

Calendar of Events

Now through August 17, 2008

Bonfires and Bugs: The Art & Science of Camping at MOAH - See www.moah.org

July 24, 2008

Suiting Palo Alto to a 'T': The Impact of the Ford Model 'T' - Presentation by our own Steve Staiger. See www.moah.org

December 2008

PAST Holiday House Tour

See teaser on page 2 for more information.

PAST Heritage Board of Directors

Grace Hinton, President

Kelly Hicks, Vice President

Jinny Henke, Secretary

Cheryl Lathrop, Treasurer

Ralph Britton

Betty Britton

Natalie Lukianoff

Janet Peacock

Margaret Feuer

Terry Rice

Leslie McLaren

Scott Smithwick

Steve Staiger



PAST

NEWSLETTER

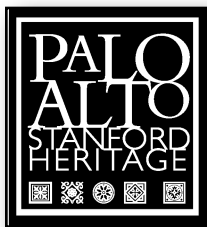
VOLUME 22 - NUMBER 1

SUMMER 2008

**Thank You for making
Preservation Month a Success**



**and congratulations to all the
1908 centennial homes!**



Palo Alto Stanford Heritage

P.O. Box 308

Palo Alto, CA 94302

(650) 299-8878

www.pastheritage.org

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.

PAST NEWSLETTER

Editor: Scott Smithwick

Contributors: Karen Holman
Grace Hinton
Carolyn George
Natalie Loukianoff

Photographs: PAST Heritage
Carolyn George

President's Column

Our bylaws state that PAST's purpose is to support the preservation of historic architecture, neighborhoods, and character of the greater Palo Alto-Stanford area through informed citizen involvement and education. As I begin my term as president, I want to share with you the accomplishments of our organization over the last several years under the leadership of Ralph Britton that have furthered our mission:

- We were successful in our role as covenant holder for the City of Palo Alto in their renovation of the Children's Library, and have been participating in planning of the renovation of the College Terrace library.
- Our Charles Sumner Holiday House Tour in December of last year was a great success, and we feel that Sumner is getting more of the recognition he deserves. We hope to continue to provide an educational focus for our tours; this year's tour will be an all-Eichler treat. We have discussed a possible Morgan Steadman tour. Steadman is another under-recognized local architect, and one whose work, like Sumner's, is represented on campus as well as in town. David Clark, Birge's brother, might be another; his tragic early death and his resulting small oeuvre make it imperative that we identify and document his remaining buildings.
- We have established a warm relationship with the Stanford Historical Society, with whom we share a committed group of enthusiastic docents for our complementary tours.
- We accept donations on behalf of the Friends of Juana Briones in their effort to preserve the Briones House, a vitally important local landmark. We are pleased to report that Judge Leslie Nichols has issued his decision in favor of the case presented by the Friends. Their attorney, Susan Brandt-Hawley, presented the successful argument that state law requires Palo Alto to complete an Environmental Impact Report on so historically noteworthy a property before considering demolition of the Briones House.

As I begin my term as president of the board, we are working on several exciting projects. PAST is in the first stages of discussing the possibility of holding covenants for private property owners who are selling their historic homes and would like to see them remodeled under the guidelines established by the Secretary of the Interior rather than demolished. Since 80-100 single family residences have been demolished in Palo Alto every year for the past several years, we'd like to provide this tool to people who don't wish to see their beloved homes demolished once they leave. The board will be actively advocating for the preservation of the Palo Alto High School tower, original library, and theater included as part of the proposed renovation. Also, we plan to set up an email distribution list for alerts on important issues, and to encourage conservation by posting our newsletter on our website and thus making paper newsletters optional. Stay tuned.

~ Grace Hinton, President

~ 2008 Holiday House Tour Teaser ~

We are very excited about this year's upcoming Holiday House Tour. We already have two homes lined up and we are proud to announce that this year will mark the first year that we will tour Palo Alto's Greenmeadow Community of Eichler homes. PAST President, Grace Hinton is once again heading up this year's event. More information to come in the next few months. If you, or someone you know has a Eichler home in this area and would like to volunteer, please contact us - you can find our contact information on our new website at www.pastheritage.org.

