

Calendar of Events

November 2, 2008 - PAHA
General Meeting at Lucie Stern Center
Centennial of the Palo Alto Humane Society
see www.pahistory.org

December 7, 2008 - PAHA
Community Vignettes: Stories from Palo Alto residents - see www.pahistory.org

December 14, 2008
PAST Holiday House Tour - see cover page

PAST Heritage Board of Directors

Grace Hinton, President
Kelly Hicks, Vice President
Jinny Henke, Secretary
Cheryl Lathrop, Treasurer

Ralph Britton	Terry Rice
Betty Britton	Leslie McLaren
Natalie Lukianoff	Scott Smithwick
Janet Peacock	Steve Staiger
Margaret Feuer	



HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR 2008

~ Greenmeadow and

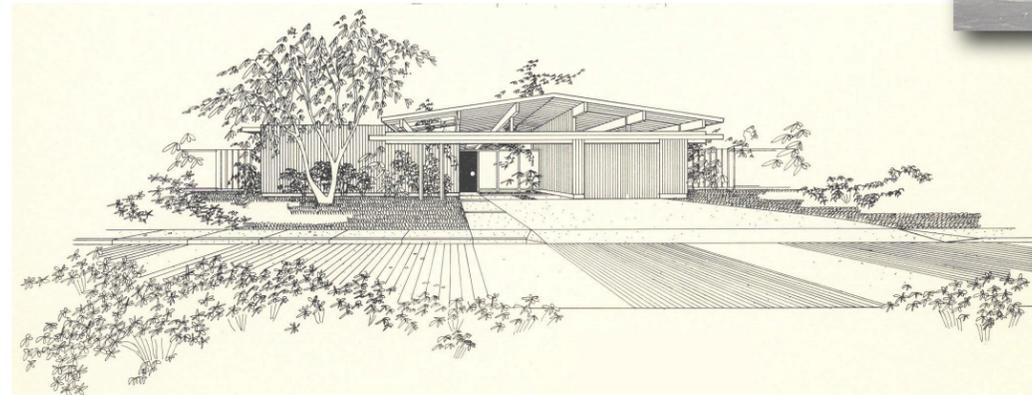
Green Gables Neighborhoods ~



This year's Holiday House Tour will be a departure for PAST. We are honoring Palo Alto's two newest National Historic districts, the Eichler neighborhoods of Greenmeadow (South Palo Alto) and Green Gables (North Palo Alto). The tour features not only sensitively remodeled homes, but also one home in original condition, still lived in happily by the original owner. Many of these properties incorporate landscaping that complements these mid-century modern properties, whose years of significance span 1950-1974.

The tour will take place on Sunday, December 14th from 1-4 in the afternoon. Tickets are \$20 each before December 1st and \$25 thereafter as well as on the day of the tour. Join PAST before December 1st and receive free tickets, one ticket for an individual membership and two for family membership and above. See the enclosed membership form and ticket form on page 7.

Light refreshments will be served.



Palo Alto Stanford Heritage
P.O. Box 308
Palo Alto, CA 94302
(650) 299-8878
www.pastheritage.org

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

PAST NEWSLETTER

Editor: Scott Smithwick

Contributors: Ralph Britton
Grace Hinton
Cheryl Lathrop

Photographs: Ralph Britton
Carolyn George
Scot Smithwick

President's Column

PAST had a quietly busy summer this year, laying out our priorities for our new year and starting to address our action items.

PAST Heritage welcomed several fantastic new people to our Board. Natalie Loukianoff is a local designer with a preservation background, and has been tapped to serve on the Palo Alto Historic Resources Board, where her clear head will serve the community well. Cheryl Lathrop, a whiz with both numbers and computers, is our new Treasurer. Margaret Feuer is our designated "asker," with several successful "asks" under her belt already. (I'll bet her mother never had to buy her Girl Scout Cookies!) Read more about them in their profiles in this newsletter.

We have endorsed Measure N, the forthcoming library bond, because it seeks to preserve important local buildings, and recognizes the social value of neighborhood libraries. Since part of our mission is to "the neighborhoods and character of the greater Palo Alto-Stanford Area," we considered Measure N to be aligned with our goals.

In June, Measure A was passed with a sizable majority. This parcel tax, which extends the 1995 version of the same name, will fund renovations at many area schools, including Paly. PAST would like to see the preservation of the Palo Alto High School tower, library, and theater included as part of the proposed renovation, and will be working toward that goal.

