

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, February 1— **Edgewood Plaza informational meeting**, Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell Road, 7– 8:30 p.m.

Now through May 21— **Stitches in Time: 100 Years of Machines & Sewing**, Los Altos History Museum. Open 12– 4 p.m., Thursday thru Sunday. Admission is free. www.losaltoshistory.org

Sunday, March 5, 2 p.m.— **Palo Alto Historical Association**, Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield.

Friday, February 10 — **The Basics for Historic Resource Surveys**. Presented by the California Preservation Foundation & San Francisco Architectural Heritage. 9 – 4:30 p.m., Port of San Francisco, Pier 1, The Embarcadero. For more information, check www.californiapreservation.org

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.

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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.

IN THIS ISSUE

Advocacy	1
Preservation Month	1
Docent Request	1
The Caroline Chronicles	2
Palo Alto History Museum	3
Cul-de-sacrilege	3
Holiday House Tour	4
Membership	6
Calendar	8



PAST News

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Are YOU an Advocate?

A CALL TO ACTION FOR PRESERVING A PIECE OF 1950'S PALO ALTO

Could you ever imagine a nationally renowned designer's buildings being called dilapidated? Would you even think that these buildings, once a character defining feature of a thriving Palo Alto neighborhood could be on the end of such unsympathetic treatment? Yet, tucked into a small, forgotten corner of Palo Alto, not far from you, there they sit; neglected ...quickly gone from spiffy to shabby! And, if nothing is done to reclaim and reenergize them...quickly gone!

Where is this place you ask? It's the landmark shopping plaza created by legendary builder Joseph Eichler, to compliment the Eichler neighborhood that embraces it. It is a sad statement for a visionary designer whose very offices once looked out over this unique shopping area. It is Edgewood Plaza.

As some of you may have already heard, the fate of Palo Alto's Edgewood Plaza (Embarcadero Road at Bayshore) is coming on the block again. Built by Joe Eichler in the 1950s to complement and serve its Eichler neighborhood, Edgewood is unique as Mr. Eichler's only shopping center. Now it is again threatened with demolition.

► **Action:** Page 5

Celebrate the Good Things of the Past Preserved for the Future

MAY IS PRESERVATION MONTH AND PAST WANTS TO HELP YOU CELEBRATE THE GOOD THINGS OF THE PAST PRESERVED FOR THE FUTURE.

We are planning a full month of events with **tours** of Eichlers, Professorville, Downtown Palo Alto, and College Terrace. Learn about our public buildings with a tour of the Community Center and other historic buildings. Join us for **workshops** on house construction, preservation and restoration.

► **Preservation Month:** Page 7

DOCENTS WANTED

PAST will conduct a docent training class for eight weeks in March and April, with classes and tours on Thursday evenings. Study the architecture and early inhabitants of Professorville and Palo Alto, then share your knowledge. A commitment to give two tours a month for a year is required in addition to availability in May for Preservation Month tours.

Please call Caroline Willis at (650) 325-1475 or email caroline@hawksnest.org to schedule an interview.

The Caroline Chronicles

Many, many thanks to all of you who helped produce and staff our **2005 Holiday House** tour. It is always nice to see everyone and to catch up on the events of the past year. I hope that many of you had the chance to hear the **Palo Alto High School Madrigals** who added an interesting historical note to our tour. Most of us have never had to rely on our neighbors for entertainment but there was a time before radio and television when Palo Altans did just that. It's nice to have the Madrigals carry on the tradition.

The PAST board is discussing the City's request of us to hold a covenant for the **Children's Library**. In exchange for being able to sell development rights, the City agrees to rehabilitate and maintain the Children's Library building according to the Secretary of the Interiors Standards. As the agreement is being written and refined, the Board has engaged in some lively discussions regarding our role and responsibilities

We bid a sad farewell to board member **Kristin Schuster** who is moving back to Texas for family reasons. Kristin brought a fresh voice to the Board and we will miss her. We wish her all the best in her architectural pursuits and hope that she will one day return to Palo Alto.

