On May 21, owners of 17 of the 27 identified centennial homes accepted plaques commemorating the construction of their houses. In addition, six properties that add so much to the integrity of our city were honored with special certificates. The rain didn’t dampen the spirits of the honorees nor the hospitality of the gracious hosts, Larry and Vicki Sullivan, who treated guests to a birthday cake honoring their centennial home! Congratulations to all the honorees.

**Centennial Home Celebration**

Now through September 24—**Sailing Through History With Model Ships,** Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Avenue. For more information call (650) 321-1004 or check their Website at www.moah.org.

Thursday, September 21, 7-30 p.m.—**What Do You Do With a Drunken Sailor?** Dr. Fabio Lopez, Assistant Professor of History, Santa Clara University, Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Avenue. $5 admission. For more information call (650) 321-1004 or check their Website at www.moah.org.

Sunday, October 1, 2 p.m.—**Palo Alto Historical Association** Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Midfield.

Sunday, December 10, 1-4 p.m.—**Palo Alto Stanford Heritage Holiday House Tour,** Professorville.

Ongoing — Walking Tours of Downtown, Professorville, College Terrace, or Homer Avenue. To arrange a tour, call (650) 328-5670, or visit www.pastheritage.org for contact information.

**Calender of Events**

**PAST Heritage Board of Directors**

- Ralph Britton, President
- Terry Rice, Vice President
- Aino Vieira da Rosa, Secretary
- Grace Hinton, Treasurer
- Betty Britton
- Carolyn George
- Janey Henke
- Kelly Hicks
- Dianne MacDaniels

**PAST Website:** [www.pastheritage.org](http://www.pastheritage.org)

**PAST Hotline:** (650) 299-8878

**Editor:** Carolyn George

**Photos:** Carolyn George

**Contributors:** Betty Britton

**Friends of the Griffin House**

**Palo Alto Historical Association**

**Our hosts, the Sullivan family**

**Save the Date: Sunday, December 10**

It’s back to Professorville for the 2006 Holiday House Tour. All six homes have already celebrated their 100th birthday and all have been recently renovated. Among them is the Hewlett Packard house which is rarely opened to the public!
As I begin my term as President, I am encouraged by the resourcefulness and dedication of the membership and Board of Directors of PAST. As always, we have many opportunities for outreach, and we are looking at more ways that we can help to preserve the historic core of our city. The Holiday House Tour looks to be an especially interesting one, offering a nice reward for members, old and new, as well as offering inspiration for visitors’ own preservation projects. This program is an effective way to remind the community of the value that these historic properties represent to us all.

Fortunately, as we enter this period there are several other organizations working on projects for historic preservation, which we may find ways to assist in achieving their goals. There are interesting opportunities to work with Neighborhood Associations concerned with establishing incentives for preservation within their districts. There are on-going projects, such as the Sea Scout Base, which present challenges and opportunities. The Navy’s position on Moffett Field’s Hangar One may be changing and we can lend our voice on this issue. The bottom line is that there is much to do; the challenge is to make careful choices about where to put our effort.

In addition to the Board, we need active involvement of the general membership. The Board is considering ways to recognize and encourage non-board participation. Currently our members serve as docents for tours, monitor city planning activities and much more. Establishing an advisory board is one possibility under discussion for effectively using this resource. We need all the help we can get, so if you have an interest or want to help, please contact me.

Ralph Britton, President

Membership is a Good Thing!

We couldn’t do it without you. It is only through your commitment to PAST that we are able to work on encouraging and effecting preservation in our community. Your generosity allows us to showcase Palo Alto’s historic buildings and unique heritage through our annual Holiday House Tour and through events and programs during Preservation Month. Your support is a vote of confidence as we work to further our education and preservation efforts.

We’re hoping that when membership renewal letters are mailed in September, you’ll continue with us as we continue advocating a “past” in Palo Alto’s future. As an added incentive, your membership includes a ticket or two (depending on your renewal category), to our lively Holiday House Tour on December 10th. This year we’ll visit six charming homes in one of Palo Alto’s enduring treasures, Professorville. It’s the perfect way to kick off the holidays!

Dianne MacDaniels, Membership Chair

DOCENTS WANTED

PAST Heritage is forming a new docent training class this fall cosponsored by the Palo Alto Historic Resources Board.

We will meet for lectures and tours while exploring the architecture and early inhabitants of Professorville and Palo Alto. A commitment to give twelve tours a year is required. Please contact caroline@hawksnest.org or call Caroline Willis at (650) 325-1475
Demolition of Historic Griffin House Ruled Unlawful

The Santa Clara County Superior Court has ruled in favor of the public interest lawsuit filed last August by the Friends of Griffin House to save the historic Griffin House on the Foothill-De Anza Community College campus.

