

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now thru August 10—**Los Altos Landscapes: Then & Now**, Los Altos History Museum, 51 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos (behind the library). Open Thursday-Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

Now thru September 21—**Cycles of History: The Classic Bicycles**, Museum of American Heritage (MOAH), 351 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto. For more information, call (650) 321-1004 or check the MOAH Web site at <http://www.moah.org>. Open Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., free admission.

Related 7:30 p.m. lectures in the Frank Livermore Learning Center at MOAH (behind the Williams House):

July 30—**Yikes, What Bikes!: From Leonardo to Lance**

August 13—**“Feet-First” Bikes: The Past, Present, and Future of “Recumbents”**

September—Watch for your annual dues renewal letter.

On-going—**Walking Tours**. See page 7 or our Web site for contact information.



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.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Preservation Awards and Recognition	1
President's Message	2
Palo Alto History Museum Project	3
Preservation Week Photo Gallery	4
Sunbonnet House	6
Juana Briones Opportunities	6
Corporate Sponsor	7
Board Member Highlight	7
Walking Tours	7
Calendar	8

PAST Heritage Board of Directors

Dave Bubenik, President
Marilyn Bauriedel, Vice President
Aino Vieira da Rosa, Secretary
Grace Hinton, Treasurer

<i>Bonnie Blythe</i>	<i>Dianne MacDaniels</i>
<i>Frankie Campos</i>	<i>Steve Staiger</i>
<i>Aino Vieira da Rosa</i>	<i>Emily Renzel</i>
<i>JudyAnn Edwards</i>	<i>Caroline Willis</i>
<i>Carolyn George</i>	<i>Gail Woolley</i>
<i>Anne Houghteling</i>	

PAST Web site: www.pastheritage.org
PAST Hotline: (650) 299-8878
Editor: Carolyn George
Contributors: Marilyn Bauriedel, David Bubenik, Carolyn George, Karen Holman, Steve Staiger, Gail Woolley
Line Drawing: Richard Elmore
Photos: Carolyn George, Sheri Moody, Palo Alto Historical Association



PAST News

Vol. 17, No. 1

P.O. Box 308 • Palo Alto, California 94302 • (650) 299-8878

Summer 2003

2003 PAST Preservation Awards



Preservation Week 2003 was climaxed by the presentation of the following awards on Saturday, May 10. It was a beautiful morning in the garden at 365 Lincoln Avenue. As an added treat, each recipient shared some experiences with us. It was a delightful event topped off with refreshments courtesy of A.G. Ferrari.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AWARD

Boy Scout Troop 57, Stanford District of the Pacific Skyline Council of The Boy Scouts of America for repair and restoration of the Fire Circle at the Lucie Stern Community Center.



EDUCATION AWARD

The Museum of American Heritage for the exhibit *It's on the House: Architecture and Artifacts* (February 2003-May 2003).



LIVING PRESERVATION AWARD

Bjarne Dahl and the Cardinal Staff for stellar stewardship of the Cardinal Hotel and with appreciation for their everwillingness to share this historic resource with the community.



COMMERCIAL PRESERVATION AWARD

Thoits Brothers, Inc., for preservation of 611 Emerson Street, Palo Alto, one of the earliest surviving commercial structures by architect Birge Clark.



RESIDENTIAL AWARDS

Glenn Rosendale, owner, and **Robert Van Dale**, architect, for restoration of 680 Forest Avenue, Palo Alto, a 1916 Craftsman-style bungalow.

Loren and Dee Brown owners, and **Martin Bernstein**, architect, for rehabilitation of the Slonaker House, 334 Kingsley Avenue, respecting its significance in the Professorville Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

RESOURCE PRESERVATION AWARDS

PlaceMakers, Inc., for enabling the preservation and reuse of traditional and historic building materials.

Reusable Lumber Company for enabling the preservation and reuse of traditional and historic building materials.

Whole House Building Supply for enabling the preservation and reuse of traditional and historic building materials.

Centennial Homes

181 Addison	233 Addison	321 Cowper	381 Hawthorne	315 Melville
203 Addison	281 Addison	327 Cowper	334 Kingsley	1115 Ramona
209 Addison	325 Alma	330 Cowper	249 Kipling	1139 Ramona
219 Addison	737 Bryant	1101 Emerson	251 Lincoln	755 University
225 Addison	1140 Bryant	1111 Emerson	365 Lincoln	851 University
		1300 Hamilton	667 Lytton	1248 Waverley

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER—
THANK YOU, AND WELCOME**

This year the PAST Board of Directors bids farewell to (in alphabetical order) Irene Dietsch, Pria Graves, Jenny Pollock, Cheryl Vicenti, and Natalie Wells. It welcomes Marilyn Bauriedel, Frankie Campos, and Anne Houghteling.

