

# CONTINUITY

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Preservation Action Council of San Jose  
Dedicated to Preserving San Jose's Architectural Heritage

Spring 2021

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## Saving the Pallesen a Reality

Recently slated for demolition, the historic Pallesen Apartments could soon get a new lease on life.

PAC\*SJ and Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley are partnering with the City of San Jose on an ambitious plan to relocate the landmark 110-year-old structure from its current location at 14

E. Reed Street to a new home just three blocks away at 4th and Reed Streets. A new 27-story luxury apartment tower is slated to rise on the Pallesen's original location.

Once moved, Habitat for Humanity will restore the handsome Mission Revival building into four units of owner-occupied affordable housing—a desperate need in our community.

The four-unit, 5,000 sq. ft. Pallesen Apartments were constructed in 1910 and designed by the acclaimed San Jose architects Wolfe & McKenzie for original



*Historic Pallesen Apartments at 14 E. Reed Street.*

owner Christian Pallesen, a Danish immigrant and foreman at a local lumber mill. Christian and his wife Lillie lived in one unit and rented the rest to other working-class families.

All four units feature custom built-in cabinets and other wood details likely sourced from Pallesen's lumberyard. Most of these details survive today and will be restored as part of the rehabilitation.

The building has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural

*(Cont'd p. 2)*

# Saving the Pallesen (Cont'd)



significance and association with master architects Frank Delos Wolfe and Charles McKenzie.

Once moved and restored, Habitat for Humanity will offer new deed-restricted units at below-market rates, giving eligible families the opportunity to transform their lives, build equity, and foster economic independence.

In a city whose diminishing stock of historic buildings is rapidly giving way to high-density luxury development, PAC\*SJ hopes the success of this project will inspire further reinvestment in our existing housing stock and highlight the important role that historic preservation can play in developing and protecting affordable and equitable housing.

But for this remarkable opportunity to become reality, we need your help! While the costs to relocate the building are modest compared to new construction, it will still be a heavy lift—literally! PAC\*SJ is launching a \$300,000 fundraising campaign to support *(Cont'd p. 3)*



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The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of PAC\*SJ.

Editor: Gayle Frank

Please submit your letters and comments to [info@preservation.org](mailto:info@preservation.org), 408-998-8105 or to 1650 Senter Rd., San Jose, CA 95112-2599

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*PAC\*SJ is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization*

# Saving the Pallesen (Cont'd)

the Pallesen building's 900-foot journey to Fourth and Reed Streets. That's around \$25 an inch, and every inch will count!

The City of San Jose has helped immensely to make this move possible with assistance from the Office of Economic Development, the Housing Department, Department of Public Works, and our elected officials, most notably Councilmember Raul Peralez.

If we are successful, the building could be moved as soon as this spring, with restoration completed by 2023. Please visit our website at [www.Preservation.org](http://www.Preservation.org) to donate and learn more about this project.



*Interior cabinetry in Pallesen Apartments.*

Help PAC\* SJ and Habitat for Humanity save a historic building while providing more affordable housing. ☘



*Interesting tin tiles on the roof of the Pallesen Apartment Building.*

*(Photos: Gayle Frank)*



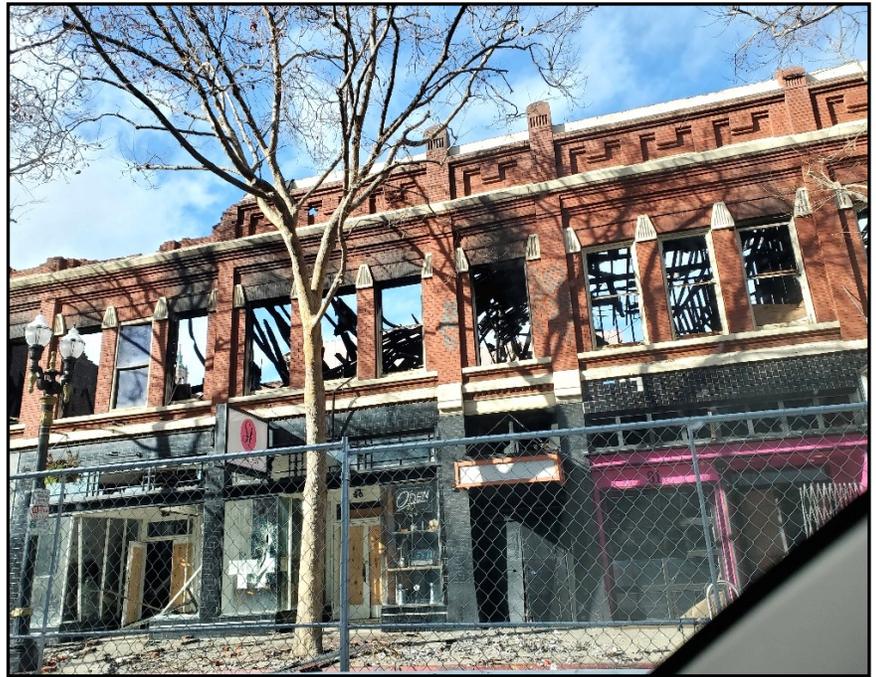
*Front entrance of the Pallesen Apartments.*

# Historic Building Burns

On January 7 of this year, the historic building at 67-89 E. San Fernando Street suffered a serious fire. Because the businesses were closed due to COVID-19, the building was unoccupied and there were no injuries.

