



# PAST NEWS

Vol. 37 No. 2

[www.pastheritage.org](http://www.pastheritage.org)

Spring 2025

## Harnessing the Power of Place

*Sunday, May 4, 2025, 2 p.m.  
Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium*

*1313 Newell Road*

Join PAST Heritage for our 29th Preservation Awards celebration in cooperation with the Palo Alto Historical Association.

### **Palo Alto Museum to Receive Historic Preservation Award**

The PAST Heritage Historic Preservation Award recognizes projects that rehabilitate or restore local historic buildings. This year's honoree is the new Palo Alto Museum soon to open at 300 Homer Avenue. The museum is being recognized for extensive renovation and modernization of the historic Roth building designed by Birge Clark that originally housed the Palo Alto Medical Clinic.



Palo Alto Museum, front patio



Palo Alto Museum, newly renovated entrance



Rear view of Palo Alto Museum, construction and rehabilitation phase

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## New Preservation Award Honors the Late Bo Crane

Also on the program is the presentation of the first Bo Crane Award—a newly created award recognizing an individual who has made a significant contribution to historic



David Bower, winner of the first Bo Crane Preservation Award

This year's honoree is David Bower, for his many years of exemplary service on the boards of both the Historic Resources Board (HRB) and PAST Heritage.

PAST created the award in honor of the late Bo Crane, widely known and appreciated for his countless contributions to historic research, writing, lectures, walking tours, and publications on Palo Alto history. The award will be presented by Bo Crane's widow, Kristen Harrison-Crane, a member of the PAST Heritage board.

## Preserving a Sense of Place: Past, Present, and Future

Public Historian and HRB member Samantha Rohman will highlight a selection of notable preservation and stewardship projects from 25 years of PAST awards with a special emphasis on the features, stories, and sense of place that these properties give Palo Alto.

The annual program also celebrates homes in Palo Alto on their centennial anniversary. This year, a visual presentation highlighting 1924 homes, commercial buildings, and public buildings will be shown.

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## Centennial Plaque Update

If you own a home built 100 years ago or earlier, handsome solid bronze plaques are available to display on the exterior of your home.

The plaques commemorate the build date of your house as it exemplifies the heritage of Palo Alto and Stanford.

To date, we have arranged for 285 plaques for homes in Palo Alto and Stanford built as early as 1891. The plaques confer no official status with the city or state, but are an interesting reminder of



our shared local heritage to those who pass by and notice the plaques.

We have plaques **in stock** dated as far back as 1893 for houses that do not already have a plaque. They are \$125 for members and

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# Meet Our Newest Board Members



## **SIMON PENNINGTON**

Simon is currently vice president of the PAST Heritage Board. A native of Norwich, England, he has a Bachelor's degree from San Jose State University and a Master's degree from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England, with an emphasis in Romanesque architecture.

Simon has worked extensively in the private and public sectors including an internship at SFMOMA in the architecture and design department. Simon taught Art History at Foothill College for more than a decade and has taught at De Anza, Chabot, and San Mateo colleges. He served as Dean of the Fine Arts and Communication and Kinesiology and Athletics divisions at Foothill for three years and has been Associate Vice President of College and Community



## **SAMANTHA ROHMAN**

Samantha is vice chair of the Palo Alto Historic Resources Board. She has a BA in History from UC Santa Barbara and an MA in Public History from California State University East Bay. Samantha is a member of the Western Association for Women Historians, where she served as a Graduate Student Representative from 2023-2024, and a member of the National Council for Public History. She has curated museum exhibits, published in peer-reviewed journals, and won awards for her investigation of California's Historic Landmarks program.

Samantha touts the merits of historic preservation and shares her appreciation for California's small homes via her Instagram page, California Cottages. She works in tech marketing and shares her 1926 cottage with her rescue dog, Beau.



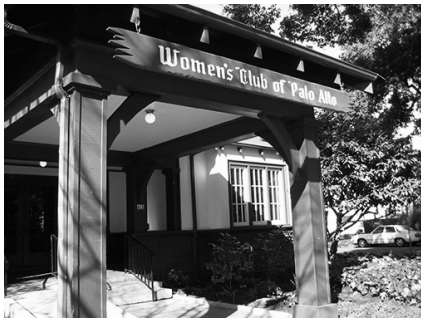
## **KRISTEN HARRISON-CRANE**

Kristen grew up in an historic house in Portola Valley, in one of the original buildings on the Fitzhugh estate (subdivided in 1947). She has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Stanford University and has owned her own design firm in Palo Alto for more than 30 years.

A primary focus of Kristen's design practice has been the preservation and respectful adaptation of older homes for contemporary living. She has overseen the design and construction of more than 200 residential projects, primarily on the Peninsula. These include more than 60 faculty houses on the Stanford campus, including several historic houses built between 1906 and 1930. She has also overseen additions and alterations to historic homes in Palo Alto's Professorville neighborhood.

# Spring Walking Tour Schedule

Join us for a fun and friendly walk through town. Tours start at 10 a.m., generally take around 60-90 minutes, and cover approximately 1-1.5 miles of easy walking. Remember to bring water and sunscreen. Visit [www.pastheritage.org](http://www.pastheritage.org) to check for updates to tours and schedules.



