

## Calendar of Events

Now through January 28, 2007— **Timeless and Classic Toys**, Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Avenue. For more information call (650) 321-1004 or check their Website at [www.moah.org](http://www.moah.org).

Sunday, November 5, 2 p.m.— **Founding and Growth of Silicon Valley in the Post WWII Era**, Steve Blank, Palo Alto Historical Association. Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield.

Sunday, December 3, 2 p.m.— **Sharing Stories**, Palo Alto Historical Association, Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield.

Sunday, December 10, 1-4 p.m.— **PAST Heritage Holiday House Tour of Professorville**. See cover.

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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.

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# PAST News

Vol. 20, No. 2

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

Autumn 2006

## 19<sup>th</sup> PAST Heritage Holiday House Tour Sunday, December 10, 2006

1-4 p.m.

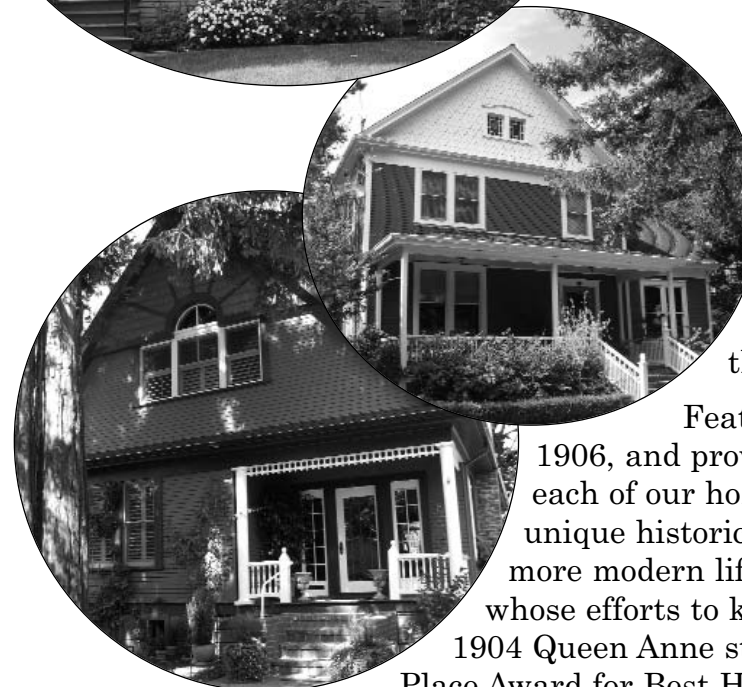
### Preserving, Presenting and Celebrating Historic Professorville

While we've taken you to Professorville for our annual Holiday House Tour before, this year promises a few surprises along the way...and what better place to encounter holiday magic than while strolling along one of Palo Alto's most treasured neighborhoods. To begin with, PAST is pleased to present not five, but six homes for tour goers to visit this year including a not to be missed property that, upon conclusion of this tour, will rarely ever be open to the public.

Featured homes this year range in age from 1893 to 1906, and provide the perfect opportunity for visitors to see how each of our homeowners have celebrated and preserved the unique historic character of their home, while renovating for a more modern lifestyle. The best testament to this: a homeowner whose efforts to keep alterations sympathetic to the period of her 1904 Queen Anne style house, won both a local and regional First Place Award for Best Historic Restoration in 2001.

Built in 1905 and originally the home of Dr. John Spencer, the first mayor of Palo Alto, the legendary Hewlett-Packard garage and house underwent a painstaking and thoughtful restoration by the company in 2005 and has been restored to its original condition after more than 80 years of alterations. It has been furnished faithful to the period of the late 1930's, when the company's founders lived and worked there. Take a step back in time as you stand by the fireplace mantel...here in 1938, Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard first brought their prototype inside, placed it on the mantel and took a picture of it. Venture into the adjoining room where Lucille Packard then typed up specifications on the dining room table and you have HP's first mailing to prospective customers! For this glimpse at the "Birthplace of Silicon Valley", PAST wishes to thank the Hewlett-Packard Company for graciously extending us this rare public tour opportunity.

(Continued on page 6)



## President's Column

As our city grows older, the number of historic buildings inevitably increases. Furthermore, many of these historic buildings are excellent examples of fine architecture and craftsmanship. Many are going to be lost in the coming years, victims of the desire of many who have the means to tear them down to make way for larger and more imposing homes. But many will be saved, as people recognize the value of living in a home well suited to the environment in which it is located. The comfort and warmth of many of these homes provides a fine reward for their preservation.