Irene Dietsch joined the Board one year ago and promptly got into the spirit by hosting the 2002 Board retreat at her home, sharing her love of good recipes with us. Shortly thereafter, health issues forced Irene to go on leave, and eventually led to her unwilling resignation. We send her all best wishes and hope she can rejoin us soon.

Pria Graves leaves the Board impelled by term limits after six years of service, two as president. She is a life member of PAST, and sports a very long list of preservation accomplishments. Pria was a major force in initiating and promoting Palo Alto's recent attempt to create real legal protection for our historic resources, and then resolutely defended it during the ensuing Measure G campaign. She then ran for a seat on the Palo Alto City Council in 2001, where she would have been a most welcome advocate for our community character. Please hang in there, and come back when you're eligible again.

Jenny Pollock is a real estate agent very much interested in the historic aspects of the homes she meets in her career. She joined the Board enthusiastically in 2002, but reluctantly resigned one year later in deference to the priority demands of an irregular professional schedule. In the meantime, Jenny added a definite spark to the PAST events she helped organize.

Cheryl Vicenti joined the Board one year ago. A very busy person already, PAST ultimately could not fit into her schedule.

Natalie Wells leaves after six years of very dedicated service, also bowing to term limits. She served as vice president during the past two years, giving invaluable advice and aid to yours truly. Also while thus engaged, Natalie teamed with Marilyn Bauriedel to organize the very successful 2001 Holiday House Tour in Professorville that featured the "Polly and Jake House." She was very active in the Measure G campaign and in promoting the historic preservation ordinance that led to it. Please stay in touch, Natalie, and come back soon.

Marilyn Bauriedel returns to the Board after a year off, stepping immediately into the vice presidency. She also has a long involvement with preservation and PAST Heritage, including start to finish participation in the preservation ordinance and Measure G efforts, plus co-organizing the 2001 Holiday House Tour and PAST's Celebration of Homer Avenue in October 2000. Marilyn's energy, dedication, and experience are most welcome, again.

Frankie Campos is a new recruit. She and her husband, Carlos, own and operate a famous local metalworking business, now located in Sunnyvale under the name Artists Workshop. For many years prior they had a spot at Allied Arts. Maybe you have already met Frankie and Carlos. Those who attended the 2002 Holiday House Tour saw at least one example of Carlos' artistry. (Trivia question: where?) Welcome, Frankie.

Even before joining the Board, **Anne Houghteling** helped involve PAST in two local issues. Almost one year ago she approached us volunteering to help promote the Edward Durrell Stone architecture of the then-threatened Main Library building. An Eichler homeowner herself, she was already advocating for Eichler's Edgewood Shopping Center at Embarcadero Road and 101. Anne formally came on the Board in midyear and has been a steady, active presence since then. Welcome, Anne.




Steve Staiger, Natalie Wells, Gail Woolley, David Bubenik, Carolyn George, Grace Hinton, Caroline Willis, JudyAnn Edwards, Dianne MacDaniels at the Awards Presentation on May 10, 2003.

PARTNERS IN HISTORY

A.G. Ferrari Foods and PAST Heritage are now Partners in History. A.G. Ferrari Foods has agreed to direct a portion of their corporate support for local non-profits in our direction. Each of their stores selects local community non-profits to whom the company will offer support in sponsoring projects or events offered by the local group.

Our Preservation Week celebration event on Saturday, May 10, was supported by the A.G. Ferrari Foods store at 200 Hamilton Avenue. They delivered several platters of delicious cookies and iced tea drinks for the warm morning event. Our thanks to A.G. Ferrari Foods and hope that this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Steve Staiger



A. G. FERRARI FOODS

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Stepping up to the plate to help Gail Woolley put out PAST's mailings got **Bonnie Blythe** out onto the historic preservation playing field, resulting in an invitation to join the PAST Board last January. Bonnie's parents moved to Palo Alto in 1953 where her mother ran a business providing board and care for elderly residents. Bonnie and her husband moved to Palo Alto later and raised their family in the 20s-era home her parents had bought. A former teacher in a K-8 grade private school in Los Altos, Bonnie, now a vol-



unteer at the school's library, is keeping the library open and operating for students in a time of tight school budgets. Her other volunteer activities include a long association with the downtown Food Closet in Palo Alto and teaching at her church. She produced wonderful cookies for the PAST Holiday House Tour last December and expects to continue to offer hospitality leadership for other PAST events. She highly recommends taking a tour with the PAST docents to get better acquainted with the older neighborhoods of Palo Alto.

Marilyn Bauriedel

PAST'S PAST

From our June 1994 Newsletter: "PAST Heritage, along with many organizations and individuals, contributed to the Centennial Endowment Fund. As a result, our name will appear on Centennial Wall in the alley across from City Hall." Look for it!