We are still working closely with the city on the renovation plans for the College Terrace Library, which should go to permit within the next few months. Sadly, the aged eucalyptus that fronted the library for its whole life was found to be rotten almost all the way through and had to be removed. The gaping void in the huge stump was a sight to see.

Plans for our all-Eichler Holiday House Tour are coming together. This year we're celebrating our newest National Register Districts, Green Gables and Greenmeadow. We hope to see you all in December!

We continue to be distressed about the 70-80 demolitions in Palo Alto each year for the last several years. Please read Ralph Britton's fine article about recent losses in Old Palo Alto, where many fine homes have been razed in the past few months. We are hoping to highlight some of the more distressing demolitions on our website, and one of our top priorities is to have that feature up and running as soon as possible.

We would love to have our members become more involved. One of our key needs at the moment is research, for instance on the Centennial Homes we honor for preservation week. Also, we would like to keep an educational focus on the Holiday House Tour, so any member who would like to research local architects, contractors, or land developments would be welcome

Lastly, when you renew your membership, please consider checking the box to receive your newsletter by email. Save a tree, and check out our improved web site: www.PASTHeritage.org. Now in the capable hands of webmaster Carolyn George, she improves the site day by day.

~ Grace Hinton, President

Website Update

~ NEW ON THE WEB ~

Centennial Homes listed by year and address
www.pastheritage.org/plaques.html

Holiday House Tour 2008 Information
www.pastheritage.org/HHT.html

Previous issues of our Newsletters available in PDF format
www.pastheritage.org/newsletters.html

~ COMING SOON TO THE WEB ~

Featured Recent Demolition

To join PAST or to purchase Holiday House Tour tickets, detach the form below, fill out the form completely, include your payment and send it to us.

Please indicate interests here:

- Advocating for preservation
- Researching 1909 houses
- Mailing parties
- Host/Hostessing at the Holiday House Tour
- Helping with refreshments

Membership categories:

- \$25 Individual
- \$40 Family
- \$75 Sponsor
- \$100 Patron
- \$500 Lifetime

Check here to receive your Newsletter online New Renewal

Number of extra tickets to the Holiday House Tour. _____ \$ _____

Total amount enclosed. _____ \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____ email _____

Please make check payable to PAST Heritage and mail to us at P.O. Box 308, Palo Alto, California 94302
Because PAST Heritage is a tax-exempt charitable organization, contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

New Board Member Spotlight

Cheryl Lathrop

Cheryl Lathrop knew she wanted to live in Palo Alto from the first time she drove in on Page Mill on the way to an interview in 1969. Living first as a renter in Midtown, University South, College Terrace and back to University South, in 1978, she and husband, Bern Beecham, found the 1903 fixer upper of their dreams in Downtown North. Their house renovation took over 20 years and was finished by 2001.

Born in Santa Cruz and raised in Watsonville, Cheryl enjoys the local character of Palo Alto. For 15 years, she lived and worked in Downtown. She participated in the Downtown Study (as the sole-member of the audience) that led to the Ground Floor Retail Ordinance, preserving the shopping character of Downtown ever since. She was an early Co-Chair of the Arts Fair Committee and was a member of the Palo Alto California Preservation Conference Committee in 1988 that led to the founding of PAST.

Margaret Rodgers Feuer

Margaret Rodgers Feuer moved to Palo Alto 26 years ago from New York. The 1929 Spanish Colonial house on University Avenue where she lives with her husband, Michael, demonstrates her interest in preserving older houses. After graduating from Santa Clara Law School, Margaret decided that houses were more interesting than the law. She became a general contractor and formed Palo Alto Construction, Inc. which specializes in residential construction and remodeling.

Margaret's interest in the history and architecture of Palo Alto was piqued in the process of writing "A Walk Through History: Women of Palo Alto" for the Centennial celebrations. She has served as President of the Woman's Club of Palo Alto, President of the Mid-Peninsula Chapter of the National Organization of Women and as President of the Crescent Park Neighborhood Association.

Margaret earned an AB in American History from Barnard College, an MA in American Civilization from New York University, and a JD from Santa Clara University.