In December, I had the chance to docent at the **HP garage**. IT WAS FUN. Fellow PAST members Emily Renzel, Carolyn George, Marda Buchholz, Karen Holman, Gee-Gee Lenhart, Joan Jack and Gail Woolley also per-

formed docent duties. It was wonderful to see the attention lavished on the Addison Street property, both during its construction and as it was shared with the public. I wish that all historic properties had such attentive caretakers. Although, we are all aware of the garage, it is fortunate to have the house and the shed on the property intact to embellish the story. Many of the tour goers were surprised at the sparse quarters that Bill Hewlett occupied. My favorite fact was that Lucille met Dave Packard when he was washing dishes at her sorority. I found this very endearing. Giving the tours gave me a new appreciation for HP. Check out the garage on the web at www.hp.com/hpinfo/about/hp/histfacts/garage/

If you think you would enjoy acquiring and sharing knowledge of the history of Palo Alto and its historic structures, please join our new docent training group. It promises to be fun and rewarding.

Mark your calendars for **Preservation Month** and join us in celebration of our historic resources.

*Caroline Willis
President,
PAST Heritage*



Gwen Weisner
Joan Willingham
Jess & Esther Wilson
Toni Wisman &
David Schwartz
Janet Witharm
Marie & Robert Wolbach

Individuals

ACS Architects & Atelier
Diana Adams
Marian Adams
Allen County Public Library
Tobi Baldwin
Mrs. Paul V. Bearce
Martin Bernstein
Vivian Blomenkamp
Betty Ann Boeving
Kathryn Bowden
Lynne Bramlett
Gloria Brown
Pauline Brown
Karolyn Brosz
Marda Buchholz
Yvonne Burtness
Richard Cabrera
Carolyn Caddes
Edi Carrick
Phyllis Cassel
Penelope Chestnut

Marilyn Coghlin
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Robyn Crumly
Jean Dawes
Jerrie E. Devore
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Marilyn Edwardson
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Bambi Fernandez
Margaret Feuer
Clare Smith
Jessie Gaspar
G. Gavello
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Robert Hamrdla
Nonette Hanko
Dr. Lee Hanson
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Liz Hayden-Kniss
Kat Kohlsaatt
Karen Anne Kolling
Iris Korol
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Marguerite Ladner
Claire Lauing
Barbara Lawson
Nancy Lund
Ellie Mansfield
Suzanne Mantell
Mary Marsden
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Mildred Oberkotter
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Francis Polansky
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Jeannette Rimmel
Nancy Rhea
Terry Rice
Dick Rosenbaum
Rhesa Rubin
Nancy Runyon
Margo Schmidt
Christina Schwarz
Lynette Skelton
Lydia Sloan
Eugenia Stanker
Jane Stern
Stan Stratton
Jan Strohecker
Anthony Tam
Betsy Tullis
Joan Urquhart
Marian Wells
Natalie Wells
Lanie Wheeler
Toby Williams
Gail Woolley
Kris Zavoli



Scenes from the Holiday House Tour home at 240 Rinconada Avenue.

► Preservation Month: From Page 1

A family day is planned for Saturday, May 13th at Hoover House (the historic Girl Scout House) at Rinconada Park. There will be interesting activities for kids and information on building restoration for the big kids.

We will top off the month with the **Preservation Awards Ceremony** on Sunday, May 21st. PAST will present centennial plaques and special awards to our community's preservationists.

Join us for all or part of the program. Watch for the full schedule of events in the next newsletter.

Many Thanks to All Our New and Renewing Members

And...if we haven't told you lately, we truly appreciate each and every one of you! In fact, so much so, that we've made it one of our goals to get to know you better this year. How you ask? By encouraging a more active membership!

Greater membership involvement allows us to expand our education and preservation efforts and allows you the chance to participate in our work. Please watch for volunteer opportunities, activities and even a few "call to action" notices in upcoming newsletters.

