

Calendar of Events

Sunday, April 30, 1-4 p.m.— **Stanford Historical Society Historical House and Garden Tour of the San Juan subdivision.** See page 6 for details.

May 2, 8, 11, 13, 19, 21, and 23 — **Preservation Month Activities.** See page 3 for complete schedule.

Now through May 21— **Stitches in Time: 100 Years of Machines & Sewing,** Los Altos History Museum.

Open 12- 4 p.m., Thursday thru Sunday.
Admission is free. www.losaltoshistory.org

Sunday, May 7, 2 p.m.— **Palo Alto Historical Association, Kathleen Norris—"The Danielle Steele of Her Day"**. Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield.

Wednesday, June 7— **Palo Alto Historical Association Annual Dinner,** Sheraton Palo Alto.

Ongoing — **Walking Tours of Downtown, Professorville, College Terrace, or Homer Avenue.**
To arrange a tour, call (650) 328-5670. or visit www.pastheritage.org for contact information.

PAST Heritage Board of Directors

Caroline Willis, President
Marilyn Bauriedel, Vice President
Aino Vieira da Rosa, Secretary
Dave Bubenik, Treasurer

Betty Britton	Debbie Nichols
Ralph Britton	Carolyn Pierce
Carolyn George	Terry Rice
Jinny Henke	Steve Staiger
Kelly Hicks	Natalie Wells
Dianne MacDaniels	

PAST Website: www.pastheritage.org
PAST Hotline: (650) 299-8878
Publicity: JudyAnn Edwards
Editor: Carolyn George
Photos: Carolyn George
Stanford Historical Association
Contributors: David Bubenik
Dianne MacDaniels
Stanford Historical Association



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.

IN THIS ISSUE

Preservation Month	1
The Caroline Chronicles	2
Preservation Month Schedule	3
Mayoral Proclamation	4
Centennial Houses	4
Do's and Don'ts	5
San Juan Hill House Tour	6
Edgewood Plaza Update	7
Calendar	8



PAST News

Vol. 19, No. 4

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

Spring 2006

100 Years Old...



1345 Webster

Ellwood P. Cubberley and his wife Helen are listed as the first residents of this house. Not only was Dr. Cubberley the founder of the Stanford School of Education, but he was also the donor of the building in which it was located.

Never looked so good!

MAY IS PRESERVATION MONTH

We have special events and programs planned all month long, both during the day and in the evening, to let you celebrate Palo Alto's "built-in" heritage!

Please see page 3 for a complete calendar listing.

The Caroline Chronicles

Enjoy **Preservation Month!** Please take advantage of the many programs taking place both here and throughout the bay area. Stanford has an exhibit at the **Green Library** commemorating the Great San Francisco Earthquake in its centennial year. The exhibit runs through September 15. The exhibit has a lesson for us from the Earthquake of 1906. The owners of buildings damaged in a future earthquake will be under pressure to demolish. Now is the time to identify what should be preserved and to establish a plan that can be quickly put into action. We must alert the community to the merits of preservation, before the conversation is driven by disaster. The exhibit is also a great excuse to go see the beautifully restored Bing Wing of the Green Library. It's definitely worth the trip across El Camino.

Another reason to look around for properties that might be threatened and to develop a plan to protect them is the pressure to develop in our already built out environment. As **Edgewood Plaza** appears headed for a rebirth, we are confronted with the fact that we need to put preservation measures into action before economics dictates a more expedient course. For a City proud of its history and admiring of its structures, we are seriously remiss in protecting them.

Highlighting an early community and houses we are proud to call our own, plans are underway for our **2006 Holiday House Tour** in Professorville. And we are already discussing a tour of Sumner houses in 2007. PAST is also planning a booklet on Charles Kaiser Sumner, an early Palo Alto Architect practicing during the 1920s and 30s. Please, let us

know if you would like to participate in this project.

