



PAST News

Vol. 25, No. 1

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

Summer 2012

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us in
Crescent Park
for the
25th Annual
Holiday House Tour

Sunday, December 9th 1–4p.m.



Tickets are \$25 before November 27 and \$30 thereafter.

Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your check payable to PAST Heritage, P.O. Box 308, Palo Alto, California 94302

If you missed the May walking tours, join us for **September Strolls** on three Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Sept. 8 — **Professorville** with Gail Woolley at Bryant and Addison

Sept. 15 — **Downtown Palo Alto** with Suzanne Mantell at City Hall Plaza

Sept. 22 — **Homer Avenue Stroll** with Hayley Stevens at Palo Alto Woman's Club

President's Message

When I was selected President of PAST in June, I was deeply honored. Also fortunate, since the Board shares my passion and determination to preserve historic buildings and neighborhoods in Palo Alto and Stanford. While the Board and PAST members may agree that these residences and commercial buildings add greatly to the character and definition of our city, many others do not.

One of our goals for this year, in addition to hosting the Holiday House Tour and the Centennial Awards Ceremony, is to educate ourselves and the public about the benefits of preservation. Last May, we reinstated walking tours in Professorville, Downtown and along Homer Avenue. These tours were well received and we plan to repeat them in the Fall. Hopefully, by 2013, we'll include other neighborhoods.

Another goal, harder to achieve, is our plan to be proactive instead of reactive. How could PAST and its supporters have prevented the destruction of two houses eligible for the California Register of Historic Resources: the Birge Clark at 1721 Webster and the Charles Sumner at 490 Santa Rita. Or, have prevented the demolition of the National Regis-

ter home of Juana Briones? What is the best way to ensure that Julia Morgan's Community Center (MacArthur Park) is preserved and retains its status as a National Register landmark? We plan to meet with City officials to better understand the labyrinthine process by which significant structures can be preserved. Ultimately, we hope to establish a means to inform PAST, concerned citizens, realtors and home buyers of the status and value of historic buildings.

I would like to thank outgoing Board President, Scott Smithwick and long-time Board members Grace Hinton, Jinny Henke and Natalie Loukianoff for their outstanding leadership and commitment. Their past efforts make easier the work of our new Board members – Ellie Mansfield, Hayley Stevens and Fran Wagstaff.

2012–2013 promises to be challenging but fun — especially, if Sisyphus is your mentor! I hope that you'll come to our events and that you'll feel free to contact me with your suggestions and offers of help. ☘

Margaret R. Feuer

portulaca@earthlink.net

Website Up-Date

If you haven't taken a look at our webpage lately, you should! The most recent addition is a **master index** to photos of all houses included on the site. Pictures of homes that contribute to their street are included, and because neighborhoods are changing, (many developments are now 50 or 60 years old), it is time to preserve images of these homes before it's too late. If you see an incorrectly identified home (incorrect street or number), please contact me right away. There is an email link at the bottom of each page. ☘

Carolyn George, Webmaster

Coming in September:

**The annual membership letter
— watch the mail for yours!**

Preservation Month Recap

Mayor Yiaweh Yeh got the month of May off to an auspicious start by issuing a Proclamation declaring May as Preservation Month in Palo Alto. This was followed on three consecutive Saturdays by sold-out Walking Tours of Homer Avenue by Margaret Feuer, Downtown Palo Alto by Suzanne Mantell and Professorville by Gail Woolley. Thanks also to Brian George for taping these events.

Over 100 people attended the 17th Annual Awarding of Centennial plaques held on May 20 at the Palo Alto Woman's Club. Twelve houses, built in 1912, received commemorative brass plaques as well as 13 houses built in prior years. Thanks to Janet Peacock for all her research. In addition, Lifetime Achievement Awards were given to Bob French, Steve Staiger and Tom and Ellen Wyman for their outstanding preservation work in Education,

History and the Palo Alto Libraries. Finally, five Preservation Awards were presented to owners along with the architects and contractors who restored or adapted historic buildings.

The feature presentation of this gala event was a talk by author, Jacquie Proctor on "Bay Area Beauty—The Artistry of Harold G. Stoner, Architect." Little known, but prolific, Stoner was the architect of San Francisco's Sutro Baths as well as several houses in Palo Alto.