We are fortunate in having architects in our community who have demonstrated a sensitivity for dealing with the challenges in upgrading and restoring these fine buildings. The result is that we have several examples of buildings that have the amenities that one expects to meet modern needs, but still retain their past elegance. Restoring some of these buildings often requires extensive repair work, as time and termites take their toll. Using the Secretary of the Interior's guideline where possible, the result is often that the building is restored in such a way that it looks very much as it did when it was built, yet meets current earthquake and building code standards.

PAST encourages restoration projects as a way to ensure the preservation of the historic roots of our community. If enough attention is given to preservation, whole neighborhoods can retain the unique character that has made our city such a fine place in which to live.☞

Ralph Britton, President

## Meet Our Two Newest Board Members

**Jinny Henke** moved to Palo Alto from Munich Germany in 1984 after spending 10 years in Europe. Since the mid-80's she and her family have been living in an Eichler home in Green Gables, a 1950's Eichler subdivision which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. She's a devoted fan of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century architecture.

Jinny has been a Palo Alto teacher for almost 20 years. She has taught all ages from Nursery School to adults in public as well as private school. She is currently teaching at First Congregational Nursery School. Jinny enjoys travelling with her family in the quest of interesting architectural sights. On recent trips she visited the Farnsworth House designed by Mies van der Rohe west of Chicago, Ten Chimneys, the home of acting team Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne outside Milwaukee, and Eero Saarinen's Gateway Arch in St. Louis.☞

**Scott Smithwick** was born and raised here in the Bay Area, as was his wife Jana. They are devoted Christians who attend Peninsula Bible Church Cupertino, which started as PBC Palo Alto on Middlefield Avenue. They live in San Jose and work here in Palo Alto where Scott has been with CAW Architects for 10 years.

Jana works at University Art as a custom art framer. His late father, a PGA golf professional, was born and raised in Los Altos and his mother, a teacher, was born and raised in San Mateo. His grandparents were members at Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club, which is where his parents met and fell in love and where he and Jana were married in 2004. He attended college at the Philadelphia University on the East coast, where he earned his bachelors degree in architecture. In his free time, Scott loves to golf, read, enjoy the outdoors and spend time with Jana and good friends.☞

## Save the Date –

Sunday, April 29, 2007

The **Stanford Historical Society** will be showing homes and gardens in the historic lower San Juan district, featuring some of the lovely 1908-10 “double houses”, which were built in response to so many faculty members choosing to build off campus in the area that became Professorville. This tour also launches Book IV in the Historic House series. Tickets will be limited. The price is \$20/person before April 15; \$25/person after April 15 and day of tour. Stay tuned for more details on the SHS Web site at <http://histsoc.stanford.edu/programs.shtml>.

## HELP WANTED:

### Webmaster for PAST Website.

PAST is looking for someone to take over the management of our Website. We need someone familiar with basic HTML and CSS. The current webmaster will be available for consultation.

If you are interested, please contact PAST President, Ralph Britton.

[ralphbritton@sbc.net](mailto:ralphbritton@sbc.net)

telephone: (650) 328-0760

Send the form below to order tickets (\$20 each if received by December 1<sup>st</sup>) or to join PAST Heritage. If available, tickets will be \$25 at the door.

### Please indicate interests here:

- Advocating for preservation
- Researching 1907 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

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.

Within easy walking distance, our electronics history continues with a house built around the turn of the century.

Holding the distinction of being the former residence of William

Shockley, who received a 1956 Nobel Prize in physics as co-inventor of the transistor, the 1899 Craftsman home is a beautiful example of restoration work done that preserves the original style while applying the latest in technology. The current owner, meticulous down to the last detail, confirms that he had everything in the house either made in the Craftsman style especially for the project or salvaged from another Craftsman house.

In 1893, a year before Palo Alto was incorporated this handsome Queen Anne Victorian house was built for \$2300. Since moving in 10 years ago, the present owners have restored the entire house and replaced a rear addition from the 1960's. They not only retained the integrity of the original section of the house, but meticulously repeated the historic elements in the new portion. The result is an exciting artistic setting with elements geared to the needs of their three children, such as an under-the-eaves "bat cave."

Lucky for this 1906 bungalow that its new owners were willing and relished doing extensive research to ensure that any alterations and furnishings were in keeping with the age and style of the house. Their hard work is evident in the handsome mantle tiles from England, a Victorian ceiling fixture, hand-painted wall-paper and light fixtures from a theater in Paris! And, perhaps as a "thank-you" from a grateful house, an attic wall yielded the original plans for the house, which are now framed and hanging in the hall.