1903 TIDBITS

- The Pacific Telegraph Cable from San Francisco to the Philippines opened July 4.
- A typhoid outbreak in Palo Alto due to contaminated milk sickened over 100 people.
- Crayola Crayons were introduced. They cost 5 cents for a box of eight colors.

**Walking Tours of
Historic Palo Alto**



Downtown
Professorville
College Terrace
Homer Avenue

Monday-Saturday, morning or afternoon.
Donation: \$20 per docent group of up to 10 persons

To arrange a tour, call (650) 328-5670.

SUNBONNET HOUSE NEWS

The 104-year-old “Sunbonnet House” in Professorville, Palo Alto’s only Bernard Maybeck-designed residence, has a new owner who grew up in Palo Alto and loves the community feel and family friendliness of Palo Alto’s historic neighborhoods. He and his fiancée, who holds a degree in architecture, immediately fell in love with this beloved Palo Alto landmark at a realty open house. They plan to restore exterior features that were altered in the 1970s to bring them back as much as possible to Maybeck’s original design and to renovate the kitchen and other interior spaces to meet 21st-century standards and tastes. They were drawn to the character and design of this early Maybeck home, including the redwood paneling in the living room, which appears just as it did when Emma Kellogg had the house built to Maybeck’s specifications in 1899. Called the Sunbonnet House because the cantilevered porch roof reminds one of a hat, the current house replaced a home Maybeck had designed for Mrs. Kellogg on the same lot that was lost in a devastating fire.



Although the new owners have told PAST that their

plans for the house “feel like a huge project,” they added that they feel energized and encouraged by helpful and knowledgeable people whom they have already encountered in doing “detective” work on the house. Each person with whom they discuss their plans seems to lead them to another valuable resource person who guides them in turn to relevant archives. Recently Maybeck Foundation personnel introduced them to someone who opened doors of Maybeck houses in Berkeley and San Francisco for their viewing. Beth Bunnberg of the Palo Alto Historical Association (PAHA) and the Historic Resources Board (HRB) and Dennis Backlund, the City of Palo Alto’s historic preservation specialist, have also come forth with historic resource materials. The new owners have pored over documentation at the Maybeck Foundation and in Berkeley at the University of California College of Environmental Design. In the Berkeley archives they found only a few early photographs of the Sunbonnet House because a tragic fire at Cal in the 1920s destroyed a collection of Maybeck house records. The owners feel reasonably certain, however, that these photographs are sufficient to visualize Maybeck’s original intent for the façade portions they intend to restore. “It will take us a year or two to do the work,” say the new owners, but they add that they plan to enjoy the process.

Marilyn Bauriedel

A SUMMER FIELD TRIP TO JUANA BRIONES’ PRESIDIO HOME

This summer an archaeological dig is being conducted in the Presidio of San Francisco at the site of the residences of the Briones and Miramontes families, which date from about 1815. Marcos Briones was the father of Juana Briones de Miranda and was one of the soldiers who came with Portola and was stationed at the Presidio. Miramontes was the name of Juana’s sister’s family, who later founded Half Moon Bay. According to an 1820 map of the Presidio, the two houses were side-by-side at Polin Spring.

Visitors to the dig are welcome to drop by between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. any weekday between July 9 and August 15. Two more detailed tours, including a visit to the laboratory, are scheduled for Tuesday, July 22, at 10:30 a.m. and Friday, August 15, at 2 p.m. No reservation necessary. Polin Spring is at the south end of MacArthur Avenue. Stop by the Visitor Center for a map, or check the Web site, <http://www.stanford.edu/group/presidio/>.

Isn’t it ironic that Juana’s childhood home in San Francisco is thought important enough to be the subject of an archeological dig and in Palo Alto her rancho house of about 1846 is still standing, but threatened by demolition? For more details, see the Web site of the Juana Briones Heritage Foundation, <http://www.brioneshouse.org>.

Gail Woolley

OUR GOAL, YOUR LEGACY

HISTORY MUSEUM PROJECT—HELP KEEP PALO ALTO’S HISTORY ALIVE WITH THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

The Palo Alto History Museum Project is moving forward, gaining enthusiastic backing from community groups and individuals. The donor-advised charitable fund of a well-known Palo Alto resident has pledged \$1 million to the Palo Alto History Museum Project.

The opportunity for a History Museum opened up in 2000, when the City of Palo Alto purchased the historically significant Roth Building, the original Palo Alto Clinic facility at 300 Homer Avenue. The City is proposing to lease the property to a nonprofit group that will restore, maintain, and operate the property for community benefit and for public access.