Dianne MacDaniels Membership Chair

Life

James Baer & Lucy Little
Sarah & Tom Clark
Kay Culpepper
Joseph & Meri Ehrlich
Pria Graves &
George Koerner
Eleanor & Bruce Heister
Hewlett-Packard Corp.
Archives
Ernest & Mildred Mario
Roger L. McCarthy
Leslie McLaren

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Beth Bunnberg
Catharine & Dan Garber
Martha Gates &
Spencer Commons
Betsy Gifford
Marjorie & Arthur Gleim
Elaine & Eric Hahn
Ruth & Ben Hammett

Kelly & Randy Hicks
Joseph & Nancy Huber
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Jane B. Miller
Rosalie Shepherd
Marian & Abraham Sofaer
Margaret Stone
Cody Anderson Wasney
Architects
Deborah & Peter Wexler
Caroline Willis & James Cook
Tom & Ellen Wyman
George Zimmerman

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Betty & Ralph Britton
Alison & John Crane
Arline & Peter Dehlinger
Laura Ferrell &
Woodenwings Builders
Gamble Garden Center
Molly Meschke
William & Carolyn Reller
Shulamith Rubinfien
Robin Sutton
Janet Wright
Caroline Zlotnick

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Ron & Elaine Andrews
Chris Arnold
Becky & Ted Baer
Marilyn & Bill Bauriedel
William & Susan Beall
Bill & Sue Beaver
Bern Beecham &
Cheryl Lathrop
Jack & Nancy Bellin
Ann & John Bender
Alfred Bernal &
Liz Lillard-Bernal
Bonnie & William Blythe
Mary Sarah Bradley
David & Patricia Bubenik
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Jim Gruneisen
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Gwen & Michael Havern
Margaret Heath
Grace & Stephen Hinton
Carol Hoshizaki &
George Brooks
Anne Houghteling
Robert & Joan Jack
Barbara & Bob Jackson
Lynn Jacobson & Raehua Pan
Ray & Eleanora Jadwin
Michael Kerr Jakoby &
Ruth Kerr Jakoby
Linda Jensen & David Yoon
Patricia & Dean Johnson
Tanya & Robert Johnson
Joan B. & Jim Johnston
Tom & Madge Jordan
Maureen & David Kennedy
Ellin Klor & Hal Jerman
Fred Kohler & Kuo-Jung Chang
Judy Leahy
Richard Leask &
Barbara Means
Helen & Al Lechner
Phillip & Janet Leigh
Peter Levin
Mary Jo Levy
Janet & Mike Leyte-Vidal
Sandra Lohman
Carolyn Long
Janet & Lester Loops
Barbara & William Lucas

Dianne MacDaniels &
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Paula McFarland &
Bart Anderson
Bridget Morgan
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Dena Mossar &
Paul Goldstein
Dan Nitzan
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Lorinda & Tim Reichert
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Emily Renzel
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Perry Irvine
Steven & Karen Ross
Ruth B. Running
Diane & Daniel Sagalowicz
Sandy & Joe Santandrea
Shawn Sasse & Jon Cooksey
Charles Schulz &
Claire Taylor
Kristin Schuster
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Judie Siddall &
David Hoexter
Andrea B. Smith
Gerald & Gracia Smith
Steve & Luana Staiger
June & Scott Stauter
Nancy S. Steege
Daniel Stern &
E. Moder-Stern
Jana & Chris Stevens
Marilyn Sutorius
Susan & Jim Sweeney
Ken Thom
Louise Thursby
Catherine & Ron van Zuylen
Kathryn & Eric Verwillow
Aino Viera da Rosa
Barbara & Scott Wallace
Cindy & John Wallbrink
Len & Hilda Weisberg

Palo Alto History Museum Update

Progress in fulfilling the vision of the Palo Alto History Museum in the Roth Building at 300 Homer Avenue is steady and on-going.

In recent months, the Museum Board has secured independent 501(c)(3) non-profit status; established a Board of Directors; reconstituted the Board of Advisors; received grants, pledges, and donations amounting to over 20% of our \$6.5 million goal. The Palo Alto City Council has approved the sale of development rights in exchange for historically accurate restoration and seismic retrofit of the Roth Building, which sale will contribute significantly to the capital project. Considerable research efforts are very near completion for National Register status application for the Roth Building. Positive response to the application will have positive financial results as well as provide high level recognition for the 1932 Birge Clark Spanish Colonial Revival building that was the first home to the Palo Alto Clinic. And, most recently, the fundraising committee of the Museum Board has launched the major donor phase of our capital campaign.

Preserving our heritage is paramount to ensuring Palo Alto's priceless artifacts and history a future for all the community to experience and enjoy. The Palo Alto Museum Board is dedicated to that purpose.

