February 11 through May 29, at the Museum of American Heritage:
Mechanically Advantaged: Gears, Levers & Pulleys. For more information, call (650) 321-1004 or check the MOAH Web site at www.moah.org. Located at 351 Homer Avenue. Open Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; free admission.

First Sunday of each month (except for this year when the February meeting will be on January 30)—Palo Alto Historical Association. 2 p.m., Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road.

Los Altos History Museum. Open Thursday—Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.; 51 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos, (650) 948-0427. Free.

May 2005 Preservation Month: Restore America: Communities at a Crossroad. Look for more information in the next issue.

Sunday, May 1, Stanford Historical Society Spring Home and Garden Tour. The Stanford Historical Society will celebrate the publication of Historical Houses III: the San Juan Neighborhood. Stanford University with a tour of homes and gardens featured in the book. Information on tickets and registration will be available in March on the Stanford Historical Society Web site: http://history.stanford.edu. The House Tour Committee is also seeking docents and volunteers; contact Susan Sweeney, 650-324-1653, or susan.sweeney@stanford.edu

Ongoing—Walking Tours of Downtown, Professorville, College Terrace, or Homer Avenue. $20 per docent group of up to 10 people. To arrange a tour, call (650) 328-5670 or visit www.pastheritage.org for contact information.

The Homer Avenue corridor is a treasure trove of historically significant buildings. The 1916 Palo Alto Woman’s Club, the century old St. Thomas Aquinas Church, the Williams House, and many buildings dating back to the 1920’s and earlier give a sense of Palo Alto as it used to be. Several new developments are about to strengthen this historic hub.

In recent years the historic Williams House was transformed into the Museum of American Heritage, where there are both permanent and rotating exhibits of American life in the past. The Museum has had special exhibits on the history and evolution of bicycles, radios, toys, home appliances, and many other interesting parts of Americana.

Very soon, just across the street on the old Palo Alto Clinic site, our new Heritage Park will be officially opened. This two-acre park will provide welcome open space and areas to play for families south of downtown.

And, adjacent to the park, efforts are underway to establish Palo Alto’s own History Museum in the Birge Clark designed Roth Building at the corner of Homer and Bryant. The History Museum Board is about to launch a major fundraising campaign to make this Museum a reality. They have about two years to raise the $5.5 million needed to restore the Roth Building and transform it into a first class museum about Palo Alto and Stanford. In addition to the proposed capital fund, the Board already has a commitment for a million dollar endowment. Currently Palo Alto is one of only two cities in Santa Clara County that do not have their own local history museum. We look forward to seeing this vision become a reality.
Hooray for a wonderful community event! Our
Holiday house tour was spectacular this year with
grand old houses and a new neighborhood to
explore. Congratulations to all, organizers, home-
owners and worker bees, who made this tour joy-
ously memorable. We would not be able to pro-
duce an event on this scale without you. The five
controlling houses provided us with a privi-
leged view into days gone by. As always, it was
fun to stroll and visit with lots of you. Special
thanks to Grace Hinton who made it all happen.

Heritage Park on Homer Avenue, next to our
future History Museum, is looking very much
like an early park in Palo Alto might have, with-
out the play structures and amenities, which have
yet to appear. It’s nice to see it green and pastoral
without the dirt and construction debris.

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for
Preservation Month in May. The National Trust
has expanded the idea of Preservation Week and
this hopefully will allow us to not only enjoy our
own events but be able to participate more fully
in those hosted by neighboring communities. We
will keep you informed thru the PAST hotline and
our webpage as May approaches.

We are researching century old homes and
would love for you to join us at the historic files in
the library, either to research your own home
or to help with those currently approaching the
century mark.

One event on the calendar is the Stanford
Historical Society’s Spring Home and Garden
Tour, which promises to show us more of the res-
didential campus. It will also be an opportunity to
purchase books about the campus. The Tour takes
place place May 1st from one to four in the afternoon.

Here’s hoping 2005 is a year in which we lose
none of our precious heritage and see some of our
sites restored.

Happy New Year,
Caroline Willis
President, PAST Heritage
WELCOME NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

PAST Heritage has more than 300 members for the 2004-2005 year. Our membership and our effectiveness continues to grow. We appreciate every one of you and your participation in our many special projects. Volunteers are always needed. We hope you’ll plan to participate in Preservation Month activities this May.

