

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 3

Laura Jones, Stanford Archaeologist, will tell about the findings from a dig at the site of the Leland Stanford home.

Palo Alto Historical Association

Lucie Stern Community Center

1305 Middlefield Road

2 p.m.

Tuesday, March 12

Juana Briones' 200th Birthday Party

7:30 p.m.

Palo Alto Women's Club

475 Homer Avenue

Palo Alto

See page 7 for more about this event.

Wednesday, March 27

Turn of the Century Palo Alto—An Architectural Sampler

7:30 p.m.

Palo Alto Women's Club

475 Homer Avenue

Palo Alto

See cover for details

May 2-5

27th California Preservation Conference

"Vintage Sonoma County"

Information available at www.californiapreservation.org

May 12-18

Preservation Week

Save the date! See page 2 for a preview of what's in store.



PAST News

Vol. 15, No. 3

P.O. Box 308 • Palo Alto, California 94302 • (650) 299-8878

Winter 2002

Turn of the Century Palo Alto— An Architectural Sampler

featuring detailed examination of the **Victorian**,
Shingle, **Colonial Revival** and **Craftsman** styles.

What: Slide Show

When: March 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Palo Alto Women's Club, 475 Homer

Who: Everyone is welcome!

Cost: PAST members: No charge

Non-members: \$5.00

PAST Heritage Board of Directors

<i>Marilyn Bauriedel</i>	<i>Sharon Olsen</i>
<i>Martin Bernstein</i>	<i>Jennifer Pollock</i>
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PAST Website: www.pastheritage.org
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Editor: Carolyn George
Photos: Brian George, Sheri Moody
Palo Alto Historical Association

Printed on recycled paper.



PAST News

Palo Alto Stanford Heritage

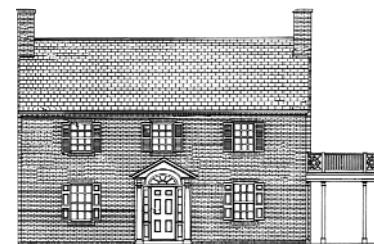
P.O. Box 308

Palo Alto, CA 94302

PAST Heritage is a nonprofit organization advocating the preservation of the historic architecture, neighborhoods, and character of the greater Palo Alto Stanford area.

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Colonial Revival



Shingle



Craftsman



Victorian

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Balancing Preservation against Progress is an enduring issue. Our architectural heritage is irreplaceable, but human culture will inevitably develop new ideas that deserve to be realized, some of which will replace the old. The balance that exists at any time and place is largely a reflection of the contemporary public ethos, of how residents view their city and how they wish it to evolve.

Preservation is not only the veneration of a few spectacular edifices. To be effective, preservation must be relevant at the grass roots level, promoting the essential, living community character that its residents wish to maintain. Part of the preservationists' mission is to show how the spectacular edifices contribute to that character. To be truly successful, however, preservationists must actively help shape their cultural environment.

We face a special challenge in Palo Alto—the seeming rejection of preservation in the March 2000 Measure G election. But to me the closeness of that vote says ambivalence. Considering also that half the electorate did not care enough about the issue to vote, the Measure G outcome was not a rebuff to preservation, but a lack of affirmation for a specific piece of legislation. I believe that, with the right approach, there is hope.

Additional regulation may prove necessary to safeguard our most valued community resources against the occasional excesses of progress. But, in a democracy, laws work well only to the extent they earn the consent of the governed. That is especially true for preservation ordinances, whose impact can be very personal and intrusive. They must be, and be perceived to be, a worthwhile community benefit and fair to the affected property owners.

But, whether or not the preservation ordinance issue resurfaces in Palo Alto, we ought to be fostering a community appreciation for our architectural heritage and its role in forming our community's character. It's our job. And if the ordinance issue does come back, let's be out in front, with community support for a reasonable proposal.

Comments and suggestions are welcome.

David Bubenik, President

“To be effective, preservation must be relevant at the grass roots level, promoting the essential, living community character that its residents wish to maintain.”

PALO ALTO TO CELEBRATE PRESERVATION WEEK MAY 12TH THRU 18TH, 2002

Preserving the Spirit of Place

This year we will be celebrating Preservation Week from May 12th thru the 18th. The National Trust has selected a theme of *Preserving the Spirit of Place*, “A celebration of America's diverse history and how historic preservation helps save that heritage.”

We will have noontime walking tours, including a visit to the Gamble Garden Center and tours of Professorville. The Gamble house is celebrating its centennial this year, as are several houses in Professorville, including the Varian House and the Fowler Mansion.

Be sure to join us in celebrating our *Spirit of Place* in Palo Alto. We look forward to honoring those who have contributed to preservation in our community.

Plan on joining in the festivities and bringing along your friends in order that they might better understand the value of preservation.