The *Palo Alto History Museum Project Committee* is eager to fulfill this purpose. Our proposal is to exhibit Palo Alto’s past, which stretches from the Ohlone Indians, early Mexican land grants, and establishment of Stanford University to the leading edge of both semiconductor technology and biotechnology.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Restoring and upgrading the 17,000 square foot building will cost approximately \$5.2 million. The City’s Request for Proposal is due November 5, 2003.

The donor-advised charitable fund of a well-known Palo Alto resident has pledged \$1 million as a challenge to encourage others to contribute to a long-overdue local History Museum. Along with this we also have excellent prospects of another million, possibly before the proposal must be submitted to the City.

WHY A HISTORY MUSEUM FOR PALO ALTO?

Palo Alto is exceptionally rich in history and innovation. Our existing historical documents and artifacts need to be preserved and collected in one place to illustrate this heritage.

Historical exhibits will be an educational experience for children, adults, and the broader community. Palo Alto is the only Santa Clara County city that does not have a local history museum.

WHY A MUSEUM IN THE ROTH BUILDING?

• The historic 1932 Spanish Colonial Revival gem at 300 Homer Avenue exemplifies the quintessential architectural style that helps define Palo Alto’s downtown and influences many of its neighborhoods. Its architect, Birge Clark, is widely considered Palo Alto’s premier architect.

• The public will benefit from using its rooms for gathering, educational opportunities, and research.

• The public will be able to visit the Museum, surrounded by a future park, and view the Depression-era murals by artist, Victor Arnautoff, a disciple of Diego Rivera. Arnautoff’s other works include *City Life*, the largest of the famous murals in San Francisco’s Coit Tower.

• The building will also become an outstanding example of the latest sustainable practices.

Join Palo Alto Stanford Heritage, the Museum of American Heritage, the University South Neighborhoods Group, the Palo Alto Women’s Club, the Palo Alto Historical Association, and community leaders from all walks of life in supporting this long-overdue Palo Alto facility.

What better physical legacy to our community than a Palo Alto History Museum in a restored Roth building as a living legacy:

- to the Stanford professors whose lives and homes are intertwined here;
 - to the Clinic’s founders and Palo Alto’s continuing bond with the medical world;
 - to the architecture that embodies Palo Alto’s style;
 - to the nourishing role of art in the community;
 - to the visionaries, scholars, and philanthropists who created Palo Alto and helped shape its global influence
- This can be your legacy.

Donations and pledges may be sent to: The Palo Alto History Museum Project, P.O. Box 193, Palo Alto, CA 93401. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Please contact Karen Holman at (650) 321-6170 or kcholman@earthlink.net for more information.

Karen Holman



PRESERVATION WEEK 2003 Cities, Suburbs and Countryside

"A celebration of America's diverse history and how historic preservation helps save that heritage."

Preservation Week 2003 got off to a rousing beginning on Monday, May 5, with a proclamation by Palo Alto Mayor Dena Mossar followed by the tour Birge Clark and Pedro de Lemos on Ramona Street. Montgomery Anderson, restoration architect on several de Lemos and Clark structures, showed examples of stylistic details unique to each architect.

The Tuesday tour, *Recent Preservation Projects in the Stanford Academic Core*, hosted by the Campus Architect's Office and the library staff, highlighted two historic structures in the heart of campus: the 1919 Bakewell and Brown Green Library and Building 30, restored in 1997 to its original condition.

On Wednesday evening the tour of *Faculty Housing on the Stanford Campus* highlighted the early development of faculty/staff housing. It was fun to see the variety of styles on campus. As a very special treat, we were able to go into two homes and their gardens. Thank you to Marian Adams and Bob Hamrdla of the Stanford Historical Society!

Thursday, as a follow-up to her article in the last PAST newsletter, Beth Bunnenburg, told and showed us how *It Will All Come Out in the Wash*. After exploring the Homer Avenue area that was home to many laundries in the 1930s, we ended our walk at the Museum of American History to see an exhibit that included a typical home laundry of the day. Two tour members were children in families operating a couple of those laundries and remember living above the family businesses. It was so nice of them to share their experiences.

Donaldina Cameron was the subject of our Friday program. The life of this former missionary and her work in San Francisco's Chinatown at the turn of the 20th century are an inspiration to all. PAST Board member Laura Ferrell opened her home, once Donaldina's beloved Heatherbloom, so we could see her careful renovation. Many took advantage of the beautiful day for a self-guided College Terrace tour.

The culminating event was Saturday, May 10, *Celebration in Professorville*, in the garden at 365 Lincoln Avenue. The grandchildren of a former owner shared fond recollections of life in Professorville and around the house in their grandparents' day. The festivities included presentation of plaques to houses built in 1903 and the 2003 Preservation Awards. Refreshments were provided by our new corporate sponsor, A.G. Ferrari. For those wanting more, a tour of the beautiful gardens and a self-guided tour of Professorville were offered.

Carolyn George