The **Children's Library** restoration and expansion should be underway. PAST Heritage entered into an agreement with the City to serve as custodian for the covenant protecting the historic nature of the library. I am pleased with the compromise between preservation and expanded services that the library demonstrates. Hopefully, it will set a precedent for future City projects.

On a fun note, perhaps you would like to attend the May 13 biannual fundraiser for the Victorian Alliance of San Francisco. After a tour of our own beautiful Lucie Stern Community Center with Michael Litfin at eleven, you might enjoy a trip to Pacific Heights to enjoy a **Secret Garden Tour**, which is self-guided and goes from noon to four. You can find information on the web at www.victorianalliance.org/garden-tour.html Tickets may be purchased the day of the tour for \$25 at Pierce Street and Broadway, where the tour begins.

Be sure to read some of the **earthquake stories** available on the web at <http://1906centennial.org/>

I am pleased to welcome **Jinny Henke** to our Board. Jinny brings an interest in modern architecture and experience as a teacher to our group. We are delighted to be gifted with her enthusiasm and expertise.

Hope to see you in May at all our wonderful events!

*Caroline Willis
President,
PAST Heritage*

Edgewood Plaza Up-Date

Palo Alto's signature mid-century modern legacy at Edgewood Plaza is definitely facing demolition. At a February 1 neighborhood meeting, Sand Hill Property Group principal John Tze firmly dismissed any notion of preserving Joseph Eichler's only shopping center, and instead vaguely outlined plans to build a "mixed-use" 2 to 3 story development with housing units above ground-floor commercial space.

If successful, Sand Hill's proposal would not only obliterate this legacy of A. Quincy Jones, a renowned architect of Eichler's day and a leader of the California modernism movement, but also radically alter the personality of Edgewood's resolutely low-rise environment. Edgewood's fate should be of interest to everyone who cares about Palo Alto; what happens there could bolster unfortunate trends for destroying our architectural heritage and devastating the basic fabric of a neighborhood's character.

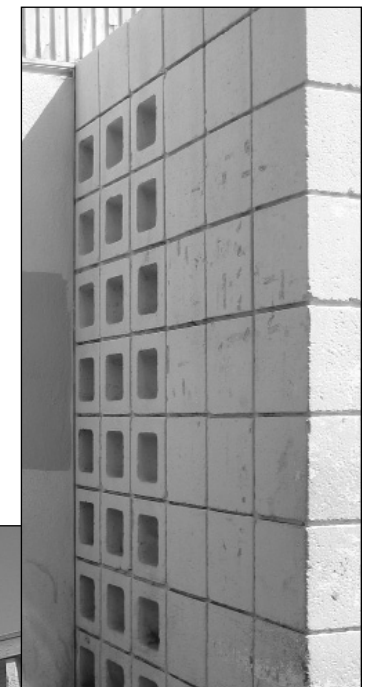
PAST is working closely with concerned neighborhood leaders to channel the redevelopment momentum and find a way to revitalize Edgewood as the neighborhood-serving resource Mr. Eichler intended it to be. We — they — need all the support we —

you — can give. It is vital to educate our city about what it has at Edgewood, what it stands to lose. Can you write a letter to the editor of our local newspapers, speak to your friends on the City Council, Planning Commission, Architectural Review Board, just speak to your friends? To get more involved in our Edgewood advocacy, please call our hotline or send an email to president@pastheritage.org.

Links and references to educational resources on the mid-century modern movement, of which Edgewood is a part, are on our Edgewood Plaza webpage at www.pastheritage.org/Edgewood. For now, you can also get there via www.EdgewoodPlaza.com.

Palo Alto gains nothing by trading Edgewood Plaza for a generic East Tincup, USA-style semi-commercial development, and it loses a significant element of its heritage. It needn't happen.

David Bubenik



Stanford Historical Society House and Garden Tour – April 30

A rare glimpse into the early residential architecture of Stanford University opens four historic houses and gardens on April 30, 1- 4 p.m. The tour will include homes in the San Juan subdivision built from 1909–1925, for Stanford’s earliest faculty members, and will feature several unusual collections of present owners.

