



PAST NEWS

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www.pastheritage.org

Spring 2026

Preservation Awards Highlight Excellence

Sunday, May 3, 2026, 2 p.m.
Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium
1313 Newell Road

Join PAST Heritage for our 30th Preservation Awards program co-hosted with the Palo Alto Historical Association.

The theme of the program is “**All People Are Created Equal**,” in keeping with the theme chosen this year by the National Trust for Historic Preservation (<https://savingplaces.org/>).

This year PAST will present centennial plaques to owners of homes in Palo Alto built circa 1925 and will recognize outstanding examples of historic restoration to public and privately owned buildings.

Historic Preservation Award

The PAST Heritage Historic Preservation Award recognizes projects that rehabilitate or restore local historic buildings. This year two projects have been selected: Lucie Stern Community Center and the Lasuen house on the Stanford campus.

At Lucie Stern, the city of Palo Alto undertook a sensitive roof replacement project which modernizes the protective layers of the historic 1934 building’s red clay tile roof and preserving its aesthetic integrity.

Stanford’s restoration of the 1938 550 Lasuen House is modernizing the historic former student residence while taking care to preserve its original architectural features.

Bo Crane Memorial Award

The Bo Crane Memorial Award—established in honor of the late Robert “Bo” Crane—recognizes an outstanding citizen in the community who has made a significant contribution to historic preservation in Palo Alto and Stanford. Our 2026 honoree is Barron

Park resident historian **Doug Graham**, for his more than four decades of notable work researching and writing about the colorful history of Palo Alto’s unique Barron Park neighborhood, which was incorporated into Palo Alto in 1975.



Lucie Stern Community Center,
designed by Birge Clark

The PAST/PAHA awards program is free and open to the public. A video recording of the recording will be available on Vimeo. ♦

President's Letter

Welcome to another year of support for the preservation of our shared local heritage. Even as every year sees the destruction of more heritage buildings and homes, more people are recognizing the value of preserving our shared legacy for the future.

We are seeing remarkable efforts to preserve houses and public buildings, both in Palo Alto and on the Stanford campus. We will recognize some of these stellar examples at our May 3 awards program, where we hope to see many of you. We will meet with the Palo Alto Historical Association (PAHA) at the Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road at 2 p.m. in the auditorium. It's free and refreshments will be served after the presentations.

Our walking tours are becoming more popular and we now conduct seven of them, educating the public about local history, the neighborhoods, and heritage houses and the people who lived in them as we walk past them. Speaking of these tours, in March PAST collaborated with teachers at Palo Alto High School to lead four tours for 11th grade students learning how to design their own tours as part of their social studies curriculum. Four experienced PAST guides (Anne Gregor, Caroline Willis, Kristine Zavoli, and myself) met on a Friday morning to guide 60 enthusiastic, attentive students on two different tour routes through historic areas of Professorville and old Palo Alto. Teacher Caitlin Drewes wrote:

Dear Philip, Caroline, Kris and Anne,

THANK YOU! What a wonderful treat it was to take part in your walking tours this morning. I was so impressed with all of the stories you had and I personally learned so much about my hometown! Your tours gave our kids exactly the experience they needed to help design their own tours and I know they really enjoyed them. I had a number of conversations this afternoon with kids who had comments like "I never knew that..." "I bike down this street everyday and I hadn't ever thought..." . Thank you all so much for giving your time and talent to Palo Alto Stanford Heritage and for sharing that with the community! Your organization is such a treasure for Palo Alto, we're lucky to have you! We'll be sure to let you know when our students tours are taking place and we hope that you can join some of them.

Cait and Marc

PAST is happy to work with schools and other community groups to tailor tours to specific needs for a nominal donation. For more information, contact me at president@pastheritage.org.

I encourage you to continue your membership, start a new one, or consider donating to our nonprofit organization to support us. If you'd like to join us, we always need new board members and volunteers. Let us know by contacting president@pastheritage.org.

Philip Roberts, President

Bo Crane Commemorative Bench Installed in Downtown Menlo Park

The Menlo Park Historical Association has installed a commemorative bench in historian Bo Crane's honor. The bench is located in Fremont Park, downtown Menlo Park. Plans for a second bench are underway in Palo Alto, where Palo Alto Stanford Heritage is working with the Museum of American History (MOAH) to install a bench in the MOAH garden—a spot much loved by Bo Crane.



Support PAST by becoming a member. Visit www.pastheritage.org or email 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

Pre-1925 Centennial Bronze Plaques Available Now

If you own a home built 100 years ago or earlier, handsome 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. PAST Heritage has plaques in stock going back as far as 1893 for houses that do not already have a plaque. Plaques for homes built in 2024 or earlier are \$225 for members and \$260 for nonmembers, and PAST delivers them and helps with installation.



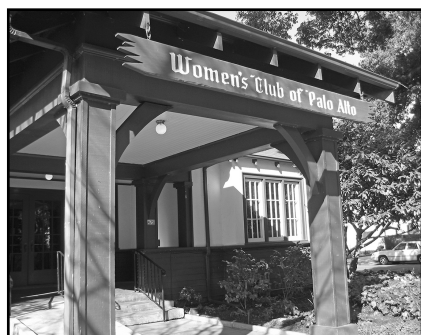
If you don't know the build date of your house but believe it was constructed before 1925, and you want to learn more, contact president@pastheritage.org and we will help you research your home.