This year we are having our *members only* event at the culmination of Preservation Week, Saturday, May 18th. We are pleased to invite our members to the house which Birge Clark designed in 1936 for his family residence and in which he lived until his death. The house has been lovingly restored by its present owners and the garden setting is a lovely gathering place.



The Elizabeth Gamble House 1902

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR LOCAL PIONEER WOMAN

JUANA BRIONES TURNS 200!

Travel back in time and meet “special friends” of the remarkable Juana Briones on the 200th anniversary of her birth. Enjoy informal conversation with her knowledgeable admirers while sipping Briones' own Yerba Buena healing tea at the Palo Alto Women's Club, 475 Homer Avenue on Tuesday, March 12th at 7:30 p.m. Open to the public. No charge.

Juana Briones was an extraordinary Hispanic woman. The daughter of a DeAnza expedition member, Briones grew up in the Presidio where she learned herbal healing skills. In 1836 this exceptional woman secured a separation from her husband because he did not provide for his family and courageously established a small farm in the area now known as North Beach where she raised produce to support her eight children. In 1844, although women generally did not buy property, she purchased the 4,400-acre Rancho La Purisima Concepcion, an area approximating that of the town of Los Altos Hills although she built her home on the Palo Alto portion. Briones' business acumen and perseverance turned her into a true rarity, a ranchera who held on to her property after Mexican California was joined to the United States.

For more information check out www.brioneshouse.org or contact the Juana Briones Heritage Foundation, 650-327-4977 or jfmc@aol.com.

JudyAnn Edwards and Gail Woolley



Olga Loya, one of Juana's “knowledgeable admirers” who portrays Juana in a dramatic monologue.

NATIONAL AWARD WINNER

Woodenwings Builders Inc.'s restoration for Alice Wilder-Hall's Emerson Street home won both a local and regional (six Western states) First Place Award from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry for Best Historic Restoration for 2001. They are thrilled to be honored with this award and applaud NARI's support of preservation. Last year, seven awards were presented to builders throughout the country and Woodenwings hopes to win a national prize at the annual convention in this April. The entries are judged on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Restoration to which guidelines NARI adheres. The designer on this project was Virginia Schutte of VSchutte Design.

Look for this kitchen on a future Holiday House tour! It is good to know that there are national builders associations that recognize and support the important work of preservation

Laura Ferrell

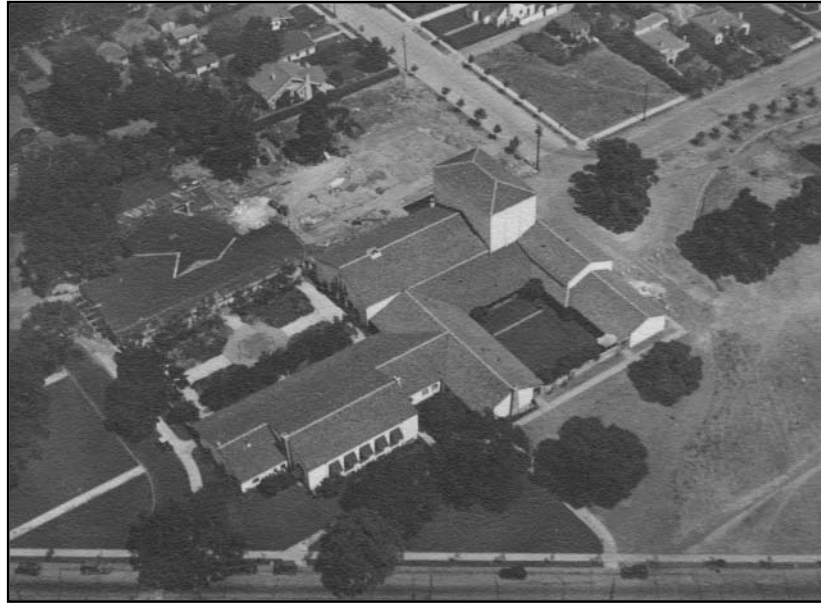


**THE LUCIE STERN COMMUNITY CENTER
EACH HAS A STORY TO TELL...**

More than 500 buildings are listed on the Historic Buildings Inventory of the City of Palo Alto. Twenty-five are in Category One, that is, considered exceptional. Each has a story to tell. Last issue we featured the first Community Center.

The second Community Center at **1305 Middlefield Road** is also in Category One as is Lucie Stern's home at 1990 Cowper (1932). Both were designed by our own beloved **Birge Clark**. He first met Aunt Lucie when asked to repair the porch of her home in Atherton. That contact led to his designing her home in Palo Alto and the two next door at 1950 and 1928 Cowper for her daughter and her daughter's nurse. In addition to the Community Center consisting of the adult theater, the Ruth Stern wing, the children's theater, and the Fire Circle, Aunt Lucie also gave the people of Palo Alto the Children's Library and the Sea Scout base at the harbor.