Businesses residing within the building included Cinebar, Chacho's restaurant and the Los San Patricios bar. Cinebar may be one of San Jose's oldest bars. Years ago, one of San Jose's earliest comic book stores occupied a section of the building.

The fire has gutted the second floor. Built in 1893, it is one of the older surviving commercial buildings in San Jose's Historic Commercial District. First called the Toccoa Block, it was designed by Frank Lobdell. Later it served as the long-time Lawrence Hotel. The building is a Contributing Structure to the National Register Historic District, listed in the California Register of Historical Resources and is eligible for Candidate City Landmark status.

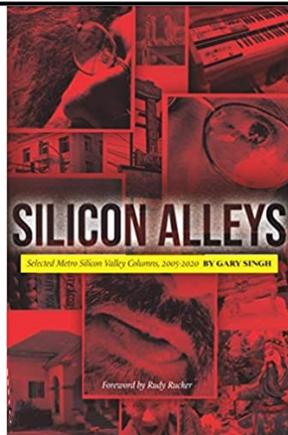


*Fire at 67-89 E. San Fernando St. on Jan. 7. (Photo: Patt Curia)*

Although the damage from the fire is extensive, PAC\*SJ is relieved to learn that the façade will be stabilized and incorporated into a new structure, although what's left of the rear and side walls will have to be demolished. ☹

## Book Signing

PAC\*SJ is pleased to announce Gary Singh will attend our Sales Event on April 17<sup>th</sup> to sign copies of his new book, "Silicon Alleys." The event will be held at 594 S. 15<sup>th</sup> Street.



"Silicon Alleys" is a selection of Gary's greatest hits — over 250 of his "Silicon Alleys" columns in chronological order, hand-picked by Gary, from the alternative weekly newspaper, Metro Silicon Valley. The book will reveal a diverse interconnected matrix of perspectives on the City of San Jose, his home town, as he has come to know it, warts and all. ☹

## The Demolition Process

Based on the community complaints that PAC\*SJ has received thus far—the public is unaware that demolition of historic buildings is an all-too-common and generally legal option for property owners to clear a site for new development. Developers are required to post a sign at the proposed site and take out a small ad in the local newspaper for 60 days, offering the historic building(s) for relocation and then wait.

If no one responds and the project applicant completes a modest set of historic documents that are in turn archived in the library, demolition is permitted. PAC\*SJ believes a far greater responsibility to the community is owed by any developer who knowingly purchases property with historic resources they intend to demolish (San Jose has an incomplete Historic Resource Inventory database listing 4,000+ sites).

We should demand more from our development community. Those who can't incorporate historic places into their projects, should accept responsibility for getting them to receiver sites, or develop elsewhere. ☹

# OSH Sign at History Park

On December 4, 2020, neon once again flowed through the Orchard Supply Hardware sign. The neon sign (pictured right), now part of History Park, helps tell part of the story of the city of San José and the Santa Clara Valley. For many locals, the sign represents the time when the Santa Clara Valley was known as the “Valley of Heart’s Delight.” This local landmark originally stood on W. San Carlos Street in San Jose for nearly 70 years until the chain’s closing in 2018. The restored sign has been rehung on its original 70-year-old pole and placed adjacent to the famous OSH Boxcar, which was moved to History Park in 2014. Both of these wonderful historic objects tell the story of OSH, orchards, and farmland in the Santa Clara Valley.



## The OSH Boxcar

Since the early 1960's, Orchard Supply Hardware's only boxcar sat behind the San Carlos Street store alongside Auzerais Street.\* When Lowes's looked to expand the store, it donated this local landmark to the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation (CTRC) and moved it to History Park where it is now displayed between a steam locomotive and a ca-boose. The display is readily seen from Senter Road.

Over the past few years, CTRC volunteers spent hours repairing the roof, installing a new floor and replacing rusted side panels. It is now water-tight. The remaining task was repainting the green paint, logo and lettering, now completed—just in time for “Christmas in the Park”.



