



PAST News

Vol. 29, No1

P.O. Box 308 • Palo Alto, California 94302

Late Summer/Early Fall 2016

Neighborhood Walking Tours!

Please join us for our Fall series of historic neighborhood walking tours! We are excited to be reintroducing the Downtown tour into this season's schedule, as well as offering the crowd favorites, including two dates for the ever-popular Professorville. Each event is a superb opportunity to get some fresh air, meet some of your neighbors, and broaden your knowledge and appreciation for our wonderful city. All tours are free and open to the public.

Hayley Stevens, Tour Coordinator



475 Homer



1005 Bryant



900 University



City Hall



1181 College

- Sat., Sept. 24 Homer Avenue Led by Steve Emslie
Meet at The Woman's Club, 475 Homer Avenue
- Sunday, Oct. 2 Professorville Led by Kris Zavoli
Meet at 1005 Bryant (corner of Bryant and Addison)
- Sat., Oct. 8 Crescent Park Led by Margaret Feuer
Meet at 900 University (corner of University and Seneca)
- Sat., Oct. 18 Professorville Led by Gail Woolley
Meet at 1005 Bryant (corner of Bryant and Addison)
- Sat., Oct. 22` NEW!!! Downtown Led by Aisha Fike
Meet at the lawn in front of City Hall (Hamilton & Ramona)
- Sat., Oct. 29 College Terrace Led by Carolyn George
Meet at 1181 College (corner of College and Harvard)

Rain or shine!
All tours start at 10 a.m.

Woman's Club Building Marks Centennial!

The Tudor Revival and Craftsman-style building serving the Woman's Club of Palo Alto marks its 100th anniversary this year. The one-story meeting hall at the corner of Homer Avenue and Cowper Street has been in continual use as a women's club for social and civic meetings since its construction in 1916. The Woman's Club, founded in 1894, was just 12 years old when it raised \$1,500 to buy the lot at 475 Homer Avenue. It took club members another decade to raise the \$10,590 for construction.

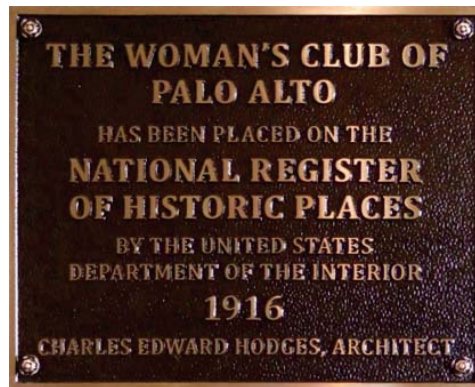
Once built, the Clubhouse served as the site of Red Cross bandage-rolling during World War I and was a center of campaigning for women to gain the right to vote. The building was a meeting place for Palo Alto's early Home and School group, a precursor to the PTA. It was a venue for organizing support for some of the first women to hold elective office in Palo Alto as well as a place for bridge games, flower and fashion shows, cake contests and rummage sales to benefit needy students. In the 1950s, the Club leased the space to several Palo Alto churches to hold their weekly services. The building has hosted performances by many musical groups, including the Fortnightly Music Club and West Bay Opera. Today — when not in use by the 230 active members of the Woman's Club for luncheons, speakers, bridge, service committees and the like—the Clubhouse is often rented for weddings and other social or corporate events.

In January of this year, the Clubhouse gained listing on the National Register of Historic Places thanks to the initiative and efforts of two Woman's Club

members, Margaret Feuer and Marilyn McDonald who wrote "Submitting the application allowed us to showcase our building and the activities of its members in the proud history of Woman's Clubs".

Architect Charles Hodges, who served as resident architect of Stanford University from 1900 to 1906, designed the building. The exterior of the main façade is stucco above the sills of large windows. Below is a band of wood clapboarding that runs around the entire building. Decorative half-timbering, details of the main entry portico, and doorways and windows are all wood. Large oak trees surround the building. The interior of the building includes a foyer, ballroom for lunches,

programs and events, dressing room, kitchen, "fireside room," men's and women's rest-rooms and a small office for board and committee meetings. Many of



the interior floors are original, with maple tongue and groove in the ballroom and fir and oak flooring in the office and elsewhere. The interior walls in the ballroom and fireside rooms are original, with fir board and batten wainscot and plaster walls and ceiling.