There's an interesting story behind the tour's vernacular 1901 cottage with an unusual six-sided tower. Called a "neat cottage" by period newspapers, the structure was built with redwood beams, moldings and window benches which are still in place. The Kelly family owned the house until 1961. Daughter Alice Kelly was Palo Alto's first deputy post master, but later changed careers becoming a photographer and building her studio next door. The latter was on our tour three years ago.

As you end the tour, we think you'll feel much like we do in extending a heartfelt thank you to all our homeowners. Their passion, vision and pride in owning a historical house only serves to increase our own awareness in the importance of preserving Palo Alto's cultural heritage.

So, please mark your calendars for a very special Holiday House Tour and make plans to join us as we look at history through six charming homes. Light refreshments will be served in the lovely garden of a seventh home. Tickets are \$20 each if purchased by December 1<sup>st</sup>. If available, tickets will be \$25 after December 1<sup>st</sup> or at the door. ☘

*Dianne MacDaniels*

## WHAT ABOUT THAT BOTTOM LINE?

When you support PAST, where does your money go? Take a few moments to peruse the 2005-2006 financial report, and you may notice that there were significant expenditures beyond our total revenues for the year. With good reason!! Over the last several years, due to strong membership numbers and a string of successful Holiday House Tours, we have built up a sizeable reserve fund. While we spent more in 2006 than usual on Preservation Month because of our expanded timeline and number of events (special kudos to Dianne MacDaniels & Betty Britton), most of our operating deficit is the result of significant donations we made in the name of preservation. The PAST Board decided to spend down some of our reserves for three causes.

This year we gave \$10,000 to the proposed Palo Alto History Museum. (An initial donation of \$5,000 was made the previous year.) The museum, an adaptive reuse of the Roth Building at the site of the former Palo Alto Medical Foundation, will preserve this architecturally important building designed by Birge Clark.

Second, we gave \$3,000 in support of the Guy Miller Archives at the Palo Alto Main Library. Named for Palo Alto's first city historian, active in the first part of the 20th century, this important archive contains the city's historic files. While it is main-

tained by the Palo Alto Historical Association, it is owned by the city.

Third, the Board gave \$200 to the Friends of the Griffin House. This 1901 building, located on the Foothill College Campus, has been threatened with demolition. While the Friends have won their first court contest to stop immediate demolition, this is still an active issue. While it is not our usual mission to focus on preservation outside of Palo Alto, the Board decided that a donation to the Friends would

be symbolic of our support for the importance of maintaining original structures in our neighboring jurisdictions.

As you can see from our "Assets" data, we still have a goodly reserve fund. The Board is discussing ways to dip into it to further support local preservation projects. We welcome member input, and will keep you informed as the new fiscal year progresses. ☘

*Grace Hinton, Treasurer*

### PAST FINANCIAL REPORT-FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006

	YEAR-TO-DATE
<b>REVENUE</b>	
HOLIDAY HOUSE TICKETS	\$1,949.00
INTEREST	\$364.00
MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$11,785.00
PRODUCT SALES	\$115.00
TOURS	\$20.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$14,233.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
ADMINISTRATION	\$20.00
COMMUNICATIONS:	
NEWSLETTER	\$2,594.61
P.O. BOX	\$72.00
TELEPHONE	\$480.35
WEBSITE	\$120.00
DOCENT TRAINING	\$173.00
DONATIONS TO OTHERS	\$13,200.00
EVENTS:	
HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR	\$2,877.01
PRESERVATION WEEK	\$3,351.79
INSURANCE	\$1,956.00
MEMBERSHIP	\$220.33
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$39.18
RENT	\$750.00
WORKSHOPS	\$60.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$25,894.27</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Checking Account	\$2,006.68
Money Market Account	\$22,187.40
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$24,194.08</b>

## Williams House Turns 100

Oh, if these walls could talk, what stories would they tell? The Museum of American Heritage in association with PAST Heritage will bring to life these stories in two exhibits celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dr. Thomas Williams house at 351 Homer Avenue. The first exhibit, opening February 9, 2007, will focus on the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century from 1907 to 1932.

The Williams house was designed by noted architect Ernest Coxhead in 1906 and was completed in 1907. The Williams family moved from their rented house on Bryant into 351 Homer and were the only family to live in the house. The exhibit will focus on the family and the architectural features of the house through artifacts and architectural tours.

Some areas of special interest are Thomas Williams' and Dora Moody's student days at Stanford (1893-1897). What did the family do for entertainment and recreation? How did Dora prepare meals, do laundry and clean the house? What medicine and equipment did Dr. Williams use to treat his patients? What transportation did he use for house calls? What were school day activities for daughters Betty and Rhona?