For more information or to become involved, write to Palo Alto History Museum, PO Box 676, Palo Alto, CA 94302 or contact Karen Holman at (650) 321-6170 or kcholman@earthlink.net

Cul-de-sacrilege

(Reprinted with permission of the author from the Saturday, December 24, 2005 Palo Alto Daily News)

These are the final days of our single-story (Eichler) neighborhood — a cul-de-sac of 16 houses, dating from the early '50s but without the protection that "historical preservation" provides. The Planning Office of Palo Alto is allowing, for the first time in the block's many years, a house to be torn down and a two-story replacement to go up. I write to vent my frustration in seeing the integrity of our community violated and our own personal loss of privacy and sunshine.

It Won't Be Home for Christmas.
Neighborhoods (like ancient Rome)
Aren't quickly built — and like a "home"
There's something that is mildly filial:
The word, perhaps is just "congenial,"
Be you basso or contralto,
Join this dirge to Palo Alto,
A city where the major fealty
Seems to be to those in realty,
Goodbye sweet town — and our community:
We're now investment opportunity.
I'll watch, appalled, as the recyclers
Pull down the first of these old Eichlers.
A second floor won't make a castle,
But they are lord and we are vassal,
Too bad, I think, when now it's global
To see success as "upward mobile,"
This shouldn't come as a surprise,
One hundred years ago a wise,
Prophetic man was fuming
About "conspicuous consuming."
Wealth's not enough, some think they need
To show it off, said Veblen: Greed
Knows little shame, so save your blame.
Just keep a distance from this game.
But still, despite this prescient warning,
I find I can't control my mourning.
I know it's nothing really new:
Some lose the sun, some get the view.
The single story had its glory —
This is its memento mori.

Charles Drekmeier



1



2



3



Scenes from the Holiday House Tour in the Seale Addition

- 1 2175 Cowper Street
- 2 Gamble Garden Center, 1421 Waverley Street
- 3 119 Coleridge Avenue

► **Action:** From Page 1

A few years ago Edgewood was showcased as Palo Alto's first redevelopment opportunity, and it was duly declared a blighted area for the occasion. But our city's enthusiasm wilted when state redevelopment funding dried up. Next a Menlo Park developer expressed interest, then quietly faded.

Now a new developer has stepped up to the plate. While its detailed plans for Edgewood are still being formulated, the basic recipe calls for a multistory mixture of commercial space and housing units. How this might fit into Edgewood's low-density, single story Eichler neighborhood remains to be seen.

PAST is definitely interested...perhaps you are too. At the October 2002 meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the Edgewood Plaza as a potential historic resource and urging its preservation. Our position is itself historic. It is PAST's first advocacy for a distinctly modern architecture.

Last year Edgewood passed its 50th anniversary, the threshold for consideration as an official historic resource. PAST Heritage believes Edgewood should live to be considered and hopefully favorably judged. So do others, notably the **Eichler Network** and the **Los Angeles Conservancy**. We have strong, committed allies.

But, for Edgewood to continue fulfilling Joe Eichler's intent to complement and serve its neighborhood, it has to carry on as a functional retail center. Nobody will afford it as a museum. **PAST's strategy** is therefore to find out how Edgewood can be revitalized to serve today's needs in its historic form, and promote that idea. We plan to work with the developer, the city, and, most importantly, Edgewood's neighborhood to find an acceptable, economically viable plan to retain this unique resource in its original architecture and function. Such an achievement would be a model victory for preservation.

So, to all of you with an interest in tuning-up your advocacy skills, perhaps you even checked "advocating for preservation" on your membership form, this is your opportunity. Would you be willing to attend a meeting or two on Edgewood? A **public informational meeting** is scheduled for **February 1st**, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium (1313 Newell Road) ...your presence would make a difference! Or, perhaps you're available to serve on an **advocacy committee**? Let's determine where our efforts could be of most use. Please give it some thought. Help us show that it is possible to imagine how dilapidated buildings might be brought back; that you can imagine how a revitalized, architecturally intact Edgewood Plaza could again be an asset to its neighborhood.

If you can lend a hand, or a voice, please contact David Bubenik at (650) 328-6721 or at David.Bubenik@HomerAvenue.com. Updated information concerning Edgewood will be posted on PAST Heritage's website, www.pastheritage.org

Together we can do this...we can save Edgewood and make a statement for Palo Alto's values.

*David Bubenik
Dianne MacDaniels*