The stage floor is oak. The stage fire curtain, installed in 1926, is covered with advertisements for local businesses of the day. The curtain was installed by an advertising agency, which charged local businesses for advertising space and paid the Woman's Club \$500.

Woman's Club (Continued on page 3)

PAST Membership

It's time to renew your membership for 2017. We appreciate your continuing support. It allows us to promote the importance of historic preservation through spring and fall walking tours, centennial plaque awards, preservation awards, member meetings, newsletters and a resource rich website. We are researching the history of the local preservation movement—when did it start, who led the activities and what were the significant accomplishments.

PAST has an important role in this history. The research will produce a document that preserves the currently untold story.

You should receive a letter in the near future asking for your renewal—please help PAST to continue its mission of advocating the preservation of the historic architecture, neighborhoods, and character of the greater Palo Alto–Stanford area through informed citizen involvement and education.

Brian George

Palo Alto's 125th Anniversary

It's time to start brainstorming about how Palo Alto, in 2019, should celebrate its 125 years of incorporation.

Founded in 1894, there have been major events recognizing its 75th and 100th anniversaries so let's continue the tradition. Do you have any suggestions for city wide activities? How can PAST make a meaningful contribution to this milestone event? One highlight should be the opening of a time capsule. I discovered PAHA archive photos of 4 time capsules in-



stalled in the City Hall basement during the 100th celebration in 1994. They are marked to be opened every 25 years until we reach our 200th anniversary! It's not too soon to start planning for the 125th since the 100th party took over 5 years of preparation.

PAST's 30th Anniversary

Next year, 2017, will be the 30th anniversary of the founding of our organization. We will celebrate this milestone at the May 2017 National Preservation Month awards program. Please share your thoughts and memories about PAST's past with us. You can email them to webmaster@pastheritage.org or mail them to PAST, PO Box 308, Palo Alto, CA 94302.

Woman's club (Continued from page 2)

It is the only such curtain still in use in Palo Alto today.

From the fall of 2015 through this spring, the Woman's Club of Palo Alto held a series of events to celebrate the centennial of its Clubhouse, including a women-only 1920s-speakeasy-style "Founders Follies." In June, the Club hosted California Historical Society Executive Director and CEO Anthea Hartig for a talk on "Pride in Preservation." The following day, Club members, sporting 1920s attire, opened the Clubhouse doors to the public for tours, refreshments and a rededication ceremony.

Chris Kenrick

2016 Preservation Awards Presented May 15

Neighborhood Preservation Award

Presented to the Greenmeadow Community Association in recognition of their



2005 listing as a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1954-55, the Greenmeadow subdivision is a significant example of Eichler aesthetics of mid-20th century modernist style with a unique centralized community center. The Eichler Historic Quest Committee deserves special recognition for their extensive work to establish the foundation for the historic district registration. The continuing efforts of the Greenmeadow Architecture Review Committee serves to protect and preserve the character of this Historic District.

Neighborhood Preservation Award

Presented to the Green Gables Community in recognition of their 2005 listing



as an Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1950, the Green Gables subdivision is a significant example of Eichler aesthetics with mid-20th century modernist style. The Eichler Historic Quest Committee deserves special recognition for their extensive work to establish the foundation for the historic district registration.

Residential Preservation Award: 175 Byron Street

Presented to Kent & Crindy Stormer in recognition of their commitment to preserving



this unusually detailed example of the Square Cottage building type. Built in 1908, it is one of the oldest surviving homes that defined the earliest character of Palo Alto. They initiated an HRE which established their home's eligibility for a Category 2 listing in the Palo Alto Historic Buildings Inventory.