Emily Rentzel
Membership Chair

LIFE MEMBERS

James E. Baer & Lucy Little
Tom & Sarah Clark
Kay Calpepper
Joseph & Meri Ehrlich
Pria Grave &
George Koerner
Eleanor & Bruce Heister
Ernest & Mildred Mason
Roger L. McCarthy
Leslie McLaren

FAMILY MEMBERS

Shirley & Irven C. Adams
James Cook
Josephine Arnold
Marie & Ben Auerbode
William & Susan Beall
Bill & Sue Seaver
Jack & Nancy Bellin
Ann & John Bender-Balfurl
Beryl & Lillian Bernal
Jane & Bill Bloom
Bonnie & William Blythe
Janet & Christopher Botsford
Mary Sarah Bradley
Marjorie Bridges
Betsy & Ralph Brinon
Fred & Char Buecholtz
Frankie & Carlos Campos
Robert & Susan Christiansen
Christine Clark
Dr. Sondra Clark
Linda & Dean Clark
Marc & Margaret Cohen
Stacy & Todd Cohen
Karen & Allan Connel
Wendy Crowder
Vanessa Davies
Patricia & John Davis
Stephanie & John Day
Arlene & Peter Dehlinger
James & Shirley Eaton
Patricia & Jackson Eaves
Alice Erber & Robert Steinberg
Leila & Sharon Erickson
Robert Eustis & Phyllis Willits
Lyne & Tim Farrell
Annette & Gary Fazzino
MargaretAnn & Don Fider
Shirley & Carl Fendrock
Herbert & Alice Fischgrund
Ancy Fletcher
Michael Flexer & Caroline Hu
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Foerster
Barbara & Win Foerster
Pat Frankenfield
Bob & Betty French
Mel Frolo
Carolyn & Brian George
Ellen Grandvette
Marlene & Wayne Grove
Christine Hammer
Ruth & Ben Hammert
Peggy & Tom Hanks
Lauri Harper
Gwen & Michael Havern
Nancy & Hank Heubach
Grace & Stephen Hinton
Carol A. Hoshizaki &
George Brooks
Anne Houghteling
Charles & Gail Howell
La Isaac
Robert & Joan Jack
Barbara & Bob Jackson
Ray & Eleanorad Jadhvin
Linda Jensen & David Yoos
Pat & Dean Johnson
Joan B. Johnston
Tom & Madge Jordan
Melissa W. King
Pamela Kirkbride
Liz & Rick Kniss
Fred Kohler &
Kuo-Jung Chang
Hal & Iris Korol Ruth &
Richard Lacey
Claire Lasing
Judy Leaboy
Richard Leask &
Barbara Means
Helen & Al Lecher
Peter Levin & Lisa Voge-Levin
Mary Jo Levy
Janet & Mike Leyte-Vidal
Carolyn Long
Janet & Lester Loops
Cornelia & James Lovette
Barbara & Eille Lucas
Dianne MacDaniels &
David Jones III
Carol Malcolm &
Doreen Metz
Nancy & John Mautz
Perry Irving
Eleanor & Bruce Heister
Ruth & Ben Hammert
Peggy & Tom Hanks
Laura Ferrell &
Cheryl Lathrop

PATRONS

Berm Beecheam &
Caryl Lathrop
Olive & John Borgsteadt
David & Patricia Bubenik
Laura Ferrell &
Woodenwings Builders, Inc.
Betsy Gifford
Kelly & Randy Hicks
Joseph & Nancy Huber
Dorothe & Joel Kaplan
Joan & John MacDaniels
John Perkins
William & Carolyn Reller
V. Owen Weisner
Deborah & Peter Wexler
H. Caroline Willis &
James Cook
Tom & Ellen Wyman
George Zimmerman

SPONSORS

Barbara Baer
Beth Bunnengen
Betsy & David Fryberger
Berty Gerhard
Joseph Houghteling
Maureen & David Kennedy
Karen & Bruce McCaul
Mary Pat & Robert McLean
Sandy & Jerry Peters
Daniel Stern & E. Modes-Stern

MARGARET STONE
Linda & Tom Vlastic
DENA MOSSET & Paul Goldstein
Celine O’Hara
Betty Oen
Vic & Mary Ojakian
Jean & Franklin Oldstead
Barbara A. Peters
Howard & Sally Peters
Carolyn & Steve Pierce
Bonnie & David Pollard
MRS. Gordon L. Poole
Katherine Preat

Helen N. Proctor &
Penny Proctor
Ray M. Purpur
Anna M. Ranier &
Stephen P. Boyd
Caroline Razzano
Dan & Lois Rebor
Lorinda & Tim Reichert
Dorothe Reller
William Reller &
Jeannette Remmel

Jennifer A. Renzel
Steve Reyna & Yves Kafhu
Diane & Joe Rolfe
Linda Romley-Irving &
Perry Irving
Steven & Karen Ross
Richard Roth
Shulamith Rubinfien
Ruth Running
Ed Salsbury
Sandy & Joe Santandrea
Charles G. Schulte &
Claire B. Taylor
Joy & Dick Scott
Jude Siddall
Virginia & Anthony Siegmund
Sandra & David Siegmund
Andrea B. Smith
Barbara & John Stokey
Diane & Joe, Reed &
Hayley Stevens
James Storey
Teresa Sutoius
Anthony Tam
Louise Thayse
Ron & Catherine van Zuylen
Aino Vieira da Rosa
Barbara & Scott Wallace
Cindy & John Wallbrink
Len & Rilda Weisberg
Marian Wells
Jesse & Esther Wilson

Juana Briones – Keep Her Doors to History Open!