1909 CRAFTSMAN SHINGLE HOUSE designed by A.W. Smith for Lee Emerson Bassett, founder of the Stanford drama department. The house and hillside gardens are largely unchanged since construction, including two roses planted in memory of William Bassett, their son, after his death in World War II. Unusual features include:

- ▶ Asian elements
- ▶ Clinker brick fireplace
- ▶ Multiple collections of art and artifacts
- ▶ Cactus, succulent, and hummingbird gardens, and an orchid house

1912 MEDITERRANEAN STYLE stucco and wood house Designed by Walter H. Ratcliffe, Jr., its features include:

- ▶ A magnificent 300-year-old oak tree in a terrace that can accommodate 150 guests
- ▶ A cottage, originally built as a ball room
- ▶ A living room fireplace with a carved redwood mantel

1914 ITALIAN RENAISSANCE ECLECTIC STYLE Built for Douglas Houghton Campbell, professor of botany in Stanford’s pioneer faculty and Robert Edgar Allardice, professor of mathematics, who brought golf to Stanford, it was designed by Walter Ratcliffe, Jr., who began his architecture practice working with Bernard Maybeck and John Galen Howard. After a

checked history that included student rental, flooding, earthquake, and house fires, the home has been beautifully restored. Look for

- ▶ Brick baking oven in the kitchen
- ▶ Arched loggia
- ▶ Portuguese tile in the living room
- ▶ Unusual moldings on the dining room brick fireplace

1925 PROBABLE CHARLES SUMNER stucco house that is largely unchanged from its original construction. Look for

- ▶ Large barrel vaulted, redwood paneled living room and library, with floor to ceiling bookshelves
- ▶ Original tiles and brass fender seats
- ▶ A “secret” suite of rooms under the stairs

The houses are within easy walking distance of one another and there will be shuttle service from the parking lot at Tresidder Union as well as between the houses. As these houses may have uneven paths, stairs without railings, or steep driveways to climb—*please wear appropriate footwear*. Visitors will be asked to wear shoe covers in the houses.

Tickets for the House Tour may be obtained by mailing a check (payable to Stanford Historical Society) to: Stanford Historical Society, c/o Sweeney, P.O. Box 19290, Stanford, CA 94305. *Tickets purchased by April 21 will be \$20/person*. After that date, tickets may be purchased at the registration desk for \$25. All tickets will be distributed the day of the tour at **622 Cabrillo Avenue**. Parking and shuttle service are available at the Tresidder Union lot.

For additional information, please go to the Stanford Historical Society’s web site: <http://histsoc.stanford.edu/> or call (650) 326-9212 or (650) 324-1653.



Celebrate Palo Alto—Where History Lives!

A calendar of events spotlighting Palo Alto’s Spirit of Place

Tuesday, May 2

Noon—**Preservation Month Kick-off** Meet at City Hall Plaza for a Proclamation by *Judy Kleinberg*, Mayor of Palo Alto, acknowledging Preservation Month followed by **The Past is Alive in Tomorrow’s Palo Alto**, a free walking tour of Downtown Palo Alto led by docent *Suzanne Mantell*.

Monday, May 8

Noon—**History’s At Your Doorstep** A free walking tour of historic Professorville led by resident *Joan Jack*. Come discover Palo Alto through the stories of its early inhabitants and its architecture. Meet at the corner of Addison and Bryant.

Thursday, May 11

7-9 p.m.—**The California Bungalow** *Paul Duchscherer*, a well known author, historian, designer and television personality hosts a program that includes a slide show, raffle and light refreshments. A selection of his popular books on bungalows will be available for purchase (checks only please). Buy a book and get it signed by the author! Meet at the Women’s Club, 475 Homer Avenue. Admission is free.