What kinds of help do we need from PAST Heritage members?

- Docent and tour leaders for the house
- Vintage clothing for early 1900 through 1930's
- Any artifacts that actually belonged to the Thomas Williams family (many friends received items through Rhona's will)
- Wooden ice box (used for home refrigeration)
- Steamer trunk
- Early Stanford University artifacts and memorabilia.

PAST Heritage members are uniquely suited for these activities. If you can help on any of these items, please call exhibit co-chairs, Beth Bunnenberg (650) 326-3813 or Betty Britton (650) 328-0760.☞

*Beth Bunnenberg*



University Avenue about 1913 showing a streetcar and the original Varsity which was on the other side of the street and closer to Alma.

## Streetcars in Palo Alto

They were around for less than 30 years so it may not be surprising for many Palo Altans to discover that there were two separate streetcar systems operating in the area in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This month is the centennial anniversary of the first streetcar operating in Palo Alto.

On November 15, 1906, just seven months after the devastating earthquake, a streetcar operated on University Avenue, running onto the Stanford Campus. The tracks eventually stretched down University Avenue to San Francisquito Creek, and a branch ran out Waverley Street almost to Oregon Avenue. On that first day the 5 cent fares went to benefit local churches. Eventually the one-way fare was 10 cents, allowing you to ride from your neighborhood to the campus.

Several years later a separate interurban system was developed to compete with the Southern Pacific steam-powered trains to San Jose. This interurban rail system was similar to the VTA light rail trains of today. It ran from the Palo Alto train station along the west side of El Camino Real through Mayfield before veering off to the southwest through what was to become the Stanford Industrial Park, and then on the roadbed of the current Foothill Expressway through Los Altos, Cupertino and Campbell before reaching San Jose. Some of the tracks were eventually used by both the electric interurban and steam locomotives traveling from San Francisco to Santa Cruz.

Although both systems were developed and built by independent concerns, they soon were

owned and operated by companies controlled by the Southern Pacific Company. One problem that limited the success of the interurban was that it was never able to link with other systems operating on the Peninsula or in the East Bay. At a time when one could travel by electric interurban from Oakland to Chico, the Santa Clara system remained an island.

Like many streetcar systems throughout the country, the two systems were not profitable for many years. As the automobile grew in popularity and residential neighborhoods developed away from the rail system, ridership began to drop. The University Avenue line was pulled up and replaced with buses in 1925.

The interurban continued for several years, marginally profitable, until the State wanting to widen Highway 101, required the railroad to shift the tracks several feet further west along El Camino Real. Ridership demand could not justify this additional expense and the tracks were removed in 1929.

You can visit and ride one of the former interurban cars from Palo Alto at a train museum near Rio Vista.☞

*Steve Staiger*

# GALA DAY

## In Palo Alto

Join the Celebration of the Opening of the

# STREET CAR LINE

Young Ladies Collect Fares :: All Proceeds for the

# BENEFIT OF THE CHURCHES

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## Balloon Ascension

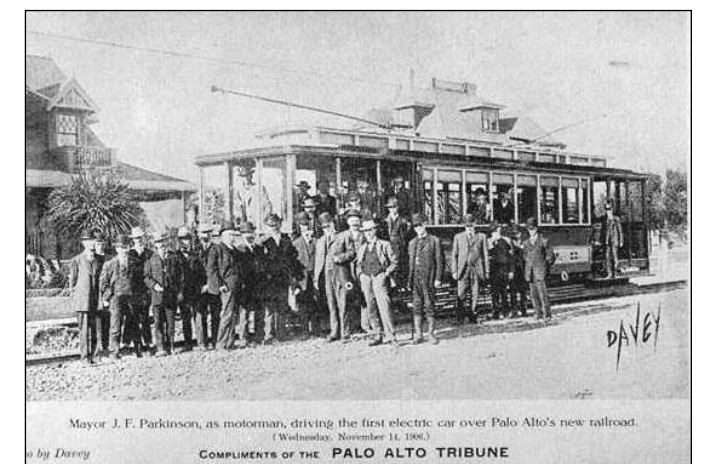
And Parachute Leap

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Games, Races for Old and Young. Prizes in Each Event :: Merchants of Palo Alto Offer Discounts :: Reduced Fares on the Southern Pacific.

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# THURSDAY, NOV. 15, 1906



Mayor J. F. Parkinson, as motorman, driving the first electric car over Palo Alto's new railroad. (Wednesday, November 14, 1906.)  
by Davey  
COMPLIMENTS OF THE PALO ALTO TRIBUNE