College Terrace Library Planning

The PAST Board has been closely following the renovation plans for College Terrace Library at 2300 Wellesley Street. PAST suggested to the city last year during our observation of the Children's Library renovations that the city treat the College Terrace Library much in the same way, as a historic structure. City staff were enthusiastic and went before the Historic Resources Board to present their case to reassign a higher category (3 out of a possible 4) to the library. This higher category allows incentives for preservation to be utilized, and raises the bar very high if demolition were ever proposed.



The building was designed by Charles Sumner and constructed by George Moore. According to the library website, it was built as a replacement for a branch library housed in the old Mayfield City Hall for use by Mayfield residents after the city was annexed into Palo Alto in about 1924, and was open three days a week. Mayfield residents donated money for this first branch library, and the City Council allocated public funds to maintain it.



In 1936, the Mayfield Branch Library opened in its new building at 2300 Wellesley Street. The City Council designated funds for the new structure, and WPA labor was used in its construction. It served both as a library and as a community center; the little theater is still in existence but is used by the day care center located in the south part of the building. The name of this branch was later changed to the South Palo Alto Branch Library. At the time Mitchell Park Branch opened in 1958, the name was changed once again, this time to College Terrace Library.

PAST has been campaigning very hard to keep the delicately detailed library reading room free of visible structural upgrades. The first proposal from the architect included two large steel beams that crossed the reading room at the same level as the graceful wrought iron ties, a solution that would have blocked the clear view in both directions to the arched windows at either end. This view, PAST believes, is one of the key defining features of this library. We very much appreciate the can-do attitude of the public works staff we've been working with, namely Karen Bengard, Debra Jacobs, and Woojae Kim who've been going to bat for this important feature. Also planned is the removal of an unsightly water heater enclosure located on the west wall, and upgrading heating and lighting. Anyone who knows the reading room will cheer the removal of the giant space heaters hanging from the ceiling!

~ Grace Hinton, President



~ Check out our new Website ~

Have YOU visited the PAST Website lately? Here's what's new:

- > Centennial houses listed by year and address and maybe a picture!
- > Pictures from past Holiday House Tours
- > Advocacy up-dates
- > Newsletter archive

Do you have something you would like to tell us about your house or neighborhood? Help make our website more complete and exciting to explore. Check us out! Your suggestions and comments are welcome--just use the Contact Us link! www.pastheritage.org

- Carolyn George, Webmaster



The PAST Heritage Board of Directors would like to thank Carolyn George for all her hard work in updating our website and adding more content. Please visit www.pastheritage.org and check it out for yourself. There are previous newsletters, preservation awards, holiday house tours, centennial homes and much, much more!

Shades of Green

"We never know the worth of water till the well is dry" ~ Thomas Fuller, Gnomologia, 1732

At a time when attentions rightly turn to environmental matters, it is also time to consider that which is so obvious as to be overlooked. To this point, the energy embodied in our existing buildings has largely been excluded when determining the basis for a "green" building. So also have the resultant negative impacts of building anew. But this is beginning to change. Consider the following:

In Palo Alto, for example, the City's 2006 waste characterization study reveals that almost half of our 78,000 tons of annual waste is construction and demolition (C&D) materials. Approximately half of that, essentially a quarter of PA's waste or 19,500 tons, has no potential for recycling or reuse. Additionally, the energy used in clearing a lot, the transport and recycling of the materials that do not go into landfill, the energy consumed in the manufacture and transport of new materials used in the replacement structures....all these actions create significant new carbon impacts. And concrete, as one of the most noxious building materials due to its high carbon output during manufacture, adds as much as one ton of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere for every ton produced.

The wood, glass, concrete, metal, concrete, roofing materials, stucco, sheetrock, plaster, brick, stone....all represent the "embodied energy" in our existing homes and offices. Too much information exists to continue to deem as green only the new buildings.