Commercial Rehabilitation Award: 261 Hamilton Ave., Medico-Dental Building

Presented to Hamilton Ramona Partners, Owner, Cody Anderson Wasney, Architect,



and Cody Brock Builders, Contractor for the historic rehabilitation of this Birge Clark reinforced concrete building improved seismic safety, restored ground floor storefronts, steel windows and terracotta roof tile, and uncovered tiles that marked the entrance of an early Palo Alto Post Office. Compatible hand-painted tile, light fixtures, and stucco restoration have brought new life to this important landmark.

Margaret Feuer

Preservationist of the Year in recognition of her commitment to actions that promote historic preservation at the local level. Her many contributions include writing *A Walk Through History: Women of Palo Alto* in 1994, campaigning for preserving the Juana Briones house, PAST President and Board member, 2007–2013, writing over 200 articles on historic houses for the Daily News, and obtaining a listing on the National Register of Historic Places for The Woman’s Club in 2015. While on the PAST Board, Margaret researched centennial homes, conducted walking tours, managed two Holiday House tours, and negotiated the preservation easement for 601 Melville. Her dedication to local historic preservation is constant and on-going.



Dennis Backlund

Lifetime Achievement in recognition of his tireless commitment and dedication to Palo Alto’s history and architectural heritage. A life-long professionalism served to build community trust and enthusiasm for preservation not only in Palo Alto but in the larger region. His knowledge, expertise and caring has well served Palo Alto’s values.



Gail Woolley

Lifetime Achievement in recognition of her many years of leading the fight to preserve local history. Since the late 1960s Gail has championed the preservation of historic buildings in Palo Alto through co-authoring *...Gone Tomorrow?*, the 1971 AAUW booklet and campaigning to save the Squire House and the WWI Hostess House. She was the first chair of the Historic Resources Board (1980) and was president of the Palo Alto Historical Association. Gail, through her continuing participation in civic efforts to preserve Palo Alto’s historic legacy, is a role model for future preservation activists.



See more photos on the web at <http://www.pastheritage.org/Awards/2016awards.html>

1916 Centennial Structures—Look for plaques where the owner is listed!



649 Alvarado Row
Amos & Francina Nur



761 Everett Ave.



661 Bryant St.



680 Forest Ave.
Saman Behtash &
Gemma Gonzato



1143 Bryant St.
Christine Hammer



311 Fulton St.



250 Byron St.
Irving Brenner



360 Fulton St.



474 Churchill Ave.
Tom Jordan



855 Hamilton Ave.



550 Embarcadero Rd.



865 Hamilton Ave.



1128 Emerson St.



475 Homer Ave.
The Woman's Club



477 Everett Ave.



320 Kellogg Ave.



751 Everett Ave.



211 Melville Ave. /
1263 Emerson St.



628 Middlefield Rd.



1003 Middlefield Rd.



834 Ramona St.



666 Tennyson Ave.



939 University Ave.



436 Waverley St.
John Childress Assoc.



712 Waverley St.



730 Waverley St.



Plaques for Other Years



1904 Plaque
1106 Ramona St.
Bob & Susan Wolfe



1905 Plaque
335 College Ave.
Kevin & Jan Arrigo



1905 Plaque
223 Cowper St.
Doris Sukiennicki &
Decker Underwood



1906 Plaque
1321 Waverley St.
James O'Donohue &
Beverly Sarver



1908 Plaque
1125 University Ave.
Anne Lang Frahn



1915 Plaque
201 Middlefield Rd.
Mark & Elizabeth Eden

Calendar of Historical Happenings

Walking Tours—see front page for details.

Sunday, Oct. 2, 2 p.m. —

Palo Art Center in the 1970s. Palo Alto Historical Association, Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield.

Museum of American

Heritage: 351 Homer Ave., 11 a.m.– 4 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Free.

Historic Resources Board — 1st & 3rd Wed. — 8:30 a.m., City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.



PAST Heritage Board of Directors

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Brian George

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Hayley Stevens

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Steve Emslie
Lee Lippert

Web/Newsletter:

Carolyn George

Historian:

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www.pastheritage.org



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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.

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