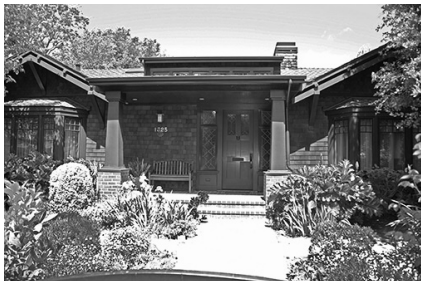
**Sunday, May 4 — Homer Avenue Tour**  
**Meet at Woman's Club of Palo Alto, 475 Homer Avenue (at Cowper)**

*Old laundries, the church from the movie Harold and Maude, and charming Victorian homes are highlights of this Homer Avenue walk.*



**Saturday, May 17 — Lower College Terrace Tour**  
**Meet at 2310 Yale Street (house perpendicular to Yale Street)**

*Neat cottages and handsome residences characterize this College Terrace neighborhood adjacent to the Stanford campus.*



**Sunday May 18 — Beyond Professorville Tour**  
**Meet at 1325 Cowper Street**

*Fine examples of Colonial Spanish Revival, Craftsman, and Queen Anne architecture including the Birge Clark designed Casa Abierto, built for 20th century author Kathleen Norris.*

All walking tours are free and open to anyone. Donations to support the mission of Palo Alto Stanford Heritage are always welcome and appreciated.



**Saturday May 31 — Downtown Birge Clark Tour**  
**Meet at City Hall Plaza, 250 Hamilton Avenue**

*Features Birge Clark-designed commercial buildings including the former President Hotel (now the Graduate Hotel), the Hamilton Ave. Post Office, the Medico-Dental building and the Ramona Street Historical District.*



**Saturday June 7 — Professorville**  
**Meet at 1005 Bryant St. (corner of Addison)**

*Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this beautiful and iconic tree-shaded neighborhood is the first historic district in Palo Alto.*



**Sunday June 8 — Barron Park**  
**Meet at Bol Park, 3590 Laguna Avenue**

*Incorporated into Palo Alto in 1975, this eclectic neighborhood retains much of its original rural feel, including the old Bol family donkey pasture where famous donkeys still reside, cared for by Barron Park residents.*

# Spring/Summer History Happenings

## **PAST HERITAGE**

[www.pastheritage.org](http://www.pastheritage.org)

### **Sun May 4**

2-4 PM

29th Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony at  
Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell  
Road

### **Historic Walking Tours of Palo Alto**

(see pages 4-5 for details)

### **Sun May 4**

10 AM

**Homer Avenue Walking Tour**

### **Sat 5/17**

10 AM

**Lower College Terrace Walking Tour**

### **Sun 5/18**

10 AM

**Beyond Professorville Walking Tour**

### **Sat 5/31**

10 AM

**Downtown/Birge Clarke Walking Tour**

### **Sat 6/7**

10 AM

**Professorville Walking Tour**

### **Sun 6/8**

10 AM

**Barron Park Walking Tour**

## **PALO ALTO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (PAHA)**

[www.pahistory.org](http://www.pahistory.org)

### **Sun May 4**

2:00 - 4:00 PM

29th Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony at  
Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell  
Road

## **ELIZABETH F. GAMBLE GARDEN**

[www.gamblegarden.org](http://www.gamblegarden.org)

### **Fri & Sat Apr 25-26**

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

### **SPRING TOUR**

Gamble Garden's popular annual Spring Tour  
features five beautiful homes and gardens.  
carefully curated to inspire and delight. Before  
or after your tour, visit the Gamble Garden  
Over the Garden Wall sale.

## **MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HERITAGE (MOAH)**

[www.moah.org](http://www.moah.org)

### **Sat May 3**

MOAH 20th Annual Vintage Vehicles &  
Family Festival  
Museum of American Heritage

### **Thu May 22**

Lecture: "Confessions of an Ink-Stained  
Wretch: My Life in the Newsroom"

6:30 PM

Museum of American Heritage



## **MOAH (cont.)**

### **Tue Jul 1**

Tale of Two Collections: Filoli & MOAH  
7 PM  
Museum of American Heritage

### **Fri Jul 11**

OPEN WAREHOUSE DAY  
12-4 PM  
Special opportunity to explore the 13,000 sq. ft.  
MOAH warehouse, with tours and games

**STANFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
<https://historicalsociety.stanford.edu>

### **Sat May 28**

Film screening and panel discussion of  
“Leland: A Stanford Story”  
4:30 PM  
Pigott Theater, 551 Jane Stanford Way, Stanford  
campus (left side of Memorial Auditorium)

## ***Centennial Plaques, continued from p. 2***

and \$160 for nonmembers (including tax). New plaques for 1924 homes are \$225 for members and \$260 for nonmembers. PAST delivers all plaques and assists with installation.

If you don't know the build date of your house but believe it was constructed before 1925, and you want to learn more, contact [president@pastheritage.org](mailto:president@pastheritage.org) and our historians will help you research your home.

Interested in joining PAST Heritage? Visit [www.pastheritage.org](http://www.pastheritage.org) or email [webmaster@pastheritage.org](mailto:webmaster@pastheritage.org) to request a membership form, then mail your form and check to:

Palo Alto Stanford Heritage  
P.O. Box 308  
Palo Alto, CA 94302

## PAST HERITAGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Philip Roberts
Vice President	Simon Pennington
Secretary & Newsletter	Susan Borton
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Historian	Steve Staiger
HRB Representative	Samantha Rohman
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Directors at Large	Brian George, Gogo Heinrich, Nick Marinaro
Board Adviser	David Bower



PAST Heritage is a nonprofit organization advocating the preservation of the historic architecture, neighborhoods, and character of the greater Palo Alto Stanford area through citizen involvement and education.

**[www.pastheritage.org](http://www.pastheritage.org)**

Annual membership is \$40. To join, mail a check to PAST at PO Box 308, Palo Alto, CA 94301. Include your contact information including name, local address, email, and phone number.