The Juana Briones Heritage Foundation, has launched a campaign to acquire Juana’s historic adobe house and restore it as a living history center. Now is your chance to step forward and lend a hand, as the Foundation gathers signatures of support. The names of individuals will eventually be posted on the web site at www.brioneshouse.org and included in grant applications.

Comming and returning the enclosed yellow endorsement card you demonstrate the depth of interest in this historic house and the remarkable life of Juana Briones.

Momentum is already building for saving this unique resource, as letters and emails have arrived from California history professors, from Latino leaders as far away as Washington, D.C., as well as a curator of the Smithsonian Museum. Many of the messages echo a common theme — the place of women in history. Molly Murphy MacGregor, who served on a Congressional Commission to save women’s historic sites in the United States and who is president and co-founder of The National Women’s History Project writes:

Our findings were distressful. Women’s land-mark women’s and historic sites are disapp-earing at an alarming rate. California, with the greatest population in the United States, has among the fewest sites. But now we have the opportunity to save the home of Juana Briones and set her life and work in the con-text of California history. Establishing her home as an historic site honors all the California women who wove and held the fabric of our state together. Juana Briones’ story; her difficult life and hard work, is a testament to the spirit of California women as builders and dreamers.

Children on a school trip to the Juana Briones House.

History Professor Al Camarillo of Stanford University, a member of the Juana Briones Heritage Foundation Board, says about the importance of sav-ing Juana’s house: “…Juana Briones is such an important part of California’s 19th century past. The only surviving physi-cal reminders of her legacies of humanitarianism, integrity, resource-fulness and enterprise are embodied in the walls of a historic structure that now faces destruction.”

Once the house is permanently saved from demolition, the Juana Briones Heritage Foundation’s long-term vision includes “opening a door to history”, by restoring the home’s historic architectural form and restoring the grounds with native plants, a vegetable garden and fruit trees. The teaching power of the house is immeasurable because it lends itself to changing exhibits about the architectural roots of early earthen buildings, archaeology, native California plants, and other relevant topics that show themes of continuity and change in California history as various groups interacted.

After the property is restored, the Foundation’s next step is to “help our past inform our future”, with the creation of a children’s program that moves beyond the pages of history books, to pass on the story of this enterprising woman. Another component of the pro-gram would be a scholar-in-residence for women’s studies. That scholar would not just be at work in a university, but be committed to bringing history out into public space through discussions, sharing of family and oral histories, and activities.

In addition to gathering signatures of support, the Foundation is building a team of individuals with pro-fessional experience in real estate law, mediation, preservation, community leadership, and grant writing to raise funds and negotiate a sales agreement with the owners. The Foundation feels confident that when the owners (who have never occupied the property) under-stand the importance of this house to women’s history, negotiations can move forward.

If Juana Briones’ house could talk, it would have many stories to tell. By returning the yellow card you raise your voice to help ensure Juana’s house does get a voice in bringing history alive. Interested in joining this effort? Please contact the Foundation at their web site — www.brioneshouse.org.
Fabulous houses, cooperative weather, and the unique Stanford setting brought out a large and enthusiastic crowd for PAST’s 17th annual Holiday House Tour. Several representatives of the original families, subsequent owners, and their descendents attended for a glimpse into the past. One of the aims with this annual event is to show how modern families can live comfortably in old houses, combining sensitive remodeling with sensible preservation—each of these houses showed that spirit admirably.

We distributed over 700 tickets for this very successful event! PAST used part of the proceeds toward our promised gift of $5000.00 to the Stanford Historical Society to further their research into the history of the many historic houses on campus. The check was presented and graciously accepted at January’s Stanford Historical Society meeting.

It was wonderful to collaborate with the Society on this event, and we hope to have another opportunity to do so in the future. We are grateful to all the docents from both PAST and the SHS who volunteered their time. Special thanks to Marian Adams of the Society’s Historic Houses Committee for her enthusiasm about the houses and commitment to the project.

Grace Hinton