No matter how much green technology is employed in its design and construction, any new building represents a new impact on the environment. The bottom line is that the greenest building is one that already exists.
 ~ Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Berkeley, March 2008

It takes approximately 65 years for a green, energy-efficient new office building to recover the energy lost in demolishing an existing building," said Moe. "And let's face it: Most new buildings aren't designed to last anywhere near 65 years. [...] It all comes down to this simple fact: We can't build our way out of the global warming crisis. We have to conserve our way out. That means we have to make better, wiser use of what we've already built.

The National Trust is now working with L.E.E.D. to include representative credits for existing buildings in their widely utilized green standards. While for a variety of reasons it is not realistic that all existing buildings be retained, so much information is now readily available that it does confirm that we have to be better stewards of our planet by going back to the basics as represented by the environmental triangle:

Reduce - Reuse - Recycle

Oh yes, and as for Palo Alto...ultimately, with recommendations from the Historic Resources Board, the Architectural Review Board, the Planning & Transportation Commission and City Staff, the Palo Alto City Council recently passed a Green Building Code that credits points for reuse of existing buildings. Historic homes can be credited with up to 20 points for building retention toward the 70 required total points. The code can be viewed at:

<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/pln/news/details.asp?NewsID=1007&TargetID=85>

~ Karen Holman, Chairperson, Palo Alto Planning & Transportation Commission

"Waste not the smallest thing created, for grains of sand make mountains, and atomies infinity." ~ E. Knight

"So bleak is the picture... that the bulldozer and not the atomic bomb may turn out to be the most destructive invention of the 20th century"
 ~ Philip Shabecoff, New York Times Magazine, 4 June 1978

PAST 2008 Preservation Awards

Residential Preservation

On a street which has seen more than its share of demolitions, monster houses, and "pop-tops", Elizabeth Everitt decided to remodel her single story bungalow at **210 Seale Avenue** in such a way that it met her space needs on the interior but preserved the simple charming exterior as well as many interior details.



Community Preservation

Presented to the **Greenmeadow Community Association** in recognition of the preservation and restoration of its 1954 Joseph Eichler community center and Thomas Church designed secret garden patio at 303 Parkside Drive.



Residential Preservation

Presented to **Harris and Megan Barton** in recognition of the preservation and renovation of **334 Lincoln Avenue**, a 1897 home in the Historic Register Professorville District.

Commercial Restoration

Presented to Cody Anderson Wasney Architects, Inc. for the interior restoration of **520 Ramona Street**. Located in the National Register Ramona Street Architectural District, the building's historic interior and exterior features were meticulously restored, including windows, light fixtures, and tile.



Adaptive Reuse

Presented to Mike Garcia in recognition of restoration and adaptive reuse of the Pedro DeLemos building at **520 Ramona Street** in the National Trust Ramona Street Architectural District.

~ 1908 Centennial Homes ~

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 181 Addison Avenue | 376 Addison Avenue | 162 Bryant Street |
| 336 Byron Street | 1225 Byron Street | 365 Coleridge Avenue |
| 375 Coleridge Avenue | 1357 Cowper Street | 281 Embarcadero Road |
| 250 Emerson Street | 1121 Emerson Street | 1129 Emerson Street |
| 657 Everett Avenue | 355 Fulton Street | 215-225 Fulton Street |
| 381 Guinda Street | 1037 Greenwood Street | 925 Hamilton Avenue |
| 2131 Harvard Street | 1003 High Street | 575 Hawthorne Avenue |
| 374 Kingsley Avenue | 545 Kingsley Avenue | 1015 High Street |
| 325 Kipling Street | 401 Lowell Avenue | 101 Lytton Avenue |
| 1001 Ramona Street | 645-651 Lytton Avenue | 567 Melville Avenue |
| 227-229 University Avenue | 415 Tasso Street | 251 University Avenue |
| 950 University Avenue | 1125 University Avenue | 251 Webster Street |
| 270-274 University Avenue | 176 Waverley Street | 251 Webster Street |
| 1044 Webster Street | 373-375 Whitman Court | 1235 Webster Street |