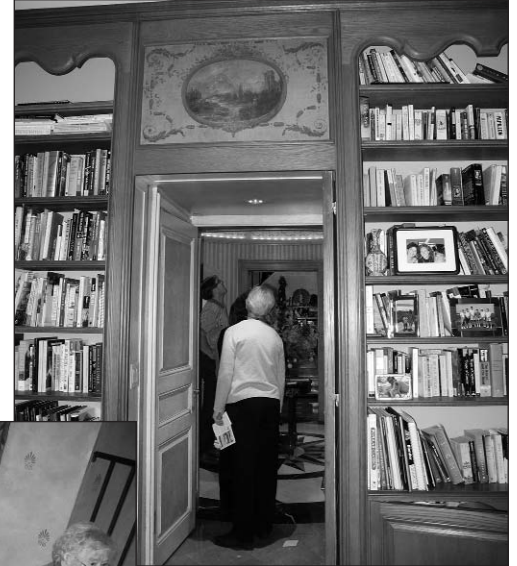


## One Million Thank Yous

Homeowners, Docents, Visitors, Members and Donors – the list is long of people to whom we owe thanks for a wonderful 25<sup>th</sup> Holiday House Tour. Over 500 attendees experienced the importance of preserving the historic architecture and character of Palo Alto. Their comments were telling:



“I attended the holiday house tour and have to say that it was the best ever.” (Attendee)



“The choice of houses provided great variety—something for everyone. Great and abundant refreshments too.” (Docent)



900 University Avenue



975 Hamilton Avenue



419 Maple Street

“The tour was quite a success! People had such a good time asking questions, appreciating works of art and enjoying my family’s home.”  
(Owner)



855 Hamilton Avenue



860 University Avenue



Be sure to visit the PAST website at [www.pastheritage.org](http://www.pastheritage.org) for more pictures and descriptions of our Holiday House Tours!



39 Crescent Drive

## The Month of May Is Preservation Month

Mark your calendars for the events listed below. See you there!

Friday, Saturday and Sunday through August 18 —  
**Fiber to Fabric: A History of American Textile Production**,  
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Museum of American Heritage,  
351 Homer Avenue. Free.

Sunday, March 3, 2 p.m. — **Jane Lathrop Stanford**, Palo  
Alto Historical Association, Lucie Stern Center, 1305  
Middlefield Road. Free.

Sunday, March 17, 7:30 p.m. — **The Albany Consort**  
Baroque music. For tix: [www.womansclubofpaloalto.org](http://www.womansclubofpaloalto.org)

Sunday, April 7, 2 p.m. — **Palo Alto Trees**, Palo Alto His-  
torical Association, Lucie Stern Center, 1305 Middle-  
field Road. Free.

Sunday, April 28, 7:30 p.m. — **Wu Han Music@Menlo**.  
For tix: [www.womansclubofpaloalto.org](http://www.womansclubofpaloalto.org)

Monday, April 29 7:30 p.m. — **Mayor's Proclamation of  
Preservation Month**, City Hall Council Chamber.

Saturdays, May 4, May 11, and May 25, — **Walking  
Tour**, time and place to be determined. Contact Hayley  
Stevens for more information: [hes.stevens@gmail.com](mailto:hes.stevens@gmail.com),  
or check our website: [www.pastheritage.org](http://www.pastheritage.org)

Sunday, May 19, — **Centennial Plaques and Preservation  
Awards**, 1– 3 p.m. Guest speaker, author Dave Wein-  
stein, Palo Alto Woman's Club, 475 Homer Ave.

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays — **Historic Resources Board**, 8 a.m.  
City Hall.

### PAST News

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Cheryl Lathrop, PHOTOS: Carolyn George, Lolly Osborne, Palo Alto Historical Association,  
PAST WEBSITE: [www.pastheritage.org](http://www.pastheritage.org)



### PAST News

Palo Alto Stanford Heritage  
P.O. Box 308  
Palo Alto, CA 94302

PAST Heritage is a nonprofit organization advocat-  
ing the preservation of the historic architecture,  
neighborhoods, and character of the greater Palo Alto  
Stanford area through informed citizen involvement  
and education.

### PAST Heritage Board of Directors

President: Margaret Feuer  
Secretary: Judith Mattingly  
Treasurer: Cheryl Lathrop

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Guidelines Committee: Natalie Loukianoff  
Public Advocacy: Grace Hinton  
Webmaster: Carolyn George

## Membership insert follows.

# Our Members

We'd like to thank all of our new and returning members for their support. We're proud to have 408 members, an increase of 160 over last year. Welcome aboard!

## Lifetime

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### **Thank you to our Holiday House Tour donors!**

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Il Fornaio  
Monique's  
Peninsula Creamery Grill and  
Restaurant  
Barbara Schroeder of  
MacArthur Park