Natalie Loukianoff

Natalie Loukianoff was born and raised in the Bay Area, and spent a good deal of time at Stanford Athletics events growing up. She joined CAW Architects staff a year and a half ago after completing her graduate work in Historic Preservation at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. She has experience writing National Register Nominations, district guidelines, adaptive use proposals and historic structures reports. She has worked on buildings California, Indiana, Montana and Texas and loves working with churches and barns. Natalie is also a member of the City of Palo Alto's Historic Resources Board.

In her free time, Natalie loves to read and travel, particularly to visit family and friends through out the country.

Year End Treasurer's Report

As was the case last year, we are making an effort to spend down some of our reserves, so that we made expenditures beyond our total revenues for the year. We had strong membership numbers and a successful Holiday House Tour, so that our income exceeded expectations by a modest amount.

In the category of Advocacy, we continued to assist the Friends of Juana Briones in their task of saving the Juana Briones House from demolition. We accepted \$3696 toward legal fees, and matched that amount for a total of \$7314.75.

In the Donation category, this year our largest gift went to the Palo Alto Historical Association (PAHA) that maintains the historic archives for the City of Palo Alto. The archives, housed at the Main Library, include over 12,000 photographs, newspaper clippings (including 30,000 obituaries), biographies, letters, diaries, oral histories, maps, manuscripts, and videotapes. While the archives belong to the City, PAHA relies on public support to maintain them. We hope to continue supporting their valuable work. We gave the archive \$1000, which we plan to continue annually as a minimum, and another \$5000 toward their project of making the photograph collection accessible and searchable on line.

We issued three volumes of our Newsletter last year as opposed to our usual four, so newsletter costs naturally decreased. However, given ever-higher postage costs, we hope that you will choose to receive your newsletter on line; you can indicate this choice on your membership renewal form. PAST is committed to reducing paper use.

As our yearly Centennial Houses identification project moves into the future, we will see an increasing number of houses that have their hundredth birthday. We distribute birthday plaques to those who want them during Preservation Week, and our costs for the plaques will increase as we distribute greater numbers each year. We are committed to continuing this program, and will be discussing ways to raise funds specifically for plaques.

We welcome member suggestions and input about our financial priorities. Let us hear from you!!