Photos: Ken Middlebrook

If you have any items from Orchard Supply Hardware that you think are historically significant or interesting, and would like to donate them to the museum, please feel free to contact us at [collections@historysanjose.org](mailto:collections@historysanjose.org).

—Ken Middlebrook, History San Jose

\* The City of San Jose denied Al Smith permission to install a sign along Auzerais Street to promote his Orchard Supply Hardware store because a sign for the store already existed facing San Carlos Street. So Smith painted his OSH sign on the boxcar installed on Auzerais Street!

## Notable Quotable

**“Preservation of one’s own culture does not require contempt or disrespect for other cultures.”**

—Cesar Chavez

# Look What They Did to the Fallon House

Walking down San Pedro Street from the north, the view of the historic Fallon House is obscured until you stand directly in front of it. And even then, the looming modern structure with roof extensions assaults one's aesthetic appreciation for the Fallon House city landmark. What was the City of San Jose thinking?

We know what the developer was thinking. Let's use every single foot of property to cram in as much space as possible to make as many dollars as we can.



*Moving down San Pedro Street from the north, the Fallon House is obliterated by a mundane rectangular structure that is offensive to the eyes and destroys the historic feel of the iconic Fallon House. Gradually, moving south, one finally sees the handsome house in the lower photo but the image is disrespected with an incompatible, unimaginative structure, much too close to the House.*

These photos illustrate why the city needs to seriously apply design guidelines that ensure our historical resources are not treated with disrespect and are not obscured by incompatible new development.



Our historic buildings in Downtown San Jose, if not torn down for new development, are gradually being engulfed in huge high-rise towers that hide views of the smaller historic structures. There has to be a balance. Space must be allowed between old and new. Compatibility between the two are paramount.

The Fallon House, from the 1850s, is one of our older treasures in San Jose. We don't have many left. It is a sad day to see this affront to one of our major city landmarks.

— Gayle Frank

(Photos: Gayle Frank)

# ON THE RADAR



**Diridon Station**, 65 Cahill St.

What is the plan for Diridon Station?

PAC\*SJ keeps asking DSAP (Diridon Station Area Plan) and DISC (Diridon Integrated Station Concept Plan) but we don't get answers, only stalls and

excuses. This important historic resource must be saved.

## Google-Downtown West

A PAC\*SJ team walked the Downtown West site with Google personnel in January. We have asked for more sensitivity to historic resources such as preserving the façade of Sunlite Bakery, saving Democracy Hall, retaining more of the Kearney Foundry, moving some bungalows to the east side of S. Autumn, and keeping the vision of the Hellwig Ironworks/Navlet's building in full view with no encumbrances. In order for Downtown West to represent an authentic community, there needs to be historic fabric that blends into the new development. We also asked that the cost of demolition of older, smaller buildings be applied toward relocation costs by a third party.

## Log Cabin at Alum Rock Park

This city landmark #22, built in 1914-1916 by the Native Daughters of the Golden West, celebrates our pioneer heritage and was a gift to



the City of San Jose. Now it is deteriorating with missing logs and gaps. If not repaired the elements will destroy it. The cabin was designed by local prominent architect Theodore Lenzen and builder I. D. Wolf, and constructed from Santa Cruz mountain redwood logs. Lumber firms donated the doors, windows and floor of the cabin. Members of the carpenters and bricklayers unions

donated the labor. Southern Pacific and San Jose Railroads donated transportation of the building materials.

## Fallon Statue

Controversy has risen again concerning this art piece. It depicts a moment in history when the U.S. flag was raised on Market St. in San Jose after war was declared on Mexico and the U.S. flag had been raised in Monterey, San Francisco and Sonoma. Captain T. Fallon, who was given the flag by Gen. Sloat, followed orders to raise it on July 14, 1846 in San Jose. There was a peaceful transition, no fighting and no one was killed. The next San Jose Mayor, John Burton, spoke fluent Spanish and was married to a Californio. The statue simply marks the local incident when California first joins the United States! The statue's artist/sculptor, Robert Glen, is a world-renowned specialist of animal/horse figures. The San Jose City Council must make decisions on removing historical resources based on an accurate historical review of any perceived offenses alleged to have been committed before taking any position on the issue. If you agree this statue is worth saving write or call the Mayor and Councilmembers.

## Bank of Italy/Bank of America Building, S. 1<sup>st</sup> St.

The proposed incompatible stair tower (right) attached to the building is on track for approval. The design disrespects this beloved city landmark, obscures the building's details, and fails to blend in with the Historic Commercial District.