If you missed our 2012 Preservation Month events, mark your calendars for May 19, 2013 at the Palo Alto Woman's Club. You won't be sorry; even the desserts were great. ☼



Centennial Houses

1912

- 179 Bryant Street
- 622 Cabrillo, Stanford
- 1238 Cowper Street
- 771 Hamilton Avenue
- 575 Kellogg Avenue
- 559 Kingsley Avenue
- 707 Middlefield Road
- 752 Middlefield Road
- 436 Palo Alto Avenue
- 750 Palo Alto Avenue
- 1000 Ramona Street
- 734 Waverley Street

Older Homes

- 1866 1456 Edgewood Drive *
- 1894 331 Lincoln Avenue
- 1899 329 Lincoln Avenue
- 1900 1020 Waverley Street
- 1904 121 Waverley Street
- 1906 2230 Amherst Street
- 1906 1451 Cowper Street
- 1906 1321 Waverley Street
- 1907 765 University Avenue
- 1908 357 Fulton Street
- 1909 1303 Waverley Street
- 1910 1020 Ramona Street
- 1910 520 Tennyson Avenue

* Because of the demolition of the Juana Briones House last year, this is now the oldest house in Palo Alto!

Educational Preservation Award: Bob French

Bob has shared his love of history with the students of Palo Alto for many years. Now retired from the Palo Alto Unified School District, he still substitute teaches, researches school-related topics, and works hard to preserve the documents, photographs and other historic records of the PAUSD.

Historical Preservation Award: Steve Staiger

Through the years, Steve has dedicated his time to preserving the history of Palo Alto through his work as the city's Historian at the Guy Miller Archives, his commitment to the Palo Alto Historical Association, PAST Heritage, the Palo Alto History Museum, and his dedication to the education of Palo Alto's youth.

Community Preservation Award: Tom and Ellen Wyman

As long-time residents of Palo Alto, Tom and Ellen have volunteered their time and expertise on many local issues, especially those related to the quality of life in Palo Alto. Over the years their passionate support and hundreds of volunteer hours have contributed to the support of the libraries, baylands and foothills open space, and the preservation of Palo Alto's residential neighborhoods and a balanced, well-planned city.



Residential Landscaping Award 617 High Street

Martin Bernstein, Architect/Owner
David Toews Construction, Contractor

For designing new residential landscaping at a Category 3 home on the City of Palo Alto's historic inventory. The landscaping and decorative brickwork is designed to reflect the home's late 19th century architecture.



Commercial Adaptive Use Award 661 Bryant Street

Embarcadero Capital Partners Owners
Lundberg Design, Architect
W.L. Bulter, Contractor

For the adaptive use of a Category 2 structure on the Historic Inventory built in 1916. This adaptive use carefully preserves the historic opal glass windows, decorative front door, and voluminous interior while transforming the space from a church to a modern office space and creating a new inviting patio in front of the building.



Rehabilitation and Addition Award
 358 Addison Avenue
 Stephen Reller, Owner
 Aino Vieira da Rosa, Architect,
 Northwall Builders, Contractor

For the rehabilitation of and addition to a historic home located in the Professorville Historic District. The rehabilitation removed multiple later additions to carefully restore the building to its circa 1900 appearance by preserving the historic windows and exterior details, replicating the balustrade on the restored porch, and creating a new addition that appears to seamlessly blend with the historic home.



Commercial Adaptive Use Award
 2560 Embarcadero Road
 Environmental Volunteers, Tenant
 Cody Anderson Wasney Architects, Inc.
 Cody/Brock Commercial Builders

For the adaptive use of the former home of the Sea Scouts, a Category 1 historic structure on the City of Palo Alto's historic inventory. This adaptive use carefully preserves the Birge Clark streamline moderne details, such as the porthole windows and liner-like appearance, while creating new office space, interior meeting spaces, and integrating the building into the natural coastline of the marsh.



Residential Rehabilitation Award
 1128 Webster
 Brigitte Gassée, Owner
 Kohler Associates Architects, Architect
 Mariuc build + remodel, inc., Contractor

For the rehabilitation of 1128 Webster, a Category 4 home on the City of Palo Alto's historic inventory. The rehabilitation preserved the 1894 vernacular details of the building, such as the shiplap siding and turned porch columns, while providing the owners with a modern home.

Meet our New Board Members

FRAN WAGSTAFF

Fran Wagstaff is a thirty year resident of Palo Alto and lives in Midtown. She was the former President of Mid Peninsula Housing Corporation (MPHC) which she led for 26 years. This non-profit organization is one of the largest providers of affordable housing in the country and has developed and owns a portfolio of more than 6,000 units of rental housing in eight Bay Area counties for low income families, seniors and the disabled.

Fran's interest in historic preservation stems in part from her development experience at MPHC where she encountered a number of historic dwellings on potential building sites. Rather than razing these buildings, they were saved and incorporated into multifamily housing, often informing the architecture of the new housing and thereby adding charm and warmth to new communities. The most recent of these preservation efforts, De Vries Place in Milpitas, preserved one of only three remaining historic homes in the city, a large prairie style house which was the home of the first doctor in the city. The first floor of the house now serves as a community building for the multifamily senior housing which surrounds it while the second floor houses 3 residential units. Among many awards, this project received an international Urban Land institute award for excellence in 2009. Fran now brings her expertise and understanding of the value of historic preservation to the Board of PAST.