Look for more stories of our historic treasures in future issues of the PAST Heritage Newsletter. The Spring 2002 issue will feature more about our local treasure, Birge Clarke.



**HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR A
RESOUNDING SUCCESS!**

**THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS AND
PARTICIPANTS**

The overwhelming success of the PAST Heritage 2001 Holiday House Tour is attributable to the outstanding work of our large community of volunteers. This included 46 docents who staffed the five Professorville homes on tour on December 9 and Gail Woolley, who recruited and worked with the docents, coordinated ticket sales and distribution and much other behind-the-scenes activity, and who shared her expertise from many years of planning and volunteering for this annual event. We are grateful for all the time and effort each of you put into



David Swartz, son of Polly and Jake, greeted guests at his childhood home.

the tour. We also extend special thanks to JudyAnn Edwards for her prolific and valuable publicity work, Laura Ferrell and Susan Beall for coordinating the delicious refreshments, Carolyn George for designing publicity flyers and producing the fall newsletter devoted to the tour, Elizabeth Moder-Stern for ticket fulfillment and the post-tour party for volunteers, Sharon Olsen and Steve Staiger for hours of research and production of docent materials on the historic homes, Aino Vieira da Rosa for planning and preparation of the successful post-tour party, Pria Graves for the colorful balloons, and Caroline Willis for product sales. Our gratitude also goes out to the volunteers who ably assisted the committee chairs named above. We extend a thousand thanks to the homeowner hosts for days of preparation to receive all 700 tour guests and allowing us to view the interiors of their priceless heritage homes. And a hearty thank you goes out to Robert and Joan Jack for opening their home to our docents and other volunteers for a gathering after the house tour. Finally, we thank all the guests who came on the tour and supported PAST by their participation.

The annual Holiday House Tour involves the largest number of volunteers from among our members and friends of any of PAST's activities, and this year was no exception. Without your enthusiastic participation we would not be able to offer the mid-Peninsula this ever-popular event. As more and more people have the opportunity to experience the architectural details and quality of craftsmanship and materials that comprise Palo Alto's historic homes, PAST helps foster a deeper appreciation for historic preservation. This year's record crowd (our clicker at 730 Bryant counted 664 guests) demonstrates that efforts to preserve Palo Alto's historic resources are esteemed by many people in this area.

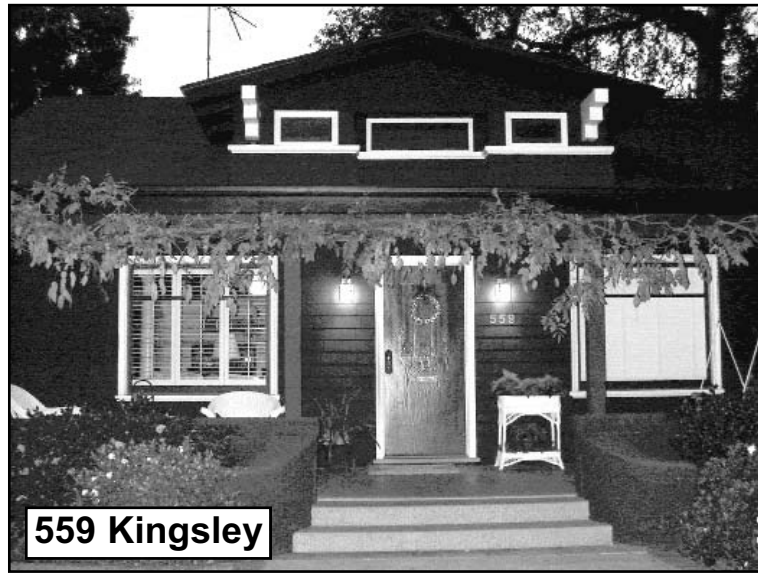
*Marilyn Bauriedel and Natalie Wells,
Co-chairs of Holiday House Tour 2001*



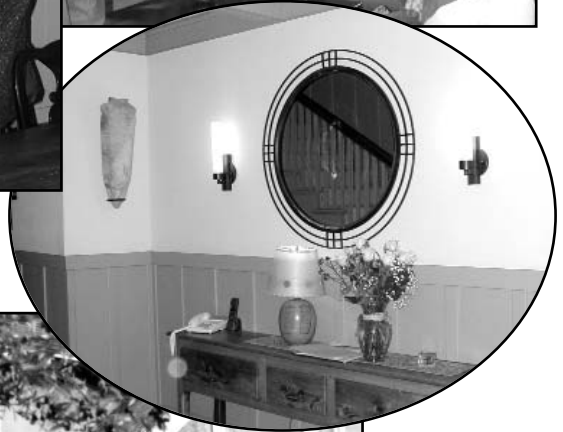
Rumpus Room



345 Lincoln



559 Kingsley



1200 Bryant

Thanks to *Whole Foods* and *COSTCO* for their generous donations of refreshments.



365 Lincoln



1148 Bryant