## "Vibrant Galaxy"

### Mosaic,

3888 Stevens Creek Blvd.

The good news is that the 1963 mosaic mural will be

preserved within the new project at this site. The piece was created by Harry Powers (1927-2018), an internationally acclaimed artist and leader in the local art community. ☘



Rendering Westbank/Bjarke Ingels Group

# PAC\*SJ 2020-2021 Calendar

- Mar 15** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8:30 PM. On Zoom.
- Mar 19-20** PAC\*SJ Sale. Fri. 9 AM—6 PM & Sat. 9—noon. 140 S. 17th St. See details below.
- Mar 27** Sat. 10 AM. PAC\*SJ **Walking Tour** of St. James Historic District. Reserve spot at [www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org). Limited space. \$10 members, \$15 non-members. Details pg. 10.
- Apr 16-17** PAC\*SJ **Ephemera Sale**. Fri. 9 AM—6 PM & Sat. 9—noon. 594 S. 15th St. Details below.
- Apr 19** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8:30 PM. History Park, 2nd Floor Firehouse.\*
- Apr 24** Sat. 10 AM. PAC\*SJ **Walking Tour** of City View Plaza/Market St. Reserve spot at [www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org). Limited space. \$10 members, \$15 non-members. Details pg. 11.
- May 17** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8:30 PM. History Park, 2nd Floor Firehouse.\*
- Jun 21** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8:30 PM. History Park, 2nd Floor Firehouse.\*
- Jul 19** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8:30 PM. History Park, 2nd Floor Firehouse.\*

\* **Board meeting may take place online or meet at a different location. Call to confirm.**

## PAC\*SJ Upcoming Sales Events

PAC\*SJ will hold two sales events in the next few months. The first sale features art, coins, books, cameras, mid-century housewares, furniture, china and silverware and our usual assortment of the unusual including a large plastic painting of General Patton used on the marquee of San Jose's Century theatres announcing the 1970 movie, PATTON.

**Where and when: 140 South 17th Street, San Jose 95112**  
**Friday March 19; 9 am — 6 pm**  
**Saturday March 20; 9 am — 12 noon**

The second sales event will be our annual ephemera sale of local history books, photos, memorabilia and artifacts,

greeting cards, posters, pamphlets, etc. PAC\*SJ's collection of items commemorating San Jose's notable landmarks will also be for sale such as t-shirts, pins and walking tour books. As an added treat, **Gary Singh** will attend April 17 for a book-signing of his "Silicon Alleys."

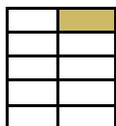
**When and where: 594 South 15th Street, San Jose 95112**  
**Friday April 16; 9 am — 6 pm**  
**Saturday April 17; 9 am — 12 noon**

Contact Patt Curia, Donations Chairperson, to donate or volunteer at [donations@preservation.org](mailto:donations@preservation.org) or call 408-998-8105.

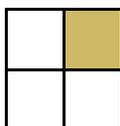
**Please note the locations are changed from the usual site!**

## ADVERTISE IN CONTINUITY!

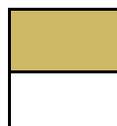
*Continuity* is distributed to over 500 San Jose preservationists, homeowners and decision-makers. It's a great way to get your message out to your best potential customers! For ads larger than the business card, you must supply camera-ready artwork, or PAC\*SJ can provide it at an additional charge.



**Business Card**  
 Single issue \$50  
 3 issues \$120



**1/4 Page**  
 Single issue \$100



**1/2 Page**  
 Single issue \$200



**Full Page**  
 Single issue \$375

# Neon Sign Pins a Big Hit

Preservation Action Council of San Jose designed and ordered enamel pins depicting four of our outstanding neon signs in San Jose (see right). They are offered on our website at [www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org). Just click on "Shop." A single pin is \$15; all four pins cost \$45. The booklet, "The San Jose Signs Project," with maps and details about San Jose neon signs, is \$14. All prices include shipping charges.

The OSH neon sign (previously on W. San Carlos Street) is now at History Park. The Y-Not and Western Appliance signs are located on W. San Carlos Street. The Stephen's Dancing Pig sign still stands at S. Montgomery and San Fernando Streets.

The pins have been very popular; we exhausted our supply in December, and January, requiring multiple re-orders.

Our talented Executive Director, Ben Leech, created the pin designs. He is looking forward to creating more pins of additional San Jose signs.

Our PAC\*SJ Shop online carries many other preservation items such as books, posters, t-shirts, pillows and even playing cards.

Here are some of our customers' comments about the neon sign pins.

*I've lived in San Jose nearly all my life and have been so sad to see some of our historic buildings and signs disappearing. I'm so happy to support you guys and your mission! And I can't wait for the next batch of pins!*  
— Jillian C.



*Just wanted to let you know I received my Sign Post Pins and I love them! They are really wonderful! I have lived in the Santa Clara Valley all my life and while it makes me incredibly sad that these places are gone, I want to thank you and your organization for the work you do to support preservation. Thanks again.*

— Mary Reiland



*These pins are absolutely WONDERFUL! High quality, larger than expected (the Western Appliance one is over 2"), the color is bright....overall, couldn't be better! I will be a proud San Josean (since 1956) to wear them!*

— Ciel D.