HAYLEY STEVENS

Hayley Stevens has been a resident of Palo Alto all her life. Born at Stanford Hospital, she attended local schools graduating from Paly. She was introduced to the preservation world by her parents who restored two Palo Alto houses: 947 Waverley St. (1904) and the Polly and Jake house at 730 Bryant St. (1902).

Graduating from Mount Holyoke College, with majors in Art History and Religion, Hayley went on to study Art in Florence, Italy with Syracuse University, and Architectural Design at the University of California, Berkeley. A homebody at heart, she returned to the Peninsula after college, where she worked for Architectural Resources Group in their conservation division and for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco in the European Paintings department. She has also worked for local architects FGY and is currently employed by Phoenix Systems Smart Home Technologies. Hayley is also an avid equestrian and has volunteered as a head coach for Palo Alto Girls Softball. We look forward to Hayley's breadth of experience and youthful enthusiasm.

ELLIE MANSFIELD

Ellie Mansfield has lived in Palo Alto since 1954 except for two years spent in Germany with her husband while he was in the military. After graduating from Stanford University in 1958, she attended and graduated from Stanford Law School in 1962.

For 30 years, Ellie worked for Sempervirens Fund, a Santa Cruz Mountains land conservancy. In her retirement, she is on the Board of Directors of Avenidas in Palo Alto and the Alumnae Board of Cap and Gown at Stanford; she is also a member of the Woman's Club of Palo Alto. In her "spare" time, Ellie sings with a small group of women performing at retirement and convalescent homes throughout the year.

Ellie and her husband, Dick have three children and four grandchildren. They live in a much remodeled Birge Clark home. PAST welcomes Ellie Mansfield because of her work and volunteer experience but, more importantly because she brings pleasure to all who work with her.

The Professorville Design Guidelines Committee (PDGC)



The PDGC was formed in reaction to the demolition of 405 Lincoln Avenue, the former home of Fr. Dan Duryea and a contributing building in the Professorville Historic District. This committee is working to identify all properties in Professorville: the individually historic properties, the contributors to the National Register Historic District and also the non-contributing structures within the district. The committee's work is intended to produce a set of guidelines which will be used in conjunction with the City of Palo Alto's existing Individual Review Guidelines. Currently, PDGC is awaiting Staff comments before presenting the proposed guidelines to the Historic Resources Board and to the public for comment. All working meetings are open to the public. For information about meeting schedules, you may contact Martin Bernstein, Chair, at (650) 324-9610. ✂

Natalie Loukianoff

At left, 433 Melville Avenue, built in 1894. This Category 2 home was designed by A.B. Clark for Professor Charles and Julia Gilbert (founder of Palo Alto's library). Photos taken 2010 and 2012.

Public Projects Advocacy Committee

Though I'm officially off the PAST Board, I am forming a new off-board committee. This committee seeks active, enthusiastic persons with both specific "portfolio" skills (architecture, landscape architecture, construction, preservation, fundraising, etc.) and the ability to work well with others. We want to create an effective, balanced group that can augment our grass roots organization by tackling actual preservation projects in Palo Alto. Our strategy will be to focus on small-project preservation needs in the public/semi-public sphere, publicize projects, work proactively rather than reactively with owners, raise funds to match or cover construction projects, and affect the profile of PAST in a positive fashion.

The committee will present the Board with a proposed project, outlining the scope of work. If the Board agrees to the project, then the committee will put together a complete project proposal, with plans, outline specifications, es-

Palo Alto Pumping Station



timate of construction costs, and schedule. In addition, we will present a proposal of cost burden or cost sharing to the Board, as well as fund-raising plans and goals.

We have several projects in mind, starting with the Palo Alto Avenue Pumping Station. If you're interested in advocacy in the public/semi-public sphere, please give me a call at (650) 996-9450, or email me at grace_hinton@yahoo.com. Cheery dispositions a plus!! ✂

Grace Hinton

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, October 23, 7:30 p.m.— **40 Years of Title IX**,
Tara VanDerveer at the P.A. Woman's Club. Tickets at
www.landmarkleaders.org

Sunday, October 7, 2 p.m.— **Girl Scouts at 100**
Palo Alto Historical Association, Lucie Stern Center,
1305 Middlefield Road.

Sunday, December 9, 1-4 p.m.— **Holiday House Tour**

PAST News

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Palo Alto Stanford Heritage
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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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