To date, PAST Heritage has arranged for close to 300 plaques for homes in Palo Alto and Stanford dating as far back as 1891. The plaques confer no official status with the city or state (and no limitations for homeowners), but are an interesting reminder of our shared local heritage to anyone passing by who notices the plaques. ♦

Palo Alto Stanford Heritage (PAST) seeks enthusiastic volunteers to join our Board of Directors, help plan our annual awards program, or serve as walking tour guides. Applicable experience includes (but is not limited to) community leadership, writing, research, teaching, architecture, photography, videography, and web skills. If you are interested in architecture, history, research, or making a difference in the community, contact president@pastheritage.org for more information.

Spring 2026 Walking Tour Schedule

Join us for a fun and friendly walk through town. Tours start at 10 a.m., typically last no more than 90 minutes, and cover under 1.5 miles of easy walking. Bring water and sunscreen. Visit www.pastheritage.org to check for changes to tours and schedules.



Sunday, May 3 — Homer Avenue Tour

**Meet at Woman's Club of Palo Alto, 475 Homer Avenue
(corner of Homer and Cowper)**

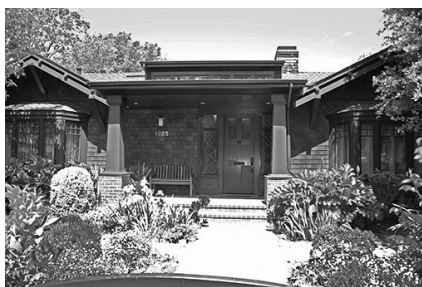
Old laundries, the church from the film Harold and Maude, and charming Victorian cottages are highlights of this Homer Avenue walk.



Saturday, May 9 — Upper College Terrace

Meet at 2275 Amherst Street

Developed at the same time as Stanford University and originally mapped as "Palo Alto," the terrace portion of Upper College Terrace is mostly in the upper half of the tract, bordering campus to the west.



Saturday, May 16 — Beyond Professorville Tour

Meet at 1325 Cowper Street

Fine examples of Colonial Spanish Revival, Craftsman, and Queen Anne architecture including the magnificent 1925 Birge Clark-designed Casa Abierto, Casaquerida, and the Palo Alto Club.



Sunday, May 17 — Professorville Tour

Meet at 1005 Bryant Street (corner of Bryant and Addison)

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



Saturday, May 30 — Crescent Park Tour
Meet opposite 526 Seneca Street at University Avenue

Manors, mansions and Italian Renaissance homes are all on the menu of this tour of the lovely Crescent Park Seneca Street area of Palo Alto.



Sunday, May 31 — Boyce Ashby Addition Tour
Meet at the corner of Addison and Fife Avenues

Admire some of Palo Alto's most elaborate and oldest houses developed outside the former city limit of the 1890's. Includes the grand 1896 Queen Anne Herzinger House on Forest Avenue, now under major restoration.



Sunday, May 31 — Greenmeadow Tour
Meet at 4010 Nelson Drive

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its pristine midcentury modern-era Eichlers, this unique community in south Palo Alto provides a good look at the suburban utopia envisioned by developer Joseph Eichler in 1954.

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

Spring History Happenings

**GAMBLE GARDEN HISTORIC HOME
& GARDEN**
gamblegarden.org

**April 24-25, 10-4 pm - SPRING GARDEN
TOUR**

LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM
losaltoshistory.org

April 1-May 15 - Poster Contest
commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the
United States

April 15, 5:30-7:30 pm - Oral History
Conversation on Partition and Memory

PAST HERITAGE
www.pastheritage.org

May 3-31
Spring Walking Tours (*see pages 5-6 for tour
details*)
All tours start at 10 am

PALO ALTO MUSEUM
www.paloaltomuseum.org

**April 21, 7-8:30 pm - Author Talk by Wyn
Wachhorst: A Town Like No Other: Palo Alto
Stories** at the Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium,
1313 Newell Road

MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HERITAGE
www.moah.org

**April 18, 4-6 pm - School of Rock live music
performance in the MOAH garden (free)**

April 26, 11-3 pm - Repair Cafe (free)

May 2, 9-2 pm - Vintage Vehicles Festival in
partnership with City of Palo Alto May Fete
Parade

STANFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
historicalsociety.stanford.edu

**April 12, 2-4:30 pm - “What We Sang Then:
A Historic Recital of Favorites from the
Stanford Songbook”**

*SHA is celebrating its 50th anniversary this
year. Check the website for upcoming
programs.*



The newly renovated Palo Alto Museum will open
later this year

Spring History To-Do List

- May 3 Homer Avenue Walking Tour
PAHA/PAST Awards Program
- May 9 Upper College Terrace Walking Tour
- May 12 Historic Resources Board
Meeting
- May 12 PAST Heritage Board Meeting
- May 16 Beyond Professorville Walking Tour
- May 17 Professorville Tour
- May 30 Crescent Park Walking Tour
- May 31 Boyce/Ashby Addition Walking Tour
- May 31 Greenmeadow Walking Tour

PAST Heritage Board of Directors

President	Philip Roberts
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Treasurer	Lee Lippert
Historian	Steve Staiger
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Board Adviser	David Bower



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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 citizen involvement and education.

www.pastheritage.org

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