*Just wanted to say thanks, received my two pins (Orchard Supply Hardware + Western Appliance). I grew up in San Jose and shopped at these two stores during the 70's & 80's in San Jose; sorry to see they are gone. The one other store I shopped at all the time for my recreational activities was Mel Cotton's. Are you thinking of a project pin for this store? - if you are sign me up. Thanks soooooo much for preserving the history of these stores!*  
— Jeffrey H.

*I love everything I ordered, and I am so glad to have the opportunity to relive my memories of San Jose with such cool things. I moved from San Jose to the Seattle area 25 years ago, and I have not been able to visit it again since my last trip there in 2012. I miss San Jose very much, especially the things I remember from the 3+ decades before I moved to Washington State. Thank you for the work you are doing.*  
— Cynthia C. ☘

# PAC\*SJ Historic Walking Tours

## St. James Historic District

Saturday, March 27, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

\$10 members

\$15 non-members

Reservations at [preservation.org](http://preservation.org) ♦ Transmitter/receivers used

Reserve soon ♦ *Masks & social distancing required* ♦ *Space is limited*

For more information email [info@preservation.org](mailto:info@preservation.org) or call 408-998-8105



Join us in a walk around the St. James Historic District. The area was originally designated as St. James Square in 1848, landscaped in the late 1860s. We'll meet near the Courthouse, walk south down N. First St., up St. John St., down N. 3rd St. cross Devine St. and return to N. First St. Highlights will include:

- St. James Park & memorials
- County Courthouse
- Post Office
- Trinity Cathedral
- First Unitarian Church
- Former Scottish Rite Temple
- St. Claire Club
- First Church of Christ, Scientist
- Armory
- Moir Building
- Beatrice Building
- Former Ward Mortuary



# PAC\*SJ Historic Walking Tours

## San Jose Market Street/W. San Carlos St.

Saturday, April 24, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

\$10 members

\$15 non-members

Reservations at [preservation.org](http://preservation.org) ♦ Transmitter/receivers used

Reserve soon ♦ Masks & social distancing required ♦ Space is limited

For more information email [info@preservation.org](mailto:info@preservation.org) or call 408-998-8105



Join us in a walk down Market Street and W. San Carlos Street to 2nd St., back to Almaden, returning to Market. This section is part of the old business district. The Plaza was part of the first San Jose pueblo plaza in 1797.

Highlights will include:

- St. Joseph's Cathedral
- Former PT&T Building
- Hotel Metropole
- Art Museum (former post office)
- Plaza de Cesar Chavez
- St. Claire Hotel
- St. Claire Building
- Montgomery Hotel
- Civic Auditorium
- Former Bank of California
- City View Plaza and buildings



# New Equipment for Walking Tours

Thanks to a generous grant from the **Farrington Historical Foundation**, and donations from **Heritage Bank of Commerce** and past PAC\***SJ** Board Member, **Walter Soellner**, PAC\***SJ** was able to purchase tour guide equipment to be used for our historic walking tours.

In January, we purchased 30 small receivers and earphones, one transmitter and microphone, charging stations and carrying cases. Walking Tour attendees may bring their own earbuds or earphones to attach to the receiver if preferred.

The Farrington Historical Foundation preserves the legacy of Santa Clara Valley through conservation of the Kirk-Farrington home and garden in San Jose. Its mission is to promote the appreciation of our Valley's heritage and improve the community for future generations.

PAC\***SJ** gratefully thanks Farrington Historical Foundation, Heritage Bank, and Walter Soellner. We are eager to try out the equipment on our first historic walking tour since COVID-19 brought most activities to a halt. On Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, PAC\***SJ** will lead a walking tour through St. James Historic District at 10 AM. An April tour is also scheduled. For more details, see pages 10-11.



*Above, earphones, transmitter and receiver, about credit card size and 0.5 inches thick. Each has its own lanyard.*

*(Photos: Gayle Frank)*

*Below, one set of 24 receivers are charging in the charging station.*



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# In Memory of Karita Hummer

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Karita Hummer passed away in January of 2021 from COVID-19. She was the driving force and founder of Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PAC\*SJ) and we mourn her loss.

The story of Karita and how PAC\*SJ began is best told by fellow founding member and City Historian, Paul Bernal.

“Karita was a bright spark who shared with us, ‘Where I come from in Chicago, people get involved with what they care about. This has not been my experience in San Jose. I want to change the way things are done in San Jose.’ And she did. Single-handedly Karita persuaded a small clutch of local San Joseans to become active. She was the pied piper who created the Preservation Action Council of San Jose. It is to Karita’s credit that such an organization would become influential in Santa Clara County, and that many buildings and neighborhoods were preserved. Because not only did she care, Karita put action behind her words. And convinced us all that this is the only way to make a difference. Karita made a difference.”