~ Grace Hinton, President and Cheryl Lathrop, Treasurer

Recent Major Demolition in Old Palo Alto



Arial view from
Bryant Street

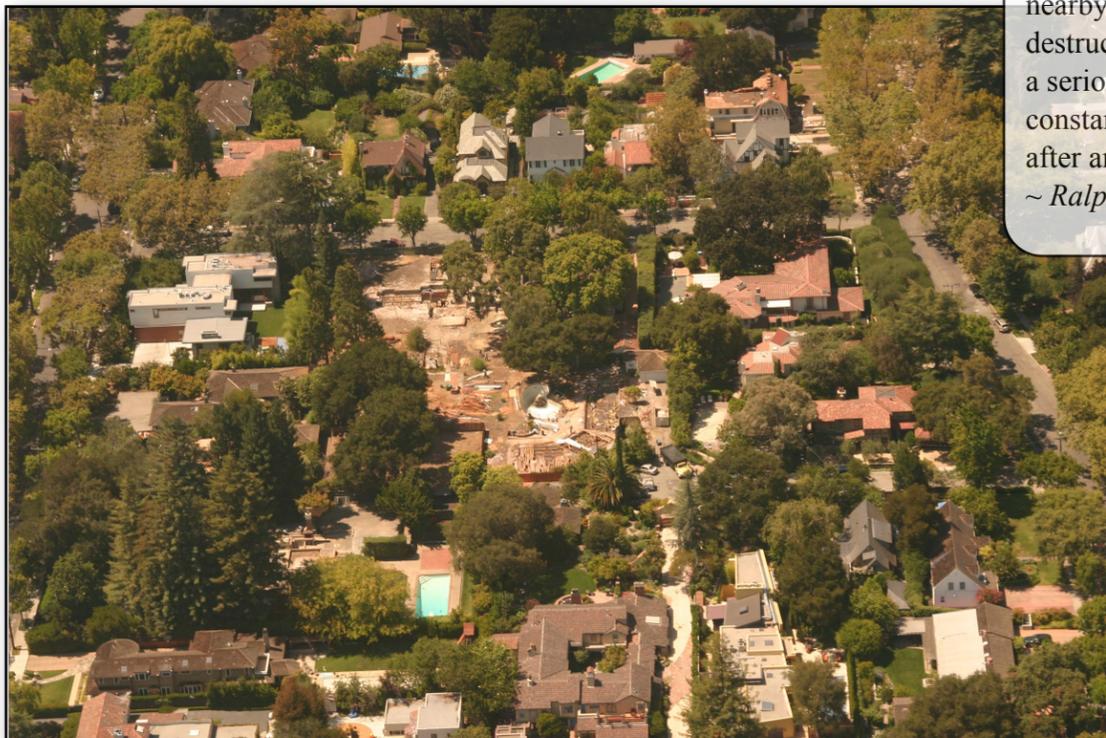


Arial view from
Santa Rita

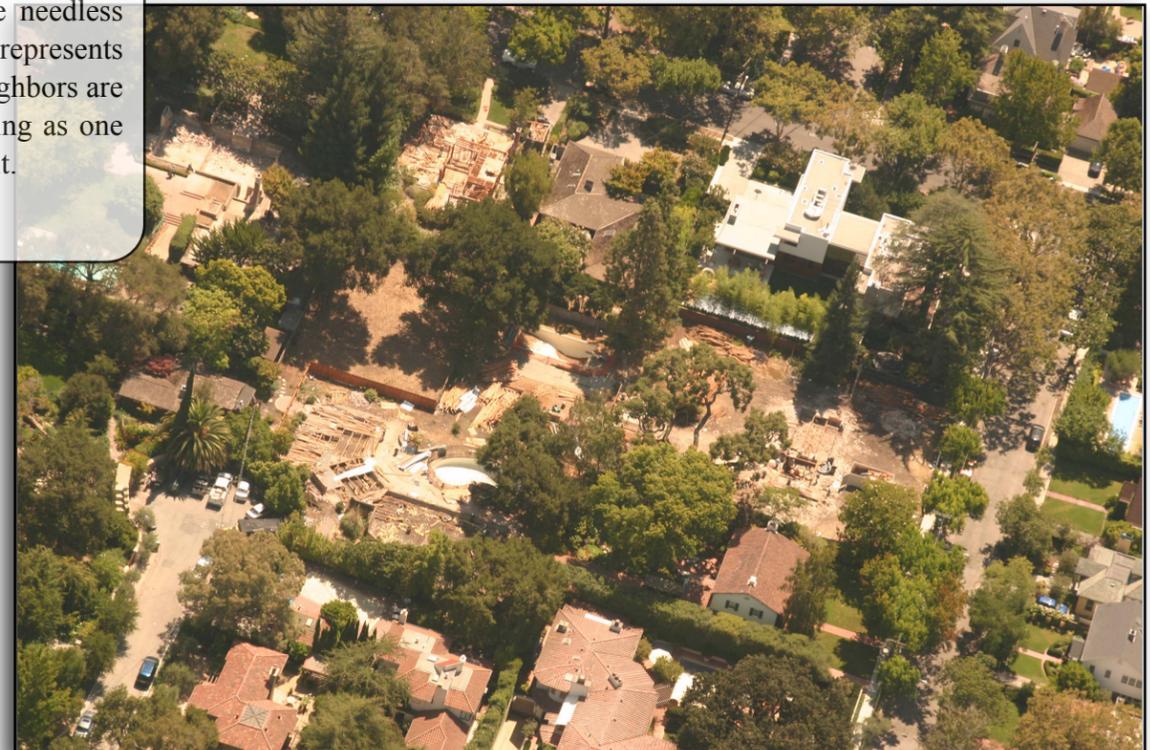
Four Contiguous Properties Torn Down in Old Palo Alto

The aerial photo shows industrial-scale demolition of four properties between Waverley and Bryant in Old Palo Alto. Two of the properties were torn down under a demolition permit without plans for new construction; the other two have construction permits for new residences. Two of the houses torn down were excellent examples of ca. 1930 Spanish style and the other two were also high-quality residences. Many were horrified that these fine homes were destroyed, as they reflected the architectural excellence and comfortable size of nearby homes, comprising a cohesive neighborhood. The needless destruction of properties such as these and their replacement represents a serious waste of material, labor, and energy resources. Neighbors are constantly disturbed by noise, construction traffic and parking as one after another house is torn down and larger replacements built.

~ Ralph Britton



Arial view from
California



Arial view from
Waverley