Saturday, May 13

11 a.m.—**Lucie’s Legacy** The Lucie Stern Community Center, the most gracious gift of Lucie Stern and the best-known work of celebrated Palo Alto architect Birge Clark, will be showcased during a free walking tour led by *Michael Litfin* of the Children’s Theatre. Get an insider’s look at its history and hear some untold stories along the way. Meet in the Lucie Stern Community Center courtyard.

Friday, May 19

7-9 p.m.—**Eichlers—A Look Back and Forward** Join *Ned Eichler*, son of developer Joseph Eichler for a lecture on the innovative Eichler philosophy. Mr. Eichler will have a selection of his books for sale and be available for signing. Light refreshments will be served. Meet in the Stern Ballroom of the Lucie Stern Community Center. Admission is free. (Don’t forget...mark your calendar for a great follow-up to this presentation with the docent-led walking tour of an Eichler neighborhood on May 23rd).

Sunday, May 21

4-6 p.m.—**Preservation Awards Ceremony** Happy Birthday to homes turning 100! Meet us as we gather in the beautiful gardens of Larry and Vicki Sullivan’s 1906 home at 1345 Webster. Plaques are awarded to our newest centennial homes with a few recollections shared by the owners. We’ll also honor our community’s preservationists with our 2006 Preservation Awards. Light refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, May 23

Noon—**Eichler Living** Meet in front of 3673 South Court for a docent-led walk of an Eichler neighborhood by PAST Board member and Eichler devotee *Marilyn Bauriedel*.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride and maintaining community character while enhancing livability; and

WHEREAS, historic preservation is relevant for communities across the nation, both urban and rural, and for Americans of all ages, all walks of life and all ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, it is important to celebrate the role of history in our lives and the contributions made by dedicated individuals in helping to preserve the tangible aspects of the heritage that has shaped us as a people; and

WHEREAS, "Sustain America - Vision, Economics, and Preservation" is the theme for National Preservation Month 2006, cosponsored by Palo Alto Stanford Heritage and the National Trust for Historic Preservation

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Judy Kleinberg, mayor of Palo Alto, do proclaim May 2006, as National Historic Preservation Month, and call upon the people of Palo Alto to join their fellow citizens across the United States in recognizing and participating in this special observance.



365 Hawthorne

This house is especially interesting because it was built by a local carpenter, Clarence E. Henry, who lived in it along with his family for their entire lives. It is still owned by descendants of the family!



336 Byron

Little did contractor E.L. Blackman know that the "spec" house he both built and financed in 1906 would survive 100 years.



2150 Dartmouth

About the time of the 1906 earthquake, this building housed a Stanford eating club and was known as "Marchmont."

Other centennial homes include:

757 College	469 Homer
1080 College	505 Homer
250 Cowper	301 Lowell
904 Cowper	851 Lytton
1451 Cowper	3905 Park
318 Emerson	934 Ramona
1017 Emerson	352 Stanford
1551 Emerson	374 Stanford
2131 Harvard	860 University
212 High	333 Waverley
201 Homer	251 Webster

Do's and Don'ts for First-Timers and Veterans.

In 1989, the National Trust's *Preservation Magazine* published an article on "What Every Restorer Should Know." Author Susan Morse included the Department of the Interior's "Ten Basic Principles for Sensitive Rehabilitation," also known as the "Do's and Don'ts for First-Timers and Veterans."

1. Make every effort to use the building for its original purpose.
2. Do not destroy distinctive original features.
3. Recognize all buildings as products of their own time.
4. Recognize and respect changes that have taken place over time.
5. Treat sensitively distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craft work.
6. Repair rather than replace worn architectural features when possible. When replacement is necessary, new material should match the old in design, composition, and color.
7. Clean facades using the gentlest methods possible. Avoid sandblasting and other damaging methods.
8. Protect and preserve affected archeological resources.
9. Compatible contemporary alterations are acceptable if they do not destroy significant historical or architectural fabric.
10. Build new additions so they can be removed without impairing the underlying structure.