Paul described the beginnings of PAC\*SJ in the 2015 *Continuity* issue about our earliest days. Here are a few excerpts. The full article is on our website under newsletters, Fall, 2015.

“I went to a Victorian Preservation Association (VPA) meeting on 11 October 1988. The president of the group, Betsy Mathieson, announced that one of the VPA members named Karita Hummer (whom I had never met) wanted to start a watchdog group for threatened buildings in San Jose. Karita said a few words and sat down. She was both passionate and hopeful. Her tone was: ‘We face a crisis. If there is any interest in forming a committee, we might try this.’ Betsy sent a sign-up sheet around the room and encouraged people to get involved. I signed up. About ten others did, too. The next day I got a call from Karita inviting me to her house for a meeting.”

“This preservation organization was originally called the ‘Preservation Watchdog Committee,’ as a committee under VPA, first meeting just after the earthquake of 17 Oct.,



*Karita M. Hummer*

and believed that the scope of the watchdog group would be somewhat different than VPA. Karita opined that in order to be effective, the watchdog group would need to branch out, create its own entity, get 501(c)(3) status, and meet separately from VPA. Karita suggested a name change to ‘Preservation Action Council.’ We agreed but decided to add San Jose to the name.”



In the first issue of *Continuity* (October 1990) published by the new PAC\*SJ organization, President Karita Hummer stated, “We have a vision. All of us care deeply about our purposes of promoting and nurturing preservation and architecture.” She goes on to discuss how people must all work together to achieve the rich architectural and historical mix a vital city needs.

In a following *Continuity* in 1991, President Karita tells us, “By our activities we hope to contribute to San Jose’s consciousness about preservation and design and help nurture an important sense of place in our city.”

Gayle Frank first met Karita at the PAC\*SJ 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala in 2015. Having heard much about her passion for preservation, Karita was asked if she ever considered returning to PAC\*SJ. She answered that she loved the challenge of founding and organizing good causes such as preservation and PAC\*SJ, but she had moved on to involvement in many other causes that needed her help.

After founding and guiding PAC\*SJ’s early days, Karita shifted to other challenges that made a big difference in the refugee community by promoting (Cont’d p. 14)

# Karita Hummer (Cont'd)

the arts of refugee women, striving toward their healing and economic sustainability. She was described in memorials as a force of nature in her commitment to refugees and women; her passing is a huge loss to the community. Other comments by her friends included that "she wanted all children, and in recent years migrant children specifically, to be safe and united with their families," and, "Those who knew her were blessed."

A moving tribute to Karita describing her more recent passions appears on the *FACTR.org* website (*Family Alliance for Counseling Tools and Resolution*).

"Karita Miraglia Hummer was a fiercely loyal and driven visionary who focused her energies on finding solutions that would better the lives of those she touched."

"From her roots in Sociology and Social Work, she committed herself to a life of service, building a progressive foundation centered on the prevailing principles of equality. Her mission to empower those most vulnerable around her led her to create *FACTR*. Drawing from her education and clinical work, she developed processes that addressed the needs of the immigrant and refugee community on both a micro (individual mental health) and macro (community) level. But, perhaps, the enterprise she found most fulfilling was the multicultural outreach *FACTR* provides such as *The Family Storybook*, *The Mindful Aging Project*, *Footprints Guild* and *TEA (Theatre for Empowerment & Advocacy)*."

— Gayle Frank  
— Paul Bernal

## PAC\*SJ During the Pandemic

Since the Covid-19 pandemic has descended upon us, PAC\*SJ has had to curtail its fundraising events, walking tours, member events, and most other get-togethers. We will slowly bring back our activities in 2021. So stay tuned to our Eblasts, Facebook, website, postcards, and newsletter as we are able to move ahead with our events. It has been an isolating twelve months and we are eager to get back to some kind of normal.

Be assured that PAC\*SJ is still meeting as a Board and with the Planning Department online or by phone. We continue to monitor and act on threats to our historic assets. We are still submitting letters to the city and keeping in touch with developers and partners. PAC\*SJ wishes all of you well and hope you stay safe. We look forward to seeing you again soon. ☘

## Opening PAC\*SJ Board of Directors

The members of the Board of Directors are the core of PAC\*SJ. They formulate the overall strategy, secure PAC\*SJ's financial stability, and contribute their ideas, expertise and resources to make San Jose a better place. If you are interested in serving on a committee, attending a monthly Board meeting and events, and promoting historic preservation to the general public and city officials, please go to [www.preservation.org/volunteer](http://www.preservation.org/volunteer) to review the Board member expectations and application. If this sounds like a good fit, email your application to [info@preservation.org](mailto:info@preservation.org). We will contact you to discuss the next steps.

