

Join us Sunday, December 9th 1–4p.m. in Crescent Park for the 25th Annual Holiday House Tour

Originally part of the Rancho Rinconada Del Arroyo de San Francisquito, Crescent Park was first developed in the 1880's when Timothy Hopkins purchased 698 acres to accommodate Leland Stanford's "dry" university town. A second wave of development occurred in the early 20's when realtors Hare, Brewer and Clark sold large lots and set minimum construction costs in an effort to attain houses of architectural merit.

Built between 1904 and 1929, our tour houses range from 4,000 to 7,000 square feet and represent five different architectural styles — Colonial Revival, Classic Revival, French Eclectic/Italianate, English Manor and Prairie. See if you can identify the houses described below.*



Having barely escaped the wrecking ball, this house has 39 roof ridges, a spectacular stained glass window and is reputed to have been the scene of "orgies" or, at least, of some beatnik bashes.

When we think of Prairie Style houses, Frank Lloyd Wright comes to mind. An adap-

tation of this style sits demurely on a street corner waiting for you to imagine it on Midwestern prairie terrain.



The rooftop of this manse offered spectacular views of San Francisco, 36 miles away. It was also the site of Palo Alto's first weather station. It, too, almost met death by demolition.

What would Freud say about adjacent mother and son houses? Mom lived in this imposingly elegant house, built in 1916 by a well-respected architect who dropped his last name when the United States fought Germany in World War I.

The New York based architect of this house, influenced by the Beaux-Arts tradition, produced a sophisticated building on the banks of San Francisquito Creek. The name of the street on which it is located belies its European aesthetic.

The same New York architect designed this popular American style house, whose lot also borders the Creek—but on two sides. Its garden melds effortlessly with the house to produce a true story-book setting. ✂

**Answers on page 2.*



Tickets are \$25 if purchased before November 27th. Checks made payable to PAST may be mailed to: PAST, PO Box 308, Palo Alto, CA. 94302. Tickets are \$30 on the day of the tour and may be purchased at 860 University Avenue. Will Call will be at 860 University Avenue for ticket orders received after November 17.

President's Message

Our 2012 year is off to an impressive start. I owe tremendous thanks to my old and new Board members for their ideas and willingness to work. Cheryl Lathrop entered us in the **Chase Community Giving Program**. Thanks for all your votes; next year we'll win. Preparations for a truly impressive production of our **25th Annual Holiday House Tour** are well underway with Ellie Mansfield crafting a stunning tour guide and Docent Chair, Fran Wagstaff, amassing over 100 docents. I hope you'll say "YES" when Fran calls you. To volunteer, e-mail Fran at fran@wagstaff.com. And, don't forget to buy your tickets; this is one house tour you don't want to miss.

September was the month of our **Walking Tours** led by seasoned docents, Gail Woolley and Suzanne Mantell and neophyte, Hayley Stevens. We were ecstatic at the enthusiasm and number of participants: 75 attendees for Professorville, 40 for Downtown and 50 for Homer Avenue. In May 2013, we hope to add new tours to our repertoire. To do this, we need docent volunteers, whom we'll train. Hayley Stevens led her first tour and says:

As a new PAST Board member, I loved this opportunity to learn more about our city's history and to share that history with participants. Many attendees had stories to tell, were curious about architectural details, and engaged in conversations about the influence of society on local architecture. Afterwards, many expressed their enjoyment of the tour and seemed surprised by the intriguing history of Palo Alto. The interest and support of the Palo Alto community nourishes PAST, and being able to spread the enthusiasm to others is what keeps us thriving.

For those of you who haven't renewed your membership in Palo Alto Stanford Heritage, please fill out and mail the form on page 3. ☼

I'll see you all on Sunday, December 9th,

Margaret R. Feuer

portulaca@earthlink.net

Website Up-Date

Thank you for your in-puts! Several houses with incorrect addresses have been identified and corrections made. If you notice an error, please contact me right away. There is an e-mail link at the bottom of each page.

Be sure to visit the Home Page often because in addition to links to the many pages of the PAST website, it is where you will find links to other preservation and history related events and resources. For example, there is a link to the **Julia Morgan Festival** which runs state-wide through November 16. Check it out! ☼

Carolyn George, Webmaster

Answers: 860 University Ave., 975 Hamilton Ave., The Squire House, 855 Hamilton Ave., 419 Maple St., 39 Crescent Ave.

Los Arboles Project

PAST was approached by Mary Beth Train to help in the restoration of the redwood sign on Middlefield and Ames which announces the entrance to the Los Arboles–Eichler neighborhood. Since our mission is to advocate for the preservation of the historic architecture, neighborhoods and character of the Palo Alto–Stanford area, we agreed. PAST is the repository for funds collected by the Los Arboles residents. So far, both the sign and the wisteria which adorns it have been treated for termites. Contributions are still being accepted and now the redwood sign has a new lease on life as a symbol of the Los Arboles neighborhood. (Note the PAST sign that can be adapted for future preservation projects.) ☼



Before



After

Please indicate interests here:

- Los Arboles Sign preservation
- Researching centennial houses
- Mailing parties
- Host/Hostessing at the Holiday House Tour
- Docenting

Membership categories:

- \$25 Individual (includes 1 ticket)
- \$50 Family (includes 2 tickets)
- \$75 Sponsor (includes 2 tickets)
- \$100 Patron (includes 2 tickets)
- \$500 Lifetime (includes 2 tickets)

Membership New Renewal \$ _____

_____ Additional HHT tickets (\$25 before Nov. 27, \$30 thereafter) \$ _____

Los Arboles Sign donation \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 2, 2 p.m.– **Swapping Stories** Palo Alto Historical Association, Lucie Stern Center, 1305 Middlefield Road.

Sunday, December 9, 1- 4 p.m.– **Holiday House Tour**

Tuesday, January 22, at 7:30 p.m. – **Reproductive Realities**, Linda Williams at the P.A. Woman's Club. Tickets at www.landmarkleaders.org

PAST News

Editor: Margaret Feuer
Layout: Carolyn George
Photos: Pat DiCicco, Carolyn George
Contributors: Margaret Feuer
Haley Stevens

PAST Website: www.pastheritage.org
Webmaster: Carolyn George

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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 through informed citizen involvement and education.