The suit challenged the District’s plan to demolish Griffin House to build a District and Community Center (DCC) Building. The Friends had pointed out that the District’s facility needs could be well met without the demolition of a prized historic resource, through rehabilitation of the Griffin House for the District’s proposed uses — meeting rooms and offices — in conjunction with a new companion building. Designed in 1901 by the architects Wolfe & McKenzie, the magnificent Shingle- and Craftsman-style Griffin House has the triple honor of listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources, and being a Town of Los Altos Hills Historical Site.

Judge Leslie C. Nichols, the Superior Court’s designated judge for CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) cases, ruled on June 5 that the District had violated CEQA because the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the project failed to address alternatives to demolition and failed to adequately study traffic impacts. The Court further held that the District violated CEQA because it approved the demolition of a historic building without any substantial evidence that rehabilitation could not feasibly accomplish the District’s project objectives.

Friends member Jonathan Baer explained that “The District can feasibly rehabilitate Griffin House — restoring the luster to this architectural jewel and creating a functional campus building used for college programs. The numbers used to evaluate the economic feasibility of both rehabilitation and new construction were misleading,” says Steve Aced, a former Los Altos Historical Commissioner and currently a residential design and construction specialist who has worked on several historic preservation projects in the South Bay. Among other problems, in calculating the costs of restoring Griffin House the District used an obsolete and inappropriate design program. It also did not consider joint use of some facilities with an adjacent building that could substantially lower the cost per usable square foot.”

Judge Nichols also ruled that the District had failed to comply with the California Uniform Building Code because it had not obtained a demolition permit from the Town of Los Altos Hills. The judge rejected the District’s arguments that it was exempt from obtaining a demolition permit because it is a state agency. “This portion of the Court’s ruling has broad significance,” said attorney Susan Brandt-Hawley. “The Town of Los Altos Hills will now review this matter and exercise its own discretion in protection of a unique local landmark.”

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, in endorsing the Friends of Griffin House effort to save the landmark, has pointed out that the historic Scheller House at San Jose State University and historic Douglass (now Stent) Hall at Menlo School and College had been similarly slated for demolition when stopped by court action for violation of CEQA. Both have now been beautifully restored — not as house museums but for adaptive reuse at their respective campuses.

“Griffin House should also now be saved,” said Jon Baer, “as a functional campus building used for college programs. The timing is surely right given the confluence of the court ruling and the passage of the $490 million bond measure. And the best information currently available is that the DCC program needs can be met through rehabilitation of the Griffin House in conjunction with a new companion building, which together would cost only 2% more than all new construction!”

Friends of Griffin House
Adaptive Reuse
Presented to Kathy Kinney-Baskin in recognition of the meticulous and artful restoration of the unique Craftsman bungalow at 141 Alma Street, at a gateway to Palo Alto.

Residential Preservation
Presented to Anthony Tam in recognition of his ability to see the potential in an aging 1904 rooming house at 175 Webster Street. Due to his foresight, it has undergone a thoughtful renovation and been reborn as a charming single family residence.

Community Preservation
Presented to the Hewlett-Packard Company in recognition of their outstanding dedication to the meticulous restoration of the 1905 house, shed and historic Hewlett-Packard garage at 367 Addison Avenue, thereby ensuring that our community's heritage remains preserved for future generations to experience and enjoy.

Residential Preservation
Presented to Brian Kinard in recognition of his outstanding dedication to the meticulous restoration of 959 Waverley Street. Built in 1899, this historical piece of Palo Alto's residential architecture has been preserved for the future.

Residential Preservation
Presented to R & M Properties for their preservation of a 1909 Victorian at 825 Channing Avenue. Through thoughtful investment, this project balances preservation of the existing structure with the addition of new space.

Neighborhood Preservation
Presented to Norman Adams in recognition of outstanding dedication to the preservation of Eichler architecture at 291 Parkside Drive in Palo Alto's Greenmeadow. This sensitive addition and remodel contributes to one of the earliest and best preserved of neighborhoods developed by Joseph Eichler and recently added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Residential Remodeling
Presented to Cody Anderson Wasney Architects for a masterful renovation of 825 Channing Avenue that allowed expansion of the 1909 Victorian house, while preserving its authentic architectural details, thereby ensuring that the best parts of our past are preserved into the future.