## Zoom about History

The Saratoga Historical Foundation is offering two exciting Zoom presentations. The first on **April 26 at 7 PM** will be Superior Court Justice Paul Bernal, historian and eighth-generation descendent of ranch founder Jose Joaquin Bernal. A popular speaker, Bernal will talk about growing up in the Santa Clara Valley and the history of his family's ranch.

The second on **May 24 at 7 PM** will be Craig Harwood, author of "Quest for Flight: John J. Montgomery and the Dawn of Aviation in the West." John J. Montgomery was a California scientist who succeeded in flying gliders twenty years before the Wright's powered flights at Kitty Hawk in 1903. The presentation will reveal the amazing accomplishments of Montgomery who piloted the glider he designed in 1883 in the first of controlled flights. Visit [SaratogaHistory.com](http://SaratogaHistory.com).

# Artistic Mural on Market Street



Photo: Gayle Frank

*LIMONIUM* by internationally celebrated Bay Area artist, Mona Caron, created in July of 2020.

San Jose can always use a bit of beauty in the Downtown. Driving along Market Street from W. San Carlos one notices this magnificent bloom pictured above. It's painted on the north wall of the Convention Center Parking Garage and across the street from the rear of the California Theater.

Michael Ogilvie, Director of San Jose Public Art, tells PAC\*SJ the following: "The City of San José Office of Cultural Affairs Public Art Program presents LIMONIUM a mural by internationally celebrated Bay Area artist Mona Caron. The mural, located at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center along Market Street, is over 3300 square feet and honors ignored or overlooked flora in the valley. Her artwork brings recognition to and magnifies those bursts of

life that proclaim their identity, that grow wild and natural through walls of concrete and asphalt, and remind us that allegiance to life is unbound. Major support of this art piece was provided by Team San José, the Office of Councilmember Peralez, the San José Arts Commission and the community." ❧

**PAC\*SJ MEMBERSHIP  
RENEWALS  
WILL BE DUE IN JUNE**

# End-of-Year Donation Appeal Successful

## PAC\*SJ Thanks You!

Our year-end donation appeal resulted, as of 2/23/2021, was \$18,090 from 69 donors, primarily active members.

If you haven't yet donated, please consider participating either online at [preservation.org](http://preservation.org) or by calling 408-998-8105.

If you have donated, PAC\*SJ heartily thanks you! 2020 was a rough year for fund raising and your donations have made all the difference.

Here is a list of our donors. Not everyone is listed since some wished to remain anonymous.

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There were also donors who did not specify their permission to print their names in this newsletter. We can print

their names in the next issue of Continuity if they contact us at [info@preservation.org](mailto:info@preservation.org) or 408-998-8105. ☘

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# Exploring San Jose's City Landmarks

Here is the next San Jose Landmark from the City list. Check previous *Continuity* issues for earlier landmark descriptions on our website. [www.preservation.org](http://www.preservation.org).

## HS92-89: Bayside Cannery Office 907 Elizabeth Street, Alviso Historic District.

The former Bayside Cannery Office building sits on the SE corner of Elizabeth and Hope Streets in the Alviso Historic District. It served as the office for much of the cannery's existence. The building is small, narrow, and rectangular with a stucco exterior. The façade, with attractive trim, rises above the roof. The structure is thought to have been built c. 1900.



*Former Bayside Cannery Office Building, 907 Elizabeth Street, Alviso.*

*(Photos: Gayle Frank)*

The Bayside Cannery was established at Alviso in 1906, moving from San Francisco (Precita Canning Company) after the earthquake. Cannery owners, Sai Yin Chew and son, Thomas Foon Chew, purchased the previous San Jose Watch Factory building in Alviso where they first established their business. They were generous employers who hired primarily Chinese Americans in the cannery's earlier

years. China Camp, a lodging and mess hall available for the employees, stands on the NE corner of Elizabeth and Hope Streets, across the street from the cannery office building. That larger, two-story structure remains but has been greatly altered over the years.

In 1920, at the close of the cannery season on October 21, a huge BBQ party was hosted for all employees and guests from nearby

towns that featured bountiful food, decorations, music, dancing, entertainment and singing. Bayside hoped to repeat the event each year.<sup>1</sup> In the 1920s, Bayside Cannery employed 400-500 workers each summer and it was the first major Chinese owned industry in Santa Clara County.<sup>2</sup>

The main building site (west of the Elizabeth and Hope intersection) which originally included four concrete, brick and wood buildings, is across the street from the small cannery office but is considerably dilapidated at present.

