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

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College Terrace Library Planning

College Terrace Library Plan Approved by HRB

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New Board Member Spotlight

The PAST Board is pleased to welcome one of its newest members - Jeanne Farr McDonnell.

Jeanne Farr McDonnell founded and was the Executive Director of the!Women’s Heritage Museum!for ten years. She helped create an exhibit on California Woman Suffrage for the 75th anniversary in 1986 of women’s gaining voting rights in the state. That exhibit was shown annually in various venues, most recently last year in the State Museum in Sacramento!.

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Preservation Month is Coming

The month of May is Preservation Month!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 31st for our upcoming Preservation Awards and Celebration of this year’s Centennial Homes. We hope you will join us!

Keep up to date by visiting our website at: www.pastheritage.org
HISTORIC MODERNISM: PALO ALTO'S EICHLER HISTORIC DISTRICTS

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Stanford House Tour

5TH ANNUAL STANFORD HISTORIC HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR
SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2009 ~ 1 - 4PM

Anticipating National Preservation Month in May, the annual tour by the Stanford Historical Society's Historic Houses Project offers a rare glimpse into four pre-1930 campus houses designed or influenced by architects A. B. Clark and his son Birge Clark. The tour takes place on Sunday, April 26, from 1 to 4 p.m.

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A PREVIEW OF THE HOUSES OPEN FOR THE 2009 TOUR

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Highlights include:
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- A secret compartment behind a set of bookshelves containing custom-designed sheet music drawers for Charles Moser's musician wife
- Outdoor chairs made from planks salvaged by Moser from Stanford's pre-1921 football stadium
- Original laundry chute and drop-down telephone table
- Three recently added garden topiaries: a deer, a horse, and a leaping rabbit
1924 Colonial:
This light-filled house designed by Birge Clark overlooks a redwood grove and is surrounded by gardens. The house retains many of its architectural details, although it has been updated by its current owners, who took care that the improvements harmonize with the original style. The house was first occupied by education professor William Proctor and his wife, Agnes. In the 1950s, championship swimmer and coach Thomas Haynie and his family enjoyed the interaction between the house and its outdoor space, building a swimming pool for their competitive-swimmer daughters and installing a solarium facing the backyard. The current owners have expanded the kitchen, bedrooms, and bathrooms, incorporating cathedral ceilings, skylights, art glass windows, and decorative tile.

Highlights include:
- Original façade, featuring multi-paned windows and leaded-glass entrance door details
- Extensive garden containing fruit trees, Japanese maples, roses, and flowering perennials, dominated at the front by a majestic live oak tree perhaps planted by the original owners
- Light-filled remodeled kitchen with Mexican tile accents and pavers
- Master suite with a deck overlooking the redwood grove
- Study and living room with original details such as pocket doors, brass light fixtures, brick fireplaces, and painted woodwork

1921 Spanish Eclectic:
This house was built for astronomer and mathematician Sidney Townley and his family. Art department professor Arthur B. Clark was engaged to design the house, but his son Birge likely did most of the work. The original house included many design details of the Spanish eclectic style that Birge Clark developed in his later work, such as the arched front entry porch, highly textured stucco exterior walls, and wooden balconies. But perhaps the younger Clark had other reasons to spend time on the project, because as soon as the house was built he became engaged to the Townleys’ eldest daughter, Lucile. The wedding took place in 1922 in the living room of the house; the couple had four children during their 63-year marriage.

Highlights include:
- Living room fireplace featuring Batchelder scenic tiles
- Original redwood kitchen cabinetry
- Sleeping porch with redwood casement windows and copper screens
- Fruit trees edging a lawn that was formerly an orchard

1920 Spanish Eclectic:
Originally a small one-story cottage designed by Arthur B. Clark in 1920, this unusual house was completely rebuilt in 1997–99 after the current owners discovered that its foundation had been badly damaged by the 1989 earthquake. They asked architect Stephen W. Sanborn to design a “Birge Clark house” modernized for the 21st century. Sanborn’s plan added more than 3,000 square feet on two floors to the house while retaining in updated form some of the design and details of the 1920 structure. The house has had many occupants, as it was rented to students and junior faculty for almost 30 years after its first owners, professor of medicine George Barnett and his wife, Anna, moved across the street in 1933 to live with Anna’s father, retired professor of chemistry Edward Franklin. During 1946–47, Wallace Stegner, author and founder of Stanford’s creative writing program, was in residence.

Highlights include:
- Living room, dining room, and library/study, as well as divided-pane windows and doors throughout the original footprint, based on the 1920 plans
- Birge Clark–style stucco exterior, red tiled roof, and shallow-arched window and doorway openings
- A row of small niches in the living room, holding a collection of miniature Southwest Indian pots
- In the front garden, a bench made of sandstone recovered from the Quad after the 1906 earthquake
- A dramatic multi-paned arched window on a sky-lit staircase landing, framing a redwood tree that shades the house’s front entrance

Tour Logistics
All four houses are within walking distance of one another. Parking and shuttle service are available at Tresidder Union parking lot; pick up the shuttle in front of the Stanford Faculty Club, across from the lot. Shuttles will take tour goers to the registration point and between the houses as needed.

Note: Tour goers should be aware that these houses may have uneven paths, and stairs without railings. Please wear appropriate footwear.

For tickets, mail a check (payable to Stanford Historical Society) to Stanford Historical Society, c/o Sweeney, P.O. Box 19290, Stanford, CA 94309. Tickets purchased by April 17 will cost $20 per person, or $35 for a ticket plus a copy of Historic Houses V. After April 17 and on the day of the tour, tickets cost $25. All tickets will be distributed on the day of the tour at 669 Mirada Avenue. See the insert in this newsletter for more information and ticket ordering.

For additional information, visit the Stanford Historical Society’s Web site: http://histsoc.stanford.edu or call 650-725-3332 or 650-324-1653. You may also e-mail questions to cglasser@stanford.edu or susan.sweeney@stanford.edu
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Holiday House Tour Wrap-Up

Historic Modernism: Palo Alto’s Eichler Historic Districts

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