*(Cont'd p. 18)*

*Left, part of Bayside Cannery buildings on Hope Street, across the street from the Bayside Office.*



# City Landmarks (Cont'd)

Progressive ideas, largely implemented by Thomas Chew, resulted in rapid growth for the Bayside business. It was listed as the third largest cannery in the world at its peak by the later 1920s. The cannery processed and packed spinach, apricots, plums, peaches, cherries, pears, tomatoes, catsup, tomato sauce, hot sauce, tomato puree, fish sauce, fruits and vegetables for salads and fruit cocktail. It was the first to can green asparagus—in fact, Thomas Chew was called the “Asparagus King.”

Bayside Cannery expanded over the years and added plants in Isleton and Mayfield (later part of Palo Alto).

Five years after Thomas Foon Chew died in 1931 at the young age of 42, the cannery was sold in 1936.

Oil Terminals of San Francisco purchased the cannery and used the cannery’s small office for business. Later, the main building site of the cannery became the Alviso Boat Works. In the late 1980s the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchased it.

In the early 1980s the former cannery office building was

purchased and restored by Deon and Eldon Gresham and transformed into the Gresham Realty office. The Laine’s Bait Shop, residing in a caboose resting on original train tracks, sits next to the former Bayside Office on its east side.

Laine’s Baits has been a family-owned business in Alviso since the 1950s and was started by Willis Laine and son, Willis Jr. According to the Bait Shop website, it was first located near Catherine Street, and then moved to the old barn behind the impressive Tilden-Laine Victorian residence at 970 Elizabeth Street. Their son, Thomas Laine and wife Beverly continued running the business after returning to Alviso from their bait shop in Martinez. Their son, Bart branched into the Laine Shrimp Harvesters, Inc. Bart’s son, Kyle and wife Kirsten now own the former Bayside Office and the long-time Bait Shop business, supplying bait, tackle, coffee, kayak/bike rentals and more, which is close to the Alviso Marina County Park.

—Gayle Frank

<sup>1</sup> *San Jose Mercury Herald*, Oct. 24, 1920.

<sup>2</sup> *Eugene T. Sawyers’ History of Santa Clara County, California, Transcribed by Linda Gretty, published by Historic Record Co., 1922.*



*Left, Bait Shop sits next to the former Bayside Cannery Office on Elizabeth Street.*

*(Photo: LainesBaits.com)*

# PAC\*SJ Membership Application or Renewal

## Preservation Action Council of San Jose Membership Application or Renewal

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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*Provide email address to receive timely notices of news, events and announcements. PAC\*SJ will not release your contact details.*

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing Member \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle the level at which you wish to join:**

Individual	\$40
Family	\$55
Student or Senior (over 65)	\$25
Non-profit or School	\$25
Contributor	\$100
Patron	\$250
Benefactor	\$1,000

**Join at the \$100 level or above** and receive a special premium: a 20 x 30 Sunset Magazine Cover poster, a "San Jose Signs Project" book, or the black t-shirt with 'San Jose' in neon letters. (M, L, XL, 2XL)

Please check if you would like to receive  
Sunset poster \_\_\_\_ or the black t-shirt \_\_\_\_  
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I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as an extra donation to  
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I am interested in working with the following  
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**Complete and return with your check to:**

Preservation Action Council of San Jose  
1650 Senter Rd., San Jose, CA 95112-2599  
Phone: (408)-998-8105 info@preservation.org

## Legacy Giving

Did you know that Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PAC\*SJ) has a Legacy Giving Program?

Please consider a bequest to PAC\*SJ as part of your estate plan. There's no minimum amount required. In fact, you can specify any dollar amount, leave a percentage of your estate, or designate what remains after your estate has been settled.

Gifts of stock are possible at any time. If you are 70 1/2 years of age or over, a

qualified charitable donation can count toward satisfying your required minimum distribution from an IRA, helping to lower your taxes.

PAC\*SJ welcomes any donation you can make this year to further our advocacy, educational opportunities and event planning.

Please contact info@preservation.org or 408-998-8105 for more information. PAC\*SJ is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Our tax ID is 77-0254542. ☼





**PAC\* SJ**

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# Join or Renew Today!



The Preservation Action Council of San Jose is a dynamic nonprofit membership organization dedicated to **preserving our unique and diverse architectural and cultural heritage**. Through advocacy, education, and civic engagement, we promote historic preservation as an essential tool for fostering equitable, distinctive, sustainable, and prosperous communities.

We believe that **historic preservation is good for our quality of life, good for business, and good for the environment**. We aspire to integrate a strong commitment to historic preservation into the land use and development decisions of the City of San Jose that affect historic resources, as well as into the private decisions of property owners and developers. We try to bring owners and developers together to create historically sensitive projects that make economic sense.

## PAC\